



Schools
'Mohigan Idol 2024'
hits stage in March
Page A-4



Sports
Edwards play a
game-time decision
Page B-1



Guest editorial
Dems dismiss Trump supporters
at their own peril
Page A-5

DOMINIONPOST.COM

SERVING NORTH-CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA SINCE 1864

\$2.00

Tuesday
Jan. 23, 2024



High 52 Low 44
Complete forecast
Page A-6

Sponsored by
WVU Medicine

LEGISLATURE

Bill takes aim at election changes

BY BRAD MCELHINNY
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — Delegates Monday advanced a bill specifying the Legislature has the ability to bring legal actions against state government officials who make or attempt unauthorized changes in state election laws.

Another element of House Bill 4205 would allow citizens to seek a court order against any state or local official who fails to abide by or to enforce a state election law or regulatory requirement.

“The intent here is to give the Legislature standing in the courts and what we as a body set into law,” said Delegate Josh Holstein, R-Boone, the lead sponsor of the bill.

“As you saw with previous election years, there were election officials who changed the rules unilaterally and then the Legislature had no standing to bring court cases up against that so there was really no contest to those changes. So that’s what I’m trying to address here.”

The House Judiciary Committee advanced the bill on Monday afternoon. It was one of several elections-related bills considered by the committee during the afternoon session.

Deak Kersey, chief of staff for the Secretary of State, testified before the committee and said he could not recall any instances of unauthorized deviations from election law in West Virginia.

“In West Virginia, I’m not aware of any,” Kersey said.

Delegate Shawn Fluharty, D-Ohio, asked Kersey if he would be concerned that 1.2 million voting-age West Virginia citizens might be empowered to sue over real or perceived election changes.

“Well, if the Secretary of State’s office breaks the law, I hope that all 1.2 million sue us,” Kersey said.

Changes that some states made to their elections processes during the COVID pandemic in 2020 fell under scrutiny that year.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton led a multi-state coalition objecting to election changes that

SEE BILL, A-2

TRANSIT

Mountain Line ridership on rise

Still well below pre-COVID totals

BY BEN CONLEY
BConley@DominionPost.com

Mountain Line General Manager Maria Smith said public transit numbers are rebounding nationally post-COVID, but the comeback is going to take some time.

For the five years prior to COVID — 2015 to 2019 — Mountain Line averaged 991,544 total riders annually.

Then came the pandemic. In 2020, Mountain Line had 433,877 riders, marking the first time that number had been below 500,000 since 2005. Things worsened in 2021 as 402,788 riders took the bus, setting a 19-year low.

The last two years have been better. Ridership numbers jumped 37% from 2021 to 2022 (552,754), then another 18% in 2023 (662,172).

But they remain well below pre-COVID totals.

“We’re making a slow comeback, which is pretty similar to

other transit providers across the nation,” Smith said. “We’re not where we want to be, but we’re on par.”

To help hasten that process, the transit authority paid Burges & Burges Strategists \$42,000 to conduct phone and online surveys.

Among the takeaways, those who relied on Mountain Line before COVID do so now more than ever.

“We think this has more to do with bigger socio-economic trends and their impact on local economies than anything related

to health/safety concerns,” Smith explained. “Through the survey we have a better understanding of why our residents and visitors ride or don’t ride and we now have a path moving forward to bring ridership back.”

The high-water mark for ridership came in 2012, when 1,291,913 rides were provided.

In other Mountain Line news, Smith said she’s hopeful the transit provider’s new liquid propane powered buses will be

SEE TRANSIT, A-2

Talking agriculture



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito talks about the Farm Bill with Rep. John Boozman from Arkansas about West Virginia agriculture priorities Monday morning at Erickson Alumni Center.

Capito hosts roundtable, business tour

DPNews@DominionPost.com

U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), hosted a West Virginia Farm Bill Priorities Roundtable Monday in Morgantown, with U.S. Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark), ranking member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.

Boozman is one of the primary authors of the upcoming Farm Bill.

During the roundtable, the senators were joined by West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner Kent Leonhardt, as well as state leaders from a variety of agricultural fields to discuss the Farm Bill and the impacts it will have on West Virginia.

Stakeholders from industries such as farming, nutrition, edu-

cation, forestry, veterinarian services, credit unions and internet service providers participated.

Boozman has been holding roundtable discussions on the Farm Bill across the country and Monday’s discussion marked the first event since the Farm Bill extension was announced.

Later, Capito and Boozman, as well as Leonhardt, visited Mountaintop Beverage in Morgantown, where they toured the facility and met with company leaders. Mountaintop Beverage uses a high-tech thermal heating process to commercially sterilize beverages and extend their shelf life, and aims to strengthen the dairy infrastructure in West Virginia, create jobs and provide local dairy products to children and families across the state.

“West Virginia agriculture generates \$24 billion in economic output and supports over 176,000 jobs,” Capito said. “This proves just how vital agricul-

ture operations are to the success of our communities and why I continue to advocate on behalf of the inclusion of our state’s priorities in the upcoming Farm Bill.

“It was an honor to host Sen. Boozman in Morgantown to hear from our industry leaders directly, and to see our innovative operations first hand. I’m thankful for the support and perspective of those that participated in our roundtable discussion and for Mountaintop Beverage’s leadership and desire to strengthen our agricultural infrastructure. These visits provided critical details as I advocate on behalf West Virginia’s agriculture priorities in Washington.”

Boozman said listening to stakeholders is imperative.

“Our work on the new farm bill continues in 2024 ... Sen. Capito graciously offered to host the first listening session of 2024 and I appreciate her efforts

SEE CAPITO, A-2

PSC Energy customers oppose solar pay changes

BY DAVID BEARD
DBeard@DominionPost.com

A few dozen people aired their views to the Public Service Commission Monday evening regarding the Mon Power/Potomac Edison proposal to cut in half the net-credit for customers who use home solar energy.

The hearing ran nearly two hours, and not a single person supported the proposal. A few common themes emerged and we offer a sampling of the comments. (Not all the speakers spelled their names.)

Richard Rafus, who has 100 panels on his land, said, “This is just a ploy to discourage solar expansion in West Virginia.” Net metering helps fight climate change while creating jobs and fostering clean energy production.

Elizabeth Opyoke Cruikshank lives in Marion County and helps people hook up to solar and produce power “with the energy that God gave us right here in West Virginia.” Many people can’t afford their power bills, which are sometimes higher than their mortgages, and net metering helps them put money in their bank accounts. “Why should I not be compensated fairly for providing FirstEnergy with power?”

As background, the net-metering proposal is part of an overall base rate case for the FirstEnergy sisters. They are requesting \$207.5 million, including for infrastructure and their energy assistance program. The hike would cost the average residential customer \$18.07 per month, a 15% hike. The overall proposed increase across all customer types – residential, commercial, industrial and street lighting – is 13%.

Net-metering customers generate all or a portion of their own

SEE PSC, A-2



INSIDE

LOCAL A4 | OPINION A5 | CROSSWORDS B6 | COMICS B6 | SPORTS B1

HOME DELIVERY: 304-292-6301 | CLASSIFIEDS: 304-291-9420 | NEWS TIPS: 304-291-9425 | SPORTS: 304-291-9410

Digital Marketing Services

Looking for New Ways to Find Your Perfect Customer? Try Targeting Them Online!

A comprehensive digital advertising campaign can reach highly targeted segments of the general population, regardless of what apps, websites, or platforms they engage with.

RETARGETING • GEO-FENCING • TARGETED EMAILS • OTT • VIDEO PRODUCTION
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT • SEO • WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT



Contact your representative at The Dominion Post today to get a customized digital advertising plan, and start getting more customers now!

www.dominionpost.com/marketing-services | 304.225.3405 | advertising@dominionpost.com



HOUSE

Delegates debate bill amendment concerning supervision of nurse anesthetists, moves to third reading today

Passes pair of elections bills

BY DAVID BEARD
DBeard@DominionPost.com

The House of Delegates on Monday passed a couple elections bills unanimously with minimal discussion.

The big debate of the day was about an amendment to a bill dealing with the supervision of nurse anesthetists.

HB 4432 was on second reading. The primary objective of the 25-page bill is to allow physician assistants to own their own practice. The subject of debate was a short section near the end to change how certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) are supervised.

Current code allows a

person trained in a certified program accredited by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists to administer anesthesia under supervision of a physician or dentist. The new section changes that to allow a CRNA to administer anesthesia in cooperation with a physician, podiatrist or dentist.

Cooperation is defined as working together with each contributing an area of expertise in accord with their training levels. The provision is permissive, allowing each hospital to set its own policy.

Delegate Steve Westfall, R-Jackson, proposed the amendment in the Health Committee, where it was defeated. But it stirred wider discussion and committee chair Amy Summers, R-Taylor, brought it to the

floor as a committee amendment to allow fuller debate.

Westfall said, "I'd like to leave status quo as it is now. ... I think it's working." He doesn't oppose CRNAs doing their job, they just need to be supervised.

Delegate John Hardy, R-Berkeley, said that anesthesiologists testified against the new CRNA provision in committee, saying it will be detrimental. "We're trying to fix something here that I don't think is broken at all."

And Delegate Bob Fehrenbacher, R-Wood, cited a four-year study conducted at 245 hospitals that showed patient outcomes were worse when anesthesia care was not directed by anesthesiologists - more patients died.

While CRNAs entering training are now required to earn doctorates, not all have

them yet and it's too soon to change things, he said. "Today we're not there."

Delegate Heather Tully, R-Nicholas, pointed out that the study Fehrenbacher cited dated back to 2000 and used old data, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services does not regard it as valid or accurate.

Delegate Evan Worrell, R-Cabell, said 43 other states allow what's proposed in the bill. He pointed to the CRNAs and students sitting in the gallery and said that adopting the amendment would be telling them, "Hey, go somewhere else and practice."

Summers said that the cooperation model in the bill arose from a COVID executive order and was viewed as a pilot study - and no complaints arose.

The amendment failed

31-65. Locally, Republicans Geno Chiarelli, Buck Jennings and Joe Statler, and Democrats Joey Garcia, Anitra Hamilton and Evan Hansen voted for the amendment. Summers and Republicans Mike DeVault, Phil Mallow, George Street and Debbie Warner, and Democrat John Williams voted against it.

HB 4432 will be on third reading for passage today.

Other bills

HB 4274 came back to the House from the Senate for concurrence with some technical amendments. The 723-page bill renames the Department of Health and Human Resources as the three new departments: Human Services, Health, and Health Facilities. The delegates concurred with the fixes and re-passed it unanimously. It

heads to the governor.

HB 4428 requires candidates for any state, county, or local office to have their principle residence in the district they aim to represent. It exempts circuit and family court judges and prosecuting attorneys, who are not required to do so elsewhere in code. It passed 96-0 and goes to the Senate.

HB 4552 requires that the party affiliation of a candidate for partisan office match the party designation on their voter registration card. It passed 96-0 and goes to the Senate.

HB 4302 increases the criminal penalties for child abuse resulting in injury; child abuse creating risk of injury; child neglect resulting in injury; and child neglect creating risk of injury. It also passed 96-0 and goes to the Senate.

TRANSIT

FROM PAGE A-1

rolling out by the end of April.

Last May, the transit authority approved the purchase of three smaller non-CDL buses for \$520,560 with the intent of having those vehicles converted to liquid propane.

It was explained that propane is cheaper than gasoline or diesel and offers the same vehicle range as traditional fuels while meeting current and future emissions standards.

Propane buses also require no special parts and inventory or extensive training of garage personnel, like electric buses, which are also far more expensive.

"There has been a hold up because the conversion kits for converting the vehicles to propane

have been delayed," Smith recently told members of the Mountain Line Transit Authority. "Once the vehicles get here, we have to put in fare boxes and get the graphics put on and some other things that we have to do to prep them before they go on the road. Hopeful for an April launch for the propane vehicles."

Lastly, the transit authority will welcome a new member at its February meeting.

Russ Rogerson was recently appointed by the Monongalia County Commission to fill the unexpired term of former member Ron Bane.

Rogerson is president and CEO of the Morgantown Area Partnership.

He'll join Jenny Dinsmore, Terri Cutright, Wes Nugent, Marly Ynigues, Jonathan Cook and Jeremy Evans on the transit board.

BILL

FROM PAGE A-1

year in swing states Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The argument was that states did an end run around election laws passed by their own legislatures. West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey signed on to the case. The Supreme Court dismissed it.

That same year, Gov. Jim Justice signed an executive order to delay the Primary Election into June. The state also cited a state of emergency to relax the abil-

ity of people to request absentee ballots that spring. The changes were made under a finding by Morrisey and requested by Secretary of State Mac Warner.

The Legislature did not explicitly authorize any of those changes.

Fluharty asked Kersey about that year's changes and whether the current bill would apply.

"That was not legislative action. If this bill were enacted, you as Secretary of State or the Governor's Office would not be able to do that, correct?" Fluharty asked.

Kersey responded that West Virginia's election date change and loosened absentee voting standards that year were an outgrowth of the governor's emergency powers, which were part of state law.

"The governor's authorization in current code is given by the Legislature to do things like issue a state of emergency for various reasons," Kersey said.

He said the emergency powers enabled the governor to issue a stay-home order that spring, which was in conflict with in-person voting on the tradi-

tional Primary Election date.

"It was an authorized change by the governor because the Legislature had given him that authority via the state of emergency," Kersey said.

Fluharty didn't seem quite satisfied by the chain of events representing the kind of authorization the bill is meant to address.

"Very clear," he said.

THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ADVANCED THE BILL ON MONDAY AFTERNOON.

PSC

FROM PAGE A-1

power, typically through solar, and receive credits on their bill for any power they generate in excess of what they use.

Currently, the companies provide a full 1-to-1 credit, meaning energy given to the utility is worth the same as energy bought from the utility. The current residential base rate is about 11.4 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), and could go up to about 13 cents as the companies' several rate cases reach their respective conclusions.

The companies propose to change that to base credits on the wholesale rate for electricity, which the filings calculate at 6.6 cents per kWh - roughly half of the 13 cents per kWh. This would take effect for new net-metering customers joining after March 27.

PSC staff have agreed that the credit needs to be reduced but proposed a middle ground: 8.8 cents

per kWh.

PSC chair Charlotte Lane opened the hearing by noting that all the parties in the case have reached settlement on all the aspects except net metering. While the settlement is not yet filed, she said they have agreed to a \$108 million hike - a 7.9% increase, raising the monthly average residential bill by \$9.94, from \$123.50 to \$133.44. The net-metering issue will be discussed at a Thursday evidentiary hearing.

Returning to comments, Aaron Millner, a solar installer said the encouragement of solar power under the Inflation Reduction Act provided the best way for him to stay in state with his family. The net-metering credit reduction "won't push me away, but it will make it a lot harder for me to stay. ... It's just not the right thing to do."

Heather Ranson, of Cass, said she hopes to be a solar owner and be compensated fairly and equitably. She works in the solar industry

and appreciates her career that lets her stay in West Virginia and help fellow West Virginians.

Electricity costs have more than doubled while solar costs have fallen 50%, she said, and walking back the path to affordable energy flies in face of the PSC mission of ensuring affordable energy. "A diversified grid is a more resilient grid."

Casey J. Robinson is an investment counselor who has done four solar projects. But cutting the credit would mean he'd have to work hard to find a way to justify the investment for others going forward.

Nancy Bruns, a Kanawha County business owner, said she put solar panels on her business buildings. Keeping the 1-1 credit will allow other businesses and residents to go solar. Solar is already a large economic driver and is growing. "We don't want to move backward."

Beth Rota, of Monongalia County, said she installed

solar four years ago. She believes in energy independence, sustainability and cost-effective energy. The companies' proposal is an effort to discourage further solar development and undermine a robust energy grid.

Chris Tinchler is with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Charleston and presented a petition with 121 signatures opposing the proposal. Net-metering has a positive impact on communities and has fostered remarkable growth in the energy sector.

And Anastasia Riley, of Morgantown, has 41 panels on her home. Last year she produced 16.4 megawatts and consumed 16.3 MW. As a single mom, the credits help her make ends meet during the winter months.

The companies have said they propose to reduce the credit in order to avoid cross-subsidization, in which regular customers would foot part of the cost of powering home solar customers.

CONTACT

Newsroom: 304-291-9425
Classified: 304-291-9420
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays
Circulation: 304-292-6301
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. weekdays
USPS 159680

VOL. 60 NO. 189

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

CLARIFY

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

Local news and sports in
The Dominion Post
or **DominionPost.com**

CAPITO

FROM PAGE A-1

to bring together West Virginia's producers, agri-business operators, rural community leaders and nutrition advocates to visit with us. The valuable input we received at our roundtable discussion and our visit to Mountaintop Beverage will inform our efforts to pass a new farm bill that will help grow West Virginia's agriculture industry and its rural communities."

Leonhardt said having

a chance to speak to folks across a range of businesses will be key to the success of the bill.

"West Virginia's farmers, educators, foresters and conservationists, among many others, had an excellent opportunity today to sit in a room together and speak up for agriculture," he said. "The Farm Bill provides programs that are vital to the success and continuity of our farming operations and the health of our citizens. We appreciate the opportunity to add to this discussion of Farm Bill priorities."

Let us know what's going on with your business, club or team. Email news tips, photos or press releases to **DPNews@DominionPost.com**
Questions: 304-291-9425

"ONE SMALL CRACK DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU'RE BROKEN. IT MEANS YOU WERE PUT TO THE TEST AND DIDN'T FALL APART."
Linda Pondexter

Fred L. Jenkins
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

Cherish Moments, Measure Memories

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

www.fredjenkinsfuneralhome.com

2024 NEW YEAR'S SAVINGS!

\$20 OFF ANY SERVICE
*Must present voucher upon arrival

FAST. CONVENIENT. EXPERT SERVICE.

EVERY Express Service includes a multi-point inspection.

NISSAN EXPRESS SERVICE

NISSAN PREMIER NISSAN OF MORGANTOWN 304.418.3200
Japanese Automotive Specialists

Great Wall
Amazing Chinese Food

162 High Street • Morgantown, WV 26505

(304) 291-3412 **Hours:**
(304) 291-3417 **Sunday-Thursday: 11am-10:30pm**
fax: (304) 291-3413 **Friday & Saturday: 11am-11:30pm**

Order Online at www.GreatWall162.com

Download our app and Order! Download for android Download for Apple

Voted BEST TAKEOUT
by readers of Morgantown Magazine



IT'S GAME ON!

Offers end Jan 31

2024 RAV4 & 2024 HIGHLANDER
AS LOW AS

3.99%
APR FINANCING¹
FOR **60** MONTHS



2023 TACOMA
AS LOW AS

3.99%
APR FINANCING²
FOR **48** MONTHS



2024 TUNDRA
AS LOW AS

4.99%
APR FINANCING³
FOR **60** MONTHS



2024 CAMRY
2024 COROLLA
2024 CROWN

4.99%
APR FINANCING³
FOR **60** MONTHS



TOYOTA

University**TOYOTA**.com

Every new Toyota comes with
ToyotaCare
No Cost Service & Roadside⁴

1)3.99% APR FINANCING UP TO 60 MONTHS ON 2024 RAV4 (EXCLUDES HYBRIDS), 2024 HIGHLANDER (EXCLUDES HYBRIDS) AVAILABLE TO WELL QUALIFIED BUYERS THROUGH TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$18.41 FOR EACH \$1,000 BORROWED. **NOT ALL BUYERS WILL QUALIFY.** 2)3.99% APR FINANCING UP TO 48 MONTHS AVAILABLE TO WELL QUALIFIED BUYERS THROUGH TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. 48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$22.57 FOR EACH \$1,000 BORROWED. **NOT ALL BUYERS WILL QUALIFY.** 3)4.99% APR FINANCING UP TO 60 MONTHS ON 2024 CAMRY (EXCLUDES HYBRIDS), 2024 COROLLA (EXCLUDES HYBRIDS), 2024 CROWN, AND 2024 TUNDRA AVAILABLE TO WELL QUALIFIED BUYERS THROUGH TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$18.87 FOR EACH \$1,000 BORROWED. **NOT ALL BUYERS WILL QUALIFY.** TAKE RETAIL DELIVERY FROM NEW DEALER STOCK BY 1/31/24; SUBJECT TO VEHICLE AVAILABILITY. \$212.22 DEALER DOC & DMV FEES ARE EXTRA AND VARY BY DEALER. DEALER SETS FINAL PRICE. OFFER MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE. VEHICLES SHOWN MAY BE PROTOTYPE AND/OR SHOWN WITH OPTIONS. SEE PARTICIPATING CENTRAL ATLANTIC TOYOTA DEALER FOR DETAILS. **OFFERS END 1/31/24.** 4)TOYOTACARE COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE FOR TWO YEARS OR 25,000 MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. 24-HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE IS ALSO INCLUDED FOR TWO YEARS AND UNLIMITED MILES. THE NEW VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET, OR A LIVERY/TAXI VEHICLE. SEE TOYOTA DEALER FOR DETAILS AND EXCLUSIONS. VALID ONLY IN THE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND ALASKA. ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE DOES NOT INCLUDE PARTS AND FLUIDS, EXCEPT EMERGENCY FUEL DELIVERY.

The Best New Cars **Make the Best Used Cars!**

2019 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE

stk# 34026A 45K Miles **WAS \$27,100**
Now \$24,000 Save \$3,100!

Certified Used Vehicles

2018 TOYOTA RAV4 Hybrid Limited

stk# 24050A 40K Miles **WAS \$31,325**
Now \$26,500 Save \$4,825!

Certified Used Vehicles

2019 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE Plus

stk# 24044A 51K Miles **WAS \$33,175**
Now \$28,000 Save \$5,175!

Certified Used Vehicles

Come see why More & More people are buying their **TOYOTA** from **universitytoyota.com**



UNIVERSITY TOYOTA

60 Don Knotts Boulevard • Morgantown, WV



SALES: **304.296.4401** SERVICE: **304.296.4402**

SALES: Mon.-Fri. 9-5:30; Sat. 9-5 • **SERVICE:** Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:30; Sat. 9-5



SCHOOLS

‘Mohigan Idol 2024’ hits the stage in March at the Met

BY JIM BISSETT
JBissett@DominionPost.com

Cue announcer: “This is ... ‘Mohigan Idol.’”

OK, so Ryan Seacrest won’t be on the stage of the Metropolitan Theatre in March to emcee, but the Hollywood-styled glamour and glitz of the talent show for a good cause will still commence as it has since 2011, organizers say.

That was the year the then-student council of Morgantown High School had a charitable idea to play off the popularity of “American Idol,” the network television juggernaut.

MON’S STUDENTS HAVE UNTIL JAN. 31 TO PRESENT THEIR AUDITIONS

“We can raise money for the hospital,” the budding policy-makers said.

As in, WVU Medicine Children’s.

To date, the talent show for students from Mon’s public and private schools has raised nearly \$200,000.

It’s had a profitable run, organizers said — and that even includes the Idol outing of four

years ago, when the pandemic booted it off the stage of the Met and into the virtual realm for remote entertainment.

“It has been pretty amazing,” MHS teacher and student council advisor Gretchen Gibson told The Dominion Post previously.

“We went from a couple of acts in our auditorium, to all this,” she said. “It’s been pretty special.”

That’s because WVU Medicine Children’s is special, she said.

Young patients from all 55 counties in West Virginia undergo specialized treatment there.

Their families bring them from surrounding states and across oceans to get well.

The hospital is known for its neonatal care, and its physicians regularly receive national and international accolades for their work and research.

All that, plus its own 10-story tower, adjacent to J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital.

Then, there’s “Idol,” on its own.

As in, the fun spectacle of a countywide revue of students from all grades, all carried out under the lights at the storied stage on High Street.

Performers will hit the lights at 7 p.m. March 2 at the Met.

Meanwhile, Mon’s students have until Jan. 31 to present their auditions via a private channel on YouTube.

Visit “Mohigan Idol 2024” on Facebook for full details.

COMMENTARY



ALDONA BIRD

Sure it’s less slippery, but salted roads have risks

SALT OF THE EARTH IS A COMPLIMENT, BUT SALTING THE EARTH IS BAD. However, this time of year we salt roads to melt ice and that salt does not simply disappear once the roads are safe. It dissolves and runs off, contaminating the soil and water around roadways.

According to an article published last week on Scientific American, in 2018 we used nearly 23 metric tons of salt on roads and sidewalks in the U.S.

The aftermath of using salt to fight ice is evident in many communities. There are examples across the country of pine trees killed by road salt runoff.

Even though non-toxic to humans in a typical diet, used to melt ice, in addition to poisoning waterways as well as soil, causing all kinds of environmental issues, salt damages pavement and eats away at the metal on cars.

Salting roads helps melt ice because the ions in the salt disrupt the water molecules as they bind to form ice crystals. This lowers the required temperature for water to form ice.

When temperatures are so low that salt by itself doesn’t help, cars driving on the roads can create enough friction (thus heat) to warm things just enough to kick off the process. A slurry forms, and salt slows the ice reforming.

Less salt can be used if it is first dissolved following careful calculations.

We often see cinders used on roads locally as an alternative to rock salt. Cinders are the byproduct of burning coal for power. Other than clogged storm drains, I couldn’t find much about negative environmental impacts of coal ash on winter roads.

I did, however, read lots of concerns about this product. The ash contains heavy metals and other toxins at varying levels. Some of the tested levels seem minimal, but others are off the charts.

The problem I read about was that technology for testing the impact of cinders on the environment has been limited. The tools in use were designed for other situations, and so provided unreliable data.

The proponents for using coal ash say that all objectionable substances in cinders are already found in soil. I had some trouble finding information I trusted about this topic. A lot of the articles I found were quite old.

I also didn’t fully understand why testing was so difficult — soil testing around railways has shown contamination from arsenic and other preservatives in railroad ties. Why couldn’t the same technology be used in this situation?

The variability in coal ash makes more sense as a hindrance to conclusive data. Still I’m surprised that more information about the impact of this road treatment is unavailable.

Since one method is known to cause environmental damage, and the other is suspected, I really don’t know the answer to keeping our roads safe in the winter. I would love to say, everyone just stay home — but I know that doesn’t work with modern society.

All in all, I wish we lived in a more walkable world. Those who live in town could walk when the weather makes driving unsafe, and those of us who opt to live out in the country should know that there will be days when we simply cannot drive anywhere.

I suppose all I can conclude with is — stay safe out there this winter.

ALDONA BIRD is a journalist using experience gained working on organic farms in Europe to help her explore possibilities of local productivity and sustainable living in Preston County. Email columns@dominionpost.com.

Mail truck mishap



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

This United States Postal Service truck lost control on snow-covered Gem Street, off Richwood Avenue, and crashed into an apartment building at 499 and 501 Locust St. College students Mia Manna and Sophie Mancini were home inside the building when the truck hit. Here, Mancini climbs a ladder to retrieve some clothing and other items, as the doors were damaged from the impact. The mail truck came down Gem Street, which is a one-way street. Morgantown Police Department and Morgantown Fire Department responded to the scene. No one was injured.

SAFETY

Fallen power line sparks problems in Greenmont

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER
ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

Residents in the Green Street/Wilson Avenue area of Morgantown were temporarily left in the dark Sunday evening after sparks began flying from power lines.

Capt. Jason Quinn, of the Morgantown Fire Depart-

ment, said fire crews responded to the area at around 8:57 p.m. after reports of power lines and transformers sparking.

A video of the event posted to social media shows sparks bursting like fireworks from multiple locations along power lines and utility poles

as the lights in nearby windows flicker on and off with each explosion.

Quinn said once on scene, firefighters discovered a power line had been damaged and consequently fell to the ground.

MFD secured the area until the power company arrived and took over repairs.

According to information from Mon Power spokesperson Hannah Catlett, power company crews were still investigating the cause of the sparks and downed wire as of Monday afternoon. However the issue had been fixed, and the line was back in service by 10:30 p.m. Sunday.

CORRECTIONS

Hazelton inmate found unresponsive Sunday

Pronounced dead by medical personnel

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER
ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

An inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Hazelton died Sunday afternoon after he was found unresponsive, according to a Monday press release from the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

According to the release, employees initiated life-saving measures on 68-year-old Kenneth Harrington on Sunday, after he was found unresponsive in an undisclosed area of the medium-

security Bruceton Mills facility. Emergency medical services were requested while life-saving efforts continued, the release said, however Harrington was pronounced dead by medical personnel.

The Dominion Post reached out to FCI Hazelton Executive Assistant and Public Information Officer K. Bigart for more information on where inside the prison Harrington was found, if there is any indication of what might have caused his death, or if any causes could be ruled out at this time.

Bigart responded stating for safety, security and privacy reasons, the information office does not share specifics regarding the cause of death for any incar-

cerated individual.

The official cause of death will be determined by the state medical examiner and not the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Bigart said.

No information, beyond what was provided in the press release, was available Monday.

Harrington was serving a 19 1/2-year sentence after being convicted in the Southern District of Texas for armed bank robbery. He had been at FCI Hazelton since June 5, 2023.

According to the release, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been notified of Harrington’s death.

No other inmates or employees were injured.

FCI HAZELTON EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER K. BIGART RESPONDED STATING FOR SAFETY, SECURITY AND PRIVACY REASONS, THE INFORMATION OFFICE DOES NOT SHARE SPECIFICS REGARDING THE CAUSE OF DEATH FOR ANY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Dems dismiss Trump supporters at their own peril

Donald Trump's blowout win in Iowa Monday night was a wake-up call for Democrats, but not for the reason they think.

The reaction from the left over Trump's 51% rout in the state's Republican caucuses was expectedly agitated.

Former Sen. Claire McCaskill declared on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that "it wasn't that great of a night for Trump," and that getting 50% of the vote was actually a bad thing.

President Joe Biden posted to X: "But here's the thing: this election was always going to be you and me vs. extreme MAGA Republicans. It was true yesterday and it'll be true tomorrow."

And Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who is running for Senate, rolled out a new Jan. 6-themed ad warning of a dire future ahead following former Trump's win in Iowa, The Hill reported. "Now, we face an even greater danger," the ad narrator states as video shows the New York Times headline "Why a Second Trump Presidency May be More Radical than His First."

It is, to a degree, a repeat of 2016, when Trump supporters were written off as racist, sexist, hyper-religious filler in a "basket of deplorables."

The results of election night 2016 had media and pundits reeling. As the results came in, NBC News' Chuck Todd declared: "Rural America is basically screaming at us, saying, 'Stop overlooking us!'"

It wasn't just rural America, Trump voters across the country sent the message that they, the hardworking, tax-paying, non-elite didn't feel like anyone was listening to them but Trump.

The sloughing off of non-Democrats from the zone of political importance has only gotten worse as progressives have maneuvered their agenda to the top of the pile.

One of the factors behind Trump's 2016 win was the silent cadre of supporters — those who didn't show up to rallies or wave signs. They didn't want to appear with those who did — but they voted all the same.

Now Democrats are repeating the same plays, casting Trump supporters as a homogenous threat and not as diverse fellow Americans with issues worth listening to.

Trump voters know it's not OK for eggs to cost \$6 a dozen, no matter how much Team Joe touts Bidenomics as a good thing. They see cities and states buckling under the strain of sheltering waves of migrants to their fiscal detriment, while Biden paints a rosier border picture.

Democrats in power had four years to listen, to learn and to lean in. Instead Biden appealed to and continues to appease the progressive wing of the party, in a bid to remain on the good side of younger voters. He can dismiss Trump's supporters as extremists all, but the promoter of "national unity" must realize that "you and me" includes everyone.

Biden and Co. can get with the program and start paying attention to all Americans, not just the progressive blue-staters, or be in for a very rough November night in 2024.

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

Why are men so lonely?

FEW MEN WILL ADMIT IT, BUT IT'S TRUE OF MOST OF THEM: THEY'RE LONELY.

The epidemic of loneliness is hitting men hardest. Men are less skilled than women at making friends. Young men, who tend to be more progressive and are presumably more comfortable with intimacy than their elders, are in fact the most isolated.

A 2023 State of American Men report from Equimundo found that two-thirds of surveyed men between ages 18 and 23 say "no one really knows me." Since 1990, the share of men who lack a single close friend quintupled to 15%, according to a 2021 study by the Survey Center on American Life. It's worse for unmarried men: One in five of them report that they have no close friends. And 1 in every 4 of those younger than 30 say they have no close friends.

Why are men, especially young men, so lonely? It's an urgent question, as social isolation increases everything from extremism to early death. If traditional gender norms were solely to blame, Gen Zers wouldn't be struggling more than older men. One 2020 survey of men ages 16-99 in 237 countries found that young men in individualistic cultures (those that place high value on self-reliance, with loose social networks) were the loneliest.

Screen time is part of the problem, of course. Nearly half of American men say their online lives are more rewarding than their offline lives. The virtual world, with pornography and ideological provocation, is facilitating men's withdrawal. One in five Gen Z men trust the misogynist social media celebrity Andrew Tate.

But boys are retreating into the manosphere for a reason beyond the addictive nature of these technologies. They're seeking purpose in a changing world, one in which women are outpacing them in school and at work. Boys with progressive views of manhood feel the least purpose in life, according to Equimundo's survey.

Research suggests that boys wall themselves off from the world and their emotions when they feel punished for their vul-

nerability, including in progressive spaces where men's complaints and struggles are ridiculed and seen as a distraction from those of women.

Richard V. Reeves, author of "Of Boys and Men" and president of the American Institute for Boys and Men, believes that mainstream scorn for male grievances can inspire boys and men to seek solace in media figures like Tate.

Black and Latino boys and young men from low-income households are the loneliest and perhaps the most likely to be lured in by provocateurs. "They find answers online to the questions they would not even imagine raising around their own home," Reeves told me. He argues for more compassion, saying there are "too many wagging fingers and not enough helping hands."

Political hostility and culture wars have made it harder to be open. For men, who were socialized to silence loneliness and pain, the pressure to live behind a mask can be the most paralyzing.

It starts halfway through pre-K, according to Judy Chu, author of "When Boys Become Boys." Many boys arrive in school full of tenderness toward others and with a capacity to shed tears. As they grow older and see the stigma of showing vulnerability, they learn to numb their emotions. This can create a lifelong difficulty in building and nurturing friendships. Even in many progressive environments, boys get the message to man up and shut up.

"We say we value emotional expressivity in men, but we tend to devalue men who express their emotions," Chu told me. "So that kind of hypocrisy makes it really hard for boys and men to take that leap."

She and other experts believe

we all need to construct spaces where young men can safely express emotions — for instance, with boys' groups at schools. Ashanti Branch, a youth mentor and founder of the California-based Ever Forward Club, encourages boys to reckon with their buried feelings. "They're hungry to just be heard and seen and be themselves," he told me.

The rise of men's support groups reflects this need. In L.A., Adam Dorsey, a 41-year-old yoga instructor, created a men's group with a friend after they realized how helpful it was to work out and talk during the pandemic. In the meetings, the men sit in a circle and share their struggles after some exercise and breathwork. Dorsey encourages them to ask each other questions rather than give advice. "We are here to bridge the polarity of the masculine and feminine on the planet," he told me.

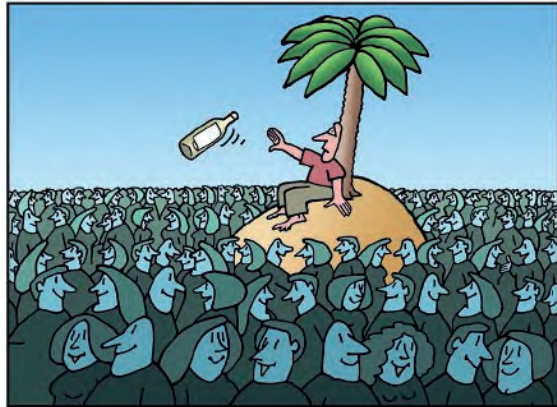
Feminists' suspicion of all-male spaces and male bonding rituals makes sense given their sexist history. But today, these spaces can make men stronger allies of women. When men support each other, it relieves women of the burden of their emotional labor. And it can teach men reciprocity and listening skills.

Because men feel more comfortable making friends and catching up when there's an event such as watching sports or lifting weights, it can be helpful for them to join a men's group or pick up new hobbies with weekly meet-ups.

Bumble BFF, the dating app's friendly spinoff, can also facilitate friendships. But many men approach it with homophobic biases, since our culture tends to sexualize male vulnerability. Reddit threads are full of unsubstantiated claims that the app is overrun with "undercover gays."

Given these inhibitions, it's no surprise that just 1 in 5 men have received emotional support from a friend in the past week, compared with 41% of women. But men can relearn how to be close to others, particularly with some empathy and help from all of us.

JEAN GUERRERO is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.



Our dangerous failure of imagination

GENERALLY, COMPARISONS BETWEEN DONALD TRUMP AND ADOLPH HITLER AREN'T PARTICULARLY PERSUASIVE. They often reflect an over-the-top, sky-is-falling semi-hysteria. Trump and Hitler? Let's not get carried away.

On the other hand, do we have something to fear from a too-casual complacency engendered by a failure of imagination?

I was thinking about this last week as I read an op-ed entitled "American democratic system will endure," by Jonathan Turley, a commentator and law professor at George Washington University.

Turley dismisses the notion, suggested by President Joe Biden, that "democracy is on the ballot" in the 2024 election and that "our constitutional system is on the verge of collapse," as some on the left and the right argue.

He concedes that Trump is responsible for stoking some of this anxiety with his "reckless rhetoric." Indeed, Trump some-

times sounds Hitlerian. He talks in vague terms about rooting out "vermin," likely meaning anyone who opposes him. He castigates immigrants for "poisoning the blood of our country."

And when he jokes about being a dictator for only one day, it's easy to see how skeptics might imagine that Trump's supposed humor reflects a deep-seated authoritarian ambition.

Not to worry, says Turley: Even if Trump wants to be a dictator, "it's not up to him." Turley reassures us that any anti-constitutional tendency on Trump's part would be curbed by the legislative and judicial branches. So, relax; nothing to see here.

Turley's complacency reflects his history as a legal and political analyst, which is reliably Trump friendly. But consider this recent CNBC report on the World Economic Forum entitled "U.S. executives in Davos see a Trump vic-

tory in 2024, and no cause for concern."

According to this report, foreign business leaders are "terrified" at the prospect of a second Trump term, but American business leaders say that foreigners just don't understand our system of checks and balances. One CEO said that Trump is "all bark and no bite," and Trump's rejection of the results of the 2020 election is mere "bloviation."

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman isn't worried either: "I believe that America is gonna be fine, no matter what happens in this election."

But something about this complacency feels ominously naive. Are we failing to imagine what Trump could become and telling ourselves only what we want to hear?

What were people saying about Hitler in the 1930s? No doubt some were issuing the kind of warnings that we sometimes hear

about Trump. But a quick web search yields expressions of the same complacency we see in Turley and the CEOs.

For example, consider Henry W. Levy's "Germany's Big Question Mark," printed in The Seattle Times on April 23, 1933. Levy interviews Emil Lengyel, an authority on European affairs and author of "Hitler," a portrait of the rising leader published in America the previous year. At the time of the interview, Hitler's appointment as chancellor had been confirmed by a vote of the German people.

As Lengyel puts it: "Hitler is thus Germany's dictator by the right of the electorate."

Should the world be worried? Not really, Lengyel says.

Lengyel "does not believe that Hitler...will initiate as violent a program as some people fear." In fact, "Hitler and his Nazis must ride the middle course."

Lengyel relies on the moderating power of Hitler's "non-Nazi cabinet members." "The sobering influence of these men," he says,

"will temporize and cause a pause to the more volatile advice of Nazi leaders."

"Hitler," Lengyel says, "has no program of his own...He carries his followers on sentimental appeal...With penetrating insight into the psychology of his countrymen, he just harped on the humiliations and insults they have had to endure." His followers, "eager to avenge their country and their own feelings, were swept off their feet by the appeal."

Hitler may, Lengyel concedes, have "certain hidden powers." "But I doubt it," he concludes.

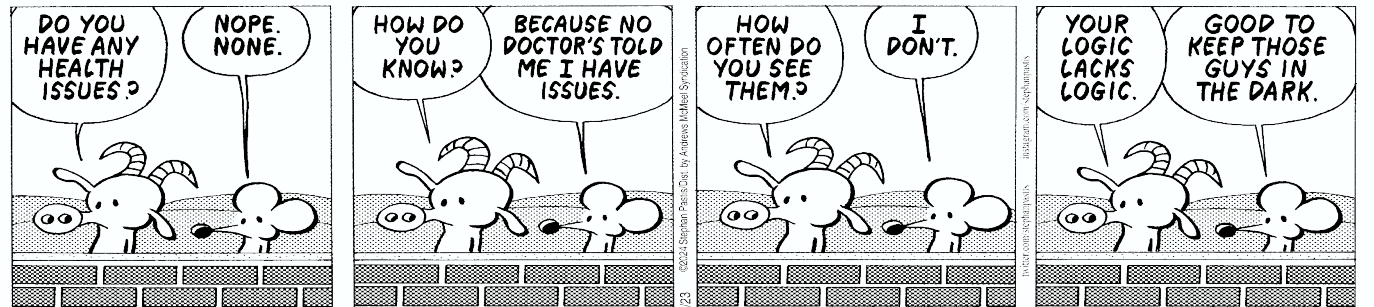
Why does all this feel so ominously familiar?

In any case, our failure to imagine the consequences of electing a man with strong anti-democratic instincts is dangerous.

After all, Hitler became Hitler only in retrospect; what Donald Trump will become still remains to be seen.

JOHN M. CRISP, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



BY STEPHAN PASTIS

NON SEQUITUR

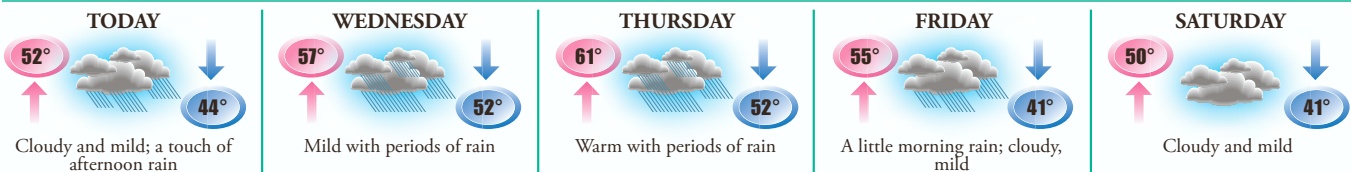


BY WILEY

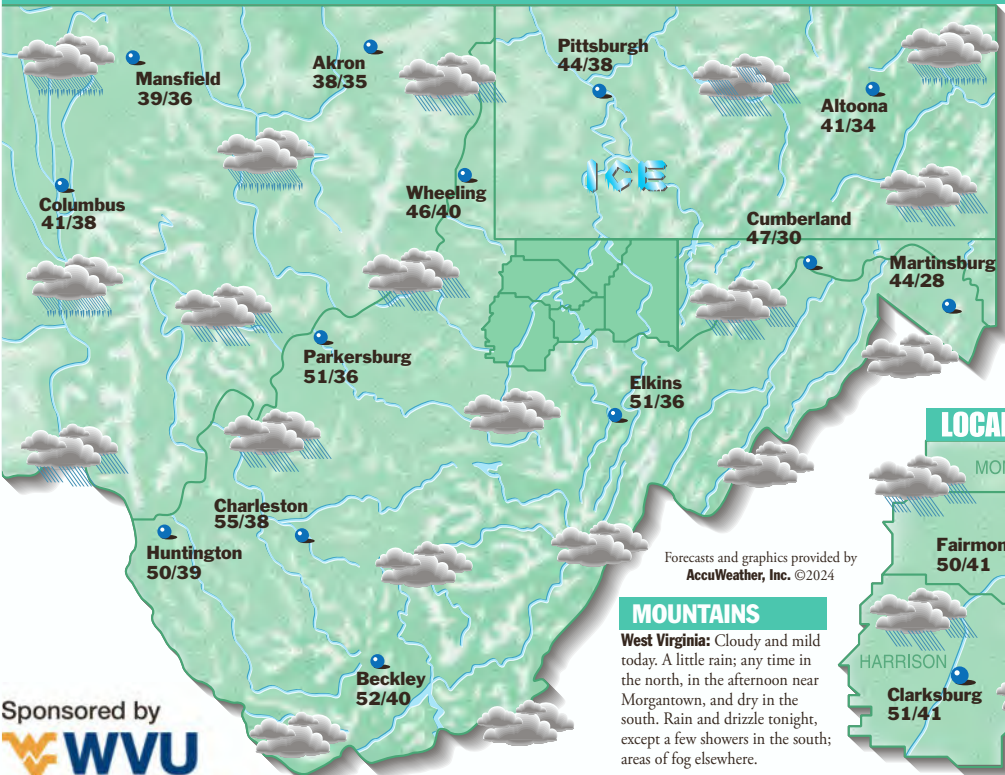
The Dominion Post
H.C. Greer (1878-1948) & Agnes Jane Greer (1880-1972)

ADAM RAESE Publisher 304-284-0300	PAM QUEEN Editor 304-291-9433
JESSICA BELLINO Advertising Manager 304-225-3405	CHRIS HALTERMAN Production Director 304-291-9479
BRAD PENNINGTON Circulation/Marketing 304-291-9465	JESSICA NELSON Opinion Editor 304-291-9470

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



Sponsored by WVU Medicine

ALMANAC

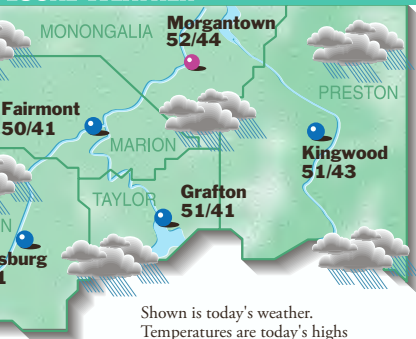
Morgantown through 4 p.m. Monday

Temperature: High/Low 39°/6° Normal high/low 38°/20° Record high 76° in 1906 Record low -5° in 1984

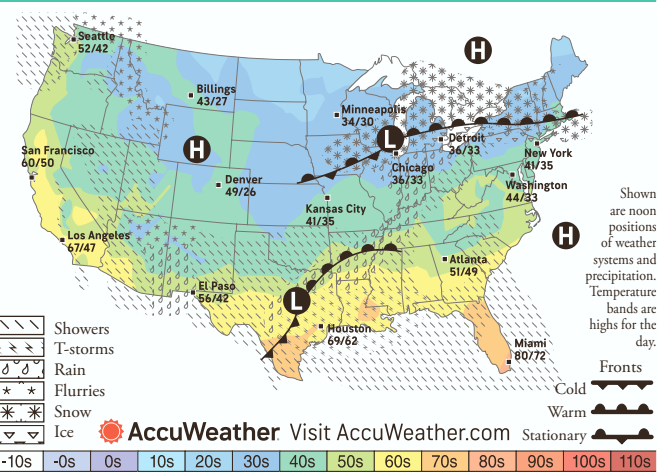
Precipitation: 24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Monday 0.00" Month to date 2.83" Year to date 2.83"

SUN AND MOON: Sunrise today 7:35 a.m. Sunset tonight 5:28 p.m. Moonrise today 3:19 p.m. Moonset today 6:28 a.m.

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



SKI CONDITIONS

Ski Area, New snow (in), Base (in), Trails Open

Canaan Valley	0	44-70	36
Seven Springs, PA	2	18-18	42
Snowshoe/Silver Creek	0	0-53	57
Timberline Four Seasons	0	30-70	20
Wisp, MD	0	24-28	32

REGIONAL CITIES

City, Tues. Hi/Lo/W, Wed. Hi/Lo/W

Beckley, WV	52/40/c	55/48/r
Charleston, WV	55/38/c	58/50/r
Columbus, OH	41/38/r	50/47/r
Cumberland, MD	47/30/r	42/37/r
Fairmont, WV	50/41/c	55/48/r
Grafton, WV	51/41/r	56/51/r
Huntington, WV	50/39/c	55/48/r
Kingwood, WV	51/43/r	56/51/r
Preston, WV	44/38/r	53/47/r
Wheeling, WV	46/40/r	54/50/r

SOLUNAR TABLES

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

	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
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.
Thu.	11:07 a.m.	4:55 a.m.	11:32 p.m.	5:19 p.m.
Fri.	11:56 a.m.	5:44 a.m.	12:07 p.m.	6:07 p.m.
Sat.	12:21 a.m.	6:32 a.m.	12:43 p.m.	6:54 p.m.

LAKE AND RIVERS

Lake, 7 a.m. Yest., 24-hour Change

Cheat Lake	859.71	-0.99
Deep Creek, MD	2457.42	+0.02
Jennings Randolph	1442.41	-0.18
Stonewall Jackson	1067.91	-0.12
Tygart	1041.40	-1.20
Youghiogheny	1418.06	-0.29

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 23, the 23rd day of 2024. There are 343 days left in the year.

Highlight:

In 1964, the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified as South Dakota became the 38th state to endorse it.

On this date:

In 1368, China's Ming dynasty, which lasted nearly three centuries, began as Zhu Yuanzhang was formally acclaimed emperor, following the collapse of the Yuan dynasty.

In 1950, the Israeli Knesset approved a resolution affirming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In 1962, Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War, and would be formally signed four days later in Paris.

In 2020, Chinese state media said the city of Wuhan would be shutting down out-bound flights and trains, trying to halt the spread of a new virus that had sickened hundreds of people and killed at least 17. The World Health Organization said the viral illness in China was not yet a global health emergency.

Today's birthdays: Actor Chita Rivera is 91. Princess Caroline of Monaco is 67. Mariska Hargitay is 60.

Baby's arrival exposes deep fissures in family

DEAR ABBY: My step-daughter, "Zoe," has recently had her first baby and we are very excited. She lives far away. My husband, "Karl," is taking the trip, but I have to stay because my elderly mother is living with us. I asked family to stay with Mom, but they're involved in their busy lives, and Mom clings to me.

While I called to congratulate other relatives on becoming new aunts, etc., none of them reciprocated. Later, one of them reluctantly said they were told I was not the grandmother (even if Zoe's biological mother had passed away), nor would I ever be.

This is bittersweet. I do not want to replace anyone. I've been hoping for a grandchild for a long time. I have been with Karl for more than 20 years. I'm crushed. No pictures are being sent to me, though when I was planning Zoe's wedding, we were in constant contact and I thought we were growing closer. I guess not.

How do I navigate this? My mother-in-law is barely speaking to me since I can't join in the trip to see the baby and has become very snotty. Must I just admire from afar like a



JEANNE PHILLIPS

bystander, pretending to care? — CAST ASIDE IN NEW YORK

DEAR CAST ASIDE: I wish you had mentioned which family member was telling the others you're not to be considered that baby's grandmother. Could it have been Zoe's mother? If that's the case, there appears to be more than a little jealousy on her part and a blatant attempt to isolate you.

You are the child's step-grandmother, and photos should be shared with you. I hope Karl will impress this upon his daughter as well as let her know how hurt you have been by the treatment you have been receiving. What happened was unjustified. The more love in this world, the better, and labels should be used to include rather than isolate.

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

Table with TV listings for 1/23/24, including Broadcast Channels, Cable Channels, and Movie Channels.

A Help Button Should Go Where You Go!

To be truly independent, your personal emergency device needs to work on the go.

MobileHelp® allows you to summon emergency help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by simply pressing your personal help button. Unlike traditional systems that only work inside your home, a MobileHelp medical alert system extends help beyond the home. Now you can participate in all your favorite activities such as gardening, taking walks, shopping and traveling all with the peace of mind of having a personal alert system with you. MobileHelp, the "on-the-go" help button, is powered by one of the nation's largest cellular networks, so there's virtually no limit to your help button's range.

No landline? No problem! While traditional alert systems require a landline, with the MobileHelp system, a landline is not necessary. Whether you are home or away from home, a simple press of your help button activates your system, providing the central station with your information and location. Our trained emergency operators will know who you are and where you are located. If you're one of the millions of people that have waited for an alert service because it didn't fit your lifestyle, or settled for a traditional system even though it only worked in the home, then we welcome you to try MobileHelp. Experience peace of mind in the home or on the go.

GET OUR SPECIAL OFFER NOW:

- FREE EXPEDITED SHIPPING*
- FREE ONE MONTH SERVICE*
- 50% OFF AUTO FALL DETECT*
- plus FREE EQUIPMENT TO USE!*

Unlike "stay-at-home" emergency systems MobileHelp protects you:

Places where your Help Button will work	MobileHelp	Traditional Help Buttons
At Home	✓	✓
On a Walk	✓	✗
On Vacation	✓	✗
At the Park	✓	✗
Shopping	✓	✗

MobileHelp Features:

- Simple one-button operation
- Affordable service
- Amplified 2-way voice communication
- 24/7 access to U.S. based emergency operators
- GPS location detection
- Available Nationwide

Optional Fall Button™

1-855-693-1956

FREEDOM. TO BE YOU.

If you think oxygen therapy means slowing down, it's time for a welcome breath of fresh air.

Introducing the Inogen One family of portable oxygen systems. With no need for bulky tanks, each concentrator is designed to keep you active via Inogen's Intelligent Delivery Technology.® Hours of quiet and consistent oxygen flow on a long-lasting battery charge enabling freedom of movement, whether at home or on the road. Every Inogen One meets FAA requirements for travel ensuring the freedom to be you.

- No heavy oxygen tanks
- Ultra quiet operation
- Lightweight and easy to use
- Safe for car and air travel
- Full range of options and accessories
- FAA approved and clinically validated

Call 1-844-469-9693 for a free consultation.

inogen

MKT-P0240

BOYS' BASKETBALL

No. 1 for a reason



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Trinity's Austin Porta (center) has his shot blocked by Tucker County's Trevan Bonner (10) on Monday.

Top-ranked Tucker County runs past Trinity

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH
Sports@DominionPost.com

Tucker County showed exactly why it's the No. 1 team in Class AA on Monday, as the Mountain Lions took down Trinity 91-60 on the hill in Sabraton.

Tucker County (9-2) shot 41 for 63 (65%) from the field and five players scored in double figures.

Guard Trevan Bonner led all scorers in the contest with 26 points, including four of his team's seven 3-pointers.

His teammate Garrett Wilfong added 24 points off the bench on a perfect 11 for 11 shooting that came with multiple thunderous dunks.

The Warriors (8-4) were led by Chayce Adams, who scored 25 points on 9 of 18 shots and four threes, and Carter Hartsock who finished with 20.

"When your hand is down on defense they get a lot of open shots," Trinity coach Codey Horton said. "We talked a lot about runs and had them within reach but we started forcing some things to start the fourth and they got too many unanswered bas-



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Trinity guard Chayce Adams pushes the ball upcourt Monday.

kets."

The Warriors held a 10-9 lead early in the first, but Tucker County went on a 15-4 over the final half of the frame to take a 24-14 lead and set the tone for the final three quarters.

Another 24-point quarter extended the lead to 17 points by halftime, 48-31 behind a 21 for 35 shooting effort.

Trinity trailed by 20, 62-42 with

SEE REASON, B-2

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Eilert lists Edwards as a game-time decision

WVU center will be tested before game against UCF

BY JUSTIN JACKSON
JJackson@DominionPost.com

Josh Eilert listed the status of WVU center Jesse Edwards as day-to-day on Monday, meaning the full potential of the Mountaineers' lineup is the same.

Edwards could see action in Orlando at 7 p.m. today, as WVU (7-11, 2-3 Big 12) travels to UCF for the first time with both schools being Big 12 members.

Or Eilert may choose to rest Edwards another game, as he recovers from surgery on his right wrist.

"We're getting closer to having a complete roster," Eilert said during a Zoom call. "It's a day-by-day situation with Jesse. We're trending in the right direction and we have to keep that momentum going.

"It's a fluid situation. I'm not sure if he'll play (Tuesday) or not."

WVU's 6-foot-11 center will continue to practice and will likely be in uniform for today's game.

That was the situation last

WVU at UCF

WHEN: 7 p.m. today
WHERE: Addition Financial Arena, Orlando
TV: ESPN+ (Online subscription needed)
RADIO: 100.9 JACK-FM
WEB: dominionpost.com
.....

week, as WVU knocked off then-No. 3 Kansas.

"We say he practiced, but he did very limited five-on-five," Eilert said. "He was there and active, but we have to be careful with it. We have to make sure we're not pushing him too fast.

"He warmed up against Kansas and it wasn't far-fetched that we could have thrown him in there at any given point if we got desperate. I have to be smart with him. It's my responsibility to do the best thing by our guys."

The continued emergence of Pat Suemnick may make Eilert's decision easier: Suemnick scored 20 points against Kansas and is averaging just under 12 points over his last five games.

Or Eilert could go for the gusto. It would be hard to blame him, as the Mountaineers have gone more than two months

SEE EDWARDS, B-2



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

WVU center Jesse Edwards (7) will practice and then be a game-time decision when WVU travels to UCF today.

PRO FOOTBALL

New faces, familiar names in conference title games



AP photo

Patrick Mahomes has Kansas City back in the AFC championship for a sixth consecutive season.

Associated Press

Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs are back in the AFC championship game for a sixth straight season and probably taking Taylor Swift with them along with Travis Kelce's older, shirtless brother.

Dan Campbell has the Detroit Lions one win away from the franchise's first Super Bowl appearance after securing a spot in the NFC title game on the three-year anniversary of his teeth-kicking, kneecap-biting introductory news conference.

The Chiefs and Lions advanced with tough, down-to-the-wire victories on Sunday. Both teams moved on to face the No. 1 seed in their conference: the AFC's Baltimore Ravens and the NFC's San Francisco 49ers.

The NFL's Final Four teams are set. It'll be Chiefs-Ravens and Lions-49ers battling for the right to play for the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Mahomes made several brilliant plays in his first road playoff game — besides three Super Bowls — and outshined Josh Allen in a 27-24 victory at Buffalo that was secured when Bills kicker Tyler Bass missed a 44-yard field goal wide right with 1:43 left.

Mahomes, the two-time NFL and Super Bowl MVP, tossed two touchdown passes to Travis Kelce while Swift and Brittany Mahomes hugged in a suite and bare-chested Eagles All-Pro center Jason Kelce celebrated by chugging beers in the row behind them.

Lamar Jackson and the Ravens

(14-4) are waiting on the Chiefs (13-6) after routing the Houston Texans 34-10 Saturday. It'll be the first AFC championship game played outside Kansas City since 2018.

Mahomes had a big smile on his face after the game as he ran off the field, dodging snowballs without a helmet protecting him.

"I love being in Arrowhead (Stadium) and playing in front of that crowd but when you're on the road, it's you vs. them," Mahomes said. "It's you vs. everybody in the stadium and you have to come together as a team and the guys do that."

Earlier Sunday, Campbell, Jared Goff and the feisty Lions beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers

SEE TITLE, B-2

CONNECT

SPORTS EDITOR: Cody Nespor 304-291-9410

EMAIL: Sports@DominionPost.com

TWITTER: DomPostSports

Trust your marketing needs to us.

SOCIAL MEDIA

EMAIL CAMPAIGN

CONTENT

DIGITAL DESIGN

TOTAL CAMPAIGN

SEO

Contact a DP rep today!
dominionpost.com/marketing-services/get-in-touch

(304)
225-3405

The Dominion Post

SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
Martinsburg at Morgantown, 7 p.m.
Clay-Battelle at Toronto (Oh.)
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
Buckhannon-Upshur at University, 7:30 p.m.
Morgantown at Wheeling Park, 7:30 p.m.
Preston at Grafton, 7:30 p.m.
Cameron at Clay-Battelle
MEN'S BASKETBALL
West Virginia at UCF, 7 p.m.

ON TV

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
6:30 p.m.: FS1 — Butler at Georgetown
7 p.m.: ACCN — Duke at Louisville
BTN — Wisconsin at Minnesota
CBSSN — Loyola of Chicago at VCU
ESPN — Texas at Oklahoma
ESPN2 — Florida St. at Syracuse
ESPNU — Pittsburgh at Georgia Tech
PEACOCK — Ohio St. at Nebraska
SECN — Kentucky at South Carolina
8:30 p.m.: FS1 — Xavier at Creighton
9 p.m.: ACCN — Boston College at Virginia Tech
CBSSN — Wyoming at San Diego St.
ESPN2 — TCU at Oklahoma St.
PEACOCK — Michigan at Purdue
SECN — Missouri at Texas A&M
10:30 p.m.: FS1 — Boise St. at Fresno St.
11 p.m.: CBSSN — Air Force at UNLV
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
9 p.m.: BTN — Minnesota at Wisconsin
MLB BASEBALL
4 p.m.: MLBN — 2024 Hall of Fame Election Announcement
NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.: TNT — New York at Brooklyn
10 p.m.: TNT — LA Lakers at LA Clippers
MEN'S SOCCER
2:45 p.m.: FS2 — CONMEBOL U-23 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage:
Bolivia vs. Brazil, Group A
5:45 p.m.: FS2 — CONMEBOL U-23 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage:
Ecuador vs. Venezuela, Group A
TENNIS
3 a.m.: ESPN2 — ATP/WTa: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals
12 p.m.: ESPN2 — ATP/WTa: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals (Taped)
9 p.m.: ESPN — ATP/WTa: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.				
Record	Pts	Prv		
1. UConn (44)	17-2	1508	1	
2. Purdue (17)	17-2	1472	2	
3. North Carolina	15-3	1391	4	
4. Houston	16-2	1309	5	
5. Tennessee	14-4	1237	6	
6. Kentucky	14-3	1205	8	
7. Kansas	15-3	1157	3	
8. Auburn	16-2	1094	13	
9. Arizona	14-4	1060	12	
10. Illinois	14-4	862	14	
11. Oklahoma	15-3	849	15	
12. Duke	13-4	832	7	
13. Wisconsin	14-4	801	11	
14. Marquette	13-5	747	17	
15. Baylor	14-4	645	9	
16. Dayton	15-2	546	21	
17. Creighton	14-5	505	18	
18. Utah St.	17-2	381	16	
19. Memphis	15-4	329	10	
20. Texas Tech	15-3	304	25	
21. BYU	14-4	294	20	
22. FAU	15-4	290	23	
23. Iowa St.	14-4	253	24	
24. Colorado St.	15-3	214	-	
25. New Mexico	16-3	177	-	

Others receiving votes: Seton Hall 84, San Diego St. 64, Kansas St 39, Alabama 30, TCU 27, Mississippi 25, Princeton 21, Utah 20, Texas 16, Boise St. 9, Florida 6, Gonzaga 6, Grand Canyon 5, Michigan St. 3, Saint Mary's 2, NC State 1, San Francisco 1, Indiana St 1, Samford 1, McNeese St. 1, Colorado 1.

USA Today Top 25

The USA TODAY Sports Top 25 men's basketball poll, with first-place votes received in parenthesis, team's records, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th and ranking in last week's final poll:				
Record	Pts	Pvs		
1. Connecticut (24)	17-2	791	1	
2. Purdue (8)	17-2	769	2	
3. North Carolina	15-3	734	3	
4. Houston	16-2	678	5	
5. Tennessee	14-4	671	7	
6. Kentucky	14-3	609	10	
6. Auburn	16-2	609	11	
8. Kansas	15-3	576	4	
9. Arizona	14-4	528	13	
10. Wisconsin	14-4	480	8	
11. Illinois	14-4	437	14	

TENNIS

Australian Open

Monday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: AUD\$9,923,200
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Men's Singles
Fourth Round
Daniil Medvedev (3), Russia, def. Nuno Borges, Portugal, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-1.
Hubert Hurkacz (9), Poland, def. Arthur Cazaux, France, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3), 6-4.
Alexander Zverev (6), Germany, def. Cameron Norrie (19), Britain, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (3).
Carlos Alcaraz (2), Spain, def. Milomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-4, 6-0.

Women's Singles
Fourth Round
Linda Noskova, Czech Republic, def. Elina Svitolina (19), Ukraine, 3-0, ret.
Diana Yastremska, Ukraine, def. Victoria Azarenka (18), Belarus, 7-6 (6), 6-4.
Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, def. Jasmine Paolini (26), Italy, 6-4, 6-2.
Zheng Qinwen (12), China, def. Oceane Dodin, France, 6-0, 6-3.

Men's Doubles

PREP BASKETBALL

Monday's scores

BOYS
Cameron 79, Hundred 39
Paw Paw 64, Timber Ridge, Va. 28
Tucker County 91, Trinity 60

GIRLS
Belmont Union Local, Ohio 66, John Marshall 41

12. Duke	13-4	421	6
13. Oklahoma	15-3	401	16
14. Baylor	14-4	362	9
15. Marquette	13-5	360	18
16. Creighton	299	14-5	299
17. Dayton	15-2	277	23
18. Iowa State	14-4	220	20
19. Brigham Young	14-4	181	19
20. Utah State	17-2	176	17
21. Texas Tech	15-3	148	25
22. Memphis	15-4	130	12
23. Colorado State	15-3	119	NR
24. Florida Atlantic	15-4	101	NR
25. New Mexico	16-3	54	NR

Others receiving votes: Alabama 43; San Diego State 43; Seton Hall 33; Gonzaga 30; TCU 26; Texas 18; Clemson 15; Kansas State 14; Princeton 13; Utah 10; Saint Mary's 6; Boise State 5; Grand Canyon 4; Indiana State 4; James Madison 2; Mississippi 2; Michigan State 1.

Women's AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.				
Record	Pts	Prv		
1. South Carolina (35)	17-0	875	5	
2. UCLA	15-1	833	5	
3. Colorado	16-2	763	3	
4. Kansas St	18-1	753	7	
5. Iowa	18-2	729	2	
6. Stanford	17-2	695	8	
7. NC State	16-2	646	4	
8. UConn	16-3	635	9	
9. LSU	18-2	575	10	
10. Texas	18-2	553	11	
11. Southern Cal	15-3	515	6	
12. Ohio St.	13-3	493	18	
13. Baylor	15-2	480	12	
14. Indiana	16-2	396	16	
15. Notre Dame	14-3	331	19	
16. Utah	13-5	328	20	
17. Gonzaga	18-2	320	17	
18. Louisville	16-3	315	13	
19. Virginia Tech	14-4	272	14	
20. North Carolina	14-5	243	23	
21. Creighton	14-3	169	21	
22. Syracuse	16-2	131	-	
23. Florida St.	14-6	104	15	
24. West Virginia	16-2	78	-	
25. Oregon St.	15-3	43	-	

Others receiving votes: Marquette 37, Princeton 21, Iowa St. 14, UNLV 12, Fairfield 8, Washington St 3, Miami 2, Green Bay 1, Richmond 1, Virginia 1.

Third Round
Yannick Hanfmann and Dominik Koepfer, Germany, def. Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (4), Argentina, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (3), 6-4.
Ariel Behar, Uruguay, and Adam Pavlasek, Czech Republic, def. Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Neal Skupski (5), Britain, 3-6, 7-6 (1), 6-4.
Hugo Nys, Monaco, and Jan Zielinski (7), Poland, def. Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Lloyd Glasspool (11), Britain, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Rohan Bopanna, India, and Matthew Ebden (2), Australia, def. Nikola Mektic, Croatia, and Wesley Koolhof (14), Netherlands, 7-6 (8), 7-6 (4).

Women's Doubles
Third Round
Alexandra Panova, Russia, and Cristina Bucsa, Spain, def. Taylor Townsend, United States, and Beatriz Haddad Maia (8), Brazil, 6-2, 6-4.
Laura Siegemund, Germany, and Barbara Krejickikova (5), Czech Republic, def. Emma Navarro, United States, and Diana Shneider, Russia, 6-4, 6-0.
Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Luisa Stefani (9), Brazil, def. Desirae Krawczyk, United States, and Ena Shibahara (6), Japan, 5-7, 2-6, 7-6 (6).
Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine, and Jelena Ostapenko (11), Latvia, def. Zhu Lin, China, and Fang-Hsien Wu, Taiwan, 6-3, 7-5.

Cross Lanes Christian 38, Sherman 26
Greenbrier West 47, Midland Trail 30
Huntington 70, Hurricane 48
Lincoln 78, Liberty Harrison 42
Martinsburg 55, East Hardy 32
Oak Glen 56, Beaver, Ohio 39
Parkersburg Catholic 55, Ritchie County 41
PikeView 54, Bluefield 26
St. Albans 44, Spring Valley 41

BASEBALL

Pirates sign reliever Chapman

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Pirates have bolstered the back end of their bullpen, agreeing to terms with seven-time All-Star reliever Aroldis Chapman on a one-year deal worth \$10.5 million. The deal is pending completion of a physical, a person familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press. The source spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity



Aroldis Chapman

because the deal isn't yet final. Chapman gives the Pirates an experienced left-hander to work in a potential set-up role for All-Star closer David Bednar. The 14-year veteran, who turns 36 next month, has 321 saves while playing for five

teams but has evolved into a setup man over the last two seasons. Chapman went 6-5 with a 3.09 ERA and six saves in 61 games with Kansas City and Texas last season. The Rangers acquired the hard-throwing Chapman from the Royals in late June and he responded by helping the club win its first World Series. Chapman appeared in nine post-season games for the Rangers, allowing two

runs in eight innings. Chapman will be joined in Pittsburgh by Rangers teammate Martin Pérez, who agreed to an \$8 million, one-year deal with the Pirates in December. Pittsburgh used right-hander Colin Holderman and left-hander Ryan Borucki in high-leverage situations last season in front of Bednar. Chapman gives the Pirates another option and potentially a trade chip at the deadline.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Davis, No. 3 UNC roll past Wake Forest

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — RJ Davis got North Carolina rolling by attacking the basket or knocking down floaters in a tough first half, then hardly missed in the second. By the final seconds, his crowd responded by roaring "RJ! RJ!" after the 6-foot senior pushed the third-ranked Tar Heels to another double-digit win in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Davis continued his star-making season with a career-high 36 points as UNC dominated after half-time to beat Wake Forest 85-64 on Monday night. He had 23 second-half points for UNC (16-3, 8-0 ACC), which went from trailing by one at the break after failing to make a 3-pointer to consistently attacking the paint to build momentum toward the rim and find a humming flow. "I feel like I'm in my backyard just out there hooping, just trying things out," Davis said in describing "a zone that every hooper knows." The capper was a big hug from coach Hubert Davis as he checked out. "I think RJ opened the game up for sure, like in every aspect," said fresh-



AP photo

North Carolina guard RJ Davis (right) drives in for two of his 36 points on Monday.

man guard Elliot Cadeau, who had 14 points. Davis finally got UNC on the board from behind the arc to start UNC's strongest push, taking a whip-the-ball-around-the-arc set of feeds to bury a corner 3-pointer before fol-

lowing with another 3 in transition. That was the beginning of an 18-4 run, ending when Cormac Ryan buried his own transition 3 against the backpedaling Demon Deacons for a 59-45 lead with 11:46 left.

REASON

FROM PAGE B-1

2:30 left to play in the third quarter as the two teams continually traded buckets. They managed to get as close as 15, 64-49, with a 90-second scoring run, but Wilfong stepped up again for Tucker County and hit a triple at the buzzer to end the third and give his team an 18-point lead going into the final quarter. "We were right there with them in the third but

they brought the energy and athleticism and we couldn't overcome it," Horton said. "This was their first game in nine days and I know they were excited to play and they showed that. We scouted and had a gameplan coming in but they used their energy and athleticism to roll right over it." The Warriors scored a game-low 11 points in the final quarter while the Mountain Lions managed their third 24-point frame

of the contest. Trinity will hit the road for its next contest against Class A No. 4 Webster County on Friday at 7:30 p.m.
Box score
Tucker County 91, Trinity Christian 60
Tucker County - Bonner 11 0-0 26 Wilfong 11 1-1 24 Rosenou 6 0-0 14 Lyclifter 5 1-3 11 Knatts 5 0-0 10 Robosen 1 0-0 2 Kisomore 1 0-0 2 Dearborn 1 0-0 2
Trinity Christian - Adams 9 3-4 25 Hartsock 7 6-8 20 Hopkins 2 0-0 6 Knisko 2 0-0 5 Septoe 1 0-0 2 Porta 0 1-2 1 Lohman 0 1-2 1
Tucker 24 24 19 24-91
Trinity 14 17 18 11-60
3pt goals - Tucker County 7 (Bonner 4 Rosenou 2 Wilfong 1); Trinity Christian 7 (Adams 4 Hopkins 2 Knisko 1)

EDWARDS

FROM PAGE B-1

with only bits and pieces of its roster available for every game. Edwards' return could move Suemnick over to power forward with a guard rotation of Kerr Kriisa, RaeQuan Battle and Kobe Johnson, while Quinn Slazinski and Noah Farrakhan come off the bench. That WVU lineup has been only a theory to this point, one that's been seen

by a select few in workouts over the summer. "I've seen it in preseason practices," Eilert said. "I've seen the combination of Kerr and Rae and Jesse and other complimentary pieces with them. I was very excited about those guys playing. I've seen them together. It's a special unit when you get all of those guys together." And WVU is running out of time. Although just two games back in the Big 12 standings — as is UCF

(11-6, 2-3) — the Mountaineers have dug themselves a hole that won't be filled by simply hanging around in the league standings. Their wins against Texas and Kansas are already likely offset by the earlier nonconference losses to Radford and Monmouth. WVU needs a winning streak just to get back to .500, which is still a long stretch for any postseason other than the NIT.

Middle school boys

St. Francis 7s 40, Mountaineer Middle 16: St. Francis was led in scoring by Kannon Peasak's 11 points and Lex Duling had 10. Mountaineer Middle was led by James Douglas' seven points.
St. Francis 8s 48, Mountaineer Middle 24: Blaze Colistra led St. Francis with 23 points. Mountaineer Middle was led by Kohen Ford's seven points.

Getting Edwards back in the mix would look good on paper, but Eilert knows there is a transition stage of once again getting everyone on the same page as a new face enters the rotation. "Hopefully it's a smoother transition," Eilert said. "Credit to Pat Suemnick, who has done an absolute phenomenal job, especially in the last three or four games. He filled that void for us."

ship with this city and this area, and they love it, man, and ultimately, that's what you want. Now, a year from now, two years, we'll be getting booed, maybe; that's a whole other deal, though. But right now, life's good, and I'm glad we could deliver that." As Campbell told his players during his postgame speech in the locker room, they have two more wins to go. Getting the next one won't be easy against the 49ers. Purdy led San Francisco to a 24-21 comeback win over seventh-seeded Green Bay on Saturday night, sending the 49ers

(13-5) to the NFC title game for the third consecutive season. The Niners had no chance in hostile Philadelphia last year after Purdy suffered a significant elbow injury in the first quarter. They'll have a friendly atmosphere at home as coach Kyle Shanahan tries again to take the team back to the Super Bowl following a loss to Mahomes and the Chiefs four years ago. San Francisco opened as 7-point favorites while Baltimore is a 3 1/2-point favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

PRO FOOTBALL

Titans to hire Bengals' Callahan as new head coach

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans have agreed to hire Cincinnati Bengals offensive coordinator Brian Callahan as their head coach, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Monday.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal hadn't been finalized.

Callahan replaces Mike Vrabel, who was fired on Jan. 9 after six seasons and losing 18 of his final 24 games.

The 39-year-old Callahan had a virtual interview with Tennessee on Jan. 12, the first of 10 candidates to speak to the team. The Titans interviewed Callahan in person on Monday and decided to hire him, the person said.

The Titans declined to comment Monday night.

The NFL had not allowed in-person interviews of current league employees until Monday, the day after the divisional playoff round.

Callahan becomes the third coach hired since the season ended Jan. 7. New England promoted Jerod Mayo to replace Bill Belichick, and the Raiders elevated their interim coach, Antonio Pierce. Carolina, the Los Angeles Chargers, Atlanta, Seattle and Washington are still looking for coaches.

Callahan has 14 years of NFL experience. He has been the Bengals' offensive coordinator since 2019 and is credited with aiding in the development of quarterback Joe Burrow. He will get the chance now to work with Will Levis, the quarterback Tennessee took at No. 33 overall last April.

The Titans also have the seventh overall draft pick and currently have the third-most salary cap space in the NFL. They believe they have their quarterback after Levis went 3-6 as a rookie. The 33rd pick overall out of Kentucky took over at the end of Octo-



Brian Callahan

ber after veteran Ryan Tannehill sprained his right ankle.

Callahan was with the Bengals when they

stunned the Titans, who were the AFC's top seed, in the divisional round of the playoffs on Jan. 22, 2022. Cincinnati went on to reach the Super Bowl, where it lost to the Los Angeles Rams.

The son of former Raiders coach Bill Callahan has been a popular target in head coaching searches. He interviewed with several teams last year before opting to stay in Cincinnati. Callahan also interviewed recently with the Chargers for their coaching vacancy.

This season, Callahan helped former practice squad quarterback Jake Browning go 4-3 as a starter after a season-ending injury to Burrow, keeping the Bengals in the playoff mix until the end. Browning completed 70.4% of his passes, throwing for 1,936 yards with 12 touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Callahan played quarterback at UCLA and began his NFL career as a coaching assistant for the Broncos in 2010 before being promoted to offensive quality control coach in 2011, and then offensive assistant in 2013.

He was quarterbacks coach for the Lions in 2016-17 and then for the Raiders in 2018 before joining the Bengals.

The Titans also interviewed former Stanford head coach David Shaw, Pierce, a trio of defensive coordinators in Dallas' Dan Quinn, Detroit's Aaron Glenn and Mike Macdonald of Baltimore, and three other offensive coordinators in Carolina's Thomas Brown, the Giants' Mike Kafka and Brian Johnson of Philadelphia.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Clark's collision with a fan raises court-storming concerns

Associated Press

The visual of one of the nation's most popular athletes knocked to the floor after a fan who was staring at her phone collided with her while storming the court was a stark reminder of the dangers athletes face when crowds get out of control.

Iowa superstar Caitlin Clark was shaken up but not injured in the collision, which occurred Sunday as she headed toward the locker room with teammates following a 100-92 loss to then-No. 18 Ohio State in Columbus.

It was the second time in less than two weeks that fans have stormed the court at the end of a Big Ten game. It happened Jan. 9 in Lincoln when the Nebraska men knocked off then-No. 1 Purdue. Boiler-makers coach Matt Painter said afterward game management personnel need to be better prepared to protect athletes caught up in the commotion.

Of the six major basketball conferences, four fine host schools for a first offense of failure to keep fans off the court. The ACC does not levy fines and the Big Ten waits until a third offense.

"We try not to be too heavy-handed on the policy of court-storming for a problem that doesn't necessarily exist. ... Don't want to unfairly financially hurt already cash-strapped athletic departments," Big Ten vice president of strategic communications Scott Markley said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press.

"But we do have a policy," he said. "But generally it's rely on school policy, local law enforcement, (to) know what's best for their fans and student-athletes and officials. And we're always monitoring these things and discuss if we need to make adjustments in the interest of a safe environment."

Jan Jensen, Iowa's associate head coach, told the



AP file photo

Nebraska players celebrate with fans rushing onto the court following Nebraska's 88-72 win against Purdue earlier this season.

AP on Monday that Clark reported no after-effects from the collision. Clark is the reigning national player of the year and is on the cusp of becoming the all-time leading scorer in Division I women's basketball.

"When you have an athlete that hits the turf — but then you have arguably the highest-profile college athlete — this might spark the debate about what do we need to do with this," Jensen said.

Markley said the Big Ten's game management manual addresses security. Reading from the manual, he said "host institutions must provide adequate security and protection for the visiting teams and officials and their vehicles immediately upon arrival on campus continuing through their departure."

Markley said institutions "will be held responsible for school-sponsored student and band sections that attack or single out student-athletes. An institution not in compliance with this policy shall be subject to conference review and action."

Markley said the first offense prompts a private notification to the institu-

tion. The second offense brings a public acknowledgement of an institutional problem. A fine could be levied for a third offense, Markley said.

Other than to say student-athlete safety is of "utmost importance," the Big Ten did not comment directly on the fan's collision with Clark.

The Big 12 fined UCF \$25,000 for a court-storming following an upset of Kansas in a men's game Jan. 10.

The Southeastern Conference has a multitiered fine for field or court-storming: \$100,000 for the first offense, \$250,000 for the second and \$500,000 for subsequent offenses. The policy began with the 2023-24 season, with all schools starting with a clean slate.

The Pac-12 issues fines of \$25,000 for a first offense, \$50,000 for the second and \$100,000 for the third. The Big East fines schools \$5,000.

The South Carolina women have a yellow rope ringing the court after every home game, win or lose. Fans wait against it while players come up and take selfies with those attending.

When Northwestern

upset Purdue on Dec. 1, almost all of Purdue's players and staff were on their way to the locker room when the Wildcats shot free throws with less than one second left. Fans ran onto the court at the buzzer.

Purdue players and staff were still on the court when time expired at Nebraska, where even head football coach Matt Rhule was among the throng that went onto the court.

"So we've got to do something about the court storms, guys," Painter said after the game. "I don't know why institutions aren't ready for it. What did you think was going to happen? Spread the word, spread the word before somebody gets hurt."

"A student from Nebraska should be able to storm the court, right? Like, we're cool, just get ready for it, if that's what you're going to do. So we're struggling in our conference with that."

Painter said schools need to take steps to keep order, whether it's roping off the court or creating a greater police presence.

"Nothing happened," he said that night, "but something's going to happen."

BASEBALL

Sandberg announces his fight with cancer

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Hall of Fame second baseman Ryne Sandberg has been diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer.

The 64-year-old Sandberg said Monday in a release put out by the Baseball Hall of Fame that he has started treatment.

"I am surrounded by my loving wife Margaret, our incredibly supportive family, the best medical care team, and our dear friends," Sandberg said. "We will continue to be positive, strong, and fight to beat this. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time for me and my family."

Sandberg hit .285 with 282 homers, 1,061 RBIs and 344 steals in 16 seasons in the majors.

Sandberg turned into one of the majors' best all-around performers with the Cubs. He made 10 All-Star teams and won nine Gold Gloves. He also was the NL MVP in 1984.

He was inducted into Cooperstown in 2005.

"Part of what made Ryne a tremendous talent on the field was his quiet intensity, and we have no doubt he'll bring the same tenacity to his fight," Hall of Fame chair Jane Forbes Clark said in a statement.

PRO FOOTBALL

No fracture, but Samuel still questionable

49ers' WR was in for nine snaps against Green Bay

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The 49ers received good news regarding the injured left shoulder of wide receiver Deebo Samuel, but coach Kyle Shanahan still isn't sure if he'll be good to go for the NFC Championship Game Sunday against the Detroit Lions.

"It wasn't broken, so that was a real good sign," Shanahan told local reporters in a conference call Monday. "It's still hurting too much for us to know how it's going to heal up this week so we've just got to be patient, see how he feels on Wednesday and based on how it's improving it will give us an idea whether he has a chance for the game or not."

Samuel played nine snaps against Green Bay before departing. The injury occurred on the same play in which he was initially evaluated and cleared for a concussion.

"His head was fine," Shanahan said. "It was the shoulder and only the shoulder but I think it looked live like it was possible he could have taken a hit on the head."

It's the same shoulder he injured on his first reception in Week 6 against Cleveland. He



AP photo

San Francisco receiver Deebo Samuel (19) hurt his shoulder against Green Bay and his status for the NFC Championship game is uncertain.

missed the rest of that game and all of the next two games — losses to Minnesota and Cincinnati — before returning after the bye week.

The 49ers had game-planned for Green Bay with Samuel a big part of the offense and his departure confused matters when some of the same plays were dialed up for other players. Jauan Jennings, who had five catches for 61 yards, even carried on a reverse that was supposed to go to Samuel and lost a yard.

"You've just got to switch some guys around, which is always a challenge for those guys," Shanahan said following

the game. "It happened during the Cleveland game. We didn't handle that well. I thought we handled it better today than we did then. But it is a huge challenge. Deebo's obviously one of our better players, but he also is a unique guy that goes to some certain spots, so you've got to be adjusting to that all game."

Samuel, despite missing two full regular-season games and most of a third, was the 49ers fourth-leading receiver in receptions with 60 and third in yardage with 892 yards and seven touchdowns. He was also their third-leading rusher behind Christian

McCaffrey and Elijah Mitchell with 225 yards and his 12 total touchdowns trail only McCaffrey's 21.

Against Detroit, Shanahan can develop strategies in case Samuel can't go or departs early, enabling him to move McCaffrey to different areas and make more use of running back Mitchell, who had just one snap against Green Bay and did not carry the ball.

"If we know he's not available, which I think hopefully we would know by Wednesday, Thursday (or) Friday, then it makes it easier," Shanahan said. "From a game-plan standpoint, you don't have to do

much but if there's any chance, which I think we'll have a better idea by Wednesday, obviously there will be things in there for him."

Options if Deebo can't play

Jennings played 40 snaps on Saturday after missing three games with concussion symptoms, his second-highest total other than playing 50 snaps against Cincinnati in a game that Samuel did not play due to injury.

Jennings had a leaping 21-yard catch for a first down on third-and-10 from Brock Purdy and opened the 49ers' game-winning drive with a 7-yard reception.

"It's huge, especially losing Deebo there too," Shanahan said. "He always contributes and I think people see it more when he catches the ball, but Jauan has an impact whenever he's out there on the field whether it's the run game or the pass game. He stepped it up big for us."

On the touchdown drive, Chris Conley, who played 25 snaps, made a 17-yard catch of a sideline pass from Purdy.

"That's why guys like (Conley) and Willie Snead are here," Shanahan said. "They've both done it in different games throughout the year whether it's special teams or offense and that was a big-time play Chris made in that game."

Exes choose to live together after separation

DEAR HARRIETTE: My ex-girlfriend and I, ages 23 and 22 respectively, have made an unconventional decision to continue living together post-breakup for financial reasons. Despite our intentions to maintain a cordial environment until our lease ends in seven months, my family strongly opposes this idea. I'm questioning the potential emotional impact of this arrangement and seeking advice on managing the situation without compromising our peace. — INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS

DEAR INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS: You may be surprised to learn that many couples find themselves in exactly this situation.

As you should have done when you moved in together, establish ground rules for sharing a space. Delineate everything, from who does what chores to shared expenses and policies surrounding guests. While it is likely that you both may begin dating again, you may want to keep your home off-limits to dates and sleepovers. If either of

you does want to have romantic company, the other should agree to be out during that time unless you agree that you can be civil to the guest who's coming over.

Make an exit plan so that when you get to the end of the lease, you are clear about how you will move on.

DEAR HARRIETTE: Approaching my birthday, I'm conflicted between my preference for laid-back celebrations and my friends' inclination toward lively outings. Should I compromise for one night and celebrate my birthday at the newest lounge in our city? It has great reviews — though I have to admit it's not entirely my scene. — IT'S MY BIRTHDAY

DEAR IT'S MY BIRTHDAY: The one day of the year when you should be able to do what YOU want to do is your birthday. If bar-hopping isn't your thing, don't give it another thought for that day.

Do not feel beholden to folks who aren't part of your inner circle. Not everyone has to be invited to every event.

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024

Find out all you can and proceed with confidence. Knowledge is your ticket to success. Don't hesitate to adjust your lifestyle to suit your needs. Stay focused on what matters and eliminate what is weighing you down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Moderation is in your best interest. You can take advantage of an opportunity if you are willing to do the legwork.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Adjust your routine and home life to suit your needs. Personal gain and physical improvements will put you in the right frame of mind.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Revamp your plans to suit your needs. Move forward secretly until you know whom you can trust.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Pursue knowledge and expand your social horizons. It's up to you to put your plans in motion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Live and learn. Don't wait for someone to make the first move. Jump into action and take control of your future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Use your energy wisely. You can move forward if you act decisively. Don't sit



EUGENIA LAST

idle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Consider your situation and decide what to do next based on facts, not on fiction. Verify the relevant information.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Call on someone you enjoy being around, and you'll get the backup you require to get your plans up and running.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Stop contemplating the changes you must address at home and start working. Expect to face criticism if you don't deliver.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Keep your spending to a minimum. A change of attitude will attract helpful individuals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Keep an open mind, but don't believe everything you hear. Someone will go to great lengths to convince you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Follow your passion. Embrace the future and expand your interests. Take control by changing what doesn't work for you.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Boxing punch
 - 4 Not fully closed
 - 8 Willing
 - 12 — Jima
 - 13 One way to fly
 - 14 Puerto —
 - 15 Liquid meas.
 - 16 Clan
 - 17 Augury
 - 18 Baseball's — Berra
 - 20 World Cup sport
 - 22 High octane fuel
 - 23 Caviar
 - 24 Computer display
 - 28 Sandwich of a kind
 - 31 Divisible by two
 - 32 "The Raven" poet
 - 34 Bill and —
 - 36 "Till There — You"
- DOWN**
- 1 Lively dance
 - 2 Far and —
 - 3 Actor — Mineo
 - 38 Broth
 - 39 Toy block name
 - 42 Disagreement
 - 44 Literary collection
 - 46 "Every dog — its day"
 - 47 Church officers
 - 50 Cultural fields
 - 52 Rum drink
 - 53 Arab ruler
 - 55 Abbr. in business
 - 57 Helper
 - 58 Remedy
 - 59 Train unit
 - 60 Root veggie
 - 61 No longer young
 - 62 Secret agent

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 3 Meat and tomato sauce
- 4 Leg up
- 5 Java
- 6 Matterhorn's range
- 7 Revolving machine part
- 8 Food vendor
- 9 Key — pie
- 10 Maple genus
- 11 Musician — Henley
- 19 Profit
- 21 Intimidate
- 24 Gull
- 25 Unusual office shape
- 26 Harvest deity
- 27 Highway
- 29 Study of sound
- 30 Show displeasure
- 33 Yale student
- 35 Unclose, poetically
- 38 Box
- 40 Gizmo
- 41 " — if by land ..."
- 43 Used with others
- 45 Betel palm
- 47 Freshwater lake
- 48 Ore deposit
- 49 Self-satisfied
- 51 Crisp cookie
- 52 Yak
- 54 Wrath
- 56 " — Me a River"

1-23

© 2024 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

URTIS



BY RAY BILLINGSLEY

EANUTS



BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

HE GRIZZWELLS



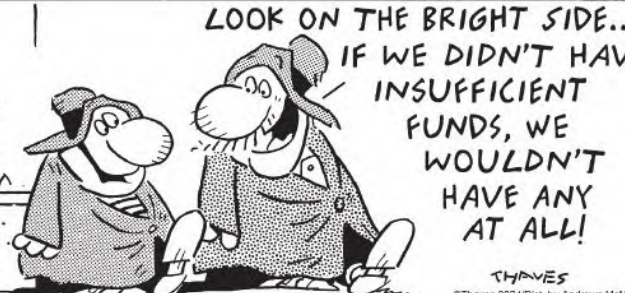
BY BILL SCHORR

EETLE BAILEY



BY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER

RANK & ERNEST



BY BOB THAVES

ORN LOSER



BY ART & CHIP SANSOM

AGAR THE HORRIBLE



BY DIK BROWNE

MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



"How do your friends keep getting my phone number?"

SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S.

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

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

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 210

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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

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

Solutions — B-4

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