

Inside today

Mon County Commission

911 service fee likely to go up.

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Tow truck driver goes extra mile

THIS COLUMN HIGHLIGHTS the positive experiences that regularly occur in the Morgantown area. The hope is that spotlighting such experiences will remind people of the friendliness that defines most of the Mountaineer nation.

WHEN JENNIFER OBARA, along with her mom, **Mary Tressler**, and grandmother **Elsie**, were stranded in Morgantown, they thought the worst had really happened, until they received a helping hand from several people in town.

"It couldn't have happened in a better place," Tressler said. "There had to be some divine intervention that led us to these people."

Obara and Tressler were driving the 89-year-old Elsie from Baltimore to her home in Steubenville, Ohio. Along the way, they stopped for a gas and bathroom break at the Granville Sheetz. However, after a quick inspection by a local man, Obara realized she had a busted radiator in her GMC Jimmie.

Her first thought was pure panic. It was late in the evening and she was stranded in an unfamiliar place with her mother and grandmother.

Four men pushed the Jimmie into a parking spot at the Sheetz, and while Obara began making calls to towing companies and hotels, the men went inside to get them coffee.

"They were so nice," Tressler said. "I'm sorry I didn't get any of their names. You don't think about that at the time."

Obara eventually connected

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Mixed views on combination's proposal costs

911 SERVICE FEE likely to go up, see **Page 2-D**.

BY BEN CONLEY

The Dominion Post

In early October, Monongalia County Planner Rich Wood presented two proposals for the cre-

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Almost ready



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Suncrest to get

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Obara eventually connected with Charles Lewis, a driver for Summers Towing. He came and picked up the vehicle and the three women right away.

But he didn't simply drop them off. With the vehicle hitched up on the back of the tow truck, Lewis took the trio on a tour of Morgantown, showing them the WVU campus. He then took them to the Microtel in Westover, where he proceeded to help with their luggage and room.

"He was so helpful. He didn't leave us at the Microtel until we were in our room," Tressler said.

Lewis and Obara went to drop off the vehicle at Monro Muffler/Brake and Service on Commerce Drive in Westover, and then he took her back to Microtel and told her to call them the next morning.

But when she woke up the next day, Lewis had already called Monro and put a rush on their vehicle.

"I can't praise these people enough," Tressler said. "We're from Baltimore. You don't get this kind of help from Baltimore."

But for Lewis, helping out a stranded motorist is the norm. And going above and beyond is just his everyday philosophy.

"When you're driving a tow truck, it's a life," he said.

IF YOU HAVE experiences to share, send an email to newsroom@dominionpost.com.



Most of the exterior work has been completed on the new retail building at Suncrest Towne Centre.

Suncrest to get

New businesses include a boutique, florist and eatery

The Dominion Post

A 30,000-square-foot building at Suncrest Towne Centre is starting to fill up, co-developer Dave Biafora said.

Primanti Bros. will use 5,000 square feet of the building, but the Pittsburgh-based restaurant will have lots of company.

Biafora said Ann Taylor has signed a letter of intent to locate a clothing store at the center and hopes to open the second quarter of next year. Developers are also in negotiations with a franchise that offers all salads at its restaurants.

The Paper Doll, which is connected with Park & Madison Boutique, is also coming to Suncrest. A florist has signed a lease for the space next to AAA, Biafora said, and talks are in the works for an athletic clothing store.

Meanwhile, a number of professional offices have located at Suncrest Towne Centre. Biafora said that mixture of retail and professionals provides "a true town center atmosphere."

A worker
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