

**If Big Daddy follows the rules, there's no problem**

I would like to know what the safety concerns are for Big Daddy's gun store opening in Morgantown?

There is nothing wrong with Big Daddy's doing business in town. It's the company's right to open its store, as long as the gun store does all background checks and doesn't sell to people it thinks may have a mental problem.

People like the ones who signed their names to stop Big Daddy's are wrong and the gun store should not do business with any of these people. The guns are not the problem — it's the nuts who get ahold of a gun and they will more than likely get a gun that was not bought legally.

The other problems out there are the drug dealers who have guns they are not supposed to have and known felons who have guns they are not allowed to own. These are the people you have to worry about, not the people who know how to handle a gun in the right way. So people need to stop trying to close a gun store before it opens. If it were their business, they wouldn't want someone trying to prevent them from opening.

**Ralph Correll  
Morgantown**

**Kingwood Pike finally paved. Time for the rest**

Our taxes at work — the complete length of the Kingwood Pike has now been resurfaced or repaired. I was very pleased with that result when I've driven it recently.

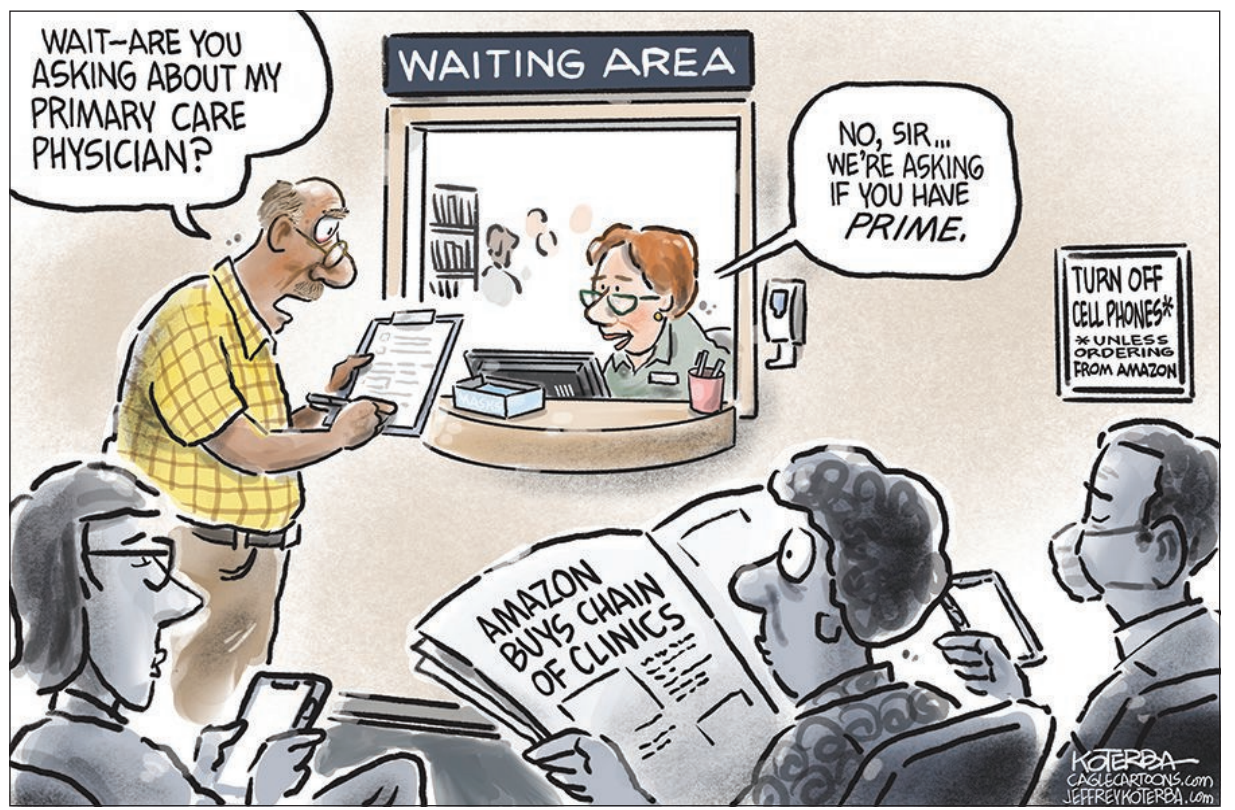
Thank you to all the taxpayers in West Virginia who made that possible. Now my new car will not get as beat up from pothole encounters on that trip.

Sure hope the day will come before I kick the bucket that the Hogback Turn on Brockway Avenue and Holland Avenue in Westover will also be as smooth a trip as the Pike is now.

Crazy as it may sound, couldn't a road compaction roller be used to flatten the biggest Hogback Turn knobs and bulges, especially on a hot day? Recent super-hot weather in England actually melted the asphalt on a military base there.

As my vehicle hobbles slowly across those awful roadways, I wonder whether the mayors and city managers use those streets. Yes, I know there are also jurisdictional entanglements, but holy cow — let's fix those too!

**Deb Miller  
Reedsville**



**Want to spend surplus? Fix the roads first!**

While driving to Preston County last weekend, I noticed there are still many sections of W.Va. 7 made more dangerous due to large holes on the edge of the roadway and heavily used guardrails.

On smaller county roads, in Monongalia and Preston counties, I still see potholes and

many layers of patches — ready to become more potholes when winter returns.

I think the \$1.3 billion would be better used to fix drainage problems and properly resurface more roads, which have been underfunded for years. Or at least use the surplus to pay down the public debt on the Roads to Prosperity program.

**Ben Chorpene  
Morgantown**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

EMAIL submissions to [opinion@dominionpost.com](mailto:opinion@dominionpost.com)  
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INCLUDE your name, hometown and phone number for confirmation. Letters should not exceed 300 words.

**GARLAND**

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obstruction as well as fraud against the United States in his schemes to delay the certification vote. The important open question is whether the department will be able to charge Trump with seditious conspiracy, an inordinately serious charge to levy against a former president but the one that I believe best captures his heinous conduct.

And then the ultimate question: Will the Justice Department take the historic step of indicting a former president?

As Lester Holt put it in his interview with Garland on Tuesday, "The indictment of a former president, and perhaps a candidate for president, would arguably tear the country apart. ... Do you have to think about things like that?"

Garland's response suggested the department could put such considerations to the side, treating Trump like any other defendant, but it is difficult to see how the government as whole could do that, or even if it should. It may fall to President Joe Biden, in consultation with Garland, to consider whether the prosecution is in the best interests of the country.

The one guiding precedent we have — the pardon of Richard Nixon for his Watergate actions — suggests that in these extraordinary circumstances justice cannot be blind to the broader public well-being.

I think two things are certain. First, Garland hasn't yet made up his mind and won't until all the evidence is in and his team has weighed in — and that will take time, well more than the immediate indictments that his critics are screaming for. And second, his decision will be driven entirely by his notion of what is the right thing to do.

That may be insufficient assurance for the thousands of observers, myself among them, who have come to the conclusion that the rule of law requires a federal prosecution of the former president. But it's the assurance we were thrilled to be getting when Garland took office, and it's a big start toward a just outcome for the nation.

**HARRY LITMAN** is a former U.S. attorney and deputy assistant attorney general. He teaches constitutional law and national security law at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law and the University of California at San Diego Department of Political Science.

**I THINK ONCE THE EVIDENCE IS IN — INCLUDING THE GREAT WEALTH OF REVELATIONS FROM THE JAN. 6 COMMITTEE — THE STANDARD THRESHOLD FOR BRINGING SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST TRUMP WILL BE MORE THAN MET.**

**For Mountaineers to always be free, we must invest in energy security**

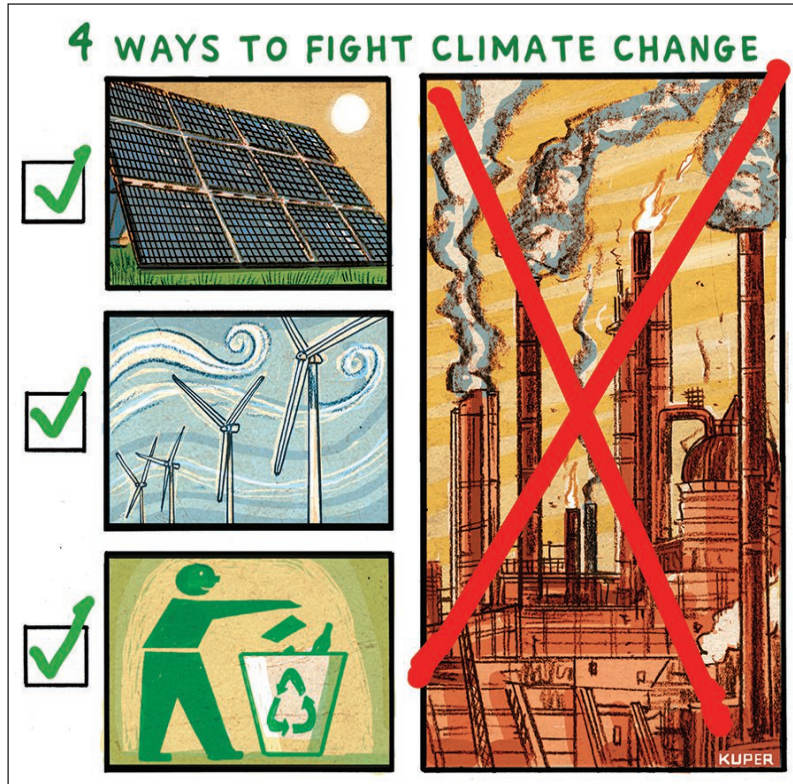
BY ANGELA HAWSE

**GROWING UP SURROUNDED BY THE ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS, I AM THE SIXTH GENERATION OF MY FAMILY TO CLIMB TREES, EXPLORE HARDWOOD FORESTS AND FLOAT DOWN PRISTINE RIVERS IN BEAUTIFUL ELKINS.** For our family, as with many West Virginians, the outdoors are a way of life, the reason we live here and what brings us together with friends and family. For many of us, the outdoors are also integral to our livelihoods. As we look forward, we must act swiftly to reduce emissions and drive the energy transition if we are going to save the outdoor way of life and outdoor jobs.

This summer, Sen. Joe Manchin is in the ideal position to lead the country's energy transition. He can help to create new, good jobs in energy for those workers who know it best and save the growing number of jobs in outdoor recreation, all while protecting the outdoor way of life that brought so many of us here and keep us coming back.

For me, climbing trees led to rocks, which ultimately led to a career as a professional mountain guide or mountaineer, which has brought me to the farthest reaches of the world and the summits of the highest mountains. I've lived my life true to our state's motto "Mountaineers are always free."

But today, West Virginia's outdoor way of life needs our help. In the last decade, the changes I see in weather and precipitation patterns in mountains around the



world are also happening back home in West Virginia. Disastrous floods have ravaged valleys, impacting people, livestock, infrastructure and rivers in the lower elevations of our precipitous Mountain State. Higher temperatures have led to more extreme weather and much less snowfall in the mountains than when I was growing up.

The clean water and air that are instrumental in drawing visitors who contribute to our state's robust recreation economy hang in the balance. Scientists are

telling us that if we are going to save all of that, we'll need to reduce emissions. And fast.

In the Mountain State, fittingly, outdoor recreation funds more than 18,000 direct jobs in addition to the hotel, restaurant and retail jobs that surround the industry and directly funds \$640 million in wages and salaries, contributing to West Virginia's \$1.3 billion outdoor recreation economy each year. If fostered, the potential increase in clean energy jobs paired with growing outdoor recreation jobs hold tremendous

promise for future generations of West Virginians.

Mountaintop removal and the fossil fuels extraction industries will become extinct worldwide, and we must offer training and opportunities for people who work in mining fields to transition to new, safer and well-paying career paths now. Along with clean energy, investing in electric vehicles — especially electric trucks and SUVs that people who live in the country often drive and for longer distances — will take another big bite out of emissions, create jobs in West Virginia and be a more affordable solution in the long term.

Transitioning to clean energy, clean transportation and safer jobs is crucial to ensure that future generations are promised our mountain heritage.

As an elected steward of West Virginia, Sen. Manchin has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity this summer to protect our heritage by enacting a transition to clean energy and reducing emissions by roughly 40% in the next eight years. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022's focused \$369 billion investment in clean energy and transportation will not only bring good health and future prosperity to our people and state, but also increased pride in showcasing wild, wonderful West Virginia for generations to come. With this action, we can look forward to many more days living out our state's motto, "Mountaineers are always free," under West Virginia's blue skies.

**ANGELA HAWSE** is a world-renowned mountaineer, IMFGA guide, member of the Protect Our Winters Athlete Alliance and climber originally from Elkins. Though her travels take her far and wide, she always looks forward to regular trips back to visit her mom and climb at Seneca Rocks and in the New River.

**BORDER**

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Bowser has claimed, without evidence, that Texas and Arizona have "tricked" migrants into boarding buses to Washington. (Both Abbott and Ducey have made clear that getting on a bus is entirely voluntary.) Bowser has said that local taxpayers in Washington "should not pick up the tab" for the cost of dealing with the migrant surge. And she is looking to the federal government for help.

"We have for sure called on the federal government to work across state lines to prevent people from really being tricked into getting on buses," Bowser said on CBS recently. "We think they're largely asylum-seekers who are going to final destinations that are not Washington, D.C. I worked with the White House to make sure that FEMA provided a grant to a local organization that is providing services to folks. But I fear they're being tricked into nationwide bus trips when their final destinations are places all over the United States of America."

What Bowser said about Wash-

ington, D.C is true of the situation in Texas. For many migrants, Texas is not the final destination. They are hoping to get to destinations that are not on the border. The cost of their care has to be paid by somebody. It is a problem thrust on Texas and Arizona and other border areas by the Biden administration. And now Abbott and Ducey are pushing back.

Recently, another voice jumped into the argument — New York City Mayor Eric Adams. The city has a right-to-shelter law, meaning officials are required to provide shelter to anyone who needs it. There has been a spike recently in people staying in the city's shelters, with the system coming under tremendous strain. The mayor is blaming the situation on the border. "Adams said the asylum-seekers are arriving from Latin America and other regions, and in some instances, being sent in on buses by the federal government and the state governments of Texas and Arizona," Politico reported.

Both Abbott and Ducey said they are not sending migrants to New York (which is also a sanctuary city). "If these Democrat mayors are now that concerned



about having migrants in their cities, they should call on President Biden to do his job and secure the border, instead of attacking Texas with baseless political accusations," said a spokeswoman for Abbott.

Whatever the case, neither Mayor Adams nor Mayor Bowser should blame Texas and Arizona. Their real problem is with the president of the United States. The massive influx of illegal border crossers is a problem for all of the country, not just the areas

closest to the border. When this argument erupted, Christina Pushaw, who is a spokeswoman for another Republican governor, Florida's Ron DeSantis, tweeted, "If wealthy NYC cannot handle an influx of migrants, what makes you think small working-class Texas border towns can handle it?" Thanks to Abbott and Ducey, more Americans are now asking that question.

**BYRON YORK** is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

**SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

It's another election year, and in addition to the ads you'll see on TV and hear on the radio, you'll start to see people writing letters to the editor in support of their chosen candidate. Letters promoting candidates for elected office will be treated largely the same as regular letters, but with a few differences. Candidates for office cannot submit letters or essays promoting themselves or their platforms between now and their final election. Letters supporting a candidate will not be accepted after Sept. 27 and will not be published after Sept. 30. If we run out of space leading up to Sept. 30, letters will be published on a first-come-first-served basis.