

**Jerry West returns**  
WVU basketball legend  
to visit for W.Va. Day.  
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**Kidfo**  
Drawings, more  
from children.  
**Tuesday**



**JOHN  
SAMSELL**

## Remembering the 1st Ward School

**IT WAS A LARGE,** yellow-orange school building, typical of educational structures built in the early 1900s.

Today the block where 1st Ward School sat for a century is green space, thanks to the school system, the recreation commission and primarily to residents of that neighborhood. The park was named for **Jack Roberts**, long-time Morgantown High teacher, coach and athletic director. His estate helped fund the park.

We've mentioned before that efforts are still being made to reconstruct a wall facing Madigan Avenue. Missing, of course, is the school building where many of us roamed the halls for six years of our lives, and saw our children do the same.

The building that was eventually torn down was facing the area where the walls are, and fronted the playground area where pupils stood each morning and pledged allegiance to the nation's flag, "for which it stands."

The grounds also were used for various activities. In addition to swings and slides on the playground, during warm weather kids used sticks to outline circles to play marbles in and other games.

Behind the building was a softball field, elevated so players had to run up and down a slope to retrieve errant softballs. In the summer time, a makeshift theater screen was placed on the building, and neighborhood folks sat on the bank and watched movies for free.

What is now Laishley Field at the corner of Lawnwood and Madigan, was used as a softball field in later years. Before that, there were basketball courts, which later were moved to an area in the field behind the school.

In earlier years most students walked to school. One path on the south side passed by some huge rocks up to Liberator's store on West Virginia Avenue. On the other side, the path led north to Madison Avenue and Dorsey Avenue.

Students also walked as far as Wagner Road and as far west as University Avenue, the route being bounded by the oil tankfield and the Monongahela River. Some students who lived at Beechwood and distant locations rode the bus to school. Inside the school, one room on the first floor accommodated those riding the buses home.

The basement of the school had a classroom that was reached by a passageway beside a giant furnace, first powered by coal and later by natural gas. The man who took care of the furnaces was probably the most popular person, who was friendly to students passing by.

Classes in music were taught in the first room on the left as you entered. Each of the six classes had a room of its own. There were two first-grade classrooms, in the center of the first floor, one on each side.

Art classes were taught in a room on the left at the end of the building's main floor. Any indoor recreation took place in a basement room in the back of the building. During wartime, that area was considered a bomb shelter — the floor lined off for various classes.

For a time, one teacher taught fourth- and fifth-grade classes in the same, double room on the second floor. That was an interesting situation, probably resembling one-room school setups. The teacher would give the fourth grade an assignment and then go to the other side of the room to talk to the fifth grade class.

Another feature of the school was a fire escape chute. I remember once our class had a practice slide down the chute from the second floor to the playground. Some fun, too.

**JOHN SAMSELL** is a retired copy editor/special sections editor for *The Dominion Post*. His column appears Saturday. Email him at [columns@dominionpost.com](mailto:columns@dominionpost.com).

# Area Muslims celebrate Ramadan

## Islamic community members meet at Mosque, break fast

**BY MADISON FLECK**  
The Dominion Post

Muslims around the world are celebrating the ninth month of the lunar Islamic calendar, Ramadan.

For most, that means fasting from sunrise to sunset, increased prayer and self-reflection. The Islamic Center of Morgantown's (ICM's) Muslim community meets every day during the month to break fast and pray together.

During Ramadan, Muslims refrain from eating or drinking anything during sunlight hours. Yes, even water. Fasting is one of the five fundamental principles, or pillars, of Islam, and its purpose is for Muslims to practice self-control but also live in solidarity with the poor.

"A lot of Muslims believe we want to feel for the poor, how they feel because there are people in the world who don't have enough food to get them through the day," said Muhammad Khan, a member of

Morgantown's Muslim community. "It's mainly that we want to feel what they feel, and we want to help as many poor as we can here."

The month of Ramadan began this year June 5 and will continue until July 5. It signifies when the Quran, the holy book of Islam, first began to be revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, the last prophet in a line of Islamic prophets which are also recognized in the Christian faith: Adam, Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

But Ramadan is about more than just fasting and praying, it's about self-reflection and empathy, it's about community. Each day's fast is broken with a meal known as "iftar," which is broken with family and friends.

Members at the ICM sign up to bring food for each day of the month so that the community can celebrate together. For those in the community who are single or without families, this can give them a sense of community.

"Most people that are families, they stay at home, cook and break their fast together," said the ICM's imam, or prayer leader, Kip Curnutt. "But for people who are single or here by themselves, it's a big deal to



Kathleen Batten/The Dominion Post

**Muhammad Al Jaziri (right) watches** as Muhanad Suaaidi and Fahad Muhammad break fast at the Morgantown Islamic Center on Tuesday.

be able to come to the mosque every night and have dinner together."

Though fasting for roughly 16 hours may seem impossible, Curnutt and others at the ICM said it's easier than most people would think. However, there are always some luxuries difficult to go without.

"I drink a lot of coffee, so that's the thing that makes it difficult for me," Curnutt said. "Especially the last few hours of the day, I get kind of

out of it."

From roughly 4:20 a.m.-8:50 p.m. the Muslim community is fasting and reflecting, but normal day-to-day activities remain the same.

"It's an act of worship," Curnutt said. "You can see certain wisdoms behind it. It teaches you self-control and overcoming your desires."

The ICM will celebrate the end of Ramadan with a celebration known as "Id al-Fitr" on July 6.

## Science at school



Eric J. Tomlinson/The Dominion Post

**Students listen** to a presentation as a part of STEAM camp at Brookhaven Elementary School on Friday.

## Brookhaven hosts STEAM camp

**BY CONOR GRIFFITH**  
The Dominion Post

Students concluded their summer STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) camp Friday at Brookhaven Elementary School by building and launching rockets.

Jess White, an education specialist with NASA, showed the third-, fourth- and fifth-grade campers how to make simple rockets from paper, duct tape and wooden rods. At the same time, he used this lesson to demonstrate principles of symmetry, aerodynamic shape and center of gravity.

The students launched their homemade rockets from the school playground. Campers Abree Rowan, Amelia Kuraeva and Christi-



Eric J. Tomlinson/The Dominion Post

**Jess White (center)**, an education specialist with NASA, helps students with an activity.

na Farmer each received certificates for crafting the rockets that flew farthest.

"We consider it a privilege to come here and get them interested in math and science and build them up," White said. "It's our hope that they

will be NASA's future workforce."

Charity Bolyard, White's sister and a Brookhaven teacher, said the kids also built robots and designed their own buildings as part of the week-long STEAM camp.

## Black Bears game will clear the benches for cancer

**TO ORDER** tickets, contact the American Cancer Society at 122 S. High St., Morgantown, WV 26501 or 304-296-8155. The cost is \$13 for cancer survivors and \$16 for the general public.

**BY ANN KENNELL**  
The Dominion Post

The West Virginia Black Bears baseball team is "clearing the benches" for the American Cancer Society.

The two organizations are teaming up to shine a light on cancer survivors with "Clearing the Benches for the Fight Against Cancer."

The game begins at 7 p.m. July 14, Dunkin' Donuts Mug Night, when the Black Bears take on the Auburn Doubledays at home. Dunkin' Donuts Mug Night will give the first 1,000 attendees a free Dunkin' Donuts travel mug.

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Before the game, about 15 cancer survivors will be acknowledged on the field, and one will be announced as the 2016 Survivor of the Year.

"We looked at different people in the area, and we picked the recipient with the help of the Black Bears," said Jarrod Ranone, senior manager for the local Relay for Life chapter.

Ranone also said that there will be a quartet group, Sapphire Sound, singing the national anthem, and gift baskets to raffle off throughout the evening.

"I wanted to do this just to honor survivors. My best friend that I lost to cancer was a huge baseball fan," Ranone said. "So, to me, something like this is, one, to go to a baseball game and, two, to also spread awareness and honor people who

fought this disease."

The American Cancer Society is selling tickets at the Morgantown office, on South High Street. The deadline to purchase tickets is June 30. Proceeds will go toward Relay For Life, which is the group's biggest fundraiser.

Being a partner and an official charity for Minor League Baseball, picking a Black Bears game for a fundraiser seemed like an obvious choice.

"We work with a ton of different minor league teams throughout the country," Ranone said. "But in terms of something like this, with survivor recognition, I think this is the first event like this in the area."

The group's goal is to raise \$3,000 for Relay For Life, and Ranone said it is already one-third of the way to that goal.

Matt Drayer, general manag-

er for the West Virginia Black Bears said the organization is excited to show its support for such a great cause.

"I look at it as the fact of our fan bases (Black Bears and American Cancer Society) are very diverse. From women to men to children, from old to young, just like cancer affects people. It doesn't discriminate," Drayer said.

Drayer feels that cancer is such a widespread disease that the Black Bears should do whatever they can to help raise money and awareness for Relay For Life.

"I'm hoping they sell thousands of tickets, and the place is packed," he said. "I hope the community comes out and shows their support for the American Cancer Society."

# Giuliani case is tossed

## Judge dismisses suit against BZA

**BY ALEX LANG**  
The Dominion Post

Monongalia County Circuit Court Judge Phillip Gaujot ruled against James Giuliani, a property owner, this week in his suit against the Morgantown Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

According to Gaujot's order, a staff report to the city's Planning Commission or the BZA is not an appealable decision.

Giuliani filed suit against the BZA this year regarding The Standard at Morgantown, a proposed mixed-use, 866-bed development at the corner of University Avenue and Walnut Street. A Georgia-based student-housing developer is backing the approximately 2-acre project.

This week, the BZA denied some variance requests, leaving The Standard to modify its plan or appeal the panel's decision.

Giuliani declined to hear his appeal in the case. Giuliani argued that he was appealing a report by the planning staff that was submitted to the BZA.

Gaujot stated that the staff is entitled to submit reports for consideration and that committees are entitled to accept or reject the reports.

Giuliani is entitled to state his objections to the BZA; however, he is not guaranteed rights other than those provided in the law, Gaujot ruled.

As a result of his ruling, Gaujot dismissed the Giuliani suit. Giuliani could not be reached in time for this report.