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HOUSE

Finance advances \$2M bill for WVU research

BY BRAD MCELHINNY
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — The House Finance Committee advanced a bill that would provide \$2 million to West Virginia University for medical research into using ultrasound technology to treat eating disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder.

HB 5014 is sponsored by House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, who told Finance Committee members that it's "to change the lives of tens of thousands of West Virginians." The legislation would provide the money for the current fiscal year, relying on surplus funds.

Dr. Ali Rezaei, executive chairman of the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute at WVU, described research into ultrasound technology that could help with disorders like Alzheimer's disease.

"We could rapidly clear the plaques in the brain of people with Alzheimer's using this technology," he said.

Also, he said, the ultrasound technology could be used to help treat people with severe substance abuse disorders such as opioid or methamphetamine addiction. And, he said, patients with eating disorders and severe obesity could benefit from treatment through the ultrasound technology.

"We think using ultrasound in the same part of the brain, the craving part of the brain that is malfunctioning, and resetting that part, we may be able to help people with severe binge-eating disorder resulting in obesity."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has provided final approval to start, Rezaei said, and studies on the effects of ultrasound therapy on people with eating disorders could commence as soon as April or May.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is yet another potential subject for ultrasound treatment, Rezaei said.

"We have seen in our addiction

SEE HOUSE, A-2

FIRE STATION

Norwood to be a safe surrender site

BY BEN CONLEY
BConley@DominionPost.com

A lot of the improvements being made to the Morgantown Fire Department's Station 2, commonly known as the Norwood Fire Station, are things you would likely expect — updated mechanicals, improved living quarters, a new weight room/exercise area.

But the city of Morgantown is also looking to include a less obvious, but potentially life-saving feature made legal just last year in West Virginia — a baby box.

When Morgantown City Council meets for its monthly

committee of the whole meeting this evening, it will consider taking up a new section of city code designating the Norwood Fire Station as a safe surrender site for infants.

The new law would closely follow WV Code 49-4-206, which was passed into law during the 2023 legislative session. It allows the governing entity of a local fire department that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week to designate the department as a safe-surrender site to accept physical custody of a child who is 30 days old or younger from a parent.

A "newborn safety device"

will be built into the building, allowing a child to be surrendered anonymously from the outside while an alarm is triggered inside the building.

Fire personnel are to address any obvious and immediate needs of the child and begin transport to a hospital as soon as possible, but no later than 30 minutes after the child is surrendered.

The Child Protective Services Division of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services is to be contacted within two hours of the child being dropped off.

Safe surrender laws began showing up across the country starting in Texas in the late 1990s to address a rising number of babies being abandoned, often resulting in tragic consequences.

According to news reports, Marshall County EMS installed West Virginia's first baby box this past November.

Once the needed equipment is installed, the Norwood station will include signage identifying it as a safe surrender site.

"Neither of the other fire stations have been designated as

SEE NORWOOD, A-2

WALL VS. CAR AT THE JAR



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

A Monday afternoon accident at The Jar on Fairmont Road sent this car into the wall in the parking lot. Two people were in the car: Lawrence Barker, driver, and Kalina Gallagher, passenger. A K-9 police dog was brought in to search the car. State Police, Westover VFD, Mon EMS all responded.

ELECTIONS

GOP changes Primary rules for 2026

BY METRONEWS STAFF
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — The West Virginia Republican Party executive committee voted Saturday to close its Primary Election, limiting it to Republican voters only, starting in 2026. The move reverses a decision the GOP made over three decades ago to allow independent voters to participate.

The party leaders voted 65 in favor and 54 against the resolution. There are currently 287,000 independent or non-affiliated voters in West Virginia, making up 25% of all registered voters.

The debate initially divided state GOP leaders. The party's resolutions committee earlier voted 4-3 to advance a proposal to close the Primary starting with the upcoming May election. Proponents of the immediate change argued that only Republican Party members

should be allowed to decide party nominees.

Delegate Jim Butler, R-Mason, who serves on that GOP resolutions committee and voted in favor of the resolution going before the state committee, said on Talkline last week that closing the Primary would benefit "every conservative Republican" candidate.

"The more you allow independents and other non-affiliated voters to float around they will vote for candidates that have the shiniest piece of mail or best TV ad," Butler said.

Sources also said several of the most conservative Republican candidates, including attorney general and gubernatorial candidate Patrick Morrisey and representative and Senate candidate Alex Mooney, wanted the rule change to take effect this year. The belief was that more right-leaning candidates would

benefit if moderate independents could not participate.

However, those who objected to changing the rules now, including outgoing party chair Elgin McArdle, said the shift did not give the party enough time to fully inform independents before the May 14 Primary. Additionally, she said, it would change the rules for candidates who had already filed to run for office.

The party's executive committee first considered an amendment altering the resolution to reflect the rule change for 2026 instead of 2024. That passed narrowly in a secret ballot 62-58. The members next voted on the revised resolution closing the Primary starting in 2026 and it passed 65-54.

"After a lively debate, the WVGOP came together and voted to close the Primary in 2026," said McArdle.

SEE GOP, A-2

COURTS

Milford Street murder suspect waives hearing

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER
ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

The Texas man accused of stabbing 26-year-old Jacob Lough to death in his Milford Street home waived his right to a preliminary hearing scheduled for Monday morning in Monongalia County Magistrate Court.

The case against Jonathan Ramirez, 23, of Watauga, Texas, will now be transferred to Monongalia County Circuit Court, where he will face a grand jury.

Lough, an Ashburn, Va., native working for Learfield/Mountaineer Sports Properties in Morgantown, was discovered Jan. 16 by a co-worker on the floor of the Milford Street residence.

Police said Lough suffered severe stab wounds to his back, neck and head.

Detectives were able to collect several items of evidence from the scene, including several bandages and bandage wrappers.

Ramirez was allegedly seen on surveillance footage leaving Lough's vehicle at a parking lot on the downtown campus of West Virginia University.

He was then tracked via video to several locations in the downtown area, including the WVU Mountainlair. Video from the Mountainlair clearly showed his face and clothing, according to court records. The footage also showed Ramirez had bandages on his hands.

Ramirez was found Jan. 17 by officers with the University Police Department.

Police said that Ramirez had bandages covering several cuts on his hands. The cuts were said to be consistent with the severity of Lough's injuries and the ban-

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CANDIDATES

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The candidate filing period in West Virginia ended 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.

Here are the most recent candidates to file.

These statewide and area state office candidates filed with the secretary of state last week. The notation (I) indicates incumbent.

Governor
Kevin “KC” Christian, Chloe, R

Auditor
Caleb Hanna, Charleston, R

Attorney General
Teresa Toriseva, Wheeling, D

State Senate
Mike Maroney (I), Glen Dale, R, District 2

House of Delegates
David Kennedy, Fairmont, R, District 75
David McCormick, Morgantown, R, District 82 (filed Jan. 24)

Candidates who have recently filed for Monongalia County Magistrate:

Arlie Campbell — Division 4
Charles D. Hartzog — Division 3
Mark Myers — Division 6
Tonya Rachelle Rogers — Division 6
Pete Tennant — Division 3
Curt Thomas — Division 6

Candidates for have recently filed for Monongalia County Board of Education:

Ron Lytle (I) — Eastern District
Eastern District during May’s primary.
Shawn Smith — Eastern District
Christina Fattore — Eastern District

CONTACT

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

USPS 159680

VOL. 60 NO. 196

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

ARRESTS

DPNews@DominionPost.com

MON COUNTY SHERIFF

Bristol, Matthew, 39, strangulation, Jan. 27, Deputy French.

Sanders, Jason Michael, 34, fleeing with reckless indifference, Jan. 28, Deputy Rose.

Burke, Victoria Breeann, 39, possession, Jan. 26, Deputy Gmitter.

Gallagher, Jonathan, 23, domestic battery, Jan. 27, Deputy Mongold.

Groom, John Patrick, domestic assault, Jan. 26, Deputy Martin Jr.

Moats, Richard William, 44, domestic assault, Jan. 28, Deputy Thompson.

MORGANTOWN POLICE

Wiley, William H., 86, two counts sexual abuse by a parent, guardian, or custodian, two counts first degree sexual assault, 1985-92, Officer Forsythe.

Keith, Jordan L., 19, possession, Jan. 26, Officer Mayle.

WESTOVER POLICE

Chase, Hayden PG, 21, possession with intent, Jan. 27, Officer Carver.

Christopher, Heidi Danielle, 30, domestic battery, Jan. 27, Officer Scott.

STATE POLICE

Johnson, Kalie Marie, 29, possession, no proof of vehicle insurance, unsafe and improperly equipped vehicle, Jan. 26, Trooper Anglin.

DUI RELATED

Demidovich, Chasity N., 43, driving while license revoked for DUI, Jan. 28, Deputy Greenawalt.

Hicks, Ralph, 49, driving while license revoked for DUI, Jan. 27, Trooper Anglin.

Hernandez, Pedro, 33, DUI, Jan. 28, Deputy Gmitter.

Knowlton, Barbara Ann, 59, DUI, Jan. 27, Deputy Gmitter.

Paugh, Jared A., 22, DUI, Jan. 29, Deputy Gmitter.

Tritchler, James A., 34, DUI, Jan. 26, Trooper Anglin.

GOP

FROM PAGE A-1

Butler said after the vote Saturday that the party still encouraged non-affiliated voters to support Republicans in May.

“Republicans agree to invite independent and unaffiliated voters to continue to vote for the great candidates in the Republican Primary for the next two years,” Butler said. “We also would like to invite all voters to switch to the Republican Party now and certainly before 2026 so they can continue to help us implement great public policies for everyone in West Virginia.”

The state Democratic Party has made no similar move to close its Primary.

The committee also unanimously passed a resolution encouraging Republican Primary voters to “carefully research candidates and nominate true conservatives in May.” That appeared to be aimed at secretary of state candidate Doug Skaff, and any other candidate who has recently switched from the Democratic to the Republican Party.

In addition, the party leaders elected Wood County businessman Matt Herridge as the new party chair, succeeding McArdle.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY 287,000 INDEPENDENT OR NON-AFFILIATED VOTERS IN WEST VIRGINIA, MAKING UP 25% OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS.

NORWOOD

FROM PAGE A-1

safe surrender sites yet, but city administration sees the intrinsic value in providing a safe and legal alternative to abandoning newborns,” Assistant City

HOUSE

FROM PAGE A-1

population that PTSD symptoms can be dramatically reduced with anxiety and stress using this technology, so we want to explore a second study with the FDA looking at veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder.”

Delegates on the committee asked how the dollars would be used.

Rezaei responded that coordinators would have to be hired for the FDA trials, along with meeting other expenses like scans, brain imaging and blood tests. “Those are all very expensive, and that takes money

SENATE

State would increase tax to address Medicaid gap

BY BRAD MCELHINNY
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — West Virginia faces a \$114 million Medicaid gap along with a proposal to fill it, but the Senate Finance chairman is concerned about financial consequences down the line.

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that helps cover medical costs for some people with limited incomes and resources.

For the coming fiscal year, West Virginia faces a gap estimated at \$114 million due to a range of factors.

When state officials aim to keep the general revenue budget relatively flat, a \$114 million cost increase could be a big deal.

One factor causing the funding gap has been attributed to adjustments to the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage, a multiplier often referred

to by the acronym FMAP.

For every dollar the state spends on Medicaid, the federal government matches at a rate that varies year to year. The ratio provides higher reimbursement to states with lower per capita incomes relative to the national average. In recent years, the federal match for West Virginia has been favorable, but as West Virginia has gained financial health the rate will lower.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the state benefited from an additional 6.2% FMAP but that is now going away.

Additional financial factors include an “unwinding” of pandemic-era enhanced eligibility standards, rising prescription drug costs and more.

To deal with the increased state expenses, officials are proposing an increase in the fee that Medicaid charges managed care organizations.

So West Virginia would increase the fee, then pay the state’s increased share to providers and then put in for reimbursement from the federal government at the increased level.

“If we change the tiered tax rate and we certainly have modeling of that, it will have a significant impact on the net state revenue to fund the state share of Medicaid expenses,” Cynthia Persily, secretary for the Department of Human Services told senators Monday.

If state officials would happen to reject that proposal, another option would be a straight supplemental appropriation of \$114 million.

The Medicaid gap was one of many subjects discussed during a long Monday budget hearing for the state Department of Health and the state Department of Human Services, two agencies that split from the prior DHHR.

COURTS

FROM PAGE A-1

dages were like those recovered as evidence at the crime scene.

According to his obituary, Lough was a sports enthusiast who graduated from WVU with a master’s

degree in sports management. He was known for his warm and genuine smile, caring heart, big hugs, loyalty to friends and family and his fun-loving personality.

His life was celebrated by family and friends over the weekend as he was laid

to rest near his Virginia home.

Ramirez, who is charged with first-degree murder, continues to be held at North Central Regional Jail without bond. If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

building located at the corner of Sabraton Avenue and Hillcrest Street became a home to the department in July 1949, when Morgantown annexed the city of Sabraton.

It is currently undergoing renovations previously

estimated at just over \$1.7 million.

According to the city, firefighters will likely return to Norwood from their temporary home at the Morgantown Municipal Airport in the next four to six weeks.

committee that he’s excited about the research potential.

“Our long-term goal is to perfect these things in Morgantown, and we built a network of hospitals that can spread it across the state,” Wright said. “Or we can do this in our regional hubs — the Charlestons, the Wheelings, the Martinsburgs, you name it. That’s our long-term goal.”

Delegate John Williams, D-Monongalia, expressed enthusiasm for the potential.

“This is fantastic. This is huge stuff that’s happening in Morgantown,” he said. “This is investment. We can show what’s possible by

giving money to our research institutions.

“And so when we give this \$2 million today, let’s not forget the impact it will have and let’s keep that in mind when we have similar options to appropriate money to our research institutions.”

Delegate Matthew Rohrbach, R-Cabell, also described the move as an economic development investment.

“Don’t think of this as just medical research,” said Rohrbach, who is the deputy speaker and a physician. “This is an investment in the business capacity of our state.”

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

The bill referred to in the Sunday letter to the editor “Remove the spousal exemption to sex abuse” is SB 190, sponsored by Sens. Weld, Deeds, Trump and Woelfel.

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INVESTIGATION

Mon sheriff's dept. seeks missing man

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The Monongalia County Sheriff's Department is asking for help locating a man reportedly missing since Saturday.

Larry Napper, 34, is described as a white male who is 5-foot-10 tall and weighs approximately 120 pounds. He has short brown hair, a short brown beard and brown eyes.

He was last seen wearing a black Under Armour hooded sweatshirt, gray sweat pants and a red hat.

He was last seen around mid-

night Saturday in the 600 block of Cheat Road, which is the area near the former Tiberio's restaurant location. The last phone communication with him was a few hours later, around 5 a.m. At that time, he said he was going to the docks in Granville.

No other information is available at this time.

If anyone knows Napper's current whereabouts, or had or has contact with him, call MECCA 911 or the Monongalia County Sheriff's Office at 304-291-7260.



Larry Napper was last seen around midnight on Saturday. Anyone with information should contact the Monongalia County Sheriff's Department at 304-291-7260.

Submitted photo

COMMENTARY



ALDONA BIRD

Giving ultra processed food the boot

MOST HUMANS EAT MOSTLY PROCESSED FOOD. Ultra processed, though, is another category.

The simplified definition of "ultra processed" is food containing ingredients not found in your kitchen. Such tend to be synthetic, or so highly processed that they depart far from their original forms and are not great for our bodies.

Shortly after the new year, my sister Lina cut ultra processed food from her diet.

Always conscious of limiting junk food, Lina cooks from scratch. I didn't think this resolve would make much difference in her habits. I figured I'd check in to ask what had changed.

"It was kind of funny — it was things that I wouldn't have considered part of our regular diet," she said.

Crackers, store-bought bread and frozen meals were culprits. "You think you're fine, because you're buying the health food versions of things ... but they still meet the definition of the ultra processed food," Lina said.

She hadn't considered frozen meals a big part of her diet. But paying more attention, Lina found "we actually do go through them with some regularity." This tends to happen midweek, when one evening of being tired and reaching for a frozen meal cascades into no leftovers for next day's lunch and thus another meal with undesirable ingredients.

Eliminating prepared frozen meals has required Lina to cook dinner even when she's tired — but she said it makes her feel more energetic in the end.

"If you say it [ultra processed food] is unacceptable, you find ways around it. You make extra food and freeze it." At work she had emergency bowls of ramen in case she forgot her lunch (Subway was her other option). This month she substituted a loaf of acceptable bread, peanut butter and honey to stash at work. "Once you have those systems set up, it's not so hard any more."

We talked a bit about how ultra processed ingredients are sometimes hard to spot — a lot of vegetable oils are ultra processed. Flours are enriched — so this is a tricky one for a purist about ultra-processing.

The rise in gluten-free baking has added ultra-processed gums and starches to ingredients, as well as making them common in many kitchens.

"It's a little bit funny, because there are things in our kitchen that you wouldn't find in most other people's," Lina said. "For a lot of people, calcium hydroxide would not be something you'd find in most kitchens." The common name is pickling lime, which she uses to process corn into traditional masa.

She also has citric acid, part of a cheese-making kit. "It is technically in my kitchen. But if something has citric acid, it is probably more processed than I want," Lina said.

After just a month (of not being totally perfect on this diet), her cravings for sweets and other junk food have decreased a bit. Her food bill has also decreased (making healthy snacks and convenience foods is cheaper than buying), and she has wasted less fresh food.

Lina said social situations are the most difficult.

I asked Lina if it has been worth it. "You can't be absolutely perfect 100% of the time. But it's worth it to try 99.9% of the time," Lina said.

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

LESSEN YOUR LITTER



Submitted photo

Suncrest Middle School winner from left to right: David Custer, MCSWA board member; Eldon A. Callen, MCSWA board member; Mrs. Gregory, science teacher; Anna Haynie; Mumayyaz Tazmeen Alam; Zahra Abbas; Ava M.; Kennedy Godfrey; Adalyn Carpenter-Bowen; Mrs. Pinn, science teacher; Emily MooreMichael McCawley, MCSWA board member; JoAnn Snoderly, DEP YEP District 1 coordinator.



Submitted photo

Mountaineer Middle School winner, from left to right: Eldon A. Callen, MCSWA board member; Mr. Welker, teacher; winner Brayden Rickman; and Michael McCawley, MCSWA board member. Below, the back cover of the calendar.

Mon County Solid Waste Authority Calendar Contest winners announced

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Last year the Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority (MCSWA) introduced a Reduce Waste initiative.

The initiative included the 2023 "Take the Reduce Waste Pledge," with 58 residents participating, began with two articles about "12 Tips to Reduce Waste Going to the Landfill" and "How to Reduce Food Waste" (both can be found as blog posts on its website) and ended with the 2024 "How Do You Reduce Waste?" 12-month calendar.

The MCSWA partnered with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Youth Environmental Program's District 1 Coordinator JoAnn Snoderly to develop a student lesson opportunity and calendar contest.

Monongalia County teachers from Eastwood Elementary, Mountaineer Middle and Suncrest Middle schools registered for the "How Do You Reduce Waste?" lesson. Students created artwork to show how they would reduce waste. Artwork from 175 students was submitted for the MCSWA calendar con-

test. Eight winners were selected with one student's artwork also chosen for the cover.

The winners from Suncrest and Mountaineer Middle are Zahra Abbas, Mumayyaz Tazmeen Alam, Adalyn Carpenter-Bowen, Kennedy Godfrey, Anna Haynie, Emily Moore, Ava M. and Brayden Rickman.

The calendar includes the winning artwork with ways to reduce waste, "12-tips to Reduce Waste, Collection Events and More!" The calendar theme of "How Do You Reduce Waste?" is an opportunity to continue to focus these efforts into 2024 to reduce waste going to the landfill. Beginning this month, residents will see tips 1-3: "Wait," "Repair" (including Scott's Run Resonance Project's Repair Café on Feb. 10) and "Borrow, Lend, Give." Visit the website to check out the winning artwork, order a copy for free, while supplies last, or to print a copy.

To learn more follow the SWA on its website, social media accounts or subscribe to the e-newsletter at monongaliacounty.org.



GUEST EDITORIAL

Tentative CTC deal would help working families and the economy

It isn't often that a shift in federal tax policy has an immediate, positive and widespread impact on America's struggling working families. And it's perhaps even more rare in today's fractious political environment that both parties can get together to make that happen.

Yet it appears Congress is headed toward exactly that kind of breakthrough with a plan to revive the Biden administration's pandemic-era child tax credits — a brief policy that ushered in an unprecedented reduction in child poverty levels before it was allowed to expire two years ago. Bringing it back would help both working families and the broader economy.

The child tax credit as applied prior to its pandemic expansion provided taxpayers with children up to \$2,000 off their tax bills. But the credit wasn't fully "refundable," meaning lower-income families that paid little or nothing in taxes couldn't fully access it.

The result was a tilt in benefits toward the wealthy. The Brookings Institute estimated that prior to its pandemic expansion, about 40% of the child tax credit benefits went to households with incomes above \$100,000, with only about 15% of those benefits going to households with under \$30,000 income.

The Biden administration's American Rescue Plan in 2021 boosted the child tax credit to a maximum of \$3,600 and — crucially — made it fully refundable, meaning families that earned too little to owe taxes still received the full benefit.

The results were epic. The policy ushered in a record low in America's child-poverty level, to just 5.2%. When Congress allowed the expanded tax credit to expire at the end of 2021, that rate shot back up above 12%.

The current measure would restore the fully refundable tax credits (though at lower levels than the earlier boost) and would revive some expired Trump administration business tax cuts.

Co-sponsored by Missouri Republican Rep. Jason Smith, who chairs the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, the \$78 billion proposal has about as much bipartisan muscle behind it as anything pending in Washington these days.

The White House supports the legislation. Smith's committee last week passed the measure overwhelmingly and it's expected to be taken up by the full House in the coming weeks.

Putting money in the pockets of families that have unmet needs will spur more economic activity than the GOP's discredited supply-side strategy of coddling the wealthy.

And more to the point: Raising children is the most important — and expensive — thing most Americans will ever do. That burden is especially acute for lower-income working families. America's tax code should permanently recognize that reality.

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

What Brazilian butt lifts and boogers can teach us about book bans

TOBY PRICE, AN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN MISSISSIPPI, WAS FIRED FROM HIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LAST YEAR FOR READING THE CHILDREN'S BOOK "I NEED A NEW BUTT." In this silly story, a boy discovers "a crack" in his butt and sets off on an imaginative journey to find a new butt because he's convinced that his butt is "broken."

As the publisher of a children's book about a little boy who loves to eat his boogers, I have grown accustomed to receiving occasional feedback from husbands who took my booger book, "Gross Greg," home to elated children and the chagrin of their unsuspecting wives. You don't need to be married to understand that there are certain things that a person never wants to hear from a spouse, like "Did you read this book before giving it to our child?"

Regardless of how you feel about butts or boogers, anyone who has spent a significant amount of time teaching or raising young kids understands how powerful potty humor can be. The more a topic, story or situation grosses out adults, the more it excites and intrigues children, especially boys. Throughout human history, humor and stories have made awkward, uncomfortable, and important conversations possible and accessible. Unfortunately, the rise in book bans is making these conversations more difficult. In just half of the 2022-23 academic year, 874 unique titles were banned in schools. Kids' enjoyment and intrinsic motivation to read are often ignored once a title or topic has been deemed inappropriate by adults.

The mass protests once required to remove a single children's book from a school or library have been replaced with outspoken individuals and new policies yielding lists of "undesirable" titles generated by artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT, Google searches and religious or political groups. Some parents and activists ironically champion free speech while simultaneously embracing the undemocratic removal of titles from public schools and

libraries — sometimes without advanced notice or under the cover of night as well as through more public means. Under the guise of "protecting children," adults increasingly interject their culture wars and personal preferences into education policy and book curation while the documented negative impacts of social media content goes unchecked.

In our brave new world of Instagram models and influencers, research has linked social media use to harmful effects on the self-worth and body image of adolescents and young adults. Cultural trends popularized on social media have contributed to an increase in cosmetic surgeries such as Brazilian butt lifts, which have an estimated global mortality rate of one in 20,000 annually with south Florida standing out as America's hotbed. (Eight women died there in 2021 alone from a fat embolism after a BBL.)

Despite these alarming statistics, some people think educators should be fired for reading a story that uses humor to teach children that the butt they have is OK. Much like the students I taught as a New York City kindergarten and first grade teacher, the comedian in me (I have performed stand-up comedy for the past 14 years) finds humor in adults' uneasiness with the universally gross, but also in normal (child) behavior of playing with boogers and laughing at potty humor. Something being normal doesn't make it good, but something not being good doesn't mean it shouldn't be discussed. We all knew a gross kid in school or you may have been that kid. How did you interact with the gross kid, if at all, or how did other students interact with

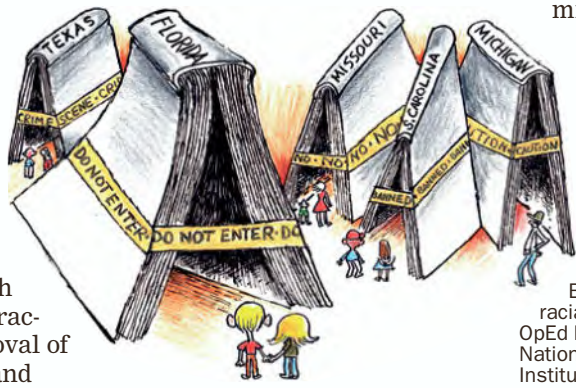
you? Helping children overcome their fears, biases and insecurities cultivates the empathy needed for them to appreciate the differences of others in school and later in life.

Banning books deemed too silly, too gross, too this or too that, robs children of an opportunity to understand themselves and each other in holistic ways that recognize their full humanity, diverse lived experiences and individuality. Ignoring students' interests and reading preferences creates small, warped windows that limit who and what they see and presents children with distorted circus mirrors that only allow them to see the parts of themselves or the world that adults prefer. We don't give kids enough credit for the herculean effort required to be motivated to read content that isn't personally meaningful, relevant or engaging — and many aren't as evidenced by the increasing number of American children who do not read for fun.

When speaking to teachers, librarians and parents about my booger book, I start the conversation with a funny quote from the book: "You call them boogers, but Greg calls them delicious little sugars." After the initial chuckle that usually ensues, I share that if the only thing children learn from Gross Greg is that reading is fun, that's OK with me because it is arguably one of the most important lessons any child can learn.

You can read another article, put down your phone or turn off your monitor, but the youngest and most vulnerable children have no money to buy books, can't travel to a library alone and have little to no access to books outside of school. Book bans, whether they be institutional policies or the everyday minimizing of children's reading choices, remind us that the stories, voices and ideas that inspire young kids to read are not guaranteed and must be protected — even the booger and the butt books.

ALVIN IRBY is founder and executive director at Barbershop Books and a public voices fellow on racial justice in early childhood of The OpEd Project in partnership with the National Black Child Development Institute.



The 2024 election just might turn on ... climate change?

IF YOU WERE FORCED TO GUESS THE ONE POLITICAL ISSUE THAT WILL DECIDE THE 2024 US ELECTION BASED ON SHEER VOLUME OF NEWS COVERAGE, YOU MIGHT PICK INFLATION OR IMMIGRATION. Maybe plagiarism. Or Taylor Swift's Kansas City Chiefs fandom — almost anything, in fact, besides climate change.

And yet a recent study suggests anxiety about global warming might be what kept Donald Trump from a second term in the White House in 2020, and it could deny him again this year. As far-fetched as that sounds, it's a reminder, at least, that support for the climate fight runs deeper in this country than many — especially Republican leaders — might think.

It is true that roughly two-thirds of Americans worry about and want solutions to an increasingly chaotic climate. But those same Americans consistently rank that issue well below the economy, health care, crime and

about a dozen other anxieties. Just 2% of respondents in a recent Gallup poll considered climate change the biggest issue facing the U.S.

But a new analysis of polling data by the University of Colorado at Boulder's Center for Social and Environmental Futures (C-SEF) suggests the climate issue gave Democrats a 3% edge in the popular vote in 2020, more than enough to swing the election to President Joe Biden.

The researchers admit they're "cautious and circumspect" about that specific number, which they call "unavoidably speculative." But evidence for some kind of political edge is compelling.

Poll after poll reflect broad, if not deep, public concern about the climate and a desire for action. And Democrats, as the only political party professing to even believe the problem exists, have a huge advantage over

Republicans on the issue. They topped the GOP by 26 points on climate in a recent ABC News/Ipsos poll, bigger than their advantage on health care or abortion, and far bigger than the GOP's edge on immigration or crime.

How could this translate into actual hard numbers on voting day, when all those other issues get so much more oxygen? The C-SEF researchers didn't come up with any answers, but they suggested a candidate's views on climate could be a signal of basic competence: Voters "may question the broader judgment of a candidate who does not acknowledge climate change as an issue, and they may assign such a candidate lower trust on other issues," the researchers wrote.

It's also possible that voters are starting to realize climate change has a growing impact on the economy, public health, immigration

and more. This will only grow more apparent, and more salient as a political issue, as the planet warms. The world just ended the hottest year in human history, a record that may be broken in 2024, threatening more heat waves, droughts, floods, wildfires and other disasters.

Trump and his fellow Republicans, meanwhile, just keep embracing the paleolithic "drill baby drill" denialism of a bygone age. In his first term, Trump pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, rolled back environmental regulations, unleashed oil and gas drilling and more. He and his supporters apparently don't think he went nearly far enough. Politico reports his advisers have plans for "an all-out war on climate science and policies" if he retakes the White House.

Even former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, the GOP's

paragon of climate seriousness according to some, has called Biden's massive climate bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, a "communist manifesto" and vowed to "repeal Biden's green energy handouts" — though most of those benefits go to Republican-run states. Two-thirds of Americans support the IRA, according to a recent poll. Haley, in contrast, couldn't crack 20% in Iowa's caucuses.

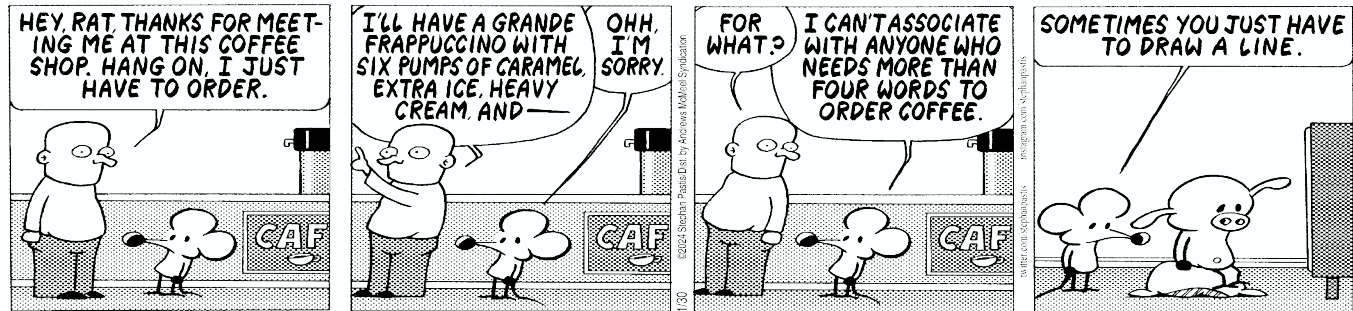
Denialist rhetoric may turn on hard-core Republican primary voters. But it risks turning off almost every other constituency in a general election, including younger Republicans who increasingly want their party to get serious about the climate. It's not just good policy; it's good politics to boot.

MARK GONGLOFF is a Bloomberg Opinion editor and columnist covering climate change. He previously worked for Fortune.com, the Huffington Post and the Wall Street Journal.

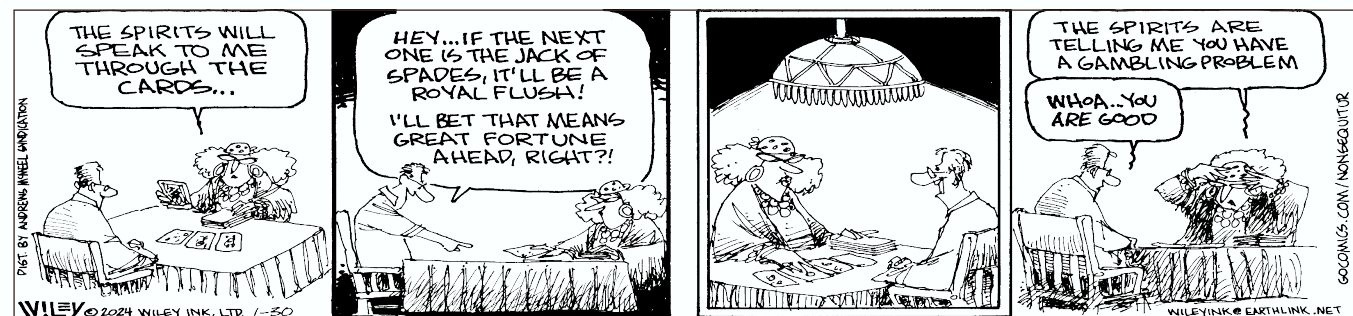
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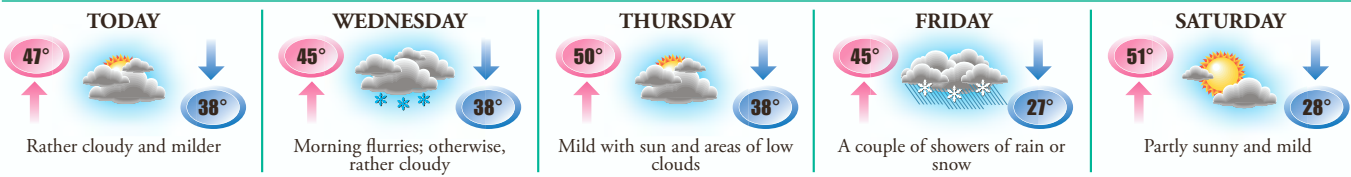
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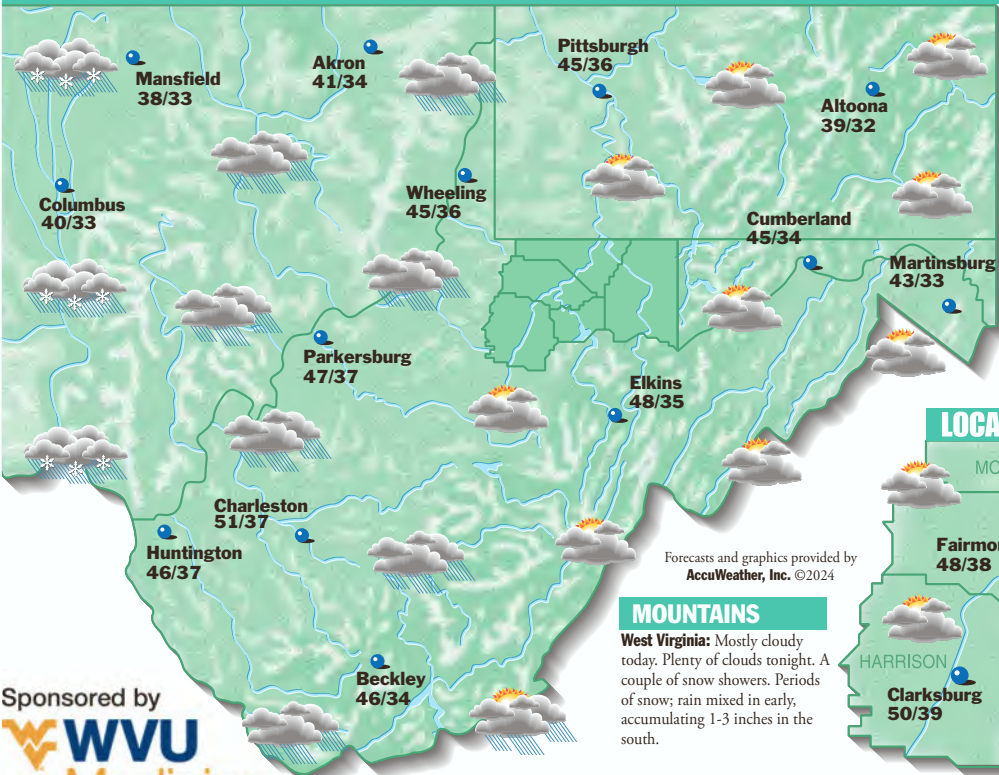
BY STEPHAN PASTIS

BY WILEY

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



Sponsored by WVU Medicine

ALMANAC

Morgantown through 4 p.m. Monday

Temperature	38°/33°
High/low	39°/20°
Normal high/low	79° in 1914
Record low	-12° in 1963
Precipitation	0.30"
24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Monday	4.91"
Month to date	4.91"
Year to date	4.91"

SUN AND MOON

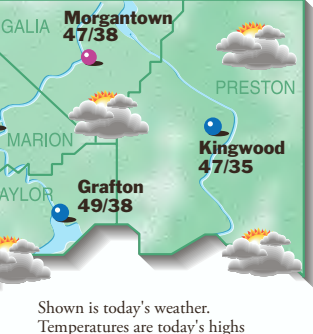
Sunrise today	7:30 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:37 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:27 p.m.
Moonset today	9:56 a.m.

SUN AND MOON

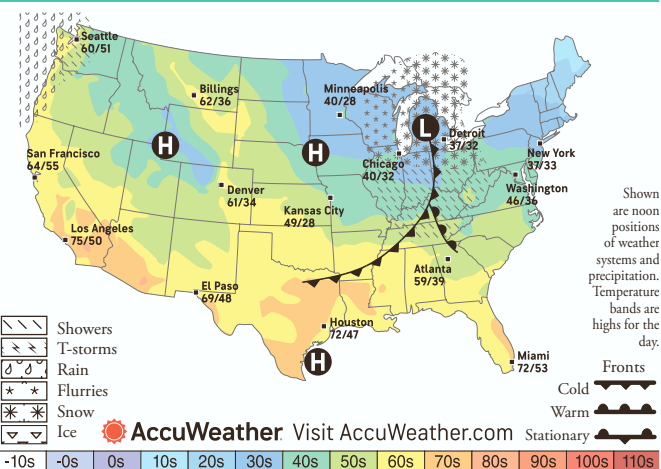
Phase and date of the sun and moon.

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

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



SKI CONDITIONS

Table with 4 columns: Ski Area, New snow (in), Base (in), Trails Open.

Ski Area	New snow (in)	Base (in)	Trails Open
Canaan Valley	1	25-47	21
Seven Springs, PA	1	18-18	30
Snowshoe/Silver Creek	1	0-45	59
Timberline Four Seasons	1	30-70	20
Wisp, MD	0	18-20	21

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 4 columns: City, Tues. Hi/Lo/W, Wed. Hi/Lo/W.

City	Tues. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Beckley, WV	46/34/sh	39/30/sn
Charleston, WV	51/37/sh	45/35/sf
Columbus, OH	40/33/sn	40/33/sf
Cumberland, MD	45/34/c	44/36/sn
Fairmont, WV	48/38/c	46/35/sf
Grafton, WV	49/38/c	45/36/sf
Huntington, WV	46/37/sh	45/33/c
Kingwood, WV	47/35/c	42/32/sf
Preston, WV	45/36/c	45/34/sf
Wheeling, WV	45/36/c	45/34/sf

SOLAR TABLES

Table with 4 columns: Major, Minor, Major, Minor. Five-day forecast indicates peak feeding times for fish and game.

Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Tue.: 2:38 a.m.	8:48 a.m.	2:58 p.m.	9:07 p.m.
Wed.: 3:22 a.m.	9:32 a.m.	3:41 p.m.	9:51 p.m.
Thu.: 4:49 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	5:11 p.m.	11:22 p.m.
Fri.: 5:34 a.m.	11:47 a.m.	5:59 p.m.	11:59 p.m.

LAKE AND RIVERS

Table with 4 columns: Lake, 7 a.m. Yest., 24-hour Change.

Lake	7 a.m. Yest.	24-hour Change
Cheat Lake	869.58	-0.31
Deep Creek, MD	2458.82	+0.23
Jennings Randolph	1463.62	+5.65
Stonewall Jackson	1069.18	+0.59
Tygart	1067.97	+2.04
Youghiogheny	1435.73	+3.75

River Stages

Monongahela	Fld.	Prs.	Chg.
Morgantown	22	12.46	+1.92

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2024. There are 336 days left in the year.

Highlight:

In 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

On this date:

In 1649, England's King Charles I was executed for high treason.

In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, 78, was shot and killed in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu extremist.

In 1968, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese towns and cities.

In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot and killed by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 2005, Iraqis voted in their country's first free election in a half-century; President George W. Bush called the balloting a resounding success.

In 2006, Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, at age 78.

In 2020, health officials reported the first known case in which the new coronavirus was spread from one person to another in the United States.

Today's birthdays:

Actor Gene Hackman is 94. Actor Vanessa Redgrave is 87. Actor Christian Bale is 50.

Son's choices as grown-up draw fire from his father

DEAR ABBY: I am the father of an adult son, "Kirk," who is in a relationship with a younger woman who has a young child. Neither is well educated, but they both have decent jobs.

When he told me she was pregnant, I was beyond livid and let him know what a mistake this was. I told Kirk he owns nothing nor does she, and asked what that baby has to look forward to. His girlfriend receives no support from her child's father.

My son has now stopped talking to me. Is this my fault? — SEES A MISTAKE IN FLORIDA

DEAR SEES: While your comment was true, the girlfriend is already pregnant.

Financially, Kirk will be on the hook until his child becomes an adult, whether or not he marries the mother, so I'm thinking what you said was neither helpful nor kind. If you want a relationship with your son, it may be time to apologize.

DEAR ABBY: I am a lesbian who has been in a relationship for a year and a half. My partner was with men the majority of her life. One of her last exes is someone she now calls her best friend. She



JEANNE PHILLIPS

talks with and texts him every day. I now have trust issues with them because of something I saw four months ago. I knew when I was first getting involved with her that he was going to be in her life. She also hides things from me, like when she buys him gifts.

How do I handle the jealousy I feel for him? I can't stand to be around him, because I know in my gut there is deception. But I don't want to lose all the good I have with her. — THREE'S A CROWD IN VIRGINIA

DEAR THREE'S A CROWD: What does "all the good you have with her" entail? What I gather from your letter is that you have spent a year and a half with someone who is bisexual, whom you don't completely trust, and who makes you feel like a third wheel.

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

TV LISTINGS

Table with 24 columns: Time slots from 1:30/24 to 11:30. Rows include Broadcast Channels, Cable Channels, and Movie Channels.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

WVU will honor Carey in his return to Coliseum



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Mike Carey (left) spent 21 years as WVU's women's basketball coach and he won 462 games with the Mountaineers.

Sports@DominionPost.com

Mike Carey will be in an unusual position inside the Coliseum today:

The visitor's bench. Now an assistant coach with UCF (10-8, 1-7 Big 12), which visits No. 23 WVU at 7 p.m. tonight, Carey spent 21 years as the Mountaineers' head coach before stepping down after the 2021-22 season.

He will be recognized prior to tip-off for his contributions to the program, which included 11 trips to the NCAA tournament and a Big 12 tournament championship in 2017.

WVU (17-2, 6-2) traveled to UCF earlier this season and came away with a 76-59 victory.

"I had never met coach Carey, but I did talk to him before that game and shook his hand," WVU head coach Mark Kellogg said. "I thanked him for what he did here. He was here for a while. To be here 20-plus years, as a basketball coach that's a long time. You talk

UCF at (23) WVU

WHEN: 7 p.m. today
WHERE: WVU Coliseum
TV: ESPN+ (Online subscription needed)
RADIO: 100.9 JACK-FM
WEB: dominionpost.com

about longevity like that, it means he did something really special here.

"When you come back for the first time, I can only imagine the emotion he'll feel. I think we owe it to him for that. His imprint here will last a lifetime."

The Mountaineers have won four in a row and are in third place in the Big 12 standings, while the Knights are coming of their first-ever Big 12 victory, but lost seven straight before that.

The Knights feature two players who are averaging double-digit scoring this season in Kaitlyn Peterson (21.5) and Mya

Burns (10.2). The pair each average 4.4 rebounds per game while Peterson's points per game lead all players in the Big 12.

WVU is coming off an 84-78 victory against Iowa State, in which guard J.J. Quinerly scored a careerhigh 31 points. It was the second time Quinerly reached the 30-point mark this season.

Quinerly (19.2), sophomore guard Jordan Harrison (14.2) and fifth-year guard Lauren Fields (10.5) pace WVU's offensive effort. Quinerly is the fourth-leading scorer in the conference.

The Mountaineers have the top four steal leaders in the Big 12 with Quinerly (3.4), Harrison (2.7), Fields (2.4) and junior Kyah Watson (2.2). Harrison has racked up 108 assists this season and is averaging 5.7 per contest which is the second-best in the Big 12.

West Virginia averages 14.9 steals per game and is forcing 24.9 turnovers per game, the second-most in the nation.

WVU FOOTBALL

Cabral named coach of outside linebackers

BY CODY NESPOR
CNespor@DominionPost.com

West Virginia football coach Neal Brown has filled one of two vacancies on his staff, announcing the hiring of new outside linebackers coach Victor Cabral on Monday.

Cabral, 42, comes to Morgantown following a one-year stint as defensive line coach at Appalachian State.

"I would like to welcome Victor, his wife, Erin, and their family to West Virginia University and Mountaineer football," Brown said in a statement. "I have a lot of respect for him having coached and recruited against him. He brings contagious positive energy, is a proven developer of pass rushers and is an effective recruiter."

Prior to his year at App State, Cabral had three separate stints as an assistant at Georgia Southern, his alma mater, as well as stops at Georgia Military and Samford. WVU will be his first Power 5 job.

"Thanks to coach Neal Brown and vice president and director of athletics Wren Baker for giving me the opportunity to join the coaching staff at West Virginia," Cabral said. "I am excited to become a part of Mountaineer football. This program has a long and successful history with a lot of tradition, and I have a lot of respect for the state of West Virginia, its people and their values. I look forward to working with (defensive coordinator) Jordan (Lesley), the coaching staff and the players."

App State went 9-5 last season, winning the Sun Belt East Division title and defeating Miami (Oh.) in the Cure Bowl.

The team saw big gains in its pass rush with Cabral, recording 35 sacks and 87 tackles for loss last season, up from 29 and 69.5 in 2022.

Cabral will lead a relatively inexperience group of outside

SEE CABRAL, B-2

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

MHS heading to OVAC finals

Sadaya Jones leads Mohigans with 23 points

BY CODY NESPOR
CNespor@DominionPost.com

Most basketball games aren't decided in the first 10 minutes. When those 10 minutes include one team making a 20-2 run, however, the outcome really starts to come into focus.

That was the case Monday when Morgantown (12-4), losers of three straight and four of their last six, opened the game on a 20-2 run against visiting Parkersburg South (10-6) in an OVAC 5A semifinal matchup en route to a 61-46 victory.

"That was our biggest goal," MHS coach Doug Goodwin said. "We feel we've been really slow to start in the first quarter and (Monday) we wanted to come out and be more aggressive."

After falling to Wheeling Park last Tuesday, Morgantown dropped a pair of contests to schools from Kentucky over the weekend, resulting in the team's worst stretch in a num-

SEE MOHIGANS, B-2



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Morgantown High guard Sofia Wassick (right) drives to the basket against Parkersburg South on Monday.



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Trinity guard Jenna Barnett (1) defends the ball against Conotton Valley (Ohio) on Monday.

Barnett, Lynch lead Trinity to OVAC final

BY MARK SCHRAF
Sports@DominionPost.com

The backcourt duo of Jenna Barnett and Ella Lynch led the Trinity girls' basketball team to the OVAC tournament title game with a 65-42 victory against Conotton Valley (Ohio) on Monday.

They did not do it alone, though.

Both seniors were held scoreless in the third quarter, which is when the Warriors' complemen-

tary scoring and contributions from underclassmen, especially athletic freshman Peyton Moore.

The Warriors (11-4) roared out of the gate, hitting their first four shots — three 3-pointers and a turnover lay-up — and forced several turnovers with energetic defensive pressure to take a quick 11-0 lead and a 20-7 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

The young Rockets (8-9) kept Trinity within reach by leaning

SEE TRINITY, B-2

CONNECT

SPORTS EDITOR: **Cody Nespor** 304-291-9410

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SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
University at Morgantown, 7:30 p.m.
Paden City at Trinity Christian, 7:30 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
Liberty at Preston, 7:30 p.m.
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
UCF at West Virginia, 7 p.m.

ON TV

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
6:30 p.m.: SECN — South Carolina at Tennessee
7 p.m.: ACCN — Syracuse at Boston College
BTN — Iowa at Indiana
CBSSN — VCU at St. Bonaventure
ESPN — North Carolina at Georgia Tech
ESPN2 — Texas Tech at TCU
FS1 — Marquette at Villanova
PEACOCK — Illinois at Ohio St.
8:30 p.m.: SECN — Mississippi St. at Mississippi
9 p.m.: ACCN — Louisville at Clemson
CBSSN — San Diego St. at Colorado St.
ESPN — Oklahoma St. at Kansas
ESPN2 — Miami at NC State
FS1 — Seton Hall at DePaul
PEACOCK — Michigan at Michigan St.
11 p.m.: ESPN — Loyola Marymount at Gonzaga
FS1 — Fresno St. at UNLV
MEN’S COLLEGE HOCKEY
6:30 p.m.: ESPNU — Boston U. at Northeastern
NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.: TNT — Indiana at Boston
10 p.m.: TNT — Philadelphia at Golden State
NHL HOCKEY
8 p.m.: NHLN — Columbus at St. Louis
MEN’S SOCCER
2:45 p.m.: FS2 — CONMEBOL U-23 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage: Uruguay vs. Peru, Group B
3:15 p.m.: USA — Premier League: Newcastle United at Aston Villa
5:45 p.m.: FS2 — CONMEBOL U-23 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage: Chile vs. Argentina, Group B
TENNIS
6 a.m.: TENNIS — Hua Hin-WTA, Montpellier-ATP Early Rounds
1 p.m.: TENNIS — Montpellier-ATP Early Rounds

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The AP Top 25			
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.			
	Record	Pts	Prv
1. UConn (48)	18-2	1559	1
2. Purdue (14)	19-2	1517	2
3. North Carolina	17-3	1441	3
4. Houston (11)	18-2	1396	4
5. Tennessee	15-4	1328	5
6. Wisconsin	16-4	1135	13
7. Duke	15-4	1066	12
8. Kansas	16-4	1051	7
9. Marquette	15-5	1025	14
10. Kentucky	15-4	1018	6
11. Arizona	15-5	915	9
12. Iowa St.	16-4	869	23
13. Creighton	16-5	741	17
14. Illinois	15-5	717	10
15. Texas Tech	16-3	713	20
16. Auburn	16-4	631	8
17. Utah St.	18-2	596	18
18. Baylor	14-5	404	15
19. New Mexico	17-3	387	25
20. FAU	17-4	321	22
21. Dayton	16-3	294	16
22. BYU	15-5	283	21
23. Oklahoma	15-5	247	11
24. Alabama	14-6	240	1
25. TCU	15-5	215	-
Others receiving votes: South Carolina 108, San Diego St. 95, Memphis 48, Northwestern 32, Mississippi 30, Texas 10, Colorado St. 10, Saint Mary's 9, Indiana St. 5, Boise St. 5, Richmond 4, Gonzaga 4, Virginia 3, McNeese St. 2, Appalachian St. 1.			
USA Today Top 25			
The USA TODAY Sports Top 25 men's basketball poll, with first-place votes received in parenthesis, team's records, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th and ranking in last week's final poll:			
	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut (23)	18-2	766	1
2. Purdue (8)	19-2	746	2
3. North Carolina	17-3	710	3
4. Houston	18-2	680	4
5. Tennessee	15-4	638	5
6. Wisconsin	16-4	593	10
7. Duke	15-4	512	12
8. Kentucky	15-4	510	6
9. Kansas	16-4	503	8
10. Marquette	15-5	454	15
11. Iowa State	16-4	408	18

PREP BASKETBALL

W. Va. boys poll

CHARLESTON — The Associated Press high school boys basketball poll with first-place votes in parentheses and total points:

Class AAAA	Record	Pts	Prv
Team			
1. Spring Mills (9)	12-0	99	1
2. Morgantown (1)	13-1	91	2
3. George Washington	9-3	78	3
4. Martinsburg	6-3	64	4
5. Wheeling Park	10-4	52	7
6. Bridgeport	10-2	51	5
7. Hedgescville	10-2	36	8
8. Huntington	7-5	29	9
9. Jefferson	11-5	27	6
10. Musselman	10-4	9	NR
Others receiving votes: Woodrow Wilson 8, St. Albans 6.			

Class AAA	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Fairmont Senior (10)	11-0	100	1
2. Shady Spring	8-2	85	2
3. East Fairmont	9-4	78	4
4. Nitro	11-1	77	3
5. Lewis County	10-5	53	6
6. Herbert Hoover	7-5	49	5
7. Logan	6-6	33	9
8. Midland Trail	9-2	31	8
9. Sissonville	7-6	22	7
10. Liberty Harrison	7-4	15	10
Others receiving votes: Grafton 4, North Marion 3.			

Class AA	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Bluefield (4)	8-2	92	3
2. Williamsonstown (5)	13-1	89	2
3. Charleston Catholic	12-1	80	1
4. Wheeling Central (1)	12-3	79	T4
5. Chapmanville	10-5	60	T4
6. Ravenswood	11-3	50	6
7. Poca	7-5	34	8
8. Petersburg	10-3	25	7
9. Wyoming East	9-4	22	10
10. Trinity	8-5	9	9
(tie) Westside	9-4	9	NR
Others receiving votes: Frankfort 1.			

Class A	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Tucker County (9)	11-2	98	1
2. Tio Valley (1)	10-1	84	3
(tie) James Monroe	7-2	84	2
4. Webster County	11-1	72	4
5. East Hardy	7-1	62	5
6. Wohama	12-2	45	7
7. Clay-Battelle	10-4	38	6
8. Cameron	10-3	29	9
9. Greater Beckley Christian	8-4	22	8
10. River View	10-1	7	NR
Others receiving votes: Tolsia 6, Greenbrier West			

12. Arizona	15-5	405	9
13. Creighton	16-5	367	16
14. Illinois	15-5	359	11
15. Texas Tech	16-3	340	21
16. Auburn	16-4	331	6
17. Utah State	18-2	258	20
18. Baylor	14-5	188	14
19. Dayton	16-3	166	17
20. New Mexico	18-3	162	25
21. Brigham Young	15-5	159	19
22. Alabama	14-6	147	NR
23. Florida Atlantic	17-4	122	24
24. Oklahoma	15-5	106	13
25. TCU	15-5	99	NR

Others receiving votes: San Diego State 67; Mississippi 57; South Carolina 46; Gonzaga 38; Memphis 26; Northwestern 23; Colorado State 14; Indiana State 13; Texas 11; Grand Canyon 9; Saint Mary's 5; Appalachian State 4; McNeese State 4; Virginia 4; Cornell 2; Seton Hall 2; Princeton 1.

The Women’s AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.			
	Record	Pts	Prv
1. South Carolina (35)	19-0	875	1
2. Kansas St	20-1	819	4
3. Iowa	19-2	795	5
4. Stanford	19-2	769	6
5. NC State	18-2	739	7
6. Colorado	17-3	677	3
7. UCLA	16-3	637	2
8. Ohio St.	17-3	596	12
9. LSU	18-3	595	9
10. Indiana	17-2	477	14
11. UConn	17-4	460	8
12. Texas	19-3	452	10
13. Baylor	16-3	441	13
14. Notre Dame	15-4	408	15
15. Southern Cal	14-4	393	11
16. Louisville	18-3	331	18
17. Virginia Tech	16-4	328	19
18. Oregon St.	17-3	323	25
19. Gonzaga	20-2	320	17
20. Utah	15-6	296	16
21. Syracuse	17-3	176	22
22. Creighton	16-3	160	21
23. West Virginia	17-2	132	24
24. North Carolina	15-4	75	20
25. Princeton	15-3	28	-

Others receiving votes: UNLV 21, Washington St 15, Fairfield 13, Marquette 7, Florida St. 6, Oklahoma 6, Mississippi 2, Penn St. 1, Washington 1, Mississippi St. 1.

W. Va. girls poll

CHARLESTON — The Associated Press high school girls basketball poll with first-place votes in parentheses and total points:

Class AAAA	Record	Pts	Prv
Team			
1. Wheeling Park (9)	14-3	98	4
2. Spring Valley	12-2	84	1
3. George Washington (1)	12-2	79	5
4. Morgantown	11-4	72	2
5. Parkersburg	11-3	57	3
6. St. Albans	10-4	53	6
7. Parkersburg South	10-5	44	7
8. Greenbrier East	11-3	28	9
9. University	8-9	15	10
10. Princeton	9-3	11	8
Others receiving votes: Huntington 4, Martinsburg 2, Preston 2, Cabell Midland 1.			

Class AAA	Record	Pts	Prv
1. East Fairmont (8)	13-0	98	2
2. Wayne (2)	13-1	92	1
3. Lewis County	15-1	75	5
4. Nitro	11-3	65	3
5. Philto Barbour	11-2	61	4
6. North Marion	9-5	48	7
7. Sissonville	11-5	39	6
8. Ripley	9-8	30	NR
9. Pikeville	10-4	17	NR
10. Independence	12-2	7	NR
(tie) Robert C. Byrd	8-5	7	9
Others receiving votes: Keyser 6, Winfield 3, Elkins 2.			

Class AA	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Wyoming East (10)	12-2	100	1
2. Summers County	12-3	86	2
3. Williamsonstown	12-3	84	3
4. Wheeling Central	12-4	68	6
5. St. Marys	13-4	57	5
6. Mingo Central	10-5	47	4
7. Parkersburg Catholic	10-4	28	7
(tie) Ravenswood	11-6	28	8
9. Chapmanville	9-6	26	9
10. Charleston Catholic	8-5	10	10
Others receiving votes: Trinity 9, Roane County 4, Petersburg 3.			

Class A	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Cameron (8)	9-5	98	1
2. Tucker County	11-3	86	3
(tie) Gilmer County (2)	12-1	86	2
4. James Monroe	10-5	66	5
5. St. Joseph	11-5	55	7
6. Doddridge County	12-3	54	4
7. Greenbrier West	9-5	40	6
8. River View	12-4	32	8
9. Clay-Battelle	7-7	20	9
10. Valley Wetzel	9-8	8	10
Others receiving votes: Meadow Bridge 5.			

GIRLS’ BASKETBALL

Bridgeport hits glass, beats PHS

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH
Sports@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — The Preston High School girls basketball team didn’t do much to help themselves on Monday night in a loss to visiting Bridgeport inside The Castle.

The Indians (5-12) used a 36-17 advantage on the glass and some timely turnovers to down the Knights (9-8) 53-49 in a tightly-contested matchup.

“Someone told me the rebounding deficit and I never would’ve imagined that happening before the game,” PHS coach Brian Miller said. “They got to the free throw line twice as much as we did, made eight more free throws than us, and got 20 more rebounds than we did which should never happen. We didn’t play how we are capable.”

The story of the entire game seemed to be that of Bridgeport extending the lead to multiple possessions before the Knights

fought back with a few unanswered baskets to get themselves within one score of the lead.

After trailing 6-1 early in the first quarter, PHS used a 12-3 run to take a four-point lead. However, the visitors scored five quick points in a flurry to end the first and took a slim lead after one, 14-13. PHS junior Kendra Nazelrod picked up two quick fouls and was forced to sit for an extended period.

Bridgeport started the second the same way it ended the first and grew the lead to five points, 22-17, but the Knights responded once again and ended the half well. A layup for the Indians at the buzzer grew the lead to three, 27-24 at halftime.

PHS began the second half on a 6-0 run that saw it grab a 30-27 lead but the Indians came back fiercely with their own scoring run of 10-0. The visitors took their largest lead of the game at 37-30. All eight players that touched the

floor in the game by the third quarter for BHS had scored a field goal.

“We adjusted to the 2-3 zone when they kept finding space in behind our defense and we discussed how to fix it in the huddle but it didn’t get fixed,” Miller said. “We just didn’t do most of the things we wanted or were supposed to do.”

Midway through the fourth, just six points had been scored between the sides as BHS held a slim lead of 48-43. Despite the foul trouble, Nazelrod returned to the game and made an immediate impact for her team scoring four straight points and breathing some life into the Knights. She lead PHS with 15 points on the night.

She would foul out, however, with 1:37 left on the clock and PHS trailing by five, 50-45.

The Knights got a huge triple from Alauna Wilson that cut the BHS lead to 50-48 with 50 seconds left on

the clock and then forced a turnover on the ensuing possession. The Knights got the ball back with 30.5 seconds left in the game, trailing by two points. However, PHS couldn’t come up with an open shot and was then forced to foul. After the first free throw was made, the second was missed but Bridgeport’s Jaylin Dodd grabbed the biggest of her 12 boards in the game and went to the free throw line to ice the game. She calmly sank both to extend the lead to two possessions with 10 seconds to go and put the game out of reach.

The Knights will have a quick turnaround as they host Liberty Harrison at 5:45 p.m. today.

Box score	
Bridgeport 53, Preston 49	
Bridgeport - Pierce 2 0-0 5 Amick 1 0-0 2 Martinez 5 0-0 10 Dodd 2 8-10 12 Pryor 4 2-5 10 Anderson 3 2-4 8 McCall 1 1-1 3 Kerr 1 1-2 3 Preston - Nazelrod 6 3-3 15 White 4 1-2 12 Miller 4 0-9 9 Wilson 1 0-0 3 Sypolt 1 1-4 3 Simmons 1 1-1 3 Sheets 2 0-1 4 BHS 14 13 17 9-53 PHS 13 11 17 8-49 3pt goals - Bridgeport 1 (Pierce); Preston 5 (White 3 Miller 1 Wilson 1)	

MOHIGANS

FROM PAGE B-1

ber of seasons.

Goodwin said the team took Sunday to regroup and the Mohigans got off to a strong start on Monday.

“The kids rebound quicker than the coaches do about these things,” Goodwin said. “They’re usually up and ready to roll.”

The Mohigans, the No. 1 seed in the OVAC Tournament, began the game in their full-court press and really gave the Patriots fits on offense. Parkersburg South wasn’t plagued by excessive turnovers or got caught playing too fast, but Morgantown’s aggressive defense contested nearly every shot, leading to PS shooting 1-10 in the opening frame.

“I think early on, from the coaching staff down, we just didn’t have the intensity that we needed to have at the beginning of the game,” Parkersburg South coach Ed Davis said. “We had talked about a lot of things and we didn’t do any of them offensively to get a good shot.”

The Patriots did not throw in the towel, how-

ever, and actually outscored their hosts the rest of the way, 44-41. Climbing out of that 18-point hole just ultimately proved too difficult.

Parkersburg South got as close as 11 points in the second and third quarters but never found that final burst to cut Morgantown’s lead to single digits.

“When you get behind like that, you cut it to 12 then give up a basket or two and it’s just exaggerated,” Davis said. “Even though you’ve done a lot of good things, you’ve kind of got to start over again.”

Offensively Morgantown was powered by junior Sadaya Jones, who scored 10 points in each of the first and third quarters and finished with a game-high 23.

“Sadaya does a really nice job,” Goodwin said. “She had good, clean looks (Monday) and good, strong takes to the basket.”

Lily Jordan was next for the Mohigans with 19 points and Kayli Kellogg finished with 13.

Lucie Cline led Parkersburg South with 14 points, including four of the team’s 10 three-pointers.

Gracie Shamblin, playing in her first game in nearly three weeks, came off the bench and scored 11.

Morgantown advances to Saturday’s OVAC 5A championship. The Mohigans will face Wheeling Park, who defeated Steubenville (Oh.) 75-43. It is a rematch of last season’s OVAC Championship, which MHS won 59-49. It is the teams’ eighth matchup in the last two seasons.

Box score	
Morgantown 61, Parkersburg South 46	
PARKERSBURG SOUTH (10-6) — Shockey 1 0-0 2; Singer 1 1-2 4; Cline 5 0-0 14; Schaffer 2 0-0 5; Richards 1 0-0 3; Owens 3 0-0 7; Shamblin 4 1-2 11; Yost 0 0-0 0. MORGANTOWN (12-4) — Wassick 0 0-0 0; Jones 9 2-3 23; Kellogg 5 2-2 13; Jordan 8 3-4 19; Smith 1 2-4; Hatcher 0 0-0 0; Howell 1 0-0 2; Alsop 0 0-0 0; Davis 0 0-0 0. PHS 2 12 14 18-46 MHS 16 8 21 16-41 3-Pt. Goals — Parkersburg South 10 (Cline 4, Shamblin 2, Singer 1, Schaffer 1, Richards 1, Owens 1). Morgantown 4 (Jones 3, Kellogg 1).	

University 83
Wheeling Central 57

WHEELING — The Hawks won big on the road in an OVAC consolation game against Wheeling Central Monday evening.

PRO FOOTBALL

Andy Reid: Toney’s injury wasn’t made up

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chiefs coach Andy Reid denied providing inaccurate injury information about Kadarius Toney on Monday after the wide receiver went on an explosive-laden social media rant in which he appeared to accuse the team of lying about his health.

Toney was ruled out of Sunday’s AFC championship win in Baltimore because of his hip and personal reasons following the birth of his daughter. But in an Instagram Live post, the 25-year-old Toney insisted amid a stream of expletives that, “I’m not hurt.”

“Well, obviously he’s been on the injury report. That part is not made up by any means,” Reid replied, when asked about the post on a Zoom call with local reporters Monday. “He’s been working through some things and he’ll be back out there.”

The Chiefs return to practice Thursday. They face San Francisco in the Super Bowl on Feb. 11 in Las Vegas.

Teams and coaches can be fined by the NFL for issuing inaccurate or misleading injury reports. In December, then-Falcons coach Arthur Smith was fined \$25,000 and the team \$75,000 for failing to disclose that running back Bijan Robinson was dealing with an illness that had limited him in a game against Tampa Bay earlier in the season.

Toney has not played since Week 15 against New England, when he let a pass slip through his

hands for an interception. He also had a dropped pass intercepted and returned for a touchdown in Week 1 against Detroit, and his much-publicized offside penalty in Week 14 against Buffalo wiped out a go-ahead touchdown reception in the closing minutes.

Reid said he had not seen Toney’s social media post, but heard people discussing it. When asked whether Toney remained on the team, Reid replied: “He’ll be back out there and we’ll see how he does.”

The Chiefs traded third- and sixth-round picks to the Giants for Toney in October 2022, hoping to unlock the potential they saw in him coming out of Florida. And despite dealing with injuries last season, too, Toney delivered in the playoffs. He had five catches in a divisional-round win over Jacksonville and a touchdown reception in a Super Bowl win over Philadelphia.

The Chiefs hoped Toney would take another step toward becoming a reliable big-play threat this season. Instead, Toney dropped numerous passes and made other costly mental mistakes, and had just 27 catches for 169 yards in the regular season.

Kansas City has played some of its best football on offense since Toney has been out with his hip injury. Rookie wide receiver Rashee Rice has developed into a star, Marquez Valdes-Scantling has come alive with several big catches in the post-season.

Analysis: Hard to blame Campbell for being true to his own plan

Associated Press

Dan Campbell’s aggressiveness bit his team.

The Detroit Lions blew a 17-point halftime lead and missed an opportunity to reach the Super Bowl for the first time in franchise history because their head coach stuck to the same philosophy that helped him turn a perennial loser into a championship contender.

Hard to blame Campbell for staying true to himself.

On a Sunday filled with superlative performances by Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce in the AFC championship game and a stellar comeback by Brock Purdy and the San Francisco 49ers against the Lions in the NFC title game, Campbell’s fourth-down decisions stole the spotlight.

Even another playoff failure by Lamar Jackson won’t compare to the second-guessing Campbell will surely face throughout the offseason.

The Kansas City Chiefs are heading back to the Super Bowl to face the 49ers with a chance at a rare repeat in a rematch from four years ago.

But much of the talk is focused on Campbell’s gambles.

He was aggressive when the Lions went 3-13-1 in his first season in 2021 and he hasn’t wavered in his go-for-broke approach. The Lions have led the NFL with 62 conversions on fourth down in Campbell’s three seasons.

However, they couldn’t convert when the stakes



AP photo

Detroit head coach Dan Campbell elected to try two fourth-down conversion attempts Sunday that failed in the NFC championship loss against San Francisco.

were highest.

After the 49ers kicked a field goal on the opening drive of the third quarter, the Lions drove into San Francisco’s territory and had a chance to regain their 17-point lead with a 46-yard attempt by Michael Badgley.

But Campbell chose to go for a fourth-and-2 from the 28 instead of taking the field goal. Jared Goff’s pass bounced out of Josh Reynolds’ hands, giving the 49ers some hope.

“I feel like going for it on fourth down a lot will come back to bite you,” Niners edge rusher Nick Bosa said.

Purdy led them on a touchdown drive, tossing a 6-yard scoring pass to Brandon Aiyuk. Lions rookie Jahmyr Gibbs fumbled on the next play and Christian McCaffrey ran in from the 1

to tie it at 24-24.

After Jake Moody’s field goal gave San Francisco a 27-24 lead, the Lions faced a fourth-and-3 from the 49ers 30 midway through the fourth quarter. Campbell passed up a shot at a tying field goal and Goff threw an incompletion.

Purdy drove the Niners for another TD that gave them a 10-point cushion and Detroit couldn’t recover an onside kick after closing within 34-31.

“I just felt really good about us converting and getting our momentum and not letting them play long ball,” Campbell explained. “They were bleeding the clock out, and that’s what they do. And, I wanted to get the upper hand back. It’s easy in hindsight, and I get it. I get that. But, I don’t

regret those decisions. And, it’s hard. It’s hard because we didn’t come through. It wasn’t able to work out. ... And, I understand the scrutiny I’ll get. That’s part of the gig, man. But, it just didn’t work out.”

Campbell, the 6-foot-5, 265-pound former NFL tight end, can handle the criticism. He knew the Lions were underdogs and hadn’t won a road playoff game since capturing their last NFL championship in 1957. Before beating the Rams and Buccaneers this month, they had only one playoff win in the previous 65 seasons.

He wasn’t going to come this close and change his coaching style.

“I told those guys, this may have been our only shot,” Campbell said. “Do I think that? No. Do I believe that? No. However, I know how hard it is to get here. I’m well aware. And it’s gonna be twice as hard to get back to this point next year than it was this year. That’s the reality. And if we don’t have the same hunger and the same work, which is a whole other thing once we get to the offseason, then we got no shot of getting back here.”

“I don’t care how much better we get or what we add or what we draft. It’s irrelevant. It’s gonna be tough. Everybody in our division’s gonna be loaded back up. And, you’re not hiding from anybody anymore. Everybody’s gonna want a piece of you. Which is fine, you know. Which is fine. So it’s hard. You wanna make the most of every opportunity.”

Ravens haunted by postseason setbacks

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Less than 24 hours after Baltimore’s season ended with a loss in the AFC championship game, All-Pro safety Kyle Hamilton was dealing with both physical and emotional pain.

“Body is sore, heart sore,” he said. “But we move on.”

The Ravens head into the offseason lamenting an opportunity that got away. Baltimore finished with the best record and best point differential in the NFL and beat other top teams in surprisingly convincing fashion down the stretch, but in their most important test last weekend, the Ravens still couldn’t completely break through against the team that’s dominated the AFC of late.

Baltimore didn’t seem

outclassed in its 17-10 loss to Kansas City, but the Ravens were way too mistake-prone after falling behind early. Experience doesn’t decide all NFL postseason games, but in this one, the Chiefs looked like a team that was playing in its sixth straight conference title game. The Ravens? They looked like they were in their first in over a decade.

Baltimore (14-5) hadn’t made it this far since winning the Super Bowl 11 years ago. This season was the first time the city hosted the AFC championship game since 1971.

Kansas City appeared vulnerable, with an offense that wasn’t nearly as scary as in years past, but the Ravens turned the ball over three times, committed silly penalties and strug-

gled all game offensively.

“Being up in years, you only have so many more shots to do this,” 33-year-old guard Kevin Zeitler said. “This was a great team, executing at a high level. It was really fun to be a part of, and like I said, it feels really unfinished.”

Not only do the Chiefs loom as the league power that won’t go away, but next season the Ravens will have to deal with a Cincinnati team that should have Joe Burrow back from his injury-plagued 2023. Buffalo, Cleveland, Houston and Miami also have enough talent to be formidable.

The Ravens have a star quarterback in Lamar Jackson, a star linebacker in Roquan Smith and a star in Hamilton who just finished his second season.

But there will be changes. This is a team with some solid young players, but also one with plenty of veterans who may need replacing.

“The group, you won’t get it back again next year,” edge rusher Jadeveon Clowney said. “I felt like we had a squad to win it. ... I really did. It kind of hurt more than anything that has happened in my career to lose that game yesterday. But we’re back to the drawing board.”

More to prove

Jackson might win his second MVP this season, but it was probably inevitable that he’d be blamed for anything less than a Super Bowl. Hamilton took exception to that.

“They can say he’s the best quarterback ever one week, and then the next week, say whatever they want to say. But that just comes with the territory,” Hamilton said. “Heavy is the head that wears the crown. So, there are a lot of people out there hoping for people like Lamar to fail, but we all know that he’s the best player in this league, and I’m glad to have him on our team.”

Clearing the air

Ravens kicker Justin Tucker said he thought his pregame interaction with Kansas City’s Travis Kelce and Patrick Mahomes was not a big deal.

“I saw Patrick there trying to warm up and get some warmups and he asked me, while I was on the ground stretching, if I could move my helmet. I happily got up and I moved my helmet out of the way — at least I thought it was enough out of the way,” Tucker said. “And then Travis comes over and he just kicks my stuff and he throws my helmet. ... I thought it was all just some gamesmanship, you know, all in good fun, but they seemed to be taking it a little bit more seriously. I’m totally willing to let it all go, but I just wanted to explain that that’s just what I have done for 12 years and it’s not like I’m out there trying to be problematic.”

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COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Gambling busts at Iowa State were the result of improper searches, athletes' attorneys contend

Associated Press

Iowa State athletes caught in a gambling sting last year were criminally charged and lost NCAA eligibility as a result of improper searches into their online wagering activities, according to defense attorneys' court filings.

Attorneys for former Iowa State football players Isaiah Lee and Jirehl Brock and wrestler Paniro Johnson wrote in motions for discovery last week that special agents for the state Division of Criminal Investigation had no reasonable cause to track their clients' use of sports wagering apps.

"These investigations were done without any tips of wrongdoing, allegations of wrongdoing, or by requesting a warrant which raises Constitu-

tional issues involving illegal searches and seizures," Van Plumb, attorney for Lee, wrote in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday. "Motions have been filed with the Court setting forth this information in an attempt to gain access to more discovery surrounding these events."

The DCI public information officer and defense attorneys Christopher Sandy and Matthew Boles did not respond to AP requests for comment.

Lee, Brock and Johnson were among about two dozen Iowa State and Iowa athletes criminally charged. Those three each faced a felony charge of identity theft and aggravated misdemeanor charge of tampering with records. Former Iowa State football

player Enyi Uwazurike, who faces the same charges as the other three in Iowa, is now with the Denver Broncos and was suspended indefinitely for betting on NFL games in 2022.

Most of the Iowa and Iowa State athletes who were charged pleaded guilty to underage gambling, paid fines and had identity theft charges dropped. The identity theft charges stemmed from athletes registering accounts on mobile sports betting apps under different names, usually a relative.

The investigation and prosecutions drew national attention because athletes at the two schools were the primary targets and occurred as the NCAA was addressing concerns about nationwide expansion of

legal sports wagering.

NCAA rules prohibit wagering by athletes, coaches and staff, with athletes losing varying amounts of eligibility depending on the violation. Lee and Brock were among five starters on the Cyclones football team who lost some or all of their eligibility and are no longer in the program.

Johnson, the Big 12 champion at 149 pounds last year, is on the wrestling roster but has not competed for the Cyclones. He has participated in open events as an unattached wrestler.

Plumb, citing depositions taken two weeks ago, wrote that DCI special agent Brian Sanger conducted warrantless searches on the Iowa campus. Sanger found wagering

apps were opened in freshman and sophomore dormitories, but he could not determine whether they were used to make wagers. Sanger asked his superiors for permission to expand the search and was told no, according to the filings.

Sanger then placed a geofence around Iowa and Iowa State athletic facilities that have restricted access and again found evidence of open wagering apps. He requested subpoenas for account information of hundreds of individuals without reasonable cause, Plumb wrote, and the result was indictments against Iowa athletes. Plumb contends their privacy had been invaded.

In his Jan. 19 deposition, Sanger said that while he didn't recall why he con-

ducted warrantless searches, he was concerned about possible match fixing and people infiltrating Iowa's athletic teams to gain insider information.

Sandy, Johnson's attorney, cited the deposition of DCI special agent Mark Ludwick, who said the search of athletes was illegal and that he was misled by other agents about the purpose of the investigation. He said special agent Troy Nelson had said the nature of the investigation was administrative with the targets being FanDuel, Draft Kings and other online gaming operators.

According to the filing, Ludwick reassured Lee the focus was on the gaming operators and no criminal consequence would come from what was said.

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

All in-column ads are included on our **Classified Internet Website!**

▲ DEADLINES for LINER ADS

2:30 P.M. - Day before for Tuesday-Saturday publication

3:00 P.M. - Friday for Sunday & Monday publication

3:00 P.M. - 3 Days before for all Legals

▲ GENERAL

The publisher reserves the right to correctly classify, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement. Only standard abbreviations are accepted. Some classifications require keywording.

Phone: 304-291-9420
Fax: 304-291-9564

Email: classads@dominionpost.com

In person:
1251 Earl L. Core Road
Morgantown, WV 26505

ADS MUST BE PREPAID

▲ DEADLINES for LINER ADS

12:30 P.M. - Wednesday for Sunday Real Estate publication

3:30 P.M. - Thursday for all other Sunday publication

9:00 P.M. - Friday for Monday publication

3:00 P.M. - Friday for Tuesday publication

3:30 P.M. - 2 Days before for Wednesday-Friday publication

12:30 P.M. - Thursday for Saturday publication

▲ ADJUSTMENTS

Please check your ad for errors the first day it appears. The Dominion Post makes every effort to avoid errors in ads, but will not be responsible for incorrect ads after the first day of publication, except when ads begin on Saturday or Sunday.

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The best selection of service providers in Morgantown

1x1 - 9 lines
\$2.35 per day
\$70⁵⁰ per month

1x2 - 19 lines
\$2.85 per day
\$85⁵⁰ per month

1x3 - 29 lines
\$3.35 per day
\$100⁵⁰ per month

TMC is an additional .50 per day per line.

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Fully Insured

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Morgantown

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STUMP GRINDING

Any Size Stump

Optional Cleanup

Fit through 35" Gate

Licensed & Insured

Tristatetreewv.com

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project GREEN

a community paper recycling effort of The Dominion Post

read it return it recycle it

Drop off your newspapers, magazines and completed cardboard at The Dominion Post.

Newspapers and magazines MUST be separated.

Recyclables located at the Dominion Post warehouse, Hartman Run Rd. side of building. Accessible 24/7.

The Dominion Post

MISC. FOR SALE

FOR SALE CLASS RING

Morgantown HS 1978

White Gold

Sapphire w/ Floating

Mohigan, Size 6

Great Cond., Appraised \$500

304-290-4092

MISC. WANTED TO BUY

Buying Comic Books

Call or Text

304-598-8925

REAL ESTATE WANTED

FAST CASH HOMEBUYER

Close in 14 days

GUARANTEED

304-532-2553

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT

2 Bedroom

6 Miles from Town

\$560 Plus Gas & Electric

Deposit & Lease No Pets

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C3	O1	N1	G2	E1	A1	L1	RACK 3 = 60
P3	R1	E1	V4	A1	I1	L1	RACK 4 = 65

PAR SCORE 150-160

TOTAL 223

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Parent wants to support daughter’s mental health

DEAR HARRIETTE: Several students in my daughter’s school have died by suicide in the past two years. This trend is frightening. I am so worried for her and her friends. The school has made efforts to support and protect them, but I need to help as well. I’m at a loss. What in the world do you say in situations like this? — **DEALING WITH SUICIDE**

DEAR DEALING WITH SUICIDE: This hits close to home for me. My best friend in high school died by suicide on her 16th birthday. It was a horrible experience for all of us, and her parents shut down completely. They couldn’t handle it, and the friends were left to fend for themselves. Back then, we didn’t talk to our parents much. All I remember is our friends whispering together, but never understanding.

As an adult, I have done my best to talk to my daughter when these tragedies happen and to look for support in any way that I can find it. There is a lot of help around. It seems to be most important to acknowledge what hap-

pened, to be close to your children and to listen to them. You should watch their behavior to notice if they are acting differently, especially if they start using substances, locking themselves in their rooms or acting out.

For more support, go to: childmind.org/article/supporting-children-after-the-suicide-of-a-classmate.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I have my own company, and I lost two clients at the end of last year. I realize that I cannot keep all of my employees now. I just don’t have the resources to pay their salaries. I am hoping that I can take advantage of new technology to support my business, but I’m not even sure how to do all of that. What steps can I take to stay alive? — **NEED HELP**

DEAR NEED HELP: You can use services like ChatGPT or Otter.ai to record your meetings and give you action points immediately after. Project management tools abound. Two that are popular are Asana and Monday. Go online and search for the services you need.

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024

Freaking out over things you cannot control will only waste your time. Set your sights on getting to the root of any dilemma that comes your way and fixing the things you can. Revise contracts, subscriptions and money matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Listen to common sense and focus on cutbacks that make life more manageable. Take the initiative.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Collaborate with like-minded individuals who feed your creative mind, and you’ll discover a lucrative way to use your skills.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Backtrack to understand a situation better. Put anger aside when dealing with people who can influence your future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Learn from your mistakes, and you’ll gain support. Consider the costs involved before you begin something.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You can wheel and deal, but you must recognize what’s at stake. When in doubt, take a pass.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Develop a plan that works for you. Don’t feel



EUGENIA LAST

obligated to follow the crowd or make decisions to please someone else.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Simple, affordable plans will bring excellent results that please the people who rely on your judgment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Get out, stretch your legs, take a deep breath and start something meaningful. Don’t feel you must overspend to impress someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don’t overdo it when moderation is the best way forward. Get a second opinion if you don’t like what you hear.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Rely on those you trust to point you in the best direction. Talks will lead to positive change and opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Study the logistics of any situation you face. Don’t let anyone interfere or push you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don’t allow anyone to take advantage of you. Implement a domestic change to lower your overhead.

CROSSWORD

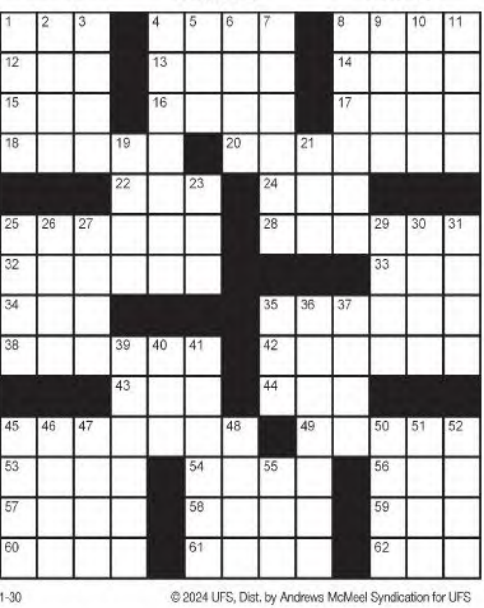
- ACROSS**
- 1 Tangled mass
 - 4 Cornucopia
 - 8 Dwell on
 - 12 Old French coin
 - 13 Nevada’s — 51
 - 14 Small case
 - 15 Chess pieces
 - 16 Put one within another
 - 17 Wine type
 - 18 Chimp relative
 - 20 Thudded
 - 22 Debtor’s promise
 - 24 Literary collection
 - 25 School grounds
 - 28 Some milk
 - 32 Drug
 - 33 Kimono accessory
 - 34 — Moines
 - 35 Beamed

- DOWN**
- 1 Note
 - 2 Maple genus
 - 3 Albacore
 - 4 Place often visited
 - 5 Mineral
 - 38 Optional things
 - 42 Only just
 - 43 Powdery residue
 - 44 The “I”
 - 45 Noisy insect
 - 49 Diplomat
 - 53 “Listen!”
 - 54 Bank offering
 - 56 Cakes and —
 - 57 “Woe — —!”
 - 58 Electrical unit
 - 59 Actor — Gibson
 - 60 Confab
 - 61 Place of exile
 - 62 Explode

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ESS	SHOP	SPUR
LAP	MERE	WORE
SUE	OXEN	APSE
ALAMO	OATMEAL	
KIT	LIP	
TETHER	NYLON	
HEAT	LAT	ADO
INS	FIE	STOW
STYLE	DEEPER	
IF	ROC	
BRITTLE	ATOLL	
LAVA	IRKS	MAY
EVAN	ALOE	ERR
DENY	DEAR	RAE

- 6 Take a break
- 7 Actor — Lane
- 8 Writer — Melville
- 9 On
- 10 Trick
- 11 Colored in blotches
- 19 Palm tree
- 21 —, dos, tres
- 23 Employ
- 25 Computer instructions
- 26 Pinnacle
- 27 Fog
- 29 Muck one’s cards
- 30 Genesis name
- 31 Shipshape
- 35 — Stoops to Conquer
- 36 Purple shade
- 37 Rigid
- 39 Din
- 40 Inquire
- 41 Put away for later
- 45 Stylish
- 46 Too hasty
- 47 Cookbook writer
- 48 Implement
- 50 Femme fatale
- 51 Edible spread
- 52 Cry
- 55 Priest’s vestment

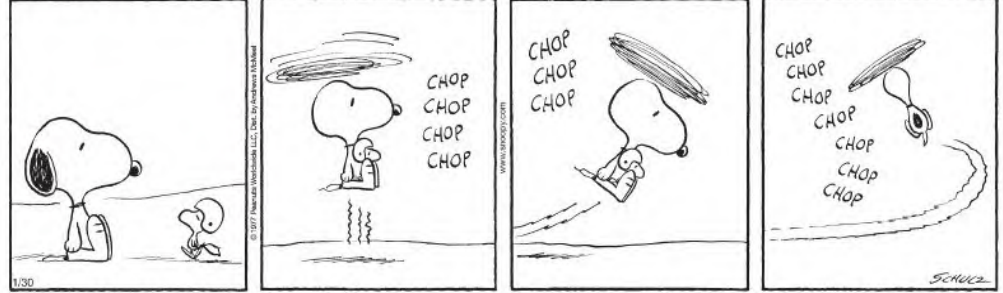


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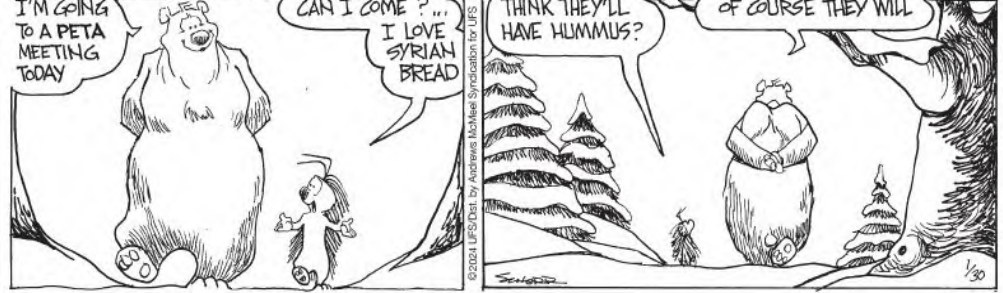
CURTIS



PEANUTS



THE GRIZZWELLS



BEETLE BAILEY



FRANK & ERNEST



BORN LOSER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



GARFIELD



BLONDIE



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



MUTTS

