

To our readers

Employees of The Dominion Post made every effort to ensure that you received your newspaper Saturday and today. We apologize if your newspaper was delayed or undelivered due to road or weather conditions. The WVU-Pitt wrestling match has been rescheduled. See today's sports section, starting on Page 1-C, for details.

THE DOMINION

Post

Sports

WVU defeats St. John's

Men's basketball team wins, 79-60. Page 1-C

Women scorch Friars, 75-59

Repella 4-for-4 on 3s, nets 25. Page 1-C



Morgantown, West Virginia

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SUNDAY

Feb. 7, 2010

TODAY'S WEATHER: High 25, Low 18. Cold, times of clouds, sun.

TO FIND OUT about school closings or delays, go to dominionpost.com.

Obama isn't quitting on health reform

Says Dems 'can't solve all of our problems alone.' Page 9-B

Obituaries

KOLOSOFF, James; MAY, Darius A.; MILLER, James M.

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Markets

DOW -55.10; NASDAQ -6.23; S&P 500 -7.68

Page 3D-4D

Feature pages

Breaking barriers. Page 8-G; Singles Awareness Day. Page 9-H

Officials dismiss Iranian proposal

Says commitment must be made on nuclear program. Page 9-B

Mudslides wreak havoc near L.A.

At least 41 homes seriously damaged; 500 people evacuated. Page 7-A

COMING TOMORROW

Emissions resume

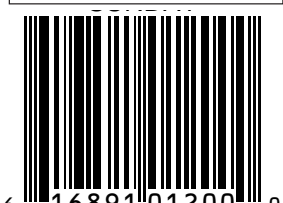
CONSOL dumps waste in Dunkard Creek.

Inside

Table listing sections and page numbers: AUTOMOTIVE 1H-10H, BLACK HISTORY MONTH 8G, BUSINESS 6D-7D, etc.

For home delivery: 304-292-6301

For news: 304-291-9425



Long road to recovery for WVU's Mazzulla

2008 injury unveils shoulder condition

BY DREW RUBENSTEIN, The Dominion Post

The past 14 months have been a test for WVU redshirt-junior point guard Joe Mazzulla. During the Mountaineers' 80-78 win at Mississippi on Dec. 3, 2008, Mazzulla took a hit to his left shoulder and fell to the floor.

JOE MAZZULLA: The injury. Page 1-C

Every time he tried to raise his arm, pain would shoot down his shoulder. It was obvious something bad had happened. X-rays and MRIs revealed that Mazzulla suffers from os acromiale. The condition means the growth plate in each shoulder has a gap and the pieces never fused into one bone.

Instead, Mazzulla has two bones connected by a 'fibrous material.' For all his life up until that night, that material had been strong enough to keep the bones together. But that night against Ole Miss, the cartilage-type material was jarred loose. The end piece of that bone was then allowed to move. Last winter, Mazzulla, a left-handed guard, had surgery to insert two screws and a paste to connect the two bones. He's since been rehabbing

from the rare condition. While he no longer suffers from pain with the actual bone, Mazzulla has continued to rehab because of a number of tissue-related side effects. Still, his shoulder continues to improve each day. Right now, Mazzulla is at the best place he's been since before the injury. 'Now I wake up and I have something to look forward to every day — just coming to practice and being able to play and playing in games,' Mazzulla said.

White winter wallop

More than a foot of snow blankets Morgantown area

CREWS clean up. Page 6-A. W.VA. POWER outages climb. PAGE 4A-5A. PHOTO ESSAY: Winter wallop. Page 8-D.

BY ALEX LANG, The Dominion Post

More than a foot of snow blanketed the Morgantown area overnight Friday to Saturday, burying cars, bringing down trees, closing roadways and leaving thousands without electricity. Division of Highways (DOH) administrator for Monongalia County Kathy Westbrook said they hope to get to most of their roads by Tuesday. The area saw roughly 13 inches of snow by 9 a.m., said Lee Hendricks, a National Weather Service meteorologist. Terra Alta had about 22 inches of snow, Fairmont saw 10 inches and Weirton had 19 inches. While Morgantown had less snow than some areas, Hendricks did not play down the accumulation. 'It's still a significant snowfall,' he said. The snow's weight brought down trees on a number of streets including Hartman Run Road. Cars were buried along Callen Avenue in Morgantown forcing hour-long efforts to dig them out. Allegheny Energy is unsure when power will be restored to the 8,800 or so customers without electricity in Monongalia County. In Marion County, 10,038 were without power, while Preston County saw 194 without power. Spokesman David Neurohr said problems are spread throughout Monongalia County, which makes it difficult to predict when power will be restored. 'We don't have an estimate,' he said. Dozens of crews are working to restore power, he said. But, some people braved the storm and its effects and left the



Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post photos

Meghan Keith hits a jump as her dog, Graham, chases her while she skis on Saturday morning.



WVU students (left) push an Audi that got stuck in the snow in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon driveway.

comfort of their homes Saturday. At Kroger on Earl L. Core Road, a constant stream of people came in the store. 'Just needed some stuff from the store and gas,' Will Michels said.

Michels said he came from Kingwood Pike, and it was difficult getting around, but the roadways weren't any worse than during other major storms.

SEE WINTER, 6-A

Drifts force Preston roadways to close



Michelle Wolford/The Dominion Post

Kingwood's main street, W.Va. 7, didn't have much traffic Saturday, as blowing snow and a state of emergency kept most indoors.

BY MICHELLE WOLFORD, The Dominion Post

Emergency personnel were out all night Friday, assisting stranded motorists in Preston County, as drifting snow closed most secondary roads and one primary road for a time. Many motorists were stuck on Evans curve on W.Va. 7, near Terra Alta, as larger vehicles, unable to climb the mountain, stopped. Terra Alta Volunteer Fire Department and Terra Alta Police Chief Justin Childers assisted with traffic control as they waited for Division of Highways (DOH) trucks to plow and cinder the roadway. W.Va. 7 was closed for a time between Kingwood and Reedsville on Friday afternoon and evening as vehicles slid

SEE DRIFTS, 6-A

Council cuts out remarks

Westover accepts only written public opinions

THE WESTOVER City Council will meet Feb. 16 due to President's Day. EDITORIAL: Speaking up for Westover. Page 1-D.

BY JOEL CUTHBERT, For The Dominion Post

WESTOVER — City Council will no longer allow public comment at its meetings — a decision the mayor said will avoid confrontation. But a WVU law professor and the editor of The Dominion Post said such exchanges are the foundation of a democratic process. Mayor Dave Johnson said the citizen comment portion of a recent Council meeting was stricken from the agenda. Instead, citizen comment sheets were made available to serve the same purpose while avoiding potential disruptions of council business. 'We've had problems at some of our council meetings,' Johnson said afterward. 'We've had some verbal attacks on members of council, and actually, near-physical attacks. This is not the time or place for that; we come here to conduct business, not shouting matches.' According to Johnson and city attorney Bryan Edwards, the citizen comment period is not a right but a privilege granted by city council. 'Under West Virginia code, they have to be open meetings, but unless you're on the agenda or there's a space on the agenda for it, there's nothing in there that requires any type of citizen comment,' Edwards said. Theresa M. Kirk, executive direc-

SEE REMARKS, 6-A

Cow tips man, victim not hurt

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — People probably can't tip cows, but a cow tipped a person in Knoxville. Then it stepped on him. An ambulance was called to the University of Tennessee agriculture campus Friday morning. Fire Department Capt. D.J. Corcoran told The Knoxville News Sentinel first responders found a 40- to 50-year-old man who said he was working with cattle in a pen when one knocked him down and stepped on his chest. Corcoran said the man was alert and joking about being stepped on by a cow as he was put in an ambulance. He was taken to UT Medical Center to be examined as a precaution. Cow tipping, or pushing over a dozing bovine, is largely discounted as a myth, much like snipe hunting.

WINTER

FROM PAGE 1-A

JD Hess also went to the store to grab some supplies, but he didn't have too much difficulty getting around because he has 37-inch tires on his vehicle.

Hess said he volunteered to travel to the store to pick-up items for his neighbor. It only took him 20 minutes to get to the store from his home off Summers School Road.

Driving up Interstate 79 from Fairmont to Long John Silver's in Sabraton took Don Gorbey about 90 minutes, he said. He arrived at 7:30 a.m. to work at the eatery. "It was bad," Gorbey said.

By noon, Gorbey said he had two cars come through the drive-thru and two people walk in. With the storm, Gorbey said he was going to call the area supervisor to see if they could close early.

While some braved the elements, MECCA 911 officials urged people to stay off the roads unless necessary. They are giving the same suggestion today.

Many problems they saw Saturday were due to downed trees and power lines, MECCA Deputy Director Mike Wolfe said. Crews had problems plowing roads because of objects in the way.

DRIFTS

FROM PAGE 1-A

partly off the road or were unable to climb steep grades. And numerous travelers reported to Preston 911 that they were stuck in drifts — some for hours — awaiting snowplows Friday evening.

Some Priority Two and Priority Three roads were impassible, even for DOH equipment, for much of the evening and into the morning hours. At one point, all roads — major and minor — were closed as blowing snow created drifts of four feet and higher. One motorist was stranded on Brandonville Pike near the Sunshine Daydream Campground for much of the night. Fire department vehicles were unable to reach him. Eventually, Childers found residents who had snowmobiles to go for him and his passenger. Even the snowmobiles were stuck for a time, Childers said.

Three vehicles and a DOH truck were stranded on Aurora Pike when the road was blown shut. The DOH truck attempted to free the vehicles from the snow when it, too, got stuck in a drift.

Justin Wolfe, public information officer for the Preston Office of Emergency Management, said all major roads opened by Saturday

afternoon "to the best of our knowledge. How long they'll stay open, we don't really know." Snow continued to fall throughout the afternoon Saturday. Accumulation of 24 inches was reported in Aurora and Bruceon Mills. Childers said Terra Alta had "at least two feet of snow — at least. It's hard to measure because it's drifting so much, and it's still coming down."

The River Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross opened a shelter at the Craig Civic Center in Kingwood.

Capt. Robert Kincaid, post operations officer at Camp Dawson, said those in need of shelter should call 911. "Shelter will be open if needed," he said. A landing zone was available if needed for emergency medical flights, he said.

"We try to do this whenever there's an emergency of any sort," he said. "That's what we're here for."

Wolfe asked that "citizens do not call 911 to have driveways and roadways plowed, as the Department of Highways is working to the best of its abilities."

"All nonemergency highway traffic is requested to stay off the roadways," he said in a press release. "Even though some priority roadways have been plowed, they may still be narrowed, one lane, or impassible in places."

Crews begin winter storm cleanup

BY ALEX LANG

The Dominion Post

The weekend snowstorm's effects are still likely to be felt today as some residents wait for power to return and roadways to be cleared.

Today's forecast calls for mostly cloudy skies and temperatures in the mid 20s, said Lee Hendricks, a National Weather Service meteorologist. This week, there is little chance temperatures get high enough to melt any snow.

Allegheny Energy called in additional crews and contractors to restore power Saturday, spokesman David Neurohr said. But, it hasn't been easy, because there are many problems, and the crews deal with the elements as well.

"They're dealing with the same type of challenges as everyone," he said.

The company didn't have an estimate on when electricity would be restored to customers, Neurohr said.

Crews are working around the clock to restore power,

THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

opened a shelter at Mason-Dixon Elementary School to help those affected by the snow. The River Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross set up shelters at Mon General Hospital, Cheat Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Craig Civic Center in Kingwood.

Neurohr said. More than 50,000 people in West Virginia were without power Saturday afternoon.

The company reminds people to not touch or move a downed power line, Neurohr said. For downed lines, contact the fire department.

Morgantown Director of Public Work Terry Hough said crews plowed roads since Friday night. It is difficult because the snow kept falling, Hough said.

Once the main roads are plowed, Hough said, crews will move on to the secondary roads. She estimated that they would start on the secondary roads Saturday evening.

MECCA 911 Deputy Director Mike Wolfe said emergency personnel are trying

to clear roadways of downed power lines and fallen trees.

As of 6 p.m. Saturday, there have been 63 down wires, Wolfe said. There were also 78 down trees. MECCA had 53 reports of vehicle accidents, 22 more requiring medical assistance and 46 reports of assisting a motorist.

Division of Highways (DOH) Administrator for Monongalia County Kathy Westbrook said 16 people worked Saturday to clear roads. It was difficult because of the number of trees that fell onto roadways. Another 10 employees worked on the night shift.

They got help from crews in neighboring counties that didn't get as much snow.

"I would think by Tuesday we should get to most of

the roads," Westbrook said.

Several roads were closed due to problems with the snow. University Town Centre Drive, Tyrone Road, Cheat Road, W.Va. 7 east of Pioneer Rocks, Fairchance Road and Scotts Run Road were all closed for part of Saturday.

Several roads reopened hours after they closed, Wolfe said. He said they should have all roads open again late Saturday evening. He is also hopeful that they won't have to close any roads today.

Several events scheduled today are canceled, including StoneBridge Baptist Church at the Warner Theatre, the Miners Memorial Park meeting and Mountain Stage.

There have been no decisions about closing Monongalia County Schools on Monday, Superintendent Frank Devono said. They will likely make a decision today.

REMARKS

FROM PAGE 1-A

tor of the West Virginia Ethics Commission, concurred saying that public comment periods are not required under the state's Open Meetings Act.

That law says that governing bodies, "may make reasonable rules for attendance and presentation at any meeting," and can remove people who disrupt a meeting, "to the extent that orderly conduct of the meeting is compromised."

"Provided, that persons who desire to address the governing body may not be required to register to address the body more than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting is to commence," Kirk said.

The Dominion Post Editor Geri Ferrara said the code uses the phrase "... but no one may be required to register to speak more than fifteen minutes before a scheduled meeting." To me the word *speaks* is important as it indicates the accepted method to address a

public body, and that everyone has the right to do so.

"To keep order some councils set time limits on public comment ... but to require public input in only written form is the equivalent of a gag order," she said.

WVU law professor Patrick C. McGinley said that although the Westover decision may be legal under state code, he finds Westover's policy is in conflict with the democratic principles federal, state and local governments were founded upon. He also said the reasons cited for the decision were not justifiable within a democracy that promotes freedom of expression and the discussion of ideas.

"Democracy is not always orderly," McGinley said. "When people express their opinions, there is usually disagreement. Democracy is messy. Dictatorships are orderly and discussion is limited. But we're a democracy, and efficiency is not the goal of democracy."

McGinley said municipi-

pal meetings are the appropriate public forum for such debate. He said it's both an opportunity for city officials to understand the interests and concerns of their constituency and a means for residents to understand the actions of their representatives.

He added it's a shame city officials can't permit public discussion of issues that Westover residents find important.

As the person responsible for running council meetings each month, Johnson said he decided to remove citizen comments from the agenda to maintain order and efficiency during meetings. Citizen comment sheets will be the manner in which the council receives public comments and concerns, he added.

When Johnson announced the new policy at last week's council meeting, no council member spoke up for or against it.

"Under West Virginia code,

they have to be open meetings, but unless you're on the agenda or there's a space on the agenda for it, there's nothing in there that requires any type of citizen comment," Edwards said.

Kirk said the purpose of the Open Meetings Act is to allow the public an opportunity to view a municipal meeting in action, not to participate in the meeting. It does not guarantee citizens the right to address the meeting, she said.

Kirk said she based her decision on an opinion issued by the Ethics Commission in September 2001.

While public comments will no longer be heard during Westover council meetings, Johnson said feedback from residents is still welcome in writing.

Citizen comment sheets will be provided at municipal meetings and can be submitted at the end of each meeting. These sheets will be reviewed by council later, Johnson said.



CNX GAS
A CONSOL ENERGY COMPANY

Interested in Leasing Your Marcellus Shale Acreage or Learning More about Natural Gas Drilling in Your Neighborhood?

CNX Gas Corporation will be holding a public meeting in Monongalia County on Thursday, February 18th in the cafeteria of Mason-Dixon Elementary School from 4 pm to 7 pm.

You should attend if you own oil and gas rights in northern West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania and are interested in leasing those rights.

CNX Gas representatives will be on hand to answer your questions about oil and gas drilling on your property. They will also be prepared to discuss terms and sign lease agreements.

Mason-Dixon Elementary School is located in Monongalia County at 7041 Mason-Dixon Highway, Blacksville, WV 26521.

Visitors will be accepted anytime between 4pm and 7pm.

Please call
1-877-269-4070
for more information.

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