

On the River Ohio River Sternwheel Festival opens for weekend of celebration

Inside, 3A

## **High School** Soccer

Parkersburg boys square off versus **Cabell Midland** 

Sports, 1C

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SUNDAY, SEPT. 7, 2025

**WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT** 

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 a Republican primary.

During an pared to talk about his future better. political plans. But he did



Photo courtesy of WV Legislative Photography

plans for his political future, State Treasurer Larry Pack, right, speaks with House of Delewhich could involve a run for gates Chief of Staff Jeff Billings prior to a Jan. 8 joint session of governor in 2028, challeng- the House and state Senate to hear a goodbye message from to take office until inauguing Gov. Patrick Morrisey in outgoing governor Jim Justice.

Building, Pack was not pre- state and how to make things my family," Pack said. "But

"I'm very blessed in a lot belly, and in 40 years in the

interview say that he would continue of ways, but one of the ways resign early as state treasurer Thursday in his offices in the to use his time in office to is I could retire if I wanted to. to take his oath of office as east wing of the State Capitol talk about issues facing the God has really blessed me and West Virginia's 2nd District

I've got a lot of fire in the

private sector, I've got strong iews 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 Offi-

Pack won election as state treasurer in an uncontested May Republican primary last vear and the November 2024 general election, succeeding Riley Moore as state treasurer. Pack was not slated ration day on Monday, Jan. 13. But Moore needed to Congressman.

■ SEE PACK, PAGE 7A

"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 writ-

ten 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 Morrisev. 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

■ SEE VACCINES, PAGE 8A

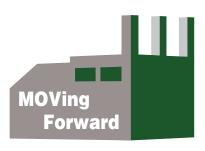
# As the local economy shrinks, nonprofit groups adjust to changes in donation levels

By WAYNE TOWNER

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 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 Mid-Ohio Valley in the early 1990s, and 1980s. Many downsized or closed there was a more vibrant business and ■ See Nonprofits, Page 8A



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

Marian Clowes, associate director for involved with fundraising and nonprofits for many years.

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 the Sisters Health Foundation, has been has become more challenging over the decades. This is even more the case Clowes said when she moved to the It's challenging for nonprofits to secure



recently with federal funding cutbacks. 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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### Morning News Briefing Israel strikes Gaza City high-rise building

Israel struck a high-rise building in Gaza City on Friday after an evacuation warning, as the military stepped up operations aimed at seizing control of the famine-stricken city of some 1 million Palestinians.

**Details, Page 2A** 

# Trump says his golf club will host G20 summit

President Donald Trump said Friday that the U.S. will host next year's Group of 20 summit at his golf club in Doral, Florida, arguing it was "the best location" for the highstakes international gathering.

**Details, Page 6A** 

# **KEADER**

Thank you, Janice Heward of Friendly for being a News and Sentinel subscriber.

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