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OBITUARIES

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STATE

**Resolution
honors
Holocaust
survivor**

Senate committees
OK gun bill, student
organization bill

BY DAVID BEARD
DBeard@DominionPost.com

Senate committees on Thursday approved bills dealing with firearms instruction and belief-based student organizations, and a resolution honoring Morgantown resident and Holocaust survivor Edith Levy.

Senate Government Organization took up SB 402, to allow the U.S. Concealed Carry Association to provide concealed carry classes in West Virginia. Committee council told the senators that the NRA already provides them.

Former Delegate Joshua Higginbotham, a certified USCCA instructor, told the members that Virginia passed a similar bill last year. USCCA already offers classes here, with several hundred instructors in the state and about 6,000 active members.

In other states, he said, USCCA provides more classes than the NRA and majority of USCCA instructors are also NRA certified.

The bill would simply codify the USCCA's authority to cover instances where a county sheriff might not wish to issue a permit if the applicant took a USCCA class.

It passed without debate and goes to the full Senate.

Senate Education passed SB 503, also without debate.

It says a state institution of higher education may not deny a religious, political, or ideological student organization that is open to all students any benefit or privilege made generally available to any other student organization, or

SEE RESOLUTION, A-2

MONEY

**Region 4 forming framework
for opioid settlement distribution**

BY BEN CONLEY
BConley@DominionPost.com

There's a push in Charleston to get some of the state's nearly \$1 billion in opioid settlement money flowing by Election Day.

Region 4 wants to be ready. To that end, the Monongalia County Commission hosted a meeting of regional representatives Thursday morning at the Mon County Center.

During the hour-long session,

individuals representing 22 of the region's 76 governmental bodies (counties and municipalities) created the process through which a regional governance board will be created.

The regional clearinghouse is a requirement of the memorandum of understanding outlining the state's opioid settlement disbursement process. It will serve as a pass-through, vetting funding applications within its footprint before they get to the West

Virginia First Foundation, the state-level body ultimately responsible for allocating funds.

In relatively short order, the group determined the regional body will be made up of 26 people comprised of one representative selected by each county and one representative collectively selected by the municipalities within each county.

For example, the Monongalia County Commission will select one representative and the

municipalities of Morgantown, Westover, Star City, Granville and Blacksville will need to come together to select one representative.

The group selected this setup over a 13-member body comprised of one representative for each county.

Parsons Police Chief Kevin Keplinger explained one representative per county would further disadvantage small towns already receiving little in direct allocations from the settlements.

"A lot of times the county perspective is different than a municipal perspective. If you do this you run the very real risk of completely isolating your

SEE OPIOID, A-2

FOGGY TRAIL RUN



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Some members of the Universtiy High School cross-country team practice on the trail along the Monongahela River Thursday. Today's temperature could come close to the record high of 68, set in 1950. AccuWeather forecasters say we should see mainly cloudy skies and a high of 63. Saturday will bring in more fog with a high of 50 and Sunday will have rain and snow with a high of 49. The forecast calls for a coating to an inch of snow.

GOVERNMENT

**Bill introduced allows committee to meet
privately to hear details about sensitive matters**

BY BRAD MCELHINNY
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — Tragic situations where lawmakers grew frustrated while trying to ask questions prompted a bill that passed the House of Delegates.

The bill, HB 4595, would allow a legislative oversight committee to meet privately to hear details about sensitive matters like child protective services investigations or nursing home abuse allegations.

Even though the provision allows closed door meetings, the concept is that lawmakers could gain access to sensitive information, perform oversight

functions and potentially react in a timely fashion to adjust policies.

The bill also has a program performance evaluation process. And it requires departments to report to law enforcement within 30 days a death or serious harm of a person in state custody.

The House of Delegates passed the bill overwhelmingly on Thursday, 96-0.

Delegates made reference to a couple of tragic situations as they spoke about the bill.

One was the case of an 8-year-old, Raylee Browning, who died the day after Christmas 2018.

Her father, his girlfriend at the time and her sister were convicted and sentenced in her death in 2022. The week-long trial included testimony about CPS referrals that did not result in action.

The other was the more recent allegations of teenagers locked in a shed on their Sissonville area property with no running water, no food, and no adequate toilet and a younger child alone in an upstairs loft in the house nearby.

Delegate Heather Tully, R-Nichols, spoke on the House floor to say she had pushed for

SEE BILL, A-2

COURTS

**Judge rejects
Justice defense
on \$300 million
liabilities**

BY BRAD MCELHINNY
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — A judge has rejected an argument that claims on \$300 million in personally guaranteed liabilities should be set aside for Gov. Jim Justice and his family's companies.

In a filing, the judge has invited a lawyer representing Justice's longtime lender Carter Bank & Trust to prepare an order that would be a major milestone in collecting the debt.

The debts were personally guaranteed by Jim Justice, his wife Cathy and their son Jay, who runs the family's coal operations. The debts applied to several branches of the family's business network, but the most prominent may be Greenbrier Hotel Corp., referring to the historic resort that generated waves of goodwill for Justice when he bought it out of bankruptcy.

Judge Carter Greer, of Martinsville, Va., circulated a memo this week that stated multiple times his conclusion that the Justices had not laid out an adequately factual defense that could have been persuasive to set aside the debt claims.

"Here, defendants allege no facts to support their legal conclusions," Greer wrote.

Carter Bank wants to cash in roughly \$300 million in defaulted loans, holding out signed guarantees to say the Justices should pay up.

Following the judge's filing, bank officials filed an official statement to shareholders through the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Carter Bank anticipates that in the near future the Circuit Court will enter Orders effectuating its ruling and finalizing these confessions of judgments," wrote bank officials.

"Carter Bank further anticipates that subsequent creditor process will be issued to collect on these claims from the judgment debtors, including Governor Justice."

The statement continued by

SEE JUSTICE, A-2



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STATE

Bill allowing DNA collection for felony crimes struck down

BY JEFF JENKINS

WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — The House of Delegates defeated a bill Thursday that would have allowed DNA to be collected by police from those arrested for some felony crimes.

Following a long debate, delegates defeated HB 4627 on a 30-66 vote.

The bill would have allowed police to collect DNA from a person arrested for a felony crime “of violence against a person, burglary or felony offense where the victim was a minor child.”

The DNA collected would be stored until the completion of the criminal case against the person arrested. If the person was eventually found to be not guilty or the charges were dropped, the accused could petition the court to have the DNA taken out of the data base.

The bill sparked a debate about personal freedoms.

“I’m just shocked that with this super majority that we are taking up legislation to create a DNA data base,” Del. Shawn Fluharty, D-Ohio, said. “I don’t think that was a talking point prior to coming down here for any of you.”

Del. J.B. Akers, R-Kanawha, said the bill included clear safeguards

for privacy concerns.

“What I do know is that if we do not pass this bill there will be someone who is a victim of a crime and we’ll never identify the person who committed the crime against them. That will happen,” Akers predicted.

Supporters of the bill cited a U.S. Supreme Court 5-4 decision that said taking DNA at the time of an arrest is legal. Del. Joey Garcia, D-Marion, cautioned fellow delegates about leaning too much on that decision.

“Just because the Supreme Court has said we can do something that doesn’t mean we should do something,” Garcia said.

Del. Jonathan Pinson, R-Mason, a former deputy sheriff, said taking DNA is no different than fingerprints being taken at the time of arrest. He said Thursday’s debate was leaving out one key group.

“No one here today has spoken about the victims of crime,” Pinson said. “I would submit this is not a constitutional violation.”

A motion to postpone action on the bill for an indefinite period of time was defeated on a 48-48 vote. Delegates also voted down an attempt to delay further discussion on the bill for three days.

OPIOID

FROM PAGE A-1

municipalities,” he said. “We’re already facing the fact that we have a very small amount of money that came to our municipality. We functionally get nothing out of this first draw. It goes to the county. So, if we get no say in this, I’m concerned about that.”

A second question was whether the regional body needed to be made up of elected officials.

The answer was no. While members can be elected officials, it is up to the counties and municipalities to choose whom they want.

Marion County representative Lloyd White said winning elections doesn’t make one knowledgeable about opioids or addiction.

“When you limit it to elected officials only, you’re limiting your pool of expertise to pick from,” White

said. “I think we have one opportunity to do it. Let’s do it right.”

The names of all appointees are due to the Monongalia County Commission by March 1. The initial appointments will serve a one-year term.

While Thursday’s meeting was chaotic at times — about half the participants were taking part via online meeting software — Monongalia County Commissioner Tom Bloom said he walked away pleased.

As the first to begin setting up a regional structure, Bloom said the five other regions across the state are watching the process.

“Considering there is absolutely no precedent, I’m very happy. I was

honestly worried how it was going to go, especially with people joining online. I thought it went much better than I was expecting,” Bloom said. “I think we set up an atmosphere where everyone wants to work together. Whether you’re Tunnelton or Monongalia County, everyone got to speak and be part of the decision process.”

Of the 13 counties in the region, seven were represented — Monongalia, Harrison, Braxton, Upshur, Lewis, Preston and Marion. The region also includes Taylor, Barbour, Tucker, Randolph, Gilmer and Doddridge counties.

Of the 63 municipalities in the region, 15 were represented — Star City, Granville, Westin, Clarks-

burg, Lumberport, Davis, Fairmont, Tunnelton, Grafton, Elkins, Bridgeport, Parsons, Masontown, Gassaway and Mannington.

Despite being the largest city in the region, nobody representing the city of Morgantown participated in the meeting.

Morgantown Mayor Jenny Selin said the absence was not intentional.

“It’s my fault. It was a mix up,” she said. “It’s very important and we do intend to fully participate.”

Jonathan Board, who was narrowly selected to represent Region 4 on the West Virginia First Foundation in July before announcing a run for West Virginia Senate in August, also was not present.

Bloom said Board planned to attend but was asked to testify as an expert witness before a legislative committee meeting.

THE NAMES OF ALL APPOINTEES ARE DUE TO THE MONONGALIA COUNTY COMMISSION BY MARCH 1.

RESOLUTION

FROM PAGE A-1

otherwise discriminate against the organization, based on: the expression of the organization; or a requirement that the organization’s leaders or members affirm and adhere to the organization’s sincerely held beliefs, comply with the organization’s standards

of conduct, or further the organization’s mission or purpose.

It goes to the full Senate.

Government Organization approved SR 6, the Edith Levy resolution. Levy died Nov. 11, and the resolution opens saying she was “a Holocaust survivor, and a remarkable woman, who dedicated her life to educating others about the

horrors of genocide and the importance of tolerance and compassion.”

The resolution was introduced on Jan. 15 and came up for action the next day, but was referred to the committee. Senate staff told The Dominion Post the resolution had a couple of items that needed amendment, and rather than try to do that on the Senate floor it was more efficient to refer

it to committee.

Also, the family wasn’t available that day and the Senate plans to bring it back to the floor when the family is able to come to the Capitol.

The corrections were made by staff and the committee members approved the amended resolution unanimously without discussion.

BILL

FROM PAGE A-1

the bill because of questions in her community over the death of Rylee Browning, who had been a Nicholas County resident.

“I had constituents asking me about this child’s death,” said Tully, who is vice chair of the House Health committee. “I really felt as though we got stonewalled and we did not get the information that we really needed to figure out where the major issue happened and where our failures happened that

resulted in the death of this child.”

Tully said, “I think this is one way to get some more information to make real-time decisions for these children who could be in potential peril.”

Delegate Mike Pushkin, D-Kanawha, referred to the Sissonville tragedy when speaking in support of the bill. He said the children there were “locked in a shed, treated like slaves. Neighbors in the Sissonville area had repeatedly called Child Protective Services, and there’s no records of anyone ever

answering those calls, anyone showing up to check on these children, who were locked in a shed.”

He said he’s sorry the bill is necessary.

“I do think it’s incredibly unfortunate that a bill like this is necessary,” Pushkin said, “but unfortunately it is because too often we’re trying to get information from many of these state agencies under this current administration and we don’t get answers.”

Delegate Brandon Steele, R-Raleigh, said lawmakers have a broad role of

setting policy and do need to respect the executive branch’s role of carrying that out. Nevertheless, Steele said the bill will give legislators an important oversight tool.

“I’m sure all of you have had constituents come to you with situations that are heartbreaking,” Steele said.

“This helps us get information of these tragic, horrifying circumstances so that we can make broad law that’s applicable to the entire state, but not to act as an executive branch official, to not act as a judiciary.”

JUSTICE

FROM PAGE A-1

saying banks have an obligation to their shareholders and the financial system to collect in full all amounts that are due and owing to them. Carter Bank stated that it would aggressively pursue all remedies to collect what is owed.

“As with all its customers, Carter Bank expects to be repaid by the Justice Entities in full all amounts due and owing although the timing of such payment in full in these matters is presently indeterminate,” bank officials stated.

Carter Bank in April filed to collect on confessed judgments adding up to \$302 million, plus interest and attorneys fees, in

Martinsville Circuit Court in Virginia. The claims cited the personal guarantees by the Justices.

The confessions of judgment are written and signed agreements accepting liability in instances of default. In such circumstances, the note may be presented to the court without even notifying the debtor or having a hearing. By signing, borrowers may sacrifice their right to be heard in court.

The confessed judgments filed by Carter Bank apply to loans on James C. Justice Companies, Justice Family Group, Greenbrier Hotel Corp., Greenbrier Golf and Tennis Club, Greenbrier Sporting Club, Players Club LLC, Oakhurst Club, Greenbrier Medical Institute, Justice Low Seam Mining, Twin Fir Estates and Wilcox Industries.

Those loans had come due April 15.

Lawyers for Justice’s companies responded by filing motions to set aside the confessed judgments in the 11 cases.

The filings contended that enforcing the judged confessions is a radical step and that the Justice

companies deserve a chance to offer a more detailed defense.

The Justice legal team contended that Carter Bank violated the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and engaged in a scheme to do so, that Carter breached its contractual and fiduciary obligations to Justice and the family companies, that Carter interfered with Justice’s business expectancies and relationships with other lenders, that the confessions of judgment violated due process and that the personal guarantees are null and void.

Finally, the Justice team claimed Carter Bank’s conduct was so bad that the Justice companies would be entitled to damages of even greater value than the original debt claim.

Greer’s conclusion: “The defendants offer sparse analysis as to how these defenses are either adequate or dispositive.”

In a hearing last month in Greer’s courtroom, lawyers representing Justice pointed toward their separate federal lawsuit that contends Carter has engaged in unfair business practices.

The legal team for Justice handed the judge a printout of the heavily redacted complaint in the federal case.

The federal case is still active in the Southern District of West Virginia, with Carter arguing that the venue is inappropriate because the bank, its board and the Justice business operations are mostly in Virginia.

In the Martinsville, Va., courtroom, Judge Greer concluded the facts were not apparent to support the Justice defense against the claims.

Carter Bank’s statement to shareholders made reference to the distinction between the judgment in local court and the federal dispute.

“This Circuit Court proceeding predates and is separate and apart from the Complaint filed by the Justice Entities against Carter Bank in federal district court in West Virginia on November 10, 2023,” bank officials wrote.

“That Complaint contains false and misleading claims that Carter Bank will vigorously defend in due course.”

CLARIFY

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

CONTACT

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EDITORIAL

The Good, the Bad and the Stupid 2

Good: HB 4428 — a candidate for election for any state, county, or local office is required to have his or her principal residence within the election district for the office for which they are seeking to be elected. The bill defines “principal residence” as “residence where the candidate is domiciled which includes both physical residency and an intent to remain in the state, district, county, or municipality.” This bill passed the House and is in the Senate.

If your U.S. history classes ever made it as far as Reconstruction, you may have learned the term “carpetbagger,” which referred to opportunistic Northerners who flooded the South after the Civil War to fill power vacuums in business and politics. Merriam-Webster defines carpetbagger more generally as “a nonresident or new resident who seeks private gain from an area often by meddling in its business or politics.” Unfortunately, we have several of those in West Virginia politics.

We are all in favor of residency requirements for elected office. As we said last week, how can someone represent an area and its people if that person has never really lived there?

Bad: HB 4552 — to ensure party affiliation is consistent with candidate’s voter registration. From the bill: the appropriate official “If a candidate’s current party affiliation is not as stated on the Certificate of Announcement, the filing shall be refused.” This bill has passed the House and has moved to the Senate.

This one is bad because nearly 25% of West Virginia’s registered voters are Independent — but Independents rarely do well in elections, because they don’t have the clout or resources of the two established parties. This bill could prevent a quarter of the electorate from running for a partisan office unless they change their party affiliation.

Stupid: SB 280 — allowing teachers in public schools to discuss scientific theories. From the bill: No school “shall prohibit a public school classroom teacher from discussing or answering questions from students about scientific theories of how the universe and/or life came to exist.” This bill passed the Senate and is being considered by the House.

The caveat here is that what the bill is actually allowing is “intelligent design,” which is not a scientific theory at all, but rather a slightly watered down version of Biblical creationism. To be clear: There is no scientific evidence of “intelligent design,” and it is not recognized by any reputable institution as a scientific theory. Which makes this is yet another attempt to force religious indoctrination into our public schools despite the clear edict to keep church and state separate.

Maybe good: SB 448 — Requiring age-appropriate instruction on Holocaust in public schools. From the bill text: “All public schools ... shall give age-appropriate instruction on the Holocaust, the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person ...”

In theory, all of this sounds good. But, frankly, we don’t trust this Legislature on matters of education. This is the same body that wants to add *any* depiction of transgender people to the definition of “obscene,” is threatening to send librarians to jail, thinks that an extreme ideological group has the same scientific authority as an actual scientific/medical institution (Live Action is not the same as the American Heart Association) and would have teachers fired if a history lesson makes a student uncomfortable. We wouldn’t be surprised if the next thing legislators do is determine Holocaust education is not appropriate at any age — therefore effectively banning any lessons on the topic.

House Republicans don’t actually want to fix the border

HOUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE A CHANCE TO PROVE THEY WANT TO SOLVE THEIR DECLARED BORDER CRISIS, and not just as a means to inflame their base in an election year.

Senate GOP leaders are supporting a bipartisan compromise on immigration, one that would give them much of what they want. The proposal would raise the bar for asylum seekers, make it easier to remove migrants from the border and restrict their ability to stay in the U.S. while they await processing. The deal would also unlock emergency aid to Ukraine and Israel.

But hardline House Republicans, egged on by former President Donald Trump, are threatening to kill the package, arguing it doesn’t go far enough.

Senate leaders contend this is the deal of a lifetime and even Sen. Lindsey Graham, an ardent Trump supporter, warned his House counterparts that if they’re holding hold out for a Trump reelection, they won’t get a better deal. They would need a filibuster-proof, 60-vote majority in the Senate for passage. Senate Minority Whip John Thune, of South Dakota, concurred, adding, “the timing is right to do this.”

Of course, that would mean relinquishing an issue far-right Republicans have spent decades cultivating in favor of actual progress on border control.

Trump, as he did in 2018, is doing his best to scuttle any potential deal that might rob him of his signature issue. He’s demanding that Republicans do not what’s best for the country, or even the party, but for him. He has publicly excoriated any potential deal, and recently wrote on Truth Social that “I do not think we should do a Border Deal, at all, unless we get EVERYTHING needed to shut down the INVASION of Millions & Millions of

people ...” “I have no doubt that our wonderful Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, will only make a deal that is PERFECT ON THE BORDER.”

But rejecting another border deal is not without risk for Republicans. The public is beginning to see that it’s House Republicans who are blocking any movement on border control. They’re the real obstacle, not President Joe Biden.

In addition to the deal’s other elements, the White House funding request seeks \$14 billion for U.S. border security. That’s enough to pay for 1,300 more border patrol agents, more asylum officers and hundreds of judge teams to ease the serious backlogs that are clogging the system. More agents, more officers and more judges would go a long way toward restoring a measure of order.

Biden isn’t disputing the seriousness of the border issue. He said as recently as December that “I’ve made it clear that we need Congress to make changes to fix what is a broken immigration system, because ... we all know it’s broken,” and that he was willing to do “significantly more,” including changes to policy to keep the deal on track.

A major sticking point between Senate Republicans and Biden remains longstanding presidential authority to allow migrants into the U.S. under special circumstances known as “humanitarian parole.” One of the most recent examples was in 2021, when tens of thousands of Afghans

were relocated to the U.S. following this country’s withdrawal from Afghanistan.

According to the National Immigration Forum, under humanitarian parole refugees are protected from deportation and can obtain work permits. It’s not meant as a path to citizenship and it offers no extended benefits for family members.

Nevertheless, Senate Republicans want restrictions on its use and that’s part of the give and take of compromise. That’s reasonable.

What’s not reasonable is House Republicans’ insistence on something that can never pass a Senate controlled — if only marginally — by Democrats.

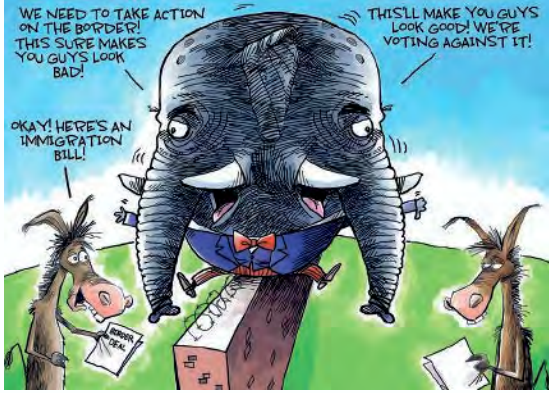
Caught in all this is still-new House Speaker Mike Johnson, who’s facing a rebellion from the far-right wing of his conference where a single vote can trigger a motion to vacate — the first step toward ushering him out. He’s already under fire for agreeing to another short-term funding deal to avoid a government shutdown.

So what do the hardliners want? They’re insisting that Biden authorize the 900-mile border wall that Trump promised but failed to deliver during his presidency. They want complete control over shutting down the border if necessary, and to deport even unaccompanied minors to their countries of origin. Trump himself has repeatedly promised to conduct the

biggest deportation operations in history.

Senate Republicans, to their credit, are taking the issue seriously and doing what responsible leaders do — negotiate. House Republicans should do the same, or risk the ire of voters who see through their tactics.

PATRICIA LOPEZ is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Library bill spurs controversy

CONTROVERSY HAS ERUPTED AT THE STATE CAPITOL OVER A BILL THAT, IF IT BECOMES LAW, WOULD MAKE IT A SERIOUS CRIME FOR A LIBRARIAN OR MUSEUM CURATOR TO DISPLAY OR MAKE AVAILABLE TO A MINOR MATERIAL THAT IS OBSCENE.

Specifically, HB 4654 removes schools, museums and public libraries from the exemption in current law that protects them from prosecution.

Bill sponsor, Delegate Brandon Steele (R, Raleigh) said on Talkline Wednesday that several librarians in his community urged him to push the bill to protect children from salacious material. (The West Virginia Library Association has come out against the bill.)

That view was reinforced by a number of speakers at a public hearing Wednesday morning in the House Chamber, as our Brad



HOPPY KERCHEVAL

McElhinny reported.

“The first speaker ... read right away from a book describing oral sex, and that set a tone for the House Chamber discussion of what is or isn’t appropriate material.”

“This is for our 12, 13 and 14-year-old children in our middle schools,” said speaker Elisa Payne. “Our society is morally bankrupt if we allow children access to this obscenity in our schools. We are not banning or

burning; we are protecting.”

But just as many speakers at the hearing argued against the bill, while defending the access to books with material that some consider objectionable. “You may not like it but it does not mean we should be censoring it,” said Eli Baumwell, interim executive director of ACLU West Virginia

The desire to protect children from anything and everything that is not age appropriate is understandable. However, this bill is a taking a sledgehammer to a gnat. Here are some of the problems with the bill:

■ West Virginia libraries already have in place a procedure for challenging books. An individual can file for a reconsideration of the material, which is then reviewed by staff, the library director and the library board.

■ Republican legislators constantly push for “parental rights.” That argument implies that parents, not the government, know what is best for their children, so then let the parents decide what books their children should read.

■ Such a law would have a chilling effect on what is included in libraries and museums. A librarian or curator, who is trained for the position, may believe a book or display has true artistic and intellectual value, but they may self-censor for fear of being criminally charged. If convicted, they could face up to five years in prison, and a \$25,000 fine.

■ Bill advocates say they want to prevent children from easily accessing pornography in the library. However, advocates in other states have used the law to target an expansive list of books, including classics such as “Of Mice and Men,” “Brave New World,” “The Kite Runner,” “The

Color Purple,” “The Glass Castle” and “To Kill and Mockingbird.” The law would invite a rash of book banning efforts.

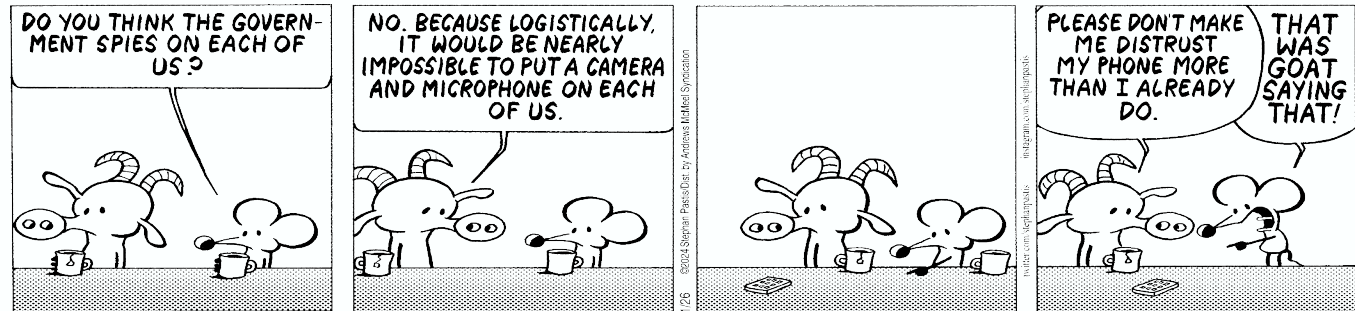
■ The law would be constitutionally questionable. Arkansas passed a similar law last year and it has been challenged in court. Last July, a federal judge issued a temporary injunction preventing enforcement, citing First Amendment issues.

Advocates for this bill need to demonstrate that the existence of certain books in libraries represents a threat so great that it requires a state law where a violation could send a librarian to prison.

Otherwise, let librarians do their jobs and entrust parents to make their own decisions about what their children read.

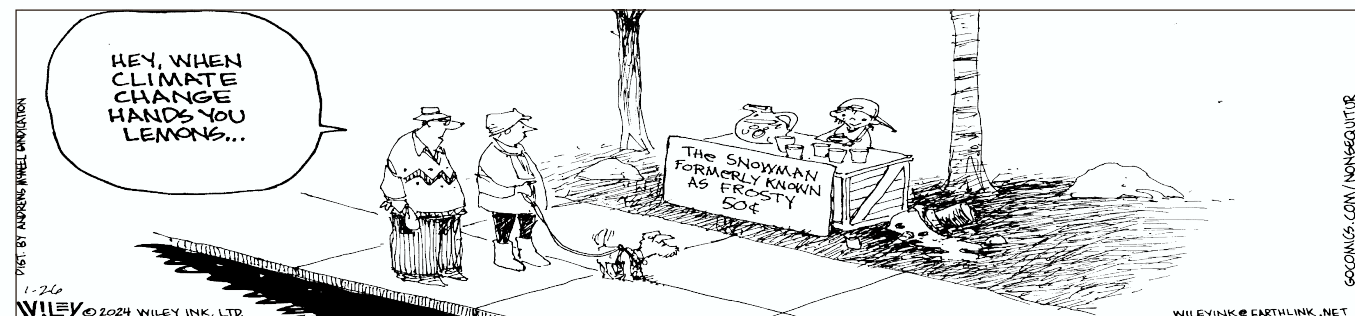
HOPPY KERCHEVAL is a MetroNews anchor and the longtime host of “Talkline.” Contact him at happy.kercheval@wvradio.com.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



BY STEPHAN PASTIS

NON SEQUITUR



BY WILEY

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EDUCATION

‘The way they teach makes it clear and easy’

Mon Schools’ Student of the Month for January

BY JIM BISSETT

JBissett@DominionPost.com

James Foley’s homework comes with horsepower.

And the points he has to support during papers and presentations, more often than not, involve load-bearing walls.

James, a senior at Clay-Battelle Middle/High School and the Monongalia Technical Education Center, is the district’s Student of the Month for January.

He sat down for an interview with Superintendent Eddie Campbell Jr., which can be viewed on the district’s web site: <https://boe.mono.k12.wv.us/>.

“It’s quite an honor, for me, actually, to be able to come here and talk to a student of your caliber,” the superintendent said.

Having completed his required core classes at his high school in

Blacksville, James now spends full days at MTEC, toggling back and forth between his automotive tech and carpentry classes.

Call him the DIY king, MTEC’s director Greg Dausch said in his nomination.

He never misses class, the director said.

And, Dausch added, he never fails to act upon his own initiative as a student.

That’s because James is a wrench-turner from way back who also likes building things, as he told the superintendent during

their sit-down session at his high school in Blacksville.

“They have the programs I’ve grown up doing, like automotive and carpentry,” he said of his senior days at the tech center on Mississippi Street.

Programs, he said, that make him want to give his all, every day.

“The teachers are really good,” the student said.

“They describe everything how they want it done. How they teach makes it clear and easy.”

So, the superintendent asked,

how would James “sell” career technical education to his classmates who may be aware of MTEC but aren’t doing coursework there?

He’d hammer down, he said, on his perspective as a student of the month — who initially didn’t like going to class.

Early on, in fact, he was ready to chuck the whole deal.

Just like the dispatching of broken boards and spent vinyl siding into the Dumpster at the

SEE STUDENT, A-5

Photo Friday



Submitted photo

Eric Fairbanks, of Morgantown, captured this photo of Felix the Cat pouncing on Milo while playing in the snow on Saturday. To submit a shot for Photo Friday, send a high-resolution digital image to DPNews@dominionpost.com. Include your name and information about the photo, including where and when it was taken.

PRESTON COUNTY

Commissioners vote to update employee handbook

BY JENIFFER GRAHAM

DPNews@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — In an unusually short meeting, Preston County commissioners voted to move forward with an agreement to update their employee handbook.

The cost of the update is not to exceed \$3,000.

Commissioner Samantha Stone said once the employee handbook is updated, elected officials can choose to adopt it or not to use it. She said attorney Wendy Greve will provide a training session with county employees about the changes being made.

Greve works with the firm of Pullin, Fowler, Flanagan, Brown, and Poe.

“We have a retainer with them but the hourly rate increased,” she said. “I asked Wendy to redo our contract with the firm and we will have it on the next agenda,” she said.

In a letter to Commission President Don Smith, Greve wrote, “I am writing to confirm my retention to provide general legal counsel, as needed at the following rates: Wendy Greve, \$250 per hour; associate, \$185 per hour; and paralegal, \$95 per hour.”

“We will keep accurate records of the time

devoted to your work for billing purposes, including conferences conducted in person or by telephone, negotiations, legal research, file review, document preparation and revision, travel on behalf of your corporation and other activities related to this representation. Reimbursable costs include, by way of example, filing fees, travel expense, telecopy charges, courier charges, computer research, and photocopying,” Greve wrote.

In other business, County Administrator Nate Raybeck said Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration, the company repairing water damage at the sheriff’s office, said the floors downstairs have been completed. He said next week Panhandle would complete the punch list and clean up. Raybeck said the electrical work is yet to be completed.

Commissioner Hunter Thomas said Preston County Senior Citizens is planning to add some Buckwheat Express routes to the Bruceton Mills area. He said once a week the bus will provide service from Bruceton to Morgantown and from Bruceton to Kingwood. Thomas said other routes might be initiated in the future.

Commissioners went into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

No action was taken.

For those interested in running for office, the filing period ends at noon Saturday for filing in person. Mailed filings will be accepted if they are postmarked prior to noon on Saturday.

The next meeting of the Preston County Commission will be 10:30 a.m. Jan. 30.

The first February meeting will be at 9 a.m. Feb. 7.

COMMISSIONER SAMANTHA STONE SAID ONCE THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK IS UPDATED, ELECTED OFFICIALS CAN CHOOSE TO ADOPT IT OR NOT TO USE IT.

TECHNOLOGY

Newly launched magistrate court database brings court info home

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER

ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

Residents of West Virginia will now have easier access to county magistrate court filings from the comfort of home — or wherever you might be.

In an effort to make court records more accessible, Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia Chief Justice Tim Armstead announced the new online database Thursday afternoon in a brief press conference. A demonstration of the new online service followed.

Justice Elizabeth D. Walker, Justice John A. Hutchison, Justice William R. Wooton and Justice C. Haley Bunn joined Armstead for the announcement in the West Virginia Law Library.

Armstead said residents are now able to easily search magistrate court records back to 2003 or earlier for all 55 counties simultaneously, thanks to the internal efforts of IT staff for the court system.

Prior to the online database, magistrate court information could only be accessed through the local county courthouse. It can now be found from any computer, smart phone or internet capable device.

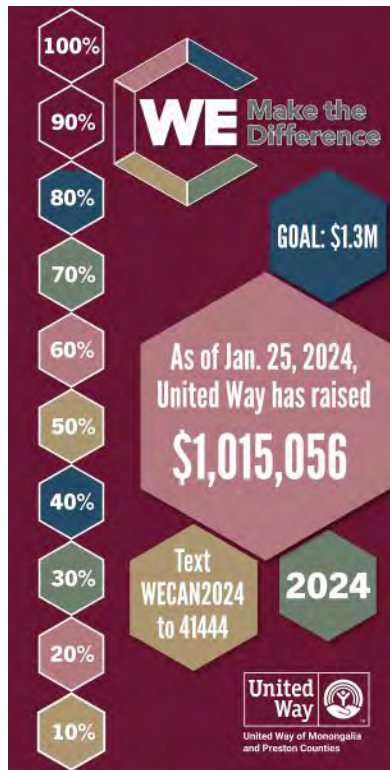
“We understand that this court belongs to the people of our state, and it needs to be open and accessible to those who have a need to have information related to our court system and filings in magistrate court,” Armstead said.

The database was rolled out Thursday and is now live and can be accessed by visiting courtswwv.gov.

The search system is completely free to use and does not require any type of registration,

Armstead said. Anyone with a computer or mobile device can enter a first or last name or a case number and it will generate

SEE DATABASE, A-5



UPDATE

WVU junior injured in September explosion dies

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER
ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

Family and friends are mourning the loss of a 20-year-old West Virginia University junior who died last week after suffering injuries in a Sept. 6, 2023, explosion at her off-campus residence in Morgantown.

According to her obituary, Carly Joan Grozier of Bethlehem, Pa., passed away surrounded by friends and family on Jan. 17 at West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Grozier was one of four victims involved in the home explosion on Wells Street in September but was the only one exposed to the full force of the blast. She was air-lifted to an intensive care burn unit in Pittsburgh after suffering third-degree burns on 50% of her body.

The cause of the explosion was thought to be related to a gas leak.

In her obituary, it states Grozier was “overwhelmed by the

outpouring of love and support she received from her friends, family, her health-care team, and community during the last months of her life.”

She was known for her “vibrant personality, fighting spirit, sass, and sense of humor,” it said.

“She was many things — a daughter, niece, cousin, and friend. Carly was an athlete, comedian, and fashionista. Most importantly, she was a kind and generous person who never failed to put the needs of others over her own.”

Grozier was studying communications and social media at WVU, where she was also a member of the WVU Women’s Lacrosse Club.

The lacrosse club posted a statement to its social media following Grozier’s death.

“We are deeply saddened by the news that our teammate and friend passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on

January 17, 2024. Everyone on our team loved Carly dearly and her light radiated throughout everyone she was around. Our heart goes out to her family and friends during this hard time. Her effect on the team will not be forgotten. She is forever in our hearts,” they said.

In Grozier’s honor, the team started a fundraiser through the popular crowdfunding site GoFundMe to benefit the burn unit at West Penn Hospital. The campaign is titled Donation to West Penn in Carly Grozier’s Honor.

The Grozier family has requested that instead of flowers, those wishing to honor Carly should consider donating to the burn unit at West Penn Hospital, where she was staying.

All money raised by the team’s campaign will be given directly to the hospital in their teammate’s honor.

“We want to bring together the WVU Community and support Carly’s cause. Anyone who knew

Carly knew of the light she possessed and her ability to always make you laugh,” fundraiser information states. “We hope that this donation will carry on her light and contagious attitude and spread word to her story. We know that she will not be forgotten. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.”

Donations to the burn unit can also be made by check with “Burn Concern” written in the memo line and sent to The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Foundation, 4818 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

You can donate online at supportahn.org. After choosing your gift amount, select West Penn Hospital, and then type Burn Concern in the box below Other Designation.

A private burial will be held for Grozier on Jan. 31 with visitation the previous day at Herron Funeral Homes in her hometown of Bethlehem, Pa.

STATE

Senate Education Committee hears results of WVEA survey, showing high levels of stress and burnout

BY DAVID BEARD
DBeard@DominionPost.com

West Virginia Education Association President Dale Lee presented the Senate Education Committee with the results of a survey that show high levels of stress and burnout across all staff — teachers, support staff and service personnel — and challenges recruiting new teachers.

“The staffing issues will continue to grow if something isn’t done to address the concerns,” he said Thursday. “It’s time for us to focus on public education in a way that improves the working conditions of our employees and the learning conditions of our students.”

The survey was conducted last November, he said, among 700 WVEA members.

Dissatisfaction with working conditions was high: 73%, somewhat dissatisfied, 33% very dissatisfied, 27% somewhat satisfied; only 2% very satisfied. Dissatisfaction was highest among teachers with five years or less of experience.

Four issues ranked as the top concerns, all identified by 98% of respondents: stress and burnout; leaving the profession; lack of respect; and salaries. Asked to narrow the field to just two issues, salaries and student behavior rose to the top.

In the area of teacher burnout, 26% said this school year is the highest year ever for them, while 36% said burnout is higher than in previous years.

Will they keep teaching: 18% are very

confident they will; 54% are somewhat confident; 35% are not at all confident and 12% are unsure. Lack of confidence is highest among those with six to 20 years of experience.

What would convince them to stay: raises, 28%; respect, 20%; improve safety and student discipline, 19%; less paperwork, 17%; smaller class sizes and more 1-1 instruction, 11%.

Lee said the survey revealed that teacher stress levels are higher now than during the pandemic. And there has been a 14% reduction in the number of students entering education programs, meaning it’s harder to recruit.

West Virginia isn’t the only state experiencing these problems, he said. It’s nationwide. But other

states are working on solutions so competition for educators is at an all time high.

Many states are offering raises and reforms, he said. While West Virginia has provided teacher raises in the past four of five years, the raises aren’t keeping pace with other states and West Virginia fell from 46th to 50th in the National Education Association ranking of average teacher pay.

The senators thanked Lee for the information. Committee chair Amy Grady, R-Mason, said that next week, either Tuesday or Thursday, they will review a state Department of Education survey conducted among all teachers that drew almost three times the responses: 2,022.

DATABASE
FROM PAGE A-4

search results.

With a quick scroll down the main webpage, users will see a resources section. Under that, there is a Magistrate Records Search option.

Clicking that link takes you to the database search page — it may ask you to verify you are a human first — where you can search by name, case number, citation number, filing date, case type and court location.

It is important to pay attention to your search results as two or more people may have the same name. For example, a common name like John Smith could show results for several different people with that name. Birth dates will typically be listed with search results to help clear up potential confusion.

Once results are generated, you can pull up case related information like prior and future court dates, bond or fine

amounts, judgments and people involved with your case. However, related court documents are not available for viewing online. Case-related documents can still be obtained through county courthouses.

The search system can help callers and visitors in need of copies of court records to know what to ask for and which county they need to contact.

The public can continue to use existing public access terminals located in each magistrate court clerk’s office, which will be enhanced to include search results from all counties statewide.

“There has been a real commitment with this court over the last several years to try to make court records more accessible,” Armstead said. “We think this is the next step in that process. We’re going to continue to look for new opportunities to make our documents and records even more accessible.”

STUDENT
FROM PAGE A-4

work site.

“I had no desire to go,” he said.

Until MTEC.

“I started coming here and it changed my point of view on going to school,” he said.

“How much it works and how much it will actually help benefit you.”

And, as it turned out,

the student, who can make engines purr did his own tune-up at Clay-Battelle, after all.

It was smooth cruising, he said, once he gave it chance and made himself do it.

As with MTEC, Clay-Battelle’s teachers, he said, were the master mechanics for this job.

“They’ve helped me more than I could ever thank them.”

CANDIDATE FILINGS

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The candidate filing period in West Virginia runs through Saturday.

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 statewide and area state office candidates filed with the secretary of state on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. The notation (I) indicates incumbent.

Candidates for county offices also filed this week.

U.S. President
Ryan Binkley, Texas, R
Don Lindsay, Baker, W.Va., R
Dean Phillips, Minnesota, D

U.S. Senate
Bryan Bird, Beckley, R
Secretary of State
Brian Wood, Winfield, R
Attorney General
Richie Robb, South Charleston, D

Governor
Moore Capito, Charleston, R
Chase Linko-Looper, Saint Albans, Mountain
Chris Miller, Huntington, R

Secretary of State
Ken Reed, Hedgesville, R

Attorney General
John “J.B.” McCuskey, Charleston, R
Mike Stuart, South Charleston, R

House of Delegates
Frankie Delapas, Fairmont, D, District 74
Mai-Lyn Sadler, Morgantown, D, District 82
Rick Wolfe, Bridgeport, R, District 73
Stephanie Spears Tomana, Idamay, D, District 75

Monongalia County Commissioner
MaryAnn Babich Folz — R

Monongalia County Assessor
Rich Jacobs — R

MOM’S CORNER

Turn snow into a sweet treat and a fun activity

WITH ALL THIS SNOWY WEATHER, ARE YOUR KIDS HOME WITH YOU looking for something fun to do? Well, I have just the idea for you. In less than five minutes, you and your little ones can whip up a delicious batch of snow ice cream!



ANN BURNS

I remember when I was young, there were a few times that we had snow days and got to make snow ice cream. This was so mind-blowing to me as a kid, because I had no idea that you could use snow to make ice cream or that it could be so easy.

So, when it started snowing last week, I knew that I wanted to do this activity with my kiddos.

The most important thing when making snow ice cream is to make sure you are using the top layer of snow so you aren’t getting the dirt from the ground. It’s also important to make sure not to use yellow snow, for obvious reasons.

For this snow day treat, all you need are five ingredients, a bowl and a spoon. You’ll need milk, sugar, vanilla extract, sea salt and fresh snow. The sea salt is optional, but it does make the vanilla flavor pop a little more. If vanilla isn’t your favorite flavor, you can use

cocoa powder to make it chocolate. The best part to this is adding all the fun, yummy toppings your heart desires.

So, we know the ingredients, but how do we make it? It’s super easy! For 2-4 servings, you take 1 cup of milk, 1/3 cup of sugar, 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, a pinch of sea salt, and whisk it all together.

Once it is combined, you add 8 cups of fresh snow and stir it into the milk mixture until you have the consistency you want. It’s that simple! Then you can top it with sprinkles or cookie crumbles or my personal favorite, chocolate syrup.

So next time you have snow and are looking for a sweet way to celebrate with your kids, remember to make snow ice cream!

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

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LEGISLATURE

A sampling of bills introduced Wednesday and Thursday

BY DAVID BEARD
DBeard@DominionPost.com

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

■ SB 529, to include Salem University in the PROMISE Scholarship program.

■ SB 530, to remove the requirement for a county to draft and adopt comprehensive zoning ordinances.

■ SB 531, to allow charter schools to charge Hope Scholarship students for classes that students enroll in at the charter school.

■ SB 532, the Orphan Oil and Gas Well Prevention Act of 2024, to prevent oil and gas wells from being orphaned on surface owner's land with no responsible driller or operator with the resources to plug the well. Sen. Randy Smith, R-Tucker, lead sponsor; Sen. Mike Caputo, D-Marion, co-sponsor.

■ HB 5058, to provide a process by which a city may hold an election to recall an ordinance.

■ HB 5060, to allow partisan elections for county board of education members.

■ HB 5066, to prohibit electric bicycles, or "e-bikes," for hunting use in this state.

■ SB 545, to establish the E-cigarette and E-cigarette Liquid Directory.

■ SB 549, to permit investigators in the State Tax Division to carry

concealed weapons. Sen. Randy Smith, R-Tucker, co-sponsor.

■ SB 558, to require publicly funded medical schools to teach the most current evidence-based, life-saving methods, including abortion pill reverse.

■ SB 559, to eliminate the requirement that 14- or 15-year-olds obtain a work permit; establishing that employer seeking to hire a child 14 or older receive an age certificate from the commission prior to employing the child; providing commissioner the authority to issue age certificates for children ages 14 and over.

■ HB 5068, to provide that operating any vehicle at speeds in excess of 25 mph over the posted speed limit is reckless driving.

■ HB 5072, the Act to Prohibit the Purchase of Small Unmanned Aircrafts Manufactured or Assembled by a Covered Foreign Entity.

■ HB 5084, to require that a valid driver's license, state identification card, or military identification card be presented to verify the minimum age of 18 for the purchase or acceptance of tobacco related products. Delegates Amy Summers, R-Taylor; Phil Mallow, R-Marion, co-sponsors.

■ SB 5184, to require inmates to be housed based on their biological sex.

■ SB 5186, to protect gasoline-powered, state vehicles from government bans.

SAFETY

Delta plane loses nose wheel as it prepared for takeoff

Associated Press

A Boeing 757 jet operated by Delta Air Lines lost a nose wheel while preparing for takeoff from Atlanta.

Delta Flight 982 — headed to Bogota, Colombia — was taxiing for departure at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport when the incident took place around 11:15 a.m. Saturday, according to the Federal Aviation Administration, which is investigating the incident.

The plane is 32 years old and is not the same model as the 737 Max that has raised safety concerns in recent years.

"All customers and their bags were removed from the aircraft, transferred to the gate and onto a replacement aircraft," Delta said. "We apologize

to our customers for the inconvenience."

No one was injured, a Delta spokesperson told The Associated Press — adding that the plane was re-tired and placed back into service the next day.

According to the the Atlanta-based airline, 172 passengers, two pilots and four flight attendants were on board the flight.

When contacted by The AP Wednesday, Boeing did not comment further. The Arlington, Virginia, aircraft maker ended production of the 757 nearly 20 years ago.

There have been a string of mishaps involving Boeing planes over recent years but it is unclear who is to blame for the most recent incident. Delta is responsible for maintaining its planes.



I thought about what I could do to be someone who helps others and make myself happy. Nursing was really the ideal option. I want to be that advocate for patients.

- Karen Gantle
Nursing Assistant

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COURTS

Prosecutor tells jury that mother of Michigan school shooter is at fault for 4 student deaths

Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. — A school shooting that killed four students in Michigan could have been prevented if the mother of the armed teen had removed him after seeing his violent drawings that same day, a prosecutor told jurors Thursday in an uncommon trial about parental responsibility.

Jennifer Crumbley is charged with involuntary manslaughter in the Nov. 30, 2021, attack at Oxford High School. Prosecutors say she and husband James Crumbley were grossly negligent and that their son's actions were foreseeable.

Jennifer Crumbley was aware of Ethan Crumbley's deteriorating mental health and social isolation and knew that a gun drawn on a math assignment resembled the one that he had used with her at a shooting range, assistant prosecutor Marc Keast said.

"This was a purchase celebrated by Jennifer on Instagram: 'Mom and son



Detroit Free Press via AP

day testing out his new X-mas present," Keast said, quoting a social media post.

Instead of taking the boy home from school after seeing the drawing, Jennifer and husband James Crumbley left a meeting after 11 minutes and allowed him to stay. He soon killed four students and wounded several others. No one had checked his backpack for a gun.

The case against Jennifer Crumbley and her husband, who will stand trial in March, marks the first time that a parent has been charged in a mass shooting at a U.S. school.

"Even though she didn't pull the trigger, she's responsible for those deaths," Keast said in his opening statement.

Keast focused on two key themes: access to a gun at the Crumbley home and the school meeting on the day of the shooting, when a teacher was alarmed by the teen's drawing of blood and a gun and the phrase, "The thoughts won't stop. Help me."

"The two people in the world that had all of the information, all the background to put this drawing into context, were James and Jennifer Crumbley," Keast said. "They didn't say anything."

They failed to follow through on "small and easy things that would have prevented all this from happening," he said.

Defense attorney Shannon Smith told jurors that evidence of the shooting will "make you sick and disgusted." But she said Jennifer Crumbley was manipulated by her son and wasn't to blame.

HEALTHCARE

Ohio bans gender-affirming care and restricts transgender athletes despite GOP governor's veto

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio has banned gender-affirming care for minors and restricted transgender women's and girls' participation on sports teams, a move that has families of transgender children scrambling over how best to care for them.

The Republican-dominated Senate voted Wednesday to override GOP Gov. Mike DeWine's veto. The new law bans gender-affirming surgeries and hormone therapies, and restricts mental health care for transgender individuals under 18. The measure also bans transgender girls and women from girls and women's sports teams at both the K-12 and collegiate level.

The override cleared the chamber 24-8 mostly along party lines, save Sen. Nathan Manning, a Republican from Cuyahoga County who has consistently broken from his party on the issue.

Officials expect the law to take effect in roughly



AP photo

90 days. The Republican-majority House had voted to override the veto earlier this month.

Two of Kat Scaglione's three children are transgender, and the Chagrin Falls artist is devastated, but not surprised, by the new law. Her 14-year-old daughter Amity is already receiving mental health services and some medication, and would be able to

continue her treatment under the law's grandfather clause, but she wouldn't be able to seek anything further, such as hormone therapies, and would have to go out of state to progress in her gender-affirming care.

Scaglione and her partner, Matt, are even considering moving their family out of state entirely, despite recently buying a house in a school district and

community that's safer for Amity and her 10-year-old sister, Lexi, who is also transgender. They don't feel welcome in Ohio, and don't see that changing anytime soon.

"Even as we've settled in and have good things right now, we're constantly looking over our shoulder waiting for something to change to the point where we have to get out now," Scaglione said. "It's been hard to move somewhere and try to make it home, while you're constantly feeling like at any moment you may have to flee."

DeWine reiterated Wednesday that he vetoed the legislation — to the chagrin of his party — to protect parents and children from government overreach on medical decisions. But the first week of January, he signed an executive order banning gender-affirming surgeries for people under 18 despite medical professionals maintaining that such surgeries aren't happening in the state.

CRIME

Man arrested outside Taylor Swift's Manhattan townhouse reportedly spotted there about 30 times

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man charged with stalking and harassment after his arrest near singer Taylor Swift's Manhattan townhouse had been spotted there dozens of times in the past two months and was repeatedly asked to leave, according to court documents released Wednesday.

David Crowe, 33, of Seattle was taken into custody Monday evening and again Wednesday

afternoon by officers responding to complaints of an emotionally disturbed man acting erratically near Swift's home in the exclusive Tribeca neighborhood, spokespeople for the New York Police Department said.

Crowe was arraigned Wednesday on stalking and harassment charges related to Monday's arrest and given supervised release. The prosecutor's request for an order of protection was

granted, according to a spokesperson from Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office.

A short time after leaving court, police say they arrested Crowe again near Swift's townhouse and charged him with four counts of criminal contempt related to the protection order.

The Associated Press left a phone message seeking comment with Crowe's attorney in the public defender's office.

Court documents say an unidentified security worker had spotted Crowe near the singer's home about 30 times since Nov. 25. Crowe was asked about 10 times not to approach the building or to leave, according to the complaint.

In seeking supervised release Wednesday, Assistant District Attorney Harriet Jiranek said Crowe's "continued conduct in showing up to this location despite numer-

ous directives to leave shows a clear risk that the defendant will not abide by court orders to return to court."

It was unclear if Swift was home on Monday or Wednesday when Crowe was taken into custody. A representative for the singer did not return emails from the AP seeking comment. Police would not confirm reports that Crowe also was detained Saturday outside the townhouse and released.

Swift on Sunday was in the Buffalo, New York, area, where her boyfriend, Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, played against the Buffalo Bills in an NFL playoff game. The Chiefs won 27-24.

Swift's Manhattan townhouse has been the scene of several break-ins when Swift wasn't there, including by some who were identified as stalkers.



THURSDAY 5-10pm
FRIDAY 5-10pm
SATURDAY 10-2pm
SUNDAY 10-2pm



OBITUARIES

Paul Shogren

Paul W. “Sunshine” Shogren, 94, of Oakland, Md., passed away on Jan. 16, 2024, at Cherry Hill Assisted Living. Born on May 30, 1929, in Pittsburgh, he was the son of the late Paul W. Shogren, Sr. and Gertrude (Curry) Shogren. Paul obtained his B.S. in forestry in 1951 from Penn State University. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and served in Korea during the war. He subsequently served 18 years in the Army Reserves and National Guard. In 1963, he earned a Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Paul worked 30 years for the U.S. Government in the Forestry Service and Land Management. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America for 79 years, earning Eagle and Silver Beaver awards. An active member of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, he also volunteered with Christian Crossing Thrift Shop, Habitat for Humanity, Garrett County Historical Society, Garrett County Forestry Board, 4-H, the Marine Corps, and the

American Legion. Paul is survived by his loving wife, Donna Lee (Wagner) Shogren; two sons, Gunnar Paul Shogren and wife Stephanie Swan, and Björn Paul Shogren; sister, Gertrude (Shogren) Poppleton; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his sister, Sandy (Shogren) Lenthall. Friends will be received to Celebrate Paul’s Life at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 318 East Oak St. Oakland, MD., at 1 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2024. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Paul’s United Methodist Church or Christian CrossingThrift Shop. The Shogren family has been especially appreciative of the help from the staff of Cherry Hill Assisted Living, Tracy and Johnny Lipscomb, David Gomez, Chris Crabtree, and Rob and Diana Heilig. The C & S Fredlock Funeral Home, P.A. is honored to be serving the Shogren family at this time.

Emil Alexander

Emil Paul Alexander of Morgantown, passed away at his home surrounded by family on Jan. 24, 2024. He was 10 days shy of his 97th birthday. Friends and family will be received at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, 3346 University Ave., Morgantown, from 5-8 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, and again on Monday, Jan. 29, from 10 a.m. until the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. with



Emil Alexander

Father John McDonough as celebrant. A private family committal service will take place at a later time at Beverly Hills Memorial Gardens with full military funeral rites. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to St. Ursula Food Pantry Outreach, P.O. Box 18, Pursglove, WV 26546 or The Pantry Plus More, 9 Rousch Dr., Morgantown, WV 26501. A full obituary will appear in the Sunday edition of the Dominion Post and be updated at www.hastingsfuneralhome.com

IN MEMORIAM

Melanie, singer-songwriter of ‘Brand New Key’ and other ‘70s hits, dies at 76

Associated Press

Melanie, the singer-songwriter who rose through the New York folk scene, performed at Woodstock and had a series of 1970s hits including the enduring cultural phenomenon “Brand New Key,” has died. Her publicist Billy James told The Associated Press that Melanie died Tuesday. She was 76 and lived in central Tennessee. The cause was not immediately revealed. “Our world is much dimmer, the colors of a dreary, rainy Tennessee pale with her absence today,” her children Leilah, Jeordie and Beau Jarred, said in a post on her Facebook page announcing her death. With a voice that could shift from high-pitched and coy to a deep soulful rasp, Melanie wrote and sang hits including “Look What They’ve Done to My Song Ma” and “Lay Down (Candles in the Rain).” She was best known for “Brand New Key,” a song from her 1971 album “Gather Me” that she wrote about about a girl who bikes and skates past the house of a boy she longs for. It became a No. 1 hit in the U.S. and several other countries. With echoes of the popular songs of the ‘20s and ‘30s, it combines a youthful simplicity with a winking adult sophistication in its chorus:

“Well, I’ve got a brand-new pair of roller skates, you’ve got a brand-new key, I think that we should get together, and try them on to see.” She would say in later interviews that she didn’t necessarily intend sexual innuendo in the song, but those who heard it weren’t necessarily wrong. “I probably have a quirky way of writing, and I think I was misunderstood,” she told the Tennessee newspaper in 2014. “I had this smiling, cherubic thing, and I think that worked against me. Girls with guitars who were relevant were angst-filled and angular.” The song has had several revivals in the decades since. It had a key place in Paul Thomas Anderson’s 1997 film “Boogie Nights” and was lip-synched by Jimmy Fallon on “The Tonight Show” in 2016. Born Melanie Safka, the daughter of a jazz singer, in Queens, New York, she studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and performed in the coffee houses of Greenwich Village and other New York folk hubs. She released her self-titled debut album in 1969, and had hit songs in Europe with “Bobo’s Party” and “Beautiful People.”

NATION

Jill Biden is helping promote a new gun safety initiative with school principals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is trying to enlist school leaders to help spread the word about the importance of safely storing firearms to protect children. The new initiative is being announced Thursday at an event for school principals with first lady Jill Biden and Education Secretary Miguel Cardona. Also participating will be Stefanie Feldman, who runs the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention. “We know safe storage of firearms can save lives, especially by reducing suicide by firearms and school shootings,” Feldman told reporters. Guns are the leading cause of death for American children, and most guns used in school shootings are taken from the shooter’s home. “I know that there are some parents who wake up every day, drop their

kids off for school and while they’re watching their kids walk through that door, there’s just a little part of them that worries about gun violence during the school day,” Feldman said. As part of the announcement, the Justice Department will release a guide to safe firearm storage, and the Education Department will distribute materials to schools that can be shared with families. The administration has relied on initiatives like this one, which involves limited executive action and promoting voluntary measures, at a time when tougher gun control proposals are nonstarters in Congress. There’s no federal law requiring gun owners to lock up their firearms, although the White House has encouraged such rules to be implemented at the state level.

COURTS

Trump White House official Peter Navarro gets a 4-month sentence for defying a House Jan. 6 subpoena

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Trump White House official Peter Navarro, who was convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, was sentenced on Thursday to four months behind bars. He was the second Trump aide convicted of contempt of Congress charges. Former White House adviser Steve Bannon previously received a four-month sentence but is free pending appeal. Navarro was found guilty of defying a subpoena for documents and a deposition from the House Jan. 6 committee. He served as a White House trade adviser under then-President Donald Trump and later promoted the Republican’s baseless claims of mass voter fraud in the 2020 election he lost to Democrat



AP photo

Former Trump White House official Peter Navarro talks to the media as he arrives at U.S. Federal Courthouse in Washington. Joe Biden. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta told Navarro that it took “chutzpah” for him to assert that he accepted responsibility for his actions while also suggesting that his prosecution was politically motivated. “You are not a victim. You are not the object of a

political prosecution,” the judge said. “These are circumstances of your own making.” Navarro’s attorneys filed a notice that he is appealing his conviction and sentence. Navarro has said he couldn’t cooperate with the committee because Trump

had invoked executive privilege. The judge barred him from making that argument at trial, however, finding that he didn’t show Trump had actually invoked it. Navarro said in court before his sentencing Thursday that the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack had led him to believe that it accepted his invocation of executive privilege. “Nobody in my position should be put in conflict between the legislative branch and the executive branch,” he told the judge. Mehta said that asserting executive privilege is not “magic dust to avoid a duty.” “It’s not a get-out-of-jail-free card,” the judge added. A federal prosecutor, John Crabb Jr., told the judge that the Justice Department enforces the law “without fear, favor or political influence.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Associated Press

Herbert Coward dies in North Carolina crash

Authorities say Herbert Coward, known for his “Toothless Man” role in the movie “Deliverance,” has died in a crash on a western North Carolina highway. North Carolina Highway Patrol Sgt. M.J. Owens says the crash happened Wednesday as Coward and Bertha Brooks left a doctor’s appointment and Coward pulled out in front of a pickup truck. Coward and Brooks as well as a Chihuahua and pet squirrel were killed. Coward had a small but memorable role in John Boorman’s 1972 classic “Deliverance.” The film focuses on a group of businessmen canoeing in Georgia whose adventure turns into a backwoods nightmare when local mountain men assault them.

Woman dies due to mislabeled cookies

HARTFORD, Conn. — A New York City woman died after eating a mislabeled cookie containing peanuts. Stew Leonard’s announced Tuesday that Vanilla Florentine Cookies sold in its grocery stores in Danbury and Newington in Connecticut from Nov. 6 to Dec. 31 were being recalled. The retailer said about 500 packages of the holiday cookies were sold. Connecticut officials say a New York resident died after eating them at a social gathering in Connecticut. That person was identified Thursday as 25-year-old dancer Órla Baxendale by a law firm representing her interests.

Colman Domingo to play Joe Jackson

NEW YORK — Fresh off his Oscar nomination, Colman Domingo has joined the upcoming Michael Jackson biopic “Michael” to play the pop star’s domineering father, Joe Jackson. Lionsgate announced Thursday that Domingo has been cast in Antoine Fuqua’s currently-in-production film. On Tuesday, Domingo was nominated for best actor by the Academy Awards for his performance as the civil rights activist Bayard Rustin in “Rustin.” Joe Jackson, who died in

2018, was the controversial patriarch of a musical family, launching the Jackson 5 and the solo careers of Michael and Janet. But he was also an alienating manager and abusive father whose children later in life distanced themselves. “Michael” is to schedule to open in theaters in April next year.

Robitussin maker recalls cough syrup

WASHINGTON — The maker of Robitussin is recalling several lots of cough syrup due to contamination that could pose a serious risk to people with weakened immune systems. The recall affects eight lots of Robitussin cough syrup for adults containing honey. The Food and Drug Administration posted the company’s announcement to its website Wednesday. The company says the products may contain dangerously high levels of yeast. Yeast is a natural component of honey, but the levels detected by the company were beyond allowed measurements. The recalled products were Honey CF Max Day Adult and Robitussin Honey CF Max Nighttime Adult cough syrups. Haleon says it has not received any reports of injury or infection linked to the products.

Sexual harassment on U.S. Biathlon team

U.S. Biathlon national champion Joanne Reid was sexually harassed and abused for years by a ski-wax technician while racing on the elite World Cup circuit, a watchdog group that oversees sex-abuse allegations in Olympic sports found. When she complained, Reid says she was told his behavior was just part of the male European culture. Army National Guard biathlete Deedra Irwin says she repeatedly had to step in to protect Reid, and notified her military superiors, who immediately demanded action. Only then did U.S. Biathlon alert the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Their 18-month investigation found that Petr Garabik engaged in repeated sexual harassment and unwanted sexual contact. He was suspended for six months and put on probation until December 2024.

Sissy Everson
1945-2024



Gathering
Today, 2pm-4pm & 6pm-8pm
Saturday, 10am -11am

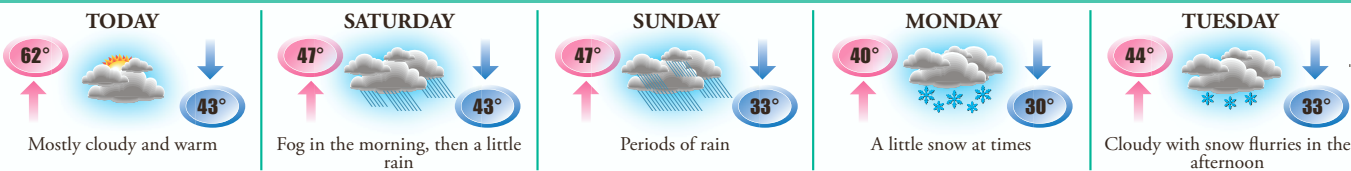
Funeral
Saturday, 11am

Fred L. Jenkins
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

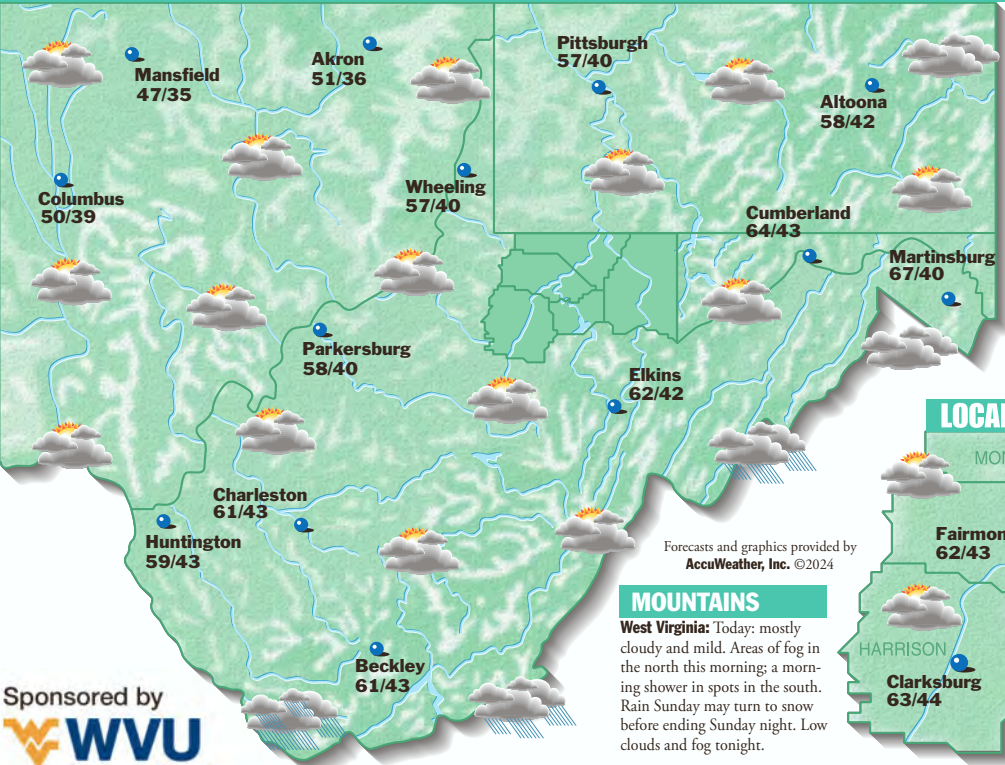
Jared Jenkins, LIC	10 South High Street
Justin Dalton	Morgantown, WV
Ethan Umstead	(304) 296-6446
Tabitha Whetzel	Call or Text

www.fredjenkinsfuneralhome.com

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



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Morgantown through 4 p.m. Thursday

Temperature
High/low 60°/54°
Normal high/low 39°/20°
Record high 75° in 1950
Record low -11° in 1936

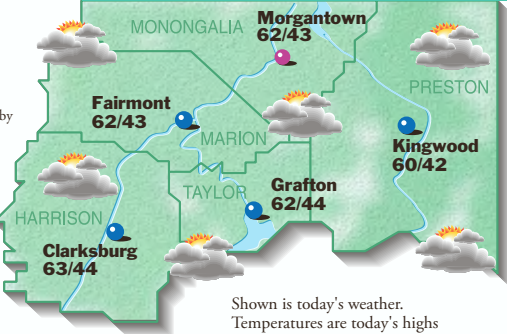
Precipitation
24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Thursday 0.53"
Month to date 3.37"
Year to date 3.37"

SUN AND MOON

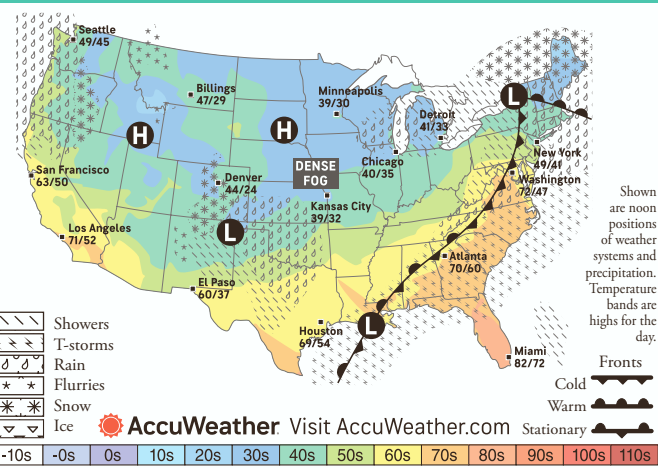
Sunrise today 7:33 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:32 p.m.
Moonrise today 6:28 p.m.
Moonset today 8:26 a.m.

Last New First Full
Feb 2 Feb 9 Feb 16 Feb 24

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



SKI CONDITIONS

Ski Area	Now (in)	Base (in)	Trails Open
Canaan Valley	0	36-60	23
Seven Springs, PA	0	18-18	36
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

SOLAR TABLES

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

	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
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.
Mon:	1:54 a.m.	8:04 a.m.	2:14 p.m.	8:24 p.m.
Tue:	2:38 a.m.	8:48 a.m.	2:58 p.m.	9:07 p.m.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Fri. Hi/La/W	Sat. Hi/La/W
Beckley, WV	61/43/r	51/38/r
Charleston, WV	61/43/c	49/41/r
Columbus, OH	50/39/c	44/37/r
Cumberland, MD	64/43/c	53/40/r
Fairmont, WV	62/43/c	50/44/r
Grafton, WV	62/44/c	51/45/r
Huntington, WV	59/43/c	48/41/r
Kingwood, WV	60/42/c	47/42/r
Pittsburgh, PA	57/40/c	46/37/sh
Wheeling, WV	57/40/c	46/40/r

Weather (W): s=sunny, pe=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, th=thunderstorms, r=rain, sf=snow flurries, ss=snow, f=fog, i=ice.

LAKE AND RIVERS

Lake	7 a.m. Vest.	24-hour Change
Cheat Lake	860.95	+0.60
Deep Creek, MD	2457.62	+0.15
Jennings Randolph	1441.91	-0.28
Stonewall Jackson	1067.79	+0.13
Tygart	1038.09	-0.70
Youghiogheny	1418.68	+0.69

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

Monongahela	Fld.	Prs.	Chg.
Morgantown	22	10.07	-0.03

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2024 There are 340 days left in the year.

Highlight:

In 2020, NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others were killed when their helicopter plunged into a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California; the former Lakers star was 41.

On this date:

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Rocky Mountain National Park Act, which created America's 10th national park.

In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon. (The probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.)

In 1998, President Bill Clinton forcefully denied having an affair with a former White House intern, telling reporters, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

Today's birthdays:
Cartoonist Jules Feiffer is 95. Sportscaster-actor Bob Uecker is 89. Actor Scott Glenn is 85. Activist Angela Davis is 80. Actor Richard Portnow is 77. Reggae musician Norman Hassan (UB40) is 66. Actor-comedian-talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is 66. Rock musician Charlie Gillingham (Counting Crows) is 64. Hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky is 63. Musician Andrew Ridgeley is 61. R&B singer Jazzy B (Soul II Soul) is 61. Actor Paul Johansson is 60.

Stepson's crimes are more than stepmom can tolerate

DEAR ABBY: My 30-year-old stepson, "David," is a convicted sex offender, currently serving a 15-year sentence for possession of child pornography and having inappropriate conversations with a pre-teen that almost went further. This was his third arrest for the same thing.

Because of David's autism, his family looks the other way about his crimes. They all send him money, call him, buy him things, etc. I have kids of my own, and, frankly, the whole situation makes me want to vomit. I hide how I feel and try to be there for my husband because he loves his son, and it pains him to see David in prison. He also has been wonderful to my kids and raised them like his own.

I'm dreading what is going to happen when David is out of prison. He has nowhere to go, and I know he's going to want to live with us. I am 1,000% against this, and I truly believe it could happen again.

My kids will be adults soon and away at college when he's released, so I can't use that as an excuse for him not to live with us. I also don't want my home address on the sex offender registry. The street where I live is full of children.



JEANNE PHILLIPS

What can I do?

I don't want to lose my husband over this. I love him with all my heart, which is why I can't tell him how I feel. Every time David speaks with his dad, he tells him he wishes he were home with him. Please help! — STEP MOM WHO'S DREADING IT

DEAR STEP MOM: It is time to have an honest talk with your husband about this. When a sex offender is released from prison, there are stipulations in place. One of them is being forbidden to live close to young, vulnerable children. Because your street is populated with them, David may not be able to live with you. This is something you and your husband need to be communicating about as David's release draws nearer, because it will have an impact on your lives.

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

1/26/24	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	4 PGA Tour Golf Farmers Insurance Open, Third Round From Torrey Pines South Course in San Diego. (L) (N)	ABC World News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Shark Tank (N)	20/20 (N)	Fire Country Bode faces a hard decision that could have dire results.	Blue Bloods Erin and Henry work to bust a scammer targeting the elderly.	KDKA-TV News at Eleven (N)	The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	
4	WTAE	Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	ABC World News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Shark Tank (N)	20/20 (N)	Fire Country	Blue Bloods	Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	
5	WDTV	4 PGA Tour Golf				S.W.A.T. "Legacy"	Fire Country	Blue Bloods	5 News	Colbert		
7	WTRF	4 PGA Tour Golf				S.W.A.T. "Legacy"	Fire Country	Blue Bloods	7News at	Colbert		
9	WTOV	News 9 at Six (L) (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune "Sand & Sea" (N)	Figure Skating U.S. Championships, Women's Free Skate From Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. (L) (N)				News 9 Tonight (L) (N)	Tonight Show (N)	
11	WPXI	Channel 11 NBC News	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy!		Figure Skating U.S. Championships, Women's Free Skate (N)				News (N)	J. Fallon	
12	WBOY	News (N)	NBC News	Jeopardy!	Wheel (N)	Figure Skating U.S. Championships, Women's Free Skate (N)				News (N)	J. Fallon	
13	WQED	PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America (N)	GZERO World	Washington Wk (N)	Firing- Hoover (N)	Benjamin Franklin "An American (1775-1790)" Franklin helps Thomas Jefferson craft the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.			Benjamin Franklin "An American (1775-1790)" Franklin helps Thomas Jefferson craft the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.	Amanpour (N)	
22	WCWB	Two Half Men "And the Plot Moists"	Two and a Half Men	Modern Family	Boys High School Basketball Hampton at Highlands Action from boys high school basketball. (L) (N)	Penn & Teller: Fool Us	Sanjeev Vindoh; Morten Christiansen; Giancarlo Bernini. (N)	Masters of Illusion (N)	Funnies Animals "Episode 404" (N)	The National Desk (L) (N)		
24	WNPB	Legis.	America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Week (N)	Hoover (N)	Benjamin Franklin "An American (1775-1790)"	Legis.	Energy			
46	WVFX	News (N)	Investig.	Last Man	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (L) (N)	WVFX 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	WWE Friday Night SmackDown The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rivalries. (L) (N)	Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)	Seinfeld "The Scofflaw"	Seinfeld "The Engagement"			
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48		
AMC	4 *** 300	*** Die Hard '88 (Action)	Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia, Bruce Willis.					*** Die Hard 2 '90	Bruce Willis.			
AT&TSP	Pens (N)	Penguins	NHL Hockey Florida Panthers at Pittsburgh Penguins (N)	Penguins	Penguins	Penguins	Penguins	Penguins	NHL Hockey			
BET	College Hill	College Hill	Neighbor	Neighbor	*** Boyz n the Hood '91	Ice Cube, Laurence Fishburne.						
CNN	Situation Room (L) (N)	E. B. OutFront (L) (N)	Cooper 360 (N)	The Source With (N)	CNN NewsNight (N)	Laura Coates Live (N)						
DISC	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush (N)	Hustlers Gamblers (N)	Outback (N)	Gold Rush-Res.						
DISN	KiFF	KiFF	Big City	Big City	*** Ice Age '02	Ray Romano.	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	
ESPN	SportsCenter	NHL Hockey Vegas Golden Knights at New York Rangers	X Games Aspen (L) (N)									
ESPN2	ESPN BET Live	Gymnastics Alabama at Florida (N)	Basketball Saint Joseph's at St. Bonaventure	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportCtr							
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners		
FNC	Special Report (L) (N)	Ingraham (N)	Hannity (L) (N)	Gutfeld (N)								
FREE	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	The 700 Club	
HIST	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens: Declassified	Enhanced, human exploration of Antarctica increases. (N)								
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy		
NEWSN	Vargas Report (N)	On Balance (N)	Cuomo (N)									
NICK	*** Shrek Forever After '10	Mike Myers.	*** Sonic the Hedgehog '20	Jim Carrey, James Marsden.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends		
PARMT	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	*** The Italian Job '03	Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.	*** Four Brothers					
TNT	*** Hobbit: Desolation ...	*** Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 '17	Zoe Saldana, Chris Pratt.	All Elite Wrestling (N)	Legend of Tarzan							
TVLAND	A. Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King		
USA	9-1-1	9-1-1 "Treasure Hunt"	9-1-1 "Suspicion"	9-1-1 "Survivors"	9-1-1 "Panic"							
WE	4 S.W.A.T.	S.W.A.T. "Day Off"	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup							
WTBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	*** Fast & Furious '09	Vin Diesel.	*** Fast Five '11	Paul Walker, Vin Diesel.				
MOVIE CHANNELS												
HBO	*** Insidious: Chapter 3	Dermot Mulroney.	*** Meg 2: The Trench '23	Jason Statham.	Real, Bill Maher (N)	True Detective						
MAX	*** The Verdict '82	Paul Newman.	*** Hotel Artemis	Jodie Foster.	*** Freedomland '06	Samuel L. Jackson.	Movie					
SHOW	*** The Drop '14	Tom Hardy.	*** The Godfather '72	Cri	Al Pacino, James Caan, Marlon Brando.	Godfather, Part II						
TMC	4 **** There Will Be Blood		Emily '22	Finn Whitehead, Emma Mackey.	*** The Perks of Being a Wallflower							

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HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING

Men’s basketball Backyard Brawl extended through 2028

BY JUSTIN JACKSON
JJackson@DominionPost.com

The men’s basketball version of the Backyard Brawl has new life.

Both WVU and Pitt announced Thursday the rivalry will be extended four more years through the 2027-28 season.

“There is no question that this is one of the best rivalries in college athletics and has produced some great games through the years,” WVU athletic director Wren Baker said in a statement. “The rivalry is not only good for the two universities but also their fans. I want to thank Heather Lyke and the Pitt administration for supporting the renewal of this series, which is a win for college basketball.”

Baker and Lyke have been in discussions about extending the

series for months, with both athletic directors going on the record saying they were in favor of the extension.

Next season’s game will be played at Petersen Events Center on Pitt’s campus, as well as the 2026 matchup.

The WVU Coliseum will host games in 2025 and 2027.

No official dates have been announced, but the previous non-conference games in the series were generally played in November or December.

Pitt’s 80-63 victory this season was the final game of a two-year extension signed back in 2020.

“The Backyard Brawl is great for both schools, the fan bases and especially for college basketball,” WVU head coach Josh Eilert said. “I have been at WVU for 17 of these games, and without question, they are our biggest rival.

WVU at Oklahoma State

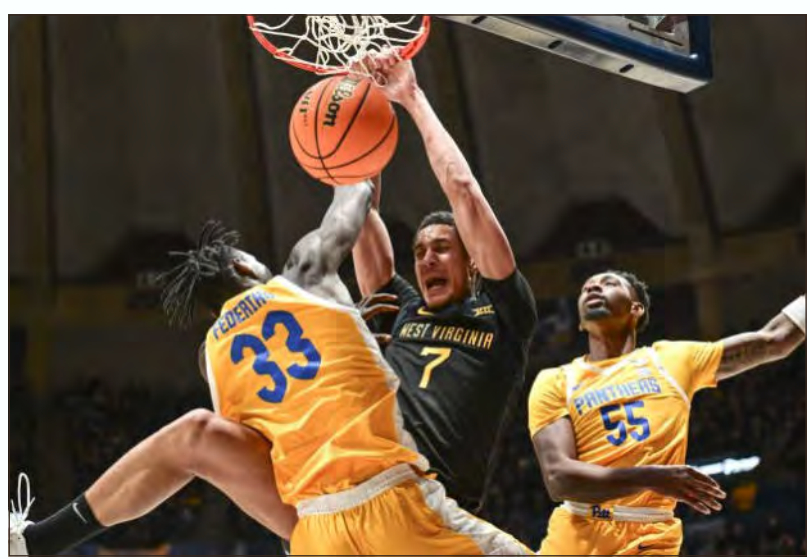
WHEN: 2 p.m. Saturday
WHERE: Gallagher-Iba Arena, Stillwater, Okla.
TV: ESPN+ (Online subscription needed)
RADIO: 100.9 JACK-FM
WEB: dominionpost.com

.....

For the last six years, it’s been one of the highlights of our nonconference schedule and will certainly be for the next four years.”

As former Big East members, both schools played regularly from 1996-2012. After the 2011-12 season, WVU left the Big East and joined the Big 12. Pitt joined the

SEE BRAWL, B-2



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia Mountaineers center Jesse Edwards (7) dunks the ball over Pittsburgh Panthers center Federico Federiko (33) during the Backyard Brawl earlier this season. WVU and Pitt announced the Brawl has been extended through 2018 on Thursday.

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING

THE HAMMER BROS

Daniel and Christian excelling for Morgantown swimming

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH
Sports@DominionPost.com

South American-born brothers Daniel and Christian Hammer have settled into life in Morgantown after moving to the Mountain State a little over two years ago.

Originally born in Belo Horizonte, Brazil (slightly north of Rio De Janeiro), the two siblings moved to West Virginia to be closer to their mother who had moved to town to attend WVU and study for her doctoral degree.

The brothers have been swimming since they were children and said they started to see their interest in the sport grow around the same time at the ages of 12 (Daniel) and 10 (Christian). They are now both key members of the Morgantown High swimming team.

“We started swimming when we were children, but not always in competition back in Brazil,” Daniel, the eldest brother, said. “We were on the same team together also, maybe not always in the same group based on our ages but we’ve always been swimming together.”

Christian said it didn’t take long for him to notice the difference in practice and preparation when it came to competitive swimming once he began taking it seriously.

“I hadn’t put much thought into swimming competitively at all when I first began,” Christian, the younger brother, said. “Once we started competing and changing the way we practiced for meets and stuff, I felt like I could go somewhere with swimming one day if I worked hard.”

Moving to Morgantown has also expanded the pair’s oppor-

SEE HAMMER, B-2



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Top: Morgantown’s Daniel Hammer looks on after the 50 yard freestyle. Bottom: Morgantown’s Christian Hammer competes in the 200 yard medley relay during a swim meet at the Mylan Aquatic Center on Wednesday.

WVU BASEBALL

WVU baseball picked 6th in Big 12 poll

Sports@DominionPost.com

TCU was selected as the pre-season favorite in a vote by the league’s head coaches in the 2024 Big 12 Baseball Preseason Poll, slotting into the top spot for the second consecutive season. Coaches were not permitted to vote for their own team.

The Horned Frogs received 11 first-place votes and are coming off a season that saw TCU win the Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship and advance to the semifinals of the Men’s College World Series. Texas, who received the other two first place votes, is in second place, ahead of third place Oklahoma State. Texas, Oklahoma State and West Virginia shared the 2023 regular season title.

Texas Tech, who is looking for an eighth consecutive bid to NCAA Regionals, slots in fourth, followed by Kansas State, who is coming off a 35-win campaign, the program’s most since 2013. Oklahoma and West Virginia, who each reached NCAA Regionals a year ago, are tied for sixth.

The Mountaineers are coming off their best season in program history, finishing 2023 with a 40-20 record and a share of their first Big 12 title.

WVU also has the regining and preseason Big 12 Player of the Year in infielder JJ Wetherholt.

Kansas follows in eighth, as Houston leads the quartet of new members in ninth place. UCF is 10th and Baylor is 11th while BYU and Cincinnati tie for 12th.

The top 10 teams in the Conference standings will qualify for the Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship in Arlington, Texas, May 21-25.

Big 12 Baseball Preseason Poll

1.	TCU (11) - 143
2.	Texas (2) - 131
3.	Oklahoma State - 119
4.	Texas Tech - 107
5.	Kansas State - 98
T6.	Oklahoma - 85
T6.	West Virginia - 85
8.	Kansas - 67
9.	Houston - 56
10.	UCF - 45
11.	Baylor - 36
T12.	BYU - 21
T12.	Cincinnati - 21

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MIDDLE SCHOOL

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St. Francis 8s 53, Suncrest 29

St. Francis was led in scoring by Blaze Colistra's 14 points and Arlo Colistra's 10. S. Schnider led Suncrest with nine points.

St. Francis 7s 47, Suncrest 27

Reed Barlett led St. Francis with 11 points, followed by Kannon Peasak's 10. Suncrest's leading scorer was Colston Cooper with 14 points.

SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

BOYS BASKETBALL

Morgantown at John Marshall, 6:30 p.m.
Buckhannon-Upshur at University, 7:30 p.m.
Trinity Christian at Webster County, 7:30 p.m.
Philip Barbour at Preston, 7:30 p.m.
Clay-Battelle at WoodCounty

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Trinity Christian at East Hardy, 6:30 p.m.
Wood County at Clay-Battelle

St. Albans Classic

University vs. Boyd County (Ky.), 5:30 p.m.
Morgantown vs. Russell (Ky.), 7 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

University at WSAZ Tournament

ON TV

AHL HOCKEY

7 p.m. NHLN — Wilkes-Barre Scranton at Lehigh Valley
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

6:30 p.m. CBSSN — Ohio at Kent St.
7 p.m. ESPNU — Marist at Niagara
8 p.m. FS1 — Michigan St. at Wisconsin
8:30 p.m. ESPN2 — Saint Joseph's at St. Bonaventure
9 p.m. ESPNU — Utah Valley at Seattle
10 p.m. FS1 — Stanford at California

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

8 p.m. PAC-12N — Stanford at Arizona St.
10 p.m. PAC-12N — Colorado at Oregon St.

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)

7 p.m. ESPN2 — Alabama at Florida
SECN — Georgia at Kentucky

8:30 p.m. SECN — LSU at Missouri
COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)

8:30 p.m. CBSSN — Denver at North Dakota
COLLEGE WRESTLING

7 p.m. ACCN — NC State at Pittsburgh
BTN — Michigan at Ohio St.

9 p.m. BTN — Iowa at Illinois

FIGURE SKATING

4 p.m. USA — U.S. Championships: Men's Short Program, Columbus, Ohio
8 p.m. NBC — U.S. Championships: Women's Free Skate, Columbus, Ohio

GOLF

3 a.m. GOLF — DP World Tour: The Ras Al Khaimah Championship, Second Round, Al Hamra GC, Ras al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
12 p.m. GOLF — LPGA Tour: The LPGA Drive On Championship, Second Round, Superstition Mountain Golf & Country Club, Gold Canyon, Ariz.
3 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour: The Farmers Insurance Open, Third Round, Torrey Pines South Course, La Jolla, Calif.
5 p.m. CBS — PGA Tour: The Farmers Insurance Open, Third Round, Torrey Pines South Course, La Jolla, Calif.
3:30 a.m. (Saturday) GOLF — DP World Tour: The Ras Al Khaimah Championship, Third Round, Al Hamra GC, Ras al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOY'S)

11 p.m. ESPNU — ESPN High School Basketball Showcase: Notre Dame (Calif.) at Sierra Canyon (Calif.)

HORSE RACING

2:30 p.m. FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races
NBA BASKETBALL

7 p.m. NBATV — Dallas at Atlanta

9:30 p.m. NBATV — Portland at San Antonio

NHL HOCKEY

7 p.m. ESPN — Vegas at NY Rangers

SOCCER (MEN'S)

5:45 p.m. FS2 — CONMEBOL U-23 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage: Brazil vs. Colombia, Group A, Caracas, Venezuela

TENNIS

3:30 a.m. ESPN — ATP: The Australian Open, Semifinals, Melbourne, Australia
12 p.m. ESPN2 — ATP: The Australian Open, Semifinals, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)

X GAMES

9:30 p.m. ESPN — World of X Games: Day 1, Aspen, Colo.

OVAC GIRLS TOURNAMENT

OVAC Girls Basketball Tournament

Semifinals: Monday, Jan. 29

Class 1A
No. 4 Valley (7-8) at No. 1 Cameron (8-4)
No. 3 Conant Valley (Oh.) (6-7) at No. 2 Trinity Christian (9-4)

Class 2A
No. 4 Steuvenville Catholic (Oh.) (9-6) at No. 1 Monroe Central (Oh.) (14-3)
No. 3 Frontier (Oh.) (10-5) at No. 2 River (Oh.) (13-3)

Class 3A
No. 4 Union Local (Oh.) at No. 1 Martins Ferry (Oh.)

No. 3 Bellaire (Oh.) (13-5) at No. 2 Fort Frye (Oh.) (14-4)

Class 4A
No. 4 East Liverpool (Oh.) (9-8) at No. 1 Indian Creek (Oh.) (16-3)
No. 3 Oak Glen (7-7) at No. 2 Buckeye Local (Oh.) (10-7)

Class 5A
No. 4 Parkersburg South (9-5) at No. 1 Morgantown (11-1)
No. 3 Wheeling Park (11-3) at No. 2 Steubenville (Oh.) (12-4)

Championship: Saturday, Feb. 3
At Harrison Central High School, Cadiz, Oh.

NFL PLAYOFFS

NFL Playoff Glance

All Times EST
Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 13
Houston 45, Cleveland 14
Kansas City 26, Miami 7
Sunday, Jan. 14
Green Bay 48, Dallas 32
Detroit 24, L.A. Rams 23
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, ppd. to Jan. 15
Monday, Jan. 15
Buffalo 31, Pittsburgh 17
Tampa Bay 32, Philadelphia 9
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)

PRO FOOTBALL

Jackson, McCaffrey and Prescott are finalists for AP NFL MVP and offensive player awards

Associated Press

Lamar Jackson, Christian McCaffrey and Dak Prescott are finalists for The Associated Press 2023 NFL Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year awards.

The winners will be announced at NFL Honors on Feb. 8. A nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league completed voting before the playoffs began.

Bills quarterback Josh Allen and 49ers QB Brock Purdy also are finalists for MVP. Dolphins wide receiver Tyreek Hill and Cowboys wideout CeeDee Lamb are the other two finalists for Offensive Player of the Year.

Jackson, the 2019 NFL MVP, threw for 3,678 yards and 24 touchdowns and also ran for 821 yards and five scores. He helped the Baltimore Ravens (14-4) finish with the best record in the league and led them to a playoff win over Houston. Jackson received 45 of 50 votes for AP first-team All-Pro.

The Ravens will host the Kansas City Chiefs (13-6) in the AFC championship game on Sunday.

Prescott had 4,516 yards passing, an NFL-best 36 TD passes and a 105.9 passer rating while leading Dallas to an NFC East title. But the

Cowboys were eliminated in the wild-card round by Green Bay.

McCaffrey, a unanimous choice for AP All-Pro, led the NFL with 1,459 yards rushing and had 14 rushing TDs for San Francisco. He also had 564 yards receiving for seven scores.

Purdy, McCaffrey and the 49ers (13-5) will host the Detroit Lions (14-5) in the NFC championship game on Sunday.

The Cleveland Browns have finalists in four categories: Myles Garrett for Defensive Player of the Year; Kevin Stefanski for Coach of the Year; Joe Flacco for Comeback Player of the Year; Jim Schwartz for Assistant Coach of the Year.

The Houston Texans have finalists for Offensive and Defensive Rookie of the Year. QB C.J. Stroud and edge rusher Will Anderson Jr., selected back-to-back with the second and third picks in the NFL draft, are aiming to make it two straight years the winners are from the same team. New York Jets wide receiver Garrett Wilson and cornerback Sauce Gardner won the awards in 2022.

The Texans routed the Browns in a wild-card play-off before losing at Baltimore in the divisional round.

Cowboys edge Micah

Parsons and cornerback DaRon Bland, Raiders edge Maxx Crosby and Steelers edge T.J. Watt join Garrett as finalists for Defensive Player of the Year.

Watt led the NFL with 19 sacks, Crosby had 14 1/2 and Garrett and Parsons each had 14. Bland set an NFL record with five interception returns for a touchdown.

Lions tight end Sam LaPorta and running back Jahmyr Gibbs, Rams wide receiver Puka Nacua and Falcons running back Bijan Robinson are finalists for Offensive Rookie of the Year along with Stroud.

Eagles defensive tackle Jalen Carter, Rams defensive lineman Kobie Turner, Steelers cornerback Joey Porter Jr. and Seahawks cornerback Devon Witherspoon join Anderson as finalists for Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Houston's DeMeco Ryans, Detroit's Dan Campbell, San Francisco's Kyle Shanahan and Baltimore's John Harbaugh are finalists for Coach of the Year along with Stefanski.

Stefanski, the 2020 winner, led the Browns to an 11-6 record despite losing Deshaun Watson and having to use four starting QBs. Ryans took the Tex-

ans from the AFC South's worst to first in his rookie season. Campbell helped Detroit capture its first division title in 30 years. Harbaugh and Shanahan led their teams to No. 1 seeds.

Schwartz guided the NFL's No. 1 ranked defense in his first season as Cleveland's defensive coordinator. Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson, Ravens defensive coordinator Mike Macdonald and offensive coordinator Todd Monken and Texans offensive coordinator Bobby Slowik also are finalists for Assistant Coach of the Year.

Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield, Rams QB Matthew Stafford, Dolphins QB Tua Tagovailoa and Bills safety Damar Hamlin join Flacco as finalists for Comeback Player of the Year.

This was the second year for the AP's weighted voting system. Voters chose a top five for MVP and top three for all other awards. For MVP, first-place votes were worth 10 points. Second through fifth-place votes were worth 5, 3, 2 and 1 points.

For all the other awards, first-place votes equaled 5 points, second were 3 and third were 1.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

UHS seeking Hall of Fame nominations

Sports@DominionPost.com

University High School exemplifies not only the best traditions of academic excellence but also pride in the rich athletic traditions. In 2018, The University High School Athletic Hall of Fame was established. Believing that athletics plays an integral role in the pride and vitality of the high school setting, University High School recognizes outstanding athletes, dedicated coaches, athletic directors, administrators, and auxiliary personnel who have brought positive recognition to themselves and to UHS.

The University HS Athletic Hall of Fame Commit-

tee is accepting nominations now. Nomination Forms can be found on the University HS Website (https://hawks.mono.k12.wv.us) and used as criteria for consideration for their induction.

An inductee must meet or exceed one or a combination of the following:

1. Athletes must have attended University High School.
2. All inductees must be of the highest moral and ethical character and must have brought positive recognition to himself/herself for University High School.
3. Athletes will become eligible for induction into the UHS Athletic Hall of Fame 10 years after their high school class has graduated.

4. Athletes' post-secondary careers (both college and professional) may be used as criteria for consideration for their induction.
 5. Coaches, athletic directors, administrators and individuals who have contributed to the UHS athletic programs in an auxiliary capacity may be considered for induction.
 6. Coaches, athletic directors and administrators will become eligible for induction into the UHS Athletic Hall of fame upon retirement.
- Please include an additional one-page narrative documenting reasons your nominee should be consid-

ered for the UHS Athletic Hall of Fame. Please mail this form and your letter to:

■ Jeffery Bailey, UHS Athletic Director

131 Bakers Ridge Road
Morgantown, WV, 26508.

Your sealed envelope should include the following:

1. Nomination Form
2. One-page narrative
3. Nominator's name, phone number, and e-mail for follow-up
4. Nominee's phone number, e-mail, and address for potential contact.

BRAWL

FROM PAGE B-1

ACC a year later.

The series was put on hold for four years until a four-year series was signed for the 2017-18 season, and then extended two more years in 2020.

WVU has won five of those six meetings, until Pitt's victory in Morgantown this season.

"The Backyard Brawl game is one of the most anticipated matchups on the schedule each year for the two fan bases," Pitt head coach Jeff Capel said. "These kinds of games are what makes college athletics so special. We are excited to extend the series and look forward to four more matchups that will have both fan bases eagerly awaiting the day tickets go on sale."

HAMMER

FROM PAGE B-1

tunities in the pool.

"In Brazil, swimming isn't supported in colleges or universities," Daniel said. "So we thought that it would also be a good chance for us to be able to go to college and swim at the same time. Even with the school season there, we only swim once or twice a month, whereas here we swim all the time and are constantly in the pool with

other swimmers."

Christian mentioned how having his older brother on the team helps him every day.

"I enjoy having my brother as a teammate a lot," he said. "Especially when we first moved to America, having someone that could speak my native language (Portuguese) when I needed to was good for me."

Daniel echoed his brother's words with a humble admission.

"He was younger but always faster than me," he said. "So it was nice to have someone to always practice with to help push me to constantly improve in the pool. On days that we don't have practice or anything, like Sunday, I'm always pushing him to go swimming and to help me with some things."

The two have adapted quickly to the changes and are now a crucial part of the swimming team at MHS.

"These two have been

very supportive of everyone on the team, boys and girls since they arrived," MHS coach Eric Householder said. "They been great about working constructively with their teammates and have helped us build a very strong relay team that they are a part of."

The next chance for the Hammer brothers and MHS to take the pool will be in the Regional Swim Meet on Feb. 3 at Brooke High School.



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia Mountaineers forward Akok Akok (13) blocks Pittsburgh Panthers forward William Jeffress (24) earlier this season.

Want to see your news in The Dominion Post?

Let us know what's going on with your business, club or team. Email news tips, photos or press releases to DPNews@DominionPost.com

Questions: 304-291-9425

The Dominion Post

PRO FOOTBALL

Harbaugh returning to NFL to coach Chargers after leading Michigan to national title

Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Jim Harbaugh was hired as head coach of the Los Angeles Chargers on Wednesday, leaving Michigan after capping his ninth season as coach of college football's winningest program with the school's first national championship since 1997.

Harbaugh signed a five-year deal a person close to the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the Chargers did not announce the terms.

Harbaugh made the highly anticipated decision to go back to the NFL after a second interview and resume his chase for a Super Bowl that eluded him as a quarterback and coach.

He will be the first former Chargers player to return to the team as head coach. He played for the Bolts in 1999-2000 before retiring following the 2001 season.

"My love for Michigan, playing there and coming back to coach there leaves a lasting impact. I'll always be a loyal Wolverine," Harbaugh said in a statement. "I'm remarkably fortunate to have been afforded the privilege of coaching at places where life's journey has created strong personal connections for me. When I played for the Chargers, the Spanos family could not have been more gracious or more welcoming."

"Being back here feels like home, and it's great to see that those things haven't changed."

Harbaugh is the first coach in 26 seasons to win a national title and not return to the school the following season. Nebraska's Tom Osborne retired following the 1997 season after the Cornhuskers split the national title with Michigan.

Los Angeles was looking for a new coach and general manager after Brandon Staley and Tom Telesco were fired on Dec. 15, a day after a 63-21 loss in Las



AP Photo

Jim Harbaugh will be the coach of the Los Angeles Chargers, leaving Michigan after capping his ninth season as coach of college football's winningest program with the school's first national championship since 1997, two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

Vegas to the Raiders.

Harbaugh was first asked about possible interest in the Chargers job as his team was preparing for the Rose Bowl, but did comment. He first met with the Chargers on Jan. 15.

Harbaugh was the eighth of 15 coaching candidates to interview with the Spanos family. He was the only one to get a second interview.

The Atlanta Falcons also talked to Harbaugh on Jan. 16 and had booked a second interview before he decided to accept the Chargers job.

"Jim Harbaugh is football personified, and I can think of no one better to lead the Chargers forward," owner Dean Spanos said in a statement while also borrowing from one of Harbaugh's catch phrases. "Who has it better than us?"

The Chargers are the fourth of eight teams to fill their head coach job, following New England, Las Vegas and Tennessee. Atlanta, Carolina, Seattle and Washington remain with an opening.

Harbaugh called Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel to inform him he was leaving to lead the

Chargers. Michigan tried to keep Harbaugh, offering him a new six-year contract for \$11.5 million per season, according to a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share details of the deal.

Manuel may promote Sherrone Moore to replace Harbaugh after the offensive coordinator filled in for him during the final three games of the regular season when he was suspended by the Big Ten for violating the conference's sportsmanship policy over alleged sign-stealing in a case that dominated the second half of last season.

"We are working quickly to hire the next head coach for the program and will do everything possible to keep this current staff and team together," Manuel said in a statement. "We appreciate Jim's dedication and passion for Michigan, the university and Ann Arbor, and I wish Jim and the entire Harbaugh family much success with the Los Angeles Chargers."

Harbaugh was 86-25 at Michigan and restored col-

lege football's winningest program to relevance after it slipped over several seasons.

Following two straight losses in the College Football Playoff semifinals, extending Harbaugh's winless streak in bowl games to six, Michigan outlasted Alabama at the Rose Bowl and pulled away from Washington to win the national championship with a school-record 15-0 mark.

Harbaugh's alma mater could not offer the one thing he desperately wants — a Super Bowl title.

The Chargers have one of the league's top quarterbacks in Justin Herbert, but finished 5-12 this season and lost eight of their last nine, including the last five. Herbert will be playing for his fourth head coach and possibly fourth offensive coordinator in five seasons.

The Bolts though have made only three playoff appearances since 2013 and haven't won a division title since 2009.

Harbaugh will inherit a team that most of all needs a culture change. They were 0-7 in games decided by three points or fewer this season, tying the 1984 Houston Oilers for worst mark since the merger.

The offense this past season regressed because of injuries at wide receiver and on the offensive line. Herbert broke the index finger on his right hand and missed the last four games, but even when he was at the helm, Los Angeles was ranked 18th in total offense after six straight years being in the top 11.

The defense was ranked 28th, marking the first time since 1986 it has been ranked 20th or worse three straight years.

Harbaugh and the new general manager will have the fifth overall pick in April's draft, the fourth time since 2016 the Chargers have had a pick in the top seven. Los Angeles will also move into a new year-around headquarters in El Segundo before the start of training camp.

"The only job you start at the top is digging a hole, so we know we've got to earn our way. Be better today than yesterday. Be better tomorrow than today," Harbaugh said in a statement. "My priorities are faith, family and football, and we are going to attack each with an enthusiasm unknown to mankind."

Harbaugh returned to Michigan, where he was a star quarterback in the mid-1980s, in 2015 after going 44-19 over four years in San Francisco. He left the 49ers amid tension with

the front office. He went to three straight NFC championship games and lost the Super Bowl to Baltimore, and his coach/brother, John, nearly 11 years ago.

The Harbaugh brothers will face each other for the first time since that Super Bowl during the 2024 season when the Chargers host the Ravens. The date and time will be announced in early May when the NFL regular season schedule is released.

He also came close to the Super Bowl as a player, nearly lifting the Indianapolis Colts to a win at Pittsburgh on a game-ending desperation pass in the AFC championship game on Jan. 14, 1996.

Harbaugh was one of eight candidates who had previous head coaching experience in college or the NFL, including former Tennessee Titans coach Mike Vrabel and former Stanford coach David Shaw, who was an assistant under Harbaugh at the University of San Diego and Stanford.

The Chargers also interviewed two in-house candidates — interim coach Giff Smith and offensive coordinator Kellen Moore.

Nine GM candidates have interviewed, including interim GM JoJo Wooden. The others are New York Giants assistant GM Brandon Brown, Baltimore director of player personnel Joe Hortiz, Chicago assistant GM Ian Cunningham, Buffalo director of player personnel Terrance Gray, New Orleans Saints assistant GM Jeff Ireland, Indianapolis Colts assistant GM Ed Dodds, Chicago co-director of player personnel Jeff King and NFL chief football administrative officer Dawn Aponte.

PRO FOOTBALL

Raheem Morris hired as head coach by Atlanta Falcons, who pass on Bill Belichick

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons have hired Los Angeles Rams defensive coordinator Raheem Morris as their head coach after an exhaustive search that included six-time Super Bowl winner Bill Belichick, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not made an announcement.

The 47-year-old Morris is a familiar name in Atlanta, having served as the Falcons' interim head coach for the final 11 games of the 2020 season after the firing of Dan Quinn. He previously coached the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for three seasons.

Morris was hired by the Falcons after an exhaustive search in which 14 candidates were interviewed, with Belichick the most notable among them.

Earlier Thursday, the team conducted a second interview with Houston Texans offensive coordinator Bobby Slowik, but decided in the end to go with a coach who worked in Atlanta from 2015-2020.

Morris becomes the first non-interim Black coach in Falcons history and joins general manager Terry Fontenot, who also is Black, in leading a franchise that

hasn't had a winning season since 2017.

After being passed over for the Falcons job after the 2020 season in favor of Arthur Smith, Morris moved to the Rams. He spent three seasons as that team's defensive coordinator, a tenure that included a Super Bowl championship his first year.

Smith was fired by the Falcons shortly after their final regular-season game. He went 7-10 in each of his three seasons.

Morris was just 33 years old when he got his first head coaching job with the Buccaneers in 2009. He lasted three seasons, finish-

ing with one winning season, no playoff appearances and a record of 17-31.

During his time in Atlanta, Morris worked on both sides of the line as a pass game coordinator, receivers coach and secondary coach under Quinn. He was promoted to defensive coordinator ahead of the 2020 season, moving up to interim head coach after Quinn was fired following an 0-5 start.

Morris guided the Falcons to a 4-7 mark the rest of the season, leaving his career record as a head coach at 21-38.

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AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Defending champion Sabalenka beats Coco Gauff, will meet Zheng in Australian Open final

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Aryna Sabalenka has taken her Australian Open title defense all the way back to the championship match because she has applied a crucial lesson from her U.S. Open final loss to Coco Gauff.

She kept reminding herself the next point is often more important than the one she'd just lost.

So when she had missed a set point and a chance to serve out the first set, and then gave Gauff an opportunity to serve for a one-set lead, she was prepared to "let it go" and just keep swinging.

The No. 2-seeded Sabalenka attacked Gauff's serve with her powerful returns and unloaded 33 winners in total in a 7-6 (2), 6-4 semifinal victory Thursday night that earned her a spot in Saturday's decider against first-time finalist Zheng Qinwen.

Sabalenka won her breakthrough major here last year, and reached the semifinals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon before losing the U.S. Open final to Gauff.

Now she's the first to reach consecutive finals at Melbourne Park since Serena Williams in 2015, '16 and '17.

"The key was that I was able to stay focused no matter what, no matter what the score was ... keep fighting for it," Sabalenka said. "I'm super happy to be in another final of a Grand Slam. Hopefully I can do a little bit better than the last time."

No. 12-seeded Zheng had a 6-4, 6-4 win over No. 93-ranked Dayana Yastremska, ending the Ukrainian player's bid to become just the second qualifier to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era.

Zheng lost in the U.S.



Top: Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus reacts during her semifinal against Coco Gauff of the U.S. at the Australian Open tennis championships Thursday. Zheng Qinwen of China waves after defeating Anna Kalinskaya of Russia in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships Wednesday.

Open quarterfinals to Sabalenka last year in her best previous run at a major but said she's more prepared this time.

Reaching the final a decade after Chinese compatriot Li Na won the Aus-

tralian title almost completes a dream, she said. One more win will finish it.

"It feels unbelievable. I'm super excited to have such a great performance today and arrive in the

final," said Zheng, who hasn't faced a player ranked in the top 50 in six rounds. "I haven't faced big seeded (players) ... but, you know, it's a match, so let's see what's going to happen in the final."

Sabalenka said she'd been "ready for anything" against Gauff, and was happy to have some support in the crowd after facing the 19-year-old American in New York last September.

Gauff went into the semifinals unbeaten in 2024 after winning the title in Auckland, New Zealand, and was on a 12-match winning streak in majors.

The first set contained six service breaks. Sabalenka led 5-2 and missed a set point as Gauff went on a four-game roll to take a 6-5 lead. Gauff also couldn't serve out.

In the tiebreaker, Sabalenka raced to 5-1 and chants of "Coco, Coco" echoed around Rod Laver Arena, where the roof was closed because of rain.

It didn't help Gauff, who won points on just three of her 17 second serves in the first set. That made her push harder and led to six double-faults.

The second set was tight, until Sabalenka broke in the ninth game.

After missing her first match point when Gauff saved with a forehand winner to end a 12-shot rally, Sabalenka earned a second match point with an ace and clinched it after 1 hour, 42 minutes.

That she won't win a second major before turning 20 in March wasn't a huge concern for Gauff.

"I tend to be hard on myself, so today was like, 'Dang!' But looking back overall at this stage of my life, it was a successful time."

Gauff said she saw statistics that ranked her close to Serena Williams and Jennifer Capriati in their teens.

"They had great careers. So I'm in the right direction," she said. "I just have to remind myself of the journey and not so much of the moment."

"I did want to win a Slam as a teenager, and I did that. I was hoping to get No. 2, or at least give myself a chance to get No. 2. I feel it can only go upwards from here."

Yastremska, who won three matches in qualifying and five matches in the main draw, said she was proud of the way she was able to fly the flag for Ukraine.

"It was a great tournament for me. Usually (you) get in Grand Slams seven matches to play, and I have played nine matches, so I'm very proud of myself," she said.

Yastremska needed a medical timeout after the seventh game after hurting her hip, and the fatigue finally set in.

"Not really sad about the loss, but very sad that I didn't have enough emotions and enough recovery," she said. "There was some important moments where I had to give a little bit more than she did. I felt like I just couldn't take it."

In some older news, 43-year-old Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden advanced to their second consecutive Grand Slam men's doubles final by beating Zhang Zhizhen and Tomas Machac 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7).

Tournament officials said Bopanna and Ebden, at a combined age of 79, will become the oldest No. 1 pairing in tennis history after the tournament.

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THE DOMINION Post

WEATHER

Water service restored to rural Tennessee town a week after winter storm, sub-freezing temperatures

Associated Press

MASON, Tenn. — The majority of residents in the rural Tennessee town of Mason had water services restored Wednesday, a week after freezing temperatures broke pipes and caused leaks in the decades-old, neglected water system.

Mayor Eddie Noeman told The Associated Press that 75% of the predominantly Black west Tennessee town of 1,300 people has had water restored, with the rest expected to be able to use their faucets by Wednesday night or Thursday.

A winter storm brought sub-freezing temperatures and snow to Mason and the rest of Tennessee last week. The cold caused the town's pipes to freeze over and break, creating leaks that lowered water pressure and left many residents without running water. The cold exposed major problems with a water system that dates back to the 1950s, the mayor said.

Noeman said no money had been invested in the town's water system since 2010.

Residents filled up jugs and buckets at the homes of relatives and friends who live in the area but did not lose water service. Many either bought water or

picked some up at giveaways by the fire department and local churches.

"Everybody came together for the town of Mason," Noeman said. "We've had these problems for a very long time."

Larry Camper, 69, still did not have water restored to his home as of Wednesday afternoon, so he filled plastic jugs with water from a spigot outside City Hall. Camper said also received water from the mayor and melted snow that stayed on the ground for days after the storm. He said he stockpiled water before the storm because Mason has previously had outages.

"It should have been fixed long before this," he said.

Mason has been beset by problems with infrastructure and financial mismanagement for years. Two former employees were charged with taking town funds, and the state comptroller's office has said the town had thousands of dollars in missing credit card expenditures.

In 2022, the state of Tennessee moved to take over Mason's finances. But officials later reached an agreement that allowed the local government to retain

control of its spending.

Noeman said the town had been losing six million gallons of water a year to leaks, but 45 leaks have been repaired since he took office a year ago. A Missouri-based company took over the water system in October, and no problems had been reported until last week's storm, he said.

The state has given Mason \$1.9 million to improve its water system. Along with the town's 1,300 people, Mason also provides water to residents who live nearby in unincorporated areas of Tipton County.

"Some people called me very, very, very upset about it," Noeman said of the water outage. "But when I explained to them what the situation was and how we reached this point, people understood."

More than two dozen water systems in Tennessee were placed under boil-water notices during the recent cold snap. Nineteen counties in the state reported operational issues with their water utilities, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency said.

In Memphis, residents spent five days boiling water for drinking, brushing their teeth and preparing food as repair crews worked to fix broken pipes,

which led to low water pressure that can allow harmful bacteria to contaminate the water supply. The boil-water advisory was lifted Tuesday. Memphis Light, Gas and Water said water quality tests have met state and federal standards.

Sarah Houston, executive director of Protect Our Aquifer, said water infrastructure in the South is not built for heavy snow, large ice accumulations and days of subfreezing temperatures.

"Our water lines are not buried beneath the frost line. They're not insulated. And they're old," she said.

The unusually cold weather has caused dozens of deaths around the U.S. this month, many involving hypothermia or road accidents. The Tennessee Department of Health reported 36 weather-related fatalities across the state as of Tuesday.

Virginia Rivers, a former vice mayor of Mason who now serves as an alderwoman, said she got running water restored on Wednesday.

"I do understand that the fact that the system is old, and I do understand the frustration of the people because I'm affected by it, too," she said.

"It's hard. It's not easy. But we're surviving."

COURTS

Republican lawmakers in Pennsylvania challenge state, federal actions to boost voter registration

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A group of conservative state lawmakers in Pennsylvania filed a federal lawsuit Thursday challenging three voting-related executive branch actions designed to boost voter registration, including a 2021 executive order by President Joe Biden.

The lawsuit is expected to be one of many to litigate voting and election rules in a battleground state that is critical to 2024's presidential contest. In the 2020 election, Trump's campaign, state officials, the Democratic Party and others fought over the rules for mail-in voting, and Trump later baselessly smeared the election as rife with fraud and tried unsuccessfully to overturn it.

The lawsuit, filed by 24 Republican state lawmakers, challenges the legality of a 2021 executive order by Biden that orders federal agencies to consider ways to expand access to registering to vote and information about voting.

It also challenges two state-level actions. One is last fall's introduction of automatic voter registration in Pennsylvania by Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro. The other is a 2018 state directive under then-Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf. That directive said that counties cannot reject a voter registration application solely on the basis of finding that the applicant submitted a driver's license number or Social Security number digits that don't match what is in a government agency database.

The three actions needed — legislative approval, or conflict with existing law, the lawsuit contends.

Biden's executive order has been the subject of lawsuits and letters from conservative officials and organizations seeking information about federal agency plans under it. Republican state attorneys general and

secretaries of state have asked Biden to rescind it.

The Brennan Center for Justice last year called Biden's executive order "one of the most substantial undertakings by any administration to overcome barriers to voting."

The U.S. Justice Department declined comment on the lawsuit. Shapiro's administration said in a statement that it is "frivolous" to suggest that it lacks the authority to implement automatic voter registration.

"This administration looks forward to once again defending our democracy in court against those advancing extreme, undemocratic legal theories," Shapiro's administration said.

The Shapiro administration in September instituted automatic voting, under which prompts on the computer screens in driver's license centers take the user to a template to register to vote. That leaves it up to the user to choose not to register. Previously, prompts on the computer screen first asked users whether they wanted to register to vote.

Twenty-three other states and Washington, D.C., already have varying models of what is called "automatic voter registration," according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Still, former President Donald Trump has already accused Democrats of "trying to steal" Pennsylvania in 2024's election through automatic voter registration.

In the 2020 election, Trump and his allies went to court repeatedly to overturn Biden's victory and relentlessly criticized election-related decisions by the state's Democratic-majority Supreme Court.

Many of the lawmakers on Thursday's lawsuit have sued previously to invalidate the state's vote-by-mail law, voted to contest the 2020 presidential election or protested the certification of the 2020 election for Biden.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

30249

JANUARY 19, 26 FEBRUARY 2

2022-C-000120-MONONGALIA COUNTY-PAUL D & F LAURA HIMES

To: ERICA MARIE SHISLER LOUGHRY, OCCUPANT, STEVEN MICHAEL LOUGHRY, MONONGALIA COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL, WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CORPORATION HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION, ERICA MARIE SHISLER LOUGHRY, STEVEN MICHAEL LOUGHRY, ALL OF THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF ERICA MARIE SHISLER LOUGHRY WHOSE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN, ALL OF THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF STEVEN MICHAEL LOUGHRY WHOSE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT GRANT MAP 17 PARCEL 0078 0002 0000

You will take notice that PAUL D & F LAURA HIMES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000120, located in GRANT District, .89 AC. SUR & R/W which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of LOUGHRY ERICA MARIE SHISLER & STEVE, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of MONONGALIA County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 25, 2023. PAUL D & F LAURA HIMES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after July 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before June 30, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 32516.	\$795.79
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022-39515.	\$655.50
Additional taxes with interest.	\$0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$212.95
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$1,234.07
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$2,898.31

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

Given under my hand January 12, 2024

/s/ **G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of MONONGALIA County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
**West Virginia State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

30351

Jan. 26

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY OF HARP 901/8 (0.21 MILE), HARP 901/9 (0.25 MILE), HARP 901/10 (0.05 MILE), HARP 901/11 (0.05 MILE), HARP 901/17 (0.21 MILE), HARP 901/20 (0.05 MILE), HARP 901/18 (0.19 MILE), AND HARP 901/19 (0.05 MILE), ALL AS LOCATED IN MONONGALIA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia Division of Highways hereby provides notice of the proposed abandonment in its entirety of HARP 901/8 (0.21 MILE), HARP 901/9 (0.25 MILE), HARP 901/10 (0.05 MILE), HARP 901/11 (0.05 MILE), HARP 901/17 (0.21 MILE), HARP 901/20 (0.05 MILE), HARP 901/18 (0.19 MILE), AND HARP 901/19 (0.05 MILE), all as located in Monongalia County, West Virginia.

West Virginia Department of Transportation, District 4 requested the abandonments on behalf of the Town of Blacksville. Information related to the proposed abandonments may be found at <http://go.wv.gov/roadabandonments>.

Anyone wishing to comment on this proposal or to request a meeting may do so by emailing the Commissioner of Highways (preferred method), at HD-SHPHelpDesk@wv.gov or by writing to the Commissioner at West Virginia Division of Highways, Information Technology Division, Capitol Complex, Building 5, Room 720, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430, Attn: Angela Liller on or before March 1, 2024.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

30335

JANUARY 26

AIR QUALITY PERMIT NOTICE

Notice of Open Comment Period

On September 5, 2023, West Virginia University Hospitals, Inc. (WVUH) applied to the WV Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality (DAQ) for an after-the-fact modification permit to install and operate 4 natural gas-fired boilers with diesel backup, 8 emergency generator engines, and 2 ethylene oxide (EtO) sterilizers at their J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital located at 1 Medical Center Drive, Morgantown, Monongalia County, WV 26506 at 39.65333°N latitude and -79.97515°W longitude. A preliminary evaluation has determined that all State and Federal air quality requirements will be met by the proposed facility. The DAQ is providing notice to the public of an open comment period for permit application R13-33428.

The following increases in potential to emit (PTE) will be authorized by this permit action: Particulate Matter (PM), 2.5 tons per year (TPY); Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx), 23.9 TPY; Carbon Monoxide (CO), 17.1 TPY; Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), 2.1 TPY; Sulfur Dioxide (SO2), 0.5 TPY; and Ethylene Oxide (EtO), 0.06 TPY.

Written comments or requests for a public meeting must be received by the DAQ before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 2024. A public meeting may be held if the Director of the DAQ determines that significant public interest has been expressed, in writing, or when the Director deems it appropriate.

The purpose of the DAQ's permitting process is to make a preliminary determination if the proposed modification will meet all state and federal air quality requirements. The purpose of the public review process is to accept public comments on air quality issues relevant to this determination. Only written comments received at the address noted below within the specified time frame, or comments presented orally at a scheduled public meeting, will be considered prior to final action on the permit. All such comments will become part of the public record.

John Legg
WV Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Air Quality
601 5th Street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304
Telephone: 304/926-0499, ext. 41275
Email: john.c.legg@wv.gov

Additional information, including copies of the draft permit, application and all other supporting materials relevant to the permit decision may be obtained by contacting the engineer listed above. The draft permit and engineering evaluation can be downloaded at: <https://dep.wv.gov/dag/permitting/Pages/NSR-Permit-Applications.aspx>

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contact us: (304) 291-9420 • classads@dominionpost.com

Creatine supplements can help build muscle mass

DEAR DOCTORS: I'm a 36-year-old woman, and recently I began lifting weights to get stronger. A trainer at my gym has been saying that taking a creatine supplement could be helpful for that. What is creatine, and what does it do?

Dear Reader: Creatine is an organic compound that the body relies on for a continuous supply of energy to the muscles. Creatine is synthesized by the body from a trio of amino acids, primarily by the liver. The kidneys also play a role, and the pancreas is believed to contribute, as well. The compound also is available from dietary sources, mainly red meat, seafood and chicken.

The majority of creatine is stored in the skeletal muscles in a form known as phosphocreatine, or creatine phosphate. Creatine aids in the production of adenosine triphosphate, or ATP. That's the body's main source of energy for crucial functions, including powering muscle contraction and release, the transmission of electrical impulses along the nerves and the synthesis of protein for tissue maintenance and repair.



DRS. ELIZABETH KO & EVE GLAZIER

Researchers have found that when someone takes creatine supplements while engaged in a program of resistance training, such as weightlifting, it can help to build lean body mass.

A healthy person with a balanced diet that includes red meat, chicken and seafood will get an adequate supply of creatine. However, research shows that supplements can be helpful in making athletic gains. Some studies have found that using a creatine supplement can help build muscle mass and improve strength.

When it comes to creatine supplements, a wide body of research has found them to be safe. Your doctor will help you evaluate your goals and can guide you in choosing the right supplement for your needs.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2024

If you act in haste, you'll make a mistake that can affect important relationships. Plan your actions and initiate changes that lead to more opportunities and less emotional stress. Take matters into your own hands. Don't be afraid to take control of situations. Do what makes you happy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Put your energy to good use. Concentrate on prepping for something you want to pursue.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Change what's necessary. Keep your money and possessions safe and avoid unnecessary purchases.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Forgo trivial matters, don't let anyone goad you into a debate and sidestep anyone tempting you to take a risk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Stick to the facts and leave no room for error. Stop anyone who exaggerates or gossips before someone gets hurt.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Keep your pursuits secret until you have enough information to formulate your next move.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Set an agenda



EUGENIA LAST

and head in a direction that doesn't require approval or permission.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your tendency to overreact will work against you. Protect your reputation and position.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Take part in something that will broaden your awareness or bring you in touch with someone from your past.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don't mix emotions and money. The cost of a repair or replacement will take you by surprise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Compromise will encourage opportunities. Share your ideas and concerns, and you'll get valuable feedback.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Know where your money goes. Unexpected expenses will leave you short of cash and feeling stressed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Focus on your living space and how it affects your functionality and mindset.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Lush
 - 4 Lummocks
 - 8 Elapse
 - 12 Ref's decision
 - 13 E pluribus —
 - 14 Ellipse
 - 15 Provide with weapons
 - 16 Retread
 - 17 "This Old Heart of —"
 - 18 Jewish scholar
 - 20 Put cargo on board
 - 22 Child
 - 23 Cover
 - 24 Stop sign shape
 - 28 Shelf
 - 32 Chimney dust
 - 33 "I'll Be Your — Tonight"
 - 35 Age
 - 36 Calendar abbr.
 - 37 Penalty
- DOWN
- 38 Made a hole-in-one
 - 39 Musical drama
 - 41 Speak to
 - 43 Islet
 - 45 Sales agt.
 - 46 Talk gibberish
 - 49 Bar legally
 - 52 Speedy steed
 - 53 Old horses
 - 56 DDE, familiarly
 - 57 Place for a window box
 - 58 Singer — Redding
 - 59 Cistern
 - 60 Fermented rice drink
 - 61 Depend
 - 62 Potato bud



1-26

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

4 Excursion

5 Cuckoo

6 Cat coat

7 "Stop and — the roses"

8 Hair ointment

9 Eager

10 Healthy mentally

11 Toboggan

19 Dish for gravy

21 Unctuous

24 — buco

25 — d'état

26 Japanese sash

27 Grandma

29 Misleading

30 "The Beat — On"

31 Tips

34 Cot

37 Flop

38 Greek god of war

40 Disorderly crowd

42 Stylish

44 Singing voice

46 Food fish

47 Elaborate song

48 Stop suddenly

50 Fine

51 Tennis great — Sampras

54 Consumed

55 Baseball's Hodges

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CURTIS

YOU BOYS SHOULD HOP ON YOUR HOME-WORK BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE

ALLIWW, MA, I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT! 'SIDES, YOU CAN'T ORDER HEART-THROB AROUND !!

HE'S UNDER MY ROOF, EATING MY FOOD, WALKING ON MY FLOOR, BREATHING MY AIR... IN MY HOUSE I CAN ORDER EVERYBODY!

AS FOR YOU, I DON'T CARE IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT-GET TO WORK!

PEANUTS

I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU ALL YEAR, LINUS...

YOU NEVER WROTE TO ME OR CALLED ME, BUT I STILL THOUGHT ABOUT YOU... DO YOU THINK YOU LOVE ME?

DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF?

WELL, RIGHT NOW I'M THINKING A LOT ABOUT LIFE...

THE GRIZZWELLS

HOROSCOPE

Born today, aren't you a little young to be reading the newspaper?

BEETLE BAILEY

SO, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

NOTHING

C'MON, BEETLE, YOU COULD AT LEAST HUMOR ME BY FIBBING A LITTLE

OKAY, YOU HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR

THAT'S A LOT!

FRANK & ERNEST

I THINK THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER GOT ALL THEIR WORK DONE BY FRIDAY WAS ROBINSON CRUSOE.

BORN LOSER

BLAST IT! I DID IT AGAIN!

I HAVE THIS PROBLEM EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME...

I STILL KEEP WRITING 2023 ON ALL MY PINK SLIPS!

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

HAGAR, THAT CRACK NEEDS TO BE FIXED.

I HAVE AN IDEA!

BY DIK BROWNE

MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



"I don't know how he does it, but everyone looks happy."

GARFIELD

NOTHING I DO IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU!

WHO!

DID YOU DO SOMETHING?

I MEAN, HYPOTHETICALLY

BLONDIE

THERE'S SOMETHING GREAT ABOUT YOUR HANDS AROUND A REAL 3D, OFFLINE NEWSPAPER

TRUE!

BUT WITH THE ONLINE VERSION, I'D BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR FACE EITHER WAY, WE'RE GETTING VITAL 'MUST READ' NEWS!

AND THAT'S JUST IN THE COMICS!

RHYMES WITH ORANGE

THE HIKE

MAN, HE'S GOOD.

Talk about "being one" with everything.

MUTTS

EARL, I LOVE HIBERNATING!

LOVE IT!?! YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT A WINK YET!!!

I DON'T LOVE THAT PART.

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

Solutions — B-5

GARFIELD

NOTHING I DO IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU!

WHO!

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