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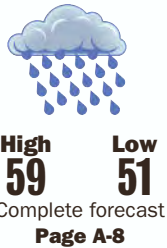
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EDUCATION

# Senate bills require conception video and 'In God We Trust,' allow creation theories in classrooms

**BY BRAD McELHINNY**  
WVMetroNews.com

Senators advanced a bill to mandate viewing a specific video in classrooms about conception, passed a bill allowing classroom discussions of theories of the universe's origins that could

include a guiding hand and also passed a bill mandating display in classrooms of donated signs displaying the motto "In God We Trust."

**Mandatory conception video**  
Senate Bill 468 would require

a course in public schools on human development.  
More specifically, a section of the bill called the "Baby Olivia Act" would require public school viewings of "Meet Baby Olivia," by Live Action, a nonprofit organization that has been involved

with national abortion politics.  
Members of the Senate Education Committee discussed and advanced the bill during a Tuesday morning meeting. To become law, the bill would still need a vote of the full Senate and then  
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COURTS

## Former DHHR official pleads guilty to false COVID-19 test statements

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

A former official within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) pleaded guilty in federal court Monday to knowingly making false statements to federal investigators regarding millions of dollars in COVID-19 testing supplies that were not properly accounted for.

According to court records, Timothy J. Priddy, 49, of Buffalo, Putnam County, who was indicted in October 2023, held various supervisory positions with the DHHR Bureau for Public Health Center for Threat Preparedness (CTP) during the pandemic. He was promoted to deputy director of the CTP in March 2021 and ultimately named director in January 2022.

Priddy stepped down from the CTP director position following the indictment. He was set to go to trial Tuesday, had he not entered the plea on Monday.

In his position at CTP, Priddy was tasked with verifying and certifying vendor invoices before funds could be released for payment.

In or around June 2021, federal and state authorities began an investigation to determine whether certain vendors had provided the COVID-19 services for which they invoiced the state.

Court documents say part of that investigation surrounded invoices submitted by an unnamed company totaling \$44,775,308 — the cost of around 518,419 COVID-19 test kits meant for a back-to-school

**SEE FALSE, A-2**

## Black Star Stables



Submitted photos courtesy of Clip Clop Click Photography

Brittaney Bragg of Clip Clop Click Photography took these photos at Black Star Stables, in Independence, after the recent snowstorm. Black Star is a small, veteran-owned boarding facility that also houses horses for Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue.

### Winter weather can bring challenges to rewarding endeavor

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

Black Star Stables and Arena, a veteran-owned, small boarding facility in Independence, started with three horses and has since grown to house 13 after forming a partnership with Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue, said owner Craig Shaffer.

The stable offers a variety of rehabilitation services as well as full-time equine boarding. It also assists Heart of Phoenix with training and adopting rescued horses.

Shaffer said the winter weather adds additional challenges to caring for the horses — like having to break up ice in watering troughs to make sure their equine residents have access to fresh water and throwing extra hay out as the snow continues to fly to make sure that the horses are able to produce body heat.

"It's very challenging," Shaffer said. "Plus the full-time boarders can't come see their horses or interact with them, so we have challenges with that."

Shaffer said the snow Saturday morning was up to his knees, but should a bigger blizzard hit preventing their ability



© Clip Clop Click Photography

to get to the barn, they are prepared.

"We make sure our boarders have at least two weeks of grain on site in case we do hit a national emergency or a state emergency," he assured.

Black Star currently has space for horses in need of full-time boarding. Call 304-376-2470 for boarding availability, Shaffer said.

If you are interested in own-

ing a horse, Shaffer encourages you to check out the Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue for horses in need of a home.

Heart of Phoenix Rescue is West Virginia's largest 501(C) 3 Equine Advocacy organization covering Appalachia. You can learn more about adopting or volunteering or Heart of Phoenix Rescue events at [wvhorserescue.org](http://wvhorserescue.org).

GOVERNMENT

## Legislative committees OK bills affecting city business taxes, gun laws

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

Two bills affecting cities passed out of legislative committees Tuesday morning — one dealing with business fees, one with guns.

House Political Subdivisions approved HB 4602, the business tax bill, in a divided vote.

Current state law allows cities — for businesses within their city limits required to obtain a state license — to also impose a municipal license. And except in cases where a state license tax or fee is imposed, the cities may, instead of requiring a license, impose a tax up to \$20.

HB 4602 would eliminate cities' ability to do both of those.

Delegate Evan Hansen, D-Monongalia, was among the opponents to the bill. He said he talked to Morgantown city attorney about the reason for the tax. He learned that it's a means for cities to keep track of the businesses inside their boundaries — not least of all so they can levy business and occupation taxes to pay for police and fire services and street maintenance.

"This is how they know," he said. "That's really important." As a business owner himself, the tax — they also called it a fee — the \$20 can seem like a nuisance but it's not that big a deal.

B&O taxes, he said, are one of the cities' few means available to pay for public safety and street services. Morgantown brings in \$10 million to \$15 million per year in B&O taxes. "This is an important tool for the municipalities."

Delegate Geoff Foster, R-Putnam, argued for the bill. "This is a tax to collect a tax; that makes no sense to me." Businesses still need a permit to operate within a city and that's sufficient.

One supporter noted that Barboursville charges only \$5 for the tax, but heaps on a late fee of \$500.

The vote was a voice vote and it was unclear who voted for or against it. It goes next to Government Organization. The same bill, as HB 2842, passed out of

**SEE CITY, A-2**



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EDITORIAL

Teachers aren't happy. It's not hard to see why

After reviewing some of the results from the West Virginia Education Association's recent teacher survey, it's easy to see why the Mountain State's school system is struggling.

A few highlights: 73% dissatisfaction rate with working conditions in the past year vs. 2% satisfaction rate; 62% said they are feeling burnt out — a higher rate than in 2020; 35% said they aren't confident they'll remain in the teaching profession (the greatest share of which are "early career" employees); and roughly half of those who said they'll remain teaching for a while still indicated that they are likely to retire or leave education work earlier than initially planned.

In all, there were over 1,700 open teaching positions across the state, and based on these survey results, over one-third of remaining teachers have one foot out the door.

The Legislature is trying to address the problem with pay raises (there are several proposals), but compensation is only one facet of the problem. Educators (85%, according to the survey) are fed up with public school funds going to charter schools and voucher programs. (Because somehow there's plenty of money to give away to home-schoolers, but not enough money to buy classroom supplies.) The Grand Canyon Institute, a non-partisan think tank, analyzed Arizona's broad voucher program — similar to West Virginia's — and estimated 45% of applicants were among the "wealthiest quartile of students" in the state.

Teachers are also tired of being students' and parents' punching bags (mostly proverbial, but occasionally literal), living in fear of mass shootings and, just overall, being disrespected.

Who can blame them?

Reasonable people can disagree on what qualifies as reasonable compensation for a teacher's schedule, but it's hard to deny that schools and educators are taking the brunt of the national and legislative culture wars, and that takes a mental and emotional toll that money alone can't remedy.

The Legislature continues to push bills that not only micromanage what content can be taught in schools and how, but also, in some cases, implement criminal penalties for violations. For example, the Legislature is trying to revive the "divisive concepts" and (nonexistent) critical race theory bill that could get teachers fired for honestly teaching history. (Sometimes history is uncomfortable, but it's still important that we learn it.)

There's also the "human development" bill that will force teachers to show third, fifth and eighth graders an anti-abortion propaganda video (we'll discuss this further in another editorial) under threat of being sued if they don't.

Then there's the bill to mandate "In God We Trust" be displayed in schools — which we guarantee will open schools to lawsuits, because the same law passed in other states has done exactly that. (It's all fine and dandy until someone donates a poster with the motto written in Arabic or Hebrew, or with a rainbow-colored font.)

Is it any wonder West Virginia can't keep teachers?

Money is nice, but there are some things money can't buy — like peace of mind and sense of personal security. So maybe, if West Virginia wants to attract new teachers and keep the ones it already has, our legislators should give greater consideration to those factors as well.

Lessons from Uvalde school shooting

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON WHAT WENT WRONG IN UVALDE, TEXAS, NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO WHEN AN 18-YEAR-OLD GUNMAN ARMED WITH A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE SLAUGHTERED 19 CHILDREN AND TWO TEACHERS in their classrooms is utterly depressing.

It will not make anyone who reads it feel one bit better about the grotesque events of May 24, 2022, including the helplessness of the 33 students and three teachers who were trapped in a classroom with the gunman for more than an hour as police officers milled around in the hallway outside.

But it will, one must fervently hope, help other law enforcement agencies avoid the kind of deadly mistakes that were made at Robb Elementary School two days before the start of that year's summer vacation. For that reason, if nothing else, the report is worth absorbing.

Many who followed the awful events in Uvalde will recall the bumbling police response, the conflicting information from police agency representatives afterward, the anguish of the families who were never given an adequate accounting of the tragedy. Though the Texas House of Representatives issued its own report in July 2022, the new reckoning goes into excruciating detail in a much longer, sweeping, minute-by-minute account of the tragedy.

At more than 500 pages, the document paints a picture of an almost Keystone Kops-like response to the tragedy: There was no proper command structure in place. The local police chief ditched his radios on arrival because, he told investigators, he wanted his hands to be free, so he was left to communicate only with his phone and voice in that hectic and deadly situation.

After several of his officers were grazed with shrapnel as they rushed toward the classrooms where they heard gunfire, the chief ordered them to stay back and evacuate other classrooms rather than engage the gunman. Thus, instead of storming the two joined classrooms where the gunman continued to slaughter children,

officers retreated and waited for SWAT officers and specialized equipment to arrive. This was a terrible, unforgivable failure.

As the report pointed out, active-shooter protocols developed after the devastating 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado require officers to confront and neutralize a threat as quickly as possible. "Everything else, including officer safety," the report notes, "is subordinate to that objective." This, in a nutshell, is why choosing a career in law enforcement is an act of courage. You must be willing to rush toward danger, not avoid it.

Among first responders, the report said, communication was abysmal. Rumors ran rampant: Some mistakenly told one another the Uvalde police chief was negotiating with the shooter in a classroom. Some mistakenly believed the shooter had already been killed because they observed what they considered a lack of urgency by officers already on the scene.

Police wasted precious time searching for a key to a classroom that was in all likelihood unlocked, according to the report, but officers would not have known that because, maddeningly, they never tried to turn the doorknob.

Eventually, nearly 400 law enforcement personnel from at least two dozen agencies showed up. No one knew who was in charge; ambulances could not get past police vehicles to access the school. Perhaps most devastating, although officers were on the scene within three minutes of the gunman storming the campus, 77 minutes would pass before he was killed. In that time, police heard him squeeze off 45 rounds.

Some passages of the report are almost too painful to read. The account of a 16-minute 911 call by fourth-graders trapped in their classroom with the shooter is especially brutal. While officers waited in the hallway, the children pleaded for help: "I don't want to die. My teacher is dead." "One of my teachers is still alive but shot." "There is a lot of dead bodies."

Had officers executed their jobs, said Attorney General Merrick Garland, who unveiled the report last Thursday at a news conference in Uvalde, "lives would have been saved and people would have survived."

The aftermath of the massacre was bungled as well, according to the report. Wounded children, some with bullet wounds, were put on a bus instead of tended to by medics. Some families were mistakenly told their children were alive.

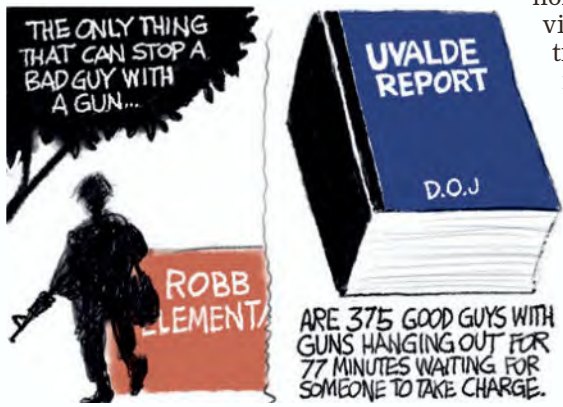
"The extent of misinformation, misguided and misleading narratives, leaks and lack of communication about what happened," Garland said, "is unprecedented ...."

Garland could not help but address the larger issue we face, the easy availability of guns, which has made mass shootings a near daily occurrence in the United States. According to the Gun Violence Archive there have already been 14 mass shooting events this year — defined as incidents in which at least four victims are shot.

"Our children deserve better than to grow up in a country where an 18-year-old has easy access to a weapon that belongs on a battlefield, not in a classroom," said Garland to an audience that included weeping Uvalde families. "We hope to honor the victims and the survivors by working together to try to prevent anything like it from happening again, here or anywhere."

It really is pathetic that we have to put our energy toward developing better responses to mass shootings instead of getting weapons of war off our streets in the first place.

ROBIN ABCARIAN is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

'Trump is the leader of a nationwide movement'

FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NEWT GINGRICH APPEARED ON FOX NEWS LAST MONDAY NIGHT AS IOWA VOTERS CAUCUSED AND DELIVERED A DECISIVE VICTORY FOR DONALD TRUMP in his quest to win the Republican presidential nomination and a second term as president. Gingrich joyfully predicted that Trump would not only win the nomination but would win the White House in November with a minimum of 29 states.

Gingrich may be right, but voter turnout in Iowa was down from four years ago and the lowest in more than a decade. Sub-zero temperatures were likely a contributing factor, as might a view by some that Trump had the race in the bag so why go out in freezing conditions? It is also a caution to recall that not every GOP winner of the Iowa caucuses in recent years has won their respective party's nomination.



CAL THOMAS

In his victory remarks, Trump displayed a rarely seen quality — kindness and praise of his opponents Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy. Following the vote count, Ramaswamy announced his withdrawal from the campaign and support for Trump.

Trump, who has trafficked in division and name-calling for years, suddenly called for unity in a low-key (for him) victory speech.

Establishment pundits remain

shocked over Trump's continued appeal to a large swath of voters, including an uptick in support among Blacks and Hispanics. People may have short memories but four years isn't that long ago when one considers gas prices and mortgage rates were lower during the Trump presidency, the U.S. was not involved in foreign wars, inflation was down and migrants weren't flooding over our border in record numbers.

It isn't difficult to understand the reasons Trump continues to have a firm grip on his supporters, despite his rhetoric and legal challenges. They include an establishment that has refused to acknowledge the anger felt by many Americans over a dysfunctional Congress, the \$34 trillion debt and the constant bickering among politicians, though it is largely the fault of we who elect

them. They see unequal justice, political agendas instead of addressing the real concerns of voters and what they believe is persecution of Trump by liberal Democrats.

Add to the list of outrages felt by Trump supporters who see unequal treatment in the handling of Hunter Biden's tax issues and in Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis' hiring of special prosecutor Nathan Wade with whom she has been rumored (by the Trump camp) to have had an affair. Willis has vehemently denied the accusation and showed up in an Atlanta church to blame racism for the criticism directed at her.

In an extraordinary statement, Gingrich said: "Trump is not a candidate. Trump is the leader of a nationwide movement to take back power from the Establish-

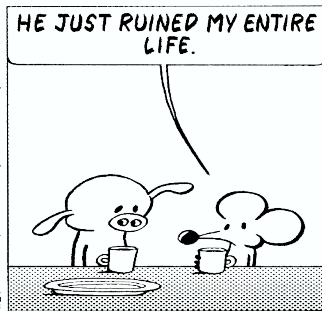
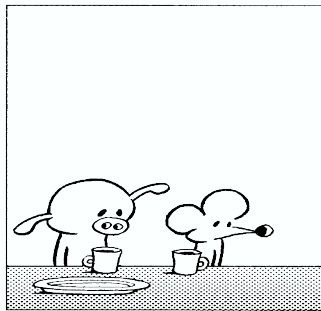
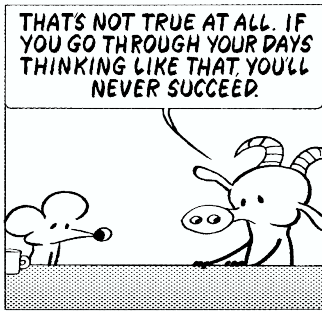
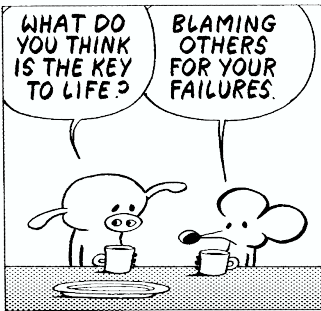
ment." If that sounds like hyperbole, consider the number of states that have approved a convention of states to invoke Article 5 of the Constitution with the goal of enacting term limits and a requirement for a balanced federal budget. That would be 19 states, according to the Convention of States website with other states either having passed the resolution in one legislative chamber or are considering it. Thirty-eight states are needed. A Trump victory might encourage more states to sign on.

Instead of dwelling on Trump's personality, Washington politicians and the media ought to be examining the reasons behind voter anger and desire to move the country in a different direction. That's what Trump is promising. It is the reason he won big in Iowa and may run the table in every other primary state.

READERS MAY email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



NON SEQUITUR



BY WILEY

The Dominion Post

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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



ARTS

# Eberly Roundtable discussion to focus on the film “King Coal”

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The third-annual Eberly Roundtable, hosted by the WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, will feature a screening of the film, “King Coal” followed by a panel discussion with the filmmaker, WVU alumna Elaine McMillion Sheldon.

This year’s event will kick off at 7 p.m. Feb. 9 in G20 Ming Hsieh Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, and the WVU community and public are invited to attend.

“The Eberly Roundtable models the importance and value of engaging in dialogue with one another across different disciplines and backgrounds about

topics of public importance,” said Scott Davidson, a co-coordinator of the Eberly Roundtable and director of Multidisciplinary Programs in the Eberly College. “This year’s event is extra special because it features the work of a WVU alum who has used her education to produce a powerful and inspiring film.”

A lyrical tapestry of a place and people, “King Coal” meditates on the complex history and future of the coal industry, the communities it has shaped and the myths it has created.

Oscar-nominated filmmaker McMillion Sheldon reshapes the boundaries of documentary film-

making in a spectacularly beautiful and deeply moving immersion into Central Appalachia where coal is not just a resource, but a way of life, imagining the ways a community can re-envision itself.

Emerging from the long shadows of the coal mines, “King Coal” untangles the pain from the beauty, and illuminates the innately human capacity for change.

Members of the WVU community will join McMillion Sheldon for a panel discussion after the film. Panelists include WVU faculty members Bradley Wilson, John Temple, Beth Nardella and Brooke Durham, as well as

biomedical engineering student Riley Coulter.

The Eberly Roundtable seeks to amplify Appalachian voices and the region’s importance in national discussions. It creates an environment to examine and discuss critical issues such as race, rurality, the changing nature of work, displacement, immigration, poverty and economic uncertainty from an Appalachian standpoint.

The event brings together academic and public scholars, artists and intellectuals to engage on a topic central to WVU’s land-grant mission and national identity.

“Director Elaine McMillion Sheldon’s latest film contends

with the ways the coal industry has molded so many people’s lives in Central Appalachia, including her own,” said Jessie Wilkerson, Eberly Roundtable co-coordinator and Stuart and Joyce Robbins Distinguished Chair of History in the Eberly College. “Her gorgeous and genre-bending film examines how people in West Virginia and beyond formed a sense of collective identity around a mineral and its extraction. Sheldon follows in a strong literary and arts tradition in Appalachia and the South, resisting any notion of the region as static or stuck, and reveling in sparks of life and

SEE FILM, A-5

# Nourish Yourself: Curried shrimp fried rice



AP photo

This image released by Milk Street shows a recipe for curried fried rice with shrimp and pineapple.

## Don’t toss your extra rice! Use it in takeout-inspired meal

BY CHRISTOPHER KIMBALL  
Associated Press

Though it is common knowledge throughout Asia, many American cooks may not know that the key to perfect fried rice is using previously cooked and chilled rice. Freshly cooked rice can result in a soggy, gluey dish, but chilling it changes its starches, yielding light, separate grains.

That’s why we often cook extra rice and refrigerate or even freeze the remainder so we have the base ready for a quick but boldly flavored weeknight meal.

It helps that fried rice is a blank slate that takes to endless variations, sopping up a wide array of flavors that can transform a typical takeout side into an exciting meal. In this version from our book “Cook What You Have,” which draws on pantry staples to assemble easy, weeknight meals, the rice comes studded with plump, briny shrimp.

Bits of pineapple provide bursts of sweetness and jalapeño chili lends heat, a nice contrast to the briny shrimp. A couple teaspoons of curry powder add a fragrant dimen-

sion to the rice without muscling out the other flavors.

You will need 4 cups of cooked and chilled long-grain white rice for this recipe. If you don’t have enough leftovers, combine 2 cups water and 1½ cups jasmine rice (or regular long-grain white rice), rinsed and drained. Bring to a simmer over medium-high, then reduce to low, cover and cook for 15 to 18 minutes. Let stand, covered, for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wide, shallow bowl. Cool to room temperature, cover and refrigerate until fully chilled.

**CURRIED FRIED RICE WITH SHRIMP AND PINEAPPLE**  
*Start to finish: 35 minutes*  
*Servings: 4*

**3 tablespoons grapeseed or other neutral oil, divided**

**1 bunch scallions, thinly sliced, white and green parts reserved separately**

**1 jalapeño chili, stemmed and sliced into thin rounds, plus more to serve**

**2 teaspoons curry powder**

**8 ounces medium (41/50 per pound) shrimp, peeled, deveined (tails removed), halved crosswise and patted dry**

**Kosher salt and ground black pepper**

**1 cup drained juice-packed canned pineapple tidbits OR chunks OR**

**chopped slices OR thawed frozen pineapple chunks OR chopped fresh pineapple**

**2 tablespoons fish sauce OR soy sauce**

**4 cups cooked and chilled long-grain white rice, preferably jasmine rice**

**1/3 cup roasted salted cashews, roughly chopped OR roasted salted peanuts**

In a 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high, heat 2 tablespoons oil until shimmering. Add the scallion whites and jalapeño; cook, stirring often, until starting to brown, about 2 minutes. Stir in the curry powder; then stir in the shrimp and 1/4 teaspoon salt; distribute the shrimp in a single layer. Cook without stirring until beginning to brown, about 1 minute. Stir; then cook without stirring until the shrimp are opaque throughout, another 30 seconds. Transfer the shrimp to a medium bowl; set aside.

In the same skillet over medium-high, heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil until shimmering. Add the pineapple, fish sauce, rice and 1/4 teaspoon salt, breaking up any clumps of rice. Cook, stirring and scraping the bottom of the pan to incorporate any browned bits, until the pineapple and rice are heated through, about 2 minutes. Stir in the shrimp and accumulated juices.

Off heat, stir in the cashews and

SEE RICE, A-5

## LOCAL BUSINESS

# Mon Valley Mushrooms cultivates fungi — and a following



EVA MURPHY

**WILD MUSHROOMS THRIVE IN THICKLY WOODED, DAMP ENVIRONMENTS.** With its extensive forests and prodigious rainfall, West Virginia hosts a wonderfully rich diversity of these fungi. The West Virginia Department of Natural Resource has recorded over 1,700 species growing wild. Not all are safe to consume, but the edible ones have a devoted fanbase.

One local business is now cultivating mushrooms indoors to provide a more reliable, year-round supply of delicious fungi to area aficionados.

Mon Valley Mushrooms is tucked away on Goshen Road, just seven miles south of Morgantown. It specializes in organically grown gourmet and medicinal mushrooms and offers a diverse range of products, from fresh and dried varieties to powdered mushrooms, tinctures and grow-at-home kits. The farm itself is not open to the public, but the owners, Jamie Brown and Lucas Sieber sell their wares online (<https://monvalleymushrooms.com/>) and at local farmers’ markets. Mon Valley Mushrooms boasts an impressive selection, including

Lion’s Mane, Pioppino and various types of Oyster mushrooms.

The Cleveland Clinic touts the health benefits of eating mushrooms. Low in calories and fat, mushrooms are rich in protein, fiber, vitamins, minerals, amino acids and antioxidants. With reported advantages such as supporting brain and gut health, lowering cholesterol, reducing cancer risk and bolstering the immune system, mushrooms offer a holistic approach to well-being through diet. They have also been used medicinally for millennia, and Western medicine has increasingly begun to investigate the healing properties of the compounds found in mushrooms.

Recognizing the demand for flavorful and nutrient-packed mushrooms, many local restaurants like Vanessa’s Kitchen, Bourbon Prime, Terra Cafe, Eureka Cafe and Sargasso source their supplies from Mon Valley Mushrooms.

By providing fresh, locally sourced produce, Mon Valley Mushrooms invites the community to savor the goodness of the humble mushroom, not just for its health benefits but also for its endless culinary possibilities.

**EVA MURPHY** is a freelance business writer for The Dominion Post. She writes a column on businesses, churches and other entities in the city. To suggest a topic, email her at [DPNews@DominionPost.com](mailto:DPNews@DominionPost.com)

## ELECTION

# Current filings for office candidates

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The candidate filing period in West Virginia runs through Jan. 27. Early voting will be May 1-11.

Primary election day is May 14. Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

These candidates have filed to run for offices around Monongalia County.

**County Commissioner**  
Tom Bloom — D

**County Assessor**

Mark Musick — D

**County Surveyor**  
Bob Andriotto — R

**Conservation District Supervisor**  
H.R. Scott  
Andrew Price

**Star City Council**  
Lynette Dechristopher  
Gregory Epps  
Todd Gregg  
Andy Laskody  
James Morris

**Star City Mayor**  
Sharon Doyle

**Star City Recorder**  
Steven Blinco



ELECTION

# Hopefuls for Attorney General position file for candidacy

BY JEFF JENKINS  
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — The race for Attorney General in West Virginia is shaping up.

State Auditor J.B. McCuskey, state Sen. Mike Stuart, both Republicans, filed for the May 14 primary this week while Wheeling attorney Teresa Toriseva said Tuesday on MetroNews “Talkline” she’ll seek the Democrat Party’s nomination.

The race for the office is open this year with three-term AG Patrick Morrissey running for governor.

Stuart, who filed for office Tuesday afternoon, said his time as federal prosecutor during the Trump administration has given him the experience necessary to step into the AG’s office and keep moving.

“I just think it’s critically important that we continue the aggressive work of the attorney general and have somebody who is ready to get to work day one to protect the people of West Virginia,” Stuart said.

He said he has a unique background, including being chosen by former President Donald Trump to be U.S. Attorney.

“I would not be running just for the title or just for the job. I’m not running to be attorney general, I’m running to do attorney general,” Stuart said Tuesday.

McCuskey, who is finishing his second four-year term as state auditor, filed for office Monday in Clarksburg. He also said the state needs protecting.

“I believe that I have a really unique opportunity to help the next governor both protect our state from rogue Washingtonians and Californians who don’t believe our way of life is appropriate and defend our values,” McCuskey said.

Toriseva, who has been a plaintiff’s attorney in several high-profile cases, including representing Morgantown firefighters in a holiday pay dispute with the city and women concerned about secret video taping at the State Police Academy, said she has the experience to be an effective attorney general.

“I want to bring my courtroom experience to the role. I have 30 years of it, representing regular folks in courtrooms all over the state and all over the country and I’m looking forward to doing that in the role of attorney general,” Toriseva said on Talkline.

Stuart, who ran and won a seat in the state Senate in 2022, said he’ll be outspent in the race but that’s nothing new.

“The biggest challenge is going to be money because I don’t come with a fat wallet or a famous last name,” Stuart said. “Everything I’ve done through the course of my life has been through hard work.”

Stuart said he was outspent 2 to 1 in the race for Senate against incumbent Ron Stollings.

“I’ve always been the guy with less money,” Stuart said.

McCuskey, a former member of the House of Delegates before his two-terms as auditor, said he’s built a record over eight years that includes saving money, helping cities and towns get rid of dilapidated buildings and improving transparency through the West Virginia Checkbook program.

“Public service in West Virginia is a passion and there is nothing on earth than I work harder for than to allow the people that I live with, the people of the Mountain State, finally achieve the greatness that this place promises,” McCuskey said.

McCuskey had originally planned a run for governor this year but decided to drop out of the crowded GOP field.

Toriseva said she knows being a Democrat in a red state will present an uphill battle but she said being attorney general is not about being a Democrat or a Republican.

“You remember who you are talking to and that’s everybody,” she said. “We stop with the nasty, partisan politics and we deal with the problems of everybody.”

The candidate filing deadline is midnight Saturday.

STATE

# Lawmakers consider opening up schools to felony charges over ‘obscene’ material in libraries

BY BRAD McELHINNY  
WVMetroNews.com

West Virginia lawmakers are considering opening public and school libraries up to felony charges for the display or dissemination of obscene material.

Librarians are pushing back, questioning how such a policy would be implemented, who would be held accountable and what materials might be under scrutiny.

West Virginia’s obscenity laws have possible punishments of fines up to \$25,000 and up to five years imprisonment.

A public hearing on House Bill 4654 is set for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday in the House of Delegates chamber. The House Judiciary Committee has held off on considering the bill until after the public hearing.

“We would like it not to leave the committee,” said Megan Tarbett, director of the Putnam County Library and president of the West Virginia Library Association. “It would be a huge burden to our staff and our community in many ways.”

Right now, public and school libraries have exemptions to the obscenity law. This bill would work by simply removing the exemptions.

Federal obscenity laws generally follow a three-pronged test, including whether a reasonable person finds that the material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

“Anything with artistic merit usually is not classified as obscene,” Tarbett said.

Several states, including Arkansas, have passed similar laws opening libraries to obscenity laws in recent years. Often, library materials under scrutiny are not straight-out pornography but instead works like “This Book is Gay” and “Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out.”

The most challenged in 2021 and 2022, according to the American Library Association, was “Gender Queer,” an illustrated memoir that recounts the author’s exploration of gender identity and sexuality.

“Our job isn’t to tell people what to read or to hinder their quest of knowledge. Our job is to provide a wide array on different topics and different reading interests,” Tarbett said on MetroNews’ “Talkline.”

Tarbett said systems are in place for West Virginia families to enjoy materials together. Anyone under age 12 typically has to have a parent’s signature for a public library card.

“This bill would just make our jobs infinitely harder,” Tarbett said, citing the threat of prosecution.

“What I’m afraid is that it would cause some self-censorship. So libraries wouldn’t select books that they might otherwise have purchased in the past. Also, it would be a burden for our budgets having to increase insurance liabilities and the cost of that on flat and already declining budgets. So that means less books on the shelves.”

Delegate Brandon Steele, R-Raleigh, is the main sponsor of the bill. Steele, in an interview on the House floor, said he has sponsored similar bills in the past but this one, prompted by discussions he’d had with librarians in his community, finally made an agenda.

“It came from my local school librarians and regular librarians who sat me down and explained to me that when this law was put on the books years ago, the definitions of what they were doing and what they were trying to present to minors was more educational. Now they’re seeing things that are more provocative and would fall in the category of erotica,” Steele said.

“What the bill says is you don’t show obscenity to minors. Right now we have an exception for schools, museums and libraries and what I’m hearing from my librarians and my constituents is, there’s stuff that’s getting into the school library, there’s stuff that’s getting into the public library that’s being shown to kids intentionally in settings that they would like to see that put to a stop.”

Steele said any gray areas could be sorted out in the courts. He cited a quote by Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, who said in 1964 of his test for obscenity, “I know it when I see it.”

“We’ve got to trust our judicial branch,” Steele said. “The Legislature needs to be in a spot where we give broad authority and broad discretion to judges to figure out how does this play out on the ground.”

“For those people who

worry about ‘Oh, this will cause litigation,’ this, that and the other — they also need to think about the parents and the children who are concerned that this exemption is in their community, that their children can be shown pornography and explicit images and erotica, that this exemption is in the law for it.”

Democrats in the House of Delegates have described the proposal as a “book ban bill” that could criminalize librarians, teachers, and museum curators for making available certain books or artwork, potentially resulting in a chilling effect on works like the Bible, biographies of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Roberto Clemente or images of Michelangelo’s statue of David.

“We’ve seen this in other states where these laws when enacted and put into work actually have seen the Bible banned in certain states. So I don’t understand why big government Republicans are infiltrating the library and trying to remove the Bible,” said House Minority Whip Shawn Fluharty, D-Ohio.

“Everybody agrees pornographic material should not be displayed toward children. You would have 100 votes on that tomorrow. This bill goes well beyond that. This bill would have significant impact on, potentially, the Bible or other material that may or may not be deemed to be obscene. That is very much a gray area. That is to push political ideologies. That is big government at work.”

NATION

# Massachusetts governor praises Navy SEAL

Associated Press

BOSTON — The governor of Massachusetts described a Navy SEAL lost in the Arabian Sea during a mission to confiscate Iranian-made weapons from an unflagged ship as a Westfield, Massachusetts native who heroically died trying to rescue

a teammate.

During the Jan. 11 raid, Navy Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Christopher J. Chambers jumped into the sea to save a second SEAL who had slipped and fallen under the waves as he tried to climb aboard the unflagged ship. The vessel was carrying illicit

Iranian-made weapons to Yemen, according to U.S. officials familiar with the incident. Both of the SEALs involved in the mission went missing.

The 11-day search and rescue mission to locate the two SEALs was called off on Sunday and became a recovery effort. On Mon-

day, the Navy released their names, after their families were notified. The second SEAL was identified as Navy Special Warfare Operator 2nd Class Nathan Gage Ingram.

Chambers, 37, enlisted in the Navy in 2012, and graduated from SEAL training in 2014.

RICE

FROM PAGE A-4

scallion greens. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Transfer to a serving dish and garnish with additional jalapeño.

Optional garnish: Lime wedges OR chopped fresh cilantro OR both

— For more weeknight-friendly recipes, go to Christopher Kimball’s Milk Street at 177milkstreet.com/ap.

FILM

FROM PAGE A-4

rituals of death.”

McMillion Sheldon is a 2009 WVU graduate and an Academy Award-nominated, and Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker. Sheldon is the

director of two Netflix Original Documentaries — “Heroin(e)” and “Recovery Boys” — that explore America’s opioid crisis. She has been named a Creative Capital Awardee, Guggenheim Fellow, a USA Fellow by United States Artists and

one of the “25 New Faces of Independent Film,” by Filmmaker Magazine.

Her latest film, “King Coal,” premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. McMillion Sheldon was raised in West Virginia and lives in Knoxville, Tenn.

The 2024 Eberly Roundtable is co-sponsored by the WVU Research Office, College of Creative Arts, Reed College of Media, Center for Resilient Communities, Humanities Center and the WVU Appalachian Advocacy Network.

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OBITUARIES More obituaries, **Page A-7**

John Galusky

John Louis Galusky, 92, of McKinney Cave Road, Masontown, passed away Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Canyon, on July 21, 1931, a son of the late Louis and Clara (Zelinski) Galusky.

John proudly served his country in the United States Army. He worked for many years for the Cyphert family industry as a master fabricator until his retirement in August 1996. He enjoyed riding his 4-wheeler around the community, having a boat to cruise the waters, and hunting in his earlier years.

John is survived by his wife, Margaret “Peggy” Galusky; son, John Michael Galusky, both of McKinney Cave Road in Masontown; daughter, Sharon Marie Galusky and wife, Sandy Burgess of Charlotte, N.C.; grandchildren, Emmye and Steve Wigg of Negaunee, Mich., Sam and Ronnie Wiles of Masontown, Johnna and Levi Knotts of Felloesville, J. Joseph and Mary Galusky, both of Bretz; great-grandchildren, Cadence, Rowdy, Jameson, and Meadow Grey Wiles of Masontown, Mackenna Cooper of Oakland, Md., and Arizona Knotts of Felloesville, and Emil and Waino Wigg of Negaunee, Mich.

In addition to his parents, John is preceded in death by his brother, James Galusky; great-granddaughter, Charlize “Charlie” Wiles; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Niles and Mary Radabaugh; brother-in-laws, Louis Patrick Radabaugh, Brian Timothy Radabaugh, and Bob Polce; sister-in-laws, Sylvia Jane Radabaugh and Deborah Good Radabaugh; and nephews, Landin Baker, Bobby Polce and Marc Radabaugh.

Friends may call at the Field Funeral Home in Masontown, from 5-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23, with a Prayer Vigil beginning at 7:30 p.m. A Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass will be held at the Field Funeral Home on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 10 a.m., with Father Dominic Atishu as celebrant. Members of the Preston County Honor Guard and WVANG Honor Guard will provide full Military Honors before the Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass. In honor of John’s wishes, cremation services will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations in John’s memory may be made to your charity of choice.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the caring Hospice staff, Ashley, Shelley, Debby, Dena, Tabitha, Lawrence, Dennis, and others who helped in the daily care of John and to Aimee Lipscomb from Home Instead.

Condolences: [www.fieldfuneralhome.com](http://www.fieldfuneralhome.com)



Marion Lenhart

Marion Lenhart, 65, of Morgantown, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at her home.



**Marion Lenhart**

She was born Sept. 11, 1958, and raised in Brookhaven. She was the daughter of Mary (Sanders) Cupp and the late Edward Cupp.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Leonard Eugene Lenhart, who passed away in 2003; as well as one brother, John Cupp.

Marion was a long time employee of WVU Hospital and in her free time, enjoyed spending time with her family at Big Bear Lake.

Carmen Perez

Carmen Molina Perez, born May 22, 1966, went home to be with the Lord Dec. 22, 2023.



**Carmen Perez**

Carmen was known for her love of God, the Spanish-speaking community she served in Morgantown and West Virginia, her adopted home.

SUBMIT OBITUARIES

Email obituaries to [obits@dominionpost.com](mailto:obits@dominionpost.com). For info, call 304-291-9435. Deadlines for next-day publication: 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Carol Parker

Carol Ruth Parker, 89, of Valparaiso, Ind., died Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, in the Lynchburg General Hospital in Lynchburg, Va.

She was born Oct. 27, 1934, at Blacksburg, a daughter of the late Arthur Cummins and Alice Minor Cummins.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Monie Carl “Bill” Parker.

Surviving are two children and their spouses, Monie Owen Parker and his wife Kim of Quitman, Ark., and Mary Elizabeth Koontz and her husband Brent of Appomattox, Va.; brothers,

James Cummins and his wife Nancy of Jakes Run, Joseph Cummins of Morgantown, John Cummins of Hendersonville, N.C.; four grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends may call at the Owen-Neely Funeral Home in Blacksburg, from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in the funeral home with Pastor Rob Bennett officiating. Interment will follow in the Eddy Chapel Cemetery.

A luncheon will follow at the Jakes Run Assembly of God.

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

Lawrence Casteel

Slagle-Gunnoe and Jeff Gunnoe of Bruceton Mills, a son, Larry Casteel and his wife, Erica of Bruceton Mills; six grandsons, Chad and Jenny Slagle of Parshall, Colo., Travis and Michaela Slagle of Pegram, Tenn., Adam and Kristan Casteel of Bruceton Mills, Kyle Slagle of Louisville, Ky., Jeremy and Jozy Casteel of Mason town, and Matthew Casteel and companion, Erica of Kingwood; a granddaughter, Amanda and Michael Chipps of Bruceton Mills; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Lucille Reasons of Bruceton Mills, and Dollie (Dot) Wolfe off Ocala, Fla.; and his life longtime friend, Cora Liston of

Albright; and his cat, Chloe.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers-in-law, and great-grandchild.

Family and friends may call at the Carl R. Spear Funeral Home in Brantdonville-Bruceton Mills, from 3-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, and Friday, Jan. 26, from noon until the 1 p.m. service with Pastor Steve Wotring officiating. Burial will follow in the Parnell Cemetery, Bruceton Mills (Cuzzart).

In lieu of flowers the family wish to have donations be made, in Lawrence memory, to the Bruceton Community Ambulance Service, P.O. Box 84, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525.

STATE

House passes bill eliminating nurse anesthetist supervision in divided vote

BY DAVID BEARD  
[DBeard@DominionPost.com](mailto:DBeard@DominionPost.com)

The House of Delegates passed a bill on Tuesday that produced lengthy debate on Monday about supervision of nurse anesthetists.

HB 4432 is a 25-page bill to allow physician assistants to own their own practices. 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.

An effort to amend the CRNA provision out of the bill failed on Monday.

On Tuesday, one of the amendment proponents, Delegate Bob Fehrenbacher, R-Wood, spoke up against the bill.

On Monday, to support his view, he cited a study that was revealed to be outdated and invalid. So, on Tuesday he cited a newer study, done in 2022 and published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

It looked at 578,000 surgeries done in 23 hospitals involving physician-CRNA teams. It found that increasing the responsibilities of the physicians — essentially spreading their attention thinner — was associated with increases in risk and deaths.

For that reason, he said, he opposes eliminating direct supervision of CRNAs.

That was the only debate and the bill passed, 70-26, and goes to the Senate.

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

WEATHER

San Diegans cry, hug outside damaged homes after stunning flash floods in normally balmy city

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Stunned residents, some breaking down in tears, pulled soggy and muddy furniture from their homes in San Diego on Tuesday, a day after flash floods from a torrential storm produced the city’s fourth-wettest day in nearly 175 years, an inundation in stark contrast to its image as a balmy seaside paradise.

An astonishing 2.73 inches of rain fell Monday in the Pacific coast city, which normally gets about 2 inches on average for the entire month of January. It was also the city’s rainiest day ever in January, according to records dating to 1850.

“Nothing is salvageable,” said Deanna Samayoa, who spent Tuesday morning hugging and crying with neighbors outside their homes, surrounded by towering piles of debris and trash.

Vehicles were swept away as people fled amid the torrents coursing through their Shelltown neighborhood, which is near a drainage canal. Several other pockets in the city were also hit by the deluge. Samayoa’s son waded through water up to his neck as he carried a toddler to safety, she said.

“It was horrible,” she said. “Help did not arrive



AP photo

Marlene Sanchez-Barriento salvages items behind her home damaged by flooding, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, in. Sanchez-Barriento’s home was damaged when flood waters rushed through her home on Monday.

soon enough.”

California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for San Diego County and Ventura County, which was hit by heavy rains and high surf that caused flooding.

“I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these winter storms,” Newsom said.

The rain fell quickly in San Diego on Monday morning, submerging streets and freeways, halting traffic, buses and trolleys, and catching many people off guard. Rainfall forecasts had predicted 1 inch on the coast and dou-

ble that in the mountains.

“The water rose in an hour up to our necks,” said Anna Ramirez, whose mother, Maria Hernandez, also suffered damage to her home nearby. “I had to pull a lady out of the water and she didn’t know how to swim. She was crying for her life. It was very scary, very traumatizing.”

Hundreds were rescued from homes, according to a city of San Diego statement. Firefighters and lifeguards rescued about two dozen people from the rushing San Diego and Tijuana rivers, the fire department said. Two homeless shelters were also evacuated.

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OBITUARIES

More obituaries, **Page A-6**

Beverly Lola Feathers, a cherished wife, mother, grandmother; sister; devout Christian, and friend to many, passed away peacefully in the loving presence of her family on Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, at the age of 82. Born on Feb. 20, 1941, in St. Louis, Mo., a was a daughter of the late Ira B. and Stella Smith Hall.



**Beverly Feathers**

Beverly attended the Apostolic Bible Institute in St. Paul, Minn. It was there that she met her future husband, Rev. William Feathers. The two united in marriage in 1960 and embarked on a life of service and devotion to their shared faith. In 1968, they moved to Park-

ersburg, where they began their journey as Assistant Pastors at the UPCI Church. Their spiritual leadership extended to Sang Run, Md., and eventually led them to establish the Christian Apostolic Church in Clarksburg, where they dedicated their efforts until Rev. Feathers' passing in 1993.

After her husband's death, Beverly returned to St. Louis for a period of five years and worked at the UPCI headquarters. Her path brought her back to Morgantown, where she became a faithful member and Administrator at Riverside Apostolic Church. Her commitment to her church and community was unwavering, and she served with grace and dedication.

Beverly's life was

enriched by her loving family. She is survived by her two devoted children, Robin Dakan (Jeremy) of Morgantown, and Matthew Feathers and companion Courtney Goodwin, also of Morgantown. Her legacy includes her adoring grandchildren, Dakota, Hunter, Gabriella, and Ashley, who brought immense joy and laughter into her life. Beverly was a beloved sister to Shirley Leaman and her husband Rev. Jack Leaman, and Doris Bowman and her husband Bob, all of St. Louis, Mo. She was a beacon of light and love to her family, who will cherish her memory forever.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her beloved husband, Rev. William Feathers; her grandson, Tyler James Murphy; and her siblings,

**Beverly Feathers**

Virginia Geldbach and husband Harold, Delmar Hall and wife Faye, Rev. Gene Hall and wife Rosie, and Dorothy Kuhtenia and husband Rev. David Kuhtenia.

An avid Scrabble player, Beverly enjoyed many spirited competitions with her family. Her grandchildren will fondly remember the times spent around the game board, learning new words and sharing in their grandmother's competitive spirit. Beverly's love for music was evident in her talent for playing the piano, which she often did in church, at various conferences, and at church camps. Her music was an extension of her faith and brought comfort and inspiration to all who heard it.

Throughout her life, Beverly was held in high esteem by her friends and family for

her role as a Pastor's wife. She was known to be a supportive friend, confidant, and counselor to many. Her calm, sweet, and well-spoken demeanor resonated with everyone she came in contact with, making her a pillar of strength and wisdom in her community.

Beverly's life was a beautiful melody of service, love, and faithfulness, which will continue to echo in the hearts of those she touched. Her memory will be held in the highest regard, a lasting tribute to a life well-lived. Her family and friends will gather to celebrate her life and legacy, remembering a woman who was not only the heart of her family but also a cherished member of her community. Beverly will be deeply missed, but her spirit will live on through

the values she instilled and the memories she created with those who loved her.

Smith Funeral & Cremation Care of Westover/ Morgantown is providing care and guidance to the Feathers family.

Friends may join the family to honor Beverly's life and legacy at The River Church, 4234 Dents Run Blvd., in Westover, from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26, and on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 11 a.m., officiated by Pastor Nathaniel Hudson. Following the funeral service, Beverly will be laid to rest at Beverly Hills Memorial Gardens.

Condolences:  
www.smithfcc.com



After a 7-year battle with colon cancer, Luigi DeBoni, II, 79, passed away peacefully with his family by his side in Riverview, Fla., on Jan. 18, 2024. He was born in Mason-



**Luigi DeBoni**

town, to the late Luigi and Marcellina DeBoni, on Oct. 8, 1944.

Luigi received his degree in pharmacy from WVU.

Always entrepreneurial, he worked a variety of jobs over the years in addition to being a pharmacist. Luigi was the life of the party and was always ready with a drink in hand to welcome people to a good meal, a dance, or a game of cards. He enjoyed fishing, biking, hunting, and never missed the annual Polecat Rampage. He was a member of Well-spring Church in Ruskin, Fla., a founding member of Trinity Christian School in Morgantown, and an active member of the Gideons and Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International. Luigi was grateful to make several mission trips over the years.

**Luigi DeBoni**

He is survived by his beloved wife, Nancy; five children, Eric DeBoni, Craig DeBoni, Aaron DeBoni, Matty Staudt, and Dena Jabbour; four stepchildren, Lisa Othmani, Stacey Marabella, Kristina Sturek, and Franklin Gregg; 17 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and his sisters, Lydia Main and Tecla DeBoni.

In addition to his parents, Luigi is preceded in death by his son, Luigi (WeeLou) DeBoni III.

Friends and family may call at Field Funeral Home in Masontown, from 3-7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26. The funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, with Pastor John Sommers officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Masontown Cemetery. A time of celebration to honor Luigi's life will be held after the interment at the Masontown VFW Post 1589; 8477 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Masontown, WV 26542.

Condolences:  
www.fieldfuneralhome.com



**Lula Bolyard**

Lula Belle Kerns Bolyard, 92, of Mineral, Va., formerly of Rowlesburg, passed away on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at Louisa Health and Rehabilitation,



**Lula Bolyard**

Louisa, Va. She was born Jan. 12, 1932, in Rowlesburg, daughter of the late Arthur John and Hettie Shaffer Kerns.

Lula Belle graduated from Rowlesburg High School in 1950. She worked at Hopemont State Hospital as a physical therapist. Lula Belle was a former member of Rowlesburg United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her sons, Kenneth Bolyard and wife (Brenda) Harrisonburg, Va., Drew Bolyard and wife (Henrietta),

Mineral, Va.; grandchildren, Kiley Bolyard, Josh Bolyard, Devin Bolyard, Jeff Alexander, Ron Alexander, Amy Lummer and Amanda Roberts; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Lula Belle was preceded in death by her husband, Willard Andrew Bolyard, Sr., whom she married on Jan. 24, 1955, and passed on Dec. 3, 2002; four sisters, and six brothers.

Family and friends will be received at Kingwood Funeral Home, 295 S Price St., Kingwood, from 3-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, and on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. until time of service at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at the Aurora Cemetery.

Condolences:  
www.kingwoodfuneralhomewv.com

**Brian Murray**

Brian Edward Murray, 49, of Newburg, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital. He was born on March 10, 1974, in Morgan-



**Brian Murray**

town, son of Ethel Mae (Moury) Murray of Tunnelton, and the late Robert Earl "Bob" Murray.

Brian graduated from Preston High School, class of 1992. He was a tree trimmer his whole life last working for JALFO. He enjoyed hunting, fishing,

camping, riding his 4-wheeler, and playing basketball.

In addition to his mother, Brian is survived by one brother, David R Murray, Newburg; two nieces, Brittany Nicole Taylor and Carly Brooke Murray; companion, Melinda Lipscomb; a special friend, Dave Keener; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Bolyard Funeral Home and Crematory is handling the cremation and honored to serve the Murray family.

Condolences:  
www.bolyardfuneralhomewv.com



Bernard Ray Bragg, 85, of Morgantown, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at the Morgantown Health and Rehabilitation Center. He was born on April 24, 1938, in Rivesville, a son of the late Russell and Carrie Singleton Bragg. He is survived by his loving wife, Kathryn Thorne Bragg.



**Bernard Bragg**

Bernard was a 1956 graduate of Rivesville High School and a Christian by faith. Upon graduating, he proudly served his country in the United States Army. After over 30 years of hard work and dedication, Bernard retired as a Hydraulic Mechanic from Quality Hydraulics in Bridgeport. In his spare time, he enjoyed farming and maintaining the farm.

In addition to his wife, Bernard is survived by his son, John Bragg and his

**Bernard Bragg**

wife Karen of Fairmont; daughter, Diane Bragg of Morgantown; three brothers, Charles "Charlie" Bragg, Kenneth "Kenny" Bragg, and Gene Bragg; as well as two sisters, Bernice Kniceley, and Margie Davis.

In addition to his parents, Bernard was preceded in death by two brothers, William and Boyd Bragg; and three sisters, Helen Marie Kennedy, Edna Mae Shaw, and Carolyn Wright.

The family has entrusted the arrangements to the Ford Funeral Home, DeGarmo Chapel, 207 Second St., Rivesville. Friends will be received from 4-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, and on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. The funeral service will be held in the funeral home on Thursday at 11 a.m., with Reverend Stanley Merrifield officiating. Interment will follow at the McCurdysville Cemetery.

Condolences:  
www.fordfuneralhomes.com

**Rose Murray**

Rose Murray, 89, of Morgantown, passed away Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at Sundale Nursing Home. She was born July 18, 1934, in Weirton, a daughter of the late Augustine and Nancy (Aloi) Marino.



**Rose Murray**

In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her husband, Leland John Murray.

Rose loved spending time with family and friends and enjoyed cooking.

She is survived by her son, Jeff Murray and his wife Reshel; daughter, Lisa Johnson and her husband Jeff; sister, Frances "Fran" Marinich; grandchildren, Garrett Murray and his wife Allison, Carter Murray, Heather Kleckner and her husband Derrick, Courtney Ransom and her husband Eric, Robert Eloi, Jr., and Kristen Ann John-

son; great-grandchildren, Blair Mae Murray, Nicholas Kleckner, Aviana Kleckner, Brooklyn Kleckner, Rylan Kleckner, Carson Ransom, and Eli Ransom. She was also excited about a new great-grandson coming in May.

Friends and family will be received at Hastings Funeral Home, 153 Spruce St., Morgantown, from 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, until the time of the funeral service at noon with Pastor Rick Shriver officiating.

Interment will follow at East Oak Grove Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Focused Ultrasound Therapeutics at https://give.wvu.edu/give/554659/#/donation/check out or The WVU Foundation at https://www.wvuf.org/

Condolences:  
www.hastingsfuneralhome.com



**Josef Horter**

Josef "Joe" Horter was born in Wheeling, on April 28, 1960, to Julie and Charles "Bud" Horter. A 1982 WVU alum, Joe went on to earn his law degree from Ohio Northern University in 1985 before settling back in Charleston, where he would practice law for majority of his

career. In 2002, Joe met his future wife, Monica, and they wed later that year. Visitation will be held at Barlow Bonsall Funeral Home in Charleston at noon on Thursday, Jan. 25, followed by a funeral service at 1p.m. A private burial will follow.

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FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN

TODAY

59°  
51°

Mild with periods of rain

THURSDAY

61°  
52°

Warm with rain; fog in the morning

FRIDAY

57°  
41°

Mostly cloudy and mild

SATURDAY

53°  
41°

Cloudy and mild; afternoon rain

SUNDAY

44°  
33°

Cloudy and cooler with a little rain

REGIONAL WEATHER

Mansfield 48/42

Akron 47/44

Pittsburgh 53/48

Altoona 45/39

Columbus 50/46

Wheeling 55/51

Cumberland 47/38

Martinsburg 47/40

Parkersburg 56/48

Elkins 59/50

Charleston 59/49

Huntington 55/48

Beckley 54/49

Forecast and graphics provided by  
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024

MOUNTAINS

West Virginia: Mild today with periods of rain. Areas of fog in the evenings; mild with occasional rain and drizzle tonight. Periods of rain Thursday; areas of morning fog. Occasional rain and drizzle Thursday night.

ALMANAC

Morgantown through 4 p.m. Tuesday

Temperature

High/low 47°/31°

Normal high/low 39°/20°

Record high 73° in 1999

Record low -16° in 1936

Precipitation

24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Tuesday 0.00"

Year to date 2.83"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:34 a.m.

Sunset tonight 5:30 p.m.

Moonrise today 4:21 p.m.

Moonset today 7:15 a.m.

Full Jan 25

Last Feb 2

New Feb 9

First Feb 16

LOCAL WEATHER

MONONGALIA Morgantown 59/51

MARION Fairmont 58/50

TAYLOR Grafton 59/50

HARRISON Clarksburg 59/50

PRESTON Kingwood 57/51

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

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Seattle 49/42

Bilings 46/29

Minneapolis 37/21

Chicago 40/34

San Francisco 58/49

Los Angeles 63/52

Denver 49/25

Kansas City 49/25

New York 45/43

Washington 59/49

Atlanta 61/59

Miami 81/73

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Fronts

Cold

Warm

Stationary

SKI CONDITIONS

Ski Area

New snow (in)

Base (in)

Trails Open

Canaan Valley

0

44-70

36

Seven Springs, PA

0

18-18

42

Snowshoe/Silver Creek

0

0-53

58

Timberline Four Seasons

0

30-70

20

Wisp, MD

0

24-28

32

Snow reports provided by OnTheSnow.com

REGIONAL CITIES

City

Wed. Hi/Lo/W

Thu. Hi/Lo/W

Beckley, WV

54/49/r

62/51/r

Charleston, WV

59/49/r

62/53/r

Columbus, OH

50/46/r

55/41/r

Cumberland, MD

47/38/r

50/46/r

Fairmont, WV

58/50/r

60/51/r

Grafton, WV

59/50/r

61/53/r

Huntington, WV

55/48/r

61/48/r

Kingwood, PA

57/51/r

59/49/r

Pittsburgh, PA

53/48/r

57/46/r

Wheeling, WV

55/51/r

57/44/r

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

SOLUNAR TABLES

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

Major

Minor

Major

Minor

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.

---

6:07 p.m.

Sat.

12:21 a.m.

6:32 a.m.

12:43 p.m.

6:54 p.m.

Sun.

1:09 a.m.

7:19 a.m.

1:29 p.m.

7:39 p.m.

LAKES AND RIVERS

Lake

7 a.m. Yest.

24-hour Change

Cheat Lake

859.76

+0.05

Deep Creek, MD

2457.43

+0.01

Jennings Randolph

1442.16

-0.25

Stonewall Jackson

1067.78

-0.13

Tygart

1040.00

-1.40

Voughgheeny

1418.02

-0.04

River Stages

Fld. Flood stage. Prs. stage in feet at 7 a.m. yesterday. Chg. change in previous 24 hours. M: missing.

Monongahela

Fld.

Prs.

Chg.

Morgantown

22

9.84

-0.02

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2024. There are 342 days left in the year.

Highlight:

In 1984, Apple Computer began selling its first Macintosh model, which boasted a built-in 9-inch monochrome display, a clock rate of 8 megahertz and 128k of RAM.

On this date:

In 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 2018, former sports doctor Larry Nassar, who had admitted molesting some of the nation's top gymnasts for years under the guise of medical treatment, was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison.

In 2023, the sci-fi indie hit "Everything Everywhere All at Once" led Oscar nominations with 11. (It would go on to win seven, including best picture.)

Today's birthdays:

Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 88. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 85. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 83. Singer Aaron Neville is 83. Actor Michael Ontkean is 78. Actor Daniel Auteuil is 74. Country singer-songwriter Becky Hobbs is 74. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 73. Former South Korean President Moon Jae-in is 70. Actor William Allen Young is 70.

Wife in unhappy marriage fantasizes about a friend

DEAR ABBY: I am an unhappily married woman with young children. I am attracted to a friend of mine and my husband's, but he is also married. He's a bit older, and I can't tell for sure if he has feelings for me, but sometimes I suspect it. He has made me jewelry and gifts, and I've caught him looking at me a few times.

We have exchanged messages on social media and he often asks me questions about myself — what I like, etc. He's just so quiet that I can't tell if it all means anything. I could never leave my husband and break up my family, and I could never break up someone else's family. But I'm starting to wonder and sometimes think I really am falling in love with him. What should I do? — CRUSHING IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CRUSHING: Face it: You're taken. Because you could "never leave" your husband or break up someone else's marriage, figure out what's gone wrong in your relationship with your husband and resolve to fix it. Some sessions with a licensed marriage and family therapist would be the place to start. Do it now.

JEANNE PHILLIPS

DEAR ABBY: I went out to eat at a fancy Manhattan restaurant with some of my siblings. One of them over-ordered and ran up a huge bill. When it came time to pay, he said, "Let's charge it to Daddy's credit card." Our father is well-off and probably would have been OK with it, but I objected on principle.

We ended up splitting the bill, which irritated me since my wife and I ordered much less. I can't talk to them about it because they'll accuse me of being cheap. What should I have done and what should I do in the future when it crops up, because it will? — MONEY-CONSCIOUS IN NEW YORK

DEAR M-C: The next time you go to a fancy restaurant with your siblings, before the order is taken, tell the server you would like separate checks.

JEANNE PHILLIPS writes "Dear Abby" under the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TV LISTINGS

1/24/24	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST CHANNELS												
2 KDKA	KDKA-TV News at Six (N)	KDKA-TV News at 6:30pm (N)	CBS Evening News (N)	KDKA-TV News at 7:30PM (N)	The Price Is Right at Night (N)		Let's Make a Deal Primetime (N)		FBI True (N)		KDKA-TV News at Eleven (N)	Late Show- Colbert (N)
4 WTAE	Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	ABC World News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	NBA Countdown (N)	NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Dallas Mavericks From American Airlines Center in Dallas. (L) (N)					Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)
5 WDTV	First News	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	Price Is Right (N)		Let's Make a (N)		FBI True (N)		5 News	Colbert
7 WTRF	7News at	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	Price Is Right (N)		Let's Make a (N)		FBI True (N)		7News at	Colbert
9 WTOV	News 9 at Six (L) (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune "Sand & Sea" (N)	Chicago Med Marcel clashes with Med's eager first-year resident. (N)		Chicago Fire Mouch sets out to change his legacy and nickname. (N)		Chicago P.D. Ruzek gets mixed up in a case when a poker game is raided. (N)		News 9 Tonight (L) (N)	Tonight Show (N)
11 WPXI	Channel 11	NBC News	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy!	Chicago Med (N)		Chicago Fire (N)		Chicago P.D. (N)		News (N)	J. Fallon
12 WBOY	News (N)	NBC News	Jeopardy!	Wheel (N)	Chicago Med (N)		Chicago Fire (N)		Chicago P.D. (N)		News (N)	J. Fallon
13 WQED	PBS NewsHour (N)	NBC News	Jeopardy!	Wheel (N)	Chicago Med (N)		Chicago Fire (N)		Chicago P.D. (N)		News (N)	J. Fallon
22 WCVB	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Modern Family "Egg Drop" (N)	Modern Family "Me? Jealous?" (N)	Wild Cards Max and Ellis stumble upon the murder of a sports agent. (N)		Family Law "A River in Egypt" A biased judge rules against Daniel's petition. (N)		Court Cam iCRIME With Elizabeth Vargas		The National Desk (L) (N)	
24 WNPB	Legis.	America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Nature (N)	Nature A chameleon searches for a mate; a Scottish water vole. (N)		NOVA		Secrets of the Dead		Legis.	Energy
46 WVFX	News (N)	Investig.	Last Man	Last Man	I Can See (N)		We Are Family (N)		WWFX 10 Seinfeld		Seinfeld	Housewife
53 WPGH	The Big Bang Theory	Channel 11 News on Fox 53 at 6:30 (N)	The Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	I Can See Your Voice (N)		We Are Family (N)		Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)		Seinfeld "The Label Maker"	Seinfeld "The Muffin Tops"
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	Court Cam Court Cam	Court Cam Court Cam	Court Cam Court Cam	Court Cam Court Cam	Court Cam Court Cam	Court Cam Court Cam	Court Cam Court Cam	Booked (N)			Court Cam Court Cam	
AMC	*** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective Jim Carrey.				*** Men in Black '97 Tommy Lee Jones.			*** Men in Black II '02 Tommy Lee Jones.				
AT&TSP	Wm. Basketball Richmond at Duquesne (L) (N)				Pirates Baseball	Spotlight Pirates Baseball		Pirates			Wm. Basketball	
BET	As. Living Payne	Payne	Payne	Neighbor Neighbor	Tyler Perry's Sistias (N)		Queen-Men (N)		Tyler Perry's Sistias			
CNN	Situation Room (L) (N)	E. B. OutFront (L) (N)	Cooper 360 (N)	The Source With (N)	King Charles (N)		Laura Coates Live (N)					
DISC	Expedition Unknown	Expedition Unknown	Expedition Unknown	Expedition Unknown	Expedition Unknown		Expedition Unknown		Expedition Unknown		Expedition Unknown	
DISN	Kiff Kiff	Big City	Big City	Hailey Hailey	Miraculous		Ladybug Ladybug		Bunk'd Bunk'd			
ESPN	SportsCenter	NBA (N)	College Basketball Auburn at Alabama (L) (N)	Basketball Oklahoma City Thunder at San Antonio Spurs (N)								
ESPN2	Around (N) Pardon	College Basketball Miami at Notre Dame (N)		College Basketball Teams TBA (L) (N)								
FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Grocery (N)			Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games			
FNC	Special Report (L) (N)	Ingraham (N)	Jesse Watters (L) (N)	Hannity (L) (N)			Gutfeld! (N)		Fox News at Night (N)			
FREE	*** The Boss Melissa McCarthy.	*** The Other Woman '14 Leslie Mann, Cameron Diaz.		Chrissy & Dave (N)			The 700 Club					
HIST	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers (N)			American Pickers (N)		American Pickers			
LIFE	Castle	Castle	Married at First Sight (N)	Prison Brides (N)			Married Prison Brides					
NEWSN	Vargas Report (N)	On Balance (N)	Cuomo (N)	Dan Abrams Live (N)			Banfield (N)		Cuomo			
NICK	Loud House Loud House	Danger (N) SlimeTime	SpongeBob SpongeBob	Friends Friends			Friends Friends		Friends Friends			
PARMT	Two Men Two Men	Two Men Two Men	Two Men Two Men	Two Men Two Men	**** The Shawshank Redemption '94 Morgan Freeman, Tim Robbins.							Movie
TNT	Lucifer	NHL on T..	NHL Hockey Carolina Hurricanes at Boston Bruins (N)	NHL Hockey								
TVLAND	A. Griffith A. Griffith	Raymond Raymond	Raymond Raymond	Raymond Raymond	King King		King King					
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU			
WE	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS "Safe Harbor"	NCIS "Thirst"			NCIS "Devil's Triangle"		NCIS			
WTBS	Big Bang Big Bang	Big Bang Big Bang	Big Bang Big Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (L) (N)			Mod Fam Mod Fam		Mod Fam Mod Fam			
MOVIE CHANNELS												
HBO	*** Pitch Perfect 2 '15 Anna Kendrick.		*** Legally Blonde		True Detective		Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps					
MAX	*** Equals '15 Kristen Stewart.		Heist '15 Jeffrey Dean Morgan.		Come and Find Me '16 Aaron Paul.							Movie
SHOW	Adore	**** Titanic (1997, History) Kate Winslet, Billy Zane, Leonardo DiCaprio.		*** Mean Girls Lindsay Lohan.								Switch
TMC	*** Pearl '22 David Crewenswet, Mia Goth.		*** Jack Reacher '12 Tom Cruise. (P)		The Integrity of Joseph Chambers							Movie

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Scottsdale, PA 15683

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

MAKING A STATEMENT

MHS dominates top-10 matchup vs. Martinsburg

BY MARK SCHRAF  
Sports@DominionPost.com

Every so often, an intriguing and potentially defining matchup emerges smack dab in the middle of a season’s schedule, and Tuesday’s home game for No. 2 Morgantown against No. 4 Martinsburg certainly fit the bill.

Both teams have lost to No. 1 Spring Mills — the Mohigans by four and the Bulldogs in a blowout — so the battle would go a long way in further defining the balance of power in the state’s boys Class AAAA rankings.

The question of who’s No. 2 was answered – quite definitively – as Morgantown completely overwhelmed Martinsburg with a remarkable second-quarter display of complete basketball, outscoring the Bulldogs 35-7 on their way to a masterfully dominant 89-45 victory.

In the first quarter, the Mohigans (11-1) began efficiently on offense, getting points from five different players, and were disruptive defensively, limiting Martinsburg (5-3) to just four field



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

SEE MHS, B-2 Morgantown's Jacob King (3) dunks the ball over Martinsburg's Anthony Owunna (5) on Tuesday.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Hawks cruise past B-U on Senior Night

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH  
Sports@DominionPost.com

University High School girls basketball coach Nick Lusk was quick to put his finger on the reason his team got out to such a fast start against visiting Buckhannon-Upshur on Tuesday night atop Baker’s Ridge.

“Well first off today was senior night of course, so we all wanted to send those two (Ella Simpson and Ashlyn Weaver) out the right way,” he said.

The Hawks (7-8) scored the first 11 points of the game, setting the tone early and building a lead that they wouldn’t come close to surrendering in a 71-38 victory over sectional foe Buckhannon-Upshur (2-9).

UHS aggressively began the game, earning a layup from the opening tip and immediately

SEE HAWKS, B-2



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

University's Ella Simpson (23) defends the ball against Buckhannon on Tuesday evening. Simpson was one of two seniors honored during the game.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Wheeling Park wins latest matchup in high-powered rivalry with Morgantown

BY NICK HENTHORN  
The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Morgantown and Wheeling Park had their latest rematch Tuesday inside The Palace on the Hill, the meeting between the No. 2 Mohigans and No. 4 Patriots a run-back of last season’s state championship game, and a hard-fought match on Dec. 19, both meetings going in Morgantown’s favor.

It was Wheeling Park who came out on the winning side of Tuesday’s matchup, securing a 69-59 victory on their home floor in the latest installation of what has become an exciting rivalry between two top teams.

“We lost the state finals, we lost the first one down there, we knew we had to get some momentum back against them,” Wheeling Park head coach Ryan Young

said. “They’re an excellent basketball team, this is just one game in the grand scheme of things. We know we’re going to have to play them probably two more times, hopefully three because that’d mean we’d both be down in Charleston.”

Wheeling Park was led by Lala Woods, who made seven 3-pointers on her way to a game-high 28 points, also tallying seven rebounds and two steals. Woods, a junior, scored her 1,000th point in the second quarter on a free throw attempt.

Woods, a returning all-state first-team performer, showed up big in a big game, as did fellow all-state first-team player Alexis Bordas, who scored 26 with six rebounds.

“It’s huge,” Young said of the

SEE PARK, B-2

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

UCF powers past WVU, keeping Mountaineers winless on the road

BY JUSTIN JACKSON  
JJackson@DominionPost.com

Reality jumped up and took a big bite out of West Virginia on Tuesday. UCF’s defense made sure of that.

The Knights pounded and hounded the Mountaineers on Tuesday, keeping WVU winless on the road this season along the way in a 72-59 victory inside Addition Financial Arena.

“It’s hard in this league, especially as good as they are defensively to get anything going,” WVU head coach Josh Eilert said on his radio postgame show. “We got disconnected in so many

ways, offensively and defensively. We weren’t clicking on all cylinders.”

It all came just three days after the Mountaineers (7-12, 2-4 Big 12) looked like poetry in motion against Kansas. It may as well had been three years, because what worked against the Jayhawks, UCF simply chewed up and spit out.

Much of that credit goes to UCF senior center Ibrahima Diallo, as the 7-footer blocked three shots and altered maybe a dozen more. It wasn’t that the Mountaineers couldn’t get into the paint, they just had little chance to finish

once they got it there.

Diallo added 12 rebounds and 14 points as UCF’s focal point and Jaylin Sellers added 18 points and three 3-pointers. Just how much different were the Mountaineers? They had 51 points at the half in that 91-85 upset against Kansas but didn’t reach that point against UCF (12-6, 3-3) until there was 4:10 remaining in the game.

By that point, the Knights were in cruise control.

“You look back at the UMass game and you look back at the Houston game, I worry so much about freedom of movement,” Eil-

ert said. “We’re not the biggest, strongest dudes on the block and that’s the type of game they play. If you don’t have a lot of freedom of movement and you can’t go downhill when they’re hip-checking you and steering you, it’s hard game to create advantages.”

The Mountaineers simply had to work too hard just to get off a shot, and as UCF showed it was going to control the paint, WVU couldn’t find any answers from the outside. One 3-point attempt from WVU hit off the top of the backboard. UCF picked up 10 steals, some coming from simply

picking the pocket of the WVU ballhandler.

The frustration boiled over in the second half, as WVU guard RaeQuan Battle picked up two technical fouls and was ejected from the game with 10:52 remaining. Like his teammates, Battle couldn’t find any rhythm and was held to just five points on 2 of 6 shooting in 19 minutes.

“He was frustrated and I get it. I get his frustrations,” Eilert said. “He handled it the wrong way and I think he knows it. He popped off a couple of times and it warranted what they gave him. It was a

SEE WVU, B-2

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SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24  
BOYS BASKETBALL  
Grafton at Preston, 7 p.m.  
University at Parkersburg South, 7:30 p.m.  
HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING  
University, Elkins and Weir at Morgantown, 5:30 p.m.  
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING  
University at Fairmont Senior, 6 p.m.

ON TV

CANADIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE  
6:30 p.m. NHLN — Top Prospect Game: Team Red vs. Team White, Moncton, New Brunswick  
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)  
6:30 p.m. FS1 — Providence at Seton Hall  
SECN — LSU at Georgia  
7 p.m. ACCN — NC State at Virginia  
BTN — Maryland at Iowa  
CBSSN — Murray St. at Bradley  
ESPN2 — Miami at Notre Dame  
7:30 p.m. ESPN — Auburn at Alabama  
8:30 p.m. FS1 — Villanova at St. John's  
SECN — Mississippi St. at Florida  
9 p.m. BTN — Illinois at Northwestern  
CBSSN — Marquette at DePaul  
ESPN2 — Kansas St. at Iowa St.  
ESPNU — Arkansas at Mississippi  
10 p.m. PAC-12N — Utah at Washington St.  
10:30 p.m. FS1 — Colorado St. at Nevada  
11 p.m. CBSSN — New Mexico St. at San Jose St.  
ESPNU — Colorado at Washington  
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)  
7 p.m. ESPNU — Oklahoma at Texas  
NBA BASKETBALL  
8:30 p.m. ABC — Phoenix at Dallas  
9:30 p.m. ESPN — Oklahoma City at San Antonio  
NHL HOCKEY  
7:30 p.m. TNT — Carolina at Boston  
10 p.m. TNT — Chicago at Seattle  
TENNIS  
3:30 a.m. ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia  
12 p.m. ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia  
3:30 a.m. (Thursday) ESPN — WTA: The Australian Open, Semifinals

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
8. Auburn	16-2 609	11
6. Kansas	15-3 576	4
9. Arizona	14-4 528	13
10. Wisconsin	14-4 480	8
11. Illinois	14-4 437	14
12. Duke	13-4 421	6

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

West Virginia boys Basketball poll

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The Associated Press high school boys basketball poll with first-place votes in parentheses and total points:

Team	Record	Pts	Prv
<b>Class AAAA</b>			
1. Spring Mills (8)	10-0	89	1
2. Morgantown (1)	10-1	82	2
3. George Washington	6-3	66	3
4. Martinsburg	5-2	61	4
5. Bridgeport	8-1	53	5
6. Jefferson	11-3	40	6
7. Wheeling Park	9-4	32	7
8. Hedgessville	8-2	29	T8
9. Huntington	5-4	16	T8
10. St. Albans	7-4	13	10
Others receiving votes: Hurricane 8, Buckhannon-Upshur 5, Musselman 1.			

Class AAA

Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Fairmont Senior	9-0	90	1
2. Shady Spring	7-1	79	2
3. Nitro	9-0	74	3
4. East Fairmont	7-4	63	4
5. Herbert Hoover	5-4	46	5
6. Lewis County	8-5	45	6
7. Sissonville	6-4	32	7
8. Midland Trail	7-2	28	8
9. Logan	4-6	17	9
10. Liberty Harrison	6-3	13	10
Others receiving votes: Grafton 5, North Marion 3.			

Class AA

Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Charleston Catholic (9)	12-0	90	1
2. Williamsontown	10-1	81	2
3. Bluefield	6-2	67	3
4. Chapmanville	8-5	59	4
(tie) Wheeling Central	10-2	59	5
6. Ravenswood	9-3	45	6
7. Petersburg	8-1	28	8
8. Poca	6-4	27	7
9. Trinity	8-3	20	10
10. Womong East	7-3	17	9
Others receiving votes: Buffalo 2.			

Class A

Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Tucker County (8)	8-2	88	1
2. James Monroe	6-2	78	2
3. Tug Valley (1)	7-1	73	3
4. Webster County	8-1	60	5
5. East Hardy	6-1	59	4
6. Clay-Battle	9-3	42	6
7. Wahoma	10-2	34	7
8. Greater Beckley Christian	6-3	24	8
9. Cameron	7-3	19	9
10. Madonna	6-4	9	10
Others receiving votes: River View 4, Tolsia 3, Greenbrier West 2.			

West Virginia girls Basketball poll

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The Associated Press high school girls basketball poll with first-place votes in parentheses and total points:

Team	Record	Pts	Prv
<b>Class AAA</b>			
1. Spring Valley (5)	9-2	76	1
2. Morgantown (2)	10-1	73	2
3. Parkersburg (1)	10-2	61	5
4. Wheeling Park	11-3	56	3
5. George Washington	10-2	54	4
6. St. Albans	8-4	38	7
7. Parkersburg South	8-4	28	6
8. Princeton	7-2	27	T8
9. Greenbrier East	9-3	11	NR
10. University	6-8	10	10
Others receiving votes: Musselman 4, Cabell Midland 1, Huntington 1, John Marshall 1.			

Class AA

Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Wayne (8)	12-0	80	1
2. East Fairmont	11-0	72	2
3. Nitro	9-2	64	3
4. Phillip Barbour	9-2	55	4
5. Lewis County	12-1	49	5
6. Sissonville	10-4	39	6
7. North Marion	5-5	26	7
8. Ripley	7-6	20	8
9. Robert C. Byrd	6-4	12	9
10. Elkins	9-2	9	
Others receiving votes: Independence 8, Pikeview 5, Keyser 1.			

Class A

Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Wyoming East (8)	11-2	80	1
2. Summers County	9-3	69	2
3. Williamsontown	10-3	67	3
4. Mingo Central	9-3	54	4
5. St. Marys	12-3	48	5
6. Wheeling Central	11-4	42	6
7. Parkersburg Catholic	9-2	32	7
8. Ravenswood	9-5	20	9
9. Chapmanville	7-5	18	8
10. Charleston Catholic	6-4	6	10
Others receiving votes: Trinity 3, Petersburg 1.			

Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Cameron (5)	7-4	77	1
2. Gilmer County (3)	10-0	75	2
3. Tucker County	8-3	61	3
4. Doddridge County	11-2	57	4
5. James Monroe	8-5	46	5
6. Greenbrier West	8-4	40	6
7. St. Joseph	9-4	32	7
8. River View	9-4	25	8
9. Clay-Battle	6-6	14	10
10. Valley Wetzel	7-6	8	NR
Others receiving votes: Meadow Bridge 5.			
—			

MHS

FROM PAGE B-1

goals. However, three of those were from downtown, enabling the Bulldogs to stay within reach at 17-11.

After the visitors scored an early bucket in the second to sneak within four, the Bulldogs' bench was up and energized, ready to challenge for the lead.

Not so fast. Morgantown senior and newly nominated McDonald's high school All-American Sharron Young and the rest of his teammates simply cranked up their game to another level on both sides of the court. Young scored 11 in the quarter (on his way to a 25-point, 10-rebound, 8-assist night), and the Mohigans' ball-hawking man pressure forced nine turnovers, most of which were converted into points. J. Shrewsberry got hot, canning a pair of triples and two other buckets to help propel the home MHS on a 20-0 run.

The signature moment came late in the half when senior Jacob King stole a ball on the wing, drove hard to the rack, soared, and threw down a monster

right-handed dunk over a Bulldog defender sending the Rowdie Center into a roaring frenzy. All in all, the nearly flawless second-quarter performance led to a 52-18 Mohigans advantage over a shell-shocked Martinsburg team.

"I usually have a lot to say at halftime," Morgantown coach Dave Tallman quipped, "but I didn't keep them in there too long – I didn't want to mess them up. I just told them not to let up, because it often happens in games like this, but they came out strong and put the game away."

Any notion of a Bulldog miracle was quickly dashed by guard Izzy Everett, who hit a three and followed that up with a four-point play as the Mohigans won the third quarter 24-10, flirting with a 50-point lead before sitting the starters for the final quarter in the superb win.

When asked about his signature stuff, the self-effacing King admitted he hadn't dunked like that before, at least not in the Mohigans' blue and red.

"Nah, not even in practice," he smiled, "although I did have one similar in Fall league. I just picked up a

PARK

FROM PAGE B-1

play of his two standout juniors. "Lala first half, carried us. Alexis second half, came back after shooting poorly in the first. I was really happy with her effort—she never gets down, she stays steady and plays through things. She's a great rebounder, she did a great job, I thought, on the Jones girl.

"I thought all our kids defensively paid attention to their assignments and really made it hard on them. Morgantown's a good team, they still ended up with close to 60 points but we made them earn a lot of those. Lala, just icing on the cake going over 1,000 tonight. We've had a kid as a sophomore go over 1,000 and now one as a junior, so that just tells you they're special players and we're fortunate to have them."

Sadaya Jones was the top scorer for Morgantown, putting up 20 points and seven rebounds.

Woods helped Wheeling Park jump out to a 17-7 lead to start the game, scoring nine points and grabbing three rebounds in the stretch. Wheeling Park led 22-15 after the first quarter.

HAWKS

FROM PAGE B-1

applying a full-court press that caused issues for the Buccaneers.

The Hawks opened the game offensively shooting 5 for 9 from the field while B-U has only attempted two shot attempts as a team.

The Buccaneers did manage a flurry of baskets to end the opening quarter but the Hawks led 24-9 behind five different scorers in the first.

"I thought we shared the ball very well tonight too," Lusk said. "The press worked tonight and it got going early as we were real aggressive with it. Sometimes we can get a little lackadaisical with the pressure and I think some of that had to do with the occasion of senior night. I'm proud of the effort."

The scoring slowed for UHS in the second quarter but the intensity on the

Morgantown put on a full-court press to start the second quarter, but the added pressure could not slow down a hot-shooting Patriots team, who made eight 3-pointers in the first half, five from Woods, to lead 38-29 at the half.

The 3-point shot was key Tuesday, Wheeling Park going 12-30 from distance while Morgantown went 1-8. The Patriots played tough enough inside against a Mohigans interior led by Jones and Lily Jordan to keep Morgantown from dominating inside and keep the Mohigans offense from catching up.

"We got them by nine at our place, they got us by 10 up here," Morgantown head coach Doug Goodwin said. "They shot lights out. Credit to Alexis and Lala, 28 and 26 points. They shot very well with a hand in their face, they took us away from things we were trying to do offensively. All credit to Wheeling Park tonight for the effort they gave."

A nine-point halftime advantage never shrunk to any amount less for Park the rest of the way, the home team ahead 59-41 after three quarters.

Morgantown did give

steal and felt like I wanted to go up and get one for my family and friends, to give my team some energy. It's a confidence booster for sure."

Tallman, not an easy man to impress, was pretty excited about that second quarter, especially King's super athletic flush.

"We've been on Jacob pretty hard," he admitted, "simply because he has the talent, and just needs to go out and do it. I feel he's really turned the corner, and while that dunk came out of nowhere, it's clear he's capable of that kind of play all the time.

"It's the same story with our team," he continued. "We've not been playing especially well defensively, and we've been leaning too much on Sharron on offense. So we worked on playing harder and more active defense, and challenging guys to step up and contribute. Sharron did a great job of distributing and getting everyone involved tonight, and you see that with our balance (Everett finished with 18, Shrewsberry with 12, and a total of 10 players scored). When we play hard, we're hard to beat, and when you

cause for pause late in the fourth, their press generating several live-ball turnovers and quick lay-ins around the basket, getting to a 10-point game, 67-57, but it was too little too late for the visitors.

"In the fourth quarter we still were letting it fly, and we needed to settle down and run some clock," Young said. "After a couple timeouts I thought we did do that. We just have to be ready for those situations. I think we're just so used to playing the way we play, but when we get into a fourth-quarter game against a good team we've just got to learn how to be patient and run some clock. I thought we rebounded the ball pretty well."

"We got caught on screens a little more, didn't recover as well," Goodwin said of the differences between Tuesday and the two teams' last meeting. "All things that we can work on and get better at. They just shot lights out, plain and simple. Toward the end there we had to foul, send them to the free throw line. We did get aggressive in our full-court press there at the end, got some buckets. It's a learning experience for us, we'll improve

have an opportunity to make a statement, you need to make it. We did that tonight, and I'm real proud of everyone."

In the very well-played JV game, Morgantown repelled several strong second-half comeback efforts from Martinsburg to prevail, 57-43. Jeremiah White paced all scorers with 18 for the visitors, while the Mohigans' balanced attack featured Marcus Goins with 15, Camden Kellogg's 12, and Jayden Smalls with 11.

The Mohigans are on the road this Friday at John Marshall and Saturday afternoon at Ripley, then host rival University Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Morgantown 89, Martinsburg 45  
Martinsburg (5-3) 11 7 10 17 - 45  
Morgantown (11-1) 17 35 24 13 - 89  
MARTINSBURG — Josiah King 2 1-3 5 Jackson Steen 5 1-1 15 Chayse Shipley 4 1-2 10 Kyree Bunny 1 0-4 2 Anthony Owunna 3 0-0 4 Jeremiah White 0 1-1 2 Zion Agyeman-Duah 0 0-2 0 Garrett Hite 1 0-0 2 Kai Fagan 2 0-4 Totals 18 4-10 45  
MORGANTOWN — Akir Johnson 2 0-0 4 Max Frey 2 0-0 4 Izzy Everett 7 1-1 18 Jacob King 3 2-2 8 Marcus Goins 0 2-2 2 Sharron Young 9 4-4 25 Johnathon Shrewsberry 5 0-12 Marty Johnson 1 2-3 4 Waylon Calistro 2 1-2 5 Brady Savage 3 1-2 7 Totals 34 13-16 89  
Three-pointers — Martinsburg 5 (Steen 4, Shipley), Morgantown 8 (Young 3, Shrewsberry 2, Everett 3)  
Fouled Out — Martinsburg (Shipley)

and get better and move on."

For Park, Woods and Bordas were joined in double figures by Jillian Huffman with 10 points and seven rebounds. Natalie Daugherty led the Patriots in assists with five, also scoring three points and grabbing five rebounds and three steals. Merritt Delk secured seven rebounds and dished two assists off the bench.

For Morgantown, Jones' 20 was followed by Jordan's 12 points and eight rebounds, Kayli Kellogg's nine points and nine rebounds, and Sofia Wasick's eight points. Morgantown out-rebounded Park by a slim margin, 37-35, while each team committed 10 turnovers.

Park (12-3) next faces John Marshall on the road on Thursday. Morgantown (11-2) plays Russel (Ky.) at St. Albans on Friday.

Box Score

Wheeling Park 69, Morgantown 59  
MORGANTOWN (59) — Wassick 4 0-0 8 Jones 8 3-5 20; Kellogg 4 1-4 9; Jordan 6 0-1 12; Smith 2 0-0 4; Hatcher 2 2-4 6; Totals 26 6-14 59  
WHEELING PARK (69) — Delk 0 0-0 0; Huffman 3 2-2 10; Daugherty 1 0-4 3; Heller 1 0-0 2; Hicks 0 0-0 0; Bordas 8 8-10 26; Woods 8 5-8 28; Totals 21 15-24 69  
Three-point goals: Morgantown 1 (Jones), Wheeling Park 12 (Woods 7, Bordas 2, Huffman 2, Daugherty).

University 4 (Stemple 3 Fox 1)

Trinity Christian 77, Magnolia 25

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Senior Ella Lynch scored a career-high 33 points off the bench as the Warriors cruised to a big win on the road.

Lynch made 14 field goals, including five three-pointers, in the carrer outing.

"Ella was fantastic," TCS coach Mike Baldy said via email. "We have been asking her to sprint in transition and she answered that call tonight."

Jenna Barnett added 14 points as Trinity led 66-15 after three quarters.

BOX SCORE

Trinity Christian 77, Magnolia 25  
TCS 15 20 31 11 — 77  
Mog 7 2 6 10 — 25  
TRINITY — Barnett 5 2-2 14; Lohmann 0 0-0 0; Blake 1 0-0 2; Lynch 14 0-0 33; Fisher 0 1-2 1; Moore 1 0-0 2; Williams 4 1-2 9; Deal 1 0-0 2; Hopkins 4 1-2 9; Kurelko 2 1-2 5  
3-Pt. Goals — Trinity 7 (Lynch 5, Barnett 2).

ran, too, scoring 24 fast-break points. Rebounding was never in question, as UCF dominated on the glass, 45-34.

Pat Suemnick, who was dominant with a career-high 20 points against Kansas, saw many of his close shots go in and out and roll off the rim. He was held scoreless on 0 for 6 shooting. He did have four rebounds before fouling out in the final seconds.

"The biggest thing that stands out to me is those fast-break points. It was 24 to six," Eilert said. "That's the difference in the game. They're getting easy buckets. They're going downhill

WVU center Jesse Edwards dressed but did not play. Eilert said before the game that Edwards, who is recovering from surgery on his right wrist, could go in an emergency. UCF jumped out to an 8-0 lead and continued to run that up to a 21-point advantage in the second half, so there was no need for Edwards to get into the action.

"Hopefully we can insert Jesse into the lineup Saturday," against Oklahoma State, Eilert said. "Hopefully he's good to go."

WVU was held to just 36.2% (21 of 58) shooting and the Knights got out and



PRO BASEBALL

Adrian Beltré, Todd Helton and Joe Mauer have been elected to baseball’s Hall of Fame

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Adrián Beltré, Todd Helton and Joe Mauer were elected to baseball’s Hall of Fame on Tuesday while Billy Wagner and Gary Sheffield fell short.

Beltré was picked on 366 of 385 ballots from the Baseball Writers’ Association of America in his first ballot appearance for 95.1%.

Helton received 307 votes for 79.7% in his sixth appearance, 18 more than the needed 289 for 75% after falling 11 votes short last year.

Mauer got 293 votes for 76.1% and like Beltré was elected on his first try.

Wagner was five short at 284 votes and 73.8%, but up from 68.1% last year. He will appear on the ballot for the 10th and final time in 2025, when Ichiro Suzuki and CC Sabathia are newly eligible.

Beltré, Mauer and Helton will be inducted at Cooperstown on July 21



AP Photo

Texas Rangers’ Adrian Beltré follows through on a double for his 3,000th career hit, Sunday, July 30, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

along with Jim Leyland, elected last month by the contemporary era committee for managers, executives and umpires. There are 273 players among 346 people in the Hall. Sheffield got 246 votes

for 63.9% in his final appearance on the BBWAA ballot, up from 55% last year and 11.7% in 2015. He is eligible for consideration by the contemporary baseball player committee, which meets next in

December 2025.

Beltré, a four-time All-Star and five-time Gold Glove third baseman, hit .286 with 477 homers and 1,707 RBIs for the Los Angeles Dodgers (1998-2004), Seattle (2005-09), Boston

(2010) and Texas (2011-18). His 2,759 games at third base are second to Brooks Robinson’s 2,870 and his 636 doubles are 11th on the career list.

Helton received 16.5% support in 2019, his first year on the ballot. A five-time All-Star first baseman and the 2000 major league batting champion, he hit .316 in 17 seasons for Colorado with 369 homers, 1,406 RBIs and 1,401 runs. He had widely divergent home/road statistics, batting .345 with 200 homers and 791 RBIs in the mile-high air of Coors Field and .287 with 142 homers and 547 RBIs on the road.

Mauer was a six-time All-Star, three-time Gold Glove winner and the 2009 AL MVP during 15 seasons with Minnesota. He is the only catcher to win three batting titles, and he became just the 20th player in the Hall who was primarily a catcher. He hit .306 with 143 homers and 906

RBIs with Minnesota from 2004-18.

Voters included an average of seven names per ballot, up from 5.86 last year, and 24.4% of the voters checked the maximum 10 candidates, an increase from 13.9%. Just 10 eligible voters failed to return ballots.

Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez again lagged, hurt by suspensions for performance-enhancing drugs. Rodriguez received 34.8% and Ramirez 32.5%.

Among other first-time candidates, Chase Utley (28.8%) and David Wright (6.2%) will remain on next year’s ballot.

José Bautista, Bartolo Colon, Matt Holliday, Adrián González, Victor Martinez, Brandon Phillips, José Reyes and James Shields all were under 5% and will be dropped.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Zach Frazier named first-team Academic All-American

Sports@DominionPost.com

West Virginia University senior center Zach Frazier has once again proven that the words “scholar” and “athlete” can co-exist.

Tuesday, Frazier was one of 27 Division I football players recognized on the College Sports Communicators (CSC) 2023 Football Academic All-America Team. Frazier’s stellar classroom work includes a 3.88 grade point average in sport management at WVU.



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Offensive lineman Zach Frazier (54) became the 12 WVU Mountaineer to be named a first-team Academic All-American Tuesday.

And I just hope our fan base really understands and appreciates the young man from Fairmont because I think he’s the best center in college football.”

Frazier was unable to play in the bowl-game victory over North Carolina but was instrumental in West Virginia achieving nine wins – the most under Brown in five seasons at WVU – and returning to the top 25 in the final coaches’ poll released after the season.

It is Frazier’s off-the-field work in the classroom and in the community, however, that is equally deserving of praise.

He becomes the 31st Academic All-American and just the 12th first team choice in school history. The three-time team captain joins a list of Mountaineer gridiron academic standouts that includes quarterback Fred Wyant, tackle Sam Huff, quarterbacks Oliver Luck and Jeff Hostetler and center Mike Compton.

Last month, Frazier was only the eighth player in school history to be named a finalist for the William V.

Campbell Award presented to college football’s most outstanding scholar-athlete. He received an \$18,000 post-graduate scholarship and attended the award ceremonies in Las Vegas using a cart to get around because of his injured foot.

Frazier was also a semifinalist for the Wuerffel Trophy honoring college football’s most impactful leaders in the community and was a semifinalist for the Jason Witten Man of the Year Award as well.

Unable to participate in this year’s Senior Bowl while he continues to recuperate, Frazier has now turned his attention to this spring’s NFL Draft where he is considered a top center prospect.

One recent draft projection listed him as a potential late second-round pick.

Frazier, Kansas State’s Ben Sinnott and Cooper Beebe, Iowa State’s Beau Freyler and Oklahoma State’s Alex Hale were the other players from Big 12 schools recognized on the Academic All-America First Team.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Quinerly named candidate for Ann Meyers Drysdale Award

Sports@DominionPost.com

West Virginia women’s basketball junior JJ Quinerly was named as one of 10 candidates for the 2024 Ann Meyers Drysdale Award, announced Wednesday.

The award, named after hall-of-famer Ann Meyers Drysdale, the first player, male or female, to be an All-American in four straight college seasons, recognizes the top shooting guard in women’s NCAA Division I college basketball.

Quinerly, a unanimous All-Big 12 selection last year, has led the Mountaineers to a 16-2 (5-2 Big 12) record while being ranked No. 24 in this week’s AP Poll.

Quinerly is fifth in the Big 12 in scoring (18.5 points per game) and leads the conference in steals (60).

“She’s this unassuming superstar and I think you see that from time to time,” WVU head coach Mark Kellogg said last week. “She’ll have four or five assists and four or five



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

West Virginia’s JJ Quinerly (11) was named one of the top 10 candidates for the 2024 Ann Meyers Drysdale Award, which recognizes the nation’s top shooting guard in women’s college basketball.

steals and then get her 18 points and you’ll look at (the box score) and say she was pretty good.”

Other players named candidates for the award are Abbey Hsu (Columbia), Charisma Osborne (UCLA), Ta’Niya Latson (Florida State), Paige Bueckers (UConn), Sara Scalia (Indiana),

JuJu Watkins (USC), Mikaylah Williams (LSU), Charlissee Leger-Walker (Washington State) and Saniya Rivers (NC State).

In March, five finalists will be presented to Meyers Drysdale and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

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**THE DOMINION Post**



AUSTRALIAN OPEN

US Open winner Coco Gauff to play Australian Open titleholder Aryna Sabalenka in semifinals

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Coco Gauff hopes she's got her "bad" match out of the way at the Australian Open before meeting defending champion Aryna Sabalenka in the semifinals.

It'll be a rematch of the U.S. Open final, which the 19-year-old Gauff won in three sets for her first major title.

Gauff is on a 12-match winning roll at the majors after rallying from 5-1 down in the first set to beat Marta Kostyuk 7-6 (6), 6-7 (3), 6-2 in a quarterfinal that lasted more than three hours.

Sabalenka is on a 12-match streak at Melbourne Park after her 6-2, 6-3 win over No. 9-seeded Barbora Krejickova in the first match of the night session that didn't start until after 9 p.m.

"I love it. I love it," Sabalenka said of the showdown with Gauff. "After U.S. Open, I really wanted that revenge, and, I mean,



AP Photo

Coco Gauff of the U.S. celebrates after defeating Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships Tuesday.

that's a great match."

Gauff's long three-setter had a knock-on effect that made for a long night at Melbourne Park. It took Novak Djokovic 3 3/4 hours

to hold off Taylor Fritz 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 and reach the Australian Open semifinals for the 11th time.

Sabalenka's match started at 9:09 p.m. and the

last men's match, No. 4 Jannik Sinner against No. 5 Andrey Rublev, didn't start until 10:42 p.m.

After winning her first major here last year,

Sabalenka reached the semifinals at the French Open and Wimbledon before her run to the final in New York, finishing the year ranked No. 2.

In five rounds so far, she has dropped just 16 games and been on court for a total of 5 1/4 hours.

"I played great tennis," Sabalenka said after beating Krejickova, the 2021 French Open champion. "I hope I can keep playing that way, or even better."

Gauff hadn't dropped a set until she faced No. 37-ranked Kostyuk, who ripped 39 winners but also made 56 unforced errors in a relentlessly attacking game.

"Today was definitely a C game," Gauff said. "Didn't play my best tennis but really proud that I was able to get through. Hopefully got the bad match out of the way and I can play even better."

Gauff had 51 unforced errors, nine double-faults and had just 17 winners in a

match containing 16 service breaks.

Her forehand was particularly vulnerable and Kostyuk took full advantage, racing to 5-1 only to show her own fragility with two double-faults to hand back one of the breaks.

Gauff recovered to save a set point at 5-3 before leveling at 5-5. Kostyuk had another set point in the tiebreaker but couldn't convert.

The mistakes continued to flow, and though she led 5-3 in the second set, Gauff could not close it out. She was two points from victory at 6-5, 40-40, but Kostyuk held and took the tiebreak 7-3 to level.

The Ukrainian player said she was pleased to have made the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time.

"Very proud of myself," she said. "I won for myself today and it's the most important thing. It's just the beginning of the season. Looking forward for what's ahead."

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

10-time champ Djokovic beats Fritz, will play Sinner in Australian Open semis

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Nobody has ever been better at this end of the Australian Open than Novak Djokovic, the 10-time champion.

Every time he's won a quarterfinal at Melbourne Park — as he did against Taylor Fritz on Tuesday — he's gone on to win the title.

The odds are usually stacked against his semifinal rival. Perhaps even more so against fourth-seeded Jannik Sinner, who won a quarterfinal over No. 5 Andrey Rublev that didn't start until 10:42 p.m. and didn't finish until 1:21 a.m. Wednesday.

Djokovic reached his record-extending 48th Grand Slam semifinal by beating Fritz 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in 3 3/4 hours. Their match started late in the heat of the afternoon because U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff's preceding win over Marta Kostyuk took more than three hours.

In an on-court interview with Australian player Nick Kyrgios, who has been sidelined by a long-term injury, Djokovic made a light-hearted joke about getting popcorn and watching Sinner vs. Rublev on late-night TV.

Later, Djokovic said Sinner's late finish wouldn't be a factor in Friday's semifinals.

"What kind of advantage will I have? We have two days. It's not much of an advantage that I see there," he said. "Plenty of time for whoever wins that match tonight to recover."

The start of the night



AP Photo

Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts after winning the first set against Taylor Fritz of the U.S. during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia Tuesday.

session was pushed back past 9 p.m. and could have gone very, very late if not for women's champion Aryna Sabalenka and Sinner both winning in straight sets.

Sinner was down 5-1 in the second-set tiebreaker before winning six straight points, starting with a stunning crosscourt forehand, to turn momentum and take the match 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

"I want to thank everyone for staying so long," Sinner said in his on-court interview. "It's always a huge pleasure to play here on this court. It doesn't really matter the time."

Since losing to Djokovic in last year's Wimbledon semifinals, Sinner has won two of his three matches against the 24-time major champion.

"I'm really lucky to face him again (in) one of the biggest tournaments in the

world. He won here some times!"

Sinner hasn't dropped a set yet.

Djokovic, meanwhile, has spent more time on court through five rounds than ever at Melbourne Park — more than 15 hours — but thinks he's still building into it. He's on a 33-match winning streak at the Australian Open — a tournament record he shares with his childhood inspiration, Monica Seles.

The first game took 16 minutes and the first set lasted 1 hour, 24 minutes. Fritz got the first break of serve and maintained it to win the second set.

"Credit to him for playing really well. You could see that he had a clear game plan. He was really sharp," Djokovic said. "So it was definitely a struggle for me to play the first couple sets.

"In the third, things started to come together. I wasn't serving well at all first two sets, and then third and fourth, great."

Fritz saved the first 15 breakpoints he faced, an

impressive stat against one of the best returners ever.

"My conversion was really poor but in the end of the day, I managed to break him when it mattered," Djokovic said.

The first game set the tone for a long, tough match. It contained 24 points, going to deuce nine times.

Then followed the longest first set of the tournament. In the tiebreaker, Djokovic finished a 21-shot rally with a stunning backhand crosscourt winner to get five set points. He put his finger to his ear, nodded his head and blew a kiss toward a commentary box at the rear of the court.

After two tight sets, Fritz was broken in the second game of the third when Djokovic converted his 16th chance. Djokovic broke again, at love, in the ninth game to wrap up the third. In the fourth, there was an exchange of breaks until Djokovic served it out from 5-3 to improve to 9-0 against Fritz in career head-to-heads.

Fritz said he felt for Sinner and Rublev, and tournament scheduling had come up in the locker rooms after Daniil Medvedev's second-round match didn't start until after 11 p.m. and didn't finish until almost 4 a.m. He said with physio, treatment and wrapping up, it takes hours after the match to get to sleep.

"It ... just screws up your whole clock," Fritz said. "I pray for those guys."

Sinner said there were advantages to playing late, such as the timing for fans watching the broadcast in Italy.

"In my mind I knew if I win I have two days off, which even if you potentially finish very late, you can recover," he said. "But in this moment, you don't watch the clock!"

PRO BASKETBALL

Ex-NBA guard Kevin Porter Jr. reaches plea deal, avoids jail time

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former Houston Rockets guard Kevin Porter Jr. has reached a plea deal in a New York City domestic assault case that will keep him out of jail if he completes a court-ordered treatment program and stays out of trouble.

Porter, 23, pleaded guilty Tuesday to misdemeanor assault and a harassment violation in connection with an incident last September at a Manhattan hotel. Prosecutors have said Porter attacked his girlfriend, former WNBA and WVU player Kysre Gondrezick, leaving her covered in blood with a deep cut above her right eye. She has since denied that, accusing prosecutors of pushing a "false narrative."

Under the agreement, Porter must complete a 26-week Abusive Partner Intervention Program or an equivalent program with a private counselor. He must also abide by a limited order of protection, attend all court dates and have no further arrests.

If Porter complies, he'll be able to withdraw his assault plea in a year and will be sentenced at that time to time served for the non-criminal harassment count, prosecutors said, effectively clearing his criminal record.

Porter has not played since his arrest and is no longer on an NBA roster. The Rockets traded him in October to the Oklahoma City Thunder, which immediately cut him.

Porter was arrested Sept. 11 after police say Gondrezick told them he repeatedly punched her in the face with a closed fist, causing an inches-long gash above the right eye,

bruising and substantial pain to her face.

Police said Gondrezick also alleged that Porter wrapped his hands around her neck and strangled her, causing her to have difficulty breathing, redness, bruising to her neck, and loss of motion to her left arm.

Gondrezick disputed that account, saying her injuries "don't support any of those claims." She said prosecutors were slow to correct "false information," pointing to the since-withdraw allegation in Porter's initial charges that he had fractured one of her neck vertebrae.

Gondrezick told the New York Post in October that she and Porter argued "for not even 10 seconds" in their room at the Millennium Hilton near the United Nations. She told TMZ in November that her injuries were the result of falling and hitting her head when Porter startled her awake when he came back to the room after a night out.

"He didn't hit me. He never balled his fists up and hit me," Gondrezick told the Post. "And he definitely didn't punch me in the face numerous times. That is a lie. I don't have any injuries to support that."

Porter and Gondrezick started dating in February 2022, according to an anniversary message she posted on X, the social media site formerly known as Twitter. She told TMZ that the Manhattan district attorney's office's handling of the case has "compounded my trauma even more than the actual experience."



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PRO FOOTBALL

The Chiefs’ winning formula is to surround their immense star power with draft steals

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs had not even made it through two plays against Buffalo in the divisional round of the playoffs when Mike Edwards, already playing in place of injured safety Bryan Cook, clashed helmets with Bills wide receiver Stefon Diggs and had to leave their game with a concussion.

With the entire game still to go, and Bills quarterback Josh Allen on the other side, the Chiefs should have been concerned.

But in the latest example of how they’ve struck gold on Day 3 of the NFL draft, fourth-round pick Chamarri Conner took Edwards’ place and the league’s second-ranked defense never missed a beat. Kansas City held the Bills to 24 points — the 18th time in 19 games limiting an opponent to that many or fewer — and hung on for the 27-24 victory Sunday night.

“Chamarri did a heck of a job,” Chiefs coach Andy Reid said this week. “He’s been working in nickel and dime situations, but to



AP Photo

Kansas City Chiefs running back Isiah Pacheco (10) reacts after scoring a touchdown against the Buffalo Bills during the fourth quarter of an NFL AFC division playoff game.

come in and have that extended time in there, and make the plays he made — he sure did a nice job in there.”

The Chiefs, who now head to Baltimore on Sunday for their sixth consecutive AFC championship game, will always be known for their star power. They have the NFL’s reigning MVP, and arguably the face of the entire league, in quarterback Patrick Mahomes, and Travis Kelce has become just as omnipresent not only for his talent but his pop super-

star girlfriend.

Throw in All-Pro defensive tackle Chris Jones and there is no shortage of big names carrying the Chiefs deep into the playoffs.

But it takes more than a handful of high-priced stars to win in the NFL. The salary cap demands it. So the teams that are able to hit on late-round draft picks and undrafted free agents, and surround their stars with talented players on relatively paltry rookie contracts, are the ones that are best positioned to make a run at the Super Bowl.

The Chiefs quietly have done that as well as anyone.

In this past year’s draft, their Day 2 picks of Rashee Rice and Wanya Morris have been crucial to winning their eighth straight AFC West title. Rice was second among rookie wide receivers in receptions and yards receiving, giving defenses a reason to pay attention to someone other than Kelce, and Morris has appeared in 14 games on the offensive line due to injuries.

Throw in Conner and that’s quite a late-round draft haul.

It goes beyond this past year, though. In the previous draft, the Chiefs landed Joshua Williams in the fourth round and fellow cornerback Jaylen Watson and starting running back Isiah Pacheco in the seventh. Tight end Noah Gray and stalwart right guard Trey Smith were Day 3 picks in 2021, and cornerback L’Jarius Sneed and defensive Mike Danna the year before that.

Not a bad job by Chiefs general manager Brett Veach, who was largely responsible for picking Mahomes seven years ago.

“I’m a big Brett Veach fan,” Reid said. “I told him after the game Sunday, that’s on him. This game is him. It’s a reflection of all the time and effort his guys have put in. That’s sort of what it comes down to. They’ve given us good football players to coach.”

There is a lot that goes into making those draft steals work.

First and foremost, scouting must be on point, and the Chiefs have a group of scouts that is the envy of the league. They’ve been able to unearth overlooked talent while also identifying players that fit well in their offensive and defensive schemes.

There’s the coaching, of course, and the credentials of Reid and defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo can be put against anybody. And then there’s the locker room, in this case led by Mahomes and Kelce, that breeds confidence in young players that they can contribute in a significant way no matter where they played college ball or when they were drafted.

“If somebody is getting drafted lower and assuming the whole NFL world is accurate — that he’s a

lower-round pick — and that player becomes something we didn’t think, somebody is doing something right,” Spagnuolo said. “I’m talking about the coaching and the development, so our assistant coaches I think are doing a great job. But it began with Brett Veach and his staff.”

Remember, the Chiefs continually reach the AFC title game, so each draft they are picking near the end of every round.

“The great thing about Brett,” Spagnuolo said, “is that he is always communicating with us on: ‘What do you need? What fits for you? What kind of characteristics are you looking for?’ And it’s been like that from the beginning. That’s why I think he’s one of the best in the business, because the collaboration with players is terrific.”

The result of all that work is what happened Sunday night in Buffalo. Another injury to an important player could have derailed the Kansas City defense, but a fourth-round pick seamlessly stepped into a full-time role and helped them win anyway.

PRO FOOTBALL

49ers look to get over the NFC title game hurdle after losing the past 2 years

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The most taxing part of getting to the precipice of the Super Bowl only to fall short might be the long journey just to return to that stage for another shot.

Offseason workouts, followed by training camp, a 17-game season and then the early rounds of the playoffs.

The San Francisco 49ers once again got through all that and earned another chance at winning the NFC championship game after losing in frustrating fashion the previous two seasons.

“When you lose the NFC championship, you want to snap your fingers and be there again. But you can’t,” All-Pro fullback Kyle Juszczyk said after beating Green Bay 24-21 on Saturday night to return to this stage.

“There’s so much that has to happen between that last loss and getting back there again. And to finally be back there again, you don’t take it for granted. You know how hard it is and you know much it means to these guys here that have gone through that. I get emotional thinking about it. We’re back here, and it’s time to take care of business. It’s time.”

The 49ers (13-5) get that opportunity on Sunday when they host the Detroit Lions (14-5) for a spot in the Super Bowl.

San Francisco lost at this exact stage of the playoffs the past two seasons, blowing a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter on the road against the Los Angeles Rams in the 2021 season and then losing again last year at Philadelphia when

the Niners were forced to play much of the game without a functioning quarterback.

Starter Brock Purdy got hit hard on San Francisco’s opening drive and tore a ligament in his throwing elbow. That forced into action fourth-stringer Josh Johnson, who joined the team late in the season, and he tried to keep the game competitive.

But the Niners fell behind by two touchdowns before Johnson left with a concussion early in the third quarter, forcing Purdy to finish the game even though he couldn’t throw the ball more than a few yards.

Now they are back with a healthy Purdy and the confidence that this time will be different, that they won’t become the fifth team ever to lose in the conference title game in three straight seasons.

“We’ve been thinking about it, it’s been sort of in

the back of our minds, like, last year we had a team to do it, and we feel like we didn’t have a real opportunity at it after the quarterbacks got hurt in that game,” Purdy said. “So, I think we’re really excited for it.”

The Niners have been one of the top teams in the league over the past five seasons, with their 61 wins in the regular season and playoffs ranking third in that span. But they don’t have a championship to show for it, as a franchise that won five titles in a 14-year span from 1981-94 is approaching a three-decade drought for championship No. 6.

They have the roster to do it, however, with a league-high five first-team All-Pros and two more players selected to the second team.

But the 49ers know these chances aren’t easy to attain, and some of their players know they might

not have many more shots at getting that coveted championship.

That was shown by how difficult it was just to get past the seventh-seeded Green Bay Packers in the divisional round last weekend.

San Francisco needed a late-game rally to overcome a second-half deficit for the first time all season and held on for the three-point win.

“Me personally, I’m 0-2 in NFC championship games,” said 35-year-old All-Pro left tackle Trent Williams. “So this is one we’ve got to get. Obviously, I’m not getting any younger. So I definitely want to get to the top of the mountain. We definitely need this game. We’ve got to come out and play much better than we did (Saturday), but we’ve got another opportunity. That’s all we can ask for.”

PRO BASKETBALL

Bucks fire coach Adrian Griffin despite having one of NBA’s top records

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks fired Adrian Griffin as coach on Tuesday after just 43 games despite having one of the league’s top records midway through his first season.

“This was a difficult decision to make during the season,” Bucks general manager Jon Horst said in a statement. “We are working immediately toward hiring our next head coach. We thank Coach Griffin for his hard work and contributions to the team.”

Joe Prunty, who had been an assistant coach on Griffin’s staff, will serve as the Bucks’ interim head coach.

Milwaukee is 30-13 to tie the Minnesota Timberwolves for the league’s second-best record entering Tuesday.

But the dip in Milwau-

kee’s defensive performance had raised concerns about the Bucks’ viability as a championship contender even after they had acquired seven-time all-NBA guard Damian Lillard to team up with two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Milwaukee had given Griffin his first head coaching job last summer after firing Mike Budenholzer, who led the Bucks in 2021 to their first title in half a century. The Bucks had posted the most combined regular-season and playoff wins of any team during Budenholzer’s tenure and had the league’s best regular-season record in three of his five seasons on the job.

Budenholzer’s firing came after the top-seeded Bucks were stunned 4-1 by the Miami Heat in the first round of last season’s playoffs.

NFL PLAYOFFS

**NFL Playoff Glance**

All Times EST

**Divisional Playoffs**

Saturday, Jan. 20

Baltimore 34, Houston 10

San Francisco 24, Green Bay 21

Sunday, Jan. 21

Detroit 31, Tampa Bay 23

Kansas City 27, Buffalo 24

**Conference Championships**

Sunday, Jan. 28

AFC

Kansas City at Baltimore, 3 p.m. (CBS)

NFC

Detroit at San Francisco, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

**Super Bowl**

Sunday, Feb. 11

At Las Vegas

TBD, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)



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STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, 601 57TH STREET SE, CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25304-2345 TELEPHONE: (304)926-0440, TDD:(304) 926-0493, and VOICE-TO-TDD RELAY: 1-800-422-5700. APPLICATION FOR A CLASS 5 UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT

Public Notice No.: JKL-03-24Public Notice Date: January 24, 2024

Paper: The Dominion Post

The following has applied for a Class 5 Underground Injection Control Permit for this facility or activity:

Application No.: 0395-01-061

Applicant: Greer Industries, Inc.  
8477 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Masontown, WV 26542

Facility: Pikewood Golf Club, 3055 Kingwood Pike, Morgantown, WV 26508

Latitude 39:32:14Longitude 79:51:58

Business conducted: Pikewood Golf Club & Driving Range

Activity: Discharge solely sanitary waste to a subsurface distribution system.

The State of West Virginia will act on the above application in accordance with the West Virginia Legislative Rules, Title 47, Series 13, Section 14.24 issued pursuant to Chapter 22, Article 11 and Article 12.

Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and may request a public hearing in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of this public notice. Comments or requests should be addressed to:

Director, Division of Water and Waste Management, DEP  
601 57th Street SE  
Charleston, WV 25304-2345  
ATTN: Judy Lupson, Permitting

The public comment period begins January 24, 2024 and ends February 23, 2024

Comments received within this period will be considered prior to issuance of the permit. Correspondence should include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues raised. A public hearing may be held if the Director determines there is significant public interest in one or more issues relevant to the draft permit. Interested persons may contact the public information office to obtain further information

The application, draft permit or factsheet may be inspected by appointment at the Division of Water and Waste Management, 601 57th St SE, Charleston, WV 25304 between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on business days. Copies of documents may be obtained upon request. Individuals requiring Telecommunication Device (TDD) may contact our agency by calling 800-422-5700 between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For further information contact the person identified above at (304) 926-0495, or judy.k.lupson@wv.gov.

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Notice is hereby given that MONONGALIA COUNTY COAL RESOURCES, INC., 46226 NATIONAL ROAD, , ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OH 43950 has a permit on file with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the surface mining of approximately 339.55 acres and has submitted an application to the DEP, 47 School Street, Suite 301, Philippi, WV, 26416-1600, for renewal of Article 3 Permit Number U004684 to operate an underground mine, preparation plant, and refuse facility, in the Pittsburgh seam of coal.

The operation is discharging into West Virginia Fork of Dunkard Creek of Monongahela River and is located 0.2 miles, northeast of Wana in Battelle District of Monongalia County, Longitude 80° 17' 40" and Latitude 39° 42' 28" (Coordinates from USGS Topographic Map).

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Written comments and/or requests for an informal conference of the permit renewal application shall identify the applicant and application number and will be received by the Permit Supervisor at the DEP address above until 03/08/24 , or thirty (30) days from the date of final publication. A copy of the application will be available for review until 03/08/24, or thirty (30) days from the date of final publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is available at:

http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/\_dep/Search/ePermitting/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm.

The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries.

DEP Telephone Number: 304-457-3219  
Permit Number: U004684

\*These items are to be completed only for operations involving mineral removal.

Include location map in accordance with 38-2-3.2(b)(2)



CRIME

Murder charges filed against Illinois man accused of killing wife and 3 adult daughters

Associated Press

TINLEY PARK, Ill. — Murder charges were filed Tuesday against a suburban Chicago man accused of killing his wife and three adult daughters in what police have described as a domestic-related shooting.

Maher Kassem, 63, was charged with four counts of first-degree murder and made his first court appearance Tuesday. Police allege he shot four family members after an argument at their home Sunday morning in Tinley Park, which is about 30 miles from Chicago.

Killed in the shooting were Majeda Kassem, 53; twins Halema and Zahia Kassem, both 25; and Hanan Kassem, 24. The couple also had two adult sons, including one who also lived at the home.

“Words can’t describe how deeply saddened I am at this horrible tragedy,” Mayor Michael Glotz said in a statement Tuesday. “A mother and her three daughters are gone, murdered in an act of senseless domestic violence.”

Funeral services were held Tuesday at a mosque while friends held an online memorial fundraiser to build a mosque in honor of the women. The family is of Palestinian descent and Muslim.

A day earlier, mourners arranged flowers upright in the snow outside the



AP photo

Police work at the scene of a shooting in Tinley Park on Sunday. Authorities have identified a woman and her three adult daughters who were found slain inside their suburban Chicago home in what police are calling a domestic-related shooting.

home and left small stuffed animals. Friends and neighbors noted Majeda Kassem’s passion for cooking and how all three daughters were intelligent devoted students.

Samah Qasmieh, a Chicago State University professor, taught Halema, who was a third year student.

“I just envision her in her bedroom studying for the exam they have Tuesday, doing nothing wrong at all,” Qasmieh told The Chicago Sun-Times as she stopped by the home Monday

day to pay respects.

In court, prosecutors said the argument was about money and the couple’s 19-year-old son, who was unharmed, was home and witnessed some of the events unfold. He went downstairs when he heard arguing, according to prosecutors.

The daughters were each shot in the head, while their mother was shot more about half a dozen times, according to prosecutors.

A judge ordered Maher Kassem remained detained until his next court hearing set for Feb. 16, calling

him a safety risk to his son and the public.

“If he gets his hands on a gun again there’s no telling who he might shoot,” Cook County Judge Linzey Jones said.

Kassem’s attorney, Daniel Johnson with the Cook County public defender’s office, had requested Kassem be confined to his home and placed on electronic monitoring, according to The Chicago Tribune. Johnson did not immediately return a message Tuesday from The Associated Press seeking additional comment.

NATION

Ohio pastor tussles over the legality of his 24/7 homeless ministry

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A Christian church in Ohio filed a federal lawsuit this week after its pastor was charged with violating city ordi-

nances when he opened up the sanctuary around the clock for homeless people and others to find shelter.

Police this month filed 18 criminal charges against Dad’s Place church Pastor Chris Avell over allegations the rented church building — located next to a separate homeless shelter along Main Street in Bryan, a city of about 8,600 in northwestern Ohio — was violating the zoning ordinance, lacked proper kitchen and laundry facilities, and had unsafe exits and inadequate ventilation.

An attorney for Avell and the church, Jeremy Dys, said he thinks city leaders don’t want the ministry in the middle of town, describing it as a “not in my backyard” issue and accusing officials of inventing problems.

“Nothing satisfies the city,” Dys said Monday, hours after the lawsuit was filed. “And worse — they go on a smear campaign of innuendo and half-truths.”

During an initial meeting with the federal judge and lawyers for Bryan on Tuesday morning, both sides agreed to maintain the status quo, Dys said. As a result, he said, the church will remain open to those who seek its religious services until at least March 4, when the judge will consider its request for an injunction against the city.

Avell, who pleaded not guilty in municipal court Jan. 11, said his church wants to welcome anyone, regardless of the time of day.

“I truly believe that everyone who walks through the door of Dad’s Place walks out a better citizen,” Avell said in an interview Tuesday, adding that closing down the around-the-clock ministry “would lose what is actually a beacon of light downtown.”

The defendants are the city, Bryan Mayor Carrie Schlade and other Bryan officials.

“We absolutely deny any allegation that the city has treated any religious institution inappropriately,” said Bryan city attorney Marc Fishel, noting that Schlade supported the church opening in the building four years ago. “The city has been and continues to be interested in any business, any church, any entity complying with local and state law.”

The church’s lawsuit said its leaders decided in March to remain open at all hours as a temporary, emergency shelter “for people to go who have nowhere else to go and no one to care for them.” Eight people stay there on a typical night, they say, and a few more when weather is bad.

“It was city police officers who would bring people by,” Avell said. “The local hospital would call and bring people by. Other homeless shelters would call and bring people by.”

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

30327JANUARY 24

CITY OF MORGANTOWN  
PLANNING DIVISION

February 2024  
Legal Notice

There are no items on the **Morgantown Planning Commission's Thursday, February 8, 2024** agenda that require advance public notification. Due to renovations at Morgantown City Hall, the meeting will be held in the **Monongalia County Courthouse - Commission Chambers (2nd Floor), 243 High Street, Morgantown, WV**. Written comments may be sent to the attention of Barb McDonald, Executive Assistant, 430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505 or by email to [bmcDonald@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:bmcDonald@morgantownwv.gov).

For more information or accommodations, please contact the Planning Division at 304-284-7431 or [bmcDonald@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:bmcDonald@morgantownwv.gov).

30323JANUARY 24, 31

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
CITY OF MORGANTOWN  
Asbestos Sampling and Testing  
BID CALL 2024-06

Separate, sealed bids will be received by the Finance Director of the City of Morgantown, West Virginia, until 2:30 p.m. (L.S.T.), Wednesday, February 13, 2024, for providing Asbestos Sampling and Testing for 59 Dwellings/Structures in accordance with the specifications on file and available in the Development Services Office, 430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, West Virginia, 26505.

All bids must be clearly marked "SEALED BID 2024-06". A five percent (5%) bid bond or certified cashier's check must accompany all bids. Bids may not be withdrawn after the time set for the bid opening, unless the award of the contract is delayed for a period exceeding sixty (60) days.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities or informalities in the bid or in the bidding where the best interest of the City may be served.

A. Kim Haws, City Manager  
City of Morgantown  
Morgantown, West Virginia

30023JANUARY 17, 24

PUBLIC NOTICE

Board of Review and Equalization  
2024

Thursday, February 1, 2024 11:30 a.m.  
Friday, February 2, 2024 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 11:00 a.m.  
Friday, February 9, 2024 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 11:30 a.m.  
ADJOURN SINE DIE

The Monongalia County Commission will sit as the Board of Review and Equalization on the above stated dates. The Commission may, if necessary, add additional dates and times.

To schedule an appointment to appear, please call the Monongalia County Commission at 304-291-7257. **The Application for Review of Property Assessment must be completed for each parcel in order to be considered for a hearing by the Commission. The review is for value only – not tax rate. No applications will be accepted for an appointment after Thursday, February 15, 2024.** All supporting documentation must be presented to the Commission three (3) business days prior to your scheduled hearing date.

Any individual with a disability who may require assistance may call in advance of their scheduled hearing to make necessary arrangements.

Please note: Taxpayers who would like to verify the property information on file should contact the Assessor's Office where certain errors can be corrected prior to being scheduled to appear before the Monongalia County Commission.



Complicated grief extends the time it takes to heal

**DEAR DOCTORS:** My mother and stepfather were married for 42 years when he passed away suddenly. That was a year ago, and she's still struggling. I talked to my doctor about it, and he said it sounds like "complicated grief." I've never heard of that. What can we do to help her?

Dear Reader: Grief is a response to loss that is so profound, it can temporarily disrupt our most basic connections to daily life. Someone who is grieving may find it difficult to perform routine tasks, have trouble sleeping or eating, and may be unable to feel interested or involved in the lives and actions of others.

For most people, the intensity of grief eases. They begin to cope with their loss, resume their lives and even become able to forge new relationships. This typically occurs gradually over a period of time. And unlike in theories about specific stages of grief, recovery is typically fragmented, uneven and perhaps a bit chaotic.

For some people, though, the emotional dis-



DRS. ELIZABETH KO & EVE GLAZIER

stress of grief fails to lessen. And as it persists, it puts the individual at risk of both physical and mental health issues, suicidal thoughts and even premature death. This has led to the term that your doctor used: complicated grief. Sometimes also referred to as prolonged grief disorder, it was first identified in the early 1990s. It is estimated that up to 10% of people who suffer a loss experience complicated grief. Older adults, like your mother, have been found to have an increased risk of developing this disorder.

Treatment often involves a multidisciplinary approach. For some, it includes medications to manage depression and anxiety. Complicated grief shares some aspects of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024

Pay attention, be direct and leave nothing to chance. It's up to you to adjust to suit your needs. Don't compromise regarding your passion, goals and health. Set high standards and expectations, and focus on reaching your goals.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** — Sit tight until things settle down. Contact associates who can offer sound advice.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** — Make changes that encourage you to pursue your goals. Let your imagination take the reins.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Approach someone you trust to offer insight into a situation. Join forces with someone as driven as you are.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — You'll quickly pick up information and skills. Say no to anyone trying to bully or control you. Take charge.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — Check facts before you make a move. Don't trust someone's word; get what you want in writing.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Clear up any misunderstandings. Taking control will ensure you don't get sidetracked by trivial matters.



EUGENIA LAST

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Choose maintenance over replacement. Keep your costs down. Lower your overhead. Excess is the enemy.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Live and learn. A change of plans will work in your favor. Get involved in something that concerns you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** — Keep doing what you do best and ignore outside influences. When in doubt, follow your heart and you'll have no regrets.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** — Wake up and recognize what you have going for you. Trust in yourself. Positive action will pay off.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** — Don't trust someone else to do things for you. Your enthusiasm and raw energy will help you reach the finish line.

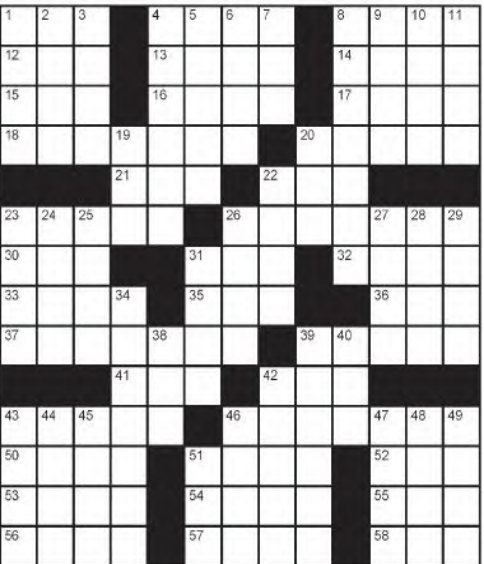
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Take what's yours and don't look back. Keep everyone up to date. Dealing with matters as they arise will give you leverage.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS  
1 Curved bone  
4 Burn  
8 Egotist's concern  
12 Mex. neighbor  
13 Own  
14 African ruler  
15 Under the weather  
16 Footnote abbr.  
17 Name on a bank card  
18 Archenemy  
20 Insignificant  
21 Rainy  
22 Demand payment from  
23 "— Magnolias"  
26 Resolved  
30 Smoked salmon  
31 "— Willie Winkie"  
32 Bee housing  
33 European range

- 35 Prosciutto  
36 Do wrong  
37 Funny mistake  
39 Word in a commandment  
41 Table scrap  
42 Stage signal  
43 Snide  
46 Bed that can swing  
50 Hexagonal state  
51 Solid  
52 Sprint  
53 Caliber  
54 Comedian — Johnson  
55 "— you kidding me?"  
56 Raced  
57 Antlered animal  
58 Actor — Van Cleef

- DOWN  
1 Archaeologist's discovery  
2 Ait  
3 Salve  
4 Sculptor's tool  
5 Custom  
6 Hertz alternative  
7 Wine type  
8 In — heaven



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- 9 Release  
10 Roster  
11 Unravel  
19 Ovine creature  
20 Place  
22 Judge  
23 Sizable slice  
24 Bridge charge  
25 World's fair  
26 Burn  
27 "Mona —"  
28 Wickedness  
29 Fender spoiler  
31 Sharpen  
34 Comforted  
38 Use a crowbar  
39 Time of year  
40 Skirt edge  
42 Bill of fare  
43 Chicago players  
44 Surmounting  
45 Counterweight  
46 Put on the payroll  
47 Televangelist — Roberts  
48 Remedy  
49 Body joint  
51 Craze

CURTIS



PEANUTS



THE GRIZZWELLS



BEETLE BAILEY



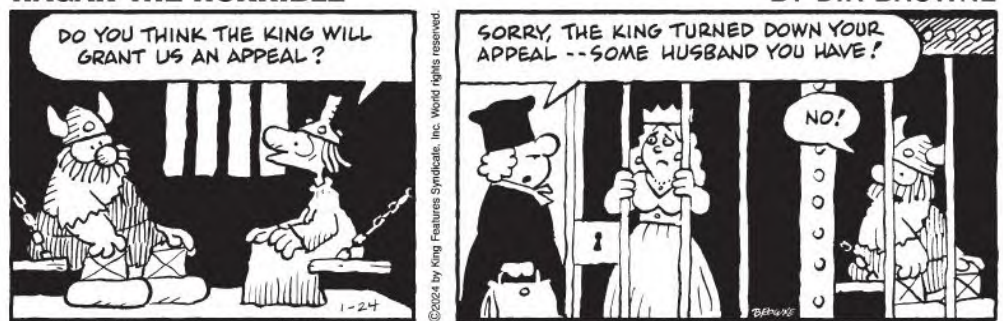
FRANK & ERNEST



BORN LOSER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S.

PAR SCORE 160-170  
BEST SCORE 215

FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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

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

01-24

Solutions — B-6

GARFIELD



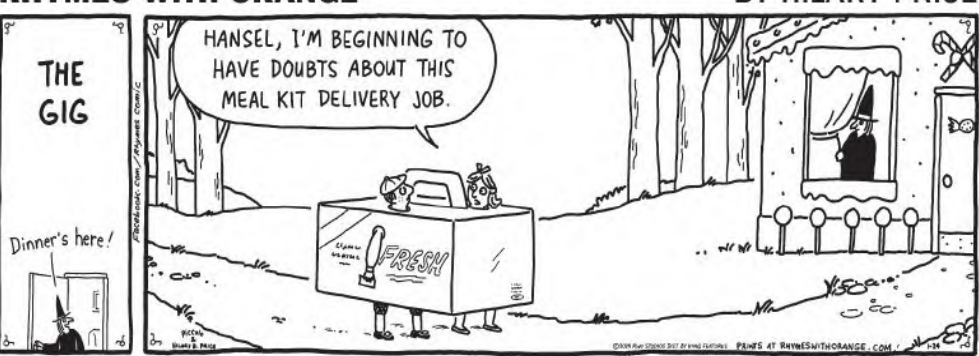
FAMILY CIRCUS



BLONDIE



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



MUTTS

