

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

Carter Bancshares... in a debt dispute with West Virginia Governor Jim Justice and companies controlled by his family... says in a public document... now that a Virginia circuit judge has ruled in its favor... it plans aggressive moves to collect the 300 million dollar debt owed by the governor.

The College of St. Joseph the Worker plans to offer students Catholic studies... and apprenticeships in skilled trades. News 9 reports the six-year course of study has never been offered in North America... until now.

Those with special needs requiring a public restroom at live venues in Belmont, Harrison, and Noble Counties will seem some relief. The Times-Leader reports a grant from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities will fund a mobile restroom specifically designed for wheelchair access... as well as adults requiring a changing table.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

In Steubenville... a new college plans to combine training in the skilled trades... with divine inspiration.

News 9 reports the College of St. Joseph the Worker on Thursday staged an event to introduce the school to the community. The first of its kind in North America... students will follow a six-year curriculum... earn a bachelor's degree in Catholic studies... as well as take an apprenticeship in carpentry, plumbing, or other skilled trades.

West Virginia's House of Delegates overwhelmingly defeated proposed legislation which would have allowed police to collect D-N-A from those arrested on some felony crimes. Delegates Thursday voted down House Bill 46-27 on a 30 to 66 vote.

West Virginia Governor Jim Justice and his companies face paying back three-hundred million dollars in loans from a Virginia bank. In a public document filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission... Carter Bancshares says it plans to aggressively pursue to collect after a Virginia circuit judge ruled in their favor concerning the debt dispute.

You're listening to River News Network.

The Times-Leader reports the B-H-N Alliance received a grant from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Superintendent Gloria Llewellyn told Belmont County Commissioners some of the grant money will pay for a mobile restroom for special needs individuals attending fairs, concerts, and other live events. Belmont, Harrison and Noble counties will share the mobile restroom... which Llewellyn hopes to have operational this coming summer.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

West Virginia Republican Senator Shelly Moore Capito expressed frustration with the Biden Administration and Democrat Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer... concerning funding the government. In a press conference... Senator Capito also cited a lack of leadership from cabinet secretaries... especially when Iranian backed rebels shoot at U-S Merchant Marine sailors... as well as with transportation safety.

<<sound full>>

The Times-Leader reports the City of Martins Ferry has transferred the deed for Alumni Road back to the Martins Ferry City School District. Money to repair the road will come from the school district.

A well-intended law in New Jersey appears to have had the opposite effect. C-J Papa reports.

<<sound full>>

You're listening to River News Network.

One of NASA's projects will remain grounded... but the data it gathered will spark the imagination of scientists. Jack Callaghan has the story.

<<sound full>>

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

HEADLINES 1-29-24

7

This Thursday, February first, 7 Ranges Entertainment will open in the old Sears location in the Fort Steuben Mall. Seven Ranges have 12 bowling lanes, more than 100 arcade games, eight axe throwing cages, glow in the dark mini golf, virtual reality games, as well as the restaurant and bar known as “the G.O.A.T. House.” The new business will open at 5 p.m. on Thursday. However, only those who purchase a VIP package membership can attend the first three opening days. The \$50 VIP package gives you \$75 worth of gameplay, free miniature golf, and other exclusive offers throughout the month of February.

1

Steubenville Police are investigating a Friday evening incident during which two people were shot along Maryland Avenue in the LaBelle neighborhood of the city. Steubenville Police Chief Ken Anderson says officers were called on a report of shots fired in the 1300 block of Maryland Avenue shortly after 9 p.m. Officers found two gunshot victims. One was confirmed dead at the scene by city EMS responders and the other was taken to Trinity Medical Center West. That person was later transferred to a Pittsburgh hospital. Detectives are continuing their investigation. The names of the victims have not yet been released. Anyone with information should call the Steubenville Police Department.

0

Former Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship, has announced plans to run for the U.S. Senate as a Democrat. The West Virginia Secretary of State's Office received paperwork Friday as Blankenship enters a Republican-dominated field for the state office. Blankenship joins Glenn Elliott and Zachary Shrewsbury as the only Democrats to run for the office. Blankenship finished third in the 2018 Republican primary for a U.S. Senate seat before making a run for the White House as a part of the Constitution Party in 2020. Blankenship spent a year in prison after being convicted of conspiring to violate safety standards at a Massey-owned mine. An explosion at West Virginia's Upper Big Branch in 2010 killed 29 workers.

#1
The Ohio Valley Health Center has often referred to itself as the best kept secret in the Ohio Valley. In 2024, the secret will be out. Last year, the center focused on a campaign with the main goal of reaching out to the community with more signage. Through a donation from Signs Limited it has now added a large, LED sign to the side of its building. OVHC Executive Director Ann Quillen says the increased visibility will help the Health Center to bridge the gap to accessible, free healthcare for the community.

Remember those really warm days we had last week? They may have had you dreaming of an early spring. But experts say to hold off on starting that garden. Local OSU Extension educator Dan Lima in Belmont County says it's not uncommon to have some warm days this early in the year. While it's best to wait to plant anything, fruit bearing trees that are already planted can be damaged by early growing degree days when the temperature is over 55. This can affect 50-60% of the crop. Lima says that what you can do on warm winter days is to have your soil tested, as long as the soil is not muddy or frozen. After the test, it's a great time to lime your soil to get the right PH to grow your crops. Lima's best advice is to follow a good planting calendar, and hold off until after Mother's Day.

#1
Ohio County Sheriff Tom Howard has officially announced his candidacy for magistrate in Ohio County Division 4. Howard's time as sheriff comes to an end soon due to term limits after seven years. Howard said he raised his family in Ohio County and has been a public servant during the last 33 years and wants to continue to serve. Howard's father was a magistrate in West Virginia in 1976.

#1 #2

West Liberty University began a fundraising effort Friday for the proposed Bobby Douglas Wrestling Complex. The complex is set to be named after the Bridgeport native, Olympic wrestler, and successful coach, who was the first African American wrestler to captain a U.S. Olympic team at the 1968 games in Mexico City. Douglas made his first mark in the sport by capturing the 1962 NAIA national championships as a member of the Hilltoppers squad in the 130-pound weight class. The goal is to fund raise enough money to make the complex large enough for both the women's and men's wrestling programs. The plan is to begin construction as soon as the proper funding is in place.

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

Steubenville police seek the public's help to solve a Friday night shooting on Maryland Avenue in the LaBelle neighborhood which left one dead... and another wounded. If you have any tips to help solve the crime... call the Steubenville P-D at 740-283-6090. That's 740-283-6090.

The West Virginia Republican Executive Committee elected Dr. Matt Herridge to serve as the head of the state party. He had been serving as the party's finance chair. According to The Intelligencer the previous chair...Wheeling attorney Elgine McArdle... now seeks election as a judge on the new Intermediate Court of Appeals.

News 9 reports West Liberty University has launched a fundraising campaign to build a new wrestling complex... which will bear the name of Ohio Valley native and olympic wrestler Bobby Douglas.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

The investigation continues into a Friday shooting incident in Steubenville which left one person dead... and another injured.

According to published reports... Steubenville Police Chief Ken Anderson said officers went to the LaBelle section of the city... to the 13-hundred block of Maryland Avenue. When they arrived... they found two men had been shot... one of them pronounced dead at the scene. The injured man ended up at a Pittsburgh hospital. As of early Monday... police had not released the names of the victims. They ask anyone with information to call the Steubenville P-D at 740-283-6090. That's 740-283-6090.

Rains over the weekend forced the Ohio Department of Transportation to close a Monroe County road after subsidence from heavy rains collapsed parts of it. State Route 536 in Monroe County remains closed indefinitely between County Road 4 and Township Road 370.

West Liberty University has started raising funds for a new wrestling complex... named after Ohio Valley native and Olympian Bobby Douglas... who grew up in Bridgeport. News 9 spoke with West Liberty head wrestling coach Danny Irwin.

<<sound full>>

You're listening to River News Network.

Voters registered as independents in West Virginia can still vote in this year's Republican primary election – just not in 20-26. The Intelligencer reports the Republican State Executive Committee voted to limit primary elections to registered Republicans only... starting in 20-26.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Wheeling attorney Elgine McArdle has called it quits as chair of the West Virginia Republican Party to run this November for a position as judge on the new Intermediate Court of Appeals. The Republican State Executive Committee chose Dr. Matt Herridge, a businessman who had been serving as finance chair to succeed her... according to The Intelligencer.

Independent voters in West Virginia may vote in the Republican primary this year... but not in the future. The G-O-P Executive Committee approved a resolution this past weekend to close the primary beginning in 20-26 to independent and unaffiliated voters.

Lawmakers in Colorado... increasingly fed up with Gen Z's driving skills... have called for enhanced drivers' education classes for young adults there. Samantha Spitz of K-D-V-R T-V has the story.

<<sound full>>

You're listening to River News Network.

People know the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul Minnesota get cold in winter. This year – kinda sorta. Organizers of the U-S Pond Hockey Championships on Lake Nokomis had to cancel the event this past weekend because... the ponds melted. Blake Wolanin had hoped to compete... and had this to say to W-C-C-O T-V.

<<sound full>>

The city's also closed its outdoor skating rinks for the same reason.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

HEADLINES 1-30-24

#1

No one was injured during a house fire in Amsterdam late Monday afternoon. Amsterdam Fire Chief Jason Gallagher says the call came in at 3:38 p.m. and upon arrival the multi-story house on Euclid Street was fully engulfed. After confirming nobody was home, crews fought the fire for several hours but eventually deemed it a total loss. The cause is under investigation and the case has been turned over to the state Fire Marshal's office.

#2

Steubenville police have released the name of the man who died in a shooting Friday night along Maryland Avenue in the city's LaBelle neighborhood. Police say 18-year-old Ja'Zeric Birden was confirmed dead at the scene after a shots-fired call after 9 o'clock that night. Another man was injured and taken to a Pittsburgh area hospital for his wounds. Steubenville Police Chief Kenny Anderson says that apparently there was some sort of altercation between the two men, and that police believe that they were both armed. At some point during this altercation, there's an exchange of gunfire, and both men were shot. The investigation continues and Chief Anderson asked for anyone with information to contact Steubenville Police.

#1

On Monday at Heritage Port, JT Thomas announced his run for Wheeling mayor. Thomas was born in raised in Wheeling, and has served careers in sports physical therapy and in insurance. He is the son of a legendary Wheeling Central football coach by the same name, and is now on a mission to make an impact on the city. Thomas said his goals of running for office would cover economic growth through use of the Ohio River, infrastructure by improving or removing vacant buildings, and providing city transparency by hosting consistent meetings in each ward to hear from the public.

#2

It's actually not been made official, but the West Virginia Division of Highways has strongly hinted that the days of automobile traffic on the Wheeling Suspension Bridge are over. This is frustrating the city, especially second ward councilman Ben Seidler, who is covering what has become a harder-to-access island. The bridge closed in 2019. It's been under construction for two years at a cost of \$17.9 million for the fix. Seidler says that he believes the DOH knew the outcome all along. There is no final determination yet on the car traffic, but Seidler hopes that at least law enforcement will be able to use the bridge.

The Wheeling Police Department has released its annual crime statistics for 2023. The report says that while most major crime categories and overall calls for services declined last year, drug overdoses and overdose-related deaths increased. Specific crime data is categorized into two main categories -- "Group A" offenses, which are more property crimes and crimes against persons, and "Group B" offenses, which involve more nuisance, quality of life, and highway safety/traffic offenses. Wheeling Police Chief Shawn Schwertfeger said his department will continue to experience several challenges like staffing, recidivism, and other causes that drive up specific issues in the city like property crimes. And, he says, most crime-related issues are driven by illegal drug usage.

The Ohio County Development Authority has added a growth and retention manager position, with the hope of increasing and maintaining population and business. Stephanie Hockenberry holds the role and says she is ready to make a difference. The job will include a lot of lot of data collection, re-engaging the community and bringing together all the organizations that are working separately to make one cohesive impact in the county. Hockenberry says among the county's biggest barriers could be housing. And she noted that one thing to be aware of is that good things take time. There won't be overnight changes, but the work will pay off.

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia conducted an evidentiary hearing and public comments Monday in Paden City. An investigation looked at the managerial, financial, technical, and engineering side of the complications with Paden City's water. The PSC got involved after the chemical PCE was found in the water. Several residents voiced their opinions about the situation. Some believe the city was capable of fixing the problem moving forward, and others want complete change. As for the hearing, PSC members said the system was not in distress, but needs improvements. They recommended better training of employees and staff, more water meters and better communication with the public. The investigation found that while PCE concentration levels can vary, when the water is treated with the city's air stripper, it is in compliance with regulatory agencies. Different measures moving forward were discussed, including more frequent well tests and added help for city utility employees who cover the water system on top of other responsibilities.

The wife of Senator Joe Manchin, 76-year old ^{#2} Gayle Manchin, was injured in a car accident on Monday. Details of the crash are limited, but Joe Manchin released a statement that his wife and her colleague Guy Land were involved in a car accident on the way from the airport to the hotel in Birmingham, Alabama for an Appalachian Regional Commission event. Both were admitted to UAB Hospital and are receiving excellent care. Gayle Manchin remains in stable condition but will remain in the hospital for a couple of days for precautionary measures.

Gerald Jako was sentenced to life in ^{#1} prison for two counts of murder on Tuesday. The court ruled that Jako will serve count 1 for the murder of Trevor Vossen with the possibility of parole after 15 years. Jako will also serve life in prison for the murder of "Lulu" Cree-Jenkins with the possibility of parole after 15 years. These sentences will run concurrent. Jako, who is also serving a 100 year sentence for a robbery in Valley Grove, will have his sentences in the murder run consecutive with the armed robbery. Jako will serve at least 40 years in prison before he is eligible for parole.

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

Ohio's Attorney General Dave Yost... in a press release Monday... wants to restart executions in the state by bringing in Alabama's suffocating by nitrogen method. The General Assembly would have to approve any change in Ohio's method of execution.

An update now on the Friday night shooting in Steubenville that left one dead and one injured. News 9 reports Police Chief Kenny Anderson identified 18-year-old JaZeric Birden as dead at the scene. Chief Anderson seeks tips to close the case... if you have one, call police at 740-283-6090.

J-T Thomas... the son of the long-time Wheeling Central head football coach... announced his candidacy for Mayor of Wheeling at Heritage Port Monday. Thomas's announcement makes a total of six people in that race.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Wheeling Police have released crime statistics for the city in 20-23 – some good, some not-so-good.

Both burglary and car thefts numbers decreased last year. The Intelligencer reports drug overdoses increased in the city... and overdose deaths more than doubled... going from 11 in 20-22... to 26 last year.

Staying with crime news... an update now on the Friday night shooting in Steubenville that left one dead and one injured. The Herald-Star reports of an altercation at the scene Friday night between police and 25 year-old Amir Richmond. Police say they told Richmond to get behind crime scene tape. Richmond allegedly stayed where he was... ripped the tape... and punched a bystander. Police cited Richmond for obstructing official business... and disorderly conduct.

Police also released the name of the man killed in the incident... saying 18 year-old JaZeric Birden died at the scene. Steubenville Police Chief Kenny Anderson spoke with News 9.

<<sound full>>

You're listening to River News Network.

Another person has set sights on becoming Wheeling's next mayor. At a press conference at Heritage Port Monday... J-T Thomas... son of the long-time Wheeling Central head football coach... announced he was in the race for the Mayor's job.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Ohio's Attorney General thinks Alabama's idea to execute those on death row by suffocating them with nitrogen should come to Ohio. In a press release Monday... Attorney General Dave Yost says he and several other Republican legislators want death penalty sentences – quoting now – “kickstarted.”

Meanwhile... The Center Square reports Ohio Democrats plan a press conference today to push their Ohio Anti-Corruption Act... requiring dark money groups to identify contributors and disclose spending.

Turning now to what could become a constitution crisis... Jackie Ibanez reports on the Texas view of immigration law... and the Biden Administration's.

<<sound full>>

You're listening to River News Network.

This year's crawfish season has come with a problem – suppliers have run out of them. BO-EN KED-RUV-IDGE reports.

<<sound full>>

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

HEADLINES 1-31-24

~~7~~
A man barricaded himself in a second-floor room at a apartment building in the 600 block of North Main Street in Wheeling on Tuesday night. Wheeling Police escorted the man from Riverview Towers shortly after 9 p.m. His identity and condition are unknown. Authorities responded to the residence earlier in the evening for a welfare check. Upon learning more details, police and fire crews detoured traffic in front of the apartment complex until the situation ended. The scene is clear and the individual is safe.

~~1~~
At this week's meeting, the Brooke County Commission discussed a calculation error and a 10% increase notice by the West Virginia State Tax Department. Commissioners discussed the State Tax Department's assessed value of oil and gas production information that was received in 2021 and the impact the error had on the taxes from 2023. Brooke County Commissioner A.J. Thomas said Brooke County and other counties in the state were not notified of the issue until September 2023. Thomas said the county lost revenue of roughly \$4.4 million, the large portion of which would go to the board of education. It also affects the fire departments. Right now, the state tax department is working to have counties agree to add the tax to the 2024 calendar on top of the normal property tax. Brooke County officials will be having a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13 to discuss the matter with departments affected and a representative from the state tax office will be there (by phone) for discussions.

~~1~~
Authorities are investigating a shooting in Belmont County. It happened Tuesday night along Interstate 470. The Ohio State Highway Patrol St. Clairsville Post received a 911 phone call at approximately 10:37 that a driver of a commercial truck had been shot near mile marker three, on the westbound side of travel. The victim, Michael Brundage of Ellenboro, W.Va., was discovered by troopers to have sustained a gunshot wound to the face. Brundage was transported by EMS to WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital for further treatment. Officials say he was alert and conscious at the time. Anyone with information should contact the Ohio State Highway Patrol Saint Clairsville post.

#8
The end of this week marks one year since the East Palestine toxic train derailment, and now, Norfolk Southern has announced it will soon allow its engineers and conductors to anonymously report safety concerns. The company says that it plans to join a federal safety hotline program, making it the first Class 1 railroad to agree to participate. The Confidential Close Call Reporting System pilot program—called C3RS for short -- allows the company's 1,000 employs to report safety issues, near misses, and close calls. Norfolk Southern officials say this was developed through a collaboration with two of their largest unions -- the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, and the SMART Union. Federal officials called on major U.S. freight railroads to join the program after the derailment in East Palestine.

#8
Wellsville officials are looking to fix a bridge after it was struck Sunday night. Ronald Sluss allegedly hit the bridge along Wells Avenue going onto Lisbon Street by Ohio 45. According to the Wellsville Police Department Facebook page, Sluss was charged with domestic violence, driving under suspension, failure to control, reckless operation, criminal damage, and failure to report an accident. The impact caused damage to the wall alongside the bridge. Mayor Bob Boley said officers pieced the story together when they noticed white paint along the front of Sluss' car. When Sluss was asked, he allegedly admitted that he had hit the bridge. Boley has been looking into price estimates to get the bridge fixed and says he does not believe the repairs will be made until the weather breaks.

Brooke County Commissioners have decided how to use funding from the state to benefit volunteer fire departments within the community. And, in Follansbee, they'll be purchasing new pagers which will in turn lower response times. The roughly \$79,000 from the state will be divided up evenly among the 10 volunteer fire departments in the county, with each department applying to the commission for the specific use they have for the funds. Follansbee Fire Department Chief Larry Rea said the funds will be put to use immediately, with the department ordering new radio equipment. County Commissioner A.J. Thomas said if the model used in this process is successful, it could become the blueprint for future funds from the state.

#1

The Booze and Cruise, You'll Lose program is back for 2024, starting at Bellaire High School. The event featured prizes giveaways, along with a Q&A session, a mock DUI arrest, including drunk goggles and a sobriety test -- all to show the seriousness of driving under the influence. More events are planned at different local schools in the area.

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

The trial of Logan Cochran continues in a Belmont County courtroom today. The Times-Leader reports prosecutors believe they can prove him guilty of rape charges for a May 20-22 incident in Martins Ferry.

Gerald Jako... convicted of murdering, dismembering, and burning a man and his pregnant girlfriend in 2018... received two life sentences in prison for the crime from Judge David Sims Tuesday. Jako had already received a 100-year prison sentence for an unrelated case of armed robbery.

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin's wife Gayle... suffered injuries in a car wreck in Alabama while in route to an Appalachian Regional Council event. The Senator's office says she remains in stable condition at a Birmingham hospital.

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

Wheeling Police successfully de-escalated a situation where a man barricaded himself Tuesday night.

News 9 reports police responded to a residence in the 600 block of North Main Street earlier in the evening for a welfare check. Later on... the man reportedly barricaded himself on the second floor of the residence. Police took the man away shortly after nine P-M... but did not release further information at the time.

Staying in Wheeling... the man convicted of a triple murder in Ohio County will spend the rest of his life in prison. Gerald Jako had already received a one-hundred year prison sentence for an unrelated armed robbery case. On Tuesday... Judge David Sims sentenced Jake to two life sentences for murdering Trevor Vossen and his pregnant girlfriend Lauren Cree-Jenkins in 20-18. Should Jako receive parole for the robbery... he starts life sentences for the murders immediately.

Gayle Manchin... wife of West Virginia Democrat U-S Senator Joe Manchin... is in the University of Alabama – Birmingham hospital in stable condition after a car wreck. In a statement... Senator Manchin's office says the accident happened while Gayle and a colleague were traveling from the airport to an Appalachian Regional Commission event.

You're listening to River News Network.

According to Dr. Angela Mattke, a pediatrician with the Mayo Clinic... a cure to a cough may already be in the pantry. She spoke with the Mayo Clinic News Network.

<<sound full>>

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

In Belmont County... a jury heard opening statements Tuesday in the trial of Logan Cochran... accused on rape charges for a May 20-22 incident in Martins Ferry. According to the Times-Leader... the case could go to the jury Thursday.

A Licking County man has filed a lawsuit in the U-S District Court for the Southern District of Ohio... arguing his constitutional rights are violated by a federal prohibition of home distilling.

The Buckeye Institute filed the lawsuit on behalf of John Ream... an aeronautical engineer turned brewpub owner. According to the lawsuit... if Congress can prohibit home distilling... it can also – quoting now -- prohibit home bread baking, sewing, vegetable gardening, and practically anything else.”

Continuing coverage now of the illegal migration crisis. A group of migrants jumped New York City cops... leaving them with minor injuries. But residents expressed dismay with the consequences for the alleged perps... as Kevin Corke reports.

<<sound full>>

You're listening to River News Network.

Cured meat often found on pizza became part of a crime leaving New Jersey police mystified. Tom Rigatti explains.

<<sound full>>

For River News Network, I'm Kurt Weinschenker.

HEADLINES 2-1-24

Over the past decade, Wheeling Heritage has provided community-directed funding to 31 projects totaling more than \$123,000 through the Show of Hands event. Wednesday's event featured four organizations who wanted a shot to win the \$10,000 prize. Each entrepreneur presented its pitch to the audience, who later voted on their favorite. This year's presenters included Euphoric Donuts, Hangover Barbecue, The Process, and the Belgian Waffle Shop. Ultimately, Euphoric Donuts took the grand prize. Since its beginning in 2013, 95% of Show of Hands' past winners are still in business.

The Mingo Junction Post Office closed Tuesday morning without warning to residents or the city government. According to Mayor Judy Ruckman, residents affected will be able to go to the Steubenville Post Office. Their mailing address will remain the same and they will get a new post office box and key. But she still wants to see a post office location in downtown Mingo Junction. Ruckman said the closure was a surprise to her and she's been receiving calls from residents looking for answers.

Harrison County Commissioners approved a grant from the Department of Justice for approximately \$18,000 that will go to the Harrison County Sheriff's Department for the purchase of new special response team equipment. Sheriff Joe Myers said his department can purchase two ballistic shields, eight communication coms that go into the radio system, and eight gas masks. Myers said the funding came in a similar process to other federal grants his department has received in the past.

The Belmont County Commission ^{moved} ~~motioned~~ ^{#2} to approve new subdivision regulations, something that's been in the works for a few years. Commissioner J.P. Dutton said this will change the way subdivisions are built in Belmont County, and provide a lot more guidelines for individuals putting in subdivisions. The current regulations dated back to 1962, and were outdated to the point where homeowners and townships were facing issues. The new regulations will not affect current subdivisions.

Television anchor and speaker Catherine Bosley gave a presentation at Eastern Gateway Community College on Wednesday night where she touched on the importance of keeping your child's digital life and reputation safe. Bosley noted that we now exist in two worlds - the real world where we can see, hear and touch each other, and the other world—our presence in a digital world through social media. The Jefferson County Juvenile Task Force hosted the event, and Juvenile Court Administrator Joe Colabella says the juvenile court has seen a rise in delinquency cases regarding sexting and sending obscene photos. Bosley said use self-discipline when using technology and to think about how certain posts and texts sent could affect your future.

^{#2}
Accused killer Niayah Hales appeared in an Ohio County courtroom on Wednesday for a status hearing involving his upcoming trial for a 2021 murder on Wheeling Island. Hales allegedly shot Michael J. Jackson on Jan. 28, 2021. Jackson later died in March. The topic of race was raised, with Hales' attorney Braden Noon providing a draft of potential juror questions, saying he believes race could play a significant role in the trial. Ohio County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Shawn Turak noted that many of the questions asked of potential jurors may inject the potential for prejudice. The judge agreed that some questions were important to ask, but others were irrelevant and invasive to jurors. A pretrial is set for April 5th.

#1

The Wheeling Police Department issued a possible overdose trend or spike alert this morning. This is the 3rd overdose alert sent out in the last 9 days. An alert was sent out on January 24th, January 27th, and today, February 1. The alert is in effect for the next 48-96 hours. Police advise that Narcan is available at the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. These alerts are enacted when at least three overdoses are recorded within a day or two and within the same geographical region.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Laurie Labishak
Market Director, Marketing and Communications
740-283-7296 laurielabishak@trinityhealth.com

Trinity Health System Heart Expert Keynote Speaker at Go Red Luncheon
Lisa Kush will discuss how women vs. men present heart disease symptoms

Steubenville, Ohio—January 30, 2024 - This Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, Trinity Health System will host its annual Go Red for Women Luncheon at St. Florian Hall in Wintersville.

Our keynote speaker this year is Lisa A. Kush, MBA-HCM, CVNP-BC, FNP-BC, AACC, MSN, BSN, RN, BS, Trinity Health System, Cardiology APRN and Office Coordinator.

We asked Lisa to give us a preview of her presentation, which will focus on heart disease and its symptoms.

Heart disease presents differently in women than in men

“Heart disease is the leading cause of death in men and women in the United States, claiming one in every three lives, a sobering statistic,” Kush said. “Yet, it’s a common misconception that older men are at greater risk for heart problems than women. If the heart is compromised, a heart attack can happen at any age and to either sex.”

Heart disease symptoms and heart attack symptoms go beyond chest pain, she added. What we see in TV and in the movies often make heart attacks look like sudden, crushing chest pain.

“While chest discomfort, pressure, or pain are common symptoms of heart attack, they aren’t the only ones, and women are more likely than men to have more subtle heart attack symptoms that may be unrelated to the chest, which makes recognizing a heart attack and the warning signs more difficult—unless you know what to look for,” Kush explained.

Women are more likely to ignore symptoms

Statistically, women are more likely to ignore symptoms of heart disease or delay seeking evaluation or treatment.

“It is important to know the symptoms as well as understand your risk factors both modifiable and nonmodifiable,” Kush stressed.

Trinity Health System's highly trained team of Cardiologists, Interventional Cardiologists, and Advanced Practice Providers are prepared to assist patients in recognizing the most common signs of heart disease and heart attacks in women and men, she added.

“We regularly diagnose and treat heart disease to help women of all ages live longer, healthier lives,” Kush said.

Go Red for Women event is sold out

The Go Red for Women luncheon is currently one of Trinity Health System's most popular community offerings. This year is no exception. In fact, the event has already sold out.

“The success of our Go Red Luncheon for the third consecutive year is a testament to the incredible support and collaboration of four local community and business partners,” Jessica Kelley, Community Outreach Specialist, said. “I am grateful for their continued partnership and look forward to achieving even greater milestones together.”

Trinity Health System would like to thank the generous organizations who have agreed to sponsor Go Red for Women 2024, including the following:

- Official Media Sponsor: WTRF Channel 7
- Photo Booth/DJ Sponsor: Franciscan University of Steubenville
- Accessory Table Sponsor: Sienna Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation
- Paparazzi Red Carpet Sponsor: Valley Hospice
- Signature Red Drink Sponsor: John Cucarese Financial Services
- Manicure Station Sponsor: A&B Sunset Pharmacy
- Chair Massage Sponsor: Graphics In Print
- Dessert Sponsors: Hauser Furniture & Carpeting, Fairfield by Marriott, and Change, Inc.
- Table Sponsors: Amanda Krupinski; Apollo Pro-Cleaning & Restoration; Capital Health Nursing & Rehabilitation Centers; Chambers & James Funeral, Pet & Cremation Services; Coleman Health Services; Cyrano; Fraley & Schilling; Jarvis Law Office; Lisa Kush Trinity Cardiology; NACWC; Trinity Health System Prime Time Senior Services; and Tri-State Financial Services.



“We are thrilled with the continued growth of this event and the overwhelming community support,” Laurie Labishak, Market Director, Trinity Health System, said. “Women want to take control of their health, and with events like this, we can arm them with the knowledge to do so.”

Trinity Health System would like to invite all media organizations to cover the luncheon on Friday. St. Florian Hall is located at 286 Luray Drive in Wintersville. The luncheon begins at 11 a.m. Laurie Labishak will be on hand to facilitate any interviews.

###

About Trinity Health System: *Trinity Health System is a faith-based, Catholic health system with the largest footprint in the region serving Jefferson, Harrison, Tuscarawas, Belmont and Columbiana counties in Ohio with locations in Hancock County in West Virginia and Allegheny County in Pennsylvania. Trinity Health System is part of CommonSpirit Health, a nonprofit, Catholic health system dedicated to advancing health for all people. It was created in February 2019 through the alignment of Catholic Health Initiatives and Dignity Health. CommonSpirit Health is committed to creating healthier communities, delivering exceptional patient care, and ensuring every person has access to quality healthcare. With its national office in Chicago and a team of approximately 150,000 employees and 25,000 physicians and advanced practice clinicians, CommonSpirit Health operates 142 hospitals and more than 700 care sites across 21 states. In FY 2018, Catholic Health Initiatives and Dignity Health had combined revenues of \$29.2 billion and provided \$4.2 billion in charity care, community benefit, and unreimbursed government programs. Learn more at commonspirit.org.*

HEADLINES 2-2-24

#1

A Martins Ferry man was found not guilty of three counts on Thursday in Belmont County. Logan Cochran was accused of two counts of rape and one count of gross sexual imposition that dated back to May 2022.

#1

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash involving a car and a horse and buggy on State Route 258 in Tuscarawas County. It happened around 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Officials say 68-year-old Benjamin Henry, of Port Washington, was traveling eastbound when he veered left of center and struck the horse and buggy. At the controls of the horse and buggy was 52-year-old Menno Troyer, of Newcomerstown. Troyer was pronounced deceased at the scene by Tuscarawas County Coroner. Henry fled and was later located by Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office. He was arrested for operating a vehicle under the influence and was incarcerated in the Tuscarawas County Jail. The case was forwarded to Tuscarawas County Prosecutor for further review.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2021, 25 percent of children killed in motor vehicle crashes involved drunken drivers. Now students and local law enforcement are looking to lower that statistic. Students at Indian Creek High School applied for a grant to bring a driving while impaired program to the school. The program takes a more hands-on approach, allowing students to feel the impacts of driving drunk. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office joined in to help out with students riding bikes and also shooting some hoops. Indian Creek students and those from the sheriff's office say they hopes to see the program spread to other schools.

#1

Blame My Roots Fest promoter Chris Dutton, teaming up with Country music legend Sammy Kershaw and Bryan Martin for Ranch Night BBQ & Concert -- a special one-time show on June 7 at the Dutton Cattle Company in Flushing. Tickets go on sale March 1.

The Jefferson County Port Authority held a special meeting to discuss the planning process for the proposed spec building at the Jefferson County Industrial Park. Officials heard a construction management proposal from Agracel, Inc. Port Authority Executive Director Robert Naylor said the next step is to get funding, find an architect and start applying. The port authority and county commissioners have been working closely to progress with the plans. The Jefferson County Commissioners did pass a resolution to move forward with the project at their meeting, as the county owns the property.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik announced financial support for two East Palestine businesses impacted by last year's train derailment. These two companies join 18 others previously approved for financial assistance, bringing the total amount of support to more than \$3.45 million. The new businesses announced are Yokeley Scott Corporation, LLC, a sports streaming company serving Northwest Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. The company is receiving a loan of \$85,250. And EPO, LLC, a real estate company that owns and manages residential rental properties. The company is receiving a loan of \$65,285. The Department of Development launched the East Palestine Emergency Support Program in August 2023 and issued the first loans in December. Additional loan applications are currently under review. In total, \$5 million was made available through the program. For-profit and non-profit businesses located within a 2-mile radius of East Palestine that were operational on or prior to Dec. 1, 2022, are eligible to apply.

Sewer and water were a major discussion at the Jefferson County Commissioners meeting on Thursday morning, as Amsterdam Mayor Jim Phillips addressed the board with an urgent message -- the water in his area is not up to par. Jefferson County Sewer and Water Department representatives say they are aware of the issue, and that it would cost at least \$7.5 million to repair 6 miles of line in the village. Commissioners discussed looking to do a combined water project with Amsterdam and Bergholz, but no action was taken at the meeting.

At yesterday's Jefferson County Commissioners meeting, the brand new Amsterdam Sewer Treatment Plant was brought into question. Jefferson County Sewer and Water assistant director Jonathan Sgalla said that over the past year, a lot of inflow and infiltration has been happening. This situation happens when storm water and groundwater enter a wastewater system. This is abnormal for a new system, and it can cause a sewer system to overload, forcing sewage into basements and streams. It is hoped that inexpensive methods, like testing using dyes and manholes will help determine the source and remedy the situation.
