

WEATHER, 6A
69 ▲ 44 ▼
Mostly cloudy



SPORTS, 1B

Virus outbreak sidelines Steelers-Titans
Positive cases among Tennessee players, staff postpones Sunday game

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

SERVING WESTERN MARYLAND AND THE POTOMAC HIGHLANDS OF WEST VIRGINIA

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Allegany bringing back pre-K, kindergarten students Monday

Children on four-day schedule with virtual learning on Fridays

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS
CUMBERLAND — Allegany County Public Schools will bring its youngest learners back to the classroom Monday. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students will attend Mondays through Thursdays, with Fridays being a virtual learning

day. In a news release, the school system said parents would be provided with transportation information, schedules, a COVID-19 symptom checklist and mask requirements and guidelines during orientation meetings scheduled Thursday and Friday. "Parents have been informed

that they have the right to opt out of the in-person/hybrid learning model and have their child remain in a virtual learning environment," read the release. Those who do opt out will participate in a virtual school facilitated by a certified teacher. Virtual school students will have the opportunity to return to the classroom at the end of the

nine-week marking period. School officials also said plans are being finalized for first-graders to return to the classroom. The school system began a phased-in return of students Monday, when students without internet access and juniors from the Center for Career and Technical Education began returning to schools.



John Rucosky/The Tribune-Democrat
Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the train station in Johnstown, Pa., Wednesday.

Trump, Biden snipe from road, rails after debate chaos

Former vice president makes stops in Ohio, Pennsylvania

STEVE PEOPLES
WILL WEISSERT
KEVIN FREKING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH — President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden kept up their debate-stage sniping from the road and the rails on Wednesday, fighting for working-class voters in the Midwest while both parties — and the debate commission, too — sought to deal with the most chaotic presidential faceoff in memory.

The debate raised fresh questions about Trump's continued reluctance to condemn white supremacy, his questioning the legitimacy of the election and his unwillingness to respect debate ground rules his campaign had agreed to. Some Democrats called on Biden to skip the next two debates. Biden's campaign confirmed he would participate in the subsequent meetings, as did Trump's.

Less than 12 hours after the wild debate concluded, Biden called Trump's behavior in the prime-time confrontation a "national embarrassment." The Democratic challeng-

INSIDE:
■ Commission says it will make changes: 2A
■ Debate has little effect on world financial markets: 2A

SEE TRUMP — 2A

Ginsburg death inspires voter drive

Local musician driving force behind event

LINDSAY RENNER-WOOD
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CUMBERLAND — While a voter registration drive last week didn't see huge numbers of folks sign up, one of its organizers says it's a sign that change is happening in the community nonetheless.

Following the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, local musician and activist Ian Robinson said that he immediately contacted friends of his, including fellow Pride Festival organizer and founder Jacie McKenzie, about what they could do to honor her legacy.

"I saw that, and I immediately called a few friends who were big supporters ... to check on them, and we discussed all the possible outcomes, what could happen and what can happen if they put another justice on the Supreme Court now or if they wait until after the election," Robinson told the Times-News in a recent interview. "I wanted to make sure people knew what could happen if they put somebody else in, so I wanted to push hard for voting in November."

With that in mind, they moved to host a voter registration drive last Thursday, which Robinson said went "better than expected." While he said he hadn't been

SEE GINSBURG — 6A

'Behind the scenes stuff'



Cassie Conklin/Times-News

Frostburg House and Garden Club members are shown from left, Kit Pepper, Linda Barry and Karen Bambacus.

House, garden club a service organization

CASSIE CONKLIN
TIMES-NEWS CORRESPONDENT

FROSTBURG — The House and Garden Club of Frostburg is not your regular little old lady organization.

The club, best known for the summer baskets that line the blocks near downtown, is often thought of as a seasonal organization. However, that assumption is wrong. "The Frostburg Garden

Club has been a contributor to the success of Frostburg for the last 65 years or so," said President Kit Pepper, who has been a member for four years.

Indeed, the club helped to get the Frostburg Public Library off the ground in July 1955 with a \$500 donation and has been doing good deeds around town ever since. "We really see ourselves

SEE HOUSE — 6A



Cassie Conklin/Times-News

A flower basket, one of many maintained by the Frostburg House and Garden Club, is shown in July on Frostburg's Main Street near American Legion Farrady Post 24.

Sheriff's office launches smartphone app

JEFFREY ALDERTON
JALDERTON@TIMES-NEWS.COM

CUMBERLAND — A new smartphone app launched by the Allegany County Sheriff's Office is designed to aid both citizens and law enforcement.

"It's a way for us to stay in touch," Sheriff Craig A. Robertson said Tues-

day, a short time after the app was made available to the public. "I saw this app when I was attending the annual Maryland Sheriff's Association conference in Ocean City a couple years ago but it wasn't in our budget and we couldn't afford it."

However, a federal grant to the county enabled the sheriff's office to acquire the app that has a price tag

of \$22,000. "I never thought we would be able to have it. I hope it's well received," the sheriff said.

The app allows for push notifications to the public for Amber Alerts and other items of public interest, such as the traffic back-up that took place early Tuesday afternoon on U.S. Route 40 in the Narrows due to a

traffic accident.

"We will be able to use this various ways, including to immediately notify the public in the event of a motor vehicle crash on Interstate 68," said Robertson.

The new technology includes a variety of features, such as posting of wanted fugitives, their photographs

SEE SMARTPHONE — 6A

DEATHS

CARR — Wanda S., 86, of New Creek, W.Va.
DAVIS — Regina M., of Cumberland.
KEISTER — Rae E., 80, of Frostburg.
LLEWELLYN — Raymond P., 93,

of Frostburg.
MOWRY — Marian D., 77, of Hyndman, Pa.
RUBY — Elmer J., 72, of Flintstone.
SHAMBAUGH — Andrew M., 13, of Paw Paw, W.Va.
(Obituaries on Pages 5-6A)

Check out our breast cancer tabloid inside today

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS OCTOBER
Sponsored by: UPMC WESTERN MARYLAND ALLEGANY IMAGING

Four new COVID-19 cases raise Allegany total to 483

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS
CUMBERLAND — Allegany County health officials reported four new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, raising the county's cumulative count to 483. The latest cases involve a man in his 20s, a woman in her 50s, a man in his 60s and a man in his 70s.

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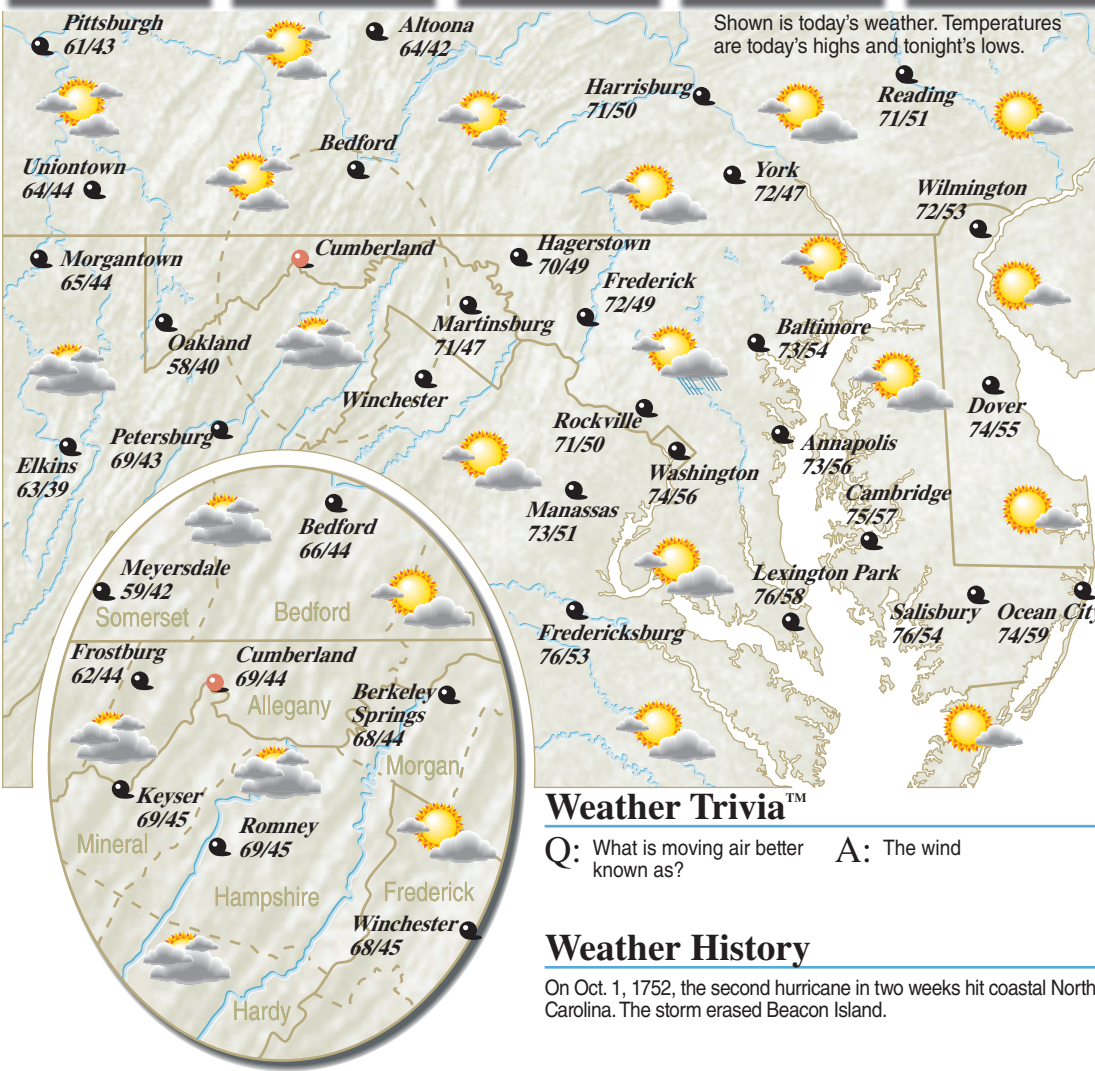
CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

Weather

AccuWeather Plan your week | Get the NEW app

Five-Day Forecast for Cumberland

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Wind: WSW 4-8 69 / 44	Wind: WNW 6-12 62 / 37	Wind: WSW 3-6 64 / 42	Wind: SSE 3-6 65 / 51	Wind: WNW 3-6 63 / 41



Around the Region

High and low temperatures for the past 24 hours as of 3 p.m.

	High	Low
Baltimore	71	56
Charleston	68	48
Clarksburg	65	51
Cumberland	68	52
Elkins	64	50
Frederick	72	53
Hagerstown	68	52
Martinsburg	70	51
Morgantown	64	50
Pittsburgh	63	49
Washington, DC	71	55

RealFeel Temperature®

The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.

8 a.m. today	52
Noon	67
4 p.m.	69
8 p.m.	57

Maryland Cities

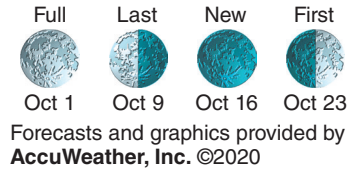
City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Aberdeen	71/51/s	65/44/pc
Annapolis	73/56/s	65/48/pc
Cambridge	75/57/s	65/50/pc
Easton	74/57/s	68/50/pc
Ocean City	74/59/s	64/51/pc
Rockville	71/50/s	65/43/pc
Salisbury	76/54/s	67/46/pc
Westminster	71/49/s	64/42/pc

West Virginia Cities

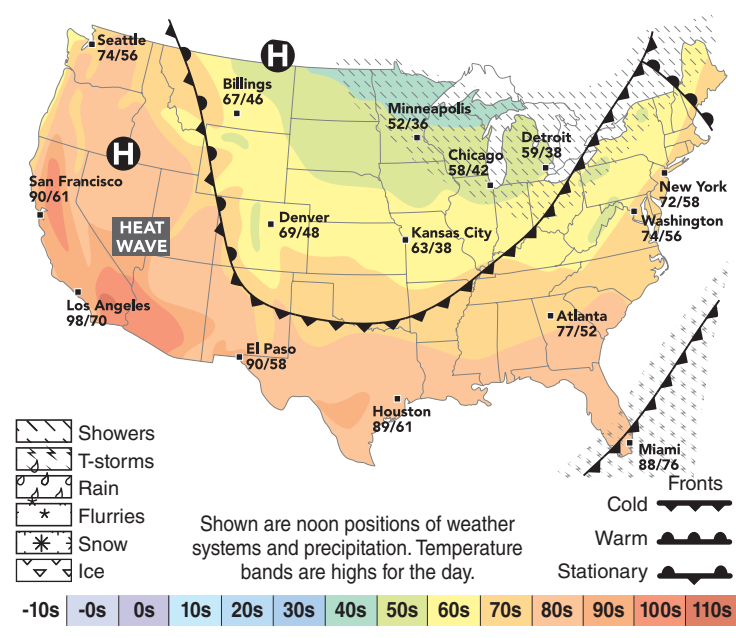
City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Beckley	61/41/c	53/37/pc
Charles Town	70/46/s	64/39/pc
Fairmont	65/44/pc	58/37/pc
Huntington	66/43/pc	60/44/pc
Parkersburg	65/42/pc	59/40/pc
Wheeling	62/43/pc	57/38/pc

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:12 a.m.
Sunset today	6:57 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:17 p.m.
Moonset today	6:44 a.m.



National Weather Today



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Albany, NY	66/46/pc	59/42/r	Kansas City	63/38/s	63/48/pc
Albuquerque	81/52/s	82/51/s	Las Vegas	98/70/s	99/71/s
Atlanta	77/52/s	68/49/s	Little Rock	76/46/s	68/49/s
Baltimore	73/54/s	68/46/pc	Los Angeles	98/70/s	94/66/s
Birmingham	78/50/s	70/46/s	Louisville	68/45/pc	63/44/pc
Boise	82/52/s	84/52/pc	Memphis	74/47/s	67/48/pc
Boston	75/56/s	67/50/pc	Miami	88/76/t	83/75/t
Buffalo	61/47/pc	56/43/sh	Minneapolis	52/36/c	48/39/c
Burlington	67/47/c	59/45/r	Nashville	73/46/s	66/45/pc
Charleston, SC	81/59/s	74/53/s	Myrtle Beach	77/60/s	72/53/s
Charleston, WV	67/44/pc	59/41/pc	New Orleans	83/65/s	76/59/s
Chicago	58/42/sh	52/42/pc	New York	72/58/s	64/52/r
Cincinnati	64/42/pc	59/41/pc	Oklahoma City	75/44/pc	71/53/s
Cleveland	60/46/pc	55/41/pc	Orlando	85/65/s	84/67/pc
Columbia, SC	82/57/s	73/48/s	Philadelphia	73/56/s	66/49/r
Columbus, OH	63/43/pc	59/42/pc	Phoenix	105/75/s	105/73/s
Dallas	82/54/s	76/58/s	Pittsburgh	61/43/pc	57/37/pc
Denver	69/48/s	76/44/pc	Raleigh	78/56/s	68/48/pc
Detroit	59/38/sh	54/38/pc	St. Louis	65/43/s	61/45/pc
El Paso	90/58/s	89/59/s	Salt Lake City	81/53/s	80/52/pc
Fairbanks	63/47/s	62/46/pc	San Diego	88/69/s	85/67/s
Flagstaff	79/37/s	81/38/s	San Francisco	90/61/s	84/59/s
Hartford	74/51/s	62/44/r	Tampa	85/67/s	83/66/pc
Helena	75/47/s	74/44/s	Topeka	65/37/s	66/47/s
Honolulu	90/74/pc	89/76/sh	Tucson	102/68/s	101/66/s
Houston	89/61/s	81/57/s	Washington, DC	74/56/s	67/49/pc
Indianapolis	63/43/pc	58/40/pc	Wichita	68/41/s	68/50/s
Jacksonville	82/58/s	77/58/s	Wilmington, DE	72/53/s	67/47/r

Smartphone: Sheriff's office app available for free

CONTINUED FROM 1A

and charges. "We immediately began getting tips on our Most Wanted fugitives once we made the app available to the public," Robertson said. The app may also be utilized by allied agencies for posting of important information, such as Cumberland and Frostburg police

departments and the county's 911 center. The app also allows users access to the sex offender registry, which provides information of such offenders who reside in the county. Another search function provides photographs and information on inmates of the Allegany County Detention Center.

Other features include a map showing county courts and offices, recruitment and careers information and a social media feature to view recent social media posts. The app also includes COVID-19 resources. The app was developed by TheSheriffApp.com, a division of OCV, LLC. Robertson said he

believes Queen Anne's and Calvert counties also utilize the app. The sheriff's office app is available for download free in the App Store and Google Play. Search for Allegany Sheriff MD to download. Any questions about the app may be directed to the sheriff's office at 301-777-1585.

House: Group members mass produce face masks

CONTINUED FROM 1A

as a service organization," said Karen Bambacus, a Frostburg State University retiree and wife of former Maryland Sen. John Bambacus, who has been a member of the club for four decades and serves as treasurer. "While we do outreach with the club through planting flowers, we do behind the scenes stuff all the time," she said. In addition to beautification projects, the club donates regularly to local food pantries, Toys for Happiness and other organizations. Then, in September 2019, the group really stepped up its game. "While the baskets are fabulous," said Pepper, "we wanted to find a way to generate funds for bigger beautification projects." Thus, the group opened a thrift store on Main Street. The goal, to raise a significant chunk of cash for a new project, was exceeded. "Our shop was an attraction," said Pepper. "People came to town just to come to our shop. In the four months that we operated, we were an added benefit to Frostburg and promoted the town as a destination." However, the location next to the Tall Door Gallery was a temporary spot. "We closed right before Christmas with the intention of finding a permanent spot and we've been asking around since January," said Pepper. However, the group has been unsuccessful.

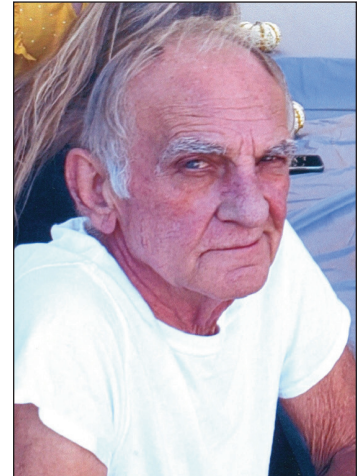
"In a community with so many open storefronts, it's been a surprise to have so much trouble," Bambacus said. And, much like the rest of Main Street America, COVID-19 presented new problems and opportunities for the group. "In what I like to call the 'COVID Purge,' we started accepting contactless donations thinking we'd have a shop again soon enough," said Pepper, "but now have two times the inventory that we had when we closed our first location and still no place to go." The Garden Club didn't spend the entire quarantine looking for a new storefront, though. Instead, the group felt compelled to find new ways to contribute to their community. Linda Berry, a former educator and member of the club for the last 25 years, said the ladies got to sewing. "No one could find face masks early in the pandemic and we wanted to feel like we were helping," Berry said. Thus, the group organized a full-scale mask production operation and since March have sewn over 14,000 cloth face masks. "At first we were sending them to the hardest hit places," said Pepper, who would often stay awake until the wee hours of the morning working on masks. "We were shipping to hospitals by word-of-mouth." If a hospital employee contacted the club, they quickly mobilized to fill the order, and paid for the overnight shipping out of pocket sometimes. "I was getting texts at 2 a.m. from doctors saying that their ER was the most colorful they

had ever seen," she said. The group sent masks to New York City, Boston, Philadelphia and locally to John's Hopkins and UPMC Western Maryland. The group did research to determine the right measurements and sizes that would work for mass consumption, and then they put their work online. "We started a website with a tutorial," said Bambacus. "We wanted to help people in other places make masks for their communities, too." Since March 31, the Frostburg Garden Club mask tutorial website has had over 1,200 visitors in 31 countries and 45 states. "We helped to start mask-making clubs in Portland and Florida with our tutorial," Pepper said. Now that PPE is easier to locate, the mask-making efforts have slowed for the club, though, and they're turning their attention back to their thrift store. "We really want to start raising funds for a large project," said Pepper, "but if we don't find a storefront within the next month, we are going to start giving up." "I joined the Garden Club because I love our town and I want to give back," Barry said. Pepper, with a smile and a nod in agreement said, "When I first came to Frostburg, the flower baskets on Main Street really stuck with me because I realized that this is a place where people love their town. It's what helped me make the decision to move here." The House and Garden Club of Frostburg can be found online at www.hgc-frostburg.com or by emailing frostburg-gardenclub@gmail.com.

OBITUARY

ELMER J. RUBY

FLINTSTONE — Elmer Junior Ruby, 72, of Flintstone, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020, at his home. Born Jan. 1, 1948, in Cumberland, Mr. Ruby was the son of the late Elmer Wilber Ruby and Hilda Marie (Bennett) Ruby. He was preceded in death by his wife, Roxanne Burns; his brothers, Jerry Ruby and Jim Ruby; and his sisters, Sandra Kay Ruby and Debbie Ruby.



Elmer was a construction worker and licensed contractor in the area. He was a member of Cumberland Eagles and Bedford Road Sportsmen's Club. Elmer is survived by his children, Clinton Ruby and wife, Dawn, Angie Weller and husband, Terry, Paula Conners, and Greg Burns. He also leaves behind his sister, Sherry Ruby; brother, Robert Ruby; and sister-in-law, Carol Ruby. Elmer is also survived by his grandchildren, Joseph Conners, Tiffany Winalski, Dusti Conners, Dakota Burns,

Jose, Keith, Nick, and Freddie Ruby; as well as three great-grandchildren; one niece; and two nephews. Celebration of Elmer's life will be held at the Briar Patch in Flintstone on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020, from 3 to 6 p.m. Adams Family Funeral Home, P.A., 404 Decatur St., Cumberland (www.AdamsFamilyFuneralHome.com), is handling arrangements.

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Did you know?
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care

Ginsburg: Registration drive held on downtown mall

CONTINUED FROM 1A

hopeful about the turnout they'd receive, around 10 or 15 people ultimately came by to check on their registration or to sign up. The importance of taking action, Robinson said, was galvanized in his mind last week when one of the three officers who shot Breonna Taylor multiple times, killing her, was indicted on charges of wanton endangerment for firing shots into a nearby residence. November's election, he said, is "for the soul of the nation," and its outcome will determine whether things will start to improve or worsen nationally for LGBTQ folks, minorities and other marginalized populations. "I was just thinking of what I could do to help out," Robinson said.

Robinson also said in follow-up comments that after the event, more people reached out to him to say that they'd been inspired to register and had done so even though they could not attend the drive in person. "I think this was what our community needed to wake up a bit and pay attention to what's going on," Robinson said. "I believe the start was when we all went into quarantine but the catalyst was with this current BLM movement. There were a few people who were iffy on voting that had the 'lesser of two evils' mentality but we quickly changed them from not thinking just about the presidential election but on congressional, state and local elections." Photographer Aaron Frazier owns Incognito Imagery, and hosted the drive at his studio on the downtown mall during last week's farmers market. The

decision to host, Frazier told the Times-News, was an easy one. He'd have liked to have seen more youth turnout, Frazier said, but that wasn't the case. Still, he said, he was happy to see people register regardless. Folks also stopped by to ask questions about the process, which was a good sign. Frazier also said he'd like to see more local businesses take up an active role in supporting similar causes. "I'm really bothered by the amount of businesses in our town that try and stay so disconnected, a 'make-everybody-happy' type of mentality," Frazier said. "In order for our area to progress, businesses need to step up. They're the first group of people who really need to step up and say 'Hey, I'm tired of how things are.

Things really need to change.'" Frazier also said that businesses who do choose to be vocal in their support of chosen causes might not lose business, as they may fear. For him, he said, even if that were the case he'd conduct himself and his business the same way he currently does. "I'll survive. If a bigot or a racist doesn't want to come to my business, good," Frazier said. "I do take my personal beliefs and morals and make business decisions based on them. I feel like more businesses need to do that, stop compromising your morals and who you are for a dollar. And I get it, a lot of small businesses are struggling right now. But you'll get your demographic."