

DOW tumbles 611 points

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CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

SERVING WESTERN MARYLAND AND THE POTOMAC HIGHLANDS OF WEST VIRGINIA

Vol. 77 - No. 177 www.times-news.com CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND | SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016 Daily Single Copy \$1.00 | Sunday \$2.00

County moves to dismiss lawsuit to remove monument

Motion filed in case over display of the Ten Commandments

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BALTIMORE — The Alliance Defending Freedom and Jones Day attorneys filed a motion Friday to dismiss a federal lawsuit against Allegany County commissioners.

The civil suit filed by Garrett County resident Jeffrey Davis on April 29 seeks to remove the Ten Commandments monument from the county courthouse lawn on Washington Street.

• The county's counsel says the Supreme Court ruled in favor of a nearly identical monument in Texas.

In a complaint letter to commissioners dated Feb. 25, Davis, who owns property in Allegany County and is a municipal taxpayer, said, "the display of the monument violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and as a result, I ask you to remove the monument from the lawn."

However, officials at the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian nonprofit organization, disagree.

"A Ten Commandments monument isn't unconstitutional simply because someone says he is offended by it," said ADF Senior Counsel Brett Harvey. "The Supreme Court clarified this issue when it upheld a virtually identical monument in Texas. The emotional response of an offended passerby doesn't automatically amount to a violation of the Establishment Clause."

The monument in question was donated to the citizens of Cumberland in 1957 by the Fra-

SEE COUNTY — 3A

18 dead in W.Va. floods; focus on search, rescue

Gov. Tomblin declares state of emergency in 44 of 55 counties

JONATHAN MATTISE
BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — As a deluge swamped southeast West Virginia — a disaster that killed at least 18 people — Ronnie Scott's wife called him and told him their house was filling up with water. She fled to the attic with two dogs and a cat and waited. She smelled natural gas.

Then, the house blew

"It's been a long 24 hours and the next 24 hours may not be much easier."

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin

up. Belinda Scott was able to break a vent and get out onto a porch, then make it onto a tree, which she clung to for hours

before being rescued by state police, Ronnie Scott told The Associated Press on Friday. His wife was in the hospital with burns on 67 percent of her body. The pets did not make it out alive.

"My wife was out there four and a half hours hanging in a tree with a house burning right beside her, flood waters running all around her," said Scott, who was not

SEE W.VA. — 2A



Associated Press

Anna May Watson, right, hugs a relative as they clean up from severe flooding in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Friday. A deluge of 9 inches of rain on parts of West Virginia destroyed or damaged more than 100 homes and knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes and businesses.



Jeffrey Alderton/Times-News

The Midland Sportsman Club was found destroyed Friday morning after a fire had apparently burned through the night. Trustee Bob Vinci thinks it was "caused by lighting or was electrical." Investigators said the cause and origin of the blaze remains to be determined.

Midland Sportsman Club destroyed by fire

Blaze burned undetected overnight



BOB VINCI

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MIDLAND — Trustee Bob Vinci arrived at the Midland Sportsman Club just before 8 a.m. Friday to accept an order from a vendor.

"I was shocked," said the Midlothian resident, who found

the single-story club building on the ground from a fire that left its metal roof collapsed and only the concrete block walls standing.

"I came back down the road and called 911," Vinci said late Friday morning.

Everything else was destroyed

SEE MIDLAND — 3A

Suspect flees after failed pharmacy robbery

Unidentified male demanded narcotics

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CUMBERLAND — A narcotics-demanding suspect was twice turned away by a store clerk at Walsh-McCagh & Kellough Pharmacy before fleeing on foot Friday morning.

■ POLICE LOG Cumberland Police are attempting to identify the male suspect, who entered the North Centre Street store around 9:45 a.m. wearing a gray hoodie and a covering over his face to conceal his identity.

Police said evidence was found in an adjacent alley.

The Combined County Criminal Investigations Unit and Maryland State Police Crime Lab also responded to the scene.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 301-777-1600.

Local fire chief honored twice at state convention

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Tim Dayton named Maryland State Fireman of the Year

OCEAN CITY — Westernport volunteer firefighter Tim Dayton received two awards at the Maryland State Fireman's Association annual convention held at the Ocean City Convention Center this

week — including the Robert H. Shimer Administrator of the Year award.

"I was totally surprised," said Dayton, chief of Potomac Volunteer Fire Company. "It's

an honor to receive both, but Bob Shimer is from Westernport, and that one means a lot."

The award was established in 2004 to honor the

late Shimer for his many dedicated years of fire, rescue and EMS service to Westernport, Allegany County and the state. Shimer served as a president and trustee of the

Maryland State Firemen's Association, president of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Fire and Rescue Association and president of the Potomac Fire Company.

"I know for a fact that Robert Shimer was one of Dad's personal heroes," said Jonathan Dayton, Tim's son. "I think it's a great thing that he received it."

Also a volunteer firefighter with Potomac, Jonathan pre-

SEE LOCAL — 3A

DEATHS

- CARR — Gary A., 66, of Maysville, W.Va.
 - FOOTE — Robert D. Sr., 74, of Cumberland.
 - FORNEY — William D. Sr., 83, of Fort Ashby, W.Va.
 - MILLER — Mattie V., 72, of Baker, W.Va.
 - PANCAKE — Barbara A., 79, of Romney, W.Va.
 - WILBURN — Dorothy M., 103, of Grantsville.
- (Obituaries on Page 5A)

OUTSIDE

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Mostly sunny

AccuWeather forecast on 8A

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