

NEWS

‘AM I SORRY I TRIED?’

Charleston native Sara Jane Moore, who tried to kill Gerald Ford, dead

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SPORTS

‘DA TWO UTES’

Utah visits West Virginia today for first regular-season meeting

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## Data center momentum, frustration accelerate in Mingo

By MIKE TONY  
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For nearly an hour before they invited questions from community members at their meeting in Mingo County to take input on controversial air quality permit applications for facilities aimed at powering data centers there, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection officials led residents through a litany of reasons they couldn't provide the environmental protection the residents were looking for.

"I know it can be tough to follow, but this is just the way that it works," Joe Kessler, senior engineer for the DEP's Division of Air Quality, told a dissatisfied crowd at the Larry Joe Harless Community Center in Gilbert at the DEP's Sept. 18 meeting before breaking down the history of federal air quality regulations dating back to the Clean Air Act of 1970, the state's compliance with national outdoor air quality standards and how standards are determined at the federal level.

SEE DATA, 6A

## Nearing 100, Judge John Copenhaver still wields his gavel

By RICK STEELHAMMER  
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Born in Charleston when Calvin Coolidge was president, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II, graduated from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1950, was named a federal bankruptcy referee in 1958, and was appointed a U.S. District Court judge by President Gerald Ford in 1976.

On Monday, Judge John T. Copenhaver Jr., the

SEE COPENHAVER, 7A

## 78th GAZETTE-MAIL KANAWHA COUNTY MAJORETTE & BAND FESTIVAL



Gazette-Mail file photo  
Sailor Lucas wins tiara in 2024.

# SHE TWIRLED HER WAY FROM HOOVER TO THE HERD

### '24 Miss Majorette Lucas, new MU bandmates to perform



Anna Isaacs spins a flag during band practice at Riverside High School, in Belle, on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025.

LAURA BILSON | Gazette-Mail photos



Aaliyah Burton-Smith has a light-hearted moment between run-throughs at the Riverside High band practice on Tuesday.

## Larger bands expected this year

By ASHLEY PERHAM  
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LAST SEPTEMBER, Herbert Hoover High School senior Sailor Lucas twirled her way to 2024 Miss Kanawha Majorette.

Next week at the Kanawha County Majorette & Band Festival, Lucas will perform at Laidley Field again — this time as a majorette with Marshall University's Marching Thunder.

The 78th Gazette-Mail Kanawha County Majorette & Band Festival will step off Tuesday evening at University of Charleston Stadium at Laidley Field.

The eight Kanawha County Schools high school bands will perform and compete for Festival Grand Champion. Nitro High School, directed

SEE BANDS, 6A

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