



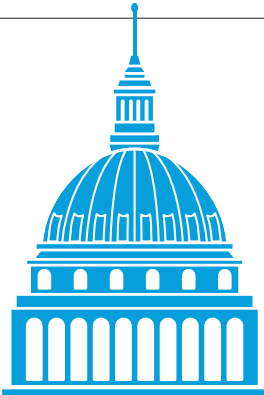
TO PROTECT AND SHOP
Shop with a Cop ‘a big help’
for Nitro families at Christmas

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Charleston Gazette-Mail

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025 • A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER

AN COMPANY



Coal is safe in W.Va.

PSC chair vows
no support for
closing plants

By **MIKE TONY**
mtony@hdmmedia.com

Coal plants increasingly lose money and make electricity ratepayers lose money. Cheaper, cleaner energy sources have emerged in the 21st century, causing net coal generation to plummet 68% from 2005 to 2024, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration data. Technological advances and fuel costs have rendered aging coal-fired plants increasingly uneconomic and subject to volatile price fluctuations, and building new plants has been cost-prohibitive. The U.S. is roughly 12 years removed from its last large (greater than 100 megawatts) coal-fired plant coming online in 2013, according to

SEE **COAL, 10A**

Foster care fix studied at Capitol

By **AMELIA FERRELL
KNISELY**
West Virginia Watch

State lawmakers are entering the upcoming legislative session hoping to make improvements to West Virginia’s overwhelmed foster care system, announcing 16 bills so far to fix long-standing problems. One measure would put body cameras on Child Protective Services workers, and another bill would require some counties to use artificial intelligence to help CPS with high caseloads. Republican lawmakers also want to increase in-state facilities for foster children with the goal of bringing 543 foster children who are in out-of-state group homes back to West Virginia. West Virginia spent nearly \$70 million last fiscal year to house foster children in out-of-state facilities, and some children

SEE **FOSTER, 12A**

INSIDE TODAY

Kentucky State U. shooting leaves 1 dead and 1 wounded; suspect caught

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CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE | Gazette-Mail

The golden dome of the West Virginia Capitol is seen through snow-covered trees on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025, after a winter storm blew through Monday.

MORE SNOW ON THE WAY

Nearly 8 inches fell on the Kanawha Metro area Monday

Staff reports

SOME AREAS of the Kanawha Metro region received more than a half-foot of snow in Monday’s storm, and many area school districts changed their learning plans for Tuesday. Here’s a roundup of weather news for the Charleston region and beyond.

Snow totals, weather forecast

Snow totals varied, but about 6-8 inches fell Monday in the Kanawha Valley, according to the National Weather Service in Charleston. Below is a list of totals in inches. Find an NWS snow-total map for West Virginia at bit.ly/WV_SnowTotals, and search by your town.

- 7.5: Tornado
- 6.3: Charleston
- 6: Elkview
- 5.5: Belle
- 5.4: Beckley
- 5: Oak Hill
- 5: St. Albans
- 4.5: Kenova
- 4.4: Hurricane
- 4.2: Barboursville
- 3: Huntington

Tuesday’s outlook for Charleston was partly sunny skies and a high around 41, with a low around 34 Tuesday night. Today, we’ll see rain with a high near 48. The precipitation should change to snow in



SEAN MCCALLISTER | Gazette-Mail

A U.S. Postal Service vehicle outfitted with tire chains travels across Charleston’s Southside Bridge toward South Hills during Monday’s snowstorm. [Your 7-day forecast is on Page 10A.](#)

the evening. There is a 50% chance of snow on Thursday with a high in the mid-30s and a low in the mid-20s. “We’re expecting another event Wednesday night into Thursday,” said Andy Roche, meteorologist with the NWS. “[We’ll see] up to 4-8 inches in the higher elevations [of Eastern West Virginia], and about 1 inch in the lower elevations,” in-

cluding Charleston, Roche said Tuesday morning. Additional information and updates can be found at weather.gov/rfx, as well as on the Charleston Gazette-Mail’s X account and Facebook page. Get up-to-the-minute road conditions in West Virginia provided by the state Department of Transportation. Call 511 or online at wv511.org.

Decorated Iraq vet wants Purple Heart for Guardsmen shot in DC

By **AMELIA FERRELL
KNISELY**
West Virginia Watch

A decorated West Virginia veteran has called for the two National Guard members shot in Washington, D.C., to receive the Purple Heart medal. U.S. Army Spc. Sarah Beckstrom, 20, died on Thanksgiving as a result of her wounds, and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, 24, remains in the hospital with severe wounds.

The pair were ambushed Nov. 25 while on duty blocks from the White House while hundreds of Guard members were in D.C. for President Donald Trump’s “Operation D.C. Safe and Beautiful.” “This was an act of terrorism. This was premeditated,” said retired U.S. Army Capt. James L. McCormick, a three-time Purple



BECKSTROM



WOLFE

Heart recipient from New Haven, Mason County, who is making a push for Beckstrom and Wolfe to receive the medal. “I pray to God Almighty that they get the Purple Heart, and that those that heroically stood up and fought off this guy that they’re properly recognized,” he said. McCormick believes that the

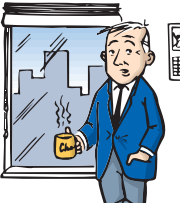
nature of the targeted attack on Beckstrom and Wolfe makes them worthy of receiving the Purple Heart, a military honor given to military members wounded or killed while serving. An Afghan national, Rahmanullah Lakanwal, 29, was charged with one count of murder after the attack on the Guard members, as well as two counts of assault with the intent to kill, and a count of possession of a firearm

SEE **MEDALS, 10A**

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CHARLEY WEST SAYS:

It's Wednesday. If you consider tomorrow pre-Friday — and the next day IS Friday — well, that technically makes today Friday.



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