

—9/11— A decade later

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Morgantown, West Virginia

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SATURDAY

Sept. 10, 2011

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GoalPost
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COMING TOMORROW IN THE PAPER

9/11

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'It was hateful and mean'

Family deals with backlash from man's last deeds

BY BRANDY BRUBAKER
The Dominion Post

Tara Wilson, sister of the Star City man accused of killing five people before killing him-



self, said she felt so threatened by nasty messages sent to her through her Facebook page that she deleted the account. "It was really hateful and mean," she said Friday. "We've all been a nervous wreck. ... I know what happened was wrong, but what more do

they want? Shayne's dead. He's gone." The family decided to keep all funeral arrangements private. They released a statement to *The Dominion Post* that shares their "deepest sympathy and prayers" for the families of the murder victims, and also remembers the Shayne they knew and loved, and notes his struggles with mental illness. State Police said Shayne Rig-

gleman, a 22-year-old motel clerk, shot and killed five people sometime Monday afternoon at a house on Sugar Grove Road where all the victims lived. Those killed were Katrina Hudson, 22, who was pregnant; her fiance, Robert Raber Jr., 30; her brother, Kevin Hudson, 17; the Hudsons' mother, Karin Richardson, 50; and Richard-

SEE **HATEFUL**, 2-A

Truck loses brakes, spills water on road
Vehicle goes down hill, off Interstate 68

MORE photos, **Page 5-A.**

BY JIM BISSETT
The Dominion Post

It was a bridge over troubled water Friday morning on Interstate 68 for Benjamin Battle.

Battle, who was driving a tractor-trailer hauling 45,000 pounds of Pureau brand bottled water from I-68 west, near Cheat Lake, told Monongalia County sheriff's deputies the brakes began failing on his rig as he approached Exit 10.

Battle fought with the steering wheel and almost made it. The truck and what was left of its cargo slid down an embankment between the eastbound and westbound bridges, stopping the underpass that leads to the interstate and Fairchance Road.

No other cars were involved in the 9:15 a.m. crash.

He drives for MRC Transport, of Falkville, Ala., and was delivering the water to Point Pleasant.

While the cab was demolished, Battle was able to climb out on his own, and was standing in front of wreckage, and the water, when the ambulance and other emergency crews arrived.

"Well, he's very lucky," Monongalia Sheriff's Capt. Mark Ralston said of the man whose age and hometown weren't immediately known. "His injuries appeared to be [not] life threatening. He was talking to me just fine in the emergency room."

His liquid cargo didn't fare as well. Hundreds of bottles of water were strewn at least a quarter-mile from the wreck, Ralston said, as Battle steered into the median in an attempt to slow his runaway truck.

Some Brookhaven volunteer firefighters scooped up the crushed bottles and pallets and threw them down on the wrecked rig, getting them off the road.

The department's Hazardous Materials Truck also was called to contend with diesel fuel leaking from the rig's damaged gas tanks.

Jimmy Lipscomb, Brookhaven's fire chief, said the tanks were initially a concern. The likelihood



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post photos



Volunteer firefighters (above) throw packages of bottled water from Interstate 68 onto Monongalia County 857 Friday. A fire truck and patrol car (left) surround the wreckage on Mon 857.

of fire, however, was low, he said.

"We do need to get everything cleaned up, though," he said.

No citations were issued, Ralston said, but inspectors with the state Public Service Commission will check the brakes and go over the rig, which is standard procedure, since it is a commercial vehicle.

The underpass was closed for the afternoon while wrecker companies removed the truck, Ralston said, but the traffic kept flowing on the Interstate above.



Eric J. Tomlinson/The Dominion Post

Meanwhile, Friday's wasn't the first crash of its kind that Lipscomb has investigated at that same spot. There was a wreck 10 years ago, he said, with a driver finding himself in the same unintended parking spot as Battle did. Only 10 years ago, there was a fire. And the cargo on that particular rig wasn't helping, the chief said. "[The] guy was hauling a load of butter. Try cleaning up after that," Lipscomb said. "We ended up throwing a lot of our gear away."

Grand jury indicts theft suspects

Accused of shooting, robbing man in April

LOOK FOR more grand jury indictments in a future edition of *The Dominion Post*.

BY BRANDY BRUBAKER
The Dominion Post

More than 100 people were indicted by the September term of the Monongalia County grand jury, including two men arrested for the shooting and robbery of a former Morgantown High School basketball standout.

The indictments were released by Prosecuting Attorney Marcia Ashdown's office Friday.

Arron J. Henry and Roddruss R. Clay Jr., each were indicted for first-degree robbery, malicious assault, conspiracy to commit a felony and wanton endangerment for the April 26 attack on Marlan Robinson behind Papa John's on Beechurst Avenue.

According to a criminal complaint filed in Monongalia County Magistrate Court, a cooperating witness told police that Clay, 22, and Henry, 20, both of Clarksburg, planned to rob Robinson. Henry fired into the ground toward Robinson before Clay shot him.

Robinson survived his injuries. Henry and Clay remain in North Central Regional Jail pending trial.

In other cases: ■ Former WVU football player Nicholas Branko Busick, accused of committing two robberies this summer, was indicted.

Busick, a linebacker kicked off the team after his arrest, was charged with first-degree robbery and assault during the commission of a felony. He is accused of a June 23 robbery on Walnut Street. He and a co-defendant, Nicholas Alexander Conques,

SEE **GRAND JURY**, 2-A

Economists show support for job-growth plan

WASHINGTON — A tentative thumbs-up.

That's the assessment from economists, who have offered mainly positive reviews of President Barack Obama's \$447 billion plan to stimulate job creation.

Some predict it would put hundreds of thousands of people back to work next year, mainly because a Social Security tax cut for workers would be deepened and extended to small businesses.

"Payroll tax cuts are very powerful," said Allen Sinai, chief economist of Decision Economics. "They provide a boost to direct income and, in turn, spending, which is important to growth."

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, estimates

that the president's plan would boost economic growth by 2 percentage points, add 2 million jobs and reduce unemployment by a full percentage point next year compared with existing law.

The heart of Obama's plan is an expansion of the Social Security tax cut, which took effect this year and is scheduled to expire by year's end. The tax cut now applies only to workers; it reduces their Social Security tax from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent. Employers still pay the 6.2 percent rate.

Obama would renew the tax cut for a year and deepen it: He would drop workers' Social Security tax to 3.1 percent.

Under his bigger tax cut, an extra \$1,550 would go to taxpayers earning \$50,000 a year. The Social

Security tax is imposed on the first \$106,800 of taxable income. That means the maximum savings would be about \$3,300 for an individual and \$6,600 for a couple.

Obama would also halve Social Security taxes for businesses on the first \$5 million of their payroll. The White House says 98 percent of U.S. businesses have payrolls below that threshold.

Zandi calls this a "creative" way to help small companies, which have struggled more than larger ones to recover from the Great Recession of 2007-'09. During recoveries, small businesses normally drive job creation.

"Something like this is much needed" for an economy grappling with 9.1 percent unemployment, Zandi said.

Ohio couple's wedding date a 100-year tradition

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — An Ohio bride's "something old" is her Sept. 9 wedding date: it's been a tradition in her family for a century.

Angelynn Perchermeier got married in Cincinnati on Friday, 100 years to the day that her great-great-grandparents exchanged their vows. Her great-grandparents also got hitched on Sept. 9, and so did her grandmother and grandfather.

Perchermeier's groom says when they were picking a date, she shared with him family newspaper clippings from the previous weddings and he knew her heart was set on Sept. 9. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kyle Ray said he hopes their children will continue the tradition and choose the same date for their nuptials.