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High-speed chase ends in arrest

Pa. man faces grand larceny charge for theft

The Dominion Post

Area law enforcement pursued a Pennsylvania man driving in a stolen vehicle Saturday afternoon before he crashed into a Baldwin Street utility pole and was taken into custody a half-hour after the chase began.

Randy Pyle, of Claysville, Pa., faces charges of grand larceny and two counts of felony destruction of prop-

erty, according to a Morgantown Police Department press release. The charges had not been filed by the time of this report.

According to the press release: ■ At 12:09 p.m., officers received a call about a stolen 1997 Green Honda CRV taken from Spruce Street. The victim said Pyle got in her vehicle. While the victim and a witness yelled at him to get out of the car, he drove off. After the incident, witness said Pyle took the vehicle after a woman idled it near the Morgantown Library to drop off some items inside for donation.

■ Pyle then drove the vehicle toward Mileground Road before a

Morgantown Police officer spotted him on the W.Va. 705 bypass heading back into Morgantown. The officer activated his emergency equipment, but Pyle did not stop.

■ Pyle then drove onto Van Voorhis Road before reaching a dead end. He turned around and saw police cruisers at the bottom of the road near the North Ridge Apartment complex. Pyle entered the complex and reached another dead end. Pyle turned his vehicle around and rammed a police cruiser to escape. A Morgantown Police officer had to run out of the way of Pyle's vehicle to avoid

SEE CHASE, 6-A



A crew from Monongalia EMS and a Morgantown Police officer lower Randy Pyle down onto a waiting cot following a high-speed chase. Police say Pyle stole a car on Spruce Street, in front of the Morgantown Public Library. Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post

WVU flu — 460 and counting

Officials: No reason for panic, numbers compare to other schools

BY CASSIE SHANER The Dominion Post

More than 460 WVU students have had symptoms of influenzalike illness presumed to be swine flu, but university officials said there's no reason to panic.

Jan Palmer, director of WVU Student Health, said the number of people who have had swine flu is a concern, but only because a lot of people are missing class and work. He said WVU is doing a good job dealing with it, and the university's swine flu numbers are comparable to other schools.

"There are a few places that have high numbers, but I think we're in the typical range," Palmer said. "We're not high. We're not low. ... Everybody is overwhelmed with it, not because it's a serious illness, but because so many people are ill."

The American College Health Association has been keeping track of the number of cases of influenzalike illness reported at more than 165 colleges and universities nationwide since late August. A total of 33,983 cases of influenzalike illness had been reported through Oct. 2.

Pennsylvania topped the list with 3,034 cases. North Carolina followed with 2,742 cases, and Florida wasn't far behind with 2,656 cases. A total of 21 cases had been reported in West Virginia, but the count only includes schools that voluntarily report the number of cases on campus.

University of Kentucky spokeswoman Amanda Nelson said 413 students have been to UK's University Health Service with influenzalike illness presumed to be swine flu

since Aug. 31. Mark Owczarski, a spokesman for Virginia Tech University, said 538 cases of influenzalike illness had been reported on campus through Oct. 2. Most were suspected to be H1N1.

But some schools aren't keeping track. Only about 10,000 of Texas A&M University's nearly 49,000 students live on campus, and Sherylon Carroll, a spokeswoman for Texas A&M University, said it would be hard to measure the impact of swine flu there.

"What our student health officials are telling us is that we are seeing increasing cases of students coming in with flulike symptoms," Carroll said. "We anticipate it probably is H1N1, but we don't really have any actual data that tells us X number of students are coming in with H1N1."

WVU created an online survey for students to report their symptoms. WVU spokesman John Bolt said about 405 cases of influenzalike illness had been reported online and 55 cases had been diagnosed at Student Health through Oct. 2.

Palmer said the number of presumed swine flu cases at WVU is still going up, but it is leveling off a bit.

"We get a large number of new cases every week, but not an increasing number," Palmer said.

Students said they aren't doing much to prevent the spread of the disease. Freshman

SEE FLU, 4-A



**URGENT WARNING SIGNS**  
If you become ill and experience any of the following warning signs, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends seeking emergency medical care.

**In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:**

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flulike symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

**In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:**

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flulike symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

**UPDATE FROM CDC**  
According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, influenza activity continued to increase in the U.S. from Sept. 27-Oct. 3. Flu illnesses are now widespread in 37 states. West Virginia is not listed by the CDC as one of those states.

Nationwide, visits to doctors for influenzalike illness increased during last week and are higher than expected for this time of year, according to the CDC. In addition, flu-related hospitalizations and deaths are increasing, and also are higher than expected.

**CDC answers questions about H1N1**, dispels myths and provides warnings signs that should prompt patients to seek medical care. **Page 4-A.**

**FOR INFORMATION about swine flu, go to dominionpost.com and click on the link.**

City deals with more homeless

Bartlett House sees increase in families

BY TRACY EDDY The Dominion Post

The increase in Morgantown's homeless families is a concern for shelter and city officials.

"We've never seen it this bad in Morgantown," said Keri DeMasi, Bartlett House executive director. She said there were 12 children at the shelter last week.

In previous years, the Bartlett House sheltered one or two families, but mostly dealt with individuals, she said. In the last couple of years more families and more elderly individuals have been coming into the shelter, DeMasi said.

Homelessness, in general, is on the rise, and Morgantown is working with charitable organizations to create a long-term plan to address it.

David Bott, the city's community development director, said this year about 180 homeless people are in Morgantown.

About 120 homeless people were counted in the previous four or five years.

SEE HOMELESS, 6-A

Fake curses lead to arrest of woman

Associated Press

LAKE GROVE, N.Y. — A woman claiming to be a psychic was arrested Friday for trying to scam a Long Island woman out of more than \$1,000 by telling her she was cursed and selling her a stone and a clear plastic bag filled with a red liquid to lift the curse, police said.

Tiffany Evans, 22, was arrested by undercover officers at Smith Haven Mall in Lake Grove after pretending to read a Smithtown woman's fortune, and trying to settle a debt of \$650 for removing a supposed curse, police said. Evans also tried to sell the woman candles for \$550, which she claimed would get rid of negative energy, police said.

She was charged with fraudulent accounting, fortune telling and attempted grand larceny, all misdemeanors.

Evans, who police said lives in Aventura, Fla., but was visiting her parents in Hauppauge, N.Y., was expected to make her first court appearance Saturday in First District Court in Central Islip.

Smoking bans slow to filter in for some areas

Associated Press

CHARLESTON — From West Virginia to the West Coast, smokers are trying to fend off further restrictions on their habit, and local officials are starting to listen.

In some cases, smoking bans have even been rescinded or postponed, a much less common occurrence than officials declining to impose restrictions.

Opponents of smoking restric-

tions say these rollbacks are largely driven by economic woe, with local governments wary of imposing new costs or business burdens on restaurants and bars that may already be struggling.

"The economy is in a slump, and these bans almost always hurt the shot-and-beer-type bars and some restaurants," said Gary Nolan, U.S. regional director of the Citizens Freedom Alliance, which opposes

laws that restrict smoking.

"If times are trying now in the hospitality industry, you're compounding that by telling bar owners they can't cater to their own crowd," he said.

The concerns of bars and fraternal organizations were at the forefront of a dispute over a proposal in Berkeley County to ban smoking in those establishments. After several demonstrations and

a petition with more than 6,000 signatures opposing the ban was delivered to officials, the county health board voted late last month not to impose the restrictions.

Butch Pennington, who owns three clubs, was one of the leaders in the opposition to the proposal. He cited the economy as a factor, but also the national political climate.

"The timing as far as civil lib-

SEE SMOKING, 6A

**FLU**

FROM PAGE 1-A

Jordan Bodkin, 18, of Morgantown, said she's not doing anything differently, and no one else she knows is, either.

Derek Satterfield, a 21-year-old senior from Clarksburg, said he's started using the hand sanitizers placed around campus, particularly after handling classroom equipment other people have touched.

"I haven't really changed my routine. I do wash my hands more," Satterfield said.

Freshman Tillie Lee, 18, of Mineral County, said she and her roommate at Lincoln Hall have started taking vitamins, but she isn't really taking any other precautions, other than washing her hands and using the sanitizers on campus.

Lee said masks are being handed out at her dormitory, but she's not aware of any cases of swine flu reported there.

"I know there are a couple at Towers," Lee said. Towers is a dormitory complex on the Evansdale campus.

WVU is following U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and recommending that sick

students isolate themselves until 24 hours after their fevers break. Palmer said students who can go home should do so, but he's not sure how the illness has affected the number of students on campus.

"We do know that it has affected the number of students in classes," Palmer said. "I don't know if they're going home or staying here, but I know they've missed classes."

Palmer said the CDC has said closing school and canceling classes and events is a possibility if swine flu numbers continue to rise, but it's not recommended at this point. The number of cases is expected to drop as the swine flu vaccine becomes available.

Small quantities of the vaccine were available to health care workers this week. Palmer said it will likely be offered to infants under six months and their caretakers next.

"It will be a while before there's any available to college students," Palmer said. "We really don't know how it's going to be released yet."

Palmer said the vaccine will likely be released in small quantities, and there won't be enough for everyone when it arrives on campus.

**FACT OR FICTION?**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control continues to study the 2009 H1N1 flu virus to determine its characteristics.

There are exposures CDC scientists believe no not spread the virus.

**Can I get infected with 2009 H1N1 virus from eating or preparing pork?**  
No. The 2009 H1N1 viruses are not spread by food.

**Is there a risk from drinking water?**

Tap water that has been treated by conventional disinfection processes does not likely pose a risk for transmission of influenza viruses. No research has been completed on the susceptibility of 2009 H1N1 flu virus to conventional drinking water treatment processes. However, recent studies have demonstrated that free chlorine levels typically used in drinking water treatment are adequate to inactivate highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza. It is likely that other influenza viruses such as 2009 H1N1 would also be similarly inactivated by chlorination. To date, there

have been no documented human cases of influenza caused by exposure to influenza-contaminated drinking water.

**Can 2009 H1N1 flu virus be spread through water in swimming pools, spas, water parks, interactive fountains and other treated recreational water venues?**

Influenza viruses infect the human upper respiratory tract. There has never been a documented case of influenza virus infection associated with water exposure. Recreational water that has been treated at CDC recommended disinfectant levels does not likely pose a risk for transmission of influenza viruses.

**Can 2009 H1N1 influenza virus be spread at recreational water venues outside of the water?**

Yes, recreational water venues are no different than any other group setting. The spread of this 2009 H1N1 flu is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads.

**H1N1 Q&A**

**What is 2009 H1N1?**

2009 H1N1 (referred to as "swine flu" early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April and is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. On June 11, the World Health Organization (WHO) signaled that a pandemic of 2009 H1N1 flu was under way.

**Why is 2009 H1N1 virus sometimes called "swine flu"?**

Initial laboratory testing showed that many of the genes in this new virus were similar to influenza viruses that normally occur in pigs in North America. Further study has shown that this new virus is different from what normally circulates in North American pigs. It has two genes from flu viruses that circulate in pigs in Europe and Asia and bird (avian) genes and human genes.

**How does 2009 H1N1 virus spread?**

Spread of 2009 H1N1 virus is thought to occur in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something — such as a surface or object — with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

**What are the signs and symptoms of this virus in people?**

The symptoms of 2009 H1N1 flu virus in people include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, including 2009 H1N1, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

**How severe is illness associated with 2009 H1N1 flu virus?**

Illness with the new H1N1 virus has ranged from mild to severe. While most people who have been sick have recovered without needing medical treatment, hospitalizations and deaths from infection with this

virus have occurred.

In seasonal flu, certain people are at "high risk" of serious complications. This includes people 65 years and older, children younger than 5 years old, pregnant women, and people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions.

One thing that appears to be different from seasonal influenza is that adults older than 64 years do not yet appear to be at increased risk of 2009 H1N1-related complications. CDC laboratory studies have shown that no children and very few adults younger than 60 years old have existing antibody to 2009 H1N1 flu virus; however, about one-third of adults older than 60 may have antibodies against this virus.

**How long can an infected person spread this virus to others?**

People infected with seasonal and 2009 H1N1 flu virus and may be able to infect others from one day before getting sick to five to seven days after. This can be longer in some people, especially children and people with weakened immune systems and in people infected with the new H1N1 virus.

**What can I do to protect myself from getting sick?**

A vaccine is ready for the public, but there are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flulike illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.

**If I have a family member at home who is sick with 2009 H1N1 flu, should I go to work?**

Employees who are well but who have an ill family member at

home with 2009 H1N1 flu can go to work as usual.

**What is the best technique for washing my hands to avoid getting the flu?**

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. CDC recommends that when you wash your hands — with soap and warm water — that you wash for 15 to 20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used.

**What should I do if I get sick?**

If you live in areas where people have been identified with 2009 H1N1 flu and become ill with influenzalike symptoms, you should stay home and avoid contact with other people.

CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.

If you have severe illness or you are at high risk for flu complications, contact your health care provider or seek medical care. Your health care provider will determine whether flu testing or treatment is needed.

**Are there medicines to treat 2009 H1N1 infection?**

CDC recommends the use of oseltamivir or zanamivir for the treatment and/or prevention of infection with 2009 H1N1 flu virus. Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines that fight against the flu by keeping flu viruses from reproducing in your body. If you get sick, antiviral drugs can make your illness milder and make you feel better faster. They may also prevent serious flu complications. During the current pandemic, the priority use for influenza antiviral drugs is to treat severe influenza illness and people who are sick who have a condition that places them at high risk for serious flu-related complications.

**What is CDC's recommendation regarding "swine flu parties"?**

"Swine flu parties" are gatherings during which people have close contact with a person who has 2009 H1N1 flu in order to become infected with the virus.

The intent of these parties is for a person to become infected with what for many people has been a mild disease, in the hope of having natural immunity 2009 H1N1 flu virus that might circulate later and cause more severe disease.

CDC does not recommend "swine flu parties" as a way to protect against 2009 H1N1 flu. While the disease seen in the current 2009 H1N1 flu outbreak has been mild for many people, it has been severe and even fatal for others.

CDC recommends that people with 2009 H1N1 flu avoid contact with others as much as possible.

**How long can influenza virus remain viable on objects?**

Studies have shown that influenza virus can survive on environmental surfaces and can infect a person for two to eight hours after being deposited on the surface.

**What kills influenza virus?**

Influenza virus is destroyed by heat — at least 167 degrees F. In addition, several chemical germicides, including chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, detergents, soap, iodine-based antiseptics, and alcohols are effective against human influenza viruses if used in proper concentration for a sufficient length of time.

**How should linens, eating utensils and dishes of people infected with influenza virus be handled?**

Linens, eating utensils, and dishes belonging to those who are sick do not need to be cleaned separately, but importantly these items should not be shared without washing thoroughly first.

Linens (such as bed sheets and towels) should be washed by using household laundry soap and tumbled dry on a hot setting. Individuals should wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub immediately after handling dirty laundry.

Eating utensils should be washed either in a dishwasher or by hand with water and soap.

**NOTE:** This information is from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Much of it is based on studies and past experience with seasonal influenza, but the CDC believes the information applies to 2009 H1N1 viruses as well.



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