WEEKEND EDITION

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SPORTS 1B
Former Polar Bear earns prestigious award

NEWLY-OBTAINED

East-West Stadium tazing video details

By Esteban Fernandez
Times West Virginian

FAIRMONT — Marion County Sheriff's deputies left little time to build rapport before tazing a man at a high school football game last month.

Two deputies arrested Raymond Riley on Oct. 2 at East-West Stadium, and charged him with disorderly conduct and obstructing an officer. James Nolan, an expert in police reform at West Virginia University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, viewed released security camera footage of the arrest.

"The video does not show much of a discussion or time for three warnings," Nolan said. "The officers came out of the stands and immediately threw the defendant against the fence presumably placing him under arrest. This looks more like the 'take control' model instead of the 'build rapport without resorting to force' model that is encouraged today in progressive police agencies."

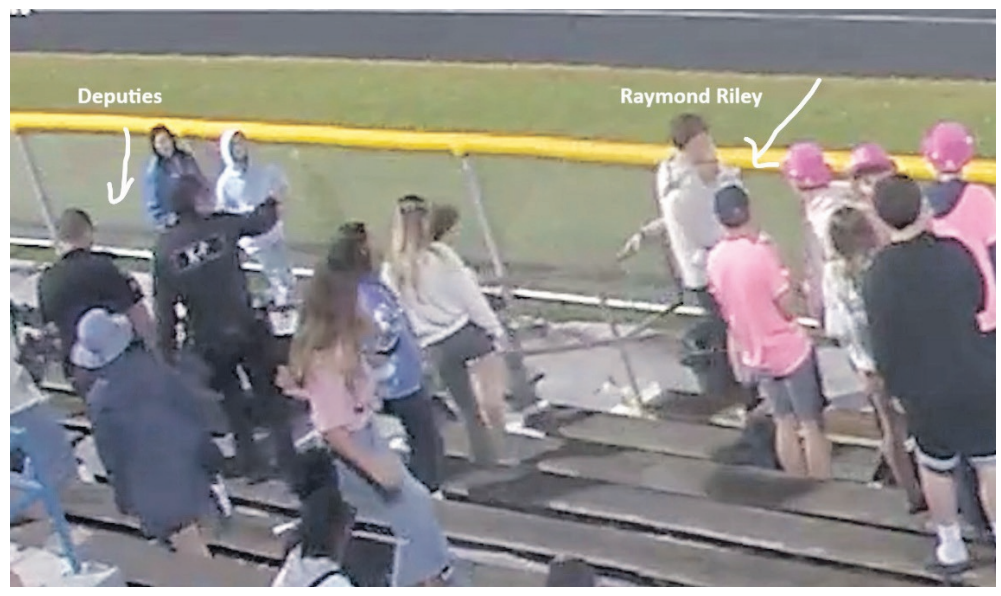
Nolan is a former police officer and FBI deputy chief.

Riley is from Anmoore. The criminal complaint places Riley at fault for his arrest, however, the family disputes law enforcement's version of events. Riley's attorney, Sam Harrold, accused the deputies of engaging in excessive force during the encounter.

After Deputy B.M. Clyde filed the initial complaint against Riley on Oct. 2, Deputy Caleb Krepps filed a second complaint against Riley on Oct. 5, adding a charge of destruction of property to Riley's arrest. The second complaint contained additional details about the arrest from the deputy's perspective.

A video taken by a bystander captured the moment deputies used a taser on Riley

SEE TAZING, PAGE 3A



VIDEO SCREENSHOT

A records request to the Marion County Board of Education for stadium security camera footage revealed the whole set of circumstances leading up to Riley's encounter with law enforcement. Riley is behind a student in this screengrab from the video.

DENTAL CARE

Patients thankful for healthy smiles

By Esteban Fernandez
Times West Virginian

MORGANTOWN — Adults without dental insurance were thankful for Monongalia County Health Department's Healthy Smiles Day.

The annual event was held at the health department's dental offices in Morgantown, next to the WVU medical center built around the J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital. Mon County Health Department Dentistry created Healthy Smiles Day in 2019 and the health department holds the event each year the day before Thanksgiving.

The event gives people without dental insurance a chance to see a dentist every year. Dental workers provide teeth cleanings, exams, X-rays and other small dental work as time allows.

"I think it does a good job, because as older people, a lot of them's on fixed income and can't afford to go to dentists," John W. Brosky, 84, said. "It costs sky high."



PHOTO BY ESTEBAN FERNANDEZ

John W. Brosky sits for a dental exam during the Monongalia County Health Department's annual Healthy Smiles Day on Nov. 25, 2026.

The Mon County Health Department created Healthy Smiles Day before Medicaid began providing up to $1,000 annually in dental benefits to adult patients, which is now $2,000 in a two year period. Dr. Youseph Kassar, MCHD Dentistry's program manager, said in a press release there were concerns the Medicaid benefit would mean fewer patients for Healthy Smiles Day, but that has not turned out to be the case. He said it shows there's still need for patients who are being left behind.

On Wednesday, Kassar said although the mouth is the gateway to the body, it often goes overlooked.

"People don't give it enough importance, or time, or due to cost," Kassar said. "They kind of don't come to dentists unless something bothers them, but a lot of times if it starts bothering the mouth, it may be too far gone. So we really want to reiterate the importance of prevention."

Kassar said there's a link between gum disease and heart health. The biome made of gut bacteria is connected to

SEE SMILES, PAGE 3A

COFFEE V PASTA

Business legal battle drags

By Esteban Fernandez
Times West Virginian

FAIRMONT — The legal battle between a local shop and its neighboring restaurant continues.

Stone Tower Joe LLC accused Mamma Di Roma Pie and Pasta Inc. of dragging its feet after both businesses reached an agreement last December. The Joe, owned by James Kane, sought a summary judgment against Mamma di Roma owners Armand and Bahman Behzadi in a court filing from August 2025.

The Joe initially filed a complaint against Mamma di Roma roughly a year and half ago in August 2025. The basis of the suit emerged from the nature of the building in which both businesses reside. The building, which formed one parcel of land, was split into two parcels in 1991. This created a weird situation where The Joe is "parcel locked," meaning its HVAC and water systems, and emergency egress are housed on the parcel owned by Mamma di Roma. According to The Joe's lawsuit, an easement that houses those systems existed across the parcel before either business was in that building.

The Joe alleged Bahman Behzadi threatened to shut down the Joe's water meter, HVAC unit and emergency egress in the spring of 2025. At one point, Behzadi did force the coffee shop to close by cutting water service to the storefront. According to the suit, Behzadi also destroyed an emergency egress path the Joe built in 2018. The Joe, in turn, asked Marion County Circuit Court Judge Patrick Wilson to grant the coffee shop its easement to its utility and egress, as well as have Behzadi pay $2,552 in damages and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest.

The parties appeared to reach an agreement in December 2025. But that did not hold.

"Despite opposing counsel's on-the-record representations that Defendants would work toward a recorded easement and resolution of this case, Defendants and their counsel have been

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Sidewalk rehab faces funding setback

By Esteban Fernandez
Times West Virginian

FAIRMONT — The City of Fairmont plans to renovate and replace sections of sidewalk along East Park avenue next year.

Councilmember Rebecca Moran said there are parts from Speedway Avenue to Fairfax Street that are not walkable for pedestrians as city officials revealed details of the project to City Council members at a work session Tuesday night.

"There are a lot of people that walk and catch the bus there," Moran said. "And maybe save funds, because in other parts of town, we have the same situations, things that are just really not that walkable."

The project spans the length of East Park Avenue, beginning at Speedway Avenue and traveling north along the road through Merchant Street and ending right before the Third Street Bridge. The sidewalk project is split into three phases, with Speedway to Fairfax making phase one, Fairfax to Morgantown Avenue making phase two, and Morgantown Avenue to the High Level Bridge making phase three. The project would accompany planned paving from the W. Va. Division of Highways in 2027.

City Manager Travis Blosser said costs at this phase are estimates, with no official numbers finalized. Officials estimate the project to cost around $2.5 million. Blosser acknowledged the city does not have the required $2.5 million to do the entire project.

The city submitted a $2 million transportation

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REMEMBRANCES

Nancy Heavner

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GOOD MORNING

James Gabbey

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