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Aug. 15, 2010

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COMING TOMORROW

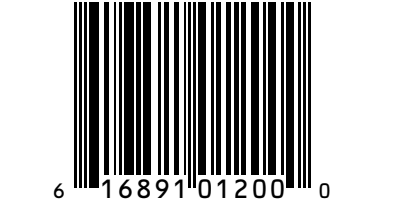
A long journey home

Siblings reunite after being separated in the 1940s.

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Morgan descendants hold reunion

Ruth Swisher (left) and Jane Clamp talk about the program during the 103rd annual reunion of the descendants of Col. Morgan Morgan, on Saturday, at Pricketts Fort. Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post



201st Field Artillery, which deploys to Iraq, also honored

BY JIM BISSETT The Dominion Post FAIRMONT — Garrett wasn't thinking all that much about his family's place in history Saturday afternoon as he milled around with a bunch of his relatives at Pricketts Fort State Park.

But don't give him too hard of a time. After all, he is 4 years old. And on this afternoon, he was right smack in front of the dessert table, as everyone lined up for lunch. The occasion was the 103rd reunion of the descendants of Col. Morgan Morgan, the self-starting Welshman whose son, Zackquill, founded Morgantown. Around 100 Morgan descendants from mainly across the eastern U.S. came to West Virginia to SEE MORGAN, 4-A



Dangerous intersections



Police officers and firefighters respond to the intersection of Mon Boulevard and Boyers Avenue.

433 wrecks, 30 weeks, eight sites

Many Mon County accidents clustered around a few spots

BY ALEX LANG The Dominion Post

About three times a week, a MECCA 911 emergency dispatcher will answer a call about a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Monongahela Boulevard and Patteson Drive. In the first 30 weeks of this year, 91 crashes have been reported at that intersection. According to numbers from the Monongalia County office of Emergency Management (OEM), Monongahela Boulevard, W.Va. Highway 705 and Grafton Road are the top three



An accident at the intersection of Patteson Drive and University Avenue.

roadways in the county where drivers find themselves swapping insurance information with other drivers. The 91 wrecks at Mon Boulevard and Patteson Drive have earned that intersection the top spot on the accident- SEE WRECKS, 6-A

ELECTION 2010

Frich: Card not mine

'Racist' campaign material given out in Marion County

BY DAVID BEARD The Dominion Post

Cindy Frich will file a formal complaint with the secretary of state's office regarding phony campaign material bearing her name. The material in question is a card, slightly larger than a business card, with print on both sides. According to the secretary's office, the card appears to violate state election code and its author could be subject to criminal penalties. The front says, "Need a ride to the polls? Give me a call and we'll make arrangements to have our chartered bus come to your home and pick you up. Call Cindy for Senate," followed by a phone number and an arrow directing the reader to flip the card over. The back of the card reads, "Our chartered bus will also include Refreshments; 'Fried Chicken - Watermelon - Kool-Aid 'Sounds too good to pass up!'" Frich told The Dominion Post SEE FRICH, 4-A

Obama: Gulf job far from done

With BP spill under control, U.S. looks at drill ban. Page 6-D

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. — The first family dashed to the Florida Panhandle on Saturday so President Barack Obama could play pitchman — Gulf Coast beaches are clean and open for business — and assure residents his government won't abandon them now that the busted well has stopped spewing oil. He also said he "absolutely" would plunge into waters that absorbed 200 million gallons of oil. Expect the dip today, he told reporters accompanying him on the 27-hour excursion to the Sunshine State, whose tourism industry is reeling from the spill. "I'm here to tell you that our job

is not finished, and we are not going anywhere until it is," the president said in this Panhandle city after meeting with state officials, local leaders and business owners at a Coast Guard station. "I will not be satisfied until the environment has been restored, no matter how long it takes." Obama said he brought his family — first lady Michelle Obama, daughter Sasha (sister Malia is at summer camp) and family dog Bo — to Florida "to let our fellow Americans know that they should come on down here. It is spectacular. Not just to support the region. Come down here because it's a beautiful place to visit." Arriving at their beachfront hotel, the first family ventured to Lime's Bayside Bar & Grill, where they relaxed on an outdoor deck overlooking the water. Obama is on his fifth trip to the region since the April 20 explosion on a deepwater rig that caused

the spill. Obama said he knows Gulf Coast residents have been frustrated by the slow payment of claims from a \$20 billion BP fund for those who have suffered damages as a result of the spill, and he pledged to rectify that. "Any delays — by BP or by those managing the new fund — are unacceptable, and I will keep pushing to get these claims expedited," Obama said. The president and first lady were joined at a roundtable discussion by Florida Gov. Charlie Crist; Navy Secretary Ray Mabus; a former Mississippi governor appointed by Obama to develop a long-term Gulf restoration plan; the mayors of Panama City and Panama City Beach; the general manager of a three-hotel chain that has had 1,000-room night cancellations due to the spill; the owner of a charter boat company; and the co-owner of a restaurant and two fishing boats.

N.Y. store hires bedbug-hunting beagle, just in case

Associated Press NEW YORK — High-end New York City retailer Bergdorf Goodman has hired a beagle to hunt for bedbugs — just in case. Store spokeswoman Ginger Reeder said there have been no reported cases of the pesky bugs at the Fifth Avenue department store. She said it seemed prudent to go the extra mile, though. The beagle has been on the prowl for several weeks, working at night after the store closes. The bloodsucking pests have rapidly multiplied in recent years. They can slip into any tiny space, including floor cracks and wall outlets. Retailers that have reported cases include Victoria's Secret, Abercrombie & Fitch and Hollister.



Dangerous intersections



TOP 8 ACCIDENT SITES

The top eight intersections with the most wrecks in Monongalia County so far this year.

1. Patteson Drive and Monongahela Boulevard — 91
2. Monongahela Boulevard and Boyers Avenue — 84
3. Chestnut Ridge Road and Van Voorhis Road — 67
4. Patteson Drive and University Avenue — 64
5. Stewartstown Road and W. Va. Highway 705 — 44
6. Mileground Road and W. Va. Highway 705 — 38
7. Grafton Road and Hornbeck Road — 26
8. Grafton Road and the Halleck/Gladesville intersection — 19



Jason DeProspero and Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post photos



WRECKS

FROM PAGE 1-A

prone list so far this year.

The No. 2 spot for 2010 is just down the street at Mon Boulevard at Boyers Avenue with 84 accidents; and the intersection of Chestnut Ridge and Van Voorhis roads was third with 67 wrecks.

The next three in order were Patteson Drive and University Avenue, 64; Stewartstown Road and 705, 44; and Mileground Road and 705, 38. That's 388 crashes in 30 weeks at six sites.

Add in accidents at Grafton and Hornbeck roads, 26; and Grafton Road and the Halleck/Gladesville intersection, 19, and that totals 433 accidents in 210 days.

OEM Director Mike Wolfe said those numbers include all accidents at those eight intersections, but most ended up being minor fender benders.

Wolfe said he was surprised by the number of accidents at some of the locations—Mon Boulevard, W.Va. 705 and Grafton Road—because he didn't expect them to be as high as they were.

However, he did say the intersections with the most reported accidents are some of the busiest in the area. They are also used during some of the biggest events the county hosts, such as WVU athletic events.

Some local drivers said they aren't surprised that the intersection of Patteson Drive and Mon Boulevard is at the top of the list.

Ryan Riddle works in the ticket office at the WVU Coliseum and said there are frequent fender benders as people turn right from Patteson Drive onto Mon Boulevard.

"It's almost a daily occurrence," Riddle said.

There is also a problem for drivers as they leave the Coliseum, Riddle said. He has seen a couple of close calls as drivers go straight out of the Coliseum, cross Mon Boulevard and drive onto Patteson. That's where motorists coming up Mon Boulevard from town also merge with Patteson Drive.

Riddle said the intersection is "extremely busy."

WVU sophomore Caleb Klahre said he wasn't surprised that the intersection was on the top of the list. He said he thought the only other option for the top spot would be Patteson Drive, near Kroger.

Morgantown resident Kristina Geiselhart said she has seen a couple of accidents at the intersection, but they were just fender benders.

She said she wouldn't



PRIVATE LAND

If an accident occurs on private property, law enforcement can write a report for insurance purposes. But most private-property accidents are no-fault incidents.

What to do in case of an accident

The Dominion Post

If there is a car accident:

1. Call 911 and report the accident.
2. If possible, move the cars off the road.
3. Protect yourself. If cars are leaking fluid or smoke is coming from the vehicle, move away from the scene.
4. If you think someone is hurt, provide the information to 911 operators. The dispatchers are trained to give medical instructions over the phone. Injured people should be moved by emergency responders or if there is a hazard, such as fire, that could endanger the person.

SOURCE: Monongalia County Office of Emergency Management Deputy Director Mike Wolfe.

have thought the intersection of Patteson and Mon was the site of most accidents. She figured it would be Patteson at Kroger or at W.Va. 705 and Willowdale Road.

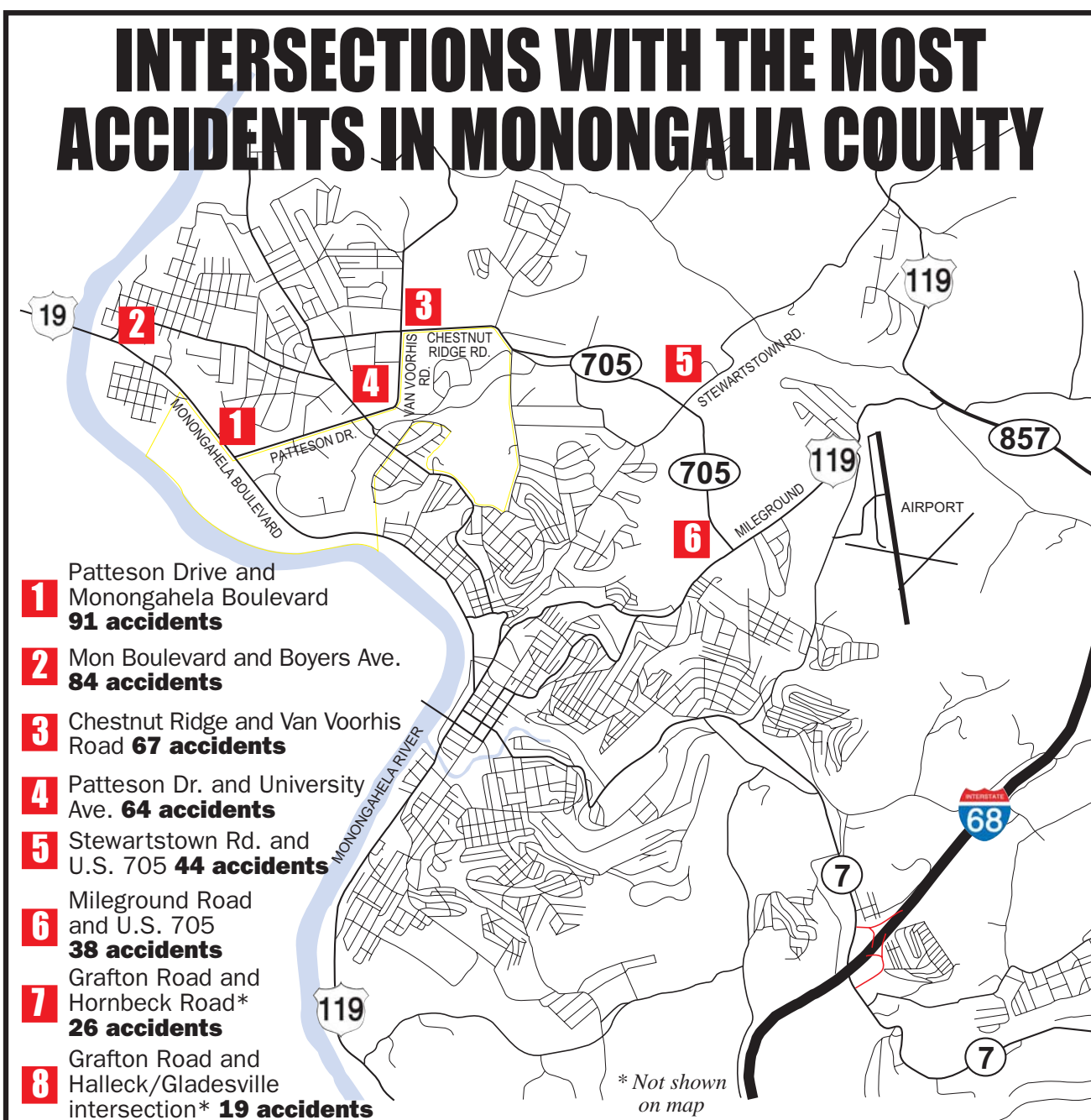
Monongalia County Sheriff Al Kisner has first-hand experience with one particular intersection.

He said he was once hit from behind while at 705 and Stewartstown Road. He was waiting for the traffic light to change. When it did, the car behind him hit his vehicle before he started moving.

The sheriff said he knew the person who hit him and her immediate reaction was "oh no, not him." But, after a while they both found some humor in it, Kisner said.

His accident was similar to many of the wrecks at the top intersections, Kisner said.

"Most of the accidents in those places, that's what happens," he said.



Eric J. Tomlinson / The Dominion Post

He said they are busy intersections, near several businesses that let employees out at the same time.

People either are trying to get through an intersection seconds after a light has changed or they aren't paying attention and hit another vehicle from behind, he said.

Star City Police Chief

Vic Propst said his department is responsible for the Mon Boulevard and Boyers Avenue intersection. He said during one week in July, accidents at the intersection put nine people in the hospital.

"We try to patrol [that intersection] as much as we can," he said.

But, it can be difficult if

people are speeding in the area, Propst said. If an officer sees someone speeding, it can be difficult for him to get out on the road without creating another hazard.

Propst estimated they respond to roughly a dozen accidents a month at that intersection.

The problem with that particular intersection is

that people change lanes too late to get in the proper turning lane, Propst said. Drivers are also trying to get the best position on the road and it creates a hazard. Finally, many people speed through the intersection.

"They're all in a hurry for those few seconds," Propst said.