



**Girls' basketball**  
UHS and Preston  
face off  
**Page B-1**

**Prep sports**  
MHS, UHS both pleased after  
1st day of state swim meet  
**Page B-1**



**Event**  
Make a date for the  
'Wine & Shine' Festival  
**Page A-4**

**Courts**  
Jury returns conviction in  
child sexual abuse case  
**Page A-4**

DOMINIONPOST.COM

SERVING NORTH-CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA SINCE 1864

\$2.00

**Friday**

Feb. 16, 2024



**High 39** **Low 25**  
Complete forecast  
**Page A-8**

Sponsored by



MON COUNTY

# MUB hopes to clear Dinsmore site this year as pump station project looms

BY BEN CONLEY

BConley@DominionPost.com

Morgantown Utility Board General Manager Mike McNulty said he's confident the structures on the former Dinsmore Tire property, at 195 Don Knotts Blvd.,

will be razed this year.

If so, that would be about two years after the utility learned it had been awarded a \$500,000 brownfield grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to remediate the site.

A brownfield is a property

complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants.

"The EPA has to approve us going to bid. So, there will be a little bit of process there, but I think, for all parties, everything

is just the way they want it now," McNulty said.

Once the buildings come down, the property will be "capped," which, according to the EPA is the process of  
**SEE STATION, A-2**

SENATE

## Committee advances bill to prohibit ranked-choice voting

BY DAVID BEARD

DBeard@DominionPost.com

The Senate Government Organization Committee took a swipe at ranked-choice voting on Thursday, advancing a bill to prohibit the practice in local government elections.

SB 593 says local governments may not use ranked-choice voting for any local, state or federal election.

It defines the method at length: "Tabulation proceeds in rounds such that in each round either a candidate or candidates are elected, or the last-place candidate is defeated; votes are transferred from elected or defeated candidates to the voters' next ranked candidate or candidates in order of preference; and tabulation ends when a candidate receives the majority of votes cast or the number of candidates elected equals the number of offices to be filled."

A website called Divided We Fall presents essays for and against ranked-choice voting, abbreviated RCV.

The pro-RCV essay says "The more candidates there are in a traditional election, the easier it becomes for the winner to have a weak plurality of support. RCV, by contrast, elects candidates who have the most support across the entire electorate. By ensuring votes are not wasted, voters under an RCV system can be sure that elections are won by candidates with the most support."

It continues, "With RCV, voters need not vote against their preferred choice in fear of splitting the vote. Rather, they simply rank their honest preferences, knowing that if their first choice doesn't have enough support, their second choice will receive their vote."

The Foundation for Government Accountability says this against RCV: "Casting a vote in an RCV election is difficult. Instructions for RCV ballots are generally cumbersome, often confusing voters. Because the process of filling out the ballot is difficult to understand, error rates for RCV

**SEE BILL, A-2**

## DOH smooths infamous curve, for now



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post photos

Crews smooth out the asphalt, which wrinkles over time as heavy trucks slow to navigate the descending curve of W.Va. 7 at Brockway Avenue.

BY BEN CONLEY

BConley@DominionPost.com

Some Morgantown motorists were likely saying "Wee, wee, wee," all the way home on Thursday after the perpetually wavy "hogback" turn received some much-needed attention.

The sharp bend where Rogers Avenue becomes E. Brockway Avenue was addressed as part of the West Virginia Division of Highways patching efforts along W.Va. Route 7.

Crews smoothed out the asphalt, which wrinkles over time as heavy trucks slow to navigate the descending curve.

Joe Pack, DOH chief engineer of District Operations, told The Dominion Post that the patch work is a temporary fix ahead of a resurfacing project in the upcoming construction season.

That project, he explained, will factor in the amount of



heavy truck traffic navigating the infamous turn and traveling Brockway Avenue into downtown Morgantown.

"When performing engineering design of a roadway resurfacing project, several factors are weighed for the design of the asphalt type and thickness. Roadway classification and

geometry, along with the quantity and type of traffic, are the primary decision-making factors," he said. "The current roadway surface performance is also factored into the final design decision in order to utilize the proper mix design of the asphalt course."

CORRECTIONS

## Commissioner says emergency status for jails staffing could wind down soon

BY BRAD MCELHINNY

WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — West Virginia's corrections commissioner has expressed optimism about progress in recruiting and retaining personnel.

Thursday, a delegate asked when state officials will be confident enough to end a state of emergency with jails staffing that went into place in August 2022.

"Do we have any hope of getting the emergency light turned off at the Capitol?" Delegate Mark Zatezalo, R-Hancock, asked during a meeting of the House Jails and Prisons Committee.

Corrections Commissioner Billy Marshall agreed that would be symbolically important to demonstrate the state has made progress.

"That's been one of my goals from day one to have that light turned off. Until that light's turned off, I don't feel like we've really gotten there yet," said Marshall, who testified before the committee for a little less than an hour.

Gov. Jim Justice issued a state of emergency Aug. 11, 2022, to address critical staffing shortages at correctional facilities in West Virginia. The declaration allowed facilities to bring in National Guard personnel to provide support roles at jails and prisons.

An emergency light atop the state Capitol building has marked the continued status.

In his opening remarks to delegates Thursday, Marshall pointed toward the possibility of bringing the direct support by National Guard personnel to an end by spring.

"We're continuing to draw down on the National Guard, which has been a tremendous savings for us going forward," Marshall said. "We're hopeful by the end of April, early part of May, that we'll be able to have all the National Guard drawn out of our facilities."

West Virginia's jails have also been under scrutiny over conditions and because of a number of deaths. The most recent death

**SEE JAILS, A-2**



INSIDE

LOCAL **A4** |

OPINION **A3** |

CROSSWORDS **B7** |

COMICS **B7** |

SPORTS **B1**

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

## Digital Marketing Services

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

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

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



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

[www.dominionpost.com/marketing-services](http://www.dominionpost.com/marketing-services) | 304.225.3405 | [advertising@dominionpost.com](mailto:advertising@dominionpost.com)



LEGISLATION

# A sampling of bills introduced Thursday

BY DAVID BEARD  
DBeard@DominionPost.com

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

- SB 801, to establish a tax on the production of electricity from wind and solar collection for distribution to the counties to be distributed to the volunteer fire departments in that county. Sen. Randy Smith, R-Tucker, co-sponsor.
- SB 809, allowing races on county or municipal roads when the race is sanctioned by the local governing authority and the road is closed to other traffic.
- SJR 9, a proposed constitutional amendment, "Right to Reproduc-

ive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety." Sen. Mike Caputo, D-Marion, sponsor.

- SCR 29, calling on the Biden administration, federal agencies and Congress to reevaluate proposed restrictions on the chemical industry, ensuring that regulations are based on sound science, promote innovation and support supply chain resiliency. Sens. Charles Clements, R-Wetzel, Mike Oliverio, R-Monongalia, Jay Taylor, R-Taylor, co-sponsors.
- SR 42, Supporting Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas' constitutional right to self-defense. Clements, Oliverio, Smith, Taylor, co-sponsors.

BILL

FROM PAGE A-1

elections remain higher than those of traditional elections. This results in more citizens having their votes thrown away because of an overly complex system.

It continues, "Because of ballot exhaustion, winners of RCV races do not necessarily represent the choice of all voters who participated. RCV claims to protect majority rule, but in reality, RCV creates

an artificial majority by eliminating the votes of the lowest-scoring candidates during successive tabulations."

Committee counsel told the senators that 17 states allow RCV in local elections. Florida, Montana, South Dakota and Tennessee prohibit it. The rest have no legislation for or against RCV.

The committee approved the bill in a voice vote without debate and it goes next to Judiciary.

## A WEBSITE CALLED DIVIDED WE FALL PRESENTS ESSAYS FOR AND AGAINST RANKED-CHOICE VOTING, ABBREVIATED RCV.

CLARIFY

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

CONTACT

Newsroom: 304-291-9425  
Classified: 304-291-9420  
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays  
Circulation: 304-292-6301  
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. weekdays  
USPS 159680  
VOL. 60 NO. 213

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



**HILLEARY FAMILY DENTISTRY**

MICHAEL R. HILLEARY, DDS  
& ANN M. SEAVY, DDS

New Patients are Always Welcome!

- Complete Family Dentistry for All Ages
- Evening Appointments Available

Happy Valentine's Day!

MICHAEL HILLEARY DDS PLLC  
157 Holland Avenue Westover, WV 26501 | 304-296-1721 | hillearyfamilydentistry.com

**WARD PAINE MD PLLC**  
BEN KLENNERT, PA-C  
PRIMARY CARE

Strictly following COVID-19 guidelines.

Accepting new patients. Most insurance accepted. No facility fee.

Call 304.777.4044 to schedule!  
1526 Mileground Road, Morgantown, WV  
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9-4 • Friday, 9-2

**Fish Fry**

St. John University Parish  
Mountaineer Catholic

1481 University Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505

**Fish Fry!**

St. John's Fish Fry on **Fridays**:  
Feb. 16, Feb. 23, Mar. 1, Mar. 8, Mar. 15,  
and Mar. 22 from 5:00pm—7:00pm in  
the St. John Parish Center!

The cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under

Dine in or carry out (no call ahead)

Meal: Baked/Fried Cod, Fries, Mac 'n Cheese, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, & Roll.

THANK YOU to our sponsors:  
**APPLE ANNIE'S**

长城 GREAT WALL  
Amazing Chinese Food

162 High Street • Morgantown, WV 26505  
(304) 291-3412  
(304) 291-3417  
fax: (304) 291-3413

Hours:  
Sunday-Thursday: 11am-10:30pm  
Friday & Saturday: 11am-11:30pm

Order Online at [www.GreatWall162.com](http://www.GreatWall162.com)

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

Voted **BEST TAKEOUT**  
by readers of Morgantown Magazine

STATE

# Manchin provides update on wife involved in Alabama car crash

BY CARRIE HODOUSEK  
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin says his wife is doing well after being released from the hospital following a car crash last month in Birmingham.

Gayle Manchin, the federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, was traveling

with her colleague Guy Land on Jan. 29 when they were hit by a suspect fleeing from police just outside Birmingham.

Manchin and Guy were admitted to UAB Hospital to be treated for injuries for a few days following the crash. The two were on their way to attend an ARC grant workshop.

Sen. Manchin told MetroNews flagship station

580-WCHS in Charleston Wednesday the whole incident was "a miracle."

"The good Lord was watching over her. She got T-boned," he said. "She's healing up, but she's bruised up."

Homewood, Ala., Police said the suspect was later arrested on felony charges.

The senator said the situation could've been much worse.

"They were chasing a criminal through the streets of Birmingham and the guy just ran through the light and hit them and hit right behind her door. If he hit her door, Lord knows we might not have her with us today, but it was just a miracle," Manchin said. "I'm very thankful."

The investigation into the crash continues.

WORLD

# Israeli forces storm the main hospital in southern Gaza, saying hostages were likely held there

Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli forces stormed the main hospital in southern Gaza on Thursday, hours after Israeli fire killed a patient and wounded six others inside the complex. The Israeli army said it was seeking the remains of hostages taken by Hamas.

The raid on Nasser Hospital came after troops had

besieged the facility for nearly a week, with hundreds of staff, patients and others inside struggling under heavy fire and dwindling supplies, including food and water. A day earlier, the army ordered thousands of displaced people who had taken shelter there to leave the hospital in the city of Khan Younis, the focus of

Israel's offensive against Hamas in recent weeks.

The war shows no sign of ending, and the risk of a broader conflict grew as Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group stepped up attacks after a particularly deadly exchange on Wednesday.

The military said it had "credible intelligence" that Hamas had held hostages at Nasser Hospital and that

the 'hostages' remains might still be inside. Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the chief military spokesperson, said forces were conducting a "precise and limited" operation there and would not forcibly evacuate medics or patients. Israel accuses Hamas of using hospitals and other civilian structures to shield its fighters.



The Morgantown Utility Board purchased the former Dinsmore Tire property, at 195 Don Knotts Blvd., in early 2019 with the understanding the utility's neighboring water treatment facility would eventually need to expand. MUB is exploring use of the site as part of a water treatment plant project currently slated to begin in early 2025.

Ben Conley/The Dominion Post

STATION

FROM PAGE A-1

"creating or adding a barrier between the surface and contaminants by using a geotextile, a layer of clean soil or both."

The property sits at the northern tip of a sliver of land created by Cobun Creek and the Monongahela River. It's positioned at the confluence of the two waterways, right next to MUB's water treatment facility.

The utility board announced the purchase of the 1.26-acre property in January 2019, explaining the \$743,000 expenditure was needed in case expansion of the treatment

facility became necessary.

Fast forward four years and Strand Associates is currently completing a preliminary engineering report for MUB on a project to replace and improve the powerhouse of the water treatment plant — the 50-plus year old high service pump station.

One of the four options being considered is the construction of a new pump station on a portion of the Dinsmore site.

MUB Director of Communications Chris Dale said the engineering report will spell out the preferred option as well as how much the project is expected to cost.

Dale said MUB would

like to begin what's expected to be an 18-month construction project in early 2025.

In past conversations about the old Dinsmore site, it was always noted that MUB was open to exploring recreational uses of the land up until the time it was needed.

McNulty said that possibility remains.

"We hope to keep a component for recreation, but it's still up in the air at the moment. There's nothing finalized," he said.

Either way, it's past time to get it cleaned up.

"It's the worst eyesore in Morgantown, I think, on that gateway," McNulty said.

According to The Dominion Post archive, a fire in one of the buildings on the property resulted in a general alarm response from the Morgantown Fire Department, meaning off-duty firefighters were brought in to help battle the blaze.

The MFD ended up using two aerial platform trucks to suppress the flames, which started as a warming or cooking fire, according to a subsequent investigation.

The rear section of the building's roof, believed to have been added in the 1970s, was destroyed by fire and efforts to fight it.

JAILS

FROM PAGE A-1

was reported Friday when a 19-year-old woman incarcerated at Southern Regional Jail was found "injured and unconscious in her cell."

Delegate Hollis Lewis, D-Kanawha, asked again Thursday about conditions in the jails.

"What are we doing overall to not have these situations?" Lewis asked.

Marshall responded by

expressing concern but also by saying there are limits to what can be done.

"I would love to be able to tell you that we could eliminate all of the deaths in our jails—I'd love to be able to tell you that, but it would be too naive. It wouldn't be accurate for me to say that," Marshall said.

"The unfortunate situation is that we get some inmates at their sickest and their worst," he said describing some incarcer-

ated people who struggle with drug addiction or poverty.

"And it's our responsibility to try to make sure they're taken care of when they're in there. I'll never stand for anybody mistreating inmates or any subordinate officer. I'll never stand for it. I try to make sure we give these individuals the very best care we have, but when they come to us, 99% of the time it's the worst day of their life."

He concluded, "Our

goal is to prevent every death or every incident in our facilities."

Lewis followed up by asking whether specific additional actions could be taken at Southern Regional Jail "because that seems to be the heart of the issues and the heart of the problems where these unfortunate and tragic incidents are."

Marshall responded that new leadership at that jail has been working to improve on suicide prevention watches. He also described attempts to prevent illegal drugs from getting into the facility.

"Unfortunately sometimes it does get in," Marshall said of drugs. "Sometimes the inmates will use it, and sometimes they overdose and bad things happen. We are being very, very proactive there—not just at Southern, but all of our jails and prisons. So my goal would be to never have a death in our facilities, never have an incident in our facilities."

"I just don't know that that's achievable, but we're certainly going to try."

EDITORIAL

## The Good, the Bad and the Stupid 5

**Good:** SB 159 — “prohibiting smoking in vehicle when minor 16 or under is present.” This bill passed the Senate and was sent to House Finance.

It is an indisputable fact that secondhand smoke is dangerous. That’s why smoking is now prohibited in a variety of spaces — especially indoor ones — even though smoking itself is still legal for adults. An adult can make an informed choice to use cigarettes despite knowing the risks — a child locked in the car with said adult doesn’t have the choice to *not* inhale the smoke, especially if the windows are rolled up.

This law will (hopefully) help protect kids from being trapped in an unhealthy situation not of their choosing. The only real flaw of this bill is that it makes smoking in a vehicle with kids a secondary offense, which means the car must be pulled over for something else first.

**Bad:** HB 5159 — “to eliminate the requirement that 14- or 15-year-old obtain a work permit.” Children between 14 and 16 years old would only need a parent or guardian’s written permission instead of a full work permit, and instead of getting approvals or verifications from the State Superintendent of Schools (because kids that age should be in school), employers would only need age verification from the State Commissioner of Labor.

This bill is part of an effort — led in large part by pro-business and pro-homeschool conservatives — to roll back child labor protections instituted in the 1930s. Those original protections were meant to get kids out of dangerous workplaces and back into schools — to give them the chance to have an education and a childhood.

Do we really want a return to the days when the eldest children never completed school because they had to support the family? When higher education and life-path choices were a luxury reserved the youngest siblings or the wealthiest kids?

Child labor laws were put in place for a reason: to stop kids from being exploited with long hours, physically demanding, sometimes hazardous work and suppressed wages. Passing this law would be just the first step in West Virginia joining other red states in rolling child labor laws all the way to the 1930s.

**Stupid turned Bad:** HB 4313 — “Parents’ Bill of Rights,” which says, “The liberty of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, and care, including medical care, of the parent’s child is a fundamental right.” This bill was just “stupid,” until it was amended — read: rewritten — into something “bad.” The amended version passed its first committee and is now in House Judiciary.

There’s a special emphasis in this bill on parents’ rights to determine their children’s education and health care. It expressly gives parents the right to choose alternative, non-public schooling for their children. It’s less specific language regarding health care is probably meant to open the door to refuse mandatory childhood vaccinations. The amended version also contains language that Republicans have repeatedly sought that could force schools to “out” closeted LGBTQ+ kids to their parents if that child is out at school.

The amended version of the bill removed language that would have allowed exceptions to the law if the action was “long recognized in the history and traditions of this state.” That language could have preserved mandatory school-age vaccines, since mandatory vaccines have a long history in West Virginia. The language was replaced with “reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest.” We would think protecting vulnerable kids from deadly and debilitating diseases would be a compelling state interest, but a shocking number of legislators disagree.

The amendment also changed that a parent’s “right to make health care decisions for his or her minor child” to “unless otherwise prohibited by law.” We had thought that parents’ right to direct their children’s health care could present an opening to challenge gender-affirming care bans. Unfortunately, someone must have seen the same possible loopholes we did and made sure to close them.

## Who brings a gun to a parade?

### Mayhem spoils KC Chiefs’ Super Bowl celebration

**WHO BRINGS A GUN TO A VICTORY PARADE, ANYWAY?** Someone did, and this mass shooting at the Kansas City Chiefs’ Super Bowl victory parade puts a stain on this city.

I attended Wednesday’s parade. The atmosphere was festive and fun. Never would I have thought a mass shooting or any sort of violent act would occur. Gun violence knows no bounds, it seems.

Shortly after the Chiefs rally ended Wednesday, gunfire erupted on the west side of Union Station, according to Kansas City Police. One person was killed and at least 22 people were injured by gunfire, police said Thursday. Several people were struck and taken to area hospitals, according to police.

“At the conclusion of the rally there were shots fired west of Union Station near the garage and several people were struck,” police wrote on X.

After the shooting, two armed people were taken into custody, according to police. If they are indeed our shooters, good work by Kansas City police officers apprehending the pair so quickly. The last thing we need here is gunmen on the loose after a mass shooting.

After the shooting, people rightfully scattered, leaving children separated from their families. Props to Kansas City police. The department’s swift response to the shooting should be noted.

On X, department officials reminded the public of child reunification stations in the area.

“Remember the child reunification stations in the area are at 2301 Main and inside the main entrance of Union Station,” officials wrote. “We still have

several needing reunification. Contact the officer nearest you for reunification information.”

#### Police chief ‘angry at what happened’

In a press conference held later that day, Police Chief Stacey Graves noted the presence of about 800 law enforcement officials did not deter the suspected shooters from firing weapons.

“I’m angry at what happened today,” Graves said. We all should be.

I arrived near the parade route about 9 a.m. and parked near 22nd and Campbell. I walked to The Star’s office nearby to say hello to coworkers before a 10 a.m. meeting with my colleagues on the Editorial Board. I hadn’t planned on writing about the parade, but I did want to revel in what I described as a walking tailgate for Chiefs fans.

From The Star’s offices, I walked north down McGee Street to 18th. Every fan I encountered was jovial and seemed in good spirits. Shortly before 11 a.m., I stopped for coffee at a pop-up on 18th Street before making my way west to Grand Boulevard near The Star’s old office at 17th and Grand. Not one person I spoke with or shook hands with displayed ill will or discontent being there. I stayed in my spot until Travis Kelce and Patrick Mahomes passed by shortly after noon.

I dispersed without a worry in the world. Then, I received a breaking news alert about a shooting at Union Station. My heart sank. I thought: How could this be? The sun was out, the weather was great and the Chiefs were being celebrated as world champs. It was a perfect day — until it wasn’t.

#### Not the only gun violence at festivities

Mayor Quinton Lucas thanked law enforcement officials and other first responders who aided gunshot victims. The White House was aware of the shooting, according to Lucas. Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly tweeted that she got away from the scene safely. Federal officials will assist with the investigation as needed, the mayor said.

The mass shooting wasn’t the only incident of gun violence at the parade, according to The Star’s Bob Cronkleton, who wrote: “Earlier in the day, two people were shot near 27th and McGee streets, according to Officer Alayna Gonzalez. The victims were said to have non-life-threatening injuries.”

Yes, we have a constitutional right to bear arms, but we still live in a civilized society. Kansas City is not the Wild West. Leave your guns and weapons at home next time. I am praying for these and all victims of gun violence. Enough is enough.

In Kansas City, we’re privileged to celebrate three Super Bowl victories in five years. My hope is this shooting does not deter us from gathering again for another world championship celebration in the future.

**TORIANO PORTER** is an opinion writer and member of The Kansas City Star’s editorial board.



#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EMAIL submissions to [opinion@dominionpost.com](mailto: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.

## How will the Republican primary change impact the party?

#### EDITOR’S NOTE

Hoppy is on vacation this week. This column is from Jan. 30, 2024.



HOPPY KERCHEVAL

**THE WEST VIRGINIA REPUBLICAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED A RESOLUTION THAT WILL LIMIT THE PARTY’S PRIMARY ELECTION TO ONLY REPUBLICAN VOTERS BEGINNING IN 2026.** The decision reverses the party policy that had been in place for more than 30 years that allowed independents or individuals with no party affiliation to vote in the GOP primary.

The decision split the party leaders. Sixty-five members of the executive committee supported the change, while 54 voted against it.

Some members wanted to make the switch right away to

capitalize on the popularity of Donald Trump. They argued that independents who support Trump would be enticed to switch to the Republican Party so they could vote for the former president in the May 14 primary.

Others did not want to exclude independents who had helped expand the GOP’s electoral dominance in the state by voting for Republican candidates. They worried about alienating those voters.

So, what will happen now? State Sen. Mike Stuart (R-

Kanawha), who is running for the Republican nomination for attorney general, referred me to Idaho as an example. That state passed a law in 2011 closing both the Republican and Democratic primary elections to only party members.

Since then, Republican Party registration has more than doubled, to nearly 580,000 (240,852 to 579,391), while the number of independents has dropped from 440,000 to 275,000, a decline of 38%.

Democratic Party registration also more than doubled (56,664 to 126,235). However, Democrats only make up 13% of all registered voters in Idaho.

(The total number of registered voters in Idaho increased from 743,000 in 2013 to 996,731 now.)

The key figure here is that, when forced to choose to qualify to vote in the primary election,

Republican registration soared from 32% of registered voters to 58%. Democratic registration rose from 7% to 13%.

Independents dropped from 59% to 28%.

Not surprisingly, Republicans dominate Idaho politics. The governor, members of their Board of Public Works, both U.S. senators and both House representatives are Republican. The GOP also holds overwhelming majorities in both chambers of their state legislature (28-7 in the Senate, 59-11 in the House).

In short, restricting primaries to party members has strengthened the Idaho Republican Party even more. Supporters of the closed Republican primary in West Virginia are hoping for the same here, even though the GOP already has complete electoral dominance.

The Idaho situation is relevant, but not completely analogous, since West Virginia’s Democratic Party primary remains open. In 2026, unaffiliated voters here will still be able to vote in the primary if they choose a Democratic ballot.

One note of caution for West Virginia Republicans. Not all Idahoans are pleased with closed primaries. The group Idahoans for Open Primaries is mounting a petition drive to put the closed primary system up for a vote.

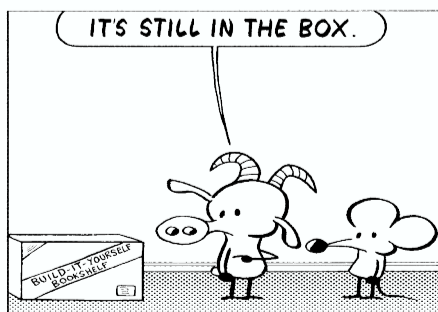
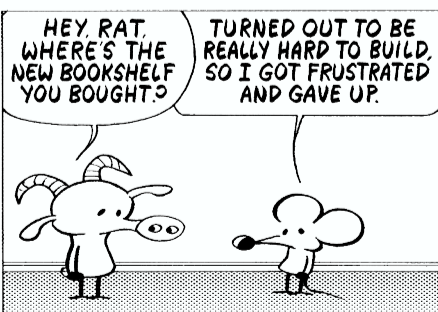
How will West Virginia’s 287,000 independent voters respond to the Republican rule change? The answer will be found in the party registration numbers for the 2026 primary election.

**HOPPY KERCHEVAL** is a MetroNews anchor and the longtime host of “Talkline.” Contact him at [hoppy.kercheval@wvradio.com](mailto:hoppy.kercheval@wvradio.com).

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

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

#### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



BY STEPHAN PASTIS

#### NON SEQUITUR



BY WILEY

COURTS

## Jury returns conviction in child sexual abuse case

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER  
ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

Wednesday evening in Monongalia County Circuit Court, Steven Ray Desantis, 41, was found guilty of sexual abuse by a parent, guardian, custodian, or person in position of trust to a child and sexual abuse in the first-degree during a trial at the Monongalia County Justice Center on High Street.

The Monongalia County Prosecutor's Office announced the verdict on Thursday.

Court records show Desantis was indicted by a grand jury for the crimes in September 2022.

According to information from the county prosecutor's office, the guilty verdict was returned by a Monongalia County jury after a two-day trial Tuesday and Wednesday that was presided over by the Honorable Cindy S. Scott.

At the conclusion of the trial Wednesday night, Desantis was taken into custody and is now being held at North Central Regional Jail.

A sentencing hearing to determine exactly how long Desantis will spend behind bars will be scheduled at a later date.

The penalty in West Virginia for a conviction of sexual abuse by a parent, guardian, custodian, or person in position of trust is not less than 10 nor more than 20 years of imprisonment.

Desantis also faces not less than five nor more than 25 years of imprisonment for the sexual abuse in the first-degree conviction.

The case was prosecuted by Monongalia County Prosecuting Attorney Gabrielle "Gabe" Mucciola and was investigated by Detective Stallings of the Morgantown Police Department with assistance from Granville Police Chief Craig Corkrean.

Mucciola stated in a press release that she is grateful for the work of both investigators and to the juvenile victim for having the courage to speak and allow the jury to return a just verdict.

**A SENTENCING HEARING TO DETERMINE EXACTLY HOW LONG DESANTIS WILL SPEND BEHIND BARS WILL BE SCHEDULED AT A LATER DATE.**

## Photo Friday



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

A plump squirrel takes over the bird feeder in a local tree this week to get his fill. If you take similar photos that you'd like to see published, submit them for Photo Friday. Send a high-resolution digital image to DPNews@dominionpost.com. Include your name and information about the photo, including where and when it was taken.

EVENT

## Make a date for the 'Wine & Shine' Festival

BY JIM BISSETT  
JBissett@DominionPost.com

With Valentine's Day 2024 now on the books, let's just say that — well — it could have gone better.

The store-bought bouquet was hardly vase-worthy.

And the over-priced, under-cooked "romantic" dinner at that oh-so-hyped restaurant?

Uh, yeah.

Not that you didn't have good intentions about the whole endeavor.

Maybe, to paraphrase the lyrics of an old TV show's theme song, you were just a regular dude harboring no ill will.

Either way, there's no need to get all heartsick, Jamie Summerlin said.

Just make a date, he said, for the WV Chocolate Wine & Shine Festival on Saturday at Mylan Park.

"You can redeem yourself," he said.

That's because it's the 2024 edition of the event also billed as "A Sweet Taste of Mountains."

In two sessions that day, the festival at the Hazel and J.W. Ruby Community Center features rich chocolates, fine wine and a mix of (legally made) moonshine, giving the true mountain experience for individuals and couples aged 21 and up.

"We're really showcasing a lot of the best West Virginia has to offer," said Summerlin, whose Guidon Creative event-planning firm is putting it all together.

"We've got chocolatiers, specialty foods and confectionaries," he said. "We've got artisan craftsmen and some really great wineries and legal moonshine distilleries coming in."

That means great samples — the wine and moonshine are more about sampling, rather than full-on drinking, he said — along with games, a live deejay, premium giveaways and more.

Jacqueline's Fine Jewelry of Morgantown and Uniontown, Pa., is this year's gift bag sponsor for the festival.

Visit <https://chocolatetasteshine.com/> for all the particulars, including times and ticket pricing.

"We've added a lot of new wineries and distilleries that we're excited about," Summerlin said.

They include Forks of Cheat Winery of Morgantown, he said, which has long been courted by the festival.

And the Appalachian

SEE UNITED, A-5

SEE FESTIVAL, A-5

COLUMN

## Getting help can be a little easier with the United Way

**SOMETIMES TAKING THE FIRST STEP TO GET HELP IS THE MOST DIFFICULT.** And knowing what that first step is can be a challenge as well.

That's just what United Way's programs, such as the WV211 health and human service hotline and the Monongalia County Family Resource Network, are trying to make a little easier.

We write about WV211 a good bit in this space. But while you may have heard about the Monongalia County Family Resource Network (FRN), do you know why it's so important to our community?

We turned to Family Resource Network Manager Courtney Summers to help people understand more about the FRN. Her answers were so straightforward, we decided to share a question-and-answer session with Courtney as the perfect way for folks to learn more. Here's what she had to say:

**Q: In your words, what is the Mon County Family Resource Network?**

A: "The Mon County Family Resource Network is a connector in the community.

The network works to connect agencies and community members with resources and events within Monongalia County. Although we do not provide direct services, we work to empower and encourage our local community, especially families through special events, committees and resources."

**Q: Why is the FRN important to have in our community?**

A: "The FRN is important for our community because of the collaborative nature of what we do. We work with other organizations and community members to help empower families and individuals, educate them to prevent child abuse and neglect, and provide information and resources."

**Q: Can you give some examples of the types of resources you provide?**

A: "We provide a regular email newsletter that compiles resources, events, volunteer opportunities, and more (anyone can subscribe here <http://tiny.cc/fu7uwzannual>). We provide a Resource Guide that can be found on the United Way website ([unitedwaympc.org](http://unitedwaympc.org)) or West Virginia FRN website ([wvfrn.org](http://wvfrn.org)).

"We provide a one-pager of community resources and a FRN Agency Guide that is shared with those who attend our monthly meetings. Through the Partners in Prevention grant activities, we provide resources through events such as the free Community Baby Shower and free training opportunities to help fight child abuse and neglect within our community.

"We run the annual Warm Hearts Warm Hands Outerwear Drive to provide warm clothing to individuals and families in need within Monongalia and Preston counties. And we also help manage the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program within Monongalia County, which provides free books to children under 5."

**Q: What events does FRN have coming up?**

A: "We have many exciting events coming

CONNECT

MANAGING EDITOR: KATIE McDOWELL 304-291-9425

EMAIL: [KMcdowell@DominionPost.com](mailto:KMcdowell@DominionPost.com)

World Spay Month

**Neuter - JUST DO IT!**

M-SNAP



NATION

# Shooting after Chiefs Super Bowl parade seemed to stem from dispute among several people, police say

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The mass shooting that unfolded amid throngs of people at the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl celebration, killing one person and wounding almost two dozen others, appeared to stem from a dispute between several people, authorities said Thursday.

Police Chief Stacey Graves said that the 22 people injured in the shooting ranged between the ages of 8 and 47 years old, half of whom were under the age of 16. A mother of two was killed.

Three people were detained — including two juveniles — but no charges have been filed yet, Graves said. Police are calling for witnesses, people with cellphone footage and victims of the violence to call a dedicated hotline.

"We are working to determine the involvement of others. And it should be noted we have recovered several firearms. This incident is still a very active investigation," Graves said at a news conference.

The shooting outside Union Station occurred despite the presence of more than 800 police officers who were in the building and area, including on top of nearby structures, said Mayor Quinton Lucas, who attended with his wife and mother and ran for safety when the shots rang out. But he doesn't expect to



AP photo

Police escort Kansas City Chiefs tight end Noah Gray and his teammates off the stage after a shooting following their victory parade and rally in Kansas City, Mo.

cancel the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade.

"We have parades all the time. I don't think they'll end. Certainly we recognized the public safety challenges and issues that relate to them," Lucas said.

Throngs had lined the parade route, with fans climbing trees and street poles for a better view. Players rolled through on double-decker buses as DJs and drummers heralded their arrival.

The police chief said 1 million people likely attended the parade, which occurred in a city of about 470,000 people and a metropolitan area of about 2 million, but stressed that the violence was wrought by just a handful of people.

"The law enforcement response was exemplary. Those in attendance also responded," Graves added. "They helped one another and even physically stop a person who was believed to be involved in the incident."

Meanwhile, police are still asking witnesses to come forward. Many described a sense of confusion that rippled through the crowd.

The rally had just ended and music was still blaring when the shots erupted. Many people initially thought they were hearing fireworks. But then chaos ensued. Some in the crowd hit the ground while others leapt over barriers and sprinted, some carrying children in their arms.

BUSINESS

# Average long-term U.S. mortgage rate rose this week to 6.77%, highest level in 10 weeks

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate rose this week to its highest level in 10 weeks, a setback for prospective homebuyers ahead of the spring home-buying season.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage rose to 6.77% from 6.64% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. A year ago, the rate averaged 6.32%.

Borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, popular with homeowners refinancing their home loans, also rose this week, pushing the average rate to 6.12% from 5.90% last week. A year ago it averaged 5.51%, Freddie Mac said.

The increase in rates echoes moves in the 10-year Treasury yield, which lenders use as a guide to pricing loans. Stronger-than-expected reports on inflation, the job market and the overall economy have stoked worries among bond investors that the Fed-

eral Reserve will wait longer before it begins cutting interest rates.

Hopes for such cuts amid signs that inflation has declined from its peak two summers ago has been a major reason the 10-year Treasury yield has mostly pulled back since October, when it climbed to its highest level since 2007.

Investors' expectations for future inflation, global demand for U.S. Treasuries and what the Fed does with interest rates can influence rates on home loans.

"The economy has been performing well so far this year and rates may stay higher for longer, potentially slowing the spring homebuying season," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

So far this year, mortgage applications to buy a home are down in more than half of all states compared to a year earlier, noted Khater.

When mortgage rates rise, they can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, limiting how

much they can afford in a market already out of reach for many Americans. They also discourage homeowners who locked in rock-bottom rates two or three years ago from selling. The average rate on a 30-year mortgage remains sharply higher than just two years ago, when it was 3.92%.

The cost of financing a home has come down from its most recent peak in late October, when the average rate on a 30-year mortgage hit 7.79%, the highest level since late 2000.

Many economists have projected that mortgage rates will continue heading lower this year, though forecasts generally have the average rate on a 30-year home loan hovering around 6% by the end of the year.

Elevated mortgage rates and a dearth of available homes have kept the U.S. housing market mired in a slump the past two years. Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes sank to a nearly 30-year low last year, tumbling 18.7% from 2022.

SPACE

# U.S. company's lunar lander rockets toward the moon for a touchdown attempt next week

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Another private U.S. company took a shot at the moon Thursday, launching a month after a rival's lunar lander missed its mark and came crashing back.

NASA, the main sponsor with experiments on board, is hoping for a successful moon landing next week as it seeks to jumpstart the lunar economy ahead of astronaut missions.

SpaceX's Falcon rocket blasted off in the middle of the night from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, dispatching Intuitive Machines' lunar lander on its way to the moon, 230,000 miles away.

The lander resembled a stunning six-pointed star jewel — each point a leg — as it successfully separated from the upper stage and drifted off into the black void with the blue Earth far below.

If all goes well, a touchdown attempt would occur Feb. 22, after a day in lunar orbit. Only five countries — the U.S., Russia, China, India and Japan — have scored a lunar landing and no private business has yet done so. The U.S. has not returned to the moon's surface since the Apollo



AP photo

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

program ended more than five decades ago.

"There have been a lot of sleepless nights getting ready for this," Intuitive Machines' co-founder and chief executive Steve Altemus said before the flight.

The Houston-based company aims to put its 14-foot tall, six-legged lander down just 186 miles shy of the moon's south pole, equivalent to landing within Antarctica on Earth. This region — full of treacherous craters and cliffs, yet potentially rich with frozen water — is where NASA plans to land astronauts later this decade.

The space agency said its six navigation and tech experiments on the lander can help smooth the way.

NASA's first entry in its commercial lunar delivery service — Astrobotic Technology's Peregrine lander — stumbled shortly after liftoff in early January. A ruptured fuel tank and massive leak caused the spacecraft to bypass the moon and come tearing back through the atmosphere 10 days after launching, breaking apart and burning up over the Pacific.

Others made it to the moon before wrecking.

ENTERTAINMENT

# Franklin from 'Peanuts' gets to shine in the spotlight of special

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The mild-mannered Franklin — the first Black character in the "Peanuts" comic strip — gets to shine in his own animated Apple TV+ special this month in a story about friendship.

Franklin is a newcomer who bonds with Charlie Brown and is welcomed to the Peanuts universe in "Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home, Franklin," which premieres on Friday.

Co-writer Robb Armstrong, the cartoonist behind the "Jump Start" strip, says he's building on the blueprints that "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz left. "Whenever you start with good ingredients, you have to work hard to make a bad cake out of it," he says.

Race is never explicitly mentioned but Armstrong and co-writer Scott Montgomery make a subtle nod when Franklin surveys the kids in his new town and remarks, "One thing was for sure: There was a lack of variety in this place."

"I never wanted to come off preachy or anything, but it needed to be handled in the same way that I handled it in 'Jump Start,'"



Apple TV+ via AP

This image released by Apple TV+ shows Peanuts characters Charlie Brown, right, and Franklin in a scene from the animated special "Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home, Franklin," premiering Friday.

says Armstrong. "I don't come out and call people anything. I let the characters participate in a problem solving process."

The portrait of Franklin that emerges is of a boy who likes baseball and outer space, is good with his hands and listens to Stevie Wonder, Little Richard, James Brown and John Coltrane.

When he arrives in town, he's tired of a life constantly moving, since his father's military job takes them from location to location. "I have lived in a lot of different places but none that I can call home," he says.

But his introduction to

the "Peanuts" gang initially goes poorly. He mistakes Lucy's psychiatric booth for a lemonade stand and he freaks Linus out by picking a pumpkin from his patch. "If I didn't know better, I'd swear I was in 'The Twilight Zone,'" Franklin says.

"Every time he's moved, he's had to learn how to make friends quick and that meant that he didn't feel he could ever be his authentic self," said director and story editor Raymond S. Persi. "So when he comes to this town, his normal tricks don't work because these are kind of weird kids."

BOOK

# Stephen and Evie McGee Colbert collaborate on cookbook

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stephen Colbert's next book is very much about stirring the pot.

Celadon Books announced Thursday that "The Late Show" host and his wife, Evie McGee Colbert, have collaborated on the cookbook "Does This Taste Funny: Recipes Our Family Loves," to be published on Sept. 17.

"We are so excited to announce our new cookbook, which we have been working on together for two years," the Colberts

said in a statement released through Celadon. "We hope everyone enjoys the recipes and stories. We made it with love ... and an enormous amount of butter."

The book includes more than 100 recipes, from "Stephen's Kindergarten Soup" to "The Colbert Bump Cocktail," with an emphasis on the Low-country cuisine of the Colberts' native South Carolina.

"Readers will also enjoy the banter, reminiscences and stories, and the

gorgeous food photos and informal at-home pictures that fill the book, making readers feel like they are right there in the kitchen with Evie, Stephen, their children (and dog, Benny) and the extended family who are at the heart of the Colberts' lives," Celadon's announcement reads in part.

Stephen Colbert's previous books include "I Am America (And So Can You!)" and "America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't."

**Want to see your news in The Dominion Post?**

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

**The Dominion Post**

## COURTS

# Trump's New York hush-money case will start March 25. It's the first of his criminal trials

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump's hush-money trial will go ahead as scheduled with jury selection starting on March 25, a New York judge ruled Thursday, turning aside demands for delay from the former president's defense lawyers who argued it would interfere with his campaign to retake the White House.

The decision means that the first of Trump's four criminal prosecutions to proceed to trial is a case centered on years-old accusations that he sought to bury stories about extramarital affairs that arose during his 2016 presidential run. Other cases charge him with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 election and illegally hoarding classified documents at his Florida estate.

In leaving the trial date intact, Judge Juan Manuel Merchan pointed to the recent delay in the separate prosecution in Washington related to efforts to undo the election. That



Jefferson Siegel for The New York Times via AP

Donald Trump awaits the start of a hearing in New York City Criminal Court.

case, originally set for trial on March 4, has been effectively frozen pending the outcome of Trump's appeal on the legally untested question of whether a former president enjoys immunity from prosecution for actions taken while in office.

Noting that he had resisted defense lawyer urgings from months ago to postpone the trial, Merchan said: "I'm glad I took that position because here

we are — the D.C. case did not go forward." He said he decided to stick with the trial date after speaking last week with the judge in the Washington trial, Tanya Chutkan.

The hush money trial is expected to last six weeks, Merchan said.

Assuming the New York case remains on schedule, it will open just weeks after the Super Tuesday primaries, colliding on the political calendar with a time period in which

Trump will be looking to sew up the Republican race and emerge as the presumptive nominee in this year's presidential contest. His attorneys cited that schedule in urging the judge to reconsider the March trial date.

"We strenuously object to what is happening in this courtroom," said defense lawyer Todd Blanche, adding that "the fact that we are now going to spend, President Trump is now going to spend, the next two months working on this trial instead of out of on the campaign trial running for president is something that should not happen in this country."

Trump made a similar case after leaving the courtroom, telling reporters that "instead of being in South Carolina and other states campaigning, I'm stuck here," he said.

"We'll just have to figure it out," he added. "I'll be here during the day and I'll be campaigning during the night."

## NATION

# 9 Los Angeles firefighters injured after burning truck's fuel tank explodes

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A truck's fuel tank exploded early Thursday in a neighborhood south of downtown Los Angeles, sending a fireball into the air and injuring nine of the 10 firefighters responding to the blaze, including two critically, fire officials said.

All nine Los Angeles firefighters were rushed to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and were stabilized, and one of the critical patients had to be intubated and airlifted to a burn unit at Los Angeles General Medical Center, said Dr. Molly Dean, a trauma surgeon.

Of the others who were injured, four suffered moderate injuries and three had minor injuries, Dean said.

"Frankly, it's remarkable that none of them are more severely injured after watching the footage," Deane said. "Most people should do fairly well."

The driver of the truck



AP photo

The tractor portion of a big rig, bottom right, is shown in an aerial view in the Wilmington section of Los Angeles.

escaped injury after noticing something was awry with the big rig's tractor and stepped away to call 911, officials said.

The tractor was fueled by compressed natural gas carried in two 100-gallon tanks, one of which exploded six minutes after firefighters arrived on the scene in Wilmington. The

neighborhood is 18 miles south of downtown, near the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Deane spoke outside the medical center at a news conference with the fire chief and Mayor Karen Bass, who said it was "a difficult day in Los Angeles."

TV news helicopter

video showed charred and mangled parts of the truck with a small flame still burning along with discarded firefighting gear where the injured crew members were initially treated.

"The ball of flame was as high as these telephone poles, and it actually did explode one of the transformers nearby," fire Capt. Erik Scott said, adding that the second fuel tank was "still off-gassing, and therefore there's a minor threat."

The blast occurred adjacent to an industrial area separated from a neighborhood by a wide street and a rail line. No homes were in danger, Scott said, though a large perimeter was set up after the explosion, and some 160 firefighters responded.

"Today is a day, I think, where all of us can take a moment to recognize how intrinsically dangerous firefighting can be," said fire Chief Kristin Crowley.

## NEWS BRIEFS

Associated Press

## Catholic bishops negotiated with cartel

MEXICO CITY — A Roman Catholic bishop in Mexico says he and three other bishops met with drug cartel bosses in a bid to negotiate a possible peace accord in the violent southern state of Guerrero. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Thursday he approved of such talks. López Obrador said it wasn't the first time church leaders had held such talks, and that they have done so before in the neighboring state of Michoacan and in other states. The bishop said the talks failed, because the cartels and drug gangs didn't want to stop fighting for territory in Guerrero. Those turf battles have shut down transportation and led to dozens of killings in recent months.

## Ford to rethink where it builds vehicles

DETROIT — Ford's top executive says that last fall's contentious United Auto Workers' strike changed the company's relationship with the union to the point where it will "think carefully" about where it builds future vehicles. CEO Jim Farley told the Wolfe Research Global Auto Conference in New York Thursday that the company always took pride in its relationship with the UAW, having avoided strikes since the 1970s. But last year, Ford's highly profitable factory in Louisville, Kentucky, was the first truck plant that the UAW shut down with a strike. Farley said as the company looks at the transition from internal combustion to electric vehicles, "we have to think carefully about our (manufacturing) footprint."

## Power outages hit Boston transit system

BOSTON — Thousands of commuters have been left stranded around Boston after power outages hit several lines of the beleaguered transit service. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority took

to X, formerly known as Twitter, around 7 a.m. Thursday to say they were working to resolve the issue that was impacting several lines critical to helping commuters get to work in Boston. Power was restored several hours later. The power outages are the latest problem to hit the transit service. Fare gates will be open at subway stations on all four rapid transit lines for the afternoon commute from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

## Ben Affleck inspired J.Lo's new album

LOS ANGELES — Throughout her career, Jennifer Lopez has been praised as an epochal, prolific and hard-working artist. One adjective not often associated with the pop icon-turned-actor and producer, however, is self-deprecating. But as she readies to drop her first studio album in a decade, Lopez is performing a kind of fictionalized mea culpa about her past romantic relationships in her "narrative-driven cinematic odyssey," "This is Me...Now: A Love Story," hitting Prime Video on Friday in tandem with the album's release. Lopez tells The Associated Press she had to fight for the movie, but she hopes viewers take away their own lessons from it.

## Massive landslide in Southern California

DANA POINT, Calif. — A massive landslide on a coastal bluff has left a Southern California mansion on the edge of a cliff. But authorities have determined that the ocean-view home and neighboring residences are not in immediate danger. The slide occurred last week in the city of Dana Point after back-to-back drenching storms that also caused numerous mud and debris flows throughout the region. The city's building inspector has assessed the residential structures. And a geotechnical engineer has observed the slide site and determined that no further action is necessary. But the city says that out of an abundance of caution, it has recommended that the property owner get a professional engineering assessment.

DominionPost.com

## WORLD

# Queen Camilla comes to the rescue as Charles is treated for cancer

Associated Press

LONDON — What a difference a few decades can make.

Queen Camilla, once seen as the scourge of the House of Windsor, the woman at the heart of King Charles III's doomed marriage to the late Princess Diana, has emerged as one of the monarchy's most prominent emissaries.

With Charles and Kate, the Princess of Wales, sidelined by illness, Camilla has stepped lightly into the void, increasing her schedule of appearances and taking on the all-important role of keeping the royal family in the public eye.

"It's been a remarkable transformation," said longtime royal commentator and former BBC correspondent Michael Cole. "And, I think, Camilla, Queen Camilla, has cer-

tainly earned the respect that she's receiving. ... She has done a remarkably good job."

That has been especially important in recent weeks as three of the royal family's most senior members were forced to take time off work.

The king has canceled his public engagements indefinitely after revealing that he is undergoing treatment for an undisclosed form of cancer. The news comes as the royals are missing the energetic presence of Kate, who is recovering from abdominal surgery. Prince William also took time off to support his wife, though he is now back at work.

Camilla has helped pick up the slack, demonstrating the importance of her rehabilitation to Charles and the royal family.

It took years for many

in Britain to forgive Camilla, whose extramarital affair with Charles torpedoed his marriage to Diana, known as "the People's Princess." The glamorous young mother of Princes William and Harry died in a Paris car crash in 1997, five years after her messy, public split from Charles.

But the public mood has softened since Charles married the woman then known as Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005.

Camilla, 76, has taken on roles at more than 100 charities, championing issues that range from promoting literacy to supporting victims of domestic violence and helping the elderly.

With a down-to-Earth style and self-deprecating sense of humor, she eventually won over many Britons.

In a speech at the Foreign Press Association's annual awards dinner in November, Camilla even won over a room full of reporters when she made a wry reference to her sometimes tense relationship with the media.

"There are journalists in my family, and I have even been the subject of one or two stories myself over the years," she said to laughter from the crowd.

But perhaps more important, Camilla's presence seems to have made the king less distant, more human.

Unlike earlier generations of royals who skulked in and out of the hospital alone, Charles left his recent treatment with Camilla by his side, providing the support most people would expect from their spouses. Of course she would visit, why not?

COLLECT MOMENTS  
Not Things

**Fred L. Jenkins**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

*Cherish Moments, Treasure Memories*

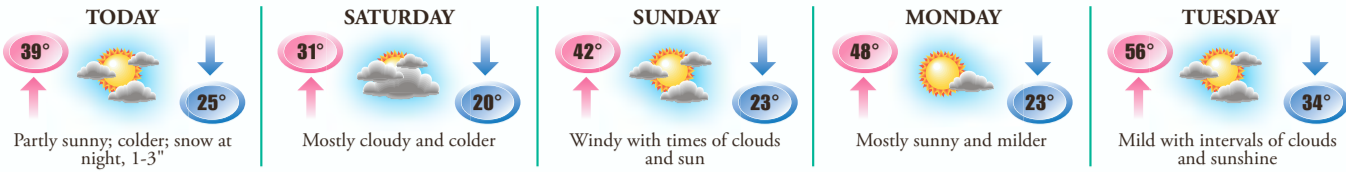
Jared Jenkins, LIC 10 South High Street  
Justin Dalton Morgantown, WV  
Ethan Umstead (304) 296-6446  
Tabitha Whetzel Call or Text

www.fredjenkinsfuneralhome.com

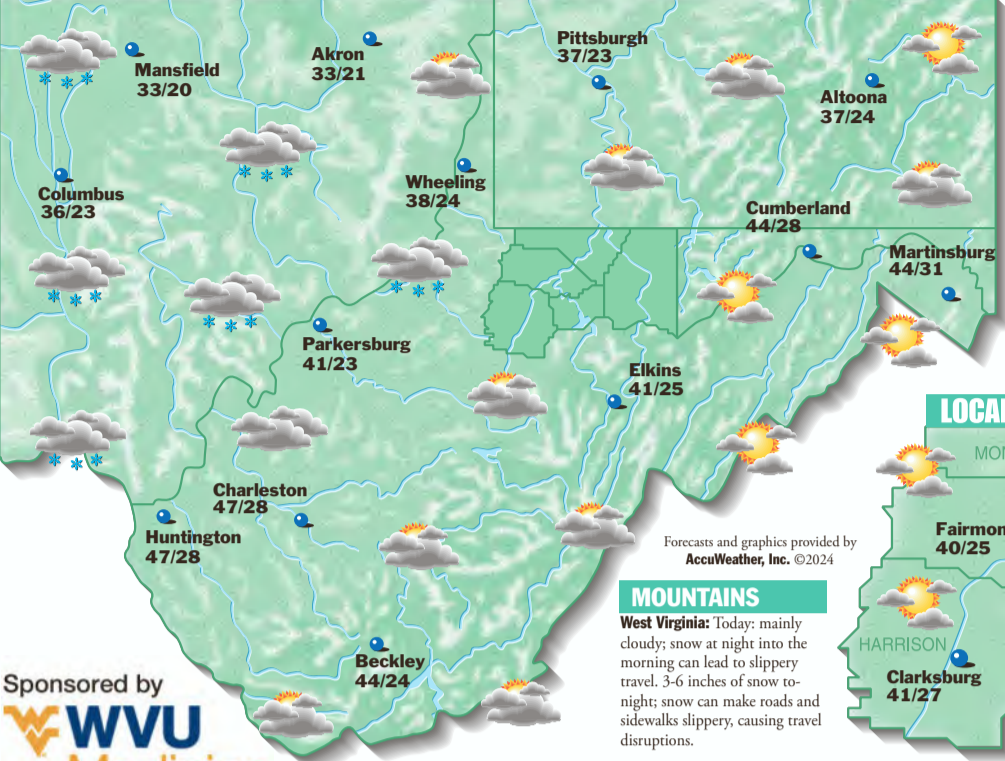
DominionPost.com

**Smith**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION CARE  
~ Lives & Legacies Honored ~

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



Sponsored by WVU Medicine

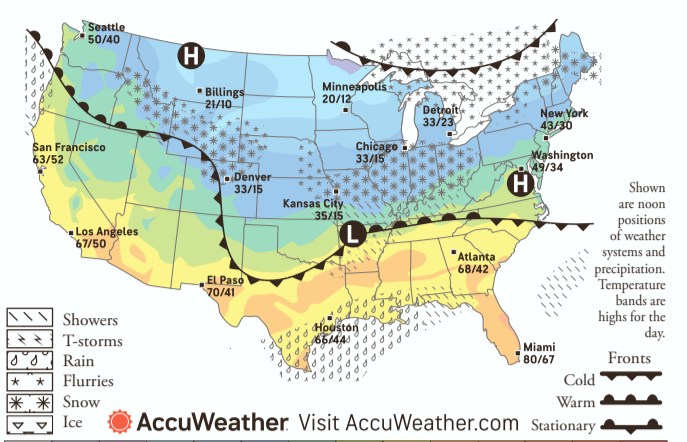
ALMANAC

Morgantown through 4 p.m. Thursday. Temperature: High/Low 59°/24°. Normal high/low 43°/22°. Record high 73° in 2023. Record low -5° in 1899.

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:12 a.m. Sunset tonight 5:57 p.m. Moonrise today 10:53 a.m. Moonset today 1:09 a.m.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



SKI CONDITIONS

Table with 4 columns: Ski Area, New snow (in), Base (in), Trails Open. Lists locations like Canaan Valley, Seven Springs, PA, etc.

SOLAR TABLES

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

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Fri. H/L, Sat. H/L. Lists cities like Beckley, WV, Charleston, WV, etc.

LAKE AND RIVERS

Table with 4 columns: Lake, 7 a.m. Yest., 24-hour Change. Lists lakes like Cheat Lake, Deep Creek, MD, etc.

ALMANAC

Associated Press. Today is Friday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2024. There are 319 days left in the year.

Highlight: In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a-half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

On this date: In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1960, the nuclear-powered radar picket submarine USS Triton departed New London, Connecticut, on the first submerged circumnavigation by a vessel.

In 2001, the United States and Britain staged air strikes against radar stations and air defense command centers in Iraq.

In 2017, in the first full-length news conference of his presidency, Donald Trump denounced what he called the "criminal" leaks that took down his top national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

Today's birthdays: Jazz/pop singer-actor Peggy King is 94. Actor William Katt is 73. Actor LeVar Burton is 67. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 66. International Tennis Hall of Famer John McEnroe is 65. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 63. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 59. Actor Sarah Clarke is 53. Olympic gold medal runner Cathy Freeman is 51. Actor Mahershala Ali is 50. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 42. Actor Chloe Wepper is 38. Pop-rock singer Ryan Reilly (Hot Chelle Rae) is 37.

Efforts to connect are met by silence

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to an amazing guy. During our first year, his family was great to me. However, things have changed. When my fiancé and I are around them, they just wave and have little to say to me, if they say anything at all. They never call or text me; I'm always the one to do it first.



JEANNE PHILLIPS

12 years. I grew quite fond of him, but I wasn't with him for the first 18 years of his life.

He had a heart attack five months to the day after his son's suicide and then open-heart surgery. As my friend said after visiting him yesterday, that's depression to the nth degree. He doesn't see the need for therapy, and he hates extra medication. What can I do? — CONCERNED FOR HIM IN TEXAS

DEAR CONCERNED: Explain that you have a strong suspicion his recent heart attack may have been connected to the tragic loss of his son.

If your husband is adamant about not getting grief counseling, tell him you are joining a grief support group, and you need him to accompany you because you love him.

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

TV LISTINGS

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM, 7 PM, 8 PM, 9 PM, 10 PM, 11 PM) and rows for Broadcast Channels, Cable Channels, and Movie Channels.

LeafFilter CLOG-FREE GUTTERS FOREVER advertisement. Includes QR code, phone number 1-866-868-5020, and promotional offer: 15% OFF + 10% OFF + 0% APR FOR 24 MONTHS\*\*.

MSW Mountain State Waste TOMMY'S TIP advertisement. Promotes Bulky Item Pickups, Extra Bag Pickups, and Temp Dumpster Options. Includes phone number 866-679-2776.



## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

# High pressure leads University to big win at Preston in regular-season finale

BY CODY NESPOR

CNespor@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — If Thursday's game between the University and Preston girls' basketball teams had been played only in the half-court, the Knights might have felt pretty good about their chances of winning.

Unfortunately, the teams played the full length of the court, where University's (12-10) full-court press barely allowed Preston (10-12) to get into its half-court offense en route to a 70-32 blowout win.

"We would do things and it would work and then for some

reason, we would stop doing it for a couple of plays," Preston coach Brian Miller said. "And then we would start doing it again and it would work and then we'd stop again."

Despite the loss, the entire Preston High community got good news before the game when Miller announced that junior Camryn Sypolt, who has been in the hospital since getting in an automobile accident last Friday, was progressing well.

"Her progression's great according to what the doctors have said," Miller said. "She's ahead of schedule so we're hoping

for the best of the situation."

Miller took time before the game to thank all those both in Preston County and beyond who had reached out with well wishes over the past six days.

"It's been a long week," Miller said. "Friday was a long day when it happened, all day not knowing how that was going to play out and then Saturday was long. Sunday things got a little bit better and a couple of the girls had gotten to talk to her."

After Miller delivered the good news, the teams tipped off what was both of their regular-season



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

University's Ashlyn Weaver (1) steals the ball from Preston's Hallie Simmons (0) on Thursday.

SEE FINALE, B-3

# STRONG SHOWING

## MHS and UHS both pleased after 1st day of state swim meet

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH

Sports@DominionPost.com

The 2024 WVSSAC state swimming championships got underway Thursday inside the WVU swimming and diving complex at Mylan Aquatic Center with day one of the two-day meet.

The morning session saw teams compete in preliminary races with hopes of qualifying for the championship finals later in the evening session.

Out of 12 preliminary events, one of either Morgantown or University High Schools was represented by a boy or a girl in the pool in 10 of those races.

The Mohigans began the day with the girls' 200-yard medley relay team of seniors Delaney Householder and Lillian Linscheid, sophomore Avery Householder and freshman Samantha Lindquist qualifying third in prelims with a time of 1:58.90. They improved on that time in the championship final and finished as the state runner-up with a final time of 1:58.31.

"We were pretty pleased with our effort as a team today," MHS coach Eric Householder said. "We had some girls who just missed the threshold of top-12 in their races, Avery qualified tenth in the 200 free and finished in fifth in the final which was incredible and Lillian was strong in third."

Linscheid and Avery Householder each qualified for the championship final in the 200-yard freestyle event. Linscheid finished third overall with a time of 2:00.04, while the younger Householder took fifth at 2:08.56.

The older Householder, senior Delaney, dominated the 200-yard individual medley out of the gate and finished as the state champion with a final time of 2:08.05. She left zero doubt from the moment the race began on her way to her first individual state title victory.

"Super proud of Laney for her effort today and I'm glad she can finally get over that hump and get her first one," coach and father Eric Householder said, "She was always behind some great older swimmers and has finally been able to break through."

Daniel and Christian Hammer were the lone swimmers from the



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Top photo, Morgantown's Christian Hammer competes in the boys 100-yard butterfly at the state swim meet Thursday evening. Below, University's Nate Lindsay competes.

boys' side to qualify for the finals, with each doing so in the 100-yard butterfly event.

Daniel Hammer, a senior, raced in the consolation final and finished first in the race with a time of 54.30. His younger brother Christian Hammer, just a sophomore, took home fourth overall in the championship final with a time of 51.57.

"Super pleased with the Hammer boys today, obviously," Eric Householder said. "Our relay

didn't finish how we wanted but I'm still proud of the effort and we will be back for day two tomorrow."

For the Hawks, three of the four swimmers who entered prelims qualified for the final heats in the evening session.

Junior Nate Lindsay competed in the consolation heat of the 200-yard medley, finishing first in the race with a time of 2:05.62, good enough for seventh overall in the state. He also fin-

ished sixth overall in the championship finals of the 100-yard freestyle race.

Senior Maddie McCoy qualified for the consolation finals of the 50-yard freestyle, taking third in the heat at 26.51. They would also qualify for the championship heat of the 100-yard freestyle race and finish sixth overall posting a 57.72.

Senior Haley Kramer took

SEE SWIM, B-2

## COLLEGE SPORTS

# J.J. Wetherholt, WVU open season on the road with potential to show off some power

BY JUSTIN JACKSON

JJackson@DominionPost.com

The questions will begin to get answered at 6:30 p.m. today, as the WVU baseball team travels to the state of Florida to begin a four-game series against Stetson.

How will teams pitch to WVU star J.J. Wetherholt? Will teams even pitch to him at all?

"Can teams pitch around me, yeah, I guess they can try to," Wetherholt said. "For me, it will be a cool learning standpoint. A big thing is if teams are hesitant to give me stuff to hit, I've just got to patient and take the walk. It would be growth for me as a hitter to take the walk."

And this is where the strategy comes into play for WVU head coach Randy Mazey.

The common baseball strategy today is to bat your best hitter third or fourth in the lineup to maximize that player's ability to drive in runs.

Mazey's idea is to keep batting Wetherholt first, even though Wetherholt led the Mountaineers with 16 home runs last season.

"It's crazy these days in baseball, because you can literally submit nine names into a computer and there is some program that submits back the perfect lineup," Mazey said. "They can't measure how the crowd reacts when J.J. steps into the box and the energy that gives you to start a game."

It also may not calculate the damage Wetherholt can do to the scoreboard with his legs.

On top of his hitting — Wetherholt led the nation with a .449 batting average last season — he also led the Big 12 with 36 stolen bases.

"If people want to pitch around J.J. to start a game, we'll take that," Mazey said. "The experts will tell you not to put your best hitter in that spot, but I want the energy in the stadium to be at an all-time high when that guy steps into the plate."

A leadoff walk to Wetherholt can turn into a double with a

SEE WVU, B-2

## CONNECT

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

EMAIL: [Sports@DominionPost.com](mailto:Sports@DominionPost.com)

TWITTER: [DomPostSports](https://twitter.com/DomPostSports)

# Digital Marketing Services

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

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

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



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

[www.dominionpost.com/marketing-services](http://www.dominionpost.com/marketing-services) | 304.225.3405 | [advertising@dominionpost.com](mailto:advertising@dominionpost.com)







William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Preston's Ella White (25) protects the ball from University's Hannah Stemple (30) on Thursday.

**FINALE**

FROM PAGE B-1

finales. After an even first few minutes, University turned the pressure up on defense and began turning the Knights over possession after possession in the press. A seven-point scoring run gave the Hawks their first separation at 16-6 and it only widened from there.

"I didn't think we did very well in (the press) the other day," UHS coach Nick Lusk said, referencing Tuesday's 65-54 loss at Morgantown. "I thought (Thursday) we did very well. We worked on some things (Wednesday), watched some film and it worked out for us."

University extended its lead to 40-19 at halftime and then 59-27 by the end of the third quarter.

The Hawks had four players finish with double-digit points, led by Alexa Johnson's 14. Lexi Simpson scored 11 while Ella Simpson and Bri Fox each finished with 10. Hannah Stemple also had nine.

"When we share the ball we're good," Lusk said. "Hopefully we'll continue to do that for about another six, seven games."

Preston was led by Kendra Nazelrod's 12 points while no one else scored more than six or made more than two field goals.

"It's a mental thing right now," Miller said. "We've got several (players) that have been out for a while...The game Wednesday is the one that matters, not tonight. We kind of used tonight to figure out what lineups we could put in and what person could go to which position."

Both teams begin sectional play next Wednesday.

University, the top seed in Region I, Section 2, will host Buckhannon-Upshur while Preston, the No. 3 seed, will travel to Bridgeport. Both games will tip off at 7 p.m. and the winners will meet Friday in the section championship.

"Our goal is to see (University) again in a week-and-a-half," Miller said. "That's the goal, I want to play them again."

**BOX SCORE**

University 70, Preston 32  
 UHS 23 17 19 11 — 70  
 PHS 10 9 8 5 — 32  
 UNIVERSITY (12-10) — Maisei 3 0-0 6; Stemple 4 0-0 9; Weaver 22-4 6; Brahm 2 0-0 4; E. Simpson 5 0-3 10; Fox 3 3-4 10; L. Simpson 4 3-3 11; Johnson 4 4-7 14; Cox 0 0-0 0.  
 PRESTON (10-12) — Miller 2 0-0 6; Simmons 0 0-0 0; Nozelrod 4 4-5 12; Wilson 1 0-0 2; White 0 1-3 1; Sheets 1 1-2 3; Wimer 1 0-0 3; Metheny 1 0-0 3; Wolfe 1 0-0 2; Wiles 0 0-0 0; Wotring 0 0-0 0; Strawser 0 0-0 0.  
 3-Pt. Goals — University 4 (Johnson 2, Stemple 1, Fox 1), Preston 4 (Miller 2, Wimer 1, Metheny 1).

**Boys Basketball**

University 67, Elkins 52  
**ELKINS** — University won a non-conference game at Elkins 67-52 Thursday evening.

The Hawks' James Fortney-Garbart scored a game-high 20 points while Zach Demidovich logged a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

UHS (9-10) return home to host Bridgeport tonight at 7:30 p.m.

**Middle School**

St. Francis 8s 60, East Fairmont 13

St. Francis was led in scoring by Blaze Colistra (15 points), Braylon Adrian (10) and Sam Frey (11). Ian Lee led East Fairmont with five points.

East Fairmont 7s 26, St. Francis 24

Michael Culp led East Fairmont with six points. St. Francis was paced by Kannon Peasak's nine.

**PRO BASKETBALL**

**All-Star weekend arrives in Indianapolis, a 1st-time event for some, a 21st-time event for LeBron**

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Welcome back, LeBron James. Welcome for the first time, Paolo Banchero, Scottie Barnes, Jalen Brunson and Tyrese Maxey.

All-Star weekend in Indianapolis is here, with some familiar names, some new faces, a nod to nostalgia and a bit of unwinding for everyone before the stretch run of the season. Most of the 54 players who will be part of the weekend's on-court festivities — and quite a few more are coming as well — began arriving on Thursday.

For James, it's his 21st All-Star weekend in his 21 NBA seasons. He didn't make the All-Star Game as a rookie; he made the weekend as part of the rookie game. He's made every All-Star Game since, now the first player to be picked for the showcase in 20 different seasons. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was a 19-time selection.

"I'm humbled and very blessed, obviously," James said. "I don't take it for granted, being an All-Star. The fact that I still get to represent this franchise, one, my family — which is most important, my family name on the back of the jersey, that's very important to me when it comes to acknowledgement and accolades and things of that nature — and also the fans, who've been down with me for the last two decades-plus."

There is something for everyone. There are all the traditional NBA on-court events — the Rising Stars and celebrity games on Friday; the dunk contest, 3-point shootout and skills competition on Saturday; then the All-Star Game itself on Sunday. Added to



AP photo

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) celebrates during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans on Feb. 9, 2024, in Los Angeles.

the slate for Saturday: a 3-point contest between NBA shooting king Stephen Curry and WNBA 3-point contest record-holder Sabrina Ionescu.

There's a game between a pair of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as the NBA continues to give HBCU institutions part of the All-Star spotlight. This year, the game is Virginia Union against Winston-Salem State on Saturday afternoon. This weekend, a glass LED court is set to be part of the show on Friday and Saturday. There's even a fan event called NBA Crossover, set up in a 350,000-square-foot space where ticketholders can try virtual reality headsets, test out the latest offerings from Jordan Brand, play with an airless basketball, even get a haircut while playing video

games. And there's a brunch honoring icons of the game on Sunday, an event that's almost as tough a ticket to get as the game itself.

"Honestly, it's just amazing to be an All-Star," Banchero said. The Orlando forward was at All-Star weekend last year for rookie and skills events — this year, he's got events on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, having made the big game for the first time.

Banchero is one of four first-time All-Stars, joining New York's Brunson, Philadelphia's Maxey and Toronto's Barnes. Plenty of other players are part of the weekend for the first time; that's what events like the Rising Stars games are about, to give the league's top promising players a chance to get a feel for the big stage.

"I'm excited to get there,

excited to let it all sink in," said San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama, the No. 1 pick in last year's draft who has the Rising Stars games and the skills competition on his on-court calendar this weekend.

Above all else, it's a weekend for the fans. The All-Stars who'll play Sunday combined to get more than 60 million votes from fans around the world. The game will be shown in more than 210 countries and territories, broadcast in 60 languages, and fans from at least 34 different nations have bought tickets to come to Indianapolis this weekend.

They probably don't care who wins. They just want to see a show.

"I try to do it for them," James said. "They've been along this journey for so long. It's pretty cool to still be able to do it and do it at this level."

Get local news and sports in The Dominion Post or online at DominionPost.com

**Local Coupons!**  
**CLIP & SAVE!**  
 Brought to you by The Dominion Post.

**DominionPost.com**

**HEATING & COOLING**  
 Service & Installation  
**Mountain Air LLC**  
 Heating • Air Conditioning • Indoor Air Quality  
 304-276-4614 • www.MountainAir.LLC  
 Kevin Rose & Charles Westfall, Owners  
 WV034732 Serving the Morgantown Area for Over 20 Years

**Need a Garage? We Build All Sizes.**  
**2-CAR GARAGE**  
 As low as **\$238** per mo.  
 (or \$21,640 cash)  
 Includes Concrete Floor on Level Ground & Complete Construction.  
 "WE BUILD ALL SIZES!"  
 • No Money Down • Financing Available • Ten Years to Pay  
**HUDOCK GARAGES INC.** Call for your FREE Full Color Brochure TODAY!  
 P.O. Box 851 • Uniontown, PA 15401  
 www.hudockgarages.com  
 (724) 366-9425

**BECAUSE YOUR BASEMENT HAS WATER**  
 LIMITED TIME OFFER  
**\$500 OFF\***  
 FOUNDATION REPAIR  
 BASEMENT WATERPROOFING  
 CRAWL SPACE REPAIR  
 CONCRETE LIFTING  
**304-898-8363**  
**GET A FREE INSPECTION**  
**BASEMENT AUTHORITY**  
 A Groundworks Company  
\*Ten percent off any job over \$2500 up to a max of \$500. Coupon must be presented at time of inspection. Offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Ask inspector for further details. Promo valid through 03/31/2024.

**RED HOT DEALS!**  
**\$20 OFF ANY SERVICE**  
\*Must present voucher upon arrival  
 Every Express Service includes a multi-point inspection.  
**FAST. CONVENIENT. EXPERT SERVICE.**  
**NISSAN EXPRESS SERVICE** **NISSAN PREMIER NISSAN OF MORGANTOWN**  
 304.418.3200  
 Japanese Automotive Specialists

**RIO VERDE**  
 RESTAURANTE MEXICAN  
**Buy 1 Lunch or Dinner, Get \$2 Off**  
 2nd of Equal or Greater Value  
 Any Day - Any Night.  
 Must Present Physical Ad.  
 Rt. 7 Sabraton Plaza, Rt. 7 East • 304-292-0162  
 4061 University Town Centre Dr. • 304-598-0306

Want your quality time back?  
 Let us do the cleaning!  
 Susan D. Brown, Owner  
 • Weekly & Bi-Weekly Services  
 • 38 Years Experience  
 • Locally Owned and Operated  
**Call or Text 304.694.8498**  
 cleaningservices.com.llc  
 everydaycleaningservices.us  
 Like us on f/cleaningserviceswv

**LPN SURGICAL TECH**  
**ASSOCIATE DEGREE**  
 in as little as **12 MONTHS**  
**Mtec**  
 MONONGALIA COUNTY TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER  
 304.291.9240 | mtec.mono.k12.wv.us

**TIRE SPECIAL**  
**BUY 3 GET THE 4th FOR \$1.00**  
**OPEN MON.-FRI. 7:30am-5:30pm; SAT. 9am-5pm**  
**UniversityToyota**  
**UNIVERSITY TOYOTA**  
 60 Don Knotts Boulevard • Morgantown, WV  
 SALES: 304.296.4401 SERVICE: 304.296.4402

**DP DEALS!**  
 What is it?  
 A weekly coupon page that publishes in The Dominion Post every Friday, and weekly in Post Extra.  
**ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE**  
 for only **\$195 PER MONTH!**  
 Call 304-291-9420 for more details!  
 Post

PRO SOCCER

# Kylian Mbappe has told PSG he will leave at the end of the season, AP sources say

Associated Press

Kylian Mbappe has told Paris Saint-Germain he will leave the club at the end of the season.

The France international informed PSG President Nasser Al-Khelaifi he would not stay at the club when his contract expires, two people with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press.

Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because Mbappe hasn't made his decision public yet.

One person said Mbappe — who has previously been pursued by Real Madrid — did not indicate which club he would join next.

PSG declined to comment, but a second person with knowledge of Mbappe's decision said the terms of his departure were still being worked out with the club and an official statement would not come until that has been finalized.

Mbappe — widely considered to be one of the best players in the world — will be a free agent at the end of the season after seven years with PSG.

He informed the club last year that he would not trigger an extension to the

contract he signed in 2022.

When he signed that last deal, PSG paraded him at Parc des Princes holding up a jersey with 2025 written on it — even though the actual contract was until 2024, with an option for an extra year. That episode reportedly irked Mbappe, who then also felt let down by the club for failing to sign enough top-class players — other than Lionel Messi — after they pledged to do when he penned the deal.

While Madrid seems like the most probable destination for Mbappe, his departure from PSG is likely to spark a bidding war between a host of other clubs eager to sign the former World Cup winner.

The 25-year-old Mbappe has been at PSG since 2017 after signing from Monaco in a transfer worth a reported \$190 million. He arrived at the same time as Neymar, who cost PSG a world record \$222 million from Barcelona.

In 2021, PSG turned down a bid of \$190 million from Real Madrid for the forward, who went on to sign his current contract the following year.

Mbappe will be the latest superstar player to leave



AP file photo

PSG's Kylian Mbappe looks on during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Lens at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, Aug. 26, 2023.

the French club in recent times following the departures of Messi and Neymar last year. The glittering attacking trio played together for two seasons yet couldn't even reach the quarterfinals of the Champions League as PSG was eliminated at the last-16 stage both years, first by Real Madrid and then Bayern Munich.

Mbappe won five French league titles with PSG, but has so far failed to lead it to success in the Champions League. When PSG reached the final in the pandemic-

shortened 2020 season, it lost 1-0 to Bayern as Mbappe and Neymar both failed to make an impact.

Mbappe could still go out on a high by winning European club soccer's biggest prize this season. He scored in PSG's 2-0 win on Wednesday over Real Sociedad in the first leg of the round of 16, taking his record-extending club tally to 243 goals in just 290 games, including 38 in the Champions League.

He also has 93 assists for PSG, third on the club's all-time list.

Mbappe's decision brings an end to a drawn-out saga that has overshadowed his final year at the club.

His PSG career could have ended last summer amid a tense transfer standoff. After telling the club he would not extend his contract for an extra year, he was left off a preseason tour to Japan and South Korea and forced to train with fringe players. PSG said it would rather sell him than let him leave for free in 2024, but Mbappe rejected a 300 million euro move to Saudi team Al-Hilal.

PSG left Mbappe out of the team's opening league game of the season as the standoff continued — a dull 0-0 home draw which he watched from the stands — but then quickly relented and let him return to the lineup.

Even before that, Mbappe had sometimes let his evident frustration with the club show on and off the field.

After a 0-0 draw early last season, he posted a sarcastic message seemingly in reference to his displeasure at being used as a lone center forward, when he preferred to play behind a striker like France team-

mate Olivier Giroud. His Instagram post with the hashtag pivotgang — a pun on the word pivot (target man) — was then deleted.

Despite his brilliant scoring record, Mbappe has not always been a fan favorite at the club.

Some fans questioned why he stayed at all given his stated ambition to win the Champions League and Ballon d'Or trophy multiple times. He was won neither with PSG.

PSG may have sensed this moment was coming, since it has already made moves to shift its focus over the past 12 months in light of the exits of Messi and Neymar.

After years of problems with soccer violence and falling short on the field, PSG's fortunes improved after being taken over by Qatar Sports Investments in June 2011. PSG largely dominated French soccer with some of the biggest names in the sport, including Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Mbappe, Neymar and Messi. But it has begun to shift away from that model with signings like Randal Kolo Muani and Bradley Barcola last year.

Mbappe has long been viewed by Madrid as the ideal successor to Karim Benzema, who left the Spanish giant for Al Ittihad in Saudi Arabia last year.

Whether PSG can find a successor to Mbappe remains to be seen, as he will leave a giant void.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Caitlin Clark of Iowa breaks NCAA women's career scoring record with 35-foot 3-pointer

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Caitlin Clark broke the NCAA women's career scoring record, making a 3-pointer from about 35 feet in the first quarter for No. 4 Iowa against Michigan on Thursday night.

Clark went into the game needing eight points to pass Kelsey Plum's total of 3,527.

She wasted no time, making her first three shots — a layup and two 3s — and scoring Iowa's first eight points. The record-breaker was a 3 off the dribble on the left wing near the Mediacom Court logo with 7:45 left in the first quarter.

"It's cool. It's cool to be in the same realm as a lot of really, really good players," Clark said at halftime in a televised interview. "I'm lucky to do it because I have really good teammates and really good coaches and a great support system that surrounds me."

Iowa won the tip and Clark, guarded by Laila Phelia, drove to the basket and banked in a shot from the right side. Clark hit a 3 from the left wing on Iowa's next possession. The Hawkeyes turned the ball over twice before Clark took a pass from Gabbie Marshall in transition, stopped and shot from deep on the left side.

When the ball went through, the fans — many of them standing and holding up phones to capture the moment — let loose a huge roar.

After Clark's 3, Phelia missed a layup, for Michigan and Iowa's Molly Davis rebounded. Iowa coach Lisa Bluder called timeout and a celebration ensued. Clark hugged teammates, Bluder and staffers, and the record was acknowledged while delighted fans continued to scream.

"Just grateful. Thankful to be surrounded by people and be in a city that supports women's basketball so much," Clark said. "Be surrounded by my best friends and people that want to see me be great and push me to be great every



AP photo

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark (22) reacts after breaking the NCAA women's career scoring record during the first half of the team's college basketball game against Michigan, Thursday, in Iowa City, Iowa.

single day."

Plum scored 57 points on the night she broke the scoring record in 2017 as a senior at Washington, and Clark played as if she had that on her mind. She had 23 points in the first quarter, making five of her first seven 3-pointers and 8 of 10 shots overall.

Clark's next target is the all-time major women's college scoring record of 3,649 points by Kansas star Lynette Woodard from 1977-81. During Woodard's era, women's sports were governed by the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. Pearl Moore of Francis Marion holds the overall women's record with 4,061 points from 1975-79.

Iowa has four regular-season games left, plus the Big Ten Tournament and the NCAA Tournament. Barring injury, Clark, a senior who averages 32.1 points per game, is all but certain to pass Woodard. And she has the option to return for a fifth season of college basketball because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among those offering congratulations on social media was LSU star Angel Reese, who shared the spotlight with Clark in last season's national championship game won by the Tigers. The Big Ten Network put out a congratulatory compilation video that included Tom Brady and Peyton and Eli Man-

ning.

Clark and her dynamic game have captivated the nation for two seasons. Last year, she led the Hawkeyes to the NCAA title game and was named AP player of the year. More than just her pursuit of the record, her long 3-pointers and flashy passes have raised interest in the women's game to unprecedented levels. Arenas have been sold out for her games, home and away, and television ratings have never been higher.

It's all been more than Clark imagined when the 6-foot guard from West Des Moines stayed in state and picked Iowa over Notre Dame in November 2019.

"I dreamed of doing really big things, playing in front of big crowds, going to the Final Four, maybe not quite on this level," Clark said this week. "I think that's really hard to dream. You can always exceed expectations, even your own, and I think that's been one of the coolest parts."

Though her basketball obligations and endorsement deals (State Farm ads, etc.) have put demands on her time, she said she is the same person who showed up on campus four years ago.

"I just go about my business as I did when I was a freshman during COVID," Clark said. "Sure, my life has kind of changed somewhat. I still live the exact same way I still act like a 22-

year-old college kid."

She said she still cleans her apartment, does laundry, plays video games, hangs out with friends and does schoolwork.

Her run to the record could have come earlier, but it arrived back at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, where ticket resale prices for the Michigan game ranged from hundreds of dollars into the thousands. Fans again showed up early outside the arena, many wearing black-and-gold No. 22 jerseys and holding signs paying homage.

Mya Anderson and her friend, Ellie Steffensen, both 12, and their moms made the six-hour drive from Canton, South Dakota, to see Clark break the record.

"I think she's inspired a lot of people," Mya said.

"Yeah, a lot of little girls," Ellie added.

Mya and Ellie both play basketball, and both said they try to do some of the things Clark does on the court, like shoot long 3s.

"But I'm not as good as her," Ellie said.

Kelly Jared of Manchester, Iowa, said she likes everything about Clark and expects her impact on the women's game to endure.

"She's taken it to a new level," Jared said. "The aspirations and goals that the current players and future players have, she has set that bar way up in the sky. And it's perfect, because they will work to attain them. As far as the fans, there's excitement for the people who never watched women's basketball. My son isn't a basketball fan, but he watched Caitlin last year and he was sold. He absolutely loves her."

Unlike Sunday's loss at Nebraska, which drew almost 2 million viewers on Fox, this game was streamed on Peacock.

"I understand the magnitude of this," Clark said. "It's come along with how my four years have gone, and it's crazy looking back on how fast everything has gone. I'm really thankful and grateful."

MLB

# Rob Manfred says he will retire as baseball commissioner in January 2029 after 14 years



AP photo

Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred speaks during a baseball spring training media day Thursday, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said Thursday he will retire when his current term ends in January 2029.

Speaking at a spring training news conference, Manfred noted he will be 70 years old and will have been commissioner for 14 years when his term ends on Jan. 25, 2029.

"You can only have so much fun in one lifetime," Manfred said.

Manfred, 65, succeeded Bud Selig in January 2015 and was given a five-year term as baseball's 10th commissioner. S

Owners voted in November 2018 to offer Manfred a new deal through the 2024 season, then voted last July to approve his latest term.

"I have been open with them about the fact that this is going to be my last term," Manfred said. "I said it to them before the election in July and I'm absolutely committed to that."

Manfred beat out Boston Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner in the first contested vote for a new commissioner in 46 years. The third candidate, MLB Executive Vice President of Business Tim Brosnan, withdrew just before the start of balloting.

Candidates to succeed

Manfred have not publicly emerged. Dan Halem, who joined MLB in 2007 as general counsel for labor, has been deputy commissioner since 2017. He will be 58 in May.

"I'm sure the selection process is going to look like it looked the last time," Manfred said. "There'll be a committee of owners that'll be put together and they'll identify candidates, an interview process and ultimately someone or a slate of people will be put forward."

Among the major unresolved issues of Manfred's tenure are new ballparks for the Oakland Athletics and Tampa Bay Rays. Oakland received approval from MLB in November to move to Las Vegas, where the A's hope to build a new ballpark that will open in 2028.

Tampa Bay hopes to construct a new ballpark adjacent to the current Tropicana Field, also aimed to open in 2028.

"I'm hope that I'm here to go to opening day as commissioner for both Tampa Bay and Las Vegas," Manfred said.

He does not expect expansion to 32 teams will be completed by 2028.

"I don't think realistically those clubs would be playing before I'm finished," Manfred said. "I would like to have the process in place and operating before I go."

AUTO RACING

# NASCAR star Denny Hamlin plans to be more selfish in his drive for a fourth Daytona 500 victory

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Don't expect Denny Hamlin to stay in line during the closing laps of the Daytona 500.

He's not settling for second. He's not sacrificing his finish to help a teammate. He's not counting on anyone else, either.

It's exactly how he wants it, maybe how he needs it to return to victory lane in NASCAR's signature event for the fourth time and first since winning back-to-back Daytona 500s in 2019-20.

"I think it's in my best interest in getting back to basics, and that's doing what I feel is best to win the race for myself," said Hamlin, who won the exhibition Clash two weeks ago in Los Angeles.

"While having teammates is great and are certainly assets to use in certain situations to win races, I think sometimes it's those who are the most selfish, that make moves for themselves, are those who win the race."

Hamlin, a three-time Daytona 500 winner and one of the best NASCAR drivers in history to not win a Cup Series championship, points to Ricky Stenhouse Jr.'s victory a year ago as proof. Stenhouse was driving for a single-car Chevrolet team, had Ford and Toyota drivers teamed up to chase him down, and still managed to secure a career-defining victory.

"You want to help your teammates as much as you can as you'll need those allies throughout the race

and certainly during it," Hamlin said. "But I feel I need to personally go back to the style I had a few years ago, and we'll see what the results say."

Hamlin had no Toyota or Joe Gibbs Racing teammates even remotely close to him when he led the final dozen laps in 2020. He had then-JGR teammate Kyle Busch lurking in his rearview mirror the previous year, but Busch never got close enough to make a move late. Hamlin was out front for 30 of the final 38 laps in 2019.

So Hamlin didn't get any help in his most recent Daytona 500 victories. He didn't need any, either.

"In the end, you have to be selfish to win these races and certainly we realize that through results more than anything else," Ham-

lin said.

Hamlin, a co-owner with retired NBA superstar Michael Jordan at 23IX Racing since 2021, is trying to become the third driver to win at least four Daytona 500s. NASCAR legend Richard Petty tops the list with seven, three more than Cale Yarborough.

Hamlin is tied with Hall of Famers Bobby Allison, Dale Jarrett and Jeff Gordon.

"Each win puts you in a different category, right?" Hamlin said. "Some of the numbers that Richard put up or Cale, it's hard to duplicate in today's type of racing where there's more cars on the lead lap and more cars in the front pack."

"I think accomplishments like that certainly puts you in an upper ech-

elon of drivers that were legends in this sport, so it would certainly mean a lot."

Hamlin is widely regarded as one of the best, if not the best, superspeedway drivers in the series. He stunned the field to the exhibition Shootout as a rookie in 2006 and has been a contender every race at Daytona since.

He's repeatedly made it clear he wouldn't trade any of his Daytona 500 victories for series championships. And even though he has three JGR teammates (Martin Truex Jr., Ty Gibbs and Christopher Bell) and two others (Bubba Wallace and Tyler Reddick) driving for him at 23IX, Hamlin has no plans to take a backseat to them.

His aggressiveness has made him a villain at

times in the series, and his competitiveness and confidence are evident in the recently released Netflix documentary that takes viewers behind the scenes in last year's playoffs.

"I don't mean this negatively, but I don't see how he can change his driving style to be more selfish," said Kyle Larson of Hendrick Motorsports. "We're all selfish. We all want to win for our teams."

"I think Denny is really good at, like, being dramatic and building our sport up well, bringing some drama to it. I think that's good."

The ultimate drama might be seeing Hamlin jockeying teammates and his own drivers over the final laps. And everyone knows what to expect.

**The Dominion Post**  
**CLASSIFIEDS**

TRADE • SELL • BUY • CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS!

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
All in-column ads are included on our **Classified Internet Website!**

**▲ DEADLINES for LINER ADS**  
2:30 P.M. - Day before for Tuesday-Saturday publication  
3:00 P.M. - Friday for Sunday & Monday publication  
3:00 P.M. - 3 Days before for all Legals

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

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

Email: [classesads@dominionpost.com](mailto:classesads@dominionpost.com)

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

**ADS MUST BE PREPAID**

**THE DOMINION**  
**Post**

# Service Guide

The best selection of service providers in Morgantown

1x1 - 9 lines  
\$2.35 per day  
**\$70.50** per month

1x2 - 19 lines  
\$2.85 per day  
**\$85.50** per month

1x3 - 29 lines  
\$3.35 per day  
**\$100.50** per month

TMC is an additional .50 per day per line.

to list your service call **304-291-9420**

| ASPHALT PAVING  | DEMOLITION  | HAULING  | PAINTING  | ROOFING & SIDING   | STUMP REMOVAL   |   |   |  |  |   |                                       |  |                                  |   |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>RICHARD SMALLS PAVING</b></p> <p>Your Cheaper Little Asphalt Paver!</p> <p>Seniors &amp; Veterans Discounts</p> <p>Driveways, Parking Lots, Patchwork &amp; Seal Coating</p> <p>Work Guaranteed Free Estimates</p> <p>Licensed and Insured <a href="http://www.smallspaving.com">www.smallspaving.com</a></p> <p>304-292-1109<br/>304-613-0202<br/>304-366-1717<br/>WV#014145</p> | <p><b>BEAUTY CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>"Building on Higher Ground"</p> <p>Steve Beatty, Owner<br/>(304) 368-8000</p> <p><b>DEMOLITION ASBESTOS INSPECTION &amp; REMOVAL</b></p> <p>EXCAVATING</p> <p>LAND CLEARING</p> <p>SEPTIC TANKS</p> <p>HEAVY HAULING</p> <p>DUMPSTERS</p> <p>WV033905</p>  | <p><b>ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING HAULED!</b></p> <p>Basement &amp; Attic Cleaning, Brush Removal, Gravel &amp; Mulch</p> <p><b>304-282-7135</b><br/>Morgantown</p> <p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENTS</b></p> <p><b>BIG DOG CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>Home Remodeling &amp; Repair Services</p> <p>Interior/Exterior</p> <p>Free Estimates!</p> <p>★ ★ Discounts ★ ★ for Military &amp; Seniors</p> <p><b>304-322-7474</b><br/>WV 056070 &amp; OSHA Cert.</p>  | <p><b>HARRIS HOUSEHOLD SOLUTIONS</b></p> <p>Painting Inside or Out General Repairs</p> <p>Call Today <b>304-216-1410</b> ask for Allen Fully Insured 10% Discounts for Veterans and Seniors</p> <p><b>HARTLEY PAINTING LLC</b></p> <p>Residential &amp; Commercial</p> <p>Interior &amp; Exterior</p> <p>Power Washing</p> <p>Staining</p> <p>Cleaning Services</p> <p>Over 20 Yrs Experience</p> <p>Free Estimates</p> <p><b>304-216-1068</b><br/>WV054653</p>   | <p><b>AREA'S #1 ROOFING &amp; SIDING CONTRACTOR</b></p> <p>Leading the competition in Sales Satisfaction for over 50 years!</p> <p>Proud to be an Owens Corning Preferred Contractor and a Master Elite Roofing Contractor. <b>FREE ESTIMATES</b></p> <p><b>Laurel Home Improvements</b></p> <p><b>304-296-2050</b><br/>We Nail It!!!<br/>WV # 005031 Insured<br/><a href="http://LHInailit.com">LHInailit.com</a></p> | <p><b>TRISTATE TREE SERVICE</b></p> <p>STUMP GRINDING</p> <p>Any Size Stump</p> <p>Optional Cleanup</p> <p>Fit through 35" Gate</p> <p>Licensed &amp; Insured</p> <p><a href="http://Tristatetreevw.com">Tristatetreevw.com</a></p> <p><b>304-376-6700</b></p> <p><b>TREE SERVICES</b></p> <p>C &amp; M TREE Super Winter Rates! Fully Insured Free Estimates <b>CALL NOW 304-216-5280</b> <a href="http://www.candmtree.com">www.candmtree.com</a></p> |   |   |  |  |   |                                       |  |                                  |   |
| <p><b>ERNEST SMALL PAVING</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.ernestsmallpaving.com">www.ernestsmallpaving.com</a></p> <p>Check us out on Facebook!</p> <p>Asphalt Paving &amp; Sealing Driveways &amp; More...</p> <p>References &amp; Insured</p> <p>Free Estimates! Work Guaranteed</p> <p>Offering Senior &amp; Veteran Discounts</p> <p><b>304-291-8400</b><br/>Lic WV 032018</p>       | <p><b>EXCAVATING</b></p> <p><b>BARNETT EXCAVATING LLC</b></p> <p>Attention Homeowners! Guaranteed Call Back &amp; Free Estimates!!!</p> <p>*Cert. Septic Installers Class I &amp; II</p> <p>*Concrete Driveway/Sidewalk Removal &amp; Repair Grading</p> <p>*Foundations</p> <p>*Drainage correction</p> <p>*Site prep Land Clearing</p> <p>*Underground Utilities</p> <p>*Gravel Services</p> <p>*Retaining Walls</p> <p>*Waterline Repair</p> <p>*Hauling</p> <p>Full Ins. WV#010427 Find us on </p> <p><b>304-216-9696</b><br/><b>304-319-0976</b></p> | <p><b>ABSOLUTELY A BETTER DEAL LAUREL HOME IMPROVEMENTS</b></p> <p>Free Est. WV005031 Insured. 304-296-2050 <a href="http://LHiroofing.com">LHiroofing.com</a></p> <p><b>"WE NAIL IT"</b></p> <p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p><b>3D-K PAINTING LLC</b></p> <p>Call for a free estimate on any interior, exterior, painting, wall repairs, pressure washing and staining! We do the best for desired results!</p> <p><b>304-376-3738</b><br/>Call today while we still have openings this season!</p> | <p><b>PLUMBING</b></p> <p><b>MORGANTOWN'S PLUMBER</b></p> <p>We handle all your plumbing needs! Treat yourself to a New Bathroom and/or Kitchen!</p> <p>You DESERVE it!<br/>WV#PL15831<br/>Call/Text Anytime<br/><b>Jason Thompson</b><br/><b>(304)322-5249</b><br/><a href="http://Morgantownplumber.com">Morgantownplumber.com</a></p> <p><b>VIDEO DRAIN INSPECTION &amp; CLEANING</b></p> <p>Underground Water/Sewer Line Replacement or Repair</p> <p>*utilities</p> <p>WV#010427<br/><b>304-216-9696</b><br/><b>304-319-0976</b><br/>Barnett Excavating, LLC</p> | <p><b>CREEK SIDING &amp; ROOFING</b></p> <p>Residential Contractor</p> <p>Vinyl Siding Institute Certified</p> <p>Member NCWCW HBA</p> <p>Licensed &amp; Insured</p> <p>Seamless Gutters</p> <p>Gutter Covers/Cleaning</p> <p>Siding &amp; Roofing Credit Cards Accepted</p> <p><b>(304) 599-4999</b><br/>#WV057088</p>  | <p><b>ALL-TREE SERVICES</b></p> <p>Tree Trimming &amp; Removal Stump Grinding Chipping Service</p> <p>Fully Insured Free Estimates</p> <p><b>304-292-3131</b><br/><b>304-698-5155</b></p>   |   |   |  |  |   |                                       |  |                                  |   |
| <p><b>ANTIQUE FOR SALE</b></p> <p>Furniture plus Other Items</p> <p>Call/Text <b>304-376-3616</b></p>   | <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>Burgundy Lift Chair In Great Shape</p> <p>\$500</p> <p>3 Cushion Light Beige Couch In Very Good Condition</p> <p>\$300</p> <p><b>304-282-3261</b></p>   | <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>Trek Fuel EX 5 Deore S 27.5 Lithium Grey/Marigold Mountain Bike</p> <p>\$2500</p> <p>Call <b>304-694-7073</b> For More Details</p>   | <p><b>AKK GERMAN SHORT HAired POINTER PUPPIES</b></p> <p>Tails Docked, Dewes Removed, UPD on Shots Dewormed, Vet Checked, Family Socialized Ready 9/19/2023 Come Pick Yours NOW!</p> <p>\$700</p> <p><b>814-521-5775</b></p>  | <p><b>AKK GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES</b></p> <p>European Champion Bloodlines English, Creme, &amp; Gold Family Raised Hip &amp; DNA Certified Parents</p> <p>Health Guarantee LIC #17313</p> <p>Call Mon-Sat <b>814-243-6492</b></p>   | <p><b>AKK REGISTERED LAB PUPPIES</b></p> <p>Champion Blood Lines Ready March 14th</p> <p><b>740-310-9152</b></p>  | <p><b>ALAPAHA BLUE BLOOD BULL DOG</b></p> <p>8 1/2 Month Old Male Very Loving, Good Temperament Registered &amp; Pedigree</p> <p>\$500</p> <p><b>724-998-7231</b></p> | <p><b>AMERICAN BULLY PUPPIES</b></p> <p>Ready for their forever home! ABKC, papers in hand, shots, health cert, dewormed.</p> <p>M&amp;F Solid &amp; Merles</p> <p>Call <b>412-759-7255</b></p> | <p><b>MINIATURE SCHNAUZER PUPS</b></p> <p>Registered, Shots Health Guarantee</p> <p>\$850</p> <p><b>724-998-7231</b></p> | <p><b>MISC. WANTED TO BUY</b></p> <p>*****<br/>Buying Comic Books<br/>Call or Text<br/><b>304-598-8925</b><br/>*****</p> | <p><b>LOOKING TO BUY</b></p> <p>Used Brand Name Treadmill</p> <p>Call After 5:30P<br/><b>304-983-8066</b></p> | <p><b>APARTMENTS, UNFURNISHED</b></p> | <p><b>CHEAT LAKE AREA</b></p> <p>Modern One Bedroom Apartment No Pets</p> <p><b>304-282-4995</b></p> | <p><b>REAL ESTATE WANTED</b></p> | <p><b>FAST CASH HOMEBUYER</b></p> <p>Close in 14 days GUARANTEED</p> <p><b>304-532-2553</b></p> |

**HELP WANTED**

Executive Director wanted to lead a longstanding and successful non-profit organization in North Central WV due to current director's retirement. Competitive salary and benefits. Please send resume to [wvexecutive-directorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:wvexecutive-directorsearch@gmail.com). Please respond by 2/23/2024.

**MISC. FOR SALE**

**SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION**

|                |                |                |                |                |                |                |          |           |            |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| O <sub>1</sub> | F <sub>4</sub> | F <sub>4</sub> | B <sub>3</sub> | E <sub>1</sub> | A <sub>1</sub> | T <sub>1</sub> | RACK 1 = | <b>65</b> |            |
| M <sub>3</sub> | I <sub>1</sub> | D <sub>2</sub> | W <sub>4</sub> | A <sub>1</sub> | Y <sub>4</sub> |                | RACK 2 = | <b>15</b> |            |
| V <sub>4</sub> | E <sub>1</sub> | H <sub>4</sub> | I <sub>1</sub> | C <sub>3</sub> | L <sub>1</sub> | E <sub>1</sub> | RACK 3 = | <b>80</b> |            |
| P <sub>3</sub> | R <sub>1</sub> | O <sub>1</sub> | T <sub>1</sub> | E <sub>1</sub> | C <sub>3</sub> | T <sub>1</sub> | RACK 4 = | <b>67</b> |            |
|                |                |                |                |                |                |                |          | TOTAL     | <b>227</b> |

PAR SCORE 160-170  
Hasbro and its logo, SCRABBLE®, associated logo, the design of the distinctive SCRABBLE brand game board, and the distinctive letter life designs are trademarks of Hasbro in the United States and Canada. ©2024 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

## project GREEN

a community paper recycling effort of The Dominion Post

**read it • return it recycle it**

Drop off your newspapers, magazines and corrugated cardboard at **The Dominion Post**. Newspapers and magazines **MUST** be separated.

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

**30 DAYS for 30 DOLLARS**

**Need to sell a home, car or even a pet? Sell it with us! 30 days for \$30!**

**CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS!**

\*Add a Photo for just \$20. Some restrictions apply. Limited time offer. Private Parties Only. No refund if item(s) sells within 30 days.

CALL **304-291-9420** for more information or email [classesads@dominionpost.com](mailto:classesads@dominionpost.com)

MLB

Outfielder Harold Ramirez loses to Rays in arbitration

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Harold Ramirez lost to the Tampa Bay Rays in salary arbitration on Thursday and will earn \$3.8 million instead of his \$4.3 million request.

Chris Cameron, Allen Ponak and Scott Buchheit made the decision, one day after hearing arguments.

Ramirez won last year at \$2.2 million, when the team offered \$1.9 million, then set career bests with a .313 batting average, 12 homers and 68 RBIs.

The outfielder became the third player this year to fail in an attempt to win in consecutive years, after Rays reliever Jason Adam and Miami second baseman Luis Arraez. The last players to win hearings in consecutive years were Houston pitcher Collin McHugh in 2017 and '18, and Cleveland pitcher Trevor Bauer in 2018 and 2019.

Clubs have won four consecutive decisions but players lead 7-6 with two cases pending, involving Philadelphia third baseman Alec Bohm and Miami left-hander Tanner Scott.

Bohm asked for \$4 million rather than the team's \$3.4 million offer in a case heard Thursday by Brian Keller, Jeanne Charles and

John Stout. The 27-year-old Bohm hit .274 last year while setting career highs with 20 homers and 97 RBIs. He had a \$748,000 salary and was eligible for arbitration for the first time.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

30672 FEBRUARY 16, 23 TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in him by that certain Deed of Trust, dated July 10, 2017, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Monongalia County, West Virginia, in Document No. 692125, in Book No. 2193, at Page 354, Knishia C Baldwin did convey unto Douglas McElwee, Trustee(s), certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Seneca Trustees, Inc., as Substitute Trustee; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. 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 14, 2024 at 12:00 PM

the following described real estate, together with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in 08 - Morgan District, Monongalia County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain parcel of real estate, together with the improvements thereon, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, and being in Morgan District, Monongalia County, West Virginia, more particularly bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

All of Lot No. 17, as the same is laid down and designated upon the plat of Lots entitled, "Amhurst Townhouse Plat", which said plat bears date September 1981, and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Monongalia County, West Virginia, in Map Cabinet Envelope No. 313-B, together with the right of ingress, egress, and regress from West Virginia Secondary Route No. 81, commonly known as Dorsey Avenue, to that street designated upon the aforesaid plat as Marcus Drive.

And being the same real estate conveyed to Grantors by Deed to be recorded contemporaneously herewith.

Grantors further Grant and Convey to Grantee any and all right, title and interest they may have to any rights of ways or easements incident to their ownership of the above described real estate.

THIS conveyance is made subject to all valid exceptions, reservations, restrictions, conditions, easements, rights of way or other servitudes, if any, made retained or created in prior Deeds of record in the chain of title to the property herein conveyed.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have an address of: 17 Marcus Dr, Morgantown, WV 26501-7115.

The referenced real estate will be conveyed with no covenants of warranty, and subject to all covenants, restrictions, easements, rights of way and reservations which may be a matter of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office or visible upon the ground, all prior liens and encumbrances, including, without limitation, liens for real estate taxes, incinerator, sanitary and sewer charges. The purchasers at the sale shall be responsible for paying the recording costs and also the tax on the privilege of transferring real property (the cost of the tax stamp to be affixed to the deed). The purchasers shall be responsible for payment of all 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: \$7000.00 in cash and/or certified funds as deposit at the time of sale with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

FEDERAL TAX LIEN: In the event that there are Federal Tax Liens against the property, the United States would have the right to redeem the property within a period of 120 days from the date of such sale or the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust, the Trustee may postpone the sale by public announcement at the time and place designated or by posting a notice of the same, and act by agent in the execution of the sale. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at such sale.

SENECA TRUSTEES, INC. 5000 Coombs Farm Drive, Suite 104 Morgantown, WV 26508 (304) 413-0044 (304) 292-2918 Toll free: (888) 534-3132 Reference File No. 88030

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

30714 FEBRUARY 16 COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE THAT INCLUDES: (1) NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOI-RROF); AND (2) NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

DATE OF NOTICE: Friday, February 26, 2024 RESPONSIBLE ENTITY NAME: City of Morgantown, WV RESPONSIBLE ENTITY ADDRESS: 389 Spruce Street Morgantown, WV 26505 TELEPHONE: (304) 284-7479

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS: The purpose of this notice is to satisfy two (2) separate but related procedural notification requirements for a project/activity to be undertaken by the City of Morgantown.

(1) NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOI-RROF) On or about Tuesday, March 5, 2024, the City of Morgantown will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Economic Development Initiative (EDI) grant funds specified for Community Project Funding (CPF)/Congressionally Directed Spending under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-328), to undertake a project/activity to develop a new Fire Station at 966 Don Knotts Blvd, Morgantown, WV 26501.

ASSESSED PROJECT

Morgantown Fire Station: The proposed project provides for the acquisition of approximately 1.4524 acres, more or less, and identified as Tax Map 28, Parcels 70, 84, 85, 95, 96, 96.1, 97, 97.1, 135, and 139. Following property acquisition, the City of Morgantown will construct a new Fire Station with an approximate building footprint of 8,130 square feet. The purpose of the project is to replace the City's South High Street Fire Station, which is functionally obsolete and no longer meets the Fire Department's staffing, equipment, apparatus, and training needs. The estimated project cost is \$12 million, of which \$6 million will come from FY 2023 EDI Community Project Funding (CPF) Grant No. B-23-CP-WV-1592. The project is expected to begin in Calendar Year 2024 and be completed in Calendar Year 2026.

(2) NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

The City of Morgantown has determined that the above-identified project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. The subject project is assessed under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from NEPA requirements. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Morgantown City Manager's Office located at 430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505, and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, during normal business hours Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Morgantown, 430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505 or via email to: rhesa@morgantownwv.gov. All comments received by Monday, March 4, 2024, will be considered by the City of Morgantown prior to authorizing submittal of a request for release of funds to HUD. Commenters should specify which Notice provided herein they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Morgantown certifies to HUD that A. Kim Haws, in his capacity as City Manager, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Morgantown to use Economic Development Initiative (EDI) grant funds specified for Community Project Funding (CPF)/Congressionally Directed Spending under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-328).

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Morgantown's certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following basis: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Morgantown; (b) the City of Morgantown has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations are 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the City of Morgantown or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the projects are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Section 58.76), and shall be addressed to the CPD Manager, HUD Pittsburgh Field Office, via email to PGHCPDOBJECTIONS@HUD.GOV or by calling (412) 644-5846. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

A. Kim Haws, City Manager City of Morgantown

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

30600 FEBRUARY 9, 16

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION PETITION No. 24-A-4

Timothy Corbitt and Brittany Corbitt, Petitioners.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDING AND HEARING

TO: Unknown Father

Appearing that no father has been identified on the birth certificate of the minor child K.L.K. (DOB: 8/15/2014), it is hereby ORDERED that any person who believes they have fathered a child with Brittany Gilbert in or about 2013 or 2014, shall serve upon Kathryn E. Marcum, Esq., counsel for Petitioners, whose address is PO Box 229 Elkins, WV 26241, an answer, including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to Petitioner's Petition for Adoption filed in this action within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this notice. A copy of said Petition for Adoption may be obtained from the Clerk of the Randolph County Circuit Court, located at 2 Randolph Avenue, Elkins, WV 26241. This action may affect your parental rights.

Further, please take notice that the Honorable David H. Wilmoth, Judge for the Circuit Court of Randolph County, West Virginia, will, in his Courtroom on the second floor of the Randolph County Courthouse on the 12th day of March, 2024 at 3:00P or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, entertain a motion for the entry of a final order of adoption for the minor child. Your parental rights, if any, may be terminated in this hearing. You have the right to appear and defend any such rights at this hearing. If you fail to respond to the Petition within 30 days of the first publication of this notice, you may not appear in or receive further notice of the adoption proceedings.

ENTERED by the Clerk of the Randolph County Circuit Court this the 6th of February, 2024.

/s/ Philip D. Riggleman Phil Riggleman, Clerk Randolph County Circuit Court

30739 FEBRUARY 16 PUBLIC NOTICE

The next meeting of the Board of Directors and Board Committees of the West Virginia University Hospitals, Inc. will convene on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at the following times and locations.

- Executive & Board Affairs Committee at 11:00am 1085 Van Voorhis Road, Morgantown, WV 26505 – Peak Health 5th Floor Conference Room C

- Board of Directors Meeting at 12:30 p.m. – 1085 Van Voorhis Road, Morgantown, WV 26505 – Peak Health 5th Floor Boardroom

All meetings are open to the public.

30556 FEBRUARY 16 LEGAL NOTICE

The next meeting of the Board of Directors and Board Committee of West Virginia University Hospitals, Inc. will convene on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at the following times and locations.

-Quality & Patient Safety Committee Meeting at 12:00 p.m. - 1 Medical Center Drive, Morgantown, WV 26506

-Board of Directors Meeting at 2:00 p.m. - 1 Medical Center Drive, Morgantown, WV 26506

All meetings are open to the public.

30605 FEBRUARY 16, MARCH 2 THE CITY OF WESTOVER BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

The City of Westover Board of Zoning Appeals will meet in Council Chambers at 500 Dupont Rd, Westover WV on March 20th, 2024. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear five individual requests.

The first request will be heard at 5 PM for a Conditional Use Permit for Appalachian Pest Control to allow installation of an off premises sign.

The second request will be heard at 5:15 PM for a Variance to install parking partially in the right of way at 447 Dunkard Ave.

The third request will be heard at 5:30 PM for a Variance to install parking partially in the right of way at 352 Dunkard.

The fourth request will be heard at 5:45 PM for a Variance to divide the parcel that contains 182 and 184 Vincent into two separate parcels.

The fifth request will be heard at 6 PM for a Variance to divide the parcel that contains 2 Short St, 45 Short St, and 601 West Pennsylvania into four separate parcels.



Vertical advertisement for 'The Dominion Post CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING' with contact info (304) 291-9420 and 'Help Wanted' sign.

Monongalia County Canine Adoption Center 'Adopt-A-Pet' presented by The Dominion Post. These furry friends are awaiting their forever homes at the Monongalia County Canine Adoption Center on River Road in Morgantown. for information about any of them, call: 304-291-7267

Advertisement for Merlin, a 2-Year-Old Male dog, 70 Pounds. Includes The Dominion Post logo.

Hillcrest Veterinary Clinic advertisement with contact info: Kelley J. Owen, DVM • Aaron T. Pollock, DVM Jessica P. Anderson, DVM • Molly Allen, DVM • Mikell Adair, DVM 3083 Point Marion Rd., Morgantown, WV 26505 ph 304.292.6933 fax 304.292.8009 hillcrestveterinaryclinic.com

Hastings Paw Prints Veterinary Clinic advertisement with contact info: George R. Seiler, DVM Melinda Thomas-Dietrich, DVM Shannon L. Wilfrong, DVM Jackie Jones, BVSc Meghan Villers, DVM Jessica DelGatto, DVM Rebecca Roberson, DVM Mon-Fri 8:00am-7:00pm; Sat 8:30am-2:00pm; Sun Closed 5900 Nancy D. Drive • Westover, WV 304-296-7387 After-Hours Emergency Care 304-363-2227

'Save a Life. Adopt a Pet Today!' Monongalia County Canine Adoption Center HOURS OF OPERATION: Mon, Wed & Fri: 10am-4:30pm | Tue & Thur: 10am-6:00pm Fee for Adoption: \$125/Dogs \$85/Cats Cash Only Includes: Spay/Neuter, One Combo Vaccine & One Dose of Wormer There are no guarantees and no refunds.

## Study identifies behaviors that might contribute to Alzheimer's

**DEAR DOCTORS:** I read that there's a big new study that lists some of the most common risk factors for developing dementia at an early age. How was it done, and what are the risk factors that were identified?

Dear Reader: We believe you're referring to a study that appeared in the December issue of JAMA Neurology, a monthly medical journal published by the American Medical Association. They were interested in learning whether people younger than 65 who experienced symptoms of dementia shared certain risk factors in common. They also wanted to separate genetic factors from health issues, behaviors and environmental influences associated with young-onset dementia. The goal was to identify any factors that might be modified, thus lessening someone's risk.

When researchers analyzed the health data, they identified 39 risk factors linked to the onset of dementia. Screening for the most common risk factors narrowed the list to 15.

Not surprisingly, genetics was found to play a role. Specifically, individuals with two copies of the APOE gene, which studies



**DRS. ELIZABETH KO & EVE GLAZIER**

show is linked to Alzheimer's risk, had an increased likelihood of developing young-onset dementia.

Additional risk factors included having diabetes, having had a stroke, vitamin D deficiency, poor grip strength, heart disease and alcohol abuse. When it came to diabetes, the link to developing dementia was stronger in men than in women, perhaps because men have more microvascular complications than women.

The takeaway here is that when you're taking care of your heart, managing blood sugar, interacting with other people, eating well and exercising regularly, you are not only maintaining your physical health and well-being, but you're also taking important steps to safeguard your cognition.

## Friday, Feb. 16 2024

Focus on what you can accomplish. Avoid tough tasks until you have the wherewithal to deal with such matters. Timing is everything, and knowing when to make a move will be crucial. Trust your instincts, follow your heart and be confident you can stop outside interference.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** — Refuse help from those trying to point you in a direction that's better for them than for you.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** — Don't give anyone a chance to make you look bad or put you in harm's way.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Don't be tempted to follow someone who lacks common sense or hypes you up about something risky. Think for yourself.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — Watch your step. Don't feel pressured to speed up when you need time to contemplate what's best for you.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — Be resourceful, learn all you can and use what you discover to get ahead.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Handle money matters with care. A partner-



**EUGENIA LAST**

ship that encourages shared expenses will cause difficulties.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Set a budget and map out a practical plan, and you'll discover peace of mind and the road to gratitude and happiness.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — You'll find it hard to decide what you want and need. Don't let temptation set in and lead you astray.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** — A move or investment that helps you access a better lifestyle is apparent if you take the initiative to bring about change.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** — Listen carefully and keep your thoughts private until you feel comfortable sharing your comments.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** — Don't let anyone dictate how you earn your living, handle your money or care for your personal needs.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Take the initiative; reorganize your space to accommodate what you are trying to achieve.

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**  
 1 Apple PC  
 4 Giant god  
 9 Spider's creation  
 12 Self-conceit  
 13 Extinguish  
 14 "— that glitters ..."  
 15 Chair part  
 16 Whole number  
 17 Regret  
 18 Girl in distress  
 20 Conflicting (2 wds.)  
 22 Corn spike  
 23 Facilitates  
 24 Take shape  
 26 Top performers  
 29 Business abbr.  
 30 Weight unit  
 31 Hired goon  
 35 Abound  
 37 Tokyo, formerly  
 38 Flightless bird

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- DOWN**  
 5 Work  
 6 Cup handle  
 7 Home to billions  
 8 Bird dog  
 9 Hospital areas  
 10 Avoid  
 11 "God— America"  
 19 Frodo's friend  
 21 Tobacco kiln  
 24 Paroxysm  
 25 Loneliest number  
 26 Suffix with hip or quip  
 27 Fuss (hyph.)  
 28 Before long  
 32 Fabled strongman  
 33 Actress — Thurman  
 34 Pistol  
 36 Big cat's thatch  
 40 "— the Universe"  
 41 Tavern  
 42 Depressed state  
 43 Wanders  
 44 Blatant  
 45 Extra  
 47 Highlander  
 48 Eastern European  
 49 Prehistoric tool  
 50 Long and wiggly  
 53 Santa —



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

## CURTIS



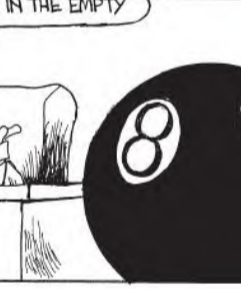
BY RAY BILLINGSLEY

## 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



"Marmaduke has his very own intern."

### SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S.

PAR SCORE 160-170  
BEST SCORE 227

FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

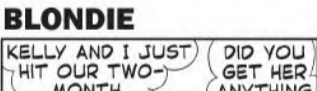
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition.

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

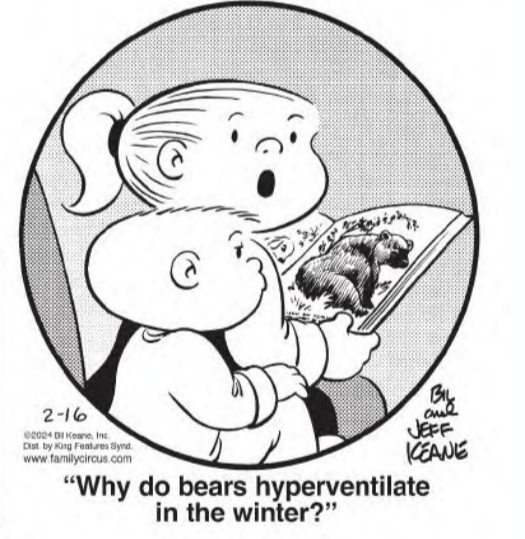
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| A | E | O | B | T | F | F |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A | I | Y | D | W | T | M | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E | E | I | H | L | C | V |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E | O | C | R | T | P | T |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Solutions — B-5

## GARFIELD

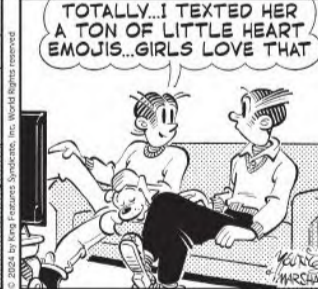


BY JIM DAVIS FAMILY CIRCUS BY BIL KEANE



"Why do bears hyperventilate in the winter?"

## BLONDIE



BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

## RHYMES WITH ORANGE



BY HILARY PRICE

## MUTTS



BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

**UNIVERSITY TOYOTA**

# PREOWNED CLEARANCE

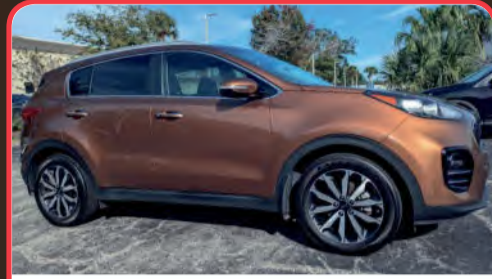
**Guaranteed**   
Credit Approval<sup>SM</sup>

## HUGE WINTER SAVINGS!

EVERY VEHICLE SALE PRICED!



2016 Ford  
**FIESTA SE**  
Stk# 44003B 51,183 Miles  
Was \$12,500 **Now \$9,900**  
Save \$2,600



2018 KIA  
**SPORTAGE LX**  
Stk# 34048AA 54K Miles  
Was \$18,400 **Now \$16,500**  
Save \$1,900



2016 Mercedes-Benz  
**C 300 4MATIC®**  
Stk# 24107A 64K Miles  
*Special Price!*  
**\$17,900**



2015 Hyundai  
**GENESIS 3.8**  
Stk# 64015BB 53K Miles  
Was \$20,750 **Now \$18,000**  
Save \$2,750



2020 Subaru  
**IMPREZA BASE**  
Stk# 23517A 63K Miles  
Was \$19,425 **Now \$18,000**  
Save \$1,425



2019 Subaru  
**FORESTER Sport**  
Stk# 63166C 65K Miles  
Was \$24,750 **Now \$23,500**  
Save \$1,250



2022 Mazda  
**CX-30 2.5 Premium**  
Stk# 64094A 34K Miles  
Was \$27,475 **Now \$24,000**  
Save \$3,475



2018 Jeep  
**WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT**  
Stk# 63166B 36,275 Miles  
Was \$32,875 **Now \$27,000**  
Save \$5,875



2022 Nissan  
**ROGUE SL**  
Stk# 24138A 32,775 Miles  
Was \$32,600 **Now \$27,500**  
Save \$5,100



2020 Chrysler  
**PACIFICA HYBRID LIMITED**  
Stk# 24088A 45,123 Miles  
Was \$34,350 **Now \$28,000**  
Save \$6,350



2017 Chevy  
**SILVERADO 1500 LT**  
Stk# 44009B 36K Miles  
Was \$35,325 **Now \$30,500**  
Save \$4,825



2022 Subaru  
**FORESTER TOURING**  
Stk# 24165A 24K Miles  
Was \$36,150 **Now \$32,000**  
Save \$4,150



2021 Mercedes-Benz  
**GLC 300 4MATIC®**  
Stk# 64034A 31K Miles  
Was \$36,000 **Now \$34,350**  
Save \$1,650



2022 Mercedes-Benz  
**A 220 4MATIC®**  
Stk# 24020B 2K Miles  
Was \$37,000 **Now \$34,900**  
Save \$2,100



2023 Honda  
**CR-V HYBRID SPORT**  
Stk# 44004A 6K Miles  
Was \$37,625 **Now \$35,000**  
Save \$2,625



2021 Ford  
**EXPLORER ST**  
Stk# 64056A 46,334 Miles  
Was \$44,875 **Now \$36,000**  
Save \$8,875



2022 Mercedes-Benz  
**GLC 300 4MATIC®**  
Stk# L3034 11K Miles  
Was \$42,000 **Now \$39,485**  
Save \$2,515



2023 Tesla  
**MODEL Y LONG RANGE**  
Stk# 64070A 7,236 Miles  
Was \$48,350 **Now \$41,500**  
Save \$6,850



2023 Ford  
**F-150 XLT**  
Stk# 23283B 2K Miles  
Was \$62,150 **Now \$55,000**  
Save \$7,150



2022 Land Rover  
**RANGE ROVER SPORT SE**  
Stk# 63213A 25,479 Miles  
Was \$63,300 **Now \$59,000**  
Save \$4,300

 Certified Used Vehicles

The Best New Cars

Make the Best Used Cars!

 Certified Used Vehicles

2019  **TOYOTA CAMRY XLE**  
  
stk# 34026A 45K Miles  
WAS \$27,100  
**Now \$24,000**  
Save \$6,325!

2023  **TOYOTA COROLLA SE**  
  
stk# RT328 8K Miles  
WAS \$28,350  
**Now \$24,500**  
Save \$3,850!

2018  **TOYOTA TACOMA SR Access Cab**  
  
stk# 24089B 65K Miles  
WAS \$29,250  
**Now \$28,000**  
Save \$1,250!

2022  **TOYOTA PRIUS Nightshade**  
  
stk# 34044A 18K Miles  
WAS \$31,850  
**Now \$30,500**  
Save \$1,350!

2022  **TOYOTA 4RUNNER Limited**  
  
stk# 63197A 22K Miles  
WAS \$48,700  
**Now \$44,500**  
Save \$4,200!

Come see why More & More people are buying their TOYOTA from

[universitytoyota.com](http://universitytoyota.com)



**UNIVERSITY TOYOTA**

60 Don Knotts Boulevard • Morgantown, WV



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



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