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Peach out with these  
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**Local business**  
BC MaC brings its fusion food downtown  
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**OBITUARIES**

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**CRIME**

**Fifth body found near deadly Lewis County fire**

**BY JEFF JENKINS**  
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — Lewis County Sheriff Dave Gosa said there's another victim at the scene of a deadly fire on Gladly Creek Road, near the community of Ireland.

Gosa told MetroNews Tuesday a man's body was found about 100 yards from the house, behind a chicken coop. He had suffered a fatal gunshot wound.

The body, which was discovered around 10 p.m. Monday, is the fifth victim in connection with the late Sunday night crime that also claimed the lives of four people inside the house.

Authorities have said the suspect in the case, Luke Wilson, 45, of Walkersville, drove to eastern Kanawha County after the fire where he committed suicide in front of a relative's house.

Gosa said Tuesday that it was "a good possibility" that Wilson killed all five victims before setting the fire. He confirmed the victims inside the house were three adults — a man and two women — and an infant.

Authorities knew there was the possibility of a fifth victim but it took a while to locate him, Gosa said.

"We had had several names mentioned that might be in that house besides the residents and we only found four bodies in the house," Gosa told MetroNews.

Gosa said the man found outside the house and Wilson were friends. He said neither man was related to the four victims inside the house but both knew them.

"We still don't have a motive at this point in the investigation," Gosa said. "He (fifth victim) was friends with all of the people in that house and friends with the alleged shooter, that's how they

**SEE BODY, A-2**

**COURTS**

**Guilty verdict returned in murder case**

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

Cleotis Cortez-Paul Eppes Jr., 49, of the Detroit, Mich., area, appeared nervous as he entered the courtroom of the Honorable Paul W. Gwaltney on the third floor of the Monongalia County Justice Center Tuesday afternoon.

Shortly after 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, a jury of nine women and three men delivered a guilty verdict on all three counts with

which Eppes was charged — murder in the first degree, kidnapping and conspiracy to commit murder and/or kidnapping — for the murder of Matthew Moore on May 7, 2022.

"Praise God," could be heard through the cries of Moore's family as each count read ended with "guilty."

In West Virginia, Eppes' crimes carry a life sentence. The jury will now be tasked with deciding whether Eppes will be

granted mercy, giving him a chance for parole after 15 years.

To begin this phase of the trial, Eppes retook the stand and told the jury about his life growing up in the Detroit area.

He said he got mixed up with the wrong crowd at a young age and said he was present for a murder when he was just 15 — a murder for which he had provided the gun but had not pulled the trigger.

He was incarcerated for

21 years until his case was overturned when he was 37 and he would be freed. Twelve years later, he is involved in another murder.

Eppes got a little choked up as he spoke of his family, including a daughter and three grandchildren. He said he feared that he would not be able to see his father or stepmother again, both of whom were in the courtroom.

Despite the guilty verdict,

**SEE VERDICT, A-2**

**A walk in the park**



Crews from Parotta Paving of Morgantown work Tuesday on a walking track at Paul Preserve, a pocket park off Darst Street. A worker on the job said the trail would be completed in three weeks.



Ron Rittenhouse /The Dominion Post photos

**A new addition to community area**

DPNews@DominionPost.com

A walking track that has been 10 years in the making is soon to be a reality.

Crews from Parrotta Paving, of Morgantown, are working on moving dirt and pouring gravel for the track at Paul Preserve Park.

The track will skirt the perimeter of the three-acre park at the corner of Darst Street and Mineral Avenue in the city's Jerome Park neighborhood. According to BOPARC, this enhancement was first envisioned in the original park planning map in 2014.

As a safety measure, the park will be closed around the clock through Friday. It will then only be closed when work is going on — 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday, March 18-April 5.

The work will include removal of dead trees, drainage improvements, grading, seeding and mulch.

Once the walking path is complete, improvements will be made to the basketball court.

BOPARC approved a bid of \$69,981 from Parotta Paving to install the crushed gravel walking track.

**BUSINESS**

**Utility work awarded ahead of DOH's Van Voorhis project**

**BY BEN CONLEY**  
BConley@DominionPost.com

The West Virginia Division of Highways project addressing Van Voorhis Road between the W.Va. 705 intersection and West Run Road is scheduled for the upcoming construction season.

On Tuesday, the Morgantown Utility Board approved contracts addressing utility relocation and improvements tied to that work.

The first, for \$522,610 went to Green River Group to install 1,100 feet of eight-inch PVC gravity sewer line and 1,690 feet of six-inch PVC water line.

A second contract, worth \$101,550, went to Snider & Son for the placement of 400 feet of eight-inch water line to be installed by directional drill method and 60 feet of 36-inch steel casing via bore and jack.

"The DOH will absorb those costs. They will pay us back," MUB General Manager Mike McNulty said.

Planned improvements for Van Voorhis include lane widening, an additional southbound lane from Killarney Drive to 705, shoulder paving, construction of sidewalks, curbs, gutters, retaining walls and drainage upgrades along various sections of the roadway.

In other news from Tuesday's meeting, Westover City Attorney Tim Stranko was on hand to discuss MUB's potential acquisition of Westover's sanitary sewer utility.

The two sides have been working on the potential merger since early 2023, but the discussion stretches back to at least 2018.

"We're looking for the best cost service for our sewer customers. I didn't say lowest cost service, and that's an important distinction. You can deliver the lowest cost service by not doing the things a quality utility does ... the things MUB does as a matter of routine," Stranko said.

He suggested a two-step process for the acquisition — an initial operations and management agreement to be followed by final acquisition once Westover's forthcoming Holland Avenue and

**SEE PROJECT, A-2**



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WORLD

An aid ship is sailing to Gaza, where hundreds of thousands face starvation 5 months into war

Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — An aid ship loaded with some 200 tons of food set sail for Gaza on Tuesday in a pilot program for the opening of a sea corridor to the territory, where the 5-month Israel-Hamas war has driven hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to the brink of starvation. The push to get food in by sea — along with a recent campaign of air-drops into isolated northern Gaza — highlighted the international community’s frustration with the growing humanitarian crisis and its inability to get aid in by road. The food on the aid ship was collected by World Central Kitchen, the charity founded by celebrity chef José Andrés, and is being transported by the

Spanish aid group Open Arms. The ship departed from the eastern Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus and is expected to arrive in Gaza in two to three days. The United States separately plans to construct a sea bridge near Gaza in order to deliver aid, but it will likely be several weeks before it is operational. President Joe Biden’s administration has provided crucial military aid for Israel while urging it to facilitate more humanitarian access. The war, triggered by Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel, has killed over 31,000 Palestinians and driven most of Gaza’s 2.3 million people from their homes. A quarter of Gaza’s population is starving, according to the



AP photo

The ship, left, belonging to the Open Arms aid group with aid on a platform ferry some 200 tonnes of rice and flour directly to Gaza, departs from the port of southern city of Larnaca, Cyprus on Tuesday. United Nations, because they cannot find enough food or afford it at vastly inflated prices. Efforts by U.S., Qatar and Egypt to broker a cease-fire and hostage release before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan stalled as Hamas demanded that any temporary pause in the fighting come with guarantees for ending the war.

NEWS BRIEFS

Associated Press

Muslims around the world observe Ramadan

Muslims around the world are observing the holy month of Ramadan, with worship, charity, dawn-to-dusk fasting and nightly feasts. Muslims gather for prayers inside mosques in Indonesia, Kashmir, Pakistan and Turkey. They gather outside at New York’s Times Square and in the Gaza Strip. Volunteers distribute food to people breaking their fast in Pakistan. In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Muslims eat a sunset meal at a mosque. Ramadan is the ninth

month of the Islamic lunar calendar. **Polanski is sued over allegations of assault** LOS ANGELES — A woman has sued director Roman Polanski in a Los Angeles court, saying the director raped her when she was a minor in 1973. The woman aired her allegations at a news conference Tuesday. She said Polanski took her to dinner, gave her tequila, and raped her at his home afterward. The woman did not give her name or her age. She first filed the lawsuit in June, but the law did not initially allow her to use Polanski’s name. A judge since ruled she can. Polanski, the

Oscar-winning director of “Rosemary’s Baby” and “Chinatown,” has been living in Europe since fleeing there after similar allegations in 1978. **Haiti’s future is being planned on two tracks** Haiti’s future is being planned on two tracks — one involving traditional political power, the other focused on the power of gangs. After an intense session of international diplomacy in Jamaica, a group of Caribbean nations and the United States announced Tuesday that Haiti’s best hope for calming violence rests with a council of influential figures who would elect an interim leader and could steer the coun-

try toward fresh presidential elections. A heavily armed gang leader held an impromptu news conference in Port-au-Prince and rejected any solution led and supported by the international community. **TikTok won’t be banned if it finds a new owner** U.S. lawmakers are threatening to ban TikTok but also say they are giving its Chinese parent company a chance to keep it running. The premise of a bipartisan bill is that TikTok fans in the U.S. can keep scrolling through their favorite social media app so long as Beijing-based ByteDance gives up on owning it.

VERDICT

FROM PAGE A-1

Eppes maintained his innocence, stating, “I didn’t pull the trigger on Matt Moore. “It may be hard for people to believe,” he said. “I wasn’t there.” While denying his involvement in Moore’s murder, he said that he

does take responsibility for the drugs he sold and will take his punishment. The jury also heard from Moore’s younger sister and his fiancée, who seemed to pull the heart-strings of several jurors who could be seen wiping tears from their eyes as each woman talked about the victim in this case. “I miss the way he held me, and I miss the way he

loved me,” Moore’s fiancée said as she spoke about all of the small gestures he would make to show her he cared. His sister recalled how much he cared for his family, particularly his nieces and nephews who he adored and who adored their “Uncle Buddy.” According to his sister, Moore’s mother suffered a severe decline in her health since the death of her son and was not able to be in the courtroom. She

was able to send her message to the court, which was, in part, that Eppes not only killed Matt, but part of her as well. The jury will return this morning to hear the closing arguments from attorneys on why they should or should not grant mercy in this case. They will then deliberate and deliver that decision. Attorneys on both sides declined to comment on the case Tuesday.

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**Monongalia and Preston Counties (TMU-102 Albright-Cheat Lake 138 kV Line, Cheat Lake-Lake Lynn 138 kV Line, Albright-Hazleton-Lake Lynn 138 kV (Brandonville Jct) Line)**

Beginning at Albright WV in Preston County and running in a northerly direction, crossing Roaring Creek, Coal Lick Rd, and passing through the Ruthbelle Substation. The line then crosses SR 26 N Preston Hwy, CR 26/22 McNair Rd, CR 15/2 Sugar Valley Rd, CR 26/23 Beech Run Rd, CR 14/5 Harmony Grove Rd, CR 15 Hudson Rd, Hudson Mill Rd, CR 14/3 Little Sandy Rd, Big Sandy Creek, Mt Nebo Rd, CR 14/1 Gary Walls Rd, CR 73/5 Laurel Run Pishgah Rd, Interstate 68, CR 73/73 Old Route 73, Coopers Rock Dr, CR 2 Laurel Run Rd and CR 2/3 Greenville Rd. The line then turns in a westerly direction and enters into Monongalia County. Continuing in a westerly direction in Monongalia County the line crosses CR 69/1 Sand Springs Rd and SR 857 Fairchance Rd, then taps to the south, crossing CR 71/2 Kendall Mill Rd, then the tap terminates at the Cheat Lake Substation off CR 7/1 Morgan Run Rd. From the tap structure the line continues in a westerly direction crossing the Mon-Fayette Expwy Rt 43, Cheat Lake, and terminates at the Lake Lynn Substation off of CR 7/1 Morgan Run Rd.

**Monongalia and Preston Counties (TMU-112 Cheat Lake-Presco 69kV 112 Line)**

Beginning at the Cheat Lake Substation off CR 7/1 Morgan Run Rd in Monongalia County and proceeding in a southerly direction crossing CR 857 Fairchance Rd, Interstate 68, CR 801, CR 73/16, the Cheat River, and enters into Preston County. Continuing in Preston County the line crosses CR 21/8 Beaver Hole, Koury Run Rd, CR 21/3 Bee Run Rd, CR 21/2 Ridge Rd, CR 21/1 Mt Zion Rd, CR 21/4 Mount Run, and enters the Presco Substation off of Montgomery Ln. From Presco Substation the line taps in a westerly direction crossing Montgomery Ln, CR 19 Rohr Rd and terminates at the Cascade Substation off of SR 7 Veterans Memorial Hwy northwest of Masontown West Virginia.

For more information about Mon Power’s Transmission Aerial Saw Program, call 1-800-686-0022. When contacting, please alert our Representatives that your call is pertaining to our Transmission Aerial Saw Program.



SPENDING

House Democrats and centrist Republicans launch separate efforts to force a vote on Ukraine aid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats and a small group of centrist Republicans on Tuesday launched separate long-shot efforts to force a vote on tens of billions of dollars in wartime aid for Ukraine, intensifying pressure on Speaker Mike Johnson to take up the foreign funding package. Democrats, as the minority in the House, began gathering signatures to force a floor vote on the Senate’s \$95 billion package of aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan through a “discharge petition” — a seldom-successful procedural tool that can circumvent the speaker’s control over which bills come up for a vote. Shortly after, a group of Republicans

launched their own signature drive for a proposal that would trim the package to \$66 billion, mostly for military aid, and include border security provisions. The moves underscored the stubborn impasse in Congress over the military aid for Ukraine, with conservatives balking at providing more ammunition and weaponry for Kyiv. Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, has resisted taking up the package passed by the Senate last month and insisted that the House work its own will on the matter. He has suggested the House will turn to the package only after government funding is settled — and he still insists the money must be paired with policy changes at the U.S. border with Mexico.

PROJECT

FROM PAGE A-1

Dunkard Avenue lift station projects are significantly complete. Stranko said the Holland Avenue work will go to bid in June, begin in August or September and be completed in roughly three months. The pump station project is expected to be completed in May 2025. The combined cost of the

two projects is \$8.5 million. Westover City Council is in the process of adopting a 37% increase in sewer rates tied to the work. Also on Tuesday, the board approved a contract totaling \$136,059 with Worldwide Industries for the painting of the Morgantown Mall water tank. The board also approved its annual stone contract, awarding that to Greer Industries for \$316,925.

BODY

FROM PAGE A-1

are all connected.” Gosa is hopeful autopsies at the state Medical Examiner’s Office will help positively identify the victims and determine causes of death. He admitted it’s a difficult investigation because no one survived the violence. “We’re trying to put the puzzle together off of our interviews and hopefully we will get some answers, but there’s a good chance we’ll never have the answers as to why this tragedy took place,” Gosa said. Interviews are occurring with family members of the victims. “We’ve had family members calling and we’ve had various people reach out to us and discuss certain aspects of it,” Gosa said. West Virginia State Fire Marshal’s Office Chief Investigator Jason Baltic said the blaze was a “total burn.” “There was only one

remaining wall on the rear of this home. It’s in a very rural area and by the time the fire department was even alerted to this fire, it had a head start on them,” Baltic told MetroNews Tuesday. The damage was absolute to the structure and made recovery of the bodies difficult. The level of damage has made it almost impossible to determine a cause. Baltic said most physical evidence burned up in the fire but there are a lot of extenuating circumstances, which led them to believe the fire was of suspicious origin. “I don’t know if we would come up with an actual cause just using the fire scene itself, but with all of the circumstances coming into the scene it would bring us to a conclusion this was most probably arson, but we’re not there yet,” he said. **METRONews REPORTERS** Chris Lawrence and Alex Wiederspiel contributed to this story.

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

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neighbors alive during a life-threatening weather event,” he said.

“We learned a lot after Hurricane Maria and want to share these lessons to prevent it from happening again, while turning churches into beacons of hope and strength.”

What meteorology and its economic ripples means to life in the mountains of West Virginia and its neighbors will be discussed by Autumn Long, who directs the Appalachian Solar Finance Fund.

“Appalachian communities, many of which are still struggling from the transition away from

**SEE HUBS. A-4**



STATE

Vandalia Health presented unclaimed property check for \$200K



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Mon Health President and CEO David Goldberg (left) and state treasurer Riley Moore react during the check presentation Tuesday. The money comes from the state's unclaimed property funds.

DPNews@DominionPost.com

State Treasurer Riley Moore was in Morgantown Tuesday afternoon to present an unclaimed property check worth over \$200,000 to Vandalia Health leadership at Mon Health Medical Center.

Moore was joined by the president and CEO of Mon Health System and Executive Vice President of Vandalia Health David Goldberg and leadership from Mon Health System, Charleston Area Medical Center and Vandalia Health to reveal the total check amount — \$205,851.07.

During February, Moore's Unclaimed Property Division returned more than \$2 million worth of unclaimed funds to individuals, businesses

and other organizations.

According to the Treasurer's Office, unclaimed property is any asset that has remained unclaimed for a specific period of time, such as utility deposits, unredeemed stock, a check that was never cashed, or contents of a safe deposit box.

The Treasurer's Office has more than \$430 million worth of unclaimed property listings in its database. Currently, Monongalia County has 175,765 unclaimed property listings worth nearly \$25 million.

For more information about the unclaimed property program or to find out if the Office is holding any money for you, visit WVUnclaimedProperty.gov.

HISTORY

Harriet B. Jones made major steps for women in medicine and politics, both in W. Va. and the nation

BY JENIFFER GRAHAM  
DPNews@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — Born in 1856 in Pennsylvania but raised in Terra Alta, Dr. Harriet B. Jones was the first female licensed physician in West Virginia.

She was also one of the first women to serve in the state Legislature, and in 1924 she was elected to the first of two terms in the House of Delegates, serving Marshall County, according to Betty Whittaker White's "A History of Terra Alta, West Virginia and It's Vicinity."

Jones attended Wheeling Female College and graduated with honors from Woman's Medical College of Baltimore, Md., in 1884. She decided to pursue post-graduate training in gynecology and abdominal surgery in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, before returning to Wheeling to open a private practice in 1886.

A founder of numerous hospitals and welfare institutions in the state, she is best known as a pioneer in the fight against tuberculosis and a champion for women's rights.

"In about 1904 Jones and Miss Frances McMahon engaged in a five-month tour of West Virginia — A Model-T Ford crusade against tuberculosis that covered 21 counties. They had the satisfaction of knowing that their grueling tour caused the legislature to appropriate \$9,900 for an educational cam-

A FOUNDER OF NUMEROUS HOSPITALS AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE, SHE IS BEST KNOWN AS A PIONEER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS ...

paign against tuberculosis," White wrote.

Encouraged, Jones threw herself into the tuberculosis battle. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad loaned the state a railroad car equipped with TB exhibits furnished by the Phipps Institute of Philadelphia.

Dr. Thomas Gillespie was employed to travel with the train, explaining exhibits and lecturing at train stops. In this manner, every major railroad line in the state was covered.

It was estimated that 100,000 visitors passed through the TB car, which itself passed through 33 counties and 133 towns. Jones visited 164 towns, spoke 624 times at schools and gave 102 lectures before adults.

Jones wanted to see a sanitarium built in Terra Alta.

According to the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), in 1911, the state Legislature passed an act to establish a tuberculosis sanatorium due to the repeated efforts of Anti-Tuberculosis League of West Virginia (Jones was appointed executive secretary in 1908). The farm was owned by W.T. White of Terra Alta and on Nov. 11, 1911, he conveyed it to the state of West Virginia.

"Hopemont, West Virginia's first tuberculosis sanitarium, met a pressing public health need because in the early 20th century, 1,000 West Virginians died

annually from the disease. Getting tuberculosis was practically a death sentence. Nurses and physicians were brave to treat TB patients, often contracting the dread disease themselves," Maureen F. Crockett wrote in an article for eWV.

"In those times, physicians believed such hospitals should be in high, cold places, and the site chosen was a farm near Terra Alta in Preston County. Hopemont started with a receiving building with offices, kitchen, dining room and apartments," Crockett wrote.

"Two patients' cottages followed, one for each sex. In 1913, three cottages were constructed housing 60 patients, and additions were gradually made until the hospital had a rated capacity at one time of 475 patients. The addition of a post office in 1921 necessitated the change of the name from State Tuberculosis Sanitarium at Terra Alta to the Hopemont Sanitarium," Crockett wrote.

Women's rights were of great interest to Jones. Her fight to have women admitted to the state's colleges and its only university was won in 1889. She also served as president of the state's Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was active in the West Virginia Equal Suffrage Association from its beginnings in the 1890s until women were granted the right to vote in 1920.

Jones then became a member of the League of Women Voters. Combining her medical expertise and her civic interests, she lectured throughout the state on temperance, literature and public health issues. Her memberships included the West Virginia State Medical Association, the Ohio County Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

Jones also lobbied to establish state sanitariums for TB treatment and was executive secretary of the West Virginia Tuberculosis association for 10 years. According to "Changing Faces of Medicine."

Jones' interest in the welfare of homeless girls moved her to lobby tirelessly for six years to enact a bill on their behalf. In 1897, the West Virginia Legislature passed an act establishing the West Virginia Children's Home at Elkins, as well as a state reformatory, the West Virginia Industrial Home for Girls.

Once women had the right to vote, Jones became active in politics. She won the 1924 election as a Republican in the state House of Delegates from Marshall County and was later re-elected to a second term.

Before her death in 1943, Jones authored several pamphlets, including "What You Should Know About the Government of West Virginia," "Parliamentary Laws" and "How We Got Our English Bible."

She also wrote a history of women's suffrage in West Virginia.

For more information about Jones, go to "Changing Faces of Medicine" at cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov.

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MAC

FROM PAGE A-3

ership team shuttered the Stewartstown Road location as they prepared to move the business to downtown Morgantown. They found a new spot at 137 Pleasant St., next to music venue 123 Pleasant Street. While finalizing reopening plans, the team occasionally served up BC's signature foods at neighboring businesses. After a long winter of hard work (and eager anticipation by the hungry and devoted barbecue fans), the restaurant will reopen today.

Patrons should keep in mind that, as with the previous location, there will

CONVENTION

FROM PAGE A-3

convention. West Virginia has been allocated 25 delegates and two alternates to the Democratic National Convention.

The county convention is open to all registered Democrats in Monongalia County and those who

HUBS

FROM PAGE A-3

coal, need our help and support in the clean energy transition," she said.

"We can help them turn to clean energy while protecting themselves from global warming at the same time."

The gathering comes at the same time House Bill 5528 is awaiting Gov. Jim Justice's signature. The

PEACH

FROM PAGE A-3

bread in the pan.

Layer in this order: One slice of cheese, a handful of spinach, four to six peach slices, another slice of cheese and a slice of bread on top of each original slice of bread.

After four-five minutes, flip each sandwich and cook for another four-five minutes.

FRESH PEACH SALAD

For the salad

1/4 cup sliced almonds

6 to 8 cups mixed greens\*

3 small (or 2 large) ripe

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EDITORIAL

No cash, no plans. No wonder W.Va. microschool failed

If alternative K-12 education is the new frontier, then West Virginia is the Wild West.

In early March, “The 74” broke the story of The Hive Learning Academy — a microschool in Martinsburg that opened its doors in August and had closed them by November, leaving students and families floundering.

We won’t paint The Hive’s founders as financial predators or villains; it seems the two moms had their hearts in the right place, but they had neither a solid business plan nor the cash flow to get their microschool off the ground and keep it running. They had banked on participants paying tuition — \$2,000 to over \$4,000 — upfront, many of them using Hope Scholarship funds to do so. Thirty families registered, according to The 74, but when the microschool opened its doors, only eight kids showed up.

Even after ponying up much of their own cash, The Hive’s founders had to start working extra jobs to make enough money to keep lights on in the rented building. But without the founders actively managing the school, The Hive turned into a de facto daycare center where kids hung out, played on their phones and fed themselves from the communal fridge (or didn’t, as was the case with one little boy who wasn’t comfortable taking food from someone else’s fridge), without a set schedule or curriculum.

Unsurprisingly, when parents figured out they weren’t getting what they paid for, many pulled their kids and demanded the Hope Scholarship funds they had paid up front be returned. Those requests prompted a West Virginia Treasurer’s Office investigation into The Hive, and the microschool was ordered to return roughly \$15,000 in Hope dollars. (Families didn’t receive refunds for the days their kids attended The Hive.)

Families, of course, were left to figure out where to send their kids next. We don’t know where any of these kids ended up — in another microschool, homeschooled, or at a private or public school — but we imagine it was difficult to find placement not only mid-year, but also after months of very little educational instruction that likely put students behind their peers.

This is why we say West Virginia is the Wild West of alternative education: As summarized by The 74, “The state doesn’t ask potential vendors to submit a business or education plan up front. Anyone who wants to be an authorized Hope ‘service provider,’ including a microschool, must sign a contract agreeing to get criminal background checks on staff working with students and to notify districts when they enroll. To receive funds, vendors need only submit a W-9, a tax form for an independent contractor, and document the Hope funds they receive from parents.”

No business plan, no startup cash, no education plan ... That’s an incredibly low bar for people and organizations who want taxpayer dollars. And other states have already seen how the lack of guardrails leads to fraud and abuse: Three women in Arizona were indicted for fraud after spending \$87,000 in state education savings account funds on personal purchases and services.

If West Virginia lawmakers are going to insist on allowing ESAs like the Hope Scholarship to be used for privately owned “schools,” then lawmakers must put higher standards and better oversight in place to protect parents and students. Otherwise, we’ll see more financial and educational catastrophes like The Hive.

Give ‘em hell, Joe

THE KID WAS BACK (BUT WE DIDN’T KNOW IT YET). THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WAS CHANNELING HIS INNER SCRANTON JOE (BUT WE HADN’T SEEN IT YET).

“Mister Speaker, the President of the United States!”

The introduction by the House Sergeant-at-Arms was still echoing as a smiling, eyes gleaming Joe Biden began that familiar, slow walk down the center aisle. He took his time, shaking as many Democratic and Republican hands as possible at the start of Thursday night’s State of the Union address.

He looked as happy as he used to look in the old days when we first became friends. Yet of course he was painfully aware of the latest news headlines about his Democratic coalition unraveling and his polls being underwater. His White House’s three years of silence and no problem-solving innovations at the southern border have led to a devastating decline in Hispanic voter support. A New York Times/Siena College poll last month showed that Biden’s lead over Donald Trump among Hispanic voters — it was almost 2 to 1 — had vanished. They were now statistically even. Americans felt they were reeling under still-inflated grocery prices. Never mind that economists were praising an economic soft-landing recovery.

Yet, watching Biden working both sides of the aisle, I recognized his long-lost Fun-Time look. I had seen that grin, gleam and energy decades ago, when we got to know each other. He loved the Washington game, especially when I told him what it was like covering Nixon’s Watergate White House, and how I got around Nixon’s order to freeze me out.

But how far into the speech would Biden get before that energy was spent and the gaffes that he had always committed would become his headline? What I didn’t know was that he had a new level of leadership secret weapon.

Scranton Joe had channeled his inner

Give ‘Em Hell, Harry. It would take him to a new level of political leadership command and control. Harry Truman, who was president when The Kid really was a kid, had confounded polls, pundits and polls with his 1948 comeback election victory by campaigning against a “Do Nothing” Congress. “I didn’t give them hell,” Truman later explained. “I just told them the truth and they thought it was hell!”

Give ‘Em Hell, Joe ended up giving perhaps the best speech of his life — and certainly the best of his presidency. He did it with a little help from his friends — and a helluva lot of help from his enemies. (As we’ll soon explain.)

State of the Union addresses are infamously boring because even the most eloquent presidents turn them into blah-blah laundry lists of issues and promises. Members of Congress use them mainly as stand-up/sit-down applause workouts. (Then, as we are now seeing, they do little else the rest of the year.)

But Biden was prepared by a speech and strategy staff that has often failed him in the past. And Thursday night, he was prepared to hammer home his issues in short, concise points. And he loved to goad Republicans into shouting taunts at him that he then ad-libbed his compact put-down.

And 13 times he attacked his Republican opponent, Donald Trump. Never by name; always by referring to “my predecessor.” The nail-sharp points he hammered hit home to the millions of blue-collar middle

Americans who have become proud (no longer ashamed) to call themselves MAGA Trump voters:

Women who depend on IVF and want a return of Roe v. Wade. Buy American requirements. Obamacare’s health care security. Big Pharma’s price gouging. Fair-share taxing of millionaires — no tax hikes for families making \$400,000 or less.

Each time, Democrats stood and cheered. Each time most Republican pols sat silently — a few jeered.

Biden blasted “my predecessor” for killing the bipartisan border reform that conservatives said had the toughest-ever enforcement provisions: 1,500 more security agents and officers; 100 more immigration judges for the 2 million case backlog; 4,300 more asylum officers and new policies to resolve cases in six months instead of six years; 100 more drug detection machines to help halt fentanyl smuggling that kills our children.

Republicans hooted and shouted “No.” But Oklahoma’s ultra-conservative Sen. James Lankford, was caught on camera saying: “It’s true.” Which must be why so many Republicans thought it was hell.

Why were the Republicans so silent on these applause-line basics? The answer was sitting just above Biden’s left shoulder. Speaker Mike Johnson was performing comic pantomime instruction. All it lacked was a shouted: “Live from Washington, it’s Thursday Night Live!”

Perhaps you thought you were watching his look-alike, Stephen Colbert, reprising a more subtle Chevy Chase — eyes rolling, head shaking “no.” His flock remained seated and mostly silent.

So it was that Americans watching “Thursday Night Live” may well have witnessed the birth of the New Republican Silent Minority.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

The president and Congress need an intervention

WHEN SOME PEOPLE APPEAR BEYOND HELP BECAUSE OF ADDICTION OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES THEY CAN’T CONTROL, FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO STAGE AN INTERVENTION. Congress and President Biden need an intervention as their addiction to spending exceeds anything seen in history.

In his State of the Union address last week, the president invoked one of his party’s favorite lines about corporations and the rich not paying their “fair share” in taxes. Notice they never say what they consider fair and when Democrats manage to hike the tax rate it’s never enough.

The president claimed he has reduced the “deficit” (as opposed to the debt, which continues to grow). He takes credit for the reduction in spending following the COVID-19 pandemic, but that produced a decrease in the increase of spending, not an actual reduction. In the way the



CAL THOMAS

government mis-figures things, if you spent \$500 on a credit card one month and \$400 the following month, you would have decreased your spending, but still added \$900 to what you owe. See how this works?

The top 1% of taxpayers — those who earn \$561,351 or more — paid 42.3% of the total tax revenue collected in 2020, according to the latest figures from the IRS. In fact, the top 1% of taxpayers paid more income taxes than the bottom 90% combined.

And yet the president wants to squeeze more blood from these successful “turnips.” Notice Democrats never suggest cutting a single dollar in spending, or eliminating programs that don’t work, or have exceeded their “sell-by” date. Instead, they demand more from the successful to subsidize and buy votes from people who pay no taxes, many of whom receive government checks.

Basic economics appears among the casualties of what is not taught in today’s public schools and universities. Let me help the uninformed and misinformed. Too much debt is a dead weight on the economy and on individuals.

From America’s beginning, there have been warnings of the threat to the nation of large debt.

As this is the 100th anniversary of Calvin Coolidge’s pres-

idency, let’s begin with a few of his thoughts on debt: “Public debt is a burden on all the people.” Under Coolidge the debt fell. About taxes, he said: “The collection of taxes which are not absolutely required, which do not beyond reasonable doubt contribute to public welfare, is only a species of legalized larceny. Under this Republic the rewards of industry belong to those who earn them.”

What has changed in one century? Again, it is the transition from self-reliance to an over reliance on government.

George Washington warned the new nation to avoid “the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts.” Washington also believed it wrong to place “upon posterity the burden which ourselves ought to bear.” As with many of

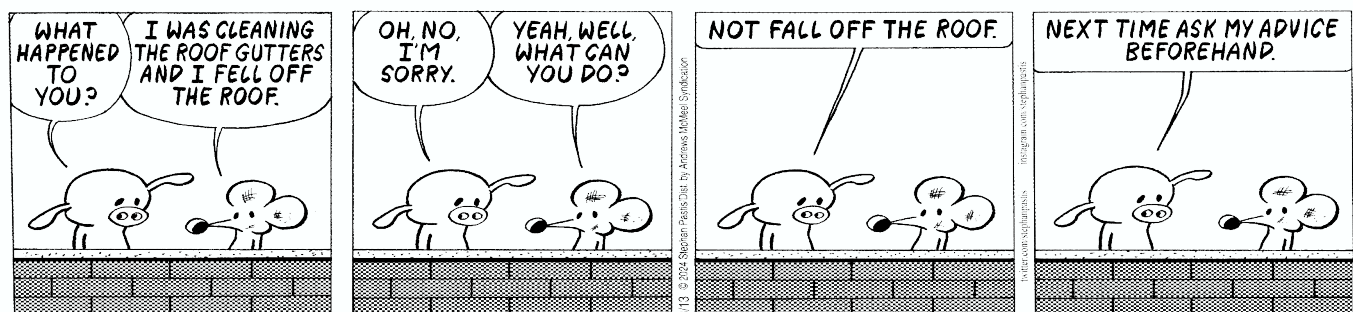
the other Founders, Washington would likely be appalled that moderns are ignoring his sage advice.

Why don’t more of us pay attention to the wise words of men like these and to what history teaches about nations that fall too deep into debt? Again, the answer is that so many people have been misled to rely on government first and themselves last that they have become addicted to government and the borrowed money that keeps those checks coming. As with other addictions from which the addicted cannot free themselves, an intervention is much needed. One can happen in November if enough non-addicts vote for candidates who are committed to putting our financial house back in order. First, they have to change their thinking about what was supposed to be a limited government so that “we the people” might be unlimited in our pursuit of happiness.

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

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



NON SEQUITUR



BY WILEY

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EVENT

Mountaineer Area Council's Merit Badge University draws more than 250 Scouts from six states

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The Mountaineer Area Council Boy Scouts of America hosted its 13th Annual Merit Badge University at West Virginia University in February.

More than 250 Scouts representing nine councils and six states participated in the event held across three WVU campuses.

Scouts chose from a selection of 20 merit badge opportunities ranging from engineering to entrepreneurship. These workshops were led by more than 100 members of WVU's faculty and staff, and supported by more than 20 Boy Scouts of America (BSA) volunteers.

The event served as a platform for Scouts to explore various subjects like aviation and first-aid, gain practical skills and build camaraderie with peers from across the region. It also emphasized leadership, teamwork and character development.

The Mountaineer Area Council extends its gratitude to all participants,

volunteers and partners for their contributions to the success of the 13th Annual Merit Badge University. Their collective efforts have made an impact on the lives of Scouts, empowering them to embrace new challenges and strive for excellence.

The Mountaineer Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, serves the youth of north-central West Virginia, providing programs and experiences that help young people build character, develop leadership skills and become responsible, caring and engaged citizens.

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared. For Life.®" The Scouting organization is composed of more than one million youth members (ages 5-17), participants (ages 17-21), and adult volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories.

NATION

Federal courts move to restrict 'judge shopping'



AP file photo

The Supreme Court is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, March 4, 2024.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal courts moved Tuesday to make it harder to file lawsuits in front of judges seen as friendly to a point of view, a practice known as judge shopping that gained national attention in a major abortion medication case.

The new policy covers civil suits that would affect an entire state or the whole country. It would require a judge to be randomly assigned, even in areas where locally filed cases have gone before a single judge.

Cases are already assigned at random under plans in most of the country's 94 federal district courts, but some plans assign cases to judges in the smaller division where the case is filed. In divisions with only one judge, often in rural areas, that means private or state attorneys can essentially pick which judge will hear it.

The practice has raised concerns from senators and the Biden administration, and its use in patent cases was highlighted by Chief Justice John Roberts in his 2021 report on the federal judiciary.

Interest groups of all kinds have long attempted to file lawsuits before judges they see as friendly to their causes. But the practice got more attention after an unprecedented ruling halting approval of abortion medication. That case was filed in Amarillo, Texas, where it was all but certain to go before U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, an appointee of former President Donald Trump who is a former attorney for a religious liberty legal group with a long history pushing conservative causes.

The Supreme Court put the abortion medication ruling on hold, and is hearing arguments on it later this month.

STATE

Residential real estate company undergoes ownership transition

DPNews@DominionPost.com

A transformation has taken place in north-central West Virginia's real estate landscape as White Diamond Realty, a residential real estate firm, announced a change in ownership and branding.

With a commitment to preserving the core values and service that clients have come to rely on, the company is unveiling a fresh identity under new ownership, symbolizing both continuity and evolution.

David Lorenze, an original founding partner, will be joined by Anthony and Jennifer Romeo. Anthony is a veteran and local oil and gas land manager and

Jennifer is a seasoned residential real estate professional.

"Our mission remains steadfast: to provide unparalleled service and guidance to our clients while embracing innovation and adaptability," said Anthony Romeo. "With Jennifer's expertise and leadership, David's deep-rooted connections within the community and my commitment to excellence shaped by my military service, we are positioned to exceed expectations and set new standards in the industry."

While retaining the foundational principles established by the previous ownership, the reimagined White Diamond Realty

introduces a refined aesthetic with a focus on luxury branding. The company's new logo and color palette serve as a visual representation of its dedication to timeless elegance and sophistication.

Jennifer Romeo, spearheading the team of agents, expressed her enthusiasm for the opportunity to elevate the client experience.

"We are excited to embark on this journey, leveraging our collective and diverse strengths to deliver exceptional results for our clients. Whether buying, selling, or investing in real estate, our unwavering commitment to personalized service and attention to detail

remains unwavering."

Lorenze emphasized the importance of local expertise in navigating the region's dynamic real estate market.

"As a native of this vibrant community, I am honored to continue serving my neighbors and friends in achieving their real estate goals. Our team is deeply rooted in north-central West Virginia, enabling us to provide vital and unique awareness and guidance tailored to the specific needs of our clients."

For more information about White Diamond Realty and its range of real estate services, visit [whitediamondrealty.net](http://whitediamondrealty.net) or call 304-241-7500.

MEDICINE

Take control of your colorectal health

WVU Cancer Institute marks Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

WVU Medicine

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is one of the most deadly cancers in the U.S., but it's also highly preventable.

This month, the WVU Cancer Institute encourages everyone to learn more about CRC and take charge of their colon health.

On March 1, employees of the WVU Cancer Institute celebrated Dress in Blue Day, an annual way for people to bring awareness to colorectal cancer during National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

"Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer

in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Although the incidence of colorectal cancer is decreasing nationwide, particularly in patients over 55, West Virginia has a significantly higher incidence of colorectal cancer as compared to the rest of the U.S.," Dr. Kevin Train, section chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery at WVU Medicine, said.

"That is why it is incredibly important to talk to your primary care physician about available screening options and to discuss any possible warning signs like bleeding or a change in bowel habits that you might have."

According to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, there are three key facts everyone should know when it comes to

colorectal cancer:

■ Early detection is key: When caught early, more than 90% of colorectal cancer cases are successfully treated. Unfortunately, this cancer often shows no symptoms until later stages. Don't wait until for symptoms like blood in your stool, unusual bowel changes, persistent stomach pain, or unexplained weight loss, which could be signs that the disease has progressed.

■ Screening saves lives: Regular screening starting at age 45 significantly reduces your risk. Several safe and effective options are available, like colonoscopies and stool-based tests.

■ Know your risk factors: Some people are at higher risk due to family history, certain medical

conditions, or ethnicity. Talk to your doctor to understand your individual risk.

Not every colorectal cancer is the same. Certain factors affect a patient's prognosis. These include the cancer's stage and location, whether cancer cells exist after treatment, and a patient's overall health.

Treatment for CRC may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, immunotherapy and more. All treatments can cause side effects. New treatments are being tested in clinical trials.

For more information about the WVU Cancer Institute, visit [WVUMedicine.org/Cancer](http://WVUMedicine.org/Cancer). To schedule an appointment with a primary care provider, call 855-WVU-CARE.

TECHNOLOGY

Delete a background? Easy. Smooth out a face? Seamless. Digital photo manipulation is now mainstream

Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's been a common refrain when seeking proof that someone's story or some event actually took place: "Pics, or it didn't happen."

But in a world where the spread of technology makes photo manipulation as easy as a tap on your phone, the idea that a visual image is an absolute truth is as outdated as the daguerreotype. And a photo can sometimes raise as many questions as it was meant to answer.

That was seen in recent days when controversy descended upon an image of Kate, Princess of Wales, and her three children. News agencies including The Associated Press published, then retracted, the image given out by Buckingham Palace over concerns it had been manipulated, leading to Kate saying on social media that she occasionally "experimented" with photo editing.

In that, she's hardly alone.

From something that was time-consuming and required a great deal of technical expertise in the days of actual film and darkrooms, digital editing has become something practically anyone can do, from adding filters to cropping images and much more. Apps abound, offering the easiest of experiences in creating and retouching photos and videos which can then be easily transmitted online and through social media.

"Cover blemishes and let the real you shine through," says an ad for the smartphone app Facetune. "Remove and change back-



AP file photo

Kate, Princess of Wales, departs Westminster Abbey after the coronation ceremony in London, May 6, 2023. The scandal over Kate, Princess of Wales' family snapshot — dubbed "photogate" — is a new chapter in the thorny relationship between the media and Britain's royal family.

grounds instantly," the Fotor app's website enthuses. "Our AI object remover is ready to assist you in getting rid of unwanted objects."

This Wild West of image-altering abilities is opening new frontiers for everyday people — and creating headaches for those who expect photos to be a documentary representation of reality.

THE MAINSTREAMING OF MANIPULATION

Photojournalists and major news organizations follow standards and ethics codes around photos. These organizations typically place an absolute premium on image

authenticity and reject photographs that have been altered in any way. But efforts to identify altered imagery can be impeded by the increasingly easy-to-use apps for phones and computers that allow anyone to chip away, piece by piece, at what a camera actually recorded.

The mainstreaming of manipulation, placing such abilities at people's fingertips, has made for some interesting and viral moments — like the one in March 2023 when an artificially generated image of Pope Francis wearing a puffy white coat took in many people who thought it was real.

But there are risks and dangers to a world where just because you see something doesn't mean you can absolutely believe it, said Ken Light, a photojournalism professor at the University of California Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism.

"The role of photography has been to witness and to record for the moment, but also for history. And I don't think any of us know where it's going," he said. The rise of visual manipulation that casts doubt on whether something is real or not "frays the fabric of the culture tremendously in the moment but also for the future."

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OBITUARIES

John Cole

John Alonzo Cole, 70, of Newburg, passed peacefully in his home surrounded by his family on Saturday, March 9, 2024. He was born June 13, 1953, in Morgantown, son of the late William Beryl (Bill Cole) and Marie (Thompson) Cole. His wife of 48 years, Regina Ann (Crew) Cole survives.

John was a 1972 graduate of Valley High School. His passion for cars brought him to his career as an auto body technician for Larry Smith Buick, in Morgantown. From the age of 16, John was a member of the Reedsville Volunteer Fire Department, where he loved serving his community. John was also a member of the United Methodist Church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by one daughter, Courtney Leigh (Cole) Scotchel and husband Louis A. Scotchel, Jr.; three grandchildren, Hunter Michael, McCloud, Louis Alonzo Scotchel, and Axton Cole Scotchel; two sisters-in-law, Caroyl Massullo and husband Marc Massullo, and Cheryl

Callen and husband Michael Callen; two nieces, Ashley Tomaszewski and husband Jonathan, and Sarah Massullo and finance Cody Taylor; and two nephews, Anthony Massullo and Jonathan Massullo.

Friends may call at Morgan Funeral Home, 13411 Veterans Memorial Highway, Reedsville, from 4-7 p.m., on Thursday, March 14, and Friday, March 15, from noon until the funeral hour. Funeral services will be conducted at the funeral home, on Friday, March 15, at 2 p.m., with Rev. David D. Spence and Rev. Clinton Atkins officiating. There will be a private inurnment at the Fletcher Cemetery at Cheat Neck.

The Cole family would like to send a special thank you to the staff of Mon General Hospital and Amedisys Hospice. Your excellent care is unsurpassed, and your kind compassion will not be forgotten.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Reedsville Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 248, Reedsville, WV 26547.

Morgan Funeral Home is honored to serve John's family.

Harland Dunaway

Harland Ellsworth Dunaway, 94, of Reedsville, passed away on Saturday March 9, 2024, at New Horizon. He was Born on June 28, 1929, in Mason-town, son of the late Lonnie Williams Dunaway and Georgia Syrena Jenkins.

Harland worked as a Coal Miner at Consolidated Coal Company up until he retired in 1993. He was an active member at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, a 4-H leader, and a volunteer for Valley Ambulance EMT. He enjoyed spending his time hunting, fishing, and camping with family and friends.

Harland is survived by one son, Mark Eric and wife Nancy Dunaway of Fellowsville; one daughter-in-law, Brenda Wolfe Dunaway of Fellowsville; five grandchildren, Christopher, Rodney, Kevin, and Rebekah Dunaway, and Sarah Dunaway and husband Mike Cerpa; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his par-

ents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Lenora Gail Brown; two sons, William Hoy Dunaway, and Alan Vincent Dunaway; two brothers, Edward Dunaway and Richard Dunaway.

Friends may call at Morgan Funeral Home, 13411 Veterans Memorial Highway, Reedsville, from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, and Thursday, March 14, from 10 a.m. until the funeral hour. Funeral Services will be conducted at the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, on Thursday, March 14, at 11 a.m., with Pastor John Brosky officiating. Interment at Mount Zion Cemetery, Marquess.

The Dunaway family would like to send a special thank you to the staff of Amedisys Hospice and New Horizon.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, 5360 Kingwood Pike, 26547 or Preston County 4-H Camp Scholarship Fund, 115 West Court St., Kingwood, WV 26537.

Morgan Funeral Home is honored to serve the Dunaway Family.

Carolyn Hampson

Carolyn Hagen Jacobs Hampson, 79, of Morgantown, passed away on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at Sundale Nursing Home.

Cremation arrangements have been entrusted to Hastings Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at Hastings Funeral Home, 153 Spruce St., Mor-

gantown, on Saturday, April 13, at 2 p.m. Following the memorial service friends and family will be received for a gathering at the funeral home. Inurnment will take place at Oak Grove Cemetery at a later date.

A full obituary will appear in a later edition of the Dominion Post.

David Johnson

David Alan Johnson, of 800 Louise Ave. in Morgantown, passed away on March 9, 2024. David was born on Aug. 20, 1962. David worked at the OJ White Moving Company and then

worked for Comcast where he retired with honors. He is remembered for his kindness, generosity, and fun-loving spirit. David was a

wonderful son, brother, uncle, and friend. His spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

David is preceded in death by his father, Newton D. Johnson; mother, Margaret A. Warrick-Johnson; and sister, Myra L. Musser. He is survived by his brother, Lewton Johnson of Denver.

In accordance with David's wishes there will be no public service at this time. A Celebration of His life will be March 23 at the Waterfront Place Marriott from 5-7 p.m.

Harold Hibbs

Harold Eugene Hibbs, 75, of Pentress, died Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at his residence following an extended illness.

He was born April 12, 1948, at Pentress, a son of the late Charles Minor Hibbs and Edith Henkins Hibbs.

Harold was a retired coal miner who worked at the Eastern Associated Federal #2 Mine. He was a United States Army veteran who served during the Vietnam Era. He attended both the Bula Baptist Church and the Dolls Run Christian Church.

Surviving is his wife, Melinda Kay Moore Hibbs; one son and his wife, Bran-

don Hibbs and his wife Beth of Orlando, Fla.; one grandson, Bentley Hibbs of Orlando, Fla.; two brothers, Charles Hibbs of Pentress, and George Hibbs of Kentucky; and one sister, Reitha Peterson of Kentucky.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters, Eileen Postlethwait, Blake McCoy, and Helen Roupe; and one brother, John Hibbs.

At the request of the deceased his body will be cremated. All services will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

The Owen-Neely Funeral Home in Blacksville is in charge of arrangements.

COURTS

Afghan refugee stands trial in first of 3 killings that shocked Albuquerque's Muslim community

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Fear coursed through the Muslim community in New Mexico's largest city over several days in the summer of 2022 as authorities scrambled to determine if race or religion might have been behind the ambush-style killings of three men from the community.

It was not long before the investigation shifted away from possible hate crimes to what prosecutors on Tuesday described as the "willful and very deliberate" actions of another member of the Muslim community — Muhammad Syed, an Afghan refugee.

Prosecutors delivered opening statements in what is the first trial for Syed, 53, who settled in the U.S. several years ago with his family.

Syed, who speaks Pashto and no English, has remained in custody without bond since his arrest. He is charged with three counts of murder and four charges of tampering with evidence. Police also have identified him as the suspect in the killing of a fourth Muslim man, but no charges have been filed in that case.

Syed faces separate trials for each victim, the first being 41-year-old Aftab Hussein. The other trials will happen over the course of the coming months.

Syed denied involvement in the killings after being detained just days after police put out a public plea for help with the unsolved killings that had rocked Albuquerque's Muslim community. Authorities had shared photographs of a vehicle



AP photo

Muhammad Syed enters the court room before opening statements at the Bernalillo County Courthouse in Downtown Albuquerque, N.M., on Tuesday.

believed to be involved in the crimes, resulting in tips that led to Syed.

Police stopped him in his vehicle in August 2022 more than 100 miles from Albuquerque. He told authorities he was on his way to Texas to find a new home for his family, saying he was concerned about the killings in Albuquerque.

Prosecutors painted a picture for jurors of the night Hussein was killed, saying it was around 10 p.m. when he pulled up to his apartment complex and parked. Hussein had just stepped out of his car, still holding his keys in his hand, when gunfire erupted and he was struck multiple times.

Deputy District Attorney David Waymire showed jurors the rifle he said Syed used, telling them it was found during a subsequent search of his home. He also told jurors that forensic examination determined that casings found at the scene had been fired from that weapon.

Cellphone records indicated that Syed was at the scene before and during the shooting and that Syed

had saved a note in his phone — 12 minutes before the shooting — that talked about killing Hussein, Waymire said.

"The evidence will show this was a willful and very deliberate killing," he said. "And the evidence will show Muhammad Syed is guilty."

While some court documents remain sealed, others shed no light on a possible motive, leaving the community struggling to understand why Hussein and the other men were targeted. Prosecutors offered no further insight during their opening statements and didn't discuss any interactions that Syed might have had with the victim.

Defense attorney Thomas Clark told jurors that prosecutors have no evidence that Syed was the one who pulled the trigger and that there were others living in his home who also had access to the rifle, his car and his phone. Clark said the forensic evidence that will be presented by prosecutors does not include any fingerprints or DNA that would implicate his client.

DEATH NOTICE

**Sandra Jean (Overfield) White**, 82, of Kingwood, went to be with her Lord and Savior Sunday, March 10, 2024, at Preston Memorial Hospital. She was born June 1, 1941, in Reedsville. Friends may call at Kingwood Funeral Home on Thursday, March 14, from 11 a.m. until the 2 p.m. funeral hour. Interment will follow at Morgan Memorial Park, Reedsville.

NATION

Staff at a Va. wildlife center pretend to be red foxes as they care for an orphaned kit

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Employees of the Richmond Wildlife Center in Virginia are doing their best to act like mother foxes as they feed and care for an orphaned kit that found her way into their care.

In a video posted to the center's Facebook page Tuesday, Executive Director Melissa Stanley is shown wearing a red fox mask and rubber gloves while feeding the tiny kit from a syringe. The kit sits on top of a large stuffed animal fox that is supposed to look like her mother, Stanley said.

The same Facebook post explained why staff are wearing the mask to feed her, minimizing human sounds, creating visual barriers and taking other precautions. "It's important to make sure that the orphans that are raised in captivity do not become imprinted upon or habituated to humans," the post said.

All those measures make it more likely the kit could be reintroduced into the wild someday.

Stanley said in an interview Tuesday that the kit was admitted to the center on Feb. 29 after a man walking his dog found her in an alley in Richmond. Thinking she was a kitten, he turned her over to the Rich-

mond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. She was less than 24 hours old and her umbilical stump was still attached.

Wildlife center staff initially tried to locate the kit's mother and her den site so they could reunite them. They found the den site, but were told by the

grounds superintendent that the foxes had been trapped and removed. Stanley said she suspects the fox kit either fell out of a trap or off the back of the trapper's truck.

Staff at the wildlife center have been taking turns feeding the kit every two to four hours, all while wearing the fox mask.

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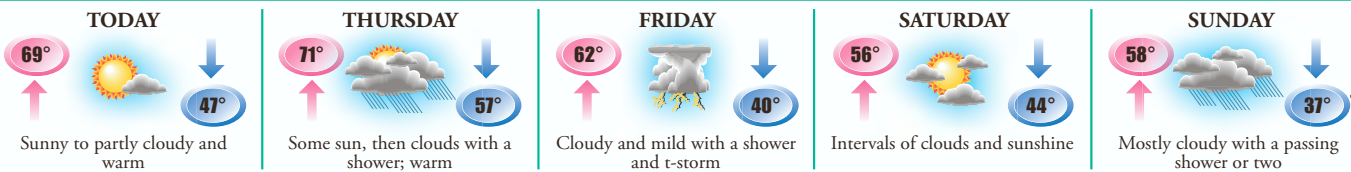
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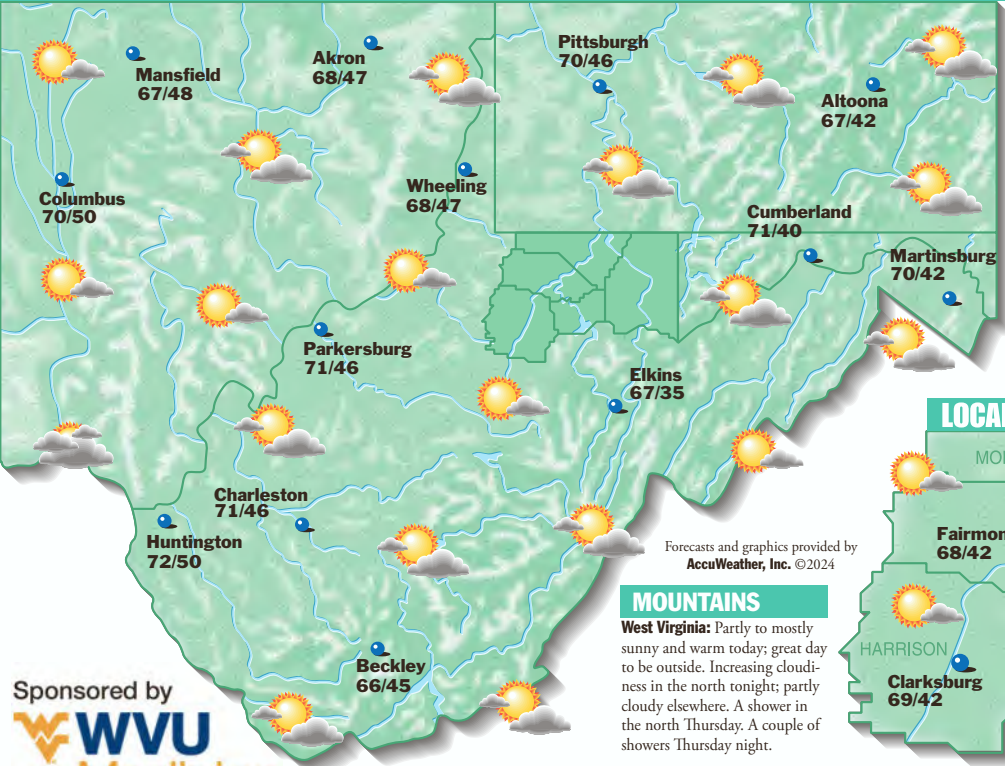
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FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



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ALMANAC

Morgantown through 4 p.m. Tuesday

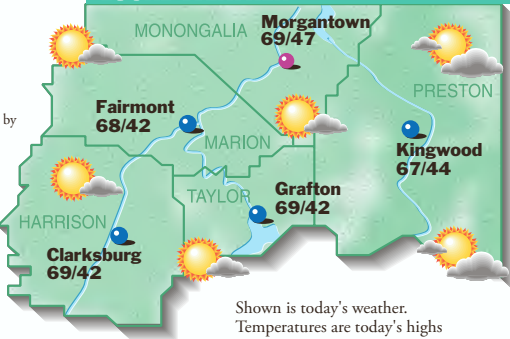
**Temperature**  
High/low ..... 67°/38°  
Normal high/low ..... 50°/27°  
Record high ..... 80° in 1990  
Record low ..... 4° in 1896

**Precipitation**  
24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Tuesday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 1.95"  
Year to date ..... 10.52"

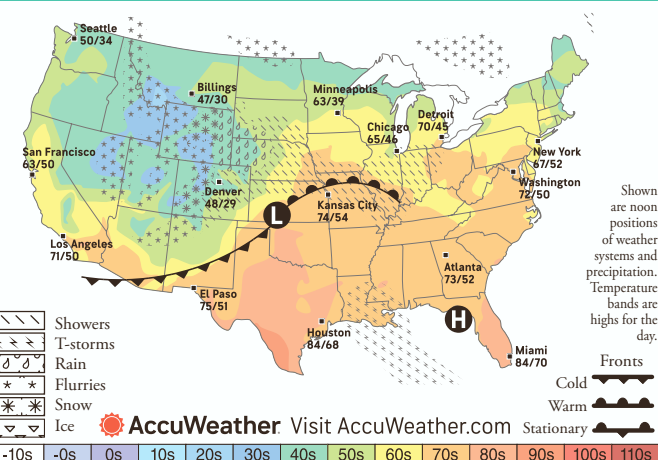
**SUN AND MOON**  
Sunrise today ..... 7:34 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 7:25 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 9:19 a.m.  
Moonset today ..... 11:52 p.m.

First Mar 16 Full Mar 25 Last Apr 1 New Apr 8

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



SKI CONDITIONS

Ski Area	New snow (in)	Base (in)	Trails Open
Canaan Valley	0	0-0	0
Seven Springs, PA	4	0-18	12
Snowshoe/Silver Creek	0	0-35	36
Timberline Four Seasons	0	10-32	17
Wisp, MD	0	12-16	7

Snow reports provided by OnTheSnow.com

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Beckley, WV	66/45/pc	73/54/pc
Charleston, WV	71/46/pc	77/57/pc
Columbus, OH	70/50/pc	73/56/ds
Cumberland, MD	71/40/pc	72/51/pc
Fairmont, WV	68/42/s	71/55/pc
Grafton, WV	69/42/s	72/56/c
Huntington, WV	72/50/s	77/61/pc
Kingwood, WV	67/44/s	71/54/pc
Pittsburgh, PA	70/46/s	70/57/pc
Wheeling, WV	68/47/pc	70/58/sh

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

SOLUNAR TABLES

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

	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Wed.	2:45 a.m.	8:59 a.m.	3:12 p.m.	9:25 p.m.
Thu.	3:45 a.m.	9:59 a.m.	4:13 p.m.	10:27 p.m.
Fri.	4:46 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	5:14 p.m.	11:28 p.m.
Sat.	5:45 a.m.	11:59 a.m.	6:13 p.m.	---
Sun.	6:41 a.m.	12:31 a.m.	7:09 p.m.	12:55 p.m.

LAKE AND RIVERS

Lake	7 a.m. Yest.	24-hour Change
Chester Lake	851.00	none
Deep Creek, MD	2459.31	+0.08
Jennings Randolph	1453.17	+0.68
Stonewall Jackson	1073.16	-0.03
Tygart	1087.97	+8.75
Youghiogheny	1441.05	+0.55

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

Monongahela	Fld.	Prs.	Chg.
Morgantown	22	10.40	-1.27

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 13, the 74th day of 2024. There are 293 days left in the year.

Highlight:

**In 2013**, Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina was elected pope, choosing the name Francis. he was the first pontiff from the Americas and the first from outside Europe in more than a millennium.

On this date:

**In 1781**, the seventh planet of the solar system, Uranus, was discovered by Sir William Herschel.

**In 1862**, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure prohibiting Union military officers from returning fugitive slaves to their owners.

**In 1996**, a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself.

**In 2020**, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was fatally shot in her apartment in Louisville, Kentucky, during a botched raid by plainclothes narcotics detectives; no drugs were found, and the "no-knock" warrant used to enter by force was later found to be flawed.

Today's birthdays:

Jazz musician Roy Haynes is 99. Songwriter Mike Stoller is 91. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 85. R&B/gospel singer Candi Staton is 84. Opera singer Julia Migenes is 75. Actor William H. Macy is 74. Comedian Robin Duke is 70. Actor Dana Delany is 68. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., is 67.

Lessons from the past still ring true today

**DEAR ABBY:** Years ago, I sat over lunch, reading your mom's "Definition of Maturity." It was shortly after my dad died, and reading it made me realize how lucky I had been. Those were all lessons I learned at home from my parents.

Perhaps this item is in your booklet. But could you print it in your column again for other readers to see? It's an important reminder of what to strive for. — MARY H. IN IOWA

**DEAR MARY:** I am doing that with pleasure. I agree that Mama's definition of maturity is a timely reminder — and perhaps something that people (of all ages) can learn from today.

Definition of maturity Maturity is: The ability to stick with a job until it's finished.

The ability to do a job without being supervised.

The ability to carry money without spending it.

And the ability to bear an injustice without wanting To get even.

You were correct when you guessed that her definition of maturity is part of the "Keepers" booklet.



JEANNE PHILLIPS

Keepers is a collection of articles that readers suggested be put together in booklet form, many of which readers had hung onto until they were worn and yellowed with age. What resulted was a booklet that contains clever observations and items on diverse subjects, including parenting, children, aging, animals, forgiveness, and more. It can be ordered by sending your name and address plus a check or money order (U.S. funds) for \$8 to Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

**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

3/13/24	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
<b>BROADCAST CHANNELS</b>												
2	KDKA-TV News at Six (N)	KDKA-TV News at 6:30pm (N)	CBS Evening News (N)	KDKA-TV News at 7:30PM (N)	Survivor "Wackadoodles Win" Castaways attempt to outwit, outlast and outplay each other for a prize of \$1 million. (N)	The Amazing Race "You Can't Drive While You're Crying" (SP) (N)	KDKA-TV News at Eleven (N)	Late Show-Colbert (N)				
4	WTAE Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	ABC World News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	The Conners (N)	Not Dead Yet "Not Solved Yet" (N)	Abbott Elementary (N)	Judge Steve Harvey "Don't Get In Grown Folk Business" (N)	Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)		
5	WDTV First News	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	Survivor "Wackadoodles Win" (N)	The Amazing Race (N)	5 News	Colbert				
7	WTRF 7News at 7	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	Survivor "Wackadoodles Win" (N)	The Amazing Race (N)	7News at 7	Colbert				
9	WTOV News 9 at Six (L) (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Chicago Med Asher's first date takes a surprising turn.	Chicago Fire Brett and Violet take an investigation into their own hands.	Chicago P.D. "Safe Harbor" The team investigates a drive-by attack on refugees.	News 9 Tonight (L) (N)	Tonight Show (N)			
11	WPXI Channel 11	NBC News	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Chicago Med	Chicago Fire	Chicago P.D.	News (N)	J. Fallon			
12	WBOY News (N)	NBC News	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel (N)	Chicago Med	Chicago Fire	Chicago P.D.	News (N)	J. Fallon			
13	WQED PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America (N)	Untamed	Ireland's Wild Coast Exploring Ireland's west coast and wildlife.	NOVA The January 2022 volcanic eruption that rocked Tonga.	NOVA Investigating the potential impact of explosions in Siberia.	Amanpour and Company (N)					
22	WCWB Two and a Half Men (N)	Two and a Half Men (N)	Modern Family "Playdates"	Modern Family	Wild Cards "Inside (Con)Man" Max is taken hostage during a bank robbery. (N)	Family Law "Catch 22" A woman wants a medically assisted death. (N)	Court Cam iCRIME With Elizabeth Vargas	The National Desk (L) (N)				
24	WNBP Context	America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Nature	NOVA		Amanpour (N)					
46	WVFX News (N)	Investig.	Last Man	Masked (N)	Animal (N)	Family Guy	WWFX 10	Seinfeld	Housewife			
53	WPGH The Big Bang Theory	Channel 11 News on Fox 53 at 6:30 (N)	The Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	The Masked Singer (N)	Animal Control (N)	Family Guy (N)	Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)	Seinfeld "The Strong Box"	Seinfeld "The Alternate Side"		
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>												
A&E	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Booked (N)	Court Cam	Court Cam		
AMC	*** Lethal Weapon 4 (98) Mel Gibson.				*** Moneyball (11) Jonah Hill, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Brad Pitt.			*** Ghostbusters				
AT&TSP	World Poker Tour	Duquesne	Bensinger	Pro Women's Hockey Boston at Minnesota (N)	Duquesne			World Poker Tour				
BET	*** How Stella Got Her Groove Back (98) Taye Diggs, Angela Bassett.			Tyler Perry's Sistas (N)	Average Joe "Pilot"			Tyler Perry's Sistas				
CNN	Situation Room (L) (N)	E. B. OutFront (L) (N)	Cooper 360 (N)	The Source With (N)	King Charles (N)	Laura Coates Live (N)						
DISC	Expedition X	Expedition X	Expedition X	Expedition X (N)	Ghost Adventures (N)	Expedition Unknown						
DISN	Hamster & Hamster	Big City	Big City	Hailey	Hailey	Marvel's Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Bunk'd	Bunk'd		
ESPN	SportsCenter (L) (N)	NBA (N)	NBA Basketball	Denver Nuggets at Miami Heat (N)								
ESPN2	College Basketball	College Basketball			Basketball	College Basketball						
FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Grocery (N)	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games						
FNC	Special Report (L) (N)	Ingraham (N)	Hannity (L) (N)	Hannity (L) (N)	Gutfeld! (N)	Fox News at Night (N)						
FREE	*** Pete's Dragon	*** Inside Out (15) Amy Poehler.		*** The Princess and the Frog		The 700 Club						
HIST	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers						
LIFE	Castle	Castle "Pretty Dead"	Married at First Sight (N)	Married-Sight (N)	Prison Brides (SF) (N)	Baby						
NEWSN	The Hill (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	Cuomo (L) (N)	Dan Abrams Live (N)	Banfield (L) (N)	Cuomo						
NICK	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Loud House	Lay Lay	Lay Lay	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends		
PARMT	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	*** Ocean's Twelve (04) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.								
TNT	Lucifer	NHL on T.	NHL Hockey	Los Angeles Kings at St. Louis Blues (N)	NHL Hockey							
TVLAND	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King			
USA	College Basketball	College Basketball			Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law-SVU					
WE	NCIS "False Witness"	NCIS	NCIS "Recruited"	NCIS "Freedom"	NCIS	NCIS "Defiance"						
WTBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (L) (N)	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam					
<b>MOVIE CHANNELS</b>												
HBO	4 Definitely, Maybe	Curb Your Enthusiasm	*** Priscilla (23) Jacob Elordi, Cailee Spaeny.	Regime	*** Date Night (10) Steve Carell.							
MAX	*** XXX: State of the Union (05) Ice Cube.	*** House at the End of the Street		*** You're Next Sharni Vinson.	*** Paranoia							
SHOW	Movie	*** The Good Girl	*** Home Again	*** Titanic (97) Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio.								
TMC	*** Chloe (09) Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore.	*** The Stepfather Dylan Walsh.	*** The Machinist (04) Christian Bale. (P)	Lesson								

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

# GOING FOR THREE

## Mohigans begin quest for third-straight state title

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH  
Sports@DominionPost.com

CHARLESTON — The Morgantown High School boys' basketball team will start its quest to win its third-consecutive Class AAAA state title on Wednesday evening in Charleston as the No. 2-seeded Mohigans will match up with the No. 7 Wheeling Park Patriots at 7:15 p.m.

The two teams are no strangers to one another, having met four times this year, twice in the regular season, again in the OVAC 5A championship and then for the third time in the Region I, Section 1 championship game. Morgantown took all three contests by an average margin of 19 points. The Patriots only lost to MHS 62-59 at home on Jan. 17 but dropped the road game in Morgantown by 40, 84-44.

Coming in at 23-1, the only blemish on Morgantown's record comes at the hands of top-seeded Spring Mills back on Dec. 30, 53-49. MHS is the only team in Class AAAA averaging over 70 points this season and will come into the tournament with offensive confidence. But as everyone

SEE THREE, B-2



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Morgantown's Sharron Young (5) protects the ball from Wheeling Park's Amare Johnson during the sectional championship earlier this season.

<b>Boys' State Basketball Tournament Class AAAA</b> (All Games at Charleston Coliseum)	
<b>Tuesday, March 12</b>	
<b>GAME 1:</b> Charleston 51, Jefferson 33	
<b>GAME 2:</b> Spring Mills 60, Woodrow Wilson 41	
<b>Wednesday, March 13</b>	
<b>GAME 3:</b> No. 3 Huntington (16-8) vs. No. 6 Spring Valley (19-6), 11:15 a.m.	
<b>GAME 4:</b> No. 2 Morgantown (23-1) vs. No. 7 Wheeling Park (16-8), 7:15 p.m.	
<b>Friday, March 15</b>	
<b>GAME 5:</b> Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 9:30 a.m.	
<b>GAME 6:</b> South Charleston vs. Spring Mills, 1 p.m.	
<b>Saturday, March 16</b>	
<b>GAME 7:</b> Semifinal winners, 12:30 p.m.	

BIG 12 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

# WVU commits 3 technical fouls as Cincinnati completes 16-point comeback in Big 12 tourney

BY JUSTIN JACKSON  
JJackson@DominionPost.com

Not to get too technical here, but in its final game of a dismal season, the WVU men's basketball team found yet another way to lose.

A 90-85 loss against Cincinnati on Tuesday in the play-in round of the Big 12 tournament saw the Mountaineers (9-23) give up a 16-point lead with 11:45 remaining.

How? Three technical fouls were called on WVU players, all coming in the span of less than five minutes and all of them costly.

"At the end of the day, it came down to discipline," WVU head coach Josh Eilert said. "The parade to the free-throw line, things that we can control, you know, discipline in terms of not getting technical fouls."

Cincinnati (19-13) walked out of the T-Mobile Center in Kansas City, Mo. still clinging to an outside chance of getting to the NCAA tournament, but the Mountaineers gave the Bearcats plenty of unnecessary help.

Those three technical fouls — first on WVU guard Kobe Johnson, then Jesse Edwards and then RaeQuan Battle — led to an extra 11 points for Cincinnati.

After falling behind 64-48 with 11:45 left, those extra 11 points were part of a 20-4 Cincinnati run that tied the game at 68 with 7:24 remaining.

You read that right, WVU gave up a 16-point lead and was whistled for three technical fouls, and



AP Photo

West Virginia forward Quinn Slazinski (11) looks to shoot under pressure from Cincinnati forward Jamille Reynolds (13) during the first half of a Big 12 Men's Basketball Tournament game Tuesday in Kansas City, Mo.

all it took for WVU to unravel was four minutes and 21 seconds.

"I think our guys came out of the under 12 timeout, I believe we're down 16," Cincinnati head coach Wes Miller said. "They just played with a different approach those next couple possessions and I think we could feel some momentum turning there."

Johnson's tech came after he had just given the Mountaineers the 16-point lead after scoring a basket after posting up.

As he turned around to go play

defense, Johnson was whistled for taunting after making a mean face at the Cincinnati defender.

Edwards was whistled after he got mixed up with Cincinnati forward Aziz Bandaogo during a stoppage of play.

Edwards appeared to put his hand on Bandaogo, who then put on an Oscar-like performance by falling to the ground, and Edwards was charged with the technical.

Battle got a technical foul after he disagreed with a foul call and then made his way over to

the Cincinnati players' huddle.

It's not clear if Battle traded words with the Bearcats, but the refs called a technical foul just as both teams were headed for a timeout.

Cincinnati guard Simas Lukosius — he finished with a career high 31 points — was a perfect 6 of 6 on the technical free throws.

The Bearcats also scored an additional five points on getting the extra possessions after Lukosius' free throws.

Even all of that does not tell the whole story.

As quickly as WVU unraveled, the Mountaineers appeared to gather themselves for one final run.

Josiah Harris nailed a 3-pointer that gave WVU an 80-75 lead with 4:21 remaining, but then the final wheel fell off for the Mountaineers.

Day Day Thomas — he finished with 29 points — nailed three 3-pointers over the final 3:27 and Dan Skillings Jr. scored on a spinning drive through the lane that gave the Bearcats an 85-84 advantage they would never relinquish with 1:24 remaining.

"My coaches and my team just tell me to keep shooting the ball," Thomas said. "So I'm always going to have confidence in myself to keep making plays, keep making shots. I hit a big-time shot today."

Cincinnati, who advances to play 16th-ranked Kansas at 9:30

SEE FOULS, B-4

WVU BASEBALL

# WVU wins 7th straight against Marshall

BY CODY NESPOR  
Sports@DominionPost.com

Playing in the state's capital, the West Virginia baseball team defeated in-state foe Marshall 11-2 Tuesday evening at Go-Mart Ballpark in Charleston.

The Mountaineers (10-7) have won seven straight games in the series against the Thundering Herd (6-10) and 13 of the teams' last 14 meetings. The difference on Tuesday was a six-run bottom of the third for WVU which erased and early Marshal advance.

The Herd got on the board in the top of the first on an RBI groundout by Owen Ayers and a run-scoring double from Gio Ferraro to go up 2-0. That was the only blemish on an otherwise stellar showing by the WVU pitching staff. Two of Marshall's four total hits came in the top of the first off of WVU starter Tyler Switalski.

Switalski allowed two runs in two innings while striking out three before giving way to one dominant outing after another out of the West Virginia bullpen. Robby Porco got the win, pitching two scoreless innings with three punchouts while Joseph Fredericks, Cole Fehrman, Chase Meyer, Maxx Yehl and

SEE WVU, B-5

# West Virginia's season is over, now what?



JUSTIN JACKSON

OK, so now what?

The moment Cincinnati completed their come-from-behind 90-85 victory over West Virginia on Tuesday in the Big 12 tournament, WVU athletic director Wren Baker went on the clock.

That much was obvious.

Baker will be looking for a new WVU coach, again, obvious.

He's had, at the very least, a little more than four months to compile a list of names. He technically went through a search last June, after former coach Bob Huggins resigned, so Baker isn't exactly going into this search uninformed.

Many replacements have already been thrown out there on message boards and social media.

The general consensus is pointing at Florida Atlantic coach Dusty May, but May will be a top candidate at a lot of places, including Ohio State, maybe Indiana.

You're also going to hear James Madison coach Mark Byington's name a lot.

SEE JACKSON, B-4

CONNECT

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TRAVEL VOLLEYBALL

Sports@DominionPost.com

LANCASTER, Pa. — Four travel volleyball teams from Rise Volleyball Academy competed at the Irish Rubmle tournament in Lancat, Pa. over the weekend. The 15U national team took first place in its 24-team bracket.

The 14U team finished third out of 24. The 16U team finished fifth out of 31. The 18U team placed ninth out of 31. The second 14U team completed at the elite sports tournament in Batavia, Oh. and came in third.

SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13  
BOYS BASKETBALL  
State Tournament  
Morgantown vs. Wheeling Park, 7:15 p.m.  
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL  
Wheeling Park at University, 5 p.m.  
Clay-Battelle at Notre Dame, 6 p.m.  
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL  
Buckhannon-Upshur at University, 5 p.m.  
Clay-Battelle at Trinity Christian, 6 p.m.  
Tygarts Valley at Preston, 5 p.m.

ON TV

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)  
11:30 a.m. USA — Atlantic 10 Tournament: Saint Joseph's vs. George Mason, Second Round, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
12 p.m. ESPN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: Florida St. vs. Virginia Tech, Second Round, Washington  
12:30 p.m. ESPN2 — Big 12 Tournament: TBD vs. BYU, Second Round, Kansas City, Mo.  
2 p.m. USA — Atlantic 10 Tournament: TBD vs. VCU, Second Round, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
2:30 p.m. ESPN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD vs. Wake Forest, Second Round, Washington  
3 p.m. PAC-12N — Pac-12 Tournament: Southern Cal vs. Washington, First Round, Las Vegas  
4 p.m. FS1 — Big East Tournament: Xavier vs. Butler, First Round, New York  
5 p.m. ESPN2 — Southland Tournament: TBD, Championship, Lake Charles, La.  
USA — Atlantic 10 Tournament: TBD vs. St. Bonaventure, Second Round, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
5:30 p.m. PAC-12N — Pac-12 Tournament: Oregon St. vs. UCLA, First Round, Las Vegas  
6:30 p.m. FS1 — Big East Tournament: Georgetown vs. Providence, First Round, New York  
PEACOCK — Big Ten Tournament: Rutgers vs. Maryland, First Round, Minneapolis  
7 p.m. CBSSN — Patriot League Tournament: Lehigh at Colgate, Championship  
ESPN2 — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD vs. Syracuse, Second Round, Washington  
SECN — Southeastern Tournament: Vanderbilt vs. Arkansas, First Round, Nashville, Tenn.  
7:30 p.m. USA — Atlantic 10 Tournament: TBD vs. Duquesne, Second Round, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
9 p.m. FS1 — Big East Tournament: DePaul vs. Villanova, First Round, New York  
PAC-12N — Pac-12 Tournament: Stanford vs. California, First Round, Las Vegas  
PEACOCK — Big Ten Tournament: Michigan vs. Penn St., First Round, Minneapolis  
9:30 p.m. ESPN2 — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD vs. Clemson, Second Round, Washington  
ESPNU — Big 12 Tournament: TBD vs. Kansas, Second Round, Kansas City, Mo.  
SECN — Southeastern Tournament: Missouri vs. Georgia, First Round, Nashville, Tenn.  
11:30 p.m. ESPN2 — Big Sky Tournament: TBD, Championship, Boise, Idaho  
PAC-12N — Pac-12 Tournament: Arizona St. vs. Utah, First Round, Las Vegas

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)  
5 p.m. ESPNU — Big Sky Tournament: TBD, Championship, Boise, Idaho  
7 p.m. ESPNU — American Athletic Tournament: TBD, Championship, Fort Worth, Texas  
10:30 p.m. CBSSN — Mountain West Tournament: TBD, Championship, Las Vegas

COLLEGE SOFTBALL  
7 p.m. ACCN — Alabama at Florida St.  
MLB BASEBALL  
1 p.m. MLBN — Spring Training: Boston vs. NY Yankees, Tampa, Fla.  
4 p.m. MLBN — Spring Training: Seattle vs. LA Dodgers, Phoenix  
NBA BASKETBALL  
7:40 p.m. ESPN — Denver at Miami  
10:05 p.m. ESPN — LA Lakers at Sacramento  
NHL HOCKEY  
7:30 p.m. TNT — Los Angeles at St. Louis  
10 p.m. TNT — Washington at Edmonton  
TRUTV — Washington at Edmonton  
SOCCER (MEN'S)  
4 p.m. FS2 — The French Cup: Nice at Paris Saint-Germain, Quarterfinal  
5:55 p.m. FS2 — CONCACAF Champions Cup: SV Robinhood vs. CS Herediano, Round of 16 - Leg 2, Paramaribo, Suriname  
7:55 p.m. FS2 — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Nashville SC at Inter Miami CF, Round of 16 - Leg 2

ON TV

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. Houston (52)	28-3	1540	1
2. UConn (6)	28-3	1471	2
3. Purdue (4)	28-3	1453	3
4. North Carolina	25-6	1361	7
5. Tennessee	24-7	1291	4
6. Arizona	24-7	1125	5
7. Iowa St.	24-7	1120	6
8. Creighton	23-8	1094	10
9. Kentucky	23-8	1018	15
10. Marquette	23-8	1011	8
11. Duke	24-7	976	9
12. Auburn	24-7	914	13
13. Illinois	23-8	802	12
14. Baylor	22-9	786	11
15. South Carolina	25-6	567	17
16. Kansas	22-9	558	14
17. Gonzaga	24-6	511	19
18. Utah St.	26-5	486	22
19. Alabama	21-10	432	16
20. BYU	22-9	381	20
21. Saint Mary's	24-7	306	23
22. Washington St	23-8	239	18
23. Nevada	26-6	223	-
24. Dayton	24-6	155	25
25. Texas Tech	22-9	149	-
Others receiving votes: Boise St. 46, South Florida 27, San Diego St. 21, Drake 16, Texas 14, James Madison 14, FAU 11, Florida 8, Princeton 7, Nebraska 6, New Mexico 4, Colorado 2, McKeesee St. 2, Colorado St. 1, Wake Forest 1, Indiana St 1.			

USA Today Top 25 Poll

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 poll:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Houston (29)	28-3	772	1
2. Connecticut	28-3	732	2
3. Purdue (2)	28-3	728	3
4. North Carolina	25-6	671	7
5. Tennessee	24-7	653	4
6. Creighton	23-8	569	10
7. Arizona	24-7	566	5
8. Iowa State	24-7	546	6
9. Kentucky	23-8	513	13
10. Marquette	23-8	487	9
11. Duke	24-7	481	8
12. Auburn	24-7	423	11
13. Baylor	22-9	387	14
14. Illinois	23-8	385	12

15. Gonzaga	24-6	274	18
16. South Carolina	25-6	273	16
17. Kansas	22-9	256	15
18. Utah State	26-5	249	22
19. Alabama	21-10	217	17
20. Saint Mary's	24-7	193	21
21. Brigham Young	22-9	166	23
22. Nevada	26-6	109	27
23. Texas Tech	22-9	104	27
24. Dayton	24-6	103	26
25. Washington State	23-8	82	20
Dropped Out: No. 19 San Diego State (22-9); No. 24 South Florida (23-6); No. 25 Florida (21-10). Others receiving votes: Boise State (22-9) 30; San Diego State (22-9) 19; James Madison (30-3) 19; Florida (21-10) 17; Drake (28-6) 15; South Florida (23-6) 11; Nebraska (28-6) 7; Florida Atlantic (24-7) 6; Oklahoma (20-11) 6; Colorado (22-9) 3; Indiana State (28-6) 1; Northwestern (21-10) 1; Princeton (24-3) 1.			

The AP Women's 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)	32-0	875	1
2. Iowa	29-4	821	3
3. Southern Cal	26-5	809	5
4. Stanford	28-5	750	2
5. Texas	28-4	740	6
6. UCLA	25-6	646	7
7. Ohio St.	25-5	642	4
8. LSU	28-5	627	8
9. Notre Dame	26-6	613	14
10. UConn	28-5	612	9
11. NC State	27-6	513	10
12. Oregon St.	24-7	465	13
13. Virginia Tech	24-7	437	11
14. Gonzaga	29-2	412	15
15. Indiana	24-5	399	12
16. Kansas St	25-6	365	16
17. Oklahoma	22-8	302	19
18. Colorado	22-9	262	18
19. Baylor	24-7	234	17
20. Utah	22-10	170	22
21. UNLV	27-2	156	23
22. Syracuse	23-7	129	20
23. Creighton	25-5	91	21
24. Louisville	24-9	90	24
25. Fairfield	28-1	88	25
Others receiving votes: Princeton 36, Nebraska 21, Mississippi 20, West Virginia 16, Iowa St. 10, Columbia 6, Tennessee 4, Toledo 4, Florida St. 3, Duke 2, Richmond 2, Kansas 2, Jackson St 1.			

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Deeper than ever, expectations remain high for University softball

BY ERIC HERTER  
Sports@DominionPost.com

UHS head softball coach Mindy Parks has a great motivational tool for the 2024 version of the Hawks — the bench. “The girls are going to get mad at me, but we have a bench this year,” Parks said with a laugh. “That is allowing me to have some leverage. I haven’t had that as a coach. This can be a hard job if you don’t have a bench. I finally have a bench and if somebody isn’t working hard, we have some good players who can step up.”

Parks, in her 11th season, has 18 players on the varsity roster and just two of them are seniors. First baseman Ally Jansen and senior outfielder/infielder Ashlyn Weaver are going to provide the leadership for a team full of sophomores and freshmen.

“Having a bench is great,” Jansen, who moved from catcher to first base last season, said. “We have so much depth. It really pushes us.”

Jansen is a prime example of being pushed as she moved from behind the plate last season thanks to the arrival of Olivia Masoner last year.

“I caught my entire life,” Jansen said. “By the time I entered high school, I was done with it, but I had to. Olivia came up and she’s a stud of a catcher. The adjustment to first base was great for the team, great for me and great for my knees.”

Masoner hit .485 last season and is part of a sophomore class that makes the Hawks a legit contender for a deep state tournament run.

Also back for UHS is pitcher Maddie Campbell.



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Ally Jansen (22) is one of only two seniors on a University High softball team that expects to be young, deep and good this season.

She finished 15-3 last year in the circle with 140 strikeouts. Campbell also hit for a .505 average on her way to first-team Class AAA all-state honors.

“Maddie is such a great all-around player,” Parks said. “I’m really not sure where to put her when she isn’t pitching. She can play anywhere.”

Sophomore Sophia Lehosit is a solid No. 2 pitcher as she went 8-4 and also hit .424 at the plate. It will likely be Lehosit at shortstop when she isn’t pitching this year and she will just switch places with Campbell.

“Sophia has such great softball intelligence,” Parks said. “She really knows the game.”

The lone junior, Kelsey Park, will play second base this season while Weaver is expected to move from the outfield to third base. However, Parks did say the lineup is fluid right now with the 11 freshmen on the team all vying for playing

time. The outfield will see near wholesale changes as freshman Lexi Elza will play left, sophomore Bree Royce will be in center and Morgantown High transfer Adalyn Brown will play right.

Parks said she made good use of the 17 flex days the team was afforded this offseason. In fact, the Hawks won a bracket during a winter tournament held at Mylan Park.

“I try to be positive about every year,” Parks said. “I am super confident about this year. We have been working hard at practices and the kids have been willing to work hard. When I used to try to use flex days, we didn’t have anyone show up. This year, kids showed up and it was — wow!”

Parks noted that while Campbell and Lehosit will see the majority of the time in the circle, freshmen Carley Voithofer and Tegan Haney will also pitch some innings. Three other fresh-

men are also pushing for time as Joslyn Phillips is a solid backup catcher, Whitney Cox has surprised off the UHS girls’ basketball team as an infielder and Maddie Walls is a utility player who will be seeing time as a baserunner.

University has won three straight sectional titles but has also lost to John Marshall in the regional round the last three years.

“I think it comes down to chemistry with this team,” Jansen said about getting past the regional round. “We are coming together and if we continue molding together, we can go as far as we want to.”

This season’s schedule features contests against Wheeling Park, John Marshall, rival Morgantown and a trip to Myrtle Beach.

The Hawks open the season today when they host Buckhannon-Upshur at 5 p.m. on Lynch Field at Mylan Park.

PRO FOOTBALL

Patrick Queen leaving Baltimore for rival Pittsburgh

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers have found a running mate for outside linebackers T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith.

Pittsburgh is luring inside linebacker Patrick Queen away from rival Baltimore. The Steelers and the second-team All-Pro have agreed to a three-year deal worth \$41 million, two people with knowledge of the deal tell The Associated Press. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity the move can’t become official until the new league year begins Wednesday.

Queen, 24, is coming off a career-best season with Baltimore in 2023 when he had 133 tackles to go with 3 1/2 sacks and an interception. His arrival addresses a position the Steelers have struggled to fill since Ryan Shazier suffered a career-ending back injury in December 2017.

Pittsburgh’s inside linebacking group was decimated by injuries last fall, with Cole Holcomb and Kwon Alexander having



AP Photo

The Steelers and second-team All-Pro linebacker Patrick Queen have agreed to a three-year deal worth 41 million.

their seasons cut short. Holcomb is recovering from knee surgery in early November while Alexander, who will become a free agent on Wednesday, tore an Achilles tendon in a win over Green Bay on Nov. 12.

The Steelers will slot Queen next to Elandon Roberts, who led the Steelers with 101 tackles last season. It also takes the pressure off Holcomb to return by the season opener.

The move is the second splashy addition Pitts-

burgh has made since the tampering period began. Nine-time Pro Bowl quarterback Russell Wilson has agreed to a one-year deal for the veteran minimum, thanks in part to the Denver Broncos picking up the lion’s share of the tab.

Grabbing Wilson on the cheap gave general manager Omar Khan the flexibility to land Queen, who is entering his prime and is the kind of three-down linebacker the Steelers have been searching for

since Shazier injured his back in Cincinnati on Dec. 4, 2017.

The position has been a revolving door of sorts in recent years and Pittsburgh’s aggressive move to trade up into the top 10 in the 2019 draft to select Devin Bush failed spectacularly when Bush tore his ACL early in his second season and struggled to regain his form.

The list of veterans the Steelers have brought in to fill the void over the years includes Jon Bostic, Mark Barron, Avery Williamson, Joe Schobert and Myles Jack. None of them stuck, though Jack did return to the team in the middle of last season after being cut the previous spring in a salary cap move.

No player in that group, however, was as young or as accomplished as Queen when they signed. His arrival gives the Steelers the kind of versatile inside linebacking presence they’ll need in a division that includes Queen’s now-former teammate Lamar Jackson and Cincinnati’s Joe Burrow.

Tallman continued. “I think they are a bit underrated — I was surprised to see them as the seven seed. It’s a tough match-up but I don’t think anybody in our class’s bracket has an easy match-up in the first round like in years past.”

The winner between Morgantown and Wheeling Park will meet the winner of No. 3 Huntington and No. 6 Spring Valley, who play at 11:15 a.m. this morning.

The Mohigans and Patriots will play in the second game of the evening session on Wednesday at 7:15 p.m.

being where it is it makes it really difficult.”

Morgantown senior Sharron Young enters the tournament averaging 22.5 points, 7.2 rebounds, 6.9 assists, and 6.1 steals and will look to lead his team to another title. He is joined in double-figure scoring by fellow seniors Izzy Everett at 15.3 points per game and Jacob King with 10.1.

Wheeling Park earned a 16-8 record this season with three losses coming to MHS. The Patriots average 64.0 points on offense while allowing 58.3. Junior guard Aiden Davis has had a record-setting year for WP

and enters the tournament averaging 26 points per game. The Patriots enjoy spreading the floor and Davis virtually has no range, which may be something Tallman and his club will take heavily into consideration.

“They like to move the ball around a few times before they start to attack,” Tallman said. “They like to get Aiden Davis loose and if he does he can score 30 points in a hurry and we could be in trouble. But if we key on him and take him out of the game I think it gives us a good chance to win the game.

“They’re a good team,”



HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Hawks look to carry momentum from state tournament appearance

BY ERIC HERTER  
Sports@DominionPost.com

With seven starters gone from last season's Class AAA state semifinal appearance, the University High School baseball team could be facing a rebuild. However, third-year coach Brad Comport begs to differ with that statement. In fact, the Hawks (24-13 in 2023), are looking to reload and make another deep playoff run in 2024. "We had a great senior-led team last year," Comport said. "We lost a lot of production offensively and on the mound. But we have some young guys that got some time last year and that are ready to take the next step and some new guys that we are going to throw right into the mix." Fortunately, for UHS, they do return senior outfielders Wenkai Campbell and Brodee Latocha. Campbell has been on varsity for four years and Latocha has been a starter for three years for the Hawks. "I bring leadership,"



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

University senior Wenkai Campbell (18) and the UHS baseball team looks to make a return trip to the state tournament this season. Campbell, who hit .374 last season with 36 RBIs and 13 extra-base hits, said. "I try to bring the whole team together. I feel like I am trying to be the glue and when someone does something they're not supposed to, I feel as a leader, I should be able to hold them accountable." Latocha, who is a quiet leader for UHS, will hit leadoff again this year after hitting .308 with a team-

high 30 walks. "For us, Brodee is a prototypical leadoff hitter," Comport said. "He sees a lot of pitches and if you look at his walk rate, he gets on base consistently. He grinds out at-bats and has a really good eye for the zone." The last two seasons, UHS has produced the OVAC 5A player of the year with Aaron Forbes (2022) and Noah Braham (2023) and Comport said there are players on the 2024 team who are talented enough to bring that honor back to UHS. "We have been fortunate to have really talented guys and really hard workers here," Comport said. "We realize guys like that don't come around often." With just Campbell and Latocha back as starters, the rest of the lineup is going to be a mix of newcomers and returning players. Three transfers should slot into the UHS lineup. Morgantown transfers Riley Anderson and Mason McDonald will start in right field and first base, respectively. Preston transfer Mason Chaney will likely start at third base and be near the top of the pitching rotation. Campbell and Latocha will be expected to pitch in relief with James Bryner, Daniel Grabo and others expected to help a pitching staff that will be led by junior Logan Vance. "Logan threw some big games for us last year and

even some as a freshman," Comport said. "We are aware of what he can do. Chaney looks like a really good pitcher as well. Coach (Donnie) Gilbert has done a really good job of managing and developing the pitching staff for us. We think we have eight or nine guys that can be effective." Sophomore Max Cash, who saw limited time last year, will take over the catching duties and lead the pitching staff. "He got that exposure last year during our playoff run," Comport said. "He has some really good tools behind the play, he is mature for his age, and he has the ability to lead back there." Grabo, a junior, will assume the starting shortstop role this year after appearing in seven games last season. Senior Brock McDonough has moved from the outfield to second base. "Brock has done a really good job and has worked extremely hard," Comport said. "(Grabo) is a fantastic

shortstop and does a nice job of quarterbacking the infield." With just 15 players on the varsity roster, Comport said the entire roster will be counted on at times this year. The Hawks also face a tough schedule with the normal contests against local powers Morgantown, Wheeling Park and Bridgeport mixed in with a trip to Hurricane for a tournament, a doubleheader at perennial powerhouse Jefferson and a trip to Myrtle Beach, SC for a tournament. "We want to play the best teams," Comport said. "We aren't as concerned about our record, especially early on. Playing good competition last year really benefited us." University opens its season on Wednesday when it hosts Wheeling Park at 5 p.m. The game will be played at Dale Miller field as UHS waits for the finish of the artificial turf installation at Shilling Field.

PRO FOOTBALL

Steelers sending Diontae Johnson to Carolina for CB

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Carolina Panthers gave quarterback Bryce Young the No. 1 wide receiver he's been lacking, acquiring Diontae Johnson from the Pittsburgh Steelers on Tuesday for cornerback Donte Jackson. The deal includes the teams swapping later-round picks in this year's draft. The Steelers will get Carolina's pick at No. 178 while the Panthers will get Pittsburgh's selection at No. 240, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because it has not been made official. Johnson, 28, has 391 receptions for 4,363 yards and 25 touchdowns in five seasons with the Steelers. He is entering the final season of a two-year extension he signed in August of 2022. Johnson, a Pro Bowler in 2021, is scheduled to make \$10 million this season, with \$3 million due as a roster bonus later this week. The Panthers will gladly pay that bonus to give Young an elite route runner. Carolina finished last in the league in yards passing during a 2-15 season in 2023, with Adam Thielen often the only legitimate receiving threat on the field.

That changes with Johnson in the fold, though his numbers dipped a bit last season. He suffered a hamstring injury in the season opener and was limited to 13 games, one of the reasons he finished with a career-low 51 receptions. He was also overshadowed at times by George Pickens, who developed into the preferred downfield threat for quarterbacks Kenny Pickett, Mitch Trubisky and Mason Rudolph. The trade leaves Pickens

as the most accomplished wide receiver on the Steelers' roster after they released Allen Robinson II last Friday. Pittsburgh will likely look to add another big-time target in free agency or the draft after the club agreed to terms with nine-time Pro Bowl quarterback Russell Wilson late Sunday night. Notable wide receivers still looking for work as of Tuesday night included Cincinnati's Tyler Boyd, who starred at the University of Pittsburgh before being drafted by the Bengals in 2016. The Steelers needed help in the secondary after cutting veteran cornerback Patrick Peterson and safety Keanu Neal. The 28-year-old Jackson has started 76 games across six seasons with the Panthers, who took him in the second round of the 2018 draft. Jackson has 14 career interceptions, although he didn't have a pick last season. He provides an experienced corner opposite Joey Porter Jr., who had a standout rookie season in 2023.



AP Photo

The Carolina Panthers gave quarterback Bryce Young the No. 1 wide receiver he's been lacking, acquiring Diontae Johnson from the Pittsburgh Steelers on Tuesday for cornerback Donte Jackson.

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FOULS

FROM PAGE B-1

p.m. today, made a lot of big-time shots.

The Bearcats made 16 3-pointers — out of 29 made baskets on the day — and tied Pitt for the most threes ever made against the Mountaineers, who ended their season on a six-game losing streak.

“Couldn’t figure out a way to get a hand up,” Eilert said. “They got a lot of dare shots out there, which credit to them, they made.”

Jesse Edwards led five WVU players in double figures with 17 points, but the Mountaineers wrapped up the season with a program-record 23 losses and their .281 winning percentage was the worst in the team’s history.

Box score

CINCINNATI 90, WEST VIRGINIA 85  
WEST VIRGINIA (9-23)  
Slazinski 4-8 4-15, Edwards 7-8 3-7 17, Battle 6-12 0-14, Johnson 4-6 0-8, Kriisa 4-10 3-13, Harris 3-5 1-2 10, Wilson 2-0 0-4, Farrakhan 0-2 0-0, Akak 0-0 2-2 2, Suemnick 1-1 0-2. Totals 31-56 13-18 85.  
CINCINNATI (19-13)  
Bandoago 2-5 2-5 6, Newman 1-5 0-3, Skillings 5-12 2-4 13, Thomas 10-18 2-2 29, Lukosius 8-13 8-8 31, James 1-6 2-2 4, Reynolds 2-3 0-0 4, Reed 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 29-45 16-21 90.  
Halftime—West Virginia 38-36. 3-Point Goals—West Virginia 10-22 (Harris 3-4, Slazinski 3-5, Battle 2-5, Kriisa 2-6, Farrakhan 0-1, Johnson 0-1), Cincinnati 16-38 (Thomas 7-10, Lukosius 7-12, Newman 1-4, Skillings 1-5, Reed 0-3, James 0-4). Fouled Out—Bandoago, Newman. Rebounds—West Virginia 30 (Harris 9), Cincinnati 32 (Bandoago 13). Assists—West Virginia 18 (Kriisa 7), Cincinnati 17 (Skillings, Lukosius 4). Total Fouls—West Virginia 18, Cincinnati 18.

JACKSON

FROM PAGE B-1

He knows the area — he was born in Salem, Va. and was an assistant at both Virginia and Virginia Tech — and Byington is a hot commodity right now after leading the Dukes to 30 wins and the NCAA tournament.

Let’s move past the coaches for now, though, and talk about the other factors in the future of the WVU program.

For starters, let it be known that all that NIL money that was thrown around last summer to secure a highly-ranked transfer portal class probably won’t continue to be there.

The majority — if not all — of that money that helped sign guys like Kerr Kriisa, RaeQuan Battle and Jesse Edwards came from boosters entrenched in Huggins’ camp.

It was seen as a one-time effort to help get Huggins and WVU to the promised land.

Instead, those boosters likely ended up shelling out between — and this is purely a guess on our part — somewhere between \$200,000-\$300,000 per win, which should be a huge embarrassment on their part, not to mention the worst misuse of funds since Enron.



AP Photo

Cincinnati forward Jamille Reynolds celebrates by dunking the ball at the end of an NCAA college basketball game against West Virginia Tuesday.

No, we don’t need better roads or hospitals. The homeless don’t need shelter, but, by God, West Virginia needed a power forward, so here’s a check.

Anyway, it’s highly unlikely — unless Baker is able to get Roy Williams or Jay Wright out of retirement (not going to happen) — that those same boosters are going to fork over that kind of cash again.

Which leads us to the other main factor to this offseason: There are going to be plenty of holes to fill.

Going by the previous NCAA transfer rules, which may not even exist anymore following Bat-

tle’s federal court case against the NCAA a couple of months back, we believe Noah Farrakhan and Jeremiah Bembry are the only two players on the roster who aren’t eligible to transfer and be immediately eligible somewhere else.

Quinn Slazinski could be added here, too. He is looking into petitioning the NCAA for a sixth year of eligibility, due to the injuries that cost him most of last season at Iona, but there’s no guarantee he’ll be granted that year.

Let’s be honest here, too, after the pile of dung that was thrown at the NCAA over Battle’s eligi-

bility, the NCAA probably isn’t looking to do WVU any favors.

Now, we’re not suggesting there’s going to be a mass exodus of players, but we also wouldn’t be surprised if there was one before we get to the end of this sentence.

So, you’re going to need a new coach, most likely a new roster and not have nearly as much in NIL funds that were proudly flashed around last summer.

And, by the way, you need all of that while competing in the Big 12, which you may have heard is pretty good.

Let me save you the suspense of waiting six months for next season’s Big 12 poll to come out: The Mountaineers will be picked last in what will then be a 16-team league.

“It’s been a challenging year,” WVU interim head coach Josh Eilert said Tuesday, in what may be his final press conference.

If you thought this was a lost season — WVU set a record with 23 losses — next season isn’t going to be any better.

Eilert’s contract runs out on April 30. It’s likely Baker will have someone new in place by then.

It better be someone who can teach a little toughness and defense, because the Mountaineers

had little of either this season.

For a second consecutive game, Cincinnati put up at least 90 points on the Mountaineers.

The Bearcats hit 16 3-pointers.

All of it became too common a factor as this season wore on.

Everyone scored a lot against WVU, which allowed nearly 77 points a game this season.

In the end, Eilert compared the season to a roller coaster, and here is the one suggestion we have for Baker in his coaching search:

Find someone to simply bring that roller-coaster ride to an end.

From a PR standpoint, the men’s hoops program has already been drug through the mud enough with the Huggins’ saga over the summer, and then a dismal season on top of that.

Forget about wins and losses for a moment and find stability, someone who can get through an offseason without horrible headlines and losing five or six guys to the portal every year.

That, in itself, would be a nice win for the Mountaineers.

Lord knows they didn’t have many of them this season.

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WVU

FROM PAGE B-1

Hayden Cooper all contributed a scoreless frame each.

All told, WVU pitchers allowed two runs on four hits while walking three and striking out 16.

WVU's offense came alive in the bottom of the third as Sam White's double to centerfield scored two to tie the game 2-2. Benjamin Lumsden's single scored White to give WVU the lead and Reed Chumley's three-run home run extended it to 6-2.

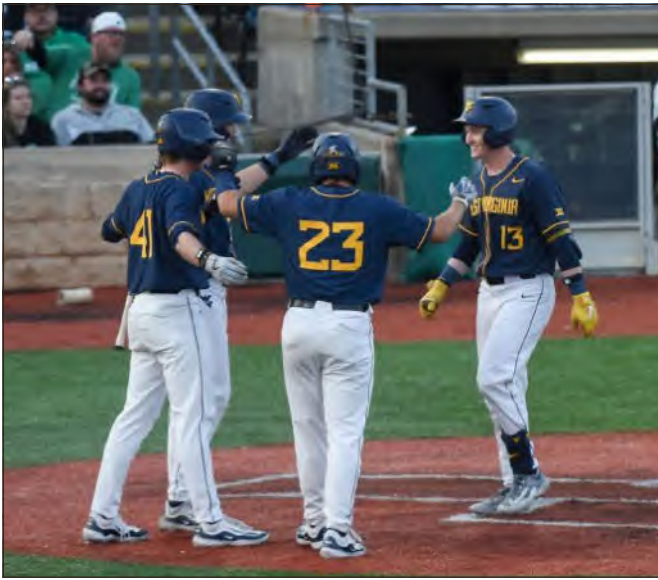
West Virginia added insurance runs in the fifth and sixth innings. Kyle West solo homer gave the team an 11-2 lead in the bottom of the eighth.

Chumley (Houston Christian) and West (Charleston) both hit their first career home runs as Mountaineers after transferring to WVU over the offseason.

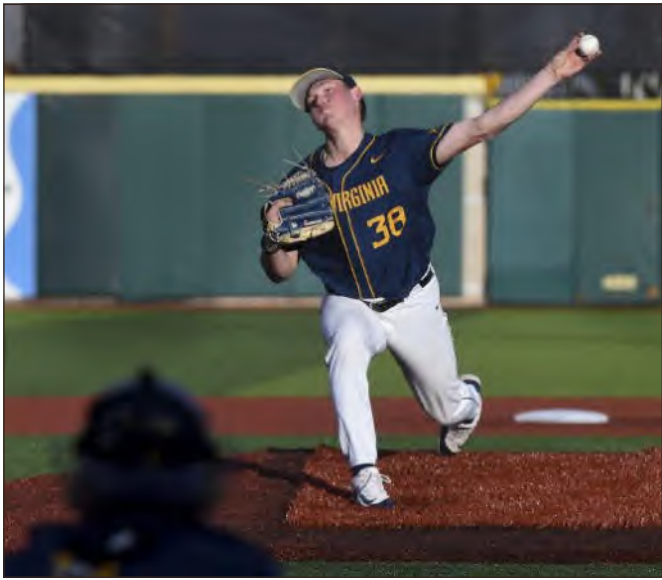
Chumley finished with four hits — two singles, a double and a home run — with four RBI and two runs scored. White had two hits and two RBI as did Ellis Garcia.

Chad Heiner took the loss for Marshall, allowing six runs on six hits in 2.2 innings.

The Mountaineers return to Morgantown this weekend for a three-game weekend series against the Ohio State Buckeyes.



Left, WVU's Reed Chumley (13) is congratulated by his teammates at home plate after hitting a three-run homerun in the third inning of their game against Marshall at GoMart Ballpark in Charleston Tuesday. Right, WVU's Tyler Switalski pitches against Marshall during their game at GoMart Ballpark in Charleston Tuesday.



Chris Dorst/The Gazette-Mail

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P <sub>3</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	RACK 2 =	66
P <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>		RACK 3 =	14
E <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	RACK 4 =	60

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Sen. Cruz: 50-50 chance Congress passes college sports legislation this year

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Ted Cruz said Tuesday there is a 50-50 chance of Congress passing legislation that would provide antitrust protection and regulation to college athletics in the U.S. by the end of the year.

Cruz (R-Texas) lowered his previous estimate of 60-40 from last fall of a bill getting through before the election in November, saying he and his counterparts are running out of time.

“The clock is running,” Cruz said after overseeing a panel on the topic that included former Alabama coach Nick Saban. “It’s not too late to get it done, but we’re getting close to it being too late to get it done. I still think there are elements there of getting bipartisan agreement. We just have not been able to get everyone to the table to sign off.”

Cruz said something will eventually get done to standardize how athletes can be compensated for their names, images and likenesses and to give the

NCAA and conferences the ability to govern college sports without the constant threat of lawsuits and state laws undercutting their authority.

The gathering was not an official hearing, but going on at the same time in the House was the 12th hearing on college sports on Capitol Hill since 2020. This one was held in front of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and was focused on the possibility of college athletes joining unions.

But Cruz’s roundtable with Saban, Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner Jim Phillips and Alabama athletic director Greg Byrne stole the spotlight. Sens. Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) also attended.

Moran and Blumenthal put forth a bipartisan proposal for a college sports bill last summer, but like several efforts before and after it has gone nowhere.

“Mostly we would tell each other, ‘We’re just this close to getting something done,’ but it’s been going on

a long time,” Moran said, pleading for stakeholders to provide feedback on what they can give and take. “This is the moment to strike. Please help us close that gap and get this done.”

NCAA President Charlie Baker has encouraged membership to act on its own, putting forth a proposal in December that would create a new tier of Division I where schools would be required to pay some of their athletes.

The Big Ten and South-eastern Conference, the two wealthiest and most powerful conferences, formed a joint advisory committee earlier this year to try to tackle the issues facing college sports.

Nick Saban, who led Alabama football to six national titles in 17 seasons, said the current landscape shaped by NIL funds and loosened transfer rules contributed to his decision to retire at 72.

“All the things I believed in for all these years, 50 years of coaching, no longer exist in college athletics,” Saban said. “It’s

whoever wants to pay the most money, raise the most money, buy the most players is going to have the best opportunity to win. And I don’t think that’s the spirit of college athletics, and I don’t think it’s ever been the spirit of what we want college athletics to be.”

Also taking part in the roundtable were NIL attorney Darren Heitner, Collective Association president Russell White, as well as current women’s college basketball player Haley Cavinder and sister Hanna, a former player.

Other senators cycled through, offering concerns, such as Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) saying he believes the status quo is “going to destroy the student-athlete as we know it.”

Byrne warned that even a school as prestigious as Alabama may have to cut non-revenue-generating sports, depending on what the final answer is for paying athletes.

Cruz, citing the comments made by commissioners of conferences

made up of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and concerns about Division II and Division III programs shuttering, does not believe there’s as much interest in classifying college athletes as employees as there was six months ago.

“There are very few people advocating for student-athletes as employees now,” Cruz said. “I think that makes it easier when you have widespread agreement that that’s the wrong solution to have some clarity on that point.”

Just last week, Dartmouth men’s basketball players voted to join a union and several active antitrust lawsuits are challenging NCAA compensation caps and whether athletes should have employee status.

Baker said last month that Congress needed to act to protect what he described as the “95 percent” of athletes whose ability to play college sports would be endangered by a court ruling or regulatory

decision declaring them as employees of their schools. The NCAA and Power Five conferences spent a combined \$2.97 million on lobbying efforts in 2023, according to records reviewed by The Associated Press.

Work has been ongoing for several years to figure out a solution for what Cruz called the current “Wild West” state of college athletics and the NCAA.

Cruz, who last summer introduced draft legislation to tackle the problems, prefers empowering the NCAA to oversee the landscape rather than a new governmental or quasi-governmental agency.

Cruz said he felt urgency to pass something sooner than later and found agreement on that point among colleagues given the current state of confusion in college sports.

“Nobody really likes the direction we’re heading in right now,” Moran said. “I think we’re close. We’re really close, and we need to get it done.”

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Mar. 6, 13

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Notice is hereby given that the following foreign will or affidavit of heirs has been filed in the Monongalia County Clerk's Office at 243 High Street, Room 123 Morgantown, WV 26505 5461 and no appointment or administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code 44-1-14b. An interested person objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this state must file a statement with the Monongalia County Commission through the Monongalia County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of first publication or 30 days of service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not timely filed, the objection is forever barred. The Monongalia County Commission upon receiving any timely objection thereto shall schedule a hearing or hearings thereon and order relief, if any, it considers proper including, but not limited to, an order directing that full and complete ancillary administration of the estate of the nonresident decedent be made in this state.

First Publication Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

ESTATE OF

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AFFIANT

STEPHAN ANDREW CERNIK AFFIANT

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MARY K DUMIRE AFFIANT

ESTATE OF

THOMAS C DUMIRE DECEASED

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114 CARNMORE DR WINCHESTER VA 22602

AFFIANT

MARY K DUMIRE AFFIANT

Subscribed and sworn to before me on Friday, March 1, 2024

*Carye H. Blaney*  
Carye L Blaney  
Clerk of the Monongalia County Commission

30744 MARCH 6, 13 TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in it by that certain Deed of Trust dated July 31, 2019, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Monongalia County, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 2305, at Page 240, Hubert B. Stire did convey unto J. Christopher Gardill, Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Pill & Pill, PLLC as Substitute Trustee by a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by the secured party to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Monongalia County Courthouse, in Morgantown, West Virginia, on

March 25, 2024, at 5:00 PM

The following described real estate, with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the Clinton District, Monongalia County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

All of the following described real estate, with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the Clinton District, Monongalia County, West Virginia, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

ASHTON TOWNHOUSE ESTATES, TOWNHOUSE XIII, UNIT NO. 67: BEGINNING at a ½ inch reinforcing rod (set) standing on the northern right-of-way limits of Ashton Place, marking the southwest corner to Unit No. 66 of Townhouse XIII of the Ashton Townhouse Estates and bearing South 77° 17' 27" West 17.82 feet, thence South 72° 14' 42" West 65.72 feet, thence South 66° 47' 27" West 57.00 feet, thence South 64° 01' 31" West 1.61 feet from a ½ inch reinforcing rod marking a common corner to Unit No. 61 of Townhouse XIII of the Ashton Townhouse Estates and Unit No. 60 of Townhouse XII of the Ashton Townhouse Estates (see plat of said Townhouse XII recorded in Deed Book 1239, at Page 329) as conveyed to Bucklew Construction, Inc. by deed recorded in Deed Book 1239, at Page 326; thence with said limits of Ashton Place, South 64° 01' 31" West 31.13 feet to a ½ inch reinforcing rod (set), said rod marking a corner to Unit No. 68 Townhouse XIV of the Ashton Townhouse Estates (see plat of said Townhouse XIV recorded in Deed Book 1263, at Page 679) as conveyed to Legacy Group, LLC by deed recorded in Deed Book 1263, at Page 675; thence with said Unit No. 68, North 23° 00' 19" West 124.29 feet to a ½ inch reinforcing rod (set), said rod standing in a line of Lot No. 12 of Phase I of Ashton Estates (see plat of said Estates recorded in Map Cabinet No. 3, at File No. 7B); thence with said Lot No. 12 of Phase I of Ashton Estates (see plat of said Estates recorded in Map Cabinet No. 3, at File No. 7B); thence with said Lot No. 12, North 61° 29' 40" East 38.30 feet to a ½ inch reinforcing rod (set), said rod marking a corner to said Unit No. 66; thence with said Unit No. 66, South 19° 49' 16" East 126.54 feet to the beginning, containing 4,327 square feet or 0.0993, acres, more or less.

This conveyance is expressly made subject to (1) that utility easement right-of-way ten feet in width along the Southern boundary line of the property herein described and conveyed, (2) those utility easements and rights-of-way four (4) feet in width, the centerline of which is along the Western and Eastern boundary lines of the property herein described and conveyed, as shown and illustrated on the Plat of Survey appended hereto, and (3) that certain storm water drain line, fifteen (15) feet in width, seven and one-half (7 ½) feet on each side of the existing line, together with the right to enter to maintain and repair the same.

And being the same real estate conveyed to Raghuvver Thadisinra from Allen T. Walls and Carrie C. Dixon, by deed dated the 19th day of October, 2011, of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Monongalia County, West Virginia, in deed Book 1446, at page 787, to which deed reference is here made for all pertinent purposes.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 933 Ashton Place, Morgantown, WV 26508.

AND BEING the same real estate which was conveyed to Hubert B. Stire, by Deed dated July 25, 2019, from Raghuvver Thadisinra, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Monongalia County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 1679, at Page 36.

The above-described property will be sold subject to any covenants, restrictions, easements, leases and conditions of record, and subject to any unpaid real estate taxes.

The subject property will be sold in "AS IS" condition. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price as a deposit with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale. Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

Matthew R. Leonard, Authorized Signatory

P. O. Box 440, 85 Aikens Center, Martinsburg, WV 25404  
Phone (304) 263-4971, Fax (304) 267-5840  
e-mail: foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

31201

MARCH 13, 20

LEGAL NOTICE

The City of Westover is accepting bids for 18 gallon blue bins for recycling collection activities. Bins must be durable and rated for outdoor use. Bid should be based on price per bin.

Bids must be sealed and include the cost of delivery to Westover WV along with all applicable fees.

The City can provide proof of tax exemption upon request.

The City of Westover reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Deadline for bid submissions is 4:30 PM on March 28th, 2024. Bids must be sealed and mailed to City of Westover, 500 Dupont Rd, Westover WV 26501, or dropped off physically at the same address.

Please contact Jason Stinespring at 304-376-1027 or by e-mail at woinspector@comcast.net for any questions.

Please contact DEP\_REAP at 1-800-322-5530 to report your bid submission.

30882 MARCH 6, 13 TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vesting in it by that certain Deed of Trust recorded on October 29, 2019, in Book 2319 at Page 40, in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Commission of Monongalia County, West Virginia, Jennifer R. Plum did convey unto Roger Metheny, as original Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Elk River Trustees Inc., as Substitute Trustee by virtue of a Substitution of Trustee recorded on February 17, 2023, in Book 2553 at Page 297 in the aforesaid Clerk's Office; the undersigned Substitute Trustee has been requested, in writing, by the beneficiary of said Deed of Trust to sell the real estate described below, as there has been a default under the terms and conditions of said Deed of Trust. Therefore, the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by Clear Mountain Bank to foreclose thereunder will offer for sale, at a public auction at the front door of the Monongalia County Courthouse in Morgantown, West Virginia, on

March 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM

the following described real estate, together with its easements, improvements, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in Monongalia County, West Virginia, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING at a stake at the intersection of the Goshen road and the Cemetery driveway, fifteen feet from the center of the Goshen road, and running thence with the Cemetery driveway, N. 42 ½° W. 283 feet to the Cemetery fence; thence with the same, N. 22° E. 44 feet; N. 30° W. 81 feet; N. 60° W. 30 feet to Creel's corner; thence in a line of same, N. 60° E. 131 feet to the Roy Edgell corner; thence with his line, S. 59° E. 150 feet to U.S. route 119; thence with same, S. 8° E. 123.5 feet; S. 18° E. 110.5 feet to the intersection of Goshen Road; S. 8° E. 36.5 feet to the Goshen road; thence with same, S. 51° W. 70.5 feet to the place of BEGINNING, and containing 1.5 acres, more or less.

At the time of the execution of the subject Deed of Trust, the property was reported to have an address of: 1738 Grafton Road, Morgantown, WV 26508.

The above referenced real estate will be conveyed with no covenants of warranty and subject to any and all easements, rights of way, conditions, covenants, restrictions, exceptions, reservations, leases and other servitudes, which may be a matter of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office or visible upon the ground. The sale of the referenced real estate will also be subject to all prior liens and including any and all other deeds of trust, judgments, liens, and all other encumbrances of any nature whatsoever, if any, having priority over the subject Deed of Trust.

The subject property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition. The Substitute Trustee makes no representations and warranties of any kind or character including, but not limited to, the condition of the real estate or the title to the real estate to be conveyed. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

In the event that there are federal tax liens against the property, the United States has the right to redeem the property within a period of one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the sale. The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to adjourn the sale for a time, or from time to time, without further notice, by announcement at the time and place of the foreclosure sale described herein.

TERMS OF SALE

1. \$8,000.00 (Eight Thousand Dollars) in cash and/ or certified funds made payable to "Elk River Trustees, Inc." due as a deposit at the time of sale, with the balance due and payable within thirty (30) days of sale. Personal checks will not be accepted.

2. The purchaser at the sale shall be responsible for payment of all real estate taxes.

3. The purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the recording cost of the deed and also for payment of the tax on the privilege of transferring the real property (transfer tax) imposed by West Virginia Code § 11-22-2.

4. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at the foreclosure sale.

ELK RIVER TRUSTEES, INC.  
714 Venture Drive, #132  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
Telephone: 304-241-6962  
Fax: 330-436-0301  
Reference file # 24-00071

DominionPost.com

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

31262

MARCH 13, 15, 20

ADVERTISEMENT AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

Pursuant to W.Va. Code §5G-1-3, the Monongalia County Board of Education is seeking Expressions of Interest from qualified design professions to provide Engineering Services to include design and construction phase administration for the Sewer Line Replacement to Morgantown High School. Qualified firms are invited to contact Nicki Reyes, Purchasing Specialist, nickole.reyes@k12.wv.us, at the Monongalia County Board of Education Office to obtain a copy of the Statement of Qualification and submission requirements. Statements of Qualification must be received no later than 4:00 pm local prevailing time on Wednesday, April 03, 2024, at the Administrative Office of Monongalia County Schools, 1751 Earl L. Core Road, Morgantown, WV 26505.

LEGAL NOTICE

31150

MARCH 6, 8, 13

LEGAL NOTICE

Monongalia County Board of Education will receive sealed bids for Cooling Tower Loop Piping Replacement at Cheat Lake Elementary and Boiler Replacement at Brookhaven Elementary. In order to bid, you must be at the Mandatory Pre-Bid meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024 beginning at 10:00a.m. at Cheat Lake Elementary front parking lot, 154 Crosby Road Morgantown, WV 26508. All sealed bids are due back to the Board Office, no later than Friday, April 4, 2024 at 10:00a.m. Bids will be opened immediately following.

The Board of Education of the County of Monongalia, Morgantown, WV reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Contact: Nickole Reyes  
Monday thru Friday 8:00a.m. – 4:15p.m.  
304-291-9210 Nickole.Reyes@k12.wv.us

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

31064

MARCH 13

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Westover will hold a public hearing on March 28th at 7 PM in Council Chambers at 500 Dupont Rd, Westover, WV. The purpose of the hearing is to gather public comments on a proposed grant to demolish dilapidated structures within the City. Comments will also be accepted at City Hall from March 13th to March 27th c/o Jason Stinespring, Director of Public Works, and on the City's website at [www.westoverwv.org](http://www.westoverwv.org).

The City of Westover plans to follow a written and detailed citizen participation plans which:

1. Provides for, and encourages, citizen participation, with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low and moderate-income who are residents of slums and blighted areas and of areas in which funds are proposed to be used and provides for participation of residents in low- and moderate- income neighborhoods as defined by the local jurisdiction

2. Provides citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records relating to the Grantee's proposed use of funds, as required by regulations of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and relating to the actual use of funds under this title

3. Provides for technical assistance to groups representative of persons of low- and moderate-income that request such assistance in developing proposals with the level and type of assistance to be determined by the Grantee

4. Provides for public hearings to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the community development program, including at least the development needs, the review of proposed activities, and review of program performance, the hearings which shall be held after adequate notice, at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries, and with accommodations for the disabled

5. Provides for a timely, written answer to written complaints and grievances within 15 working days where practicable

6. Identifies how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate.

Attention is directed to the fact that the proposed grant application is to be undertaken with Federal and State funds and all work will be performed in accordance with the regulation issued by those agencies and the State of West Virginia. The project is required to comply with Section 109 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Title 29 CFR Sections 1, 3, and 5 of the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Title 40 CFR Part 33, Participation By Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) in United States Environmental Protection Agency Programs, Title 45 CFR Part 75, Internal Controls, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to records provisions, Part 3141-3145 of the U.S. Department of Labor U.S.C. Title 40, Regulations Governing Contractors and Sub-contractors, Executive Order 14026, Davis-Bacon Act (DBA), and all other requirements as related to federally funded projects.

The City will afford full opportunity for minority/disadvantaged business enterprises to submit comment in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any interested individual on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin in the contract award.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

31147

MARCH 6, 13

LEGAL NOTICE

The Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority (MCSWA) announces a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Public Opinion Research Services. The RFP packet and details can be found on the MCSWA's website at [www.monongaliacountyswa.com/rfps](http://www.monongaliacountyswa.com/rfps) or by request by email at [moncountyswa@gmail.com](mailto:moncountyswa@gmail.com) and include Request for RFP Packet in the subject heading. The deadline to submit a proposal is on March 22, 2024.

30885

MARCH 6, 13

MYLAN PARK FOUNDATION  
MORGANTOWN, WV  
MYLAN PARK RV KOA RESORT - AMLER

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the **MYLAN PARK RV KOA RESORT – AMLER** project will be received by the **Mylan Park Foundation, Inc.**, to the attention of Frank Witt, until **2 pm** local time on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024**, at which time the Bids received will be **"publicly"** opened and read. The Project consists of constructing an RV park consisting of 148 RV sites, 4 cabins, and 4 tent sites. The Project includes construction of approximately 146,000 CY of earthwork, 2,400 LF of storm pipe, 2 storm basins, 19 storm inlets, 5,760 LF of water main, 6,500 LF of water service line, 5,900 LF of gravity sanitary sewer main, 7,000 LF of gravity sewer laterals, 27 sanitary manholes, 1 dump station, 1 sanitary grinder pump station, 970 LF of 2" force main, and other miscellaneous items.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Mylan Park, 500 Mylan Park Lane, Morgantown, WV 26501; contact Frank Witt, [fwitt@mylanpark.org](mailto:fwitt@mylanpark.org). Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at Visit Mountaineer Country CVB, 341 Chaplin Road, First Floor, Morgantown, WV 26501; on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of **9 am to 4 pm** and by appointment contacting [fwitt@mylanpark.org](mailto:fwitt@mylanpark.org) and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at the office of the engineer, **Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc., 120 Genesis Boulevard, Bridgeport, WV 26330; contact Tom Adams, [tadams@cecinc.com](mailto:tadams@cecinc.com)** on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of **8 am and 4 pm**.

Bidding Documents may be viewed and ordered online by registering with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. via emailing Tom Adams at the email listed above. Following registration, complete sets of Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the Issuing Office's web-link as portable document format (PDF) files. The cost of printed Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office will depend on the number and size of the Drawings and Project Manual, applicable taxes, and shipping method selected by the prospective Bidder. Cost of Bidding Documents and shipping is non-refundable. Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, printed Bidding Documents will be sent via the prospective Bidder's delivery method of choice; the shipping charge will depend on the shipping method chosen. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of the Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **11 am** local time on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024** at the **Hazel Ruby Community Center, 500 Mylan Park Lane, Morgantown, WV 26501**.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

**NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT**

All contracts awarded under this bid are to be funded in whole or in part by Mylan Park Foundation and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection – Office of Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program and shall be referred to as the Mylan Park RV KOA Resort – AMLER project.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the Build America, Buy America Act ("the Act"), Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52 signed into law on November 15, 2021, by President Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

No Bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the time of the opening of the Bids.

Any Contractor submitting a Bid on this project hereby certifies, indicates, and acknowledges that he has a license and meets all the qualifications required by the statutes of the State and subdivision in which the work is to be performed. The Contractor shall comply with the West Virginia Contractor Licensing Act and shall require all subcontractors to comply with that Act. A Contractor's License Number is to be included on the bid submission.

Pursuant to West Virginia Code § 5-22-2, requirements stated in the advertisement for bids and the bid form may not be waived by any public entity.

Owner: **Mylan Park**  
By: **Frank Witt**  
Title: **General Manager, Mylan Park KOA**  
Date: **March 5, 2024**



PRO BASEBALL

# Number of Black major leaguers remains historically low, but improvement may be on the way

Associated Press

For much of Lee Allen Jr.'s childhood, baseball seemed quite far from him.

Major League Baseball's Royals played in his hometown Kansas City, Missouri, but Allen — who is Black and lived in the inner city — didn't come across many baseball opportunities until late in his high school years.

In January 2020, a 17-year-old Allen was invited to one of MLB's development programs, the DREAM Series, where for the first time he was put in front of scouts and coaches

to display his skills in a competitive environment.

Four years later, Allen stood on the field at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Florida, wearing a purple, white and gold baseball uniform representing the historically Black college Prairie View A&M University, his eyes set on a pro career.

More than 200 HBCU standouts were there for MLB's Andre Dawson Classic, a collegiate tournament for players hoping to one day crack the major leagues — and perhaps help usher in a new generation of African Amer-

ican stars.

“Being able to be out here and showcase my talents in front of these scouts and other guys who's looking at us at the next level,” said Allen, now a junior infielder for the Panthers, “it feels great for me because I know that those are goals that I can reach, and they're there.”

That's MLB's aim as it faces historically low numbers of Black players in the majors. A study done by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at Central Florida found African American players represented just 6.2% of players on MLB opening day rosters in 2023, down from 7.2% in 2022. Both figures were the lowest since the study began in 1991, when 18% of MLB players were Black.

That's also the lowest percentage of African American participation among four of the five major professional sports — NBA, NFL, MLB, MLS — outside of the National Hockey League, where more than 90% of its players are white. MLB has tried to address that with a series of grassroots diversity initiatives.

“We are really doubling down on what we've done,” said Del Matthews, MLB's vice president of baseball development, “because we are producing kids that are going to college, that are getting internships within the sport. We see more kids playing at the Division I college baseball ranks, and we see more kids being drafted into the minor leagues. And so we're just flooding that through the various programs that we've had.”

There are signs of progress at the pro level. Between 2012 and 2021, 17.4% of first-round picks were African American players. That number

spiked to 30% in 2022, when four of the first five selections were Black players for the first time ever — and all four were alumni of at least one MLB diversity initiative. In 2023, Black players made up 10 of the first 50 draft selections, or 20%.

Those gains haven't bolstered MLB numbers yet, and even in the minors, Black participation has been slow to rise. When MLB recently announced rosters for its Spring Break-out exhibitions showcasing top minor league prospects, 9.5% of the players were Black — including 31 alumni of MLB's diversity programs.

MLB's pipeline begins with an annual tour of pro-style camps in various cities across the country to identify baseball potential among inner city kids. The tour has grown each year — from 12 stops when it launched in 2018 to 18 cities now — and targets kids around 13-14 years old, just before they enter high school.

The goal is to eventually send those players to more advanced development programs, where they can get significant reps playing competitive baseball — mostly cost-free — and create relationships with pro scouts and former major leaguers that can help them down the line.

“The sport has gotten so expensive that it has eliminated a lot of our kids,” said Jerry Manuel, a former manager for the White Sox and Mets. “So we've got to do everything we can to get them back in the pipeline.”

The programs are mostly funded through USA Baseball, the sport's governing body in the United States, which pays for equipment, meals and potential travel for showcases that Matthews estimated could otherwise

cost upward of \$700 per event. Anywhere from 1,200 to 1,500 kids are selected each year to participate in MLB's diversity-focused programming, including the DREAM Series, Break-through Series, the Hank Aaron Invitational and girls baseball/softball events. Some players attend several events per year — an opportunity that otherwise wouldn't be feasible for many kids from lower-income families.

That's why Sheila Moreno was grateful that her son Jadin's introduction to baseball was through the Houston Astros' free youth baseball league, one of more than 180 organizations affiliated with MLB's Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) outreach program that targets kids in underserved communities.

Jadin wants to play professional baseball overseas, Moreno said, but knowing how expensive the sport can be, she worried that expenses would hinder him before he even got his start. When Moreno came across the RBI Houston program, that gave Jadin the connections he needed to earn invites to other development showcases. He's now a junior infielder at Prairie View.

“He didn't have to pay anything,” Moreno said at the Andre Dawson Classic last month, “so it was very helpful. All he wanted to do was play ball. He was just looking for someone to help him with the basic skills and to put effort into him.”

The league said nearly 700 alumni of its development programs have gone on to play college baseball, with around 90% of those players being Black.

In Division I, 752 men's baseball players — about 6% — are Black, according to the NCAA's demograph-

ics database. That's the highest that number has been in the last 10 years and reflects small but steady growth that MLB Chief Baseball Development Officer Tony Reagins said shows improvement in the pipeline.

Reagins added that the advocacy of former Black major leaguers like Manuel has been especially helpful in showing aspiring pros what is possible.

One of those MLB hopefuls is Termarr Johnson, who chose baseball over basketball and football — sports he said were more popular growing up in Atlanta. He participated in almost every diversity initiative MLB offered and was connected with mentors like Manuel, Ken Griffey Jr., Dave Winfield and Marquis Grissom — some of whom he can call on a whim for advice.

Johnson was the fourth overall pick in the 2022 draft. Standing in the Pittsburgh Pirates' clubhouse before a recent big league spring training game, Johnson credited those programs for developing him on and off the field.

“The biggest thing that was helpful was them tackling the mental piece of what it takes to be a big leaguer, a great big leaguer,” Johnson said. “Them telling me little things like, ‘Tuck in your shirt when you're out on the field. Make sure you run off the field.’ A scout sees that, people see that.”

Johnson has impressed so far as the Pirates' No. 2 overall prospect, and he's started his own kids camp, hoping it inspires more Black kids to play the game and stick with it, like MLB's programs were for him.

“I don't know if I'd be here right now if it wasn't for that,” Johnson said.

## LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

31108 MARCH 6, 13, 20

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Substitute Trustee, Pill & Pill, PLLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated February 15, 2002, executed by the Borrower(s), Edward S. Nenzo and Shirley I. Smith, to Douglas J. Leech and Timothy P. Saab, the Trustees, of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Monongalia County, West Virginia, in Book 1083, at Page 660. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 593 Bowly Rd., Madsville, WV 26541. Pill & Pill, PLLC was appointed as Substitute Trustee by an APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTION TRUSTEE dated February 15, 2024, of record in the Clerk's Office in Book 2594, at Page 603. The Borrower(s) defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustee has been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustee will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Monongalia County, in Morgantown, West Virginia, on the following date:

March 25, 2024, at 5:04 p.m.

All those certain lots or parcels of real estate, together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in Cass District, Monongalia County, West Virginia, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

FIRST PARCEL: BEGINNING at an existing one-half inch rebar on the east side of the private road, a corner to Shawn Fortney (Deed Book 971, Page 224); thence with Fortney, South 80 degrees 30 minutes 45 seconds East 398.86 feet to a 16 inch locust post, a corner to Fortney; thence with a division line through Castelli, South 04 degrees 56 minutes 40 seconds East 183.00 feet to a roof bolt set on the north side of the private gravel road; thence continuing on the north side of the road, and through Castelli, South 82 degrees 36 minutes 30 seconds West 179.87 feet to a roof bolt set; thence with a division line through Castelli and with the northeast side of the road, North 47 degrees 06 minutes 10 seconds West 63.90 feet to a roof bolt set; thence continuing with the northeast side of said private road, North 49 degrees 40 minutes 45 seconds West 72.63 feet to a roof bolt set; thence continuing on the northeast side of said road, North 28 degrees 52 minutes 20 seconds West 236.03 feet to a one-half inch bar, the place of beginning, and containing 1.64 acres, more or less and being designated as LOT NO. 1.

SECOND PARCEL: BEGINNING at an existing one-half inch bar located on a line of Shawn Fortney (Deed Book 971, Page 224) and a corner to Michael Rowan (Deed Book 1113, Page 111); thence with Rowan, South 40 degrees 13 minutes 45 seconds East 318.91 feet to an existing one-half inch bar on the north side of the private road, a corner to Rowan and Albert Castelli (Deed Book 1070, Page 107); thence with a division line through Castelli, South 67 degrees 39 minutes 05 seconds West 255.20 feet to a roof bolt set on the north side of the said road; thence with a division line through Castelli, South 82 degrees 36 minutes 30 seconds West 106.00 feet to a roof bolt set on a line of Castelli, a corner to Lot No. 1; thence with Lot No. 1, North 04 degrees 56 minutes 40 seconds West 183.00 feet to an existing 16 inch locust post, a corner to Shawn Fortney (Deed Book 971, Page 224); Thence with Fortney, North 41 degrees 18 minutes 00 seconds East 228.72 feet to a one-half inch bar, the place of beginning, containing 1.64 acres, more or less, being designated as LOT NO. 2; and being the same real estate conveyed to the Grantors herein by Albert A. Castelli and Ellen J. Castelli, by deed bearing date the 12th day of May, 1997, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Monongalia County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 1145, at Page 271.

A plat of the above-described real estate was prepared by Randall Myers, R.P.L.S. WV No. 751, under date of March 31, 1997, which is attached to the hereinafter described deed for a more particular description of the property herein conveyed.

On the plat attached hereto there is shown a gravel road leading from County Road 52/1 across other property owned by Albert A. Castelli and Ellen J. Castelli, to the property hereby conveyed. Said road or right-of-way is ten (10) feet in width. The Grantors hereby grant and convey unto the said Grantee, their heirs and assigns, the right to the use of said ten (10) foot road or right-of-way, for purposes of ingress and egress. Said right-of-way or road will also be for the use of other property owners given the similar right. However, it is understood and agreed that the users of said right-of-way or road, shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep thereof, both financially and physically, equally with the other users. It is further understood and agreed that said right-of-way or road shall not be obstructed at any time in such a manner as to interfere with the use thereof by others having the similar right.

There is a water line leading from the private road across other property owned by Albert A. Castelli and Ellen J. Castelli, and across the property hereby conveyed to property owned by Michael Rowan. This conveyance is made subject to such right-of-way. It is understood and agreed that Michael Rowan, his heirs and assigns have the right to replace or make any necessary repairs to said water line. It is further understood and agreed that whatever repairs are made to said water line shall be made in such a manner as to restore the property of the said Grantors to its original condition. The said Grantors shall not be responsible or liable for any damages or injuries sustained to others resulting from the making of repairs or replacement of said water line by Michael Rowan, his heirs and assigns.

It is understood and agreed that there are two separate power lines running across the property hereby conveyed. This conveyance is made subject to such easements granted for the construction, replacement and repair of said electric power lines. The easements for said electric lines are shown on the plat recorded in Deed Book No. 1145, at Page 276.

It is understood and agreed that should a mobile home or trailer be placed on the said property hereby conveyed, that one mobile home or trailer will be allowed on the total acreage hereby conveyed.

It is further understood that no junk cars shall be permitted on the property hereby conveyed, neither shall the accumulation of debris, trash, etc., be allowed. There is excepted and reserved from this conveyance all of the Pittsburgh, Sewickley and Redstone veins of coal, together with the mining rights as set out in prior deeds of conveyance of record for said real estate.

There is also excepted and reserved all of the oil and gas, together with the right to drill for, produce and market the same according to the recognized methods.

This conveyance is made subject to all restrictions, reservations, easements, covenants and conditions contained in the deed above referred to as if set forth herein verbatim.

The Grantors further GRANT AND CONVEY unto the said Grantees, their heirs and assigns, such right, title and interest as they might have in and to any roads, ways, privileges, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining as conveyed to them by the above-mentioned deed.

This conveyance is made SUBJECT to any state of facts and conditions that an accurate survey and personal inspection of the premises would disclose; easements, conditions, restrictions, and reservations of record; existing tenancies, if any; zoning ordinances, if any; and taxes and assessments, both general and special, if any, which shall fall due and payable following the date hereof.

### TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

BY: /s/: Jonathan L. Wertman  
Jonathan L. Wertman, Esq.

Pill & Pill, PLLC  
85 Aikens Center  
Edwin Miller Boulevard  
P.O. Box 440  
Martinsburg, WV 25402  
(304) 263-4971  
foreclosures@pillwlaw.com

## LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

31101

Mar. 6, 13

### Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

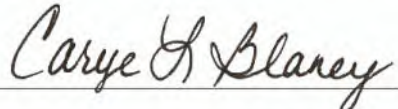
Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Monongalia County Clerk's Office at 243 High Street, Room 123 Morgantown, WV 26505 5461. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41 5 11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Monongalia County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them within 60 days of the date of first publication in accordance with West Virginia Code 44 2.

Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.

First Publication Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024  
Claim Deadline: Sunday, May 5, 2024

ESTATE NAME:	<b>MAXINE BURNS</b>
ADMINISTRATOR	DWAYNE A MATTERN 184 WEIRTON MINE RD MORGANTOWN WV 26508 3631
ESTATE NAME:	<b>MARY LORINA FOY</b>
EXECUTOR	ZACHARY FOY 1352 SMITHTOWN RD MORGANTOWN WV 26508 2483
FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONER	RYAN J. UMINA 125 GREENBAG RD MORGANTOWN WV 26505
ESTATE NAME:	<b>LEROY E. TENNANT</b>
EXECUTOR	JERRY LEE TENNANT 2527 GRAFTON RD MORGANTOWN WV 26508 3509
ATTORNEY	SEAMON LAW OFFICES 2101 ABOUT TOWN PLACE MORGANTOWN WV 26508 5834
ESTATE NAME:	<b>JOHN LINCOLN MCCABE, JR.</b>
EXECUTRIX	ELLEN LOUISE MCCABE 721 WEST VIRGINIA AVE MORGANTOWN WV 26501 6742
ESTATE NAME:	<b>KEVIN ROBERT WALDO</b>
ADMINISTRATOR	CHRISTOPHER ROSS WALDO 99 ORCHARD ST CONWAY MA 01341 9728
ATTORNEY	MARTHA M. HALL JACKSON KELLY PLLC PO BOX 619 MORGANTOWN WV 26507 0619
FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONER	GEORGE B. ARMISTEAD PO BOX 835 MORGANTOWN WV 26507 0835
ESTATE NAME:	<b>HARLAN C. YOKUM</b>
EXECUTRIX	LINDA L. YOKUM 63 HERRINGTON MANOR DR MORGANTOWN WV 26508 4012
ESTATE NAME:	<b>BETTY J. KIGER</b>
EXECUTOR	JAMES A. LEWELLEN, JR. PO BOX 8 GREENSBORO PA 15338
ESTATE NAME:	<b>GEORGE VERNON FANTACCI</b>
EXECUTRIX	PATRICIA ANN FANTACCI 2314 SMITHTOWN ROAD MORGANTOWN WV 26508 2318
ESTATE NAME:	<b>DAVID CLISE AKA DAVID ALLAN CLISE</b>
EXECUTOR	DAVID CLISE AKA DAVID ALLAN CLISE, II 2301 SURREY DR MORGANTOWN WV 26505 2939
FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONER	GEORGE B. ARMISTEAD 168 CHANCERY ROW PO BOX 835 MORGANTOWN WV 26505 5406
ESTATE NAME:	<b>BARBARA S. HARVEY AKA BARBARA SUE HARVEY</b>
EXECUTRIX	REBECCA HORWWALT 40 COOL RD MORGANTOWN WV 26501 2199
ESTATE NAME:	<b>SANDRA R. CAREY AKA SANDRA ROSE CAREY</b>
EXECUTOR	ELI J. CAREY 568 KILLARNEY DRIVE MORGANTOWN WV 26505 3339
FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONER	GEORGE B. ARMISTEAD 168 CHANCERY ROW PO BOX 835 MORGANTOWN WV 26505 5406
ESTATE NAME:	<b>HOMER RAYMOND HEADLEE, III AKA H R HEADLEE, III</b>
EXECUTRIX	MARIANNE STROPE 262 JACOBS FERRY ROAD CARMICHAELS PA 15320
ESTATE NAME:	<b>WILBUR J. SMITH AKA WIL J. SMITH</b>
EXECUTRIX	SARAH X. XIE 200 WEBSTER AVENUE MORGANTOWN WV 26501 6859
ESTATE NAME:	<b>CHARLES L. SCOTT, JR. AKA CHARLES LEROY SCOTT, JR.</b>
EXECUTRIX	JOYCE E. CORE 15 BRYANT AVE WESTOVER WV 26501 3803
ESTATE NAME:	<b>JACOB PATRICK LOUGH</b>
ADMINISTRATRIX	THERESA M LOUGH 43218 SUMMITHILL CT ASHBURN VA 20147 4410
ATTORNEY	GEORGE B. ARMISTEAD PO BOX 835 MORGANTOWN WV 26507 0835
ESTATE NAME:	<b>EVA WALKER</b>
ADMINISTRATOR	MICHAEL A. WALKER 509 COBUN AVENUE MORGANTOWN WV 26501 6119
ESTATE NAME:	<b>LARRY DEWAYNE MONGOLD, SR.</b>
ADMINISTRATOR	LARRY DEWAYNE MONGOLD, JR. 959 BAKERS RIDGE RD MORGANTOWN WV 26508 1441
ESTATE NAME:	<b>KEVIN LEE YOST</b>
EXECUTRIX	MARJORIE DIANE MILLER YOST 2456 4H CAMP ROAD MORGANTOWN WV 26508 2441
ESTATE NAME:	<b>JOSHUA SAMUEL DONAWAY</b>
ADMINISTRATRIX	JASMINE DENISE DONAWAY 40 TURNSTONE DR MORGANTOWN WV 26505 3869
ESTATE NAME:	<b>RUTH M. HICKS AKA RUTH TAYLOR MORREL HICKS</b>
EXECUTOR	PETER W. HICKS 931 CASLON WAY APT 209 HYATTSVILLE MD 20785 6005
ESTATE NAME:	<b>SHIRLEY A. HEBB AKA SHIRLEY ANN HEBB</b>
EXECUTOR	ROY P. CAYTON 111 BOY SCOUT CAMP RD MORGANTOWN WV 26508 3667

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 3/4/2024

  
Carye L. Blaney  
Clerk of the Monongalia County Commission



Probiotics may ease nonmotor symptoms of Parkinson’s

**DEAR DOCTORS:** A good friend has Parkinson’s disease. She has mentioned trying probiotics to her doctor, but he doesn’t seem interested in the idea. My friend worries she might alienate him if she gets help from another doctor. Is there guidance about using probiotics with PD?

Dear Reader: Parkinson’s is a neurological disease that results in a gradual loss of the ability to produce smooth, sustained and controlled movement. It’s a progressive disease, which means symptoms grow more pronounced over time.

Parkinson’s is caused by a decrease in the production of dopamine, a chemical messenger in the brain. The resulting changes to brain chemistry adversely affect strength, balance, movement, coordination, endurance, bowel function and blood pressure control.

There is no cure for Parkinson’s disease at this time. Treatment focuses on medications to increase dopamine production.

Now, thanks to a grow-



DRS. ELIZABETH KO & EVE GLAZIER

ing understanding of how gut microbes influence the brain, researchers are exploring a role for probiotics in managing Parkinson’s disease. Known as the gut-brain connection, it’s a two-way communication between the central nervous system and the gastrointestinal system. It has been found to affect digestion, immune function, mood and cognition, and is suspected to play a role in neurological diseases.

Several studies have found that certain strains and combinations of probiotics can ease some of the nonmotor symptoms of Parkinson’s disease. These include constipation and other gastrointestinal problems, disrupted sleep, anxiety and fatigue.

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Take good care of your money, possessions and investments this year. Don’t feel pressured to act in haste when thought and preparation are in your best interest. Look for alternatives, and you’ll discover a unique way to maintain what’s important to you without disrupting your lifestyle. Let your intuition lead the way and you’ll make better decisions.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** — Pay attention to the changes going on around you. Trust your instincts.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Speak up and command the stage. If you don’t like something, distance yourself.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — Keep your emotions in check and your eye on what you are trying to achieve. Someone will show their true colors.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — Put a plan in place and follow through on it. Don’t let anyone force their way into your territory.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Determine what you know and do best, and surround yourself with supportive people.



EUGENIA LAST

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Don’t fold under pressure. Anger is not the solution. Do what’s best for you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — An open mind will lead you to valuable information. Align yourself with a strong team.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** — A forceful presentation will help convey your point. Truth will serve you better than tact.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** — Stay calm, recognize what you are up against and use insight and initiative to sort through any difficulties.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** — Think situations through and act quickly. Don’t share secrets or personal data.

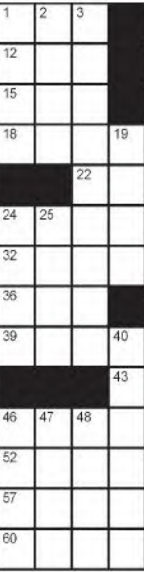
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Be spontaneous. Your actions will impact how your day unfolds. Act with courage, strength and optimism.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** — Don’t second-guess yourself. Gather facts and make decisions that address your concerns.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wheels for hire
  - 4 Criminal group
  - 8 Tiny particle
  - 12 Solemn fear
  - 13 Golf club
  - 14 — record
  - 15 — de mer
  - 16 Gunner’s requirement
  - 17 Cross the sea
  - 18 Mast for cables
  - 20 Styling foam
  - 22 Hither and —
  - 23 Goof
  - 24 In flames
  - 28 Hinder
  - 32 Political contest
  - 33 Butter substitute
  - 35 Actress — McClanahan
  - 36 Bat wood
  - 37 Guzzle

- DOWN**
- 1 Bivouac
  - 2 “And — we go!”
  - 3 Complain
  - 4 Designer — Versace
  - 5 Sleeve
  - 6 — de guerre
  - 7 Whimsical garden figure
  - 8 Give confidence
  - 9 Beverages
  - 10 Elevator name
  - 11 Dad or granddad
  - 19 Flow slowly
  - 21 Church calendar
  - 24 Unmanageable child
  - 25 Flog
  - 26 “— you’re talking!”
  - 27 Silver-tongued
  - 29 Custom
  - 30 Continental coin
  - 31 500 sheets
  - 34 Conceit
  - 37 Pencil remnant
  - 38 Antitoxins
  - 40 Brawl
  - 42 Chafed
  - 44 Eat a little of
  - 46 Genesis name
  - 47 Lotion ingredient
  - 48 Bastes
  - 50 Use a whetstone
  - 51 Animal fat
  - 54 — of the land
  - 55 Porter



3-13



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CURTIS



BY RAY BILLINGSLEY

PEANUTS



BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

THE GRIZZWELLS



BY BILL SCHORR

BEETLE BAILEY



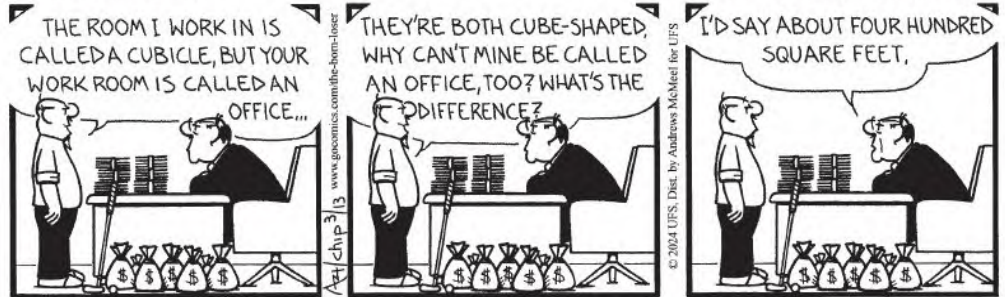
BY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER

FRANK & ERNEST



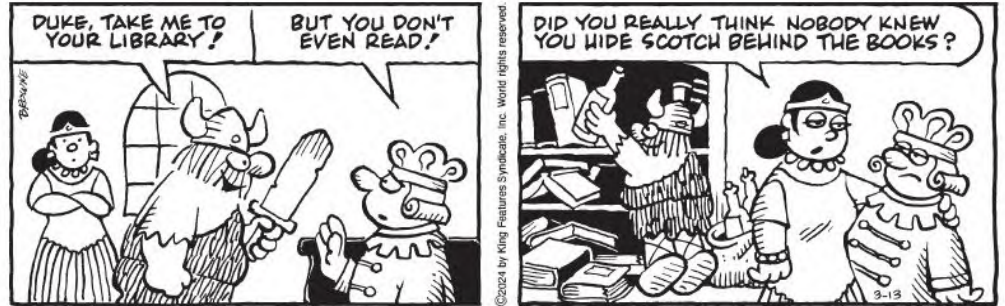
BY BOB THAVES

BORN LOSER



BY ART & CHIP SANSON

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BY DIK BROWNE

MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



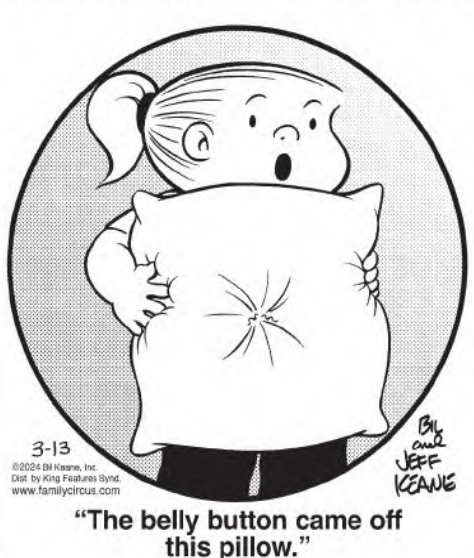
“Please don’t be the life of the party.”

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

FAMILY CIRCUS

BY BIL KEANE



BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



MUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

