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INSIDE

NATION



Liberal Democrats are challenging the president to back legislation to lower drug prices.

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SPORTS



Neal Brown held his first press conference as WVU's head football coach on Thursday.

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ON THE WEB

ONLINE POLL

Which proposal do you most prefer West Virginia lawmakers pass this legislative session?

- a) A 5 percent pay raise for teachers and public employees. **23.7%**
- b) Free tuition to state community and technical colleges. **15.5%**
- c) Repeal of the state's business and inventory tax. **7.2%**
- d) Repeal of the state income tax on Social Security benefits. **53.6%**

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Justice discusses his vision for drug crisis initiative

\$45 million program would include free treatment, expanded adult workforce training

by Jake Jarvis STAFF WRITER

CHARLESTON — Gov. Jim Justice is asking lawmakers to trust him and give him a chance to put in place an expansive, ambitious program to solve the state's drug crisis. At a Thursday afternoon press conference, the governor shed more light on his

"Jim's Dream" initiative, which he unveiled in Wednesday night's State of the State Address. "At the end of the day, I've not had a time at bat," Justice said. "I've not really had the ball. You know, I've asked the Legislature for that. ... At the end of the day, as much cheer-leading as the governor can do, I think somebody has got

to really take ownership that has the tenacity and the vision that I may very well have." Justice's assessment of the state's addiction crisis is bleak: "We're either treading water or we're losing." Republican and Democratic lawmakers have questions about how the drug crisis initiative would operate, and Justice himself admitted he

didn't have time to fully explain it Wednesday. But the governor cleared up questions on how he'd like to fund the program, which would cost \$45 million.



Justice

He wants less than half of that, or \$20 million, to come from the current state budget surplus. The \$20 million would allow the state Department of Education to buy new equipment to expand adult workforce training program it currently offers. See JUSTICE, A7



Staff photo by Steven Baublitz

United Way of Harrison County Executive Director Tina Yoke updates the United Way thermometer in downtown Clarksburg to reflect the campaign's progress.

United Way campaign at 56 percent of goal

Yoke: 'Every donation makes a difference'

by Steven Baublitz STAFF WRITER

CLARKSBURG — With under two months remaining in the United Way of Harrison County's 2018 campaign, the organization has raised \$517,230.

"We are at 56 percent," Executive Director Tina Yoke said.

The goal is \$935,000, and officials hope to reach it with continued donations and fundraising efforts before the campaign's conclusion Feb. 28.

"We are excited to be at 56

percent, but have a long way to go," Campaign Chairman Brock Malcolm said. "Not reaching 100 percent is not an option. It's too important to people to reach (the goal)." Yoke said donations and pledges are coming in at a steady rate, and several agency campaigns have not wrapped up yet, so she is confident the fundraising total will continue to increase.

Though she remains confident, Yoke urged those in the community who can make a donation to do so, as they will be supporting a worthy cause. "I'm hopeful our commu-

nity will realize the magnitude of our need and how vital United Way funding is to the well-being of our community," she said. "I would encourage everyone reading to consider donating, and no dollar amount is too small. Every donation makes a difference in our community."

To keep the campaign's momentum moving forward, several fundraising efforts are upcoming, Yoke said.

There will be several Dine Out with United Way events at local restaurants.

See UNITED, A10

Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council builds 'courage, confidence, character'

Editor's Note: This is one in a series of stories featuring United Way of Harrison County agencies.

by Jonathan Weaver STAFF WRITER

CLARKSBURG — Girls of all ages who participate with Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council learn "courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place," says Member Experience Manager Shannan Davis.

Davis represents Region II of Black Diamond Council, which includes troops in Wetzel, Monongalia, Marion, Harrison, Taylor, Barbour,

Tucker and Preston counties in West Virginia and Garrett County in Maryland. Black Diamond Council has seven regions altogether.

There are at least eight Girl Scout troops in Harrison County and about 85 throughout Region II.

"We hope to have at least eight girls in each troop,"

Davis said. "There are some troops in Harrison County that have 20-some girls and some that have five at specific age levels and grades they are in."

"We probably serve 800-900 girls, maybe more. It's really good to see that girls are still interested, still thriving and still motivated to be in their communities selling cookies and making a difference."

See SCOUTS, A10



Davis

President takes trip to border

Trump visits Texas to again make case for wall funding

by Philip Rucker and Felicia Sonmez THE WASHINGTON POST

MCALLEN, Texas — Driving home his claim that illegal crossings have created a national humanitarian and security crisis, President Donald Trump took his case for a border wall to this city in the Rio Grande Valley on Thursday, one of the busiest regions of the southern border and the epicenter of his administration's controversial family separations.

The visit came one day after Trump abruptly walked out of budget negotiations with Democrats in Washington to end the government shutdown, now nearing the end of its third week and with no end in sight.

At a U.S. Border Patrol station, where he attended a roundtable on immigration and border security, Trump continued to urge Congress to provide funding for the construction of a border wall, which he maintained would eventually be paid for by Mexico "many, many times over" through a new trade deal that has yet to be ratified by Congress.



AP photo

President Donald Trump speaks at a roundtable on immigration and border security in McAllen, Texas, Thursday.

"I didn't mean, 'Please write me a check,'" Trump said of his oft-made claim that Mexico would pay for the wall.

During the 2016 campaign, Trump's campaign sent *The Washington Post* a memo detailing its plan for Mexico to make "a one-time payment of \$5-10 billion" to pay for the border wall.

Even if approved by Congress, the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal would not necessarily contribute more money to federal coffers, as countries do not "lose" money on trade deficits.

See TRUMP, A7

Security issues among Energy Summit topics

by Conor Griffith STAFF WRITER

CHARLESTON — Among the information shared at the West Virginia Energy Infrastructure Summit in Charleston Thursday was how companies can protect themselves and the environment.

Joshua Spence, the state's chief technology officer and cyber operations officer with the West Virginia Air National Guard, was one of the presenters. He said one of the challenges with non-tech industries venturing into cybersecurity is demystifying it.

"Unfortunately, we've opened the Pandora's box and there's no going back, so we

need to make sure we understand that threat," Spence said referring to the vulnerability that comes with today's interconnected technology.

An easy way to approach cybersecurity, he said, is to think of it as fireproofing a building: Making a building fireproof is impossible, but there are preventive measures to take and appropriate ways to respond when a fire does occur.

See SUMMIT, A10



Spence



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