

Pope makes promise
Declares he will meet sex-abuse victims at Vatican.
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Local

BRIEFS

Staff, submitted reports

Ali Baba closed temporarily for renovations

Ali Baba restaurant, located in the Morgantown Municipal Airport, is closed to undergo renovations, according to Morgantown Communications Director Susan Sullivan.

Sullivan said the restaurant, which serves Mediterranean and American cuisine, will likely re-open sometime this summer.

Honi Honi Bar to present charity fundraiser

The Honi Honi Bar will present the seventh annual “Deep Creek’s Got Talent!” charity fundraiser from 5-9 p.m., June 14, in Oakland, Md.

This year’s recipient is Cindy’s Fund, a local charity established in memory of Cindy Kutchman, that raises money for cancer education and screening programs.

Event organizers are looking for singers, musicians, dancers and jugglers to perform. Registration is limited to 15 contestants.

Finalists will be judged on three criteria in the elimination round: Donations collected prior to the event will count for half their score, the judges’ feedback and comments will be worth 30 percent, and audience votes (donations) collected will make up the final 20 percent.

Besides showcasing area talent, the evening will feature prizes and giveaways donated by area businesses for audience members.

Info: deepcreektalent.com or the “Deep Creek’s Got Talent!” Facebook page.

Community Schools offers driving classes

Community Schools is offering a drivers’ education class for high school students this summer at MTEC. Students will receive credit toward graduation. This class will run from 1-3 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 7-Aug. 8. Driving time is arranged with the instructor. Registration is now being held from 1-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, at MTEC.

Info: 304-291-9243.

Lakeview Resort to host best chef cook-off

On Aug. 7, Lakeview Resort will host the second annual Best Chef Cook-off, benefiting The Friends of the Morgantown History Museum and The Col. Zacksquill Morgan Statue Project. This will be the final fundraiser for the statue project.

The night will feature a live auction and entertainment. Your company can help by providing funds in the form of a cash donation or by donating goods and/or services for the live auction.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Each ticket provides a sampling of what the best chefs in our area have to offer. One vote per ticket is allowed toward choosing the best chef of the evening.

Both projects aim to preserve Morgantown history.

Any questions or for donation pick up, contact: Brenda Shinkovich, at 304-278-5573, or mdsn@comcast.net; Amy Westwood, at 304-290-5608, or amybw101387@gmail.com; The Morgantown History Museum, at 304-319-1800, or morgantownmuseum@yahoo.com.

MEETINGS

MORE meetings, **Page 11-A.**

Today
GRANVILLE SEWER BOARD, 6 p.m., Granville Town Hall. Info: 304-599-5080.
GRANVILLE TOWN COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Granville Town Hall. Info: 304-599-5080.
MONONGALIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, 7 p.m., 13 S. High St. (lower level). Info: 304-291-9210.
KINGWOOD CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., 311 Tunnelton St., Kingwood. Info: 304-329-1225.
FAIRMONT CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Public Safety Building, 500 Quincy St., Fairmont. Info: 304-367-0193.

Mon agency gets boost from mobile unit

Homeland Security’s operation capabilities will be improved

BY BEN CONLEY
The Dominion Post

The Monongalia County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency received a major boost to its mobility and operational capabilities with the recent delivery of the county’s new mobile command unit.

The \$255,000 rolling communications center is built on the frame of a 2014 Ford F650 and will be the central hub through which everything from emergency responses to special event coordination is routed.

Director Mike Wolfe said the vehicle should be sporting its new

Monongalia County decals and identifiers in the coming week.

“It’s phenomenal,” Wolfe said, explaining that agency officials are still in the process of testing out the unit’s numerous systems and features.

Of course, with the arrival of the new, comes the departure of the old. On Wednesday, the county’s former, pull-behind command unit received a new home with the Mon County Amateur Radio Club (MCARC).

Before Commission President Bill Bartolo signed the deed over to the club, Commissioner Eldon Callen said he was not previously aware just how crucial the amateur radio operators are to public health and safety.

“We learned last week [the MCARC] are a vital asset to our emergency management system throughout various events, snow

storms and other things,” Callen said.

“They’ve stepped up and helped our homeland security and emergency management system through their voluntary effort to promote communications.”

Wolfe agreed.

“The amateur radio group provides our primary backup during disasters or even day-to-day if we were to lose radio communication here,” Wolfe explained.

“They’re very highly trained. We could very easily deploy their group and ensure that we can maintain communications throughout the county.”

Allen Harris started the MCARC in 2012. He said he is incredibly grateful to receive the trailer and he has big plans for it.

“My goal is to set that trailer up to where if we have to go some-

where and set up, whether it’s overnight or for three weeks, we’re able to do it,” Harris said, explaining that it will probably take about \$5,500 to get the trailer ready, complete with the club’s logo.

Harris said the club has grown to 33 members, many of whom are also members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) through the county health department, and also are trained in first aid and CPR.

The club works with the sheriff’s department on Project Life-saver, which uses electronic tracking equipment to track a radio transmitter bracelet worn by individuals with cognitive disabilities.

MCARC also assists with events that present large-scale logistical challenges, such as downtown parades or Mountaineer football Saturdays.

Road work



Josh Young/The Dominion Post

Traffic will be reduced to one lane today on University Avenue due to construction in front of the new University Place development.

University Ave. to be reduced to 1 lane

The Dominion Post

Construction route ahead.

Starting today, University Avenue in front of the University Place construction site will be reduced to one lane to allow work on the complex. The reduction is expected to last through Aug. 1.

The closure is to allow for exterior and hardscape work, according to WVU.

As a result of the closure, three traffic lights will be installed to help commuters. Two of the lights will be along University Avenue and will help traffic flow from Third Street to Houston Drive. The third will be to control traffic from Overhill Drive.

University Place is a \$70 million construction project that is a partnership between WVU and a private developer. It will feature various housing options and retail choices, in-



Three traffic lights will be installed between Third and Houston streets to help alleviate traffic congestion.

Josh Young/The Dominion Post

cluding a Sheetz grocery store. The facility is set to open in August.

In total there will be 950 beds in the student housing complex.

Health Department warns of rare diseases

Submitted to The Dominion Post

As the summer kicks off, pools are uncovered and grills are lit, the Monongalia County Health Department is reminding residents to take measures to help deter mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes may carry the West Nile Virus and La Crosse Encephalitis (LACV). These diseases are spread by the bite of mosquitoes that feed on infected birds. Anyone who sees a dead bird is asked to contact the Mon

Health Department. Do not touch the bird without gloves. Infected mosquitoes can spread West Nile to humans and other animals.

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 80 to 100 cases of LACV are reported in the United States each year. Last year 10 cases were reported in West Virginia.

The symptoms of both diseases are relatively mild. They range from fever, body aches, and skin rashes to swollen lymph glands.

In more severe cases, neck stiffness, disorientation, tremors and convulsions may occur. Anyone experiencing symptoms should report to the nearest hospital or clinic.

To reduce the number of mosquitoes, minimize the amount of standing water, and repair all doors, windows and screens. Avoid being outside during peak biting hours. Always wear insect repellent and protective clothing.

Preston BOE will provide free meals this summer

The Dominion Post

KINGWOOD — The Preston County Board of Education will provide free meals this summer to children ages 18 and under, pre-K included, beginning in mid-June through Aug. 1.

Charlene Strahin, who is the Nutrition Coordinator for Preston County Schools, has directed the program for the past 11 years.

The Preston County Board of

Education received a federal grant from the Summer Food Service Program. The program is run by the West Virginia Office of Child Nutrition.

The program feeds about 200-300 kids a day. These meals include breakfast, brunch and lunch at seven schools throughout Preston County.

■ Aurora School: 10 a.m. brunch, June 16-July 24.
■ Fellowsville School: 10 a.m.

brunch, June 16-July 24.
■ Rowlesburg School: 10 a.m. brunch, June 16-July 24.
■ Tunnelton/Denver School: 10 a.m. brunch, June 16-July 4.
■ Valley Elementary-10 a.m. brunch, June 16-July 24.
■ Preston High School: 10 a.m. lunch, Aug 4-13.
■ Kingwood Elementary: 10 a.m. brunch, June 16-19; 8 a.m. Breakfast, 11:30 a.m.; lunch, June 23-Aug 1.

UPDATE

Group: Restore trails

DNR will discuss Snake Hill issues

BY BEN CONLEY
The Dominion Post

The Monongalia County Commission put its support behind a group of citizens looking to work with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) to restore recreational trails in the Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

The commission passed a resolution of support during Wednesday’s meeting, asking the DNR to reclaim the trails and work with local residents “to develop and implement a plan for maintenance and improvement of the trails ...”

The resolution comes on the heels of a similar letter of support from the Morgantown City Council.

The trails have been blocked or damaged during an ongoing timber sale that covers 115 acres, or less than four percent, of the 3,092-acre WMA.

Stratford Douglas lives on Snake Hill Road and has served as spokesperson for the effort. He told the commission that representatives from the DNR have agreed to sit down with local residents to discuss the issue, which, he said, represents some progress.

Douglas previously said that DNR Director Frank Jezioro had instructed DNR representatives not to have further meetings with local residents on the topic.

Douglas told the commission he was “cautiously optimistic” about the meeting before addressing a letter to the editor written by Jezioro and published in Wednesday’s edition of *The Dominion Post*.

In the letter, Jezioro explains the need for the timber sale and its current state before ensuring “the associated, reclaimed skid trails will continue to provide recreational opportunities for the various user groups that enjoy Snake Hill WMA.”

“I’m not seeing much change in attitude from previous communications in that letter. One thing that is noticeably absent is any indication that they intend to work with local citizens,” Douglas said.

Douglas explained that there are four specific items that the citizens would like to see addressed:

- The reclamation of two former trail intersections obstructed by brush piles.
- That areas where water collects on the trails be fixed to allow drainage.
- A relocation of the DNR’s rattlesnake enhancement area away from the main access point.
- That, when necessary, trails are mowed and maintained at least “a couple” times a year.

With the exception of handling rattlesnakes, Douglas told the commission that citizen volunteers would be willing to provide the resources and manpower to do the work under the DNR’s supervision.