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Camper causes quandary for Westover Council

Residents complain about vehicle sitting on an empty lot

BY KAITLIN BUSHINSKI
For The Dominion Post

Westover City Council entered into a heated discussion Monday when concerns surfaced about a camper sitting on an empty lot.

The question over what to do with exposed campers and large vehicles sitting in lots has become an issue as the city attempts to deal with complaints, Mayor Dave Johnson told *The Dominion Post*.

Citizens' complaints about a parked camper on an empty Harvey Street lot prompted Building Inspector Richard Hillberry to ask City Attorney Bryan Edwards if there was an ordinance that permits the city to seek removal of a parked camper.

According to Edwards, there is a city ordinance that allows officials to request the removal of the property if a nonroad-worthy vehicle is stored in an unenclosed area.

However, Edwards cautioned that removal of the camper "can open up a big can of worms," because the ordinance is usually meant for commercial and industrial vehicles, such as bulldozers.

If council applies the ordinance to this camper, it can apply to other campers and similar vehicles throughout Westover, Edwards said.

"I don't think a vehicle that is road worthy and is licensed is considered [a vehicle that needs to be stored]. The last thing I want to do is go around to every house to examine every camper. I consider that as parking on a lot," Hillberry said.

The question over how the city should respond sparked controver-

sy among council members.

Councilwoman Edie Viola said she has received several complaints about the camper in question.

According to Viola, the camper is on the lot because the lot owner's daughter, who is a Cheat area resident, could not keep the camper on her property in Cheat because of neighbors' complaints.

"The camper and property owners could not be reached before press time.

"The attorney gave his opinion, we have to follow through with it," Viola said.

Councilman William Wilson forcefully disagreed.

"I'm a camper owner and I think if my kid had a camper on my property and the city made me remove it, I would take [the city] to court," Wilson said.

After Viola responded that the city "should crack down," on exposed campers, Wilson shouted: "You're not the law, you're walking a fine line there."

Johnson stepped in, diffusing the argument.

"The fact is, it's not this lady's property and I don't think Westover should be one big storage property. We have been trying to crack down on storage," Johnson said.

Hillberry and Police Chief James Smith will continue to research the issue.

"As long as the law is the same for everyone, I don't have a problem doing my job," Hillberry said.

In other business council:

■ Unanimously approved the first reading of an ordinance that would raise all city employees' pay by 20 cents.

■ Unanimously approved to annul Kendrick, Van Voorhis and part of Garrison roads because they circle Kingdom Church and are not true access roads.

Official says weekend Fortney fire was arson

ANYONE WHO HAS information on the fires on Fortney Street or at Shaw Place, or the dumpster and couch fires that occurred during the weekend, should contact the Morgantown Fire Department at (304) 284-7480 or the Morgantown Police Department at (304) 284-7522.

BY TRACY EDDY
The Dominion Post

The Morgantown Fire Department believes the three fires that destroyed a home on Fortney Street — the last of which occurred early Sunday morning — were arson.

Fire Marshal Ken Tennant said the house at 936 Fortney St. had been on fire three times during the past two weeks. Sunday's fire completed the destruction of the home.

The Morgantown Fire Department is working with the Morgantown Police Department to investigate the fires, Tennant said, and they are following a few leads.

The house, which is owned by Eric Dalton, has been vacant since the first fire.

The fire and police departments are also investigating two fires that occurred about two blocks from Fortney Street, Tennant said. Those fires are also believed to be arson, he said.

Firefighters were called to a vacant Shaw Place house twice. The building was badly damaged in an Aug. 31 fire, and the remaining structure was destroyed in a blaze Sept. 16.

The house is owned by Richard Queen and was in an area east of Woodburn Elementary School.

Tennant said officials don't know yet if all the fires are related, but they are not ruling out the possibility.

"We're working around the clock to try to determine who's setting these fires," he said.

There was also a rash of couch and dumpster fires during the weekend, he said, which resulted in two WVU students being cited for malicious burning.

Tennant said he did not have the names of the WVU students because he was out of the office when *The*

Dominion Post contacted him.

If found guilty, the students face a possible \$1,000 fine, Tennant said, and could also be asked to reimburse the city for any costs related to extinguishing the fire.

The citations were forwarded to WVU's Office of Student Judicial Affairs, he said.

WVU spokesman Dan Kim said all charges of student misconduct,

including citations or other criminal charges, must go through the university's Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

The disciplinary action is taken in addition to whatever charges the students faces from a law enforcement agency, Kim said.

Kim said, as far as the malicious burning citations are concerned, the university is "very disappointed."

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WVU IRB approval is on file.

Two more Preston buildings to get keyless entry systems

The Dominion Post

KINGWOOD — Two more county buildings will get keyless entry systems, Preston County commissioners learned Monday.

County Administrator Kathy Mace said Lautimus Communications will install card readers in the Courthouse Annex and commissioner's meeting room for \$9,399. Funds for the project will come from money carried over from last year's budget and will use equipment remaining from the courthouse project completed earlier this year.

Mace also told commissioners that work will begin next week on the roof over outdoor cages at the Preston County Animal Shelter. T.H. Services will perform the work for \$9,800 and will finish by Oct. 26. Funds will come from the Fortney Fund, a bequest to the shelter made by Wayne Fortney in 2004 to improve and promote the animal shelter.

Commissioners also agreed to hire Martha Elliott for a temporary part-time position to replace shelter employee Teresa Richards, who had a family emergency. Richards is expected to return to work by Oct. 1.

Also Monday, commissioners agreed to grant a correction to Messenger Limited Partnership, who failed to file paperwork on managed timber property for 2009. The company has had more than 7,000 acres in managed timber in Preston County since 1993, attorney Sheila Williams told commissioners, and employs more than 40 county residents.

The error in filing would cost the company more than \$15,000 in taxes unless corrected.

"Is this basically a tax exoneration?" Commission President Craig Jennings asked?

"Yes," county Assessor Terri Funk said. All three commissioners voted their approval.

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FUGITIVES APPREHENDED 330

THIS WEEK'S FUGITIVES

<p>Nathan J. Davis</p> <p>Race: W Age: 20 Sex: M Height: 5'6" Weight: 150 Hair: Brown Eyes: Green Offense: Failure to appear</p>	<p>Guy J. Griffin</p> <p>Race: W Age: 36 Sex: M Height: 5'9" Weight: 135 Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Offense: Failure to appear</p>	<p>Jason A. McCormick</p> <p>Race: W Age: 24 Sex: M Height: 6'3" Weight: 240 Hair: Brown Eyes: Blue Offense: Failure to appear</p>	<p>Steven R. Savoy</p> <p>Race: W Age: 43 Sex: M Height: 5'7" Weight: 145 Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Offense: Failure to appear</p>	<p>Trent S. Myers</p> <p>Race: W Age: 34 Sex: M Height: 5'10" Weight: 160 Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Offense: Failure to appear</p>
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MORE FUGITIVES

- LACEY, David J., 38, W/M, 6'1," 185 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, Dewey Street, Morgantown, fraudulent scheme**
- FARLEY, Rachel A., 26, B/F, 5'2," 205 lbs., black hair, black eyes, Bluegrass Village, Morgantown, failure to appear**
- ROSS, Raheem J., 26, B/M, 5'4," 154 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, Fairmont Road, Morgantown, possession with intent to deliver**
- HUGHES, Darryl L., 42, B/M, 5'9," 179 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, University Avenue, Morgantown, failure to appear**
- PATRICK, Jennifer L., 33, B/F, 5'7," 165 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, Blue Horizon Drive, Morgantown, failure to appear**

HERE'S HOW TO HELP

If you know where any of these fugitives are, please call:
(304) 291-7292

These names have been released in accordance with the W.Va. Code Annotated Public Record and information disclosure statutes. This is a true and accurate list of arrest warrants on file at the Monongalia County Sheriff's Office as of 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21, 2009. Do not try to apprehend anyone. If you're among those listed, contact an attorney or appear voluntarily at the Monongalia County Sheriff's Office. This will avoid the embarrassment and inconvenience of being arrested. This is a list of criminal warrants on file with the sheriff's office only and is not indicative of guilt or innocence. Every person is innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Submitted to The Dominion Post

Eight Preston graduates receive AP Scholar Awards

Eight recent Preston High graduates earned AP Scholar Awards, according to College Board AP, for exceptional achievement on Advanced Placement exams.

Amelia Snyder qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 of all AP exams taken, and grades of three or higher on five or more of the exams. Snyder is a student at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C.

Randy Ratcliff and Christopher Robertson qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and grades three or higher on four or more of the exams. The two are attending WVU.

Luke Bowman, Alicia Har-

mon, Sarah Robinson, Isaiah Rosier and Brandon Ullman qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP exams with grades of three or higher. The five are attending WVU.

Students make semifinals for merit scholarships

Semifinalists in the 55th annual National Merit Scholarship Program have been announced. They will compete for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships being offered next spring.

Area semifinalists include:

Morgantown High School: Jonathan P. Hensel, Jarrett A. Hoffman, Colin Kemp, Susan Kurian, Lisa Y. Liang, Kelly A. Lyons, Jonathan E. Miltenberger, Annick C. Odom, Nora L. Perone, Arpan V. Prabhhu, Kimberly A. Savarino, Luke R. Scime and Josephine J. Tarantini.

Fairmont High School: Erica

M. Amos and Stefanie W. Webb.

East Fairmont High School: Alexander W. Gray, Jake M. Rakosky.

Bridgeport High School: Allen Y. Chen and Jake A. Stafford.

Robert C. Byrd High School, Clarksburg: Bethany M. Dzielski.

The 2010 scholarship winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.

About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to become finalists, with about half of the finalists winning a National Merit Scholarship.

Baby king and queen will ride in Buckwheat parade

Walmart store 4372 announced winners of its Children's Miracle Network Baby Queen and Baby King contest. Baby Queen is Hadley Varner, 3, daughter of Aaron and Yvonne Varner; Baby King is Wyatt Braham, 18 months, son of Justin and Susan Braham.

The Walmart Royalty will ride the CMN float in the 68th annual Preston County Buckwheat Festival on Friday and Saturday.



Submitted photo

Students, advisers attend conference

Five Monongalia County participants attended the national Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Conference in July at the Gaylord Opryland's Convention Center in Nashville, in July. Back row, from left: Carolyn McBee, an adviser/teacher at Cheat Lake Middle School, and Margaret Drvar, an adviser/teacher at Westwood Middle School. Front row, from left: Kelcie Sturgeon, West Virginia state officer, and University High School student; Ashley Faulkner, a Westwood Middle School student; and Amber McDonald, West Virginia state president and an MTEC/Morgantown High School student.

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PG-13

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Area teens appointed to Mountaineer Challenge Academy

Submitted to The Dominion Post

Several area students were appointed to Mountaineer Challenge Academy's class of 2009, including Christina Marie Anderson, daughter of Angela Anderson

of Morgantown; Danny Lee Glover, son of William Glover of Morgantown and Mabel Glover of Middlesville; Chase-Mitchell Elias Marko, son of Aaron and Toni Marko of Morgantown; Ronald Alan McCourt Jr., son of Terri McCourt of Westover and Ronald McCourt of Morgantown; Thomas Duane Rodenish III, son of Marcie and Glenn

Hart of Morgantown; and Glenn Richard Weaver Jr., son of Moriah Weaver and Glenn Weaver Sr. of Morgantown.

First phase graduation was held on Friday, September 4, at the Craig Civic Center, in Kingwood. This celebration marked the end of the first phase of the Challenge program and the beginning of the second phase of training. Future activities for the corps of cadets include a trip to the nation's capitol and participation in the annual Preston County Buckwheat Festival School Day Parade.

The academy is now accepting applications for the next class, which begins in January. For more information, call 1 (800) 529-7700.

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THE INFORMANT R
1:45-4:30-7:15-9:55

LOVE HAPPENS PG13
1:40-4:20-7:05-9:40

JENNIFER'S BODY R
1:30-4:15-7:00-9:30

LYNCH MOB R
1:50-4:25-7:10-9:45

9 PG13
1:10-3:15-5:20-7:25-9:30

ALL ABOUT STEVE PG13
1:30-4:00-7:00-9:30

FINAL DESTINATION 4 3-D R
1:45-4:15-7:05-9:35

WHITEOUT R
4:15-9:50

SORORITY ROW R
1:45-4:30-7:15-9:45

INGLORIOUS BASTERDS R
1:15-5:00-8:30

T.P. I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF PG13
1:30-4:10-7:00-9:45

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***LOVE HAPPENS (PG13)**
12:55-4:10-6:50-9:30

***THE INFORMANT (R)**
1:25-4:30-7:10-9:45

***JENNIFER'S BODY (R)**
1:35-4:25-6:55-9:35

9 (PG13)
12:50-3:40-7:30-10:05

SORORITY ROW (R)
1:20-3:45-7:00-9:20

ALL ABOUT STEVE (PG13)
1:00-3:50-7:05-9:10

TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF (PG13)
1:05-3:55-7:25-10:00

***WHITEOUT (R)**
1:10-4:35-7:20-9:50

INGLORIOUS BASTERDS (R)
12:45-4:05-8:45

GAMER (PG13)
1:15-4:15-7:15-9:40

EXTRACT (R)
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Inside today

Stew ponders turnover woes

WVU last in loop with 10 giveaways. Page 1-B

Local

In the works



Sledge-o-matic Comedian Gallagher returns to Morgantown. Thursday

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR KATHY PLUM ■ (304) 291-9438 ■ E-mail: kplum@dominionpost.com

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22, 2009 THE DOMINION POST 7-A

BRIEFS

Staff, submitted reports

Police say woman tried to give pot to USP Hazelton inmate

A New Jersey woman was arrested Sunday after she tried to give marijuana to a prisoner at the United States Penitentiary in Hazelton, according to State Police.

West Virginia State Police Senior Trooper M.S. White II was contacted by prison officials who detained Phyllis I. Broadnax, 40, of Voorhees, N.J., after she attempted to hand seven individually packed plastic bags of marijuana. According to a criminal complaint filed by White, the total amount of marijuana was six grams. The guard told White that Broadnax, "had the marijuana in her hand and was attempting to hand it to a male subject, identified as her fiancé, in the visiting room," according to the complaint.

White charged Broadnax with possession with intent to deliver, conspiracy and transporting a controlled substance into the state. Broadnax was arraigned Monday by Preston County Magistrate Lew Ault, who dismissed the conspiracy charge and set bond at \$50,000. A preliminary hearing is set for 3 p.m. Sept. 30.

Preston man charged with 7 counts of animal cruelty

A Tunnelton man was charged with seven counts of cruelty to animals after a deputy found a horse and six dogs at his residence without food and water.

Preston County Sheriff's Deputy T.E. Mitter arrested Glenn Edward Buckingham, 54, after he found one horse standing in a trash-filled lot and "showing every bone in its body," according to a press release. The floor in a shed used to shelter the animal had caved in from the horse's weight "and the owner had apparently attempted to fill in the hole with trash," Mitter wrote. "There were three feed pans located in the lot," according to the criminal complaint, but all were empty. "There was no water for the horse, nor any grass in the lot."

Six dogs were also found in a residence on Buckingham's McGee Hollow Road property. "The residence had been used for storage for quite some time and the dogs were living on piles of strewn about discarded items, which at most places in the residence forced the dogs to stand within a foot gap between the piles and the ceiling," according to the release. The dogs had no food or water.

The seven animals were seized and taken to the Preston County Animal Shelter.

Buckingham is free on bond.

Task force finds Fairmont fugitive within 24 hours

Dennis Terrell Evans Jr.'s freedom was short-lived once the U.S. Marshals and the Mountain State Fugitive Task Force were on his trail, Fairmont Police said Monday.

Evans was arrested without incident Friday at Unity Manor Apartments in Fairmont, Fairmont Police Sgt. Matt Pigott said. The task force and marshals found Evans within 24 hours of taking on the case, Pigott said.

Evans, 21, was sought for attempted murder and wanton endangerment charges. Police said he shot from a car at a person standing on a porch Sept. 10. The bullet missed its target this time, but in 2007, Evans pleaded guilty to shooting a 15-year-old. He had recently been released from prison on that charge. He was in the North Central Regional Jail on Monday awaiting setting of a preliminary hearing on the more recent charges.

MEETINGS

Tuesday
MONONGALIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, 7 p.m., board room, 13 South High St.

Wednesday
MONONGALIA COUNTY COMMISSION, 10 a.m., commission office, courthouse.

MORGANTOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION, 4:30 p.m., conference room, Public Safety Building, 300 Spruce St., Morgantown.

Couple plead guilty in fake abduction

Woman faces 20 years for her role in crime

BY BRANDY BRUBAKER
The Dominion Post

A Grafton couple pleaded guilty in federal court for faking a kidnapping to extort \$20,000 from an elderly Fairmont woman.

Eric Wayne Zuspan, 53, and Teri Elaine Trickett, 52, tricked the woman into believing Trickett — the woman's caretaker — was being held hostage by kidnapers seeking a hefty ransom, officials said.

Zuspan pleaded guilty Monday to conspiracy to extort money and pos-

session of a firearm by a prohibited person. Conspiracy to extort money is punishable by up to five years in prison, according to federal code. Possession of a firearm is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Trickett pleaded guilty to wire fraud Friday, a crime punishable by up to 20 years in prison, according to court records.

Zuspan was not supposed to carry a gun because of a previous felony conviction.

Trickett said she and her husband came up with the scheme to get money from the victim, who she said truly believed Trickett had been kidnapped, court documents said.

The following is according to court documents filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of West Virginia and the FBI: Zuspan and Trickett tricked an

Trickett said she and her husband came up with the scheme to get money from the victim, who she said truly believed Trickett had been kidnapped, court documents said.

elderly woman (the police aren't releasing her name) for whom Trickett was a caregiver into believing that Trickett had been kidnapped. Someone — claiming to be kidnapers — called the woman March 23 and told her that they would kill Trickett if she didn't pay a \$20,000 ransom or if she notified the police.

The woman called Zuspan and told him about the kidnapping. The victim also contacted her investment firm and asked to have \$20,000 transferred into her bank account, but was told the money couldn't be

moved until the next day.

Zuspan said he could borrow the money and the woman could reimburse him because the pair led the victim to believe her children in Texas were behind the kidnapping. The victim also was led to believe that the kidnapping was connected to the alleged murder of her father. Authorities did not release any information on the alleged murder.

The woman then received several more calls from the supposed kidnapers, instructing her how, when and where to deliver the ransom

money. A few hours later, Zuspan called the woman and told her that the ransom had been paid and Trickett had been released.

She then got a call from an unknown male in Texas telling her that everything was over.

The next day, the woman gave Trickett \$10,000 and later paid the rest of the ransom by check.

Trickett was interviewed in person by an FBI agent March 25 and told him that she drove to the woman's house the afternoon of March 23. She said she had gotten out to get the mail, when she was abducted at gunpoint by people in a van. She said she was blindfolded and her hands and ankles were tied with telephone cord.

She said they drove around for about an hour and her kidnapers

SEE FAKE, 9A

Steel beams brace River Road



Workers from Alan Stone Inc. continue their drilling operation to set steel beams, on Monday, as part of the fix for River Road.

DOH hopes work will be done by the end of October

The Dominion Post

Contractors are taking up damaged blacktop and drilling holes for steel beams that are being sunk into the slipping hillside along River Road.

It takes about 75 minutes to bore each hole, according to workers. Once the hole is dug, a 45-foot steel beam is set in place.

Each beam will be sunk into the ground about 42 feet to support the repairs to the collapsed road surface.

The section of River Road between Lockside and Dupont roads has been closed since December because of land slippage. Traffic from the Morgantown Industrial Park, Westwood Middle and Skyview Elementary schools has been detoured to U.S. 19 via Dupont Road since the closure.

Several pilings, or steel beams, are being driven vertically into the ground until they hit more stable soil or bedrock to create a wall.

Recently, a similar structure was built along Holland Avenue, in Westover, after a section of the road began to cave in and the back wall of an adjacent building collapsed. The pilings will prevent future slippage.

Alan Stone Co. Inc., of Cutler, Ohio, and Williamstown, was awarded the contract in July to repair the road. The State Division of Highways earlier said it hopes work will be completed by the end of October.

The repair work will cost \$745,104.15. The federal government will pay 80 percent — \$596,083.32 — and the state will pay the remaining \$149,020.83.



Workers tear up damaged concrete on River Road.

Marion County schools turn off the lights — and save \$700K

Will also introduce ATV safety programs in schools by way of WVU

BY JIM BISSETT
For The Dominion Post

FAIRMONT — There can sometimes be great worth in simply taking the low-tech approach to life, Mike Stalnaker told members of the Marion County Board of Education on Monday night.

Like more than \$700,000 worth, said Stalnaker, who oversees energy-conservation programs for Marion County Schools.

The six-figure savings on the county school system's energy bill comes in the form of a renewed diligence by principals, teachers and students to do all those commonsense saving measures they might do at home, Stalnaker said.

That means watching out for

dripping faucets in the restroom and turning off lights in the classroom when you're the last person to leave, he said.

"It shows that the little things you can do will make a big difference," Stalnaker said of the savings he's been charting for the past 25 months. "I want us to hit the \$1 million mark by next May."

But don't call it a "profit," he stressed. While the money won't go back into the coffers, it will be rerouted to other programs.

"That's money that we're avoiding spending on energy costs," he said.

Which, in turn, is an investment in the environment, Superintendent Tom Deadrick said.

The jump-start on the cost ledger, Deadrick said, carries the equivalent of taking some 642 cars off the road for one year.

"That's a positive impact on the environment," Deadrick said, "and that's what we're looking for."

“It shows that the little things you can do will make a big difference.”

Mike Stalnaker
Marion County Schools energy conservation overseer

Not that it's going to be easy, said the Rev. James Saunders, board president.

"I'm constantly getting phone calls from people asking me why the lights are on at East-West Stadium all night," Saunders said.

"I know they used to have the lights on when they were cleaning and things like that," Stalnaker said, "but I think we've corrected that."

He wished he could have corrected Monday morning, he said.

Stalnaker was stymied, he said, when he did a walk-through of one school before the start of classes

and found 44 computer workstations and 38 monitors running — and that was in an empty building over the weekend.

"That stuff adds up," he said.

Not all things that add up are a bad thing, though, Deadrick said. The county wants to increase ATV safety awareness among young people — and it's doing that later this fall, courtesy of WVU's Department of Communication Studies.

Dr. Maria Brann created the safety curriculum with communications doctoral student Brandi Frisby.

Brann is an associate professor

in the department whose research interests include health and public safety communication. She also teaches at WVU's Injury Control Research Center, on WVU's Evansdale campus.

Frisby, who also holds degrees from Ball State University and Northern Kentucky University, will help coordinate the free safety training that will be offered on a school-by-school basis.

Frisby first contacted Deadrick with the offer, the superintendent said.

With ATV deaths commonplace in West Virginia — the state led the nation with 54 fatalities in 2006 — Deadrick said he expects the schools to quickly steer themselves into the direction of the training.

"People underestimate what can happen when you're on an ATV," he said. "Just imagine somebody thrown off one on those things without wearing a helmet."

SEE RESTORE, 9A

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Volunteers jump into efforts

Termans' example one for all of us on banks of Monongahela River

Apparently, no one ever told Tim and Maureen Terman not to volunteer.

Or if someone did, they probably told him to go jump in the river. Because that's kind of what they've been doing for the past three years on their weekends.

More precisely, they volunteer their Saturdays and Sundays cleaning up the banks of the Monongahela River.

The state Department of Environmental Protection provides them with the garbage bags, grabber sticks and pays for picking up their haul.

The city of Morgantown also provides them with a \$2,500 grant to help offset the costs of maintaining and gassing up their pontoon boat.

But the rest of it, their time, their laundry, their bug repellent and their sweat is all volunteered.

We salute the Termans for their selfless dedication to the river's clean up.

In a day and age when many look to government as the answer, while others decry all government intervention, the Termans' example reflects the best of both worlds.

The state DEP admits it cannot afford all the costs of smaller litter clean-up projects, nor can the city completely fund such initiatives as the Termans'.

And it normally would also be cost prohibitive for any volunteer to pay for their own tools, fuel and cover the garbage pick-up costs.

Though it's not unusual for many area residents to spend their weekends on the river and other waterways, it's doubtful you'll find anyone else there solely gathering trash.

The Termans are currently looking to launch a more exhaustive clean up along the river's banks next summer, including up to the Pennsylvania border.

They hope to find a public or private sponsor to fund their efforts during the weekdays, which would allow them to spend more time cleaning up the river's banks.

We would encourage sponsorship of such an initiative by this couple or others.

The DEP is also ready to provide the supplies and tools for anyone who wants to follow the Termans' example on the river or elsewhere.

Though litter's environmental impact is relatively low on the list, when compared to such hazards as toxic waste or sewage runoff, it is still an eyesore.

Not to mention a disgrace to the primary waterway that runs through our community.

We join the Termans in asking everyone to think twice about littering and encourage the state to step up its enforcement efforts against those who do.

In the meantime, instead of working for the weekend, like the Termans, it can also be rewarding to volunteer on the weekend, too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public still not warming up to global warming

I hardly know where to begin in response to a recent guest commentary (DP-Sept. 13) entitled, "Three years to develop morality, or 20 years to collapse."

The author posits that irreversible global warming is just around the corner and that we will soon have to endure "droughts, famines, diseases, resource wars and failed states." Notwithstanding Al Gore's claim, the debate over man caused or anthropogenic global warming is far from over.

The theory of anthropogenic global warming is rapidly losing favor with both scientists and the general public. Numerous online resources are available to demonstrate this.

For example, petitionproject.org has more than 30,000 scientist signatories, including more than 9,000 with Ph.D.'s, who dispute the "man-made" cause of global warming.

Other excellent resources can be found by Googling "global warming skeptics." A recent national poll shows the number of Americans who think the seriousness of global warming is exaggerated is now up to 41 percent. Another national poll shows global warming dead last in a list of 20 "top priorities" for 2009.

The Earth is 4.5 billion years old and has a long history of climate change. The Earth has been both much colder and much warmer than now. Man has lived on this planet only a fraction of those 4.5 billion years and has engaged in activities that supposedly are causing massive changes to our planet's climate in only the last hundred years. What caused "climate change" in the past?

Recent alternative theories to the cause of man-made global warming include the very logical explanation of variation in solar activity. The sun after all is what heats our planet.

Incidentally, the planet has actually been cooling over the last decade. This is in direct contradiction to what the AGW climate models predict. Once again the facts get in the way of a good story.

The author suggests it will be necessary to reduce the planet's population "tenfold" and reduce "individual consumption worldwide to a tenth of that in today's developed nations." How would this be implemented? Who will decide which tenth of the



world's population survives? This is a clearly ridiculous proposal that suggests an attitude more concerned with "sustainability" for the planet than with the well-being of its occupants.

The commentary makes several statements about "immoral" behavior. The examples, most notably about a friend "who goes to church instead of volunteering in a hospice," display a shocking view of what constitutes morality in the mind of the author.

Doomsayers have proclaimed the "end of the world" again and again. How many times have their predictions been proved correct? Twenty years from now we can look back at the proponents of the "Three years to develop morality, or 20 years to collapse" theory and wonder at their hubris.

**Wayne Taylor
Fairmont**

Halting flow of ACORN funds right thing to do

Thank you, Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito for calling for a wide bipartisan hearing in the House of Representatives in supporting a measure to halt the flow of federal tax dollars to ACORN because the behavior exhibited on the recently-surfaced videos simply isn't acceptable for an organization receiving taxpayer support.

LETTER TO EDITOR

MAIL LETTERS to the editor to *The Dominion Post*, 1251 Earl L. Core Road, Morgantown, WV 26505. E-mail letters to opinion@dominionpost.com. Include your name and phone number for confirmation purposes. Letters should not exceed 300 words.

ensure that taxpayer dollars are not used improperly or illegally.

And this week she joined a wide bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives in supporting a measure to halt the flow of federal tax dollars to ACORN because the behavior exhibited on the recently-surfaced videos simply isn't acceptable for an organization receiving taxpayer support.

**Alice Click
Mount Alto**

Where does Rockefeller stand on cap and trade?

As voters, we must know, now, how our public servant, U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, intends to vote on the Waxman-Markey cap and trade legislation.

This is a critical issue to West Virginia. If Rockefeller votes to pass cap and trade, then every West Virginian who enjoys affordable, coal-powered electricity and a functioning state economy must demand Rockefeller's recall from service.

On this issue, many Senate Democrats, who know how economically devastating this bill will be for their states, are sitting on the special interest side of the issue hoping desperately that cap and trade will pass without their votes.

**Leslie Hartzell
Dunbar**

The racism card being played at Democrats' convenience

WHEN **BARACK OBAMA** was elected president of the United States, some suggested that race played a factor in his success. People "wanted" to elect a black man president because of our history of slavery and the denial of civil rights for so many years to African-Americans. It is never "racism" to vote for someone because he is black. It is only racism to oppose the policies of a black Democrat.



CAL THOMAS

ing how a mostly white country could elect a black man president last November and 10 months later become a racist majority.

Racism has always been a one-way street for the Left. When Clarence Thomas was nominated to the Supreme Court, some liberals called him a "handkerchief head negro" and an "Uncle Tom." According to liberal doctrine, black people can never be racist because they are members of a victim class created by white liberals

as a kind of modern plantation to keep blacks voting for liberal Democrats.

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, African-American like President Obama, grew up in Birmingham, Ala., at the time of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing by members of the Ku Klux Klan, which killed some of her friends. She has more "street cred" than others who claim to have it, but she got no points from liberal Democrats when she ascended the ladder of power and influence. It was the same with Colin Powell. The Left strongly criticized Powell for adding credibility to the claim that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction thereby winning U.N. approval to use force, if necessary, against the Iraqi dictator. Were those who opposed Powell racist?

He is getting the same heat every president gets, sooner or later.

Using the formulation now being applied to President Obama that opposition to any of his policies — from health care, to record amounts of debt — constitutes racism, they were.

The polar opposite case could be made that, despite his race, President Obama is being treated just like any other politician, which proves he's being treated equally. He is getting the same heat every president gets, sooner or later. The president's race would be a factor only if Americans shied away from criticizing

him because of it. That they are not is a triumph of Martin Luther King Jr.'s hope that people be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. Some opinion polls show that Obama's character is being judged and found wanting by a rapidly growing number of Americans, at least a small percentage of whom are black.

With Democrats controlling all three branches of government, including significantly wide margins in Congress, isn't there a better explanation than racism for why the president is having difficulty with some of his proposals? If racism is the cause of his difficulties, there must be many congressional Democrats who are racists, because they have the power to enact the president's agen-

da, but some are reluctant to do so.

The Pew Research Center has noted a 10 percent drop in Obama's approval ratings, which includes a 3 percent decline among blacks. As black conservative columnist Star Parker has written, "If we assume this reflects the 16 million blacks who voted for Obama last November, a three-point shift means there are about a half-million blacks who now have buyer's remorse." Are these black Obama voters racist?

There is a better explanation for the growing opposition to President Obama. It has less to do with his ethnicity than it does his credibility. Character, after all, is colorless.

CAL THOMAS hosts "After Hours" at 11 p.m. Saturdays on Fox News Channel. Readers may e-mail him at CalThomas@tribune.com.

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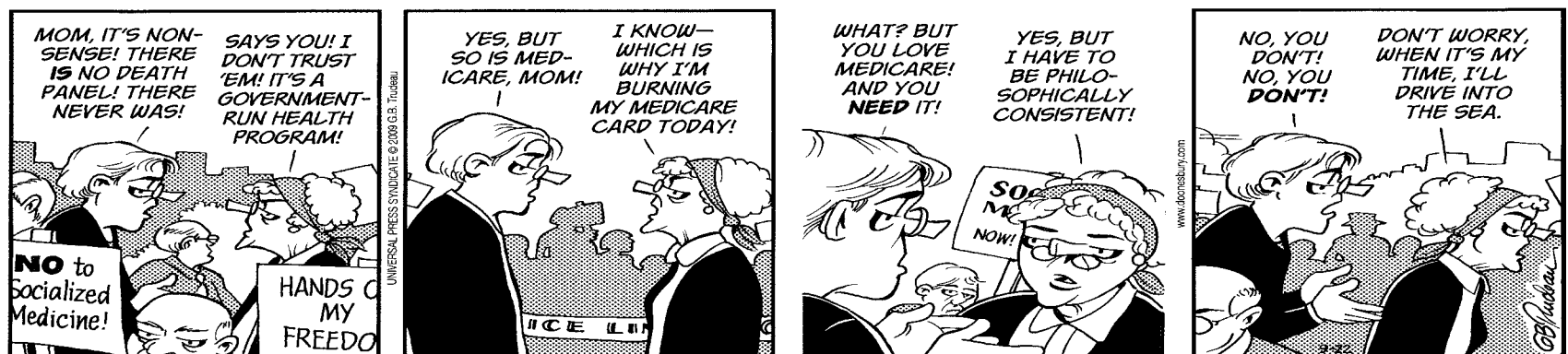
We the People
The First Amendment
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.
"While both religion and the media benefit from the First Amendment, church and press are, at best, uncomfortable allies."
Judith Buddenbaum
journalism professor, Colorado State University, 1995

MALLARD FILLMORE



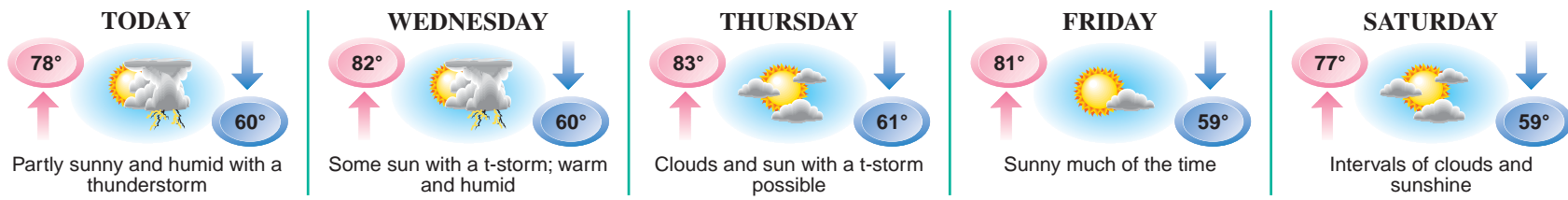
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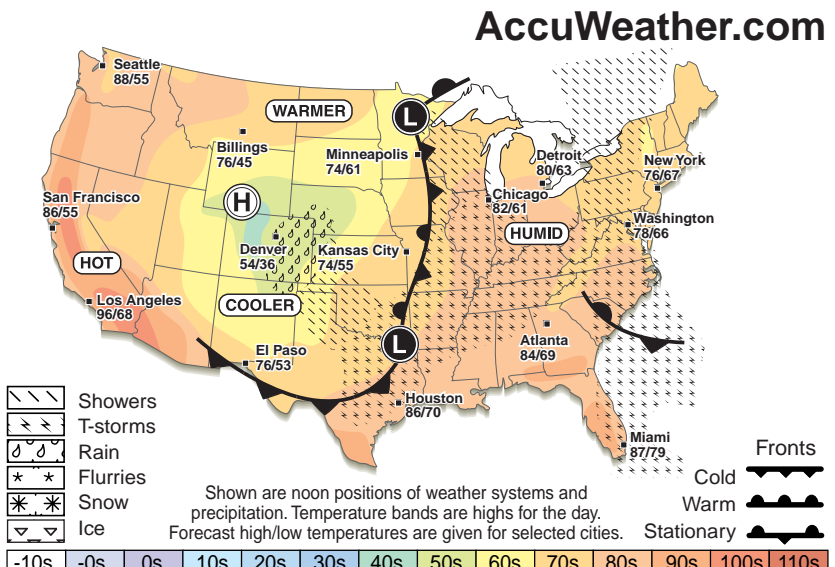


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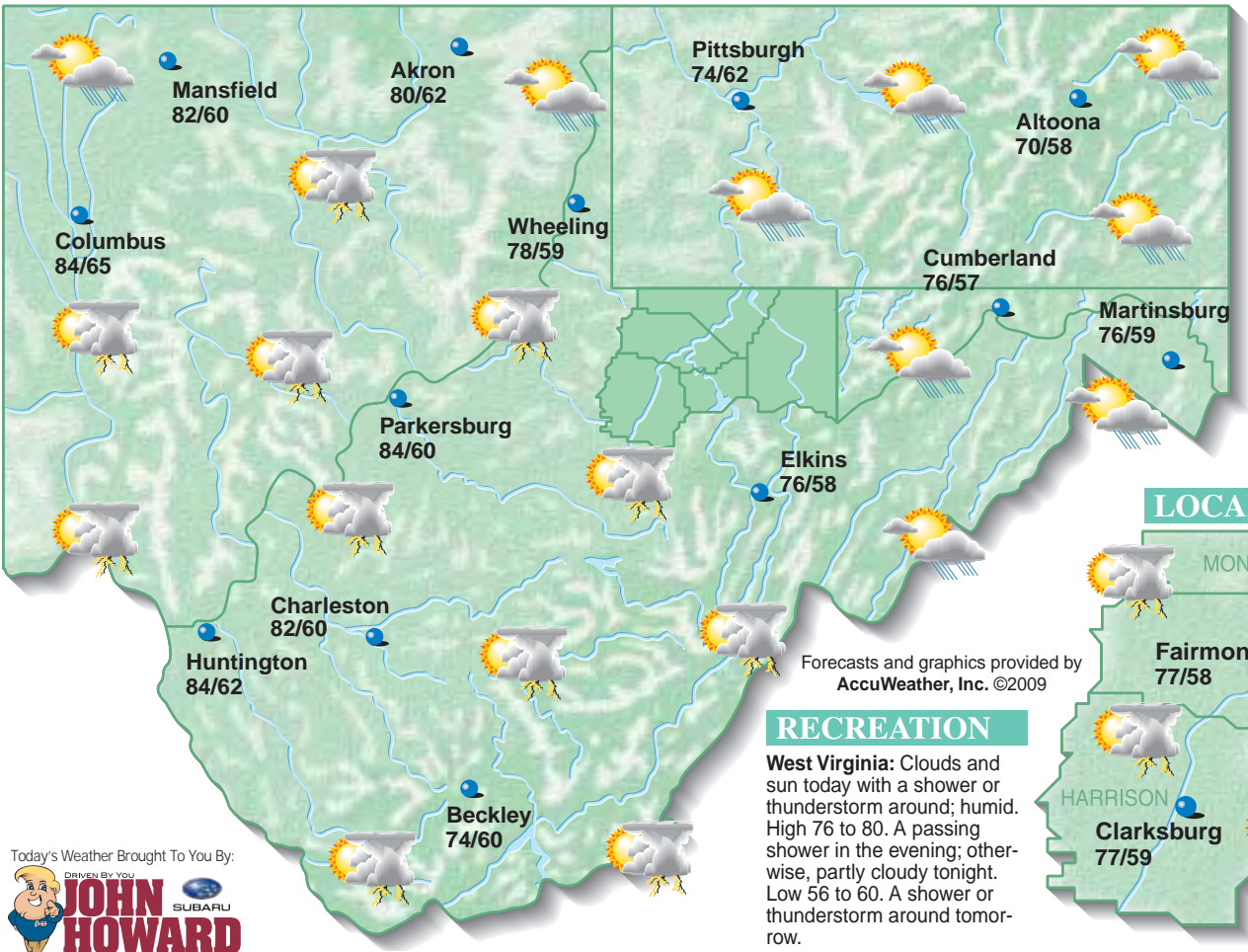
FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



REGIONAL WEATHER



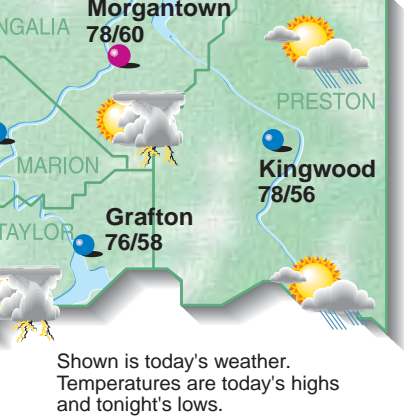
ALMANAC

Almanac data for Morgantown through 4 p.m. Monday, including temperature, precipitation, and sunrise/sunset times.

SUN AND MOON

Sun and moon phase information for September 26 to October 18.

LOCAL WEATHER



POLLEN

Information about pollen levels in Morgantown, including yesterday's and today's readings.

UV INDEX

UV index information for Morgantown, stating the highest today is 3, which is moderate.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table listing regional cities and their weather conditions for Tuesday and Wednesday.

SOLAR TABLE

Solar table providing five-day forecasts for peak feeding times for fish and game.

LAKES AND RIVERS

Table showing water levels for various lakes and rivers, including Cheat Lake, Deep Creek, etc.

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 22, the 265th day of 2009. There are 100 days left in the year. Autumn arrives at 5:18 p.m. Eastern time.

HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY: IN 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Capt. Nathan Hale, 21, was hanged as a spy by the British in New York.

ON THIS DATE: IN 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in rebel states should be free as of Jan. 1, 1863.

IN 1975, Sara Jane Moore attempted to shoot President Gerald R. Ford outside a San Francisco hotel, but missed. IN 1980, the Persian Gulf conflict between Iran and Iraq erupted into full-scale war that lasted nearly eight years.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Baseball Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda is 82. NBA commissioner David Stern is 67. Rock singer David Coverdale is 58. Actress Shari Belafonte is 55. Singer Nick Cave is 52.

Actor Scott Baio is 48. Actor Rob Stone is 47. Rock musician Matt Sharp is 40. Rock musician Dave Hernandez (The Shins) is 39. Actress Mireille Enos is 34. Actress Ashley Drane (Eckstein) is 28. Actor Tom Felton is 22.

Son-in-law's lies about the past are discovered

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter, "Daisy," had some really bad relationships in the past and held on to them far too long. At 33, she finally met a man, "Melvin," who was good to her and fun to be with. We were relieved that she had finally made a right choice.



live in another state, far from us. I don't want to expose him while she is not near us. It will crush her. But our daughter is married to a stranger! Everything Melvin told her about himself is a lie. How should we handle this? — HEARTBROKEN MOM

Melvin was divorced with a son. He told Daisy he was a police officer who retired early because of the stress, and regaled her with stories about the many outrageous incidents he's been involved in. They married and now have a new baby. Daisy is happy, loves being a wife and mother, and we were pleased that she has what she always wanted.

DEAR MOM: First of all, your husband should finish what he started. If Melvin wasn't a police officer, what was he? Is he really divorced? How many times? Is his name really Melvin? Has he done time? Once you have accurate information, you and your husband should pay your daughter a visit — proof in hand. How she chooses to handle things from then on will be her decision.

In them, he was always defending helpless people against brutal attackers, saving people in imminent danger, and he was always the hero. My husband decided to check out Melvin's claim of having been a cop. We were shocked and sickened to learn that he never was. All of his stories are lies.

DEAR MOM: First of all, your husband should finish what he started. If Melvin wasn't a police officer, what was he? Is he really divorced? How many times? Is his name really Melvin? Has he done time? Once you have accurate information, you and your husband should pay your daughter a visit — proof in hand. How she chooses to handle things from then on will be her decision.

I want to tell Daisy, but I'm not sure how or when. They

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TV LISTINGS

Comprehensive TV listings for various channels and programs, including CBS, ABC, NBC, PBS, and HBO.

Advertisement for MyBank! First United Bank & Trust, featuring a woman and the slogan "My Business is All In Stitches... My Bank is First United!"

Advertisement for Sundale Rehabilitation, featuring an elderly woman and the slogan "She's always had a special place in your heart. Soon, There Will Be One Here, Too."

There is no cure for HPV



DR. PETER GOTT

DEAR DR. GOTT: I contracted the human papillomavirus (HPV) more than 30 years ago. The gynecologist who treated me then did not tell me I was contagious. I thought he cured me, as he did not tell me it was permanent.

What can you tell me about this disease? I hope you can help me, since no one knows that I have this problem, not even my primary-care physician.

DEAR READER: The cold and HPV are similar. Each is the result of viruses, and there are more than 100 types of HPV and hundreds of cold viruses. Neither has a cure, but fortunately, most of the viruses responsible do not cause serious complications. Colds and HPV are also extremely common. Some types of HPV may even resolve without treatment.

Unlike colds, most people never know they have a human papillomavirus infection, since most do not cause symptoms or cause other health problems. About 20 million Americans are currently infected, and another 6 million become infected each year.

Some of the types of human papillomavirus can cause genital warts or cervical, vaginal or vulvar cancer. Most other types of HPV will be

contracted and even passed on without the person ever knowing.

The cancers are treated exactly the same as non-HPV-related cancers — radiation, chemotherapy and surgical removal of the affected organ(s) or tissue.

Practicing safe sex can reduce the risk of contracting HPV, but abstinence is best. Today, there is also a vaccine for girls and women ages 9 to 26 that may prevent the four types of HPV that cause most cases of cervical cancer and genital warts. It is not recommended for women over 26 and is thought to be most effective if given before sexual activity is begun.

Speak with your primary-care physician or gynecologist about your history with human papillomavirus. I cannot give more specific advice since you do not say how you came to be diagnosed. Was it by chance during a routine Pap smear? Or did you present with symptoms? By keeping this important medical history a secret, you may be harming yourself.

DR. PETER GOTT is a retired physician. Write him at Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th floor, New York, NY 10016.

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009

Conditions in general should help bring substantial improvements. You can only be stopped by your own doubts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Focus your efforts and energies on those critical, long-neglected endeavors. Once you make them a priority, you'll successfully wrap them up in short order.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don't be shy about getting in touch with those who can help advance a present interest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — This might finally mark the day when you will start to receive long-overdue remuneration.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Many people have big concepts, but they do not always know what to do with them. In your case, an idea might not be grandiose or elaborate, but you'll know how to market it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — There are two areas in which you could be extremely fortunate. One is where your material interests are concerned; the other is likely to be your standing among peers in the community.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — An interesting merger could take



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

place when an old goal intertwines with a new one.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Although you can sometimes be shy about doing things, instead of ducking challenges or questionable objectives, you're likely to relish them. Don't doubt yourself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Have you stayed in touch with friends who have moved away some time ago? If not, track them down, because something work-related awaits you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Unexpected occurrences might normally bother you, but not at this time. As conditions shift or circumstances alter without your instigation, you'll end up liking the results.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You've always had the ability to see both sides of an issue, and you are likely to be extremely happy that this asset is functioning so well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Be careful not to sell your abilities or talents short. Others will recognize what you have to offer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take advantage of any dealings with influential people who seem to be willing to do what they can for you.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

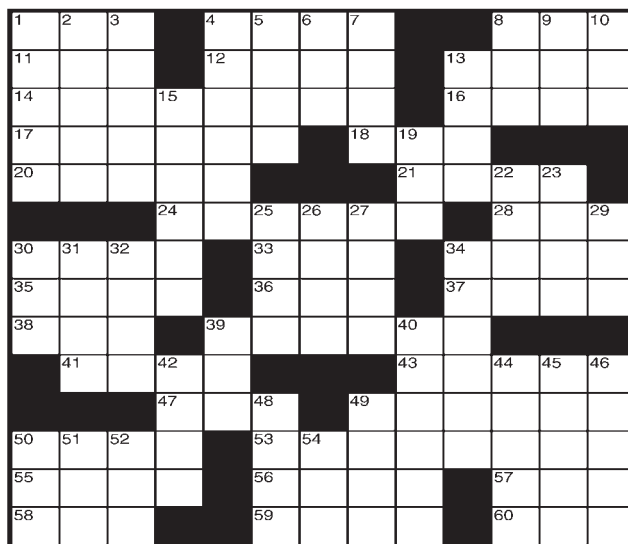
- 1 Semi radios
- 4 Hunt for
- 8 Not her
- 11 Distinct period
- 12 Story
- 13 Luau entertainment
- 14 Teddies, e.g.
- 16 Get introduced
- 17 Hungry ones
- 18 Durocher or Tolstoy
- 20 Shore up
- 21 Hairy twin
- 24 Ferocious bear
- 28 Truck mfr.
- 30 Thus
- 33 W-2 collectors
- 34 Blank spaces
- 35 Natural elevs.
- 36 Contented sigh
- 37 — Major
- 38 Jellyfish habitat
- 39 Open a letter
- 41 Antler bearer

DOWN

- 1 "People" person
- 2 Thorn
- 3 — Ana winds
- 4 Dorm room staple
- 5 Maize units
- 6 Yale alumnus
- 7 Faint, with "over"
- 43 Peruvian animal
- 47 Univ. degree
- 49 Did garden work
- 50 They give a hoot
- 53 Tie breaker
- 55 Chenille item
- 56 Gave temporarily
- 57 Diddy's rider
- 58 — Moines, Iowa
- 59 Authorizes
- 60 Droop-nosed flier

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ABBA	RFD	YAM
TEAM	IOU	UNIT
VENI	PROMPTLY	
FEARED	APED	
BUNTRI		
AGILE	LEVEES	
WIFE	GORY	TUG
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LYNXES	LINEN	
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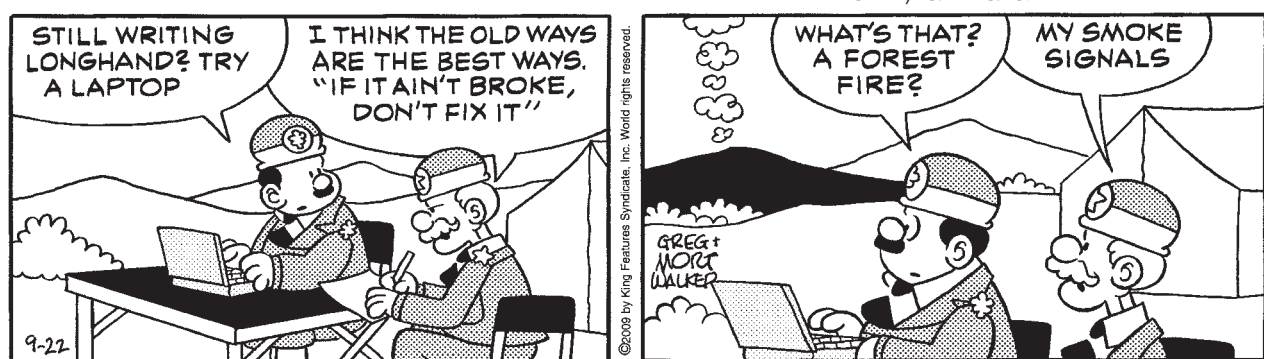
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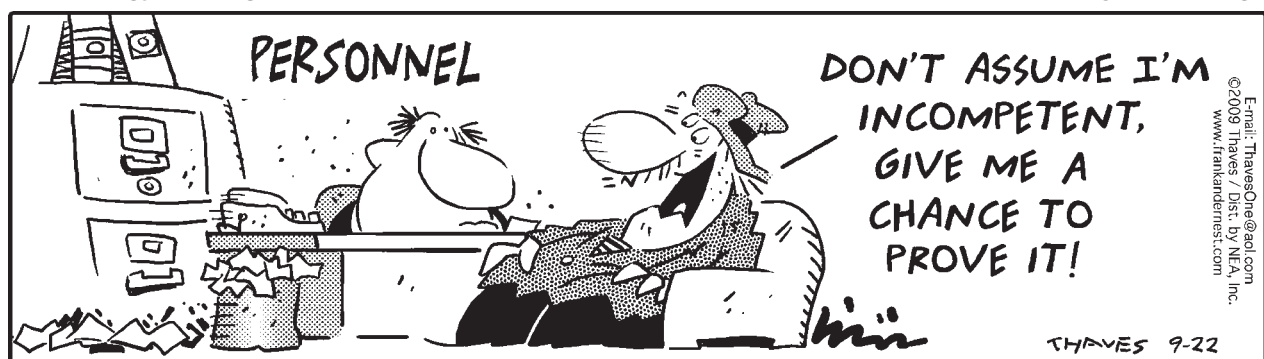
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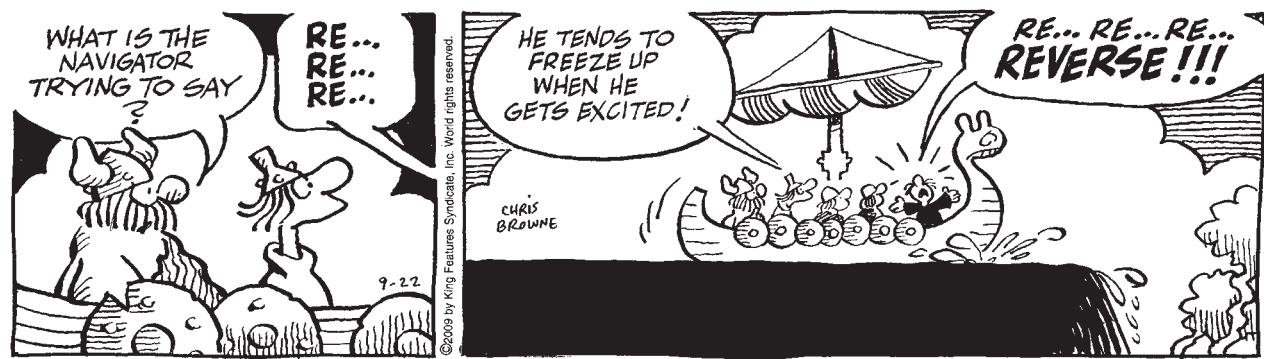
FRANK & ERNEST



BORN LOSER



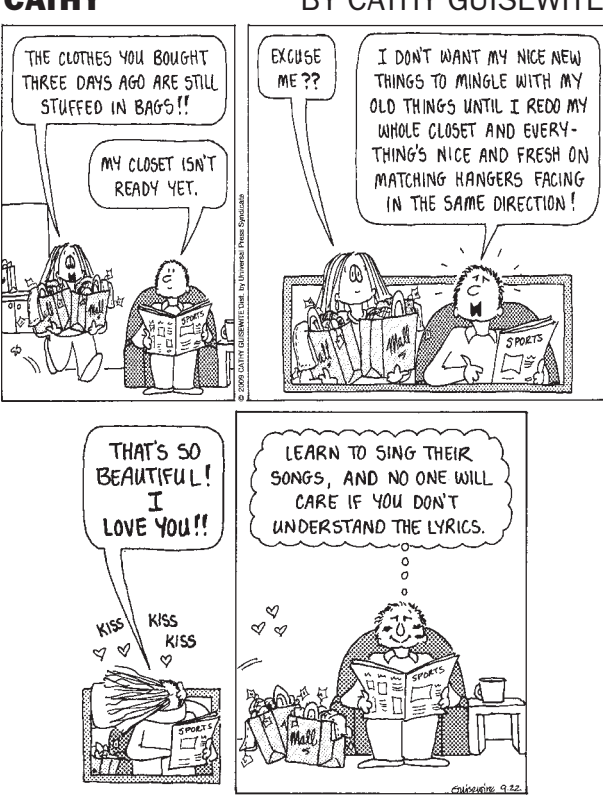
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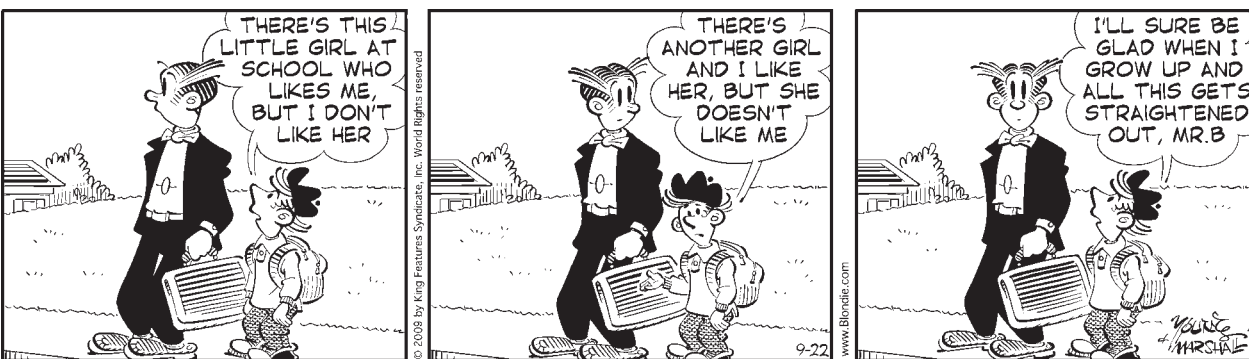
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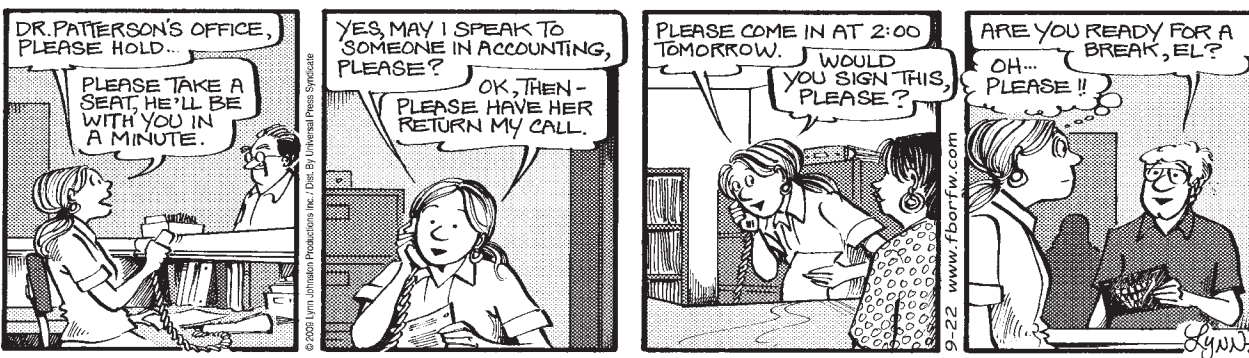
CATHY



BLONDIE



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



GARFIELD



SCRABBLE

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A	L	S	M	W	L	
E	I	O	W	R	D	
E	O	U	T	M	R	G
I	O	Y	D	G	M	P

3rd Letter Double RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
Triple Word Score RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 234

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 tiles used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

For more information on books, clubs, tournaments and the school program go to www.scrabble-assoc.com or call the National SCRABBLE® Association (831) 477-0033.

Solutions on 6-B

FAMILY CIRCUS



BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

Kidfo

Gallery



Hermione Vos
Morgantown Learning Academy



Patrick Mason
Skyview Elementary



Katelyn Bone
Mylan Park Elementary



Selina Spiker
Tunnelton-Denver Elementary



Britni Blaney
Central Preston Middle School



Brianna Stull
Valley Elementary



Kristin Wilson
Mylan Park Elementary



Hannah Louzy
Anna Jarvis Elementary



Jarrett Toothman
Anna Jarvis Elementary



Caitlin Hicks
Mylan Park Elementary



Sierra Bryan
Skyview Elementary



Garrett Lane
Home school



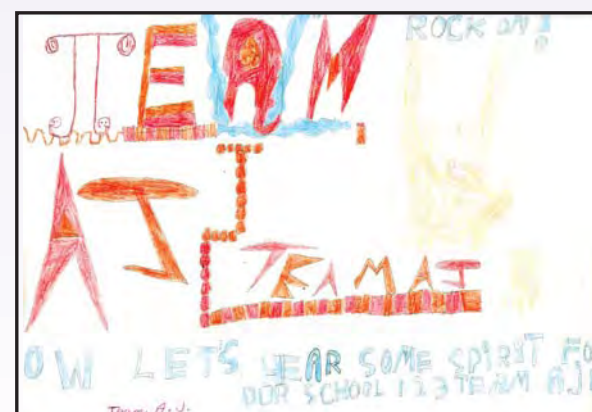
Vashalee Lipscomb
South Preston



Brandi Johnson
Kingwood Elementary



Carly Barlow
Kingwood Elementary



Allison Peters
Anna Jarvis Elementary

Funzle

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

THINGS IN A PURSE

CANDY	LICENSE	MONEY
CELL PHONE	LIP BALM	RECEIPT
CREDIT CARD	MAKEUP	TISSUES
KEYS	MEDICINE	WALLET

Rappin' & Rhymin'

Baseball rocks

Baseball is cool.
All my friends play too.
Baseball is fun.
I hit a home run.
It flew far.
Then I said, "Yes, a home run."
I love baseball

Jacob Williams
Anna Jarvis Elementary

Baseball

You play in the hot sun.
It is very fun.
I am the fourth batter

Of them all,
I play ball most of the day.
It is the only sport I play.

Austin Johnson
Anna Jarvis Elementary

Horse fun

Riding my horses is fun.

They like to play in the sun.
They eat grass, hay, carrots and oats.

That's what they love the most!
I wonder if they like the coast?
I guess they like riding the most!

Mariah Collins
Anna Jarvis Elementary

Hey kids!

Send your writing to Kidfo c/o The Dominion Post, 1251 Earl L. Core Road, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Note: Please include first and last name. Submitted items with only first names will not be published.



NAME _____ AGE _____
SCHOOL _____
TEACHER _____
HOME PHONE _____ GRADE _____
PARENT OR TEACHER SIGNATURE _____

Send this with your KIDFO entry to: KIDFO, The Dominion Post, 1251 Earl L. Core Road, Morgantown, W.Va. 26505

