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INSIDE

SPORTS



Taylor Martino scored her 1,000th career point Thursday night in Notre Dame's win over Tucker County.

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2018 HARRISON DELINQUENT TAX LIST

Today's edition includes the complete delinquent property tax list for Harrison County.

Pages C1-8

ON THE WEB

ONLINE POLL

Do you think Michael Cohen's guilty plea for lying to Congress regarding Trump's alleged Russian business ventures will impact the president?

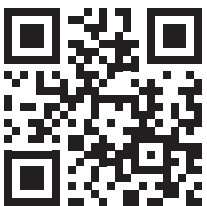
a) No. Trump's Russia business dealings existed before his candidacy for president. 34.1%

b) No. Trump is a master in dealing with innuendo, drama and conflict. He often uses it to his advantage. 13.4%

c) Yes. Now that the Democrats hold the majority in the House, Trump can expect an increase in congressional investigations targeting his administration. 19.5%

d) Yes. The investigation and the midterm election outcomes will make it more difficult for Trump to get his agenda through Congress. 32.9%

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Time to relax and reload

Businessmen Mark Urso and David Alvarez hold annual customer appreciation event

by Charles Young STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — Customers, clients and employees of local companies owned by entrepreneurs Mark Urso and David Alvarez enjoyed a day of target practice Thursday during the annual customer appreciation event held at A Mountain Clays in Bridgeport.

Attendees were invited to take their turn shooting clay pigeons and rabbits from the front porch of the secluded lodge before heading out back to a heated tent where a catered lunch of steak sandwiches, butcher-cut bacon and deep-fried oysters from Audia's Restaurant in Nutter Fort was served.

Alvarez and Urso — who own Energy Transportation, Applied Construction Solutions, Bear Contracting, Bear Utilities, EnviroEnergy Solutions and several other companies — began the yearly event as a way to give back to the members of their extended business family, Alvarez said.

See EVENT, A6



Staff photo by Charles Young

Entrepreneur David Alvarez takes his best shot Thursday afternoon at A Mountain Clays.

Doddridge BOE reverses course on excess levy special election

Saturday's vote delayed until February due to ballot error

by JoAnn Snoderly STAFF WRITER

WEST UNION — A weekend special election on a Doddridge County school levy has been canceled and rescheduled for 2019 following a ballot printing error, according to a county school official.

Voters in Doddridge County were scheduled to vote Saturday on a five-year excess levy renewal, but a miscommunication between the Doddridge County Schools central office and the printing company caused the ballots to be printed without the levy details.

"What ended up happening is they only printed for us the portion that said 'For the levies' or

'Against the levies,' and so the levy call itself with the information as to how much money would be allocated to each area was lacking," Doddridge County Schools Superintendent Adam Cheeseman said. "When I realized that, ... the fair and the prudent thing for us to do was to rescind and to reschedule. Our voters and our taxpayers — it's only fair for them to see exactly where this money is going. We want to be transparent, we want to run this system with integrity, so that's why we



Cheeseman

decided to do what we did." The mistake could have also opened up the possibility of a challenge of the election results, he said.

Early voting had already started when the decision was made to cancel the election, according to Denver Burnside, vice president of the Doddridge County Board of Education.

These votes will not carry over to the rescheduled election.

"They will have to vote again in February," Burnside said of those early voters. "We had a pretty good turnout, if I understand correctly, in the first three, maybe four days of voting that we had."

See BOE, A10

Fairmont State University Board discusses textbook availability

by John Mark Shaver STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — After a lengthy discussion, the Fairmont State University Board of Governors and Student Government Association developed ideas to make textbooks more affordable for students during a Thursday meeting.

Discussion on the topic began thanks to two representatives from the Student Government Association: President Dylon Bradley and Vice President Tyler Keller. The pair spoke about how the price of textbooks has spiraled out of control, reaching a national average of around \$1,200 per semester per student, according to College Board.

"Textbooks are the largest out-of-pocket expense for students in college today," Keller said. "Because it can't be covered by financial aid, it's not included in grants or a lot of academic scholarships, students have to find a way to pay for these on their own and that's becoming increasingly challenging. We're just trying to give

students some more options and resources in affording to stay in college."

In researching this issue, Keller said the association spoke with several department heads and professors and even communicated with students at other schools like Marshall University about different ways for students to save money.

"We want students to find the best solution for the best prices," Keller said. "That might change from department to department or college to college. The needs of the nursing college aren't the needs of the liberal arts college. We want the faculty's input and the Board of Governors' input because it can be different, and we just want what's best for the students."

See TEXTBOOK, A10



Keller

'Meet the Presidents' considers challenges facing universities

by Conor Griffith STAFF WRITER

MORGANTOWN — A gathering of West Virginia University presidents in the Mountainlair Thursday afternoon shed light on the future of higher education and how WVU has distinguished itself from other institutions.

The panel consisted of former WVU presidents Gene A. Budig, 1977-1980; Diane L. Reinhard, 1985-1986; Neil S. Bucklew, 1986-1995; David C. Hardesty Jr., 1995-2007; C. Peter Magrath, 2008-2009; James P. Clements, 2009-2013, along with current President E. Gordon Gee. Michael S. Garrison, 2007-2008, was also invited but did not attend.

The discussion was moderated by political science professor Dr. Robert Dicerico, who fielded questions on topics that in one way or another could be traced back to public perceptions of universities in view of recent polls showing a decline in confidence in them.

"When I was growing up, I was told that education is the key to a better life," said Clements, who is a first-generation college graduate. "That's always the key. Education is transformational. It changed my life. It changed the lives of my kids and many of my family."

Magrath said that despite poll findings or where public opinion stands, there is still a steady flow of young people seeking to attend WVU and other institutions.

However, Bucklew noted that the cost of education has risen much faster than inflation and is now much more expensive than when any of the panelists were themselves being educated, which raises concerns among families before they send their kids to school.

See WVU, A6



Clements

Bush laid to rest in Texas

Nation's 41st president gets folksy, final salute

by Stephanie Kuzdym, Ken Hoffman and Kevin Sullivan THE WASHINGTON POST

HOUSTON — George Herbert Walker Bush was laid to rest Thursday beneath the rich soil of Texas, where he arrived 70 years ago as a young New Englander looking to make a new life and ended up rising to the pinnacle of American political power.

After a formal funeral in Washington on Wednesday and a folksier one in Houston on Thursday, the 41st president's body was taken by train to his presidential library in College Station, where he was buried on a cool and rainy afternoon.

Texans turned out all along the 70-mile route as the train rolled through the towns of Spring, Pinehurst, Magnolia and Navasota, paying tribute to Bush, whose flag-



AP photo

The casket of former President George H.W. Bush passes through Magnolia, Texas.

draped casket was borne in a glass-sided train car pulled by Union Pacific locomotive 4141, painted in the baby-blue and white of Air Force One.

For nearly three hours, crowds waved U.S. and Texas flags, placed their hands on their hearts, saluted and took photographs and video, while firetrucks hoisted large flags on bridges over the tracks.

See BUSH, A10

Holiday Jazz Stroll to entertain music lovers

by Steven Baublitz STAFF WRITER

CLARKSBURG — The 2018 Holiday Jazz Stroll kicks off Friday night in Clarksburg, and West Virginia Jazz Society President Eric Spelsberg said this week has been full of preparations.

"Each event is an opportunity to make a good first impression because we see a lot of new faces and bring in new artists," he said. "We get a new chance every time we have a Stroll to make a first impression because it's a new experience every time."

Spelsberg said sound equip-

ment will be set up at each venue Friday, and decorating that began on Thursday will continue into Friday to ensure everything is ready for the evening.

A piano provided by the Cultural Foundation of Harrison County was moved into the Main Street Café Wednesday in preparation for the Friday performances.

"There's a lot to this," Spelsberg said. "What we want to do most is add new things to what people think of as 'local culture.' Get rid of artificial boundaries, embrace the unfamiliar."

See JAZZ, A10

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