

River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Candidates in Ohio's primary election have begun the push to get voters to the polls. Matt Dolan... running to become the Republican U-S Senate candidate this fall... spoke with Fox News concerning President Biden's mental health.

<<sound full>>

Early voting in the Ohio primary election starts this Wednesday. Voters can check to see if they're registered at voteohio – one word – dot -gov. That's voteohio-dot-gov.

The Martins Ferry Schools and the City of Martins Ferry want to hammer out a deal for maintenance and repair of Alumni and School Roads... but the Times-Leader reports the two sides will have to figure out how to pay the estimated million dollar repair bill. Compounding the problems – Martins Ferry Mayor John Davies only learned in December the city had the deed to the roads. The city has since returned the deed back to the school system.

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To err is human... but to forgive, divine... especially concerning an overdue library book, as Paul Stevens explains.

<<sound full>>

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

## HEADLINES 2-20-24

~~#1~~  
Bellaire Police are investigating a robbery that occurred Sunday night at the Rich Oil Gas Station on Noble Street. Police say a white male entered and asked a clerk for “all the money.” The suspect had a black duffle bag that he placed money and cigarettes in before racing away on foot. He didn’t produce a weapon. The suspect is described as 6-foot, 170-175 pounds, wearing a black jacket with camouflage stripes on the sleeves, black mask, black gloves, and black pants. Authorities believe the suspect may be involved two other robberies. Anyone with information should call Bellaire police.

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~~#2~~  
The TEMS Joint Ambulance District has a 2-mil levy coming up on the ballot, as early voting begins in Ohio. The purpose behind the measure is to reduce response times with an overall greater presence in some of Jefferson County's most rural areas. This is designed to bring the value of properties back to their normal ranges without TEMS asking for additional taxpayer dollars. The change is being put in place to make up for the loss and cost of the closure and the ongoing removal of the Sammis Power Plant in Stratton. Early voting in Ohio begins tomorrow. Election Day is March 19.

~~#2~~  
An apartment above Bergholz Diner in Jefferson County caught fire Sunday afternoon around 2:30 P.M. Bergholz Fire Chief Dwayne Morley says nobody was injured. Seven fire departments assisted the scene. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley will hold its annual Night at the Casino fundraiser on Friday at Wheeling Island Hotel-Casino-Racetrack. The event will feature a night of games, music, food and gifts. This year’s theme is Mardi Gras. For \$50 a ticket, attendees receive a gourmet dinner, pasta buffet and dessert buffet, five bags of chips, two drink tickets and Mardi Gras. Additional chips will be available for purchase and a photo booth and D.J. will also be there. The event supports local organizations in The United Way's “Raised Here, Stays Here” campaign. Get more details and purchase tickets at [United Way U O V dot org](http://UnitedWayUOV.org).

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In December of 2022, the City of Steubenville and the Jefferson Metropolitan Housing Authority were awarded a \$500,000 HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant. This year, organizers are holding community meetings for the implementation grant. There was a community meeting held at the Choice Neighborhoods headquarters in the JFK Apartment Complex. Concept A is called Community Crossroads, which shows the highest amount of apartments and an improved and expanded North End Park. Concept B is called Schoolyard Rock, emphasizing the creation of a new North End Park with a hotel or grocery store at the former North End Park site. This project entails about 508 apartments. Concept C is called Northside Alive, which focuses on the northern portion of the Choice Neighborhood, with an emphasis on Franklin Avenue, 6th Avenue N, and Ross Street. Organizers have until December of 2024 to take all of the feedback and put it into a planning document. In 2025, they'll apply for the implementation grant, which could be up to \$50 million dollars. To learn more about the projects, visit Steubenville Choice dot com.

# 2

It's been nine months since Shawn Chrisagis tragically passed away, leaving his twin brother Brian, friends, family and community behind with his legacy. Now, Brian is holding an event to help others who may be struggling with someone they've lost. The BEYOND THE LOSS from grief to glory conference will take place at Buckeye Local High school in Rayland on April 19th and 20<sup>th</sup>. The Keynote Speaker will be Pastor John Burke founder of Gateway Church in Austin Texas and author of the New York Times best-selling book IMAGINE HEAVEN. Burke has written various books upon the findings of "near death experiences" and how they relate to Heaven. Brian Chrisagis said this has given him hope. The conferences are open to whomever may be finding themselves in a tough time and need guidance. The event is Friday, April 19 from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 Friday. Tickets are \$40 for Saturday. Cost for both days is \$50.

With River News Network headlines, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Wheeling's City Council... at its meeting set for five-30 P-M... plans to discuss preventive maintenance spending of about a million dollars on a pair of city-owned parking garages. The Intelligencer also reports contractors will start demolition on the Center Wheeling Parking Garage March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Martins Ferry's Mayor John Davies says the city's recreational center has surveillance cameras... and in a social media post indicated some damage had been done to the center over the weekend. Mayor Davies says the center may have to close indefinitely... if damage continues.

The Ohio State House's lead negotiator on marijuana legalization... State Representative Jamie Callender... tells the Cleveland Plain Dealer legislation regulating recreational marijuana dealers won't make the September 7<sup>th</sup> target date... but administrative rules will.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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Bellaire Police seek help to catch a suspect they think committed three robberies. The latest – Sunday night at the Rich Oil gas station on Noble Street. The six foot, 175 pound suspect... a white male... walked in and demanded from the clerk “all the money.” The suspect then put money and cigarettes in a black duffle bag before getting away on foot. At the time... he had on a black jacket with camo stripes on the sleeves with black mask, gloves, and pants. Tipsters can help Bellaire Police to crack the case by phoning in tips to 740-676-3322.

News 9 reports the TEMS Joint Ambulance District seeks the renewal of a two-mill levy in the upcoming election. Chief Clark Crago says the service needs help with funding... especially after the closure of the Sammis electric power plant.

<<sound full>>

On the agenda for Wheeling's City Council regular meeting – starting at five-30 P-M – maintenance of parking garages owned by the city. The Intelligencer reports City Council plans to introduce a pair of ordinances authorizing just under a million dollars for preventive maintenance for both the Intermodal Parking Garage and the 10th Street Garage.

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At nine-30 this morning... the Marshall County Commission plans to consider what to do about bureaucratic bungling by a state agency which cost the county over five million dollars in severance taxes. A clerical error resulted in the undervaluing of first-year wells placed in service.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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In a social media post... Martins Ferry's Mayor John Davies says the city's recreational center may have to close indefinitely if those using it... continue to damage it. Mayor Davies did not elaborate further about the incident or the damage in the post... but noted the center has surveillance cameras.

Enterprising crooks in southern West Virginia attempted to use drones to ferry drugs into a federal prison... but now one is dead and others are behind bars. Tom Graham reports.

<<sound full>>

Solutions to issues with Ohio's new recreational marijuana law... probably will have to come from administrative rules rather than legislation. The Cleveland Plain Dealer reports Ohio State Representative Republican Jamie Callender... believes those new administrative rules by the Ohio Department of Commerce will likely go into effect by September.

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The San Antonio Zoo took advantage of the President's Day Holiday to introduce and plug their candidate for U-S President -- Timothy the hippo. According to the zoo Timothy's running on "an extra sturdy platform" featuring the "Naps for All" initiative. Naturally... Timothy has a line of merchandise... profits from which will go to animal conservation.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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Wheeling University has relieved President Ginny Favede of her duties... and suspended her with pay. The university made the announcement late Tuesday by email... which gave no further details concerning the decision... or circumstances leading to it.

Early voting started today for the Ohio Primary Election. Voters will choose party candidates for federal and state offices. In Belmont County... the race for county commissioners has drawn attention from voters.

Marshall County's Chamber of Commerce will hold an entrepreneur pitch contest with a five-thousand dollar prize package. Interested business owners need to send a video pitch to the Chamber no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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Wheeling University has relieved university President Ginny Favede of all duties... and suspended her with pay. In a terse email late Tuesday afternoon... the university announced former Ohio County Schools Superintendent Dianna Vargo will serve as interim chief operations officer.

The Marshall County Commission voted to deny a revaluation of natural gas wells in the county... after the Tax Division had made what it described as a – quoting now – “clerical error” in its initial assessment of new wells. Had the Commission approved – property owners would have had to pay back taxes. Democrat Marshall County Commissioner Mike Ferro spoke with News 9.

<<sound full>>

A Perry Local School District teacher filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the Ohio Association of Public School Employees. The Center Square reports the lawsuit filed by Liberty Justice Center... alleges the union withheld dues from Denise Cogar after she withdrew her membership.

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Marshall County's Chamber of Commerce seeks entrepreneurs intent on delivering the greatest economic comeback ever. Chamber Executive Director Scott Reager explains.

<<sound full>>

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West Virginia's Division of Highways has set the sunset date for the Aetnaville Bridge to Wheeling Island. The Times-Leader reports District 6 district manager Charlie Reynolds says work to demolish the bridge will start July 28, 20-25... and take about a year to finish.

While discussions to merge the Diocese of Steubenville with the Diocese of Columbus continue... Bishop Paul J. Bradley says the Diocese of Steubenville receives enough support from parishioners to remain separate. The Herald-Star... reports Bishop Bradley told the Catholic newspaper "The Cruc" the diocese has not had the need to tap into financial reserves.

Marshall County's Chamber of Commerce seeks entrepreneurs to grow business in the county... and has a competition as part of their efforts. Chamber Executive Director Scott Reager.

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NASA seeks Martians on Earth... as Jeff Monosso explains.

<< sound full>>

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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West Virginia gas well property owners remain angry after botched state government property tax assessments... set to continue if House Bill 48-50 becomes law. The measure passed the House of Delegates... and had its first reading in the Senate Wednesday.

Marshall County Sheriff Bill Helms hopes drug dealers pushing fentanyl will stay away from the county... after investigation by a drug task force led to the arrest of John "Bull" Lucas Tuesday. Lucas's case will go to the grand jury after officers executing a search warrant found a little over ten grams of fentanyl at his Moundsville residence.

Ohio's Division of Cannabis Control Commissioner Jim CAN-ep-uh said at a meeting in Columbus Wednesday his agency wants to issue business licenses for recreational marijuana by September 7th... adding – quoting now – “two hundred to two-hundred-50 dispensaries on the map in a blink of an eye.”

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In Belmont County outside of Powhatan Point... a Wednesday afternoon brush fire destroyed over a dozen acres of land. Firefighters got the call around two... and departments from all over Belmont County as well as across the river from Marshall County needed called in to contain the fire. Firefighters reported they had to use brush trucks and U-T-Vs to bring water in to fight the fire.

Marshall County Sheriff Bill Helms reports a drug task force arrested John "Bull" Lucas in Moundsville Tuesday morning after executing a search warrant. Police found just over ten grams of fentanyl... which Sheriff Helms says with a guilty verdict... comes more prison time.

<<sound full>>

The City of Steubenville will go ahead with renovations to the city building... after City Council at its most recent meeting learned City Manager James Mavromatis had awarded the contract to low bidder Fort Steuben Maintenance... according to the Herald-Star. Renovation costs for the entire building will run a bit over one-point-nine million dollars.

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West Virginia's Division of Highways says the over two-hundred year old Stone Arch Bridge will close sometime in March... creating traffic routing problems in Elm Grove. Crews plan to have the bridge repairs completed by the end of the year.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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A follow-up to a story broadcast here Monday. At a meeting with members of the Columbus Metropolitan Club... Ohio Division of Cannabis Control Commissioner Jim CAN-ep-uh said the state could – quoting now – “add two hundred to two hundred-50 dispensaries on the map in a blink of an eye.” CAN-ep-uh... the former chief of the Ohio Liquor Control Commission... added plans call to issue licenses by September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Lawyers representing the state of Ohio made a emergency request from Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia to halt enforcement of tightened restrictions on ozone-forming emissions... to the U-S Supreme Court Wednesday. Those emissions drift across state lines... and the three states seeking the halt say compliance with the new regulations will cost too much... especially if courts strike them down as too stringent.

West Virginia's Senate appears set to ram through legislation for continuing property tax assessments on gas wells. The move comes on the heels of Marshall County's Commission writing off five million dollars of potential tax revenue... lost due to botched assessments at the state level. The state senate gave House Bill 48-50 its first reading Wednesday... without referring it to a committee.

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“Mad dogs and Englishmen” not only go out in the midday sun – one Englishman walked backwards up and down Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The British Heart Foundation said in a press release personal trainer Ben Stewart, a 32-year-old from Northampton, England, became the first person to walk backwards up and down Kilimanjaro... completing the walk Valentine's Day. Stewart made the trip as a fundraiser in memory of his father... who died from a heart attack.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

## HEADLINES 2-23-24

#1  
With the news of Eastern Gateway Community College pausing student enrollment after the spring semester, Belmont College is offering to help students transition. Belmont College said it is more than capable of taking in any of the transitioning students. As a bordering county, Belmont College already shares a lot of the student base and offers the same degrees and certificates for students to finish their education. Belmont College will accept all credits carried over from EGCC students. The college has been focused on expanding programs and student amenities over the last couple of years, and they are ready for any uptick in enrollment.

#1  
Yorkville Council continues to search for a solution to its police department, and are now looking to their general funds. As the village considers proposals from several of its neighboring departments, like Tiltonsville, Bridgeport, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, finances still remain an issue in the decision making. As of Thursday, the village's total police budget is short \$73,000 at just \$120,300. The highest offer to date is \$193,000. Some council members say they would like to aim for that number. Council is now looking to its general funds, areas that are allocated for the sewer system and others. And that concerns some members. Based on the current police levy, there should be 24-hour protection, so council wants to act fast. Yorkville has been without a police department since Jan. 3 following the retirement of former police Chief John Morelli. Council members say they cannot make a concrete decision until they fully know how or if the general funds would need to be repaid.

#1  
In honor of Black History Month, Bridge Street Middle School in Ohio County hosted a textured expo on Thursday. Students and their families were able to interact with textured hair tutorials and products, creating an educational experience. Local artists and musicians also had their time in the spotlight. The expo was free and open to the public.



\* 8

Many people experienced an AT&T outage yesterday, and had their service restored late yesterday afternoon. Fox News is reporting that AT&T says the network disruption was not the result of a cyberattack. The mobile phone service provider said that they believe the outage was caused by the application and execution of an incorrect process used, as they were expanding their network, and not the result of a cyberattack.

\* 8

The City of Steubenville Engineering Department will host an informational meeting about Phase 3 of the Lovers Lane project on Feb 28 at 6 p.m. inside the Public Library of Steubenville's Schiappa branch. City representatives and the contractor will present and discuss project details. The purpose of the meeting is to answer residents' concerns about the upcoming work, discuss traffic pattern changes and how it could impact residents. Those who live in the construction area are encouraged to attend. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-March and, once it does, Princeton Avenue to just before the roundabout will be closed to vehicular traffic.

# 5

The Bellaire Police Department has added to a list of charges against a man being held in the Northern Regional Jail in Moundsville. 23-year old Koleton Caruso already faced charges relating to a chase that resulted in injury to a Marshall County deputy. He also is facing charges in the robbery of the Moundsville Kroger store on Sunday evening. On Friday, Bellaire Police Chief John Watson said Caruso is facing robbery charges from the robbery of the Rich Oil gas station on Sunday night. Watson said multiple agencies have been investigating robberies in several areas and leads pointed to Caruso as a suspect. Caruso remains in jail on \$280,000 bond on charges from Ohio and Marshall Counties.

\* 8

Hancock County Commissioners agreed Thursday to provide a tax break for Form Energy as its operations are set to begin in Weirton later this year. The commission struck a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement with the company. The agreement is typically made between the county and a company who is not required to pay taxes. Despite it being a tax, some companies offer this to the local economy to help with economic development. Form Energy is expected to be up and running by this summer.

With River News Network headlines, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Yorkville's Village Council says it's still short about 73-thousand dollars to pay an outside police agency for 24-hour protection. News 9 reports council will consider shuffling general fund money to make up the difference... but has not made a firm decision.

Local property owners remain upset – along with area local government officials – about West Virginia House Bill 48-50... which will make permanent an assessment system of oil and gas wells they view as unfair. That bill could wind up on Governor Jim Justice's desk later today.

West Virginia's state high school football championship will move from Wheeling to Charleston for at least three years. The West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission announced the decision for the move Thursday.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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A Benwood man has to answer in court 30 felony counts of sexual assault of a minor between the ages of five and seven. Kacey Clem Smith appeared in Circuit Court in Marshall County Thursday for pre-trial motions in his case... Smith remains in the Northern Regional Jail on a 25-thousand dollar bond.

Yorkville's Village Council still hasn't determined how to pay for 24-hour police protection as required by levy. News 9 reports the police account for the village comes up 73-thousand dollars short of the amount required to bring in police from another department to provide protection.

The next meeting of the Ohio Oil and Gas Land Management Commission Monday morning in Columbus could turn raucous... as commissioners have on the agenda final approval to grant fracking rights underneath Salt Fork State Park and two other wildlife areas. Save Ohio Parks... a public interest group opposed to fracking... advised its members to expect heavy police presence at the meeting.

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Wheeling's three decade run as the home of West Virginia's state high school football championships has come to an end – for now. The championships – expanding to four classes next season – will move downstate to Charleston for at least the next three years.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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Eastern Gateway Community College's suspension of enrollment and registration has not only area educators concerned – but public safety agencies as well.

News 9 interviewed Jefferson County 9-1-1 Director Rob Herrington... who spoke of potential issues with continuing education for local fire departments.

<<sound full>>

Weirton City Council's Finance Committee held an emergency meeting to discuss effects of the Cleveland-Cliffs tin mill shutdown. The Weirton Daily Times reports while this year's budget will see little effect... next year's budget will require increased care and scrutiny to avoid problems.

In the West Virginia Senate... local District 1 Senator Laura Wakim Chapman offered an amendment to House Bill 48-50... which removes a sunset clause for oil and gas well assessment many property owners – and area local government officials – find unfair. Chapman's amendment failed on a voice vote. That bill could hit Governor Jim Justice's desk by close of business today.

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A group of 40 members of a German social club vacationing in Mallorca has caused a buzz in Spanish news reports. The group started drinking beer at 11 in the morning... and eight hours later... each member had consumed about a gallon and three-quarters of beer. The unofficial record of one thousand-300-33 glasses of beer consumed left island tourism officials dismayed... pointing out they want to promote a more wholesome vacation atmosphere.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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Youngstown State University seeks to expand to Steubenville... possibly by taking over Eastern Gateway Community College programs it could seamlessly integrate... according to The Herald-Star.

West Virginia Governor Jim Justice has on his desk House Bill 48-50... which would eliminate a sunset clause concerning the assessment of gas and oil wells. Property owners say the system stacks the deck against them... and county officials say state officials cannot properly handle the work.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer reports the highest paid state employee in Ohio... psychiatrist Florence Kimbo with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services pulled down \$139.55 per hour... giving her a salary of just under 474-thousand dollars last year.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Legislation in West Virginia which would remove a sunset clause from the current oil and natural gas well property tax valuation formula – now sits on the desk of Governor Jim Justice – awaiting his thumbs up or down... according to the Weirton Daily Times.

On Friday... State Senators from our area as a bloc voted against House Bill 48-50... citing problems at the state government level... and complaints from property owners saying the formula stacks the deck against them. Supporters of the bill say they will revisit the issue next year... and didn't want to jeopardize property tax collection this year.

The Herald-Star reports a new commercial business plaza set for construction in Mingo Junction has secured commitments from Dairy Queen and Circle K to serve as anchor tenants. Called "The Junction Plaza"... the site lies directly off the Commercial Street exit of state Route 7 in Mingo Junction.

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A batch of stomach flu has hit northeastern parts of the U-S hard. Madeline Rivera has more.

<<sound full>>

You're listening to River News Network.

Wheeling Park's White Palace hosted its first e-sports tournament over the weekend. News 9 reports the tournament – co-hosted with Bethany College – saw teams compete at "Super Mario Smash Brothers."

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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Faculty at Eastern Gateway Community College speaking publicly to the Herald-Star lay the blame for the takeover of the school by the Ohio Department of Public Education at the hands of senior management unable or unwilling to fix accreditation issues. Several also claim faculty speaking against senior managers received threats to terminate their employment at E-G-C-C.

A bill in the West Virginia Senate which would prohibit racial discrimination owing hair textures styles – known as the “Crown Act” – will have to go through the Senate Finance Committee. The Parkersburg News & Sentinel reports Senate Finance Committee Chair Eric Tarr says the bill has financial implications for a number of state departments.

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Information out of a computer can not turn out better than information programmed into it... as a Google A-I project produced wildly inaccurate results. Kelly O'Grady reports.

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For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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West Virginia-based Infinity Natural Resources, LLC has received the go-ahead from the Ohio Oil and Gas Land Management Commission at their Monday meeting to frack underneath Salt Fork State Park. Environmental public interest groups opposed the plans.

For the time being... Ohio County Schools will start classes at the same time. The Intelligencer reports the board of education at Monday night's regular meeting tabled consideration of moving school start times... but heard from parents concerned the difference would affect their children's education.

The United Steel Workers plan a "Save Weirton Steel" rally for March 9<sup>th</sup> in Weirton. News 9 reports organizers plan to stress how much imported tinplate steel comes into the U-S... without people realizing.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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Ohio's Oil and Gas Land Management Commission gave its approval Monday for a West Virginia-based firm to frack under Salt Fork State Park. The Commission also gave approval for a Texas firm to frack in two separate wildlife areas. Both companies now may receive leases from the state... and continue with state permitting regulations.

Staying in Ohio... a Martins Ferry man received a seven year sentence in the Belmont Correctional Institution for a Memorial Day 20-21 shooting incident. A Belmont County jury convicted Tim Bradley on two counts of shooting into a habitation. The Times-Leader reports Bradley's attorney will appeal the conviction.

West Virginia's State Senate has moved to eliminate a specific sexual assault exemption. Kevin Uretsky reports.

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Plans have gotten underway to stage a Save Weirton Steel rally in Weirton... Saturday, March 9. News 9 reports the United Steel Workers plan to have one rally point at the Irish Pub on Main Street... and another at the Millsop Community Center.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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Ohio County Schools will continue to consider school start times... according to The Intelligencer. At Monday night's board of education meeting... board members heard from parents concerned that one group of kids or another will have to start school at times which may detract from learning. Ultimately... the board decided to continue studying issues involved.

The City of Wheeling has announced a timeline for the demolition of the former Ohio Valley Medical Center building. Chaplin Street between 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets will close for 11 months starting March 4<sup>th</sup>. Demolition on the Wheeling Police Department side and Centre Wheeling Fellowship Church sides will last through 20-24... with demolition on the Market Street side starting in January 20-25.

A proposed merger between the Kroger and Albertson grocery store chains has hit a roadblock from the Federal Trade Commission. Together... both companies employ about 700-thousand people. Professor Michael Greiner of Oakland University spoke with fox TV affiliate WJBK Fox 2.

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Many major league baseball players think new uniforms this season belong in the bush leagues... as Ashley Webster explains.

<<sound full>>

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.



With River News Network headlines, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Business owners at Waterfront Hall -- the former Barry Supply building -- want Wheeling City Council to make Water Street a one-way street. The Intelligencer reports a number of business customers have racked up parking tickets from parking on the wrong side of the street.

New data from Department of Agriculture suggests families now spend about 11-and-a-half percent of income on food – the most since 19-91. The U-S-D-A also projects Ohio farmers will have to sell their crops for 25 percent less than 20-23.

Toyota has announced it's recalling 381-thousand 20-22 and 20-23 Tacoma pickup trucks to fix a potential issue with the rear axle assembly. The company says it will notify affected owners by the end of April.

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With River News Network afternoon headlines, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Street parking rules on Water Street in Wheeling have business owners at Waterfront Hall miffed. The Intelligencer reports those businesses seek to have Water Street made one-way... as their customers may only park for free across the street after five P-M.

In Steubenville... plans call for Phase 3 of the Lovers Lane reconstruction project to start March 11<sup>th</sup>. The two-point-six million dollar project will close Princeton Avenue to the roundabout for roughly eight months.

Toyota has announced it's recalling 381-thousand 20-22 and 20-23 Tacoma pickup trucks to fix a potential issue with the rear axle assembly. The company says it will inspect and if necessary... fix the defect at no charge to owners.

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Steubenville City Council wants more time to think about extending City Manager James Mavromatis's contract for another two years. His current deal ends in March... according to News 9. Plans call for City Council to have a vote on the extension next week.

In Weirton... West Virginia Northern Community College will stage a "Start Here" event between ten A-M and seven P-M at the W-V-N-C-C Weirton Campus. College officials say they seek to assist students of Eastern Gateway Community College with plans to continue their education uninterrupted.

Parking scofflaws have created a financial drain on new businesses at Waterfront Hall in Wheeling. The Intelligencer reports business owners at the former Barry Supply building want City Council to make Water Street a one-way street. Water Street only has parking on one side through the day... and business owners say they've picked up the tab for customers picking up parking tickets for parking on the wrong side of the street.

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You're listening to River News Network.

Toyota has announced it's recalling about 381-thousand 20-22 and 20-23 Tacoma pickup trucks. In a press release... the company says welding debris left in the rear axle assembly could cause parts to separate from the axle. Toyota says it plans to notify affected vehicle owners by the end of April... and have dealers inspect and fix the issue at no charge.

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Recent data released by the Department of Agriculture suggests not only consumers have to spend more for food – farmers receive less for what they produce.

The U-S-D-A's dismal digits suggest families roughly spend now 11-and-a-half percent of income on food – the highest amount since 19-91. U-S-D-A figures also suggest Ohio farmers – who received less for crops in 20-23... will see a further drop of 25-percent... while the price to produce those crops continues to increase.

Executives at one fast food chain think you'll pay more – if you want it at the same time everyone does. Therese Crowley has the story.

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Executive Director of the Ohio River Valley Chapter of the Red Cross Sharon Kesselring says she's gratified by the response received during the recent emergency blood donation appeal... and hopes people keep donating.

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You're listening to River News Network.

Starting today – “National Pancake Day” – the maker of Eggo pancakes and waffles opens for rental their initial Eggo House of Pancakes located in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The short-stack-shaped rental home targets Flapjack fans and families visiting the Smokey Mountains. As for breakfast... Eggo has stuffed the freezer with every flavor and variety of their pancakes... and provides a maple syrup fountain.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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Happening now at the Weirton Campus of West Virginia Northern Community College – a “Start Now” event. College officials seek to help students of Eastern Gateway Community College affected by that school’s registration pause to continue their education. The event stays open until seven P-M.

News 9 reports Yorkville’s Fire Department could become part of the Buckeye Joint Fire District. Village Council Doug Delvecchio said currently... the department does not answer four of five EMS calls. The village faces financial difficulties in paying for 24-hour police protection as well.

West Virginia’s House of Delegates has passed legislation prohibiting the public distribution of police booking photos. Supporters of House Bill 46-21 say third-party websites post booking photos to the internet... ask for payment to remove them... and then – don’t. Those against the bill say the bill amounts to unconstitutional prior restraint of publication by the government.

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An introduction to hunting with falcons will take place this weekend in Holloway. The Times-Leader reports the Ohio Falconry Association has its End of Season Meet at the Old Timers Building this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The weekend event – free and open to the public -- will also feature free food... and a chance to learn more about falconry.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

With River News Network headlines, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

A team from the Pittsburgh office of the National Weather Service will survey areas of Monroe County today... after high winds destroyed homes, barns, and other property. The American Red Cross has sent a disaster relief team to Beallsville to provide help for those needing it.

Ohio's Senate has passed a bill prohibiting anyone not a U S citizen or permanent resident to fund statewide ballot-issue campaigns. Opponents of Senate Bill 215 say provisions in the bill unnecessarily handicap groups of residents seeking action on hometown issues.

West Virginia's Senate has given it's approval to proposed legislation allowing doctors traveling to the scene of an emergency permission to break speed limits. West Virginia Senate Bill 377 calls for licensing boards to determine standards for a special emblem physicians could attach to their vehicles. It now heads for the House of Delegates.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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With River News Network afternoon headlines, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

A Wellsville man has died after his truck rolled over on Ohio State Route 7 near Empire about six-30 this morning. The Ohio State Highway Patrol says 73-year old Jackie Chase of Wellsville..... attempted to merge a water tanker truck onto Route 7 northbound at the State Route 152 on-ramp... and rolled over the hill. Troopers say Chase did not wear his safety belt... and was partially ejected from the truck in the accident.

The Herald-Star reports what happens with the levy funding Eastern Gateway Community College depends upon what happens with the school. That ten-year levy expires in 20-26... and Jefferson County Auditor E-J Conn believes the levy should go away if the school goes away.

West Virginia Route 2 has been closed indefinitely near Sistersville due to a water main break a bit after ten A-M which buckled the pavement. West Virginia's Division of Highways has not released information on permanent repairs to the highway.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

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