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WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT



Photo by Steven Allen Adams

State Treasurer Larry Pack said Thursday that he is finding joy in serving West Virginia as its chief financial officer.

Cents & Sensibility

Larry Pack raising profile of State Treasurer's Office, stays mum on future plans

By STEVEN ALLEN ADAMS
Staff Reporter

CHARLESTON — Look just about anywhere and you'll find State Treasurer Larry Pack. From ribbon-cuttings to visits with local government officials, from interviews and op-eds to unclaimed property check presentations, Pack is raising the office's profile.

But Pack's activities have also raised questions about his plans for his political future, which could involve a run for governor in 2028, challenging Gov. Patrick Morrisey in a Republican primary.

During an interview Thursday in his offices in the east wing of the State Capitol Building, Pack was not prepared to talk about his future political plans. But he did



Photo courtesy of WV Legislative Photography

State Treasurer Larry Pack, right, speaks with House of Delegates Chief of Staff Jeff Billings prior to a Jan. 8 joint session of the House and state Senate to hear a goodbye message from outgoing governor Jim Justice.

say that he would continue to use his time in office to talk about issues facing the state and how to make things better.

"I'm very blessed in a lot

of ways, but one of the ways is I could retire if I wanted to. God has really blessed me and my family," Pack said. "But I've got a lot of fire in the belly, and in 40 years in the

private sector, I've got strong views on West Virginia.

"I love West Virginia," Pack continued. "I've got strong views of the direction I think government should go. And I don't know any way to do anything but just go dead at it."

■ Chief Financial Officer

Pack won election as state treasurer in an uncontested May Republican primary last year and the November 2024 general election, succeeding Riley Moore as state treasurer. Pack was not slated to take office until inauguration day on Monday, Jan. 13. But Moore needed to resign early as state treasurer to take his oath of office as West Virginia's 2nd District Congressman.

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"I love West Virginia. I've got strong views of the direction I think government should go. And I don't know any way to do anything but just go dead at it."

State Treasurer Larry Pack

Motion Denied

Gov. Morrisey's religious vaccine exemption executive order faces first setback in court

By STEVEN ALLEN ADAMS
Staff Reporter

CHARLESTON — While a Raleigh County case involving the legality of Gov. Patrick Morrisey's executive order allowing for religious exemptions to West Virginia's compulsory immunization is now before the state Supreme Court of Appeals, the executive order faced its first setback in Mineral County.

Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit Court Judge James W. Courrier Jr. denied motions Friday for a preliminary injunction and a temporary restraining order filed last month by parent Matthew Hansford against the Mineral County Board of Education and Mineral County School Superintendent Troy Ravenscroft. A written order was not available at press time.

According to his Aug. 15 filing in Mineral County Circuit Court, Hansford received a religious exemption through the state Department of Health on Aug. 14, made possible though a Jan. 14 executive order from Morrisey. However, according to Hansford, the Mineral County Board of Education refused to honor the religious exemption and admit his son's enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year.

State code requires children attending school to show proof of immunization for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and hepatitis B unless proof of a medical exemption can be shown. A bill to allow for a religious exemption failed during the 2025 legislative session.

Morrisey's executive order cites the 2023 Equal Protection for Religion Act to allow for religious and conscientious objections to the state's school vaccination mandates, which are then approved by the Department of Health. But the state Board of Education issued guidance to county boards of education in June to not accept religious exemptions and abide by the compulsory immunization law.

■ SEE VACCINES, PAGE 8A



Morrisey

As the local economy shrinks, nonprofit groups adjust to changes in donation levels

By WAYNE TOWNER
Staff Reporter

PARKERSBURG — Once a reliable source of support for local nonprofits, the past several decades have seen a decline in the Mid-Ohio Valley's larger employers and a subsequent change in giving.

Companies like Marbon — which became Borg-Warner, then GE, then SABIC — Challenger Electric, Vitrolite, Vitro-Agate, Ames, Kardex, FMC, Airolite, Diamond Glass, Demuth Glass, B.F. Goodrich, Johns Manville and Corning, among others, employed thousands of people in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Many of the companies flourished during and after World War II and continued to operate into the 1970s and 1980s. Many downsized or closed



due to changing economic needs, global competition, automation and changes in consumer preferences.

Marian Clowes, associate director for the Sisters Health Foundation, has been involved with fundraising and nonprofits for many years.

Clowes said when she moved to the Mid-Ohio Valley in the early 1990s, there was a more vibrant business and

manufacturing community, and she knows that it was even more robust prior to that.

"I had been told that companies like Borg Warner, for example, provided a lot of support for nonprofits in the community while they were headquartered here, and I do recall that leadership from the various plants in the area served on nonprofit boards, lending their expertise and support," she said.

"Given that some companies have closed or have less of a presence in the area, I think that the fundraising environment for nonprofits in the region has become more challenging over the decades. This is even more the case recently with federal funding cutbacks. It's challenging for nonprofits to secure

■ SEE NONPROFITS, PAGE 8A



File Photo

Full-time American Red Cross of the Ohio River Valley volunteer Charles Clegg stands beside the brand new Disaster Relief Operation emergency vehicle during a July dedication ceremony at the organization's Parkersburg office.

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