



FEDS PULL BACK

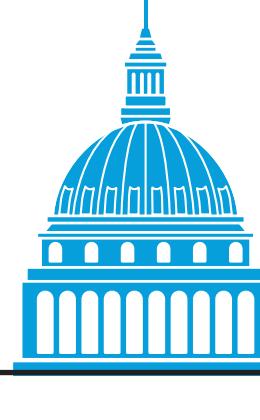
Homan calls 700+ immigration agents out of Minnesota

PAGE 8A

Charleston Gazette-Mail

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026 • A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER

AN **HD media** COMPANY



MOUNTAINEERS MAKE AN IMPACT



Stephanie Sarfo LeBlanc (from left), West Virginia University Mountaineer mascot Cade Kincaid, Brandi Thacker and Lexus Middleton stand for a photo in the West Virginia House of Delegates during WVU Day at the Statehouse in Charleston on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026.

Students and staff, and (possible) future Mountaineers, attend WVU Day at Legislature

SEVERAL HUNDRED people turned out Wednesday as West Virginia University and the WVU Extension hosted WVU Day at the Legislature.

The day highlighted the university's academic programs, resources and events through interactive exhibits set up in the West Virginia Capitol Rotunda. Students, faculty and staff also met with legislators and greeted visitors to the Capitol.

On hand were Michael T. Benson, WVU's president; Jorge Atiles, dean and associate vice president of the WVU Division for Land-Grant Engagement; and representatives from more than 40 academic units and statewide outreach programs across the WVU system.

The Mountaineer mascot, Cade Kincaid, a junior from Fayetteville, also was there, in his buckskins, and nearly 200 4-H members and other school-age children were on hand.



Puffin, a 2-year-old female golden retriever, gets some pets from Elizabeth Barger (left), Steven Eshena and Brianna Barger, 10, at Wednesday's WVU Day. Puffin is part of WVU's Hearts of Gold program, which places service dogs with military veterans who have mobility and/or psychiatric disabilities.

Tiffany LeMasters, of Hurricane, brought her children for the 4-H program. Her 13-year-old son, Markus, took an interest in the college booths.

"He likes robotics and engineering, he's

— Staff reports

Midway through season, Charleston approaching 20 inches of snowfall

Staff reports

Charleston saw more snow Tuesday night, and more is expected Friday, which might move

us a bit closer to our average for the season, which is just more than 30 inches. And we're only halfway through winter.

With Wednesday being the eighth straight school day where

either Kanawha County Schools or surrounding counties' school districts canceled classes, the snow, ice and cold are becoming more of a nuisance to residents.

Weather forecast

We may get a break from the snow for Thursday, but it likely will return for parts of Friday, according to the National Weather Service in Charleston. Here's a look ahead at the next five days:

■ Today: Partly sunny, with a

high near 30 and a low around 19.

■ Friday: Snow likely before 1 p.m., then snow, possibly mixed with rain. High near 36, low around 17. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Little accumulation is expected.

■ Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 22 and a low around 8.

■ Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35 and a low around 23.

■ Monday: Mostly cloudy,

with a high near 47 and a low of about 29.

Snow totals

Snow totals varied, but about 2 inches fell Tuesday night in the Kanawha Valley, according to the NWS, with Webster Springs, Webster County, the high point at 4.6 inches in the past 72 hours. Below is a partial list of totals. You can find a NWS snow total map for

SEE WEATHER, 7A

W.Va. Guard shooting suspect pleads not guilty

Rahmanullah Lakanwal, 29, may face death

By ARIANA FIGUERO
States Newsroom

WASHINGTON — Department of Justice attorneys said during a Wednesday hearing in federal court that a final decision will be made by May as to what kind of death penalty charges could be pursued for the suspect accused of shooting two West Virginia National Guard members in the nation's capital, killing one and seriously wounding the other.

The accused, 29-year-old Rahmanullah Lakanwal, appeared before U.S. District Judge Amit P. Mehta for an arraignment hearing, where he pleaded not guilty to all nine federal charges.

His next court hearing is May 6 in the District Court for the District of Columbia, where it was moved from the local court.

SEE SHOOTING, 7A

Power line ire rising as the PSC eyes an OK

By MIKE TONY
mtony@hdmediac.com

A 10-figure cost. Among thousands of public comments, a zero in support.

Those are the numbers that loom for a regional electric power line project planned to cross through West Virginia that has drawn widespread opposition from community members and political leaders who say the plan will negatively impact landowners, undercut the state's tourism economy and push electric rates upward.

Mounting evidence from consumer advocates suggests the costs could be exorbitant for West Virginia electric ratepayers incurred via the project, which the developer has acknowledged is driven significantly

SEE POWER, 7A

INSIDE TODAY

Senate health panel OKs bill to prohibit mailing of abortion pills to W.Va.

PAGE 2A

INSIDE: DETAILED INDEX ON 2A

Business 6A Obituaries
Classifieds/legals 7B-9B Opinion
Comics/horoscope 4B Sports
Crosswords/puzzles 4B-5B Television
Living 3A Weather

9A
4A-5A
1B-3B, 6B
5A
7A

4A-5A
1B-3B, 6B
5A
7A

CHARLEY WEST SAYS:

I guess I got used to the big chill because, lately, I feel colder at 30 degrees than I was in single digits. Odd.



READ BREAKING NEWS ONLINE

WEBSITE: wvgazettemail.com

TWITTER: [@wvgazettemail](https://twitter.com/wvgazettemail)

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/charlestongazettemail



\$2.00



Subscriptions: 304-348-4800