

*Calhoun Stays Low,
State COVID Increases*
See Page 9



The Calhoun Chronicle

\$1



and The Grantsville News

"Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts"



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County
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Whole Number 6995

Grantsville, West Virginia 26147

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Chronicle Christmas Contest Winners

- 1st - Jeremy Fowler, \$75
- 2nd - Kathy Wood, \$50
- 3rd - Patty Sims, \$25

We wish you a Merry Christmas

Judge Has Swearing-In Ceremonies For County Officials



Judge Anita Harold Ashley (center) conducted swearing-in ceremonies last week for county clerk Jean Simers and circuit clerk Sheila Garretson.



Judge Anita Harold Ashley swears-in new county commissioner Craig Arthur.

SPECIAL EVENTS

CM/HS Students Recognized At Board Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 21
CCHS girls basketball team plays at Roane County, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 22
CCHS boys basketball team plays at Roane County, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 24
CHRISTMAS EVE.

Sunday, Dec. 25
CHRISTMAS DAY.

Wednesday, Dec. 28
CMS boys teams host Wirt, 5:45 p.m.
CCHS boys basketball team hosts Wirt County, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 29
CCHS girls basketball team plays in Ritchie County tournament, TBA.

The Calhoun County board of education held its Dec. 13 meeting at Calhoun Middle/High School with the Local School Improvement Council.

After a mini performance by CM/HS band and choir, with Michael McHenry, band director, and Joshua Brennan, choir director, recognition of students was held:

The Calhoun Middle/

High School marching band (Michael McHenry, director; Lindsey McHenry, assistant; Debbie Toppings, assistant; Trudi Anderson, twirling director; Jordan Thompson, color guard director):

Black Walnut Festival: 1st, color guard, Ashlyn Fletcher, Ashley Arnold, Caelan Harper, Mickaylee Cowan, Addie Welch, (Continued on Page 11)



Recognized for Exceeding Standards in Math and/or English Language Arts in 6th grade included, left to right, Evan Burch (Math), Ryleigh Crislip-Garrett (Math/ELA), Tucker Sampson (Math/ELA), Jasmyne Tingler (Math/ELA) and Anessia Kerby (ELA).



Recognized for Exceeding Standards in Math on the GSA in 4th grade included, left to right, Landon Hawkins, Chelsea Bailey, Kale Forinash, Emma Frail, Keegan Sampson, Riley Holbert, Tyler Helmick and Brooke Tingler.



Shown above are some of the Calhoun Middle/High School students who participated in the Performing Arts Christmas Showcase in the school auditorium on Friday and Saturday. Shown below is the opening group presentation. Additional photos inside.



OBITUARIES

ALBERT 'Bub' FERRELL

Albert C. "Bub" Ferrell, 50, of Elizabeth, died Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, at home.

He was born at Grantsville, the son of the late Dewey Earl and Maxine Mae Sidwell Ferrell. He was a laborer and a member of Laborer's International Union of North America, Local 1085, Parkersburg. He worked many years for Momentum Pipeline, LLC, Millstone. He previously worked as a logger and still enjoyed cutting timber.

Surviving are his wife, Christie Ferrell; four sons, Levi Ferrell of Elizabeth, Lucas Ferrell of Munday, and Caspian Ferrell and Elijah Ferrell, both at home; four sisters, Loretta Bell of Munday, Kathy Bunner of Straight Creek, Betty Arthur of Grantsville and Dolly Ulderich of Millstone; six brothers, Carl Ferrell and Joe Ferrell, both of Creston, Calvin Ferrell of Parkersburg, Larry Ferrell and Gary Ferrell, both of Nobe, and Alvie Ferrell of Big Bend; mother-in-law, Bonnie Riffle of Grantsville; three sisters-in-law, Kimmy Poling and Shannon Riffle, both of Parkersburg, and Carrie McKown of Arnoldsburg; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Junior Ferrell, and one uncle, Bob Sidwell.

Celebration of his life will be held on Friday, 7 p.m., at Brooksville Baptist Church, with Jason Poling officiating. Visitation will be held Friday, 5 to 7 p.m., at the church.

JUDITH LARENE HAYS

Judith Larene Hays, 74, of Arnoldsburg, died Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, at Akron City Hospital, Akron, Ohio.

She was born on in Akron, the daughter of the late Henry Joseph and Henrietta Mae Yerman Hodgkinson.

Surviving are two sons, Robert W. Hodovan and Andy Lee Hodovan.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Danny Hays.

Services were held at Stump Funeral Home, Arnoldsburg, with Clark Samples officiating. Burial was in Clover Cemetery, Roane County.



HAZEL MARIE FLOWERS

Hazel Marie Flowers, 81, of Williamstown, died Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, at her residence.

She was born in Calhoun County, the daughter of the late Charles Cecil and Stella Snyder Rogers. She retired from Colin Anderson Center as a cook and attended Pine Grove Baptist Church.

Surviving are her loving companion of 24 years, Ronnie "Jobe" Pinkerton; two sons, William Flowers and Larry Flowers; one sister, Anna McQuaid; one brother, Jim Rogers; one son-in-law, Danny Ellis; nine grandchildren, Alexandria Flowers, Elizabeth Price, Gene Smith, Kayla Ellis, Albert Ellis, Bonnie Ellis, Manuel Ellis, Kimberly Ellis and Makayla Davidson; and several great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one daughter, Brenda Ellis; two sisters, Linda Flowers and Lila Wise; and four brothers, Bob Rogers, Ronzel Rogers, Jerry Rogers and Mike Rogers.

Services were held at Leavitt Funeral Home, Parkersburg, with Bob Carr officiating. Burial was in Pleasant Memorial Estate Cemetery, Pleasants County.

VONDA VANCE

Vonda J. Vance, 81, of Wooster, Ohio, formerly of Orrville, Ohio, died Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022, at Glendora Health Care Center, Wooster.

She was born in Orma, the daughter of the late Herbert and Lydia Mae Sampson Butler. She graduated with a degree in accounting from Wooster Business College and worked as a nurse's aide at the former Wayne General Hospital, Orrville. She finished her career as a resident's aide at Apple Creek Developmental Center for six years, retiring in 1983.

Surviving are one son, Duane L. Vance of Wooster; one brother, Dallas White of Berlin Center, Ohio; and six nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one son, Steve Vance; one brother, Delmas Butler; and former husband, Harold E. Vance.

Services were held at the chapel at Crown Hill Cemetery, Orrville, with Pastor Don E. Bolich officiating. Expressions of condolence may be made at www.aublefuneralhome.com.

JEFFREY 'Jeff' STALNAKER

Jeffrey A. "Jeff" Stalnaker, 65, of Parkersburg, died Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022, at Camden Clark Medical Center.

He was born in Alexandria, Va., the son of the late Bantz "Sonny" Stalnaker, Jr., and Roberta Jarvis Stalnaker. He was retired from AMP Ohio and the Armstrong Plant, Millwood.

Surviving are one son, Jonathan Scott Stalnaker of Washington; one brother, Billy Stalnaker of Proctorville, Ohio; four sisters, Sherry Spears of Glenville, Sheila Snyder and Shelley Doss, both of Parkersburg, and Deann Gregory of South Point, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Stephanie "Penny" Stalnaker, on Sept. 10, 2015.

Graveside services were held at Starcher Cemetery, Calhoun County, with Pastor Keith Hostettler officiating.

JESSIE DUANE PARSONS

Jessie Duane Parsons, 76 of Macfarlan, died Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, at his residence.

He was born in Lockney, the son of the late Delbert and Geneva Harris Parsons. He was a United States Army veteran, having served during the Vietnam War. He worked as a laborer for Ames Corp., a tool manufacturer in Parkersburg, and was a Methodist. He attended Macfarlan Community Church.

Surviving are two children, DeAnn Collins and husband Kevin of Cox's Mills and David Roberts and wife Jodi of Cross Lanes; two grandchildren, Katelyn Radabaugh and Kyle Collins; one great-grandchild, Kolsten Collins; six sisters, Madeline Duskey of Tanner, WV, Kay Peters and husband John and Greta Peters and husband Paul, all of Normantown, Wanda Accord of Beckley, Cora Kimes of New Haven, Ohio, and Trish Kniceley of Arnoldsburg; former wife/caregiver, Linda Parsons of Macfarlan; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by seven siblings, Hallie Minney, Lenora Miller, Pearl Parsons, Eddie Parsons, Harry E. "Jack" Parsons, Chester Parsons, and Steven "Bub" Parsons.

Services were held at Ellyson Mortuary, Glenville, with Pastor Jim Huff officiating. Burial was in Collins Community Cemetery, Stumptown, with full military honors provided by the U.S. Army and the Lewis County Honor Guard.

DARA RENEE STEPHENSON

Dara Renee Stephenson, 45, died Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022.

Surviving are her mother, Beulah Stephenson; her children's father, Robert Deal, Sr.; one daughter, Kara "Karebear" Deal and companion Thomas Stone; one son, Robert "Pumba" Deal, Jr.; two grandchildren, Leon Mathew Holcomb and his father Johnny Holcomb, and Lilliana Paige Stone; one sister, Lorissa Stewart and children Ashley Stewart, Joshua Stephenson, Abigail and Alice Jones; one brother, Samuel Stephenson II and children Kaylah, Hannah and Samuel Stephenson, and Thomas Davis; and several close friends, Johnny Brown, Travis Bradley, Steven Koch, Jesse Gibson and Jimmy Koch.

She was preceded in death by her father, Samuel Leon Stephenson.

Her family will have a private viewing on Friday, Dec. 23, in the spring, the family invites her friends and family to a service that will honor her life. If anyone would like to help with the cost of her cremation services, go to <https://gofund.me/0ea04710>. You may also contact Anita Stephenson, Ashley Stewart, Kara Deal or Lorissa Stephenson. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Online condolences may be expressed at www.stumpfuneralhomes.com.



Around Calhoun

by Bill Bailey

Here we are standing at the threshold of Christmas and, as I have always done in the past, I am hoping for a white Christmas.

More often than not, I wake up to a brown Christmas, sometimes with temperatures more akin to Georgia or one of the other southern states. This year may be the exception to the rule. The forecast for this Christmas holiday weekend is just plain nasty; sorry, but there was no other way to say it.

What I am seeing in the forecast is a deep intrusion of the dreaded Polar Vortex, which will bring with it some of the coldest Christmas temperatures that we have seen around these parts in many years.

Accuweather, one of the weather apps that I trust, is forecasting anywhere between one and six inches of snow to fall upon us from noon Friday through Saturday evening, with morning temperatures being in the single digits and not even rising to 20 degrees during the "hottest" part of the day.

That is going to put a damper on a lot of family get-togethers for Christmas. After all, if the roads are too slick to drive on Christmas day, you should just stay home.

You can always visit with friends and family on another day, since you didn't die in a fiery car crash because you just had to drive on the icy roads to prove a point.

If you really love your friends and family, stay home and give them a call, send them an email or, better yet, video chat with them, while you all open your presents and sing Christmas songs.

This is my new favorite to call family (Starlink satellite now lets us have enough bandwidth to finally video chat).

* * * *

Grantsville does look more festive and decorous

this year, although I would love to see it all buried beneath a blanket of pure white snow. In addition to the lighted snowflakes on poles, there are a lot of other decorations placed throughout the town.

* * * *

Jeanne and I are already planning to make no risky moves for Christmas, other than keeping the gas fires turned up to high and the woodstove stuffed with oak and hickory, both cranking out the heat necessary to keep us toasty warm, as we relax on Christmas day, drinking hot chocolate, coffee and tea all the livelong day.

* * * *

We are well stocked now with sunflower seeds, suet cakes, dried corn on the cob, and, Jeanne's latest trick, cutting old tangerines in half, sticking them on a nail that I have driven into the railing above the bird feeders, and filling in the half tangerine with sunflower seeds like it was a bowl of cereal. Jeanne says that the birds may enjoy the benefits of vitamin C just like we do.

* * * *

The critter circus (birds, squirrels and chipmunks) seems to really crank up whenever the weather is about to get bad, so I will be watching the feeders to see if the critters have been watching the weather channel or simply trusting their own instincts. I am guessing the latter of the two.

* * * *

Jeanne and I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas as we all look forward to a more peaceful New Year. Remember, the only way forward is by making certain that we do not repeat the errors of the past that made the world more precarious, so that the world we leave our children and grandchildren is a world worth living in.

As our hummingbirds are probably saying down in Latin America, Feliz Navidad.

* * * *

Obituaries of local interest are free and subject to editing for space, conciseness, and content, which includes direct descendants, their spouses, if clearly stated as such and are local residents, number of grandchildren, etc. Information must come from a funeral home. Memorials and obituaries are available as a paid advertisement.

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Otto Wimpffen and Dick Jarvis

Thank you for making us feel welcome!

On a cross country driving trip in November, my husband, Otto, and I stopped in Grantsville looking for a postcard to purchase. We popped into J&B Drug Store and were delighted to find an old-fashioned soda fountain.

While enjoying our milkshakes, Dick [Jarvis] and Otto shared their army service histories and he gave my husband a commemorative veteran coin.

Dick and his staff made these two travelers feel so welcome and appreciated! Please accept our heartfelt thanks for making this stop in Grantsville one of the highlights of our trip.

Happy Holidays and all the best in 2023!

Laurel and Otto Wimpffen, Gurnee, Ill.



Laurel and Otto Wimpffen

This Week In History

The following reports are taken from *The Calhoun Chronicle* archives:

1922, 100 years ago

The business block in Sutton, bounded on the north by Main Street, on the south by Water Street, on the east by Bridge Street, and on the west by Second Street, was swept by fire this morning, the only building in the entire block left standing being the carpenter shop of E.J. Norris in the southwest corner.

The fire originated in the kitchen of Carder and Lombard's restaurant and had gained such headway when discovered about 3 o'clock that the block was doomed and the greatest effort was necessary to confine the flames to the block. All of the buildings were of wood, standing close together, and the flames spread rapidly, and within three hours from the time the blaze was discovered not a building in the block, with the exception noted, was left standing.

The mill of Sutton Grocery and Milling Company's plant, which is just across the street from the mill that burned, could not be saved. The fire spread rapidly in both directions from the point where it originated, making it necessary to give protection to the buildings on the opposite sides of Main and Bridge streets at the same time. Every window in the Masonic building and the Haymand & Fox building on the opposite side of Main Street was broken by the heat, and the woodwork was badly charred and burned.

The stocks of goods in these buildings, owned by S.A. Fleming, C.M. Singleton & Co., and Sprigg Brothers, were more or less damaged by water, as were also the carpets and furniture in the Masonic hall. The side of the Elk Hotel, facing the burning buildings, was badly damaged. The windows were broken out and the woodwork ruined. Considerable damage was also done to the furnishings by water. Following is a list of the buildings destroyed:

The Levkovitz buildings, Main Street, occupied by Mr. Levkovitz, tailor, and L.F. Price, shoemaker. Mr. Levkovitz carried \$1,500 insurance and Mr. Price, \$1,000.

The Holcomb building, Main Street, occupied by L.A. Holcomb & Son, pool, billiards and soft drinks. Insurance, \$2,000.

The Skidmore building, Main Street, occupied by S.E. Skidmore as a general store and residence. Insurance, \$700.

The Armstrong building, Main Street, occupied by G.B. Armstrong as a restaurant and residence. Insurance, \$1,000.

The Florrie Gorrel building, Main and Bridge streets. The building was occupied by Fred Lorentz, pool and billiards, insurance \$1,000; Fenner Allman, barber shop and residence, insurance, \$500; Carder & Lombard, restaurant, no insurance; William C. Duffield, pressing shop; Jane Huff, residence; Minter Carter, residence; and A.P. Armstrong, justice of the peace. The papers and record books of the justice's office were all destroyed. We are told that Mrs. Gorrell, who now resides in Lewisburg, had only \$1,500 insurance on this building.

The W.H. Martin building, Bridge Street, occupied by G.O. Baker, grocer. Mr. Baker carried \$3,000 insurance on his stock, all of which was consumed, and the building was insured for \$2,000.

The C.A. Duffield building, Bridge Street, occupied by James & Morrison, meat and groceries, and Duffield Brothers, groceries. James and Morrison carried \$1,500 and Duffield, \$2,500 insurance on their stocks. The building was not insured.

The Sutton Grocery & Milling Company's mill. No insurance. Loss probably at \$15,000.

Will Fisher's residence. Mr. Fisher had insurance of \$1,000.

Insurance rates for this district were very high, and, therefore, none of the property destroyed was insured for anything like its worth.

It was the most disastrous fire that Sutton has experienced since the town was burned during the Civil War, and the property loss, after deducting insurance, is variously estimated at from \$50,000 to \$75,000. --Sutton Democrat.

1947, 75 years ago

Members of American Legion Auxiliary, Victor Hamilton Post No. 82, met in the Legion home for their regular meeting on Tuesday evening. The president, Velma Kemper, presided.

The meeting opened with the color bearers presenting the colors and pledge to the flag, song, "Star Spangled Banner," accompanied at the piano by Nelle Stiers, prayer by the chaplain, Lenna Marshall, followed by silent prayer, and repeating of the Legion Creed.

Two new members were taken into the auxiliary: Willa Stump and Opal Proudfoot. During the initiation, the candles were lighted for Justice, Freedom, Democracy and Loyalty.

After the initiation, a business session was held. The auxiliary voted to pay \$50, their pledge to the Calhoun County recreational center, and Verle Stewart was appointed to represent the auxiliary at the recreation meetings.

They voted to buy a \$5 tuberculosis bond and send \$2 to the Crippled Children's Hospital. Nannie Smith, Poppy chairman, asked for the poppies to be bought for the annual sale. The members voted to have a Christmas party and gift exchange on Tuesday evening, Dec. 23, at the home of Nannie Smith, and there will be covered dish refreshments.

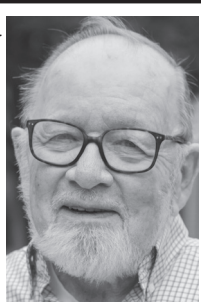
At the close of the business session refreshments were served by the hostesses, Ethel McDonald, Nelle Stiers and Lenna Marshall, to Velma Kemper, Nanny Smith, Lottie Gunn, Eleanor Johnson, Willa Stump, Mary Ann Howes, Grace Haight, Effa Bickerstaff, Della Bennett, Minnie Hefner, Genevieve Gainer, Opal Proudfoot, Verle Stewart, Margaret Blosser, Virginia Tucker, Dessie Davis, and the hostesses.

1972, 50 years ago

All kinds of conservation projects that are underway in the Little Kanawha region were reported on

CURIOSITY CORNER

by Dr. Jerry D. Wilson,
Emeritus Professor of Physics,
Lander University



I was reading "Facts About the Human Body," by Eric Bel. Here are a few facts that I thought you might find interesting:

--Nerve impulses to and from the brain travel as fast as 170 miles per hour (mph).

--Your brain uses 20 percent of the oxygen that enters the bloodstream.

--The brain is more active at night than during the day.

--Facial hair grows faster than any other hair on the body.

--Every day the average person loses 60 to 100 strands of hair.

--The life span of a human hair is three to seven years on average.

--The fastest growing nail is on the middle finger.

--Fingernails grow nearly four times faster than toenails.

--The human body is estimated to have 60,000 miles of blood vessels.

--The surface area of a human lung is equal to a tennis court.

--The aorta is nearly the diameter of a garden hose.

--Your left lung is smaller than your right lung to make room for the heart.

--Sneeze emissions can exceed speeds of 100 mph (and you can't keep your eyes open).

--Cough emissions can exceed speeds of 60 mph.

--After eating too much, your hearing is less sharp.

--By the age of 60, most people will have lost about half their taste buds.

--By 60 years of age, 60 percent of men and 40 percent of women will snore.

--Humans can make do longer without food than without sleep.

--It takes 17 muscles to smile and 43 to frown.

--We are about one centimeter taller in the morning after sleeping than before going to bed.

--The feet account for one quarter of all the human body's bones.

--It is not possible to tickle yourself.

C.P.S. (Curious Postscript): "One of life's greatest mysteries is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of one of the smartest grandchildren in the world."

Curious about something? Email your questions to Dr. Jerry Wilson at curiosity.corner@yahoo.com. Selected questions will appear in the Curiosity Corner.

at the annual dinner meeting of the Little Kanawha Resource Conservation and Development project on Friday, Nov. 30, in Elizabeth. Calhoun is one of five counties in the area.

Development of Blennerhassett Island, an oil and gas memorial, a new park in Wood County, development of an area travel council, and improvement of facilities at North Bend state park were main topics of interest. William B. Morrison of Grantsville, chairman of the RC&D steering committee, was master of ceremonies for the dinner.

Although somewhat hush-hush on specific plans, the area does plan to have some project going that will give attention to the pioneer development of the oil and gas industry in this section of the state. The proposed Wood County Park was also not located, although it was definitely in the plans, according to Ed Lehew, chairman of the Wood Parks and Recreation Commission.

Dr. Stephen Bird, president of the newly organized Country Roads Travel Council, said that the Little Kanawha area had a "lot of catching up to do, to get even with other areas of the state in tourist promotion." The Blennerhassett Island project was discussed by Joseph P. Albright of the House of Delegates.

State Sen. Russell G. Beall discussed the Oil and Gas Memorial project, and other reports were given by George Cash, Orville Kyle, Wauneta Peterson and Ken Greene.

The steering committee went on record as making a protest of the President's recent veto of funds for sewage disposal projects.

Two men, who have formerly been employed in Calhoun County by the Soil Conservation Service, were recognized for recent promotions. Shelby Van Scoy, who was recently transferred to Marshall County, was given a plaque for his work while in the Little Kanawha area as a soil conservationist. Ed Gaskins, who is currently an area biologist with Soil Conservation Service, is going to Missouri, where he will be state biologist.

Attending the dinner meeting, which was held in the Wirt County High School cafeteria, from Calhoun County were Mr. and Mrs. Deward Offutt, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Sturm, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sturm, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Don Morris, Sue McCoy, Gladys Stump, Mary Ann Barrows, Evelyn Campbell, Lonnie M. Oles, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Pitts.

WIC Program

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program is a supplemental food program for pregnant, post-partum, or breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to age of five.

WIC provides food, breastfeeding support and nutrition education to families in Calhoun County. To apply for the program or to receive information, call the local office, 354-6898, or the main office in Parkersburg, 428-3688. The WIC clinic is located at 300 Mill St., Grantsville, and is available each Wednesday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for appointments by phone. Call the office, 354-6898, if you have an appointment or a question about benefits.



This Week In West Virginia History

The following events happened from Dec. 23-29 in West Virginia history. To read about West Virginia's people, history, places, science, arts and culture, visit www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Dec. 22, 1928: Radio station WMMN of Fairmont began operations as one of West Virginia's pioneer stations. For nearly two decades, beginning in 1935, WMMN was an important outlet for country and western music performers. The highlight of this era was the "Sagebrush Roundup," a Saturday night live-audience show that began in December 1938 and was broadcast weekly for nearly 10 years.

Dec. 24, 1942: The Committee on Fair Employment Practices ordered that Jehovah's Witnesses be reinstated to their jobs at Pittsburgh Plate Glass in Clarksburg. The workers had been fired for refusing to participate in union-sponsored flag-salute ceremonies at the plant.

Dec. 25, 2002: Jack Whittaker, a Putnam County contractor, won the \$314.9 million Powerball jackpot. At the time, it was the largest single lottery jackpot in history.

Dec. 26, 1917: Instrument maker Harold M. Hayslett was born in Putnam County. His violins, violas and cellos have received awards for tone and workmanship, and are cherished by collectors and players alike.

Dec. 27, 1797: The county seat of Ohio County was moved from West Liberty to Wheeling.



Dec. 23, 1987: Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme escaped from the Federal Prison Camp in Alderson, while serving a life sentence for trying to kill President Gerald Ford. She was captured two days later near the prison.

Dec. 24, 1852: The last spike was driven on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad between Baltimore and the Ohio River. The event occurred at Rosbys Rock (shown below), near Moundsville. To mark the spot where the final spike was driven, the following words were carved upon the rock: Rosbys [sic] Rock Track Closed Christmas Eve, 1852.

Dec. 28, 1879: Brigadier Gen. Billy Mitchell was born in France. As chief of the Army Air Force, he ordered aircraft of the 88th Squadron to perform reconnaissance during the 1921 Miners' March on Logan.

Dec. 28, 1978: The last train ran on the Greenbrier Division, a branch line of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway. Unlike most C&O branches in West Virginia, the Greenbrier Division was not a coal-hauling line, but served the valley's timber industry.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the W.Va. Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; 304-346-8500 or www.wvencyclopedia.org.



The last spike was driven on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad between Baltimore and the Ohio River on Dec. 24, 1852, at Rosbys Rock, near Moundsville.

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My Home Among the Hills

by Melody Walburn



As I sit to write this article, I am beginning the final countdown to Christmas. As usual, December has both seemed to last forever and to fly by quicker than I could keep up. I am more than ready for my Christmas break and just have to get through this week to reach it.

This has been a busy month, and I am so ready for some quiet time. Thanksgiving break is all about family, friends, food and festivities. We are on the go from the beginning of the week until the very end. While I love every minute of that holiday, I have a special place in my heart for Christmas. This vacation time is completely different from Thanksgiving. It is all about resting and relaxing.

All that upcoming quiet time is what I am going to focus on as I make my way through this last week of school. Monday and Tuesday are semester exam days, and Wednesday is a make-up day. I will be spending most of my evenings grading exams, so I can finalize grades and put my schoolbag away during vacation. Thursday is a professional development and faculty senate day. There will be no students in the building, so hopefully, if I have any grading left, I can accomplish it before heading home.

There is also another element of excitement happening at the end of this week. The weathermen are starting to really talk about our first accumulating snow arriving on Friday. Really cold temperatures are already forecasted, but it would be really sweet to wake up to snow falling on the first day of Christmas break. I am already envisioning staying in my pajamas all day and reading on the couch by the Christmas tree and fireplace, while I watch it snow. Doesn't that sound perfectly lovely?

I have to say that Mother Nature is being very nice to me. This past Sunday was my birthday, and I came downstairs to find pretty snow flurries falling outside my window. It felt like a birthday gift from nature. The snow continued to fall as I made my way to church, to the grocery store, and back to my home among the hills to celebrate with my family.

My parents and the Mlynks came over for lunch and spent the afternoon with me. We ate together, watched a Christmas movie, baked some cookies, made some fudge, and built a puzzle. It was a lovely way to spend my birthday. Rascal even took a little nap on my lap. He is not usually snuggly, so I guess that was his birthday present to me.

Speaking of birthday presents, I received a really neat one from my friend Kelly. While on a mission trip to Africa this past summer, she purchased a nativity set made by a local woman who up cycles and transforms banana fiber materials into new art forms. The set came in a beautiful box that contained Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the three wisemen, two sheep, and three shepherds. I have been meaning to purchase a nativity set, and now I have something that is so special.

As I enter this week, I always reflect on the many traditions my family had during this time of year. Those memories are some of my favorite childhood moments. I encourage you to make some of those with your family this year. Take a walk out at the county park or go sledding, if it snows. Take a drive around town to look at all of our beautiful Christmas lights and displays. I also encourage you to go to a Christmas Eve service. There is no better way to ring in Christmas. Merry Christmas, my friends! I wish you lots of love, peace and joy in the year to come.

Let me leave you with the words that the shepherds heard that silent, holy night:

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men."

Letters to Mary and Other Communications

(This series is made possible through the efforts of Michael A. Ayers' descendants. The letters were preserved by Ayers' grandson Ashford Ayers and compiled into booklet form by Alice Ann Ayers Brown, great-granddaughter of Michael and Mary Ayers.)

Michael A. Ayers-- A Calhoun Native In the Civil War

(Continued from Last Week)

Since my last letter to you, we have been paid off, which has been quite an event in our midst, for nearly the whole command were out of funds, and we hailed the advent of the Paymaster as an important event, calculated to inspire our minds with visions of something good to eat, though it does cost considerable.

We moved our encampment again yesterday, some two miles to the westward and to the right of the Winchester Pike, occupying the quarters just evacuated by a portion of the 6th. corps, who have all gone to Grant's army in front of Petersburg. Thursday night was very cold, and we started just at day break yesterday morning and had a very cold chilly day to fix up comfortable again which by working hard all day, we succeeded in partially accomplishing. Co. C had been on picket the night previous, and did not get to camp till 10 A.M. yesterday and a cold time it was for the boys. Some of them say it was the severest night on duty they ever yet experienced.

Last night snow fell to the depth of six inches and this morning we all awoke to find the earth wrapped in a mantle of pure white. I presume winter has now set in upon us, and by way of encouragement to you, as to my situation, permit me to say I have very comfortable, warm quarters and think I will find no difficulty in getting along pleasantly enough.

As to soldiering, I could not ask for a better situation, for I know I am far more comfortably situated than many a poor soldier, yet when I permit fancy to wing its flight back to my native hills of West Va. and alight by some familiar fireside, say for example, just above the village of Smithville, where I have so often spent happy hours, I almost repine at my hard fate, and wish for the time of deliverance to speedily come, when the bugle notes of war shall cease, within our borders, and the angel of peace spread its soft wings of light and love over the great republic of these once United States, and that those of our soldiers who are yet alive, to return to the bosom of their families.

I was happy to hear of you having singing once more, and hope you may continue it, for I think you could all make it a source of much usefulness. I must tell you that since my return I have had the pleasure of appointing Corporal Napoleon B. Ferrel a Sergeant, and have this evening just made out warrants for six new Sergeants, five for Co. C and one for Co. A.

The colonel is now absent for a few days. He went to Harpers Ferry and Martinsburg after books and papers. Capt. Deem is in command of the Regiment and I have seen him not more than twice today. He is a heavy "purp." The Chaplain Rev. Mr. Lyon has called several times today, and is a perfect "nuisance" to the whole Regiment. I am getting tired of him. He comes here and writes letters on our paper, uses envelopes belonging to our office, and then tries to beg postage stamps. He gets his living by spunging on the privates and officers, and is of no account whatever.

Col. Bukey expects to leave the Regiment when Co. C is mustered out. I shall regret to see him leave, and if he does it will not be long till you will hear of this Regiment being run into the ground. The real fact is there is not another officer competent in the regiment to command it successfully. Maj. Simpson I suppose will come back and take command, and with someone to do the business for him, he may get along for awhile but he cannot command a Regiment in the field, and will in a very short time run aground. He's not popular among a great portion of the men, even his old Co. C.

If Martin lives to get home he can tell you about what the men think of Simpson. You may think some what strange of me of talking so of him but you and your folks there at home can not tell what he is as well as those who have been out with him all the time. He seems like a gentleman in some respects, and no doubt is, but there is something dark hidden away that a person who meets him only occasionally cannot form a true estimate of, and that is a low, mean undermining disposition. He will do anything to advance his own selfish ends, another failing is his "bravery".

He is brave, but it amounts to foolhardiness. He would lead his men headlong into danger, and not have generalship and prudence enough to get them out. Such bravery is not what constitutes the good officer. If he comes back I don't think he will remain long. He will either resign or be dismissed. If Col. Bukey goes home I feel that we are in a bad situation and though he has a great many enemies in the regiment, his value will be appreciated only when he is gone.

I have strung this letter into rather a different channel from what I started in with, but think you will find something of interest in this sheet, and if you chose you may let any one of the family read this portion of the present communication. If you chose please let Martin see it when he gets back.

I will conclude on this page for the night is waning away and the candle is burning low, probably you may be up at this very moment writing to some friends, or else thinking of some absent one far away, but most likely you are sleeping sweetly and if so may pleasant visions visit your slumber, the guardian angel of our peace and happiness take care of you tonight and for coming life. Live in cheerful hopes of the time when I will be permitted to return, and claim my own long affianced bride, whose love and patience I truly admire, and am proud of.

Write often while I am absent. Can't you enclose me one of them sweet kisses in your next?

Ever your affectionate, Michael
(Continued Next Week)

Senior Citizens Menu

Menu for the Senior Citizens Center (2% milk and margarine available daily):

(Dining hall is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.)

Thursday, Dec. 22: sloppy joe, potatoes, stem vegetables, peaches, whole wheat bun.

Friday, Dec. 23: closed.

Monday, Dec. 26: closed.

Tuesday, Dec. 27: chicken patty, macaroni and cheese, pickles, pears, whole wheat bread.

Wednesday, Dec. 28: northern beans, mixed greens, applesauce, whole

wheat cornbread.

Thursday, Dec. 29: baked steak, brown gravy, potatoes, peas, oranges, whole wheat bread.

Friday, Dec. 30: closed.

Suggested donation scale for meals: Individual monthly income, \$700 or less, \$1.25 per meal; \$701 to \$800, \$1.50; \$801 to \$900, \$1.75; \$901 or above, \$2.

Guests under age 60, \$5.25.

You may drive-by and pick-up meals from 11 to 11:30 a.m., Monday-Friday, by calling CCCOA, 354-7017, to be placed on a list.

Holiday Stress Busters

by Bryan Golden

The New Year is a time of resolutions. It's a time when people commit to making a change in their life.

Losing weight, changing jobs, saving money, making money, a new relationship, getting in shape, going back to school, or giving up smoking, are just some of the goals people set for themselves on Jan. 1.

Although it's possible for anyone to make a change or a new start, it takes determination, commitment, and persistence. A new goal must be your own. You have to really want it. Without a burning desire, your motivation will fade quickly. It's virtually impossible to make a change due to external pressure.

You may agree to what someone else wants you to do, but it's very difficult to succeed without an internal drive. So, in order to successfully make a change or reach a goal, you have to make sure it's what you really want.

Don't start off on the wrong foot by making excuses as to why you will probably fail. If you don't truly believe you can do it, you won't. People who do this will say something like, "I'll try to do it, but..." Or you may hear, "I tried before and it didn't work, but I'll give it another go."

Before you begin, make sure the only things you are telling yourself are, "I can," "I will," and "I will do whatever it takes."

A new beginning is a three-step process. You have to first know what you want, formulate a plan to achieve it, and then take the necessary action to get it. Setting a specific goal is essential.

The more detailed, the better. If you want to lose weight, how much and by when? If you want a new job, what will it be and

how much will it pay? If you want to save money, how much and how often?

Next, you need a plan. Just like your goal, your plan must be as detailed as possible. If you are going to lose weight, what will be your menu each week? Are you going to go on a specific diet, cut out certain foods, or just eat less?

For finding a new job, what will be your strategy? Do you need a new resume? Will you look on line, in the classifieds, use an employment agency, network, cold call, or all of these?

If you want to save more money, in what areas will you cut back? Do you know where your money is going? Have you created a budget?

You want your plan to be doable. The smaller the steps are, the more likely you will be to succeed. Any time you feel a step is too big, break it down further. It doesn't matter how small each step is, so long as you keep going and never give up.

Losing 20 pounds may feel overwhelming, but dropping two pounds a month doesn't seem too bad. If you keep at it for 10 months, you will reach your goal.

Saving \$3,000 might appear beyond reach, but cutting back \$9 a day on family spending is manageable.

Finally, you must take action. The best goals and greatest plans will go nowhere without action. The reason you divided your plan into small sections is so it would be easy to take action, one day at a time. All you have to do is keep going, until you achieve your goal.

(Golden is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact him at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com. Copyright 2022 Bryan Golden.)

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The Calhoun Middle School A team placed second in the Braxton Holiday Tournament on Friday and Saturday. Shown from left to right are, first row, Gavin Hicks, Maddox Siwicki, Christian Rogers, Sawyer Groves; second row, coach Levi Allen, Chace Toney, Cooper Morris, Josiah Wilson, Chase Schoolcraft, Micah Allen, and coach Michael Boatright.



Cooper Morris (25) and Chase Schoolcraft (5) were named to the Braxton All-Tournament team on Saturday.

CMS Places Second

The Calhoun Middle School boys basketball A team competed in the Braxton Holiday Tournament on Friday and Saturday and placed second. Chace Schoolcraft and Cooper Morris received All-Tournament team recognition.

On Friday, CMS defeated Richwood, 47-23. Scoring was by Chace Schoolcraft, 23; Micah Allen, 7; Cooper Morris, 6; Chace Toney, 4; Josiah Wilson, 4; Christian Rogers, 2; and Maddox Siwicki, 1. Non-scorers were Charter Cottrell, Sawyer Groves and Gavin Hicks.

CMS lost to Braxton on Saturday in the finals,

56-43. Scorers were Schoolcraft, 19; Morris, 8; Wilson, 8; Allen, 5; Hicks, 2; and Toney, 1. Non-scorers were Siwicki, Rogers and Groves.

CMS teams are scheduled to host Wirt Middle School on Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 5:45 p.m.

2022-23 Calhoun Middle School Boys Basketball Schedule

Games are at 6 p.m., unless noted

November
30 A 44 Gilmer 21 W
B 23 Gilmer 24 .. L

December
5 A 16 Geo. Wash. 18 .. L
B 12 GW 43 L
14 A 46 Walton 34 W
16 A 47 Richwood 23 .. W
17 A 43 Braxton 56 L
19 Geary 7:30 A
20 Clay A
28 Wirt 5:45 H

January
10 Geary 7:30 H
11 Spencer A
16 Wirt A
20 Ravenswood H
23 Spencer H
26 Walton A

Calhoun Middle/High School Sports Schedules

Girls Basketball

Wednesday, Dec. 14
Gilmer 54 Calhoun 44
Calhoun varsity scoring: Abi Waldron 17, Joselynn Yeager 13, Maycee Carter 8, Trista Arnold 3, Lauren Lovejoy 2, Ashlyn Boak 1. Other statistic leaders: rebounds, Yeager 10, Waldron 8, Carter 6, Boak 3; steals, Yeager 6, Waldron 5, Carter 3, Ariety Hickman 2, Boak 2; blocks, Yeager 4.

Gilmer JV 70
Calhoun JV 17
Calhoun JV scoring: Brylie Wilson 7, Faith McClain 6, Nyla Warner 2, Mariah Taylor 2. Other JV leaders: rebounds, McClain 6, Wilson 3, Taylor 3; steals, McClain 3, Warner 2.

2022-23 CCHS Varsity Girls Basketball Schedule

December
2 21 Roane 49 L
6 44 Doddridge 68 L
9 40 So. Harrison 67 .. L
12 36 Braxton 29 W
14 44 Gilmer 54 L
19 Doddridge Co. . H 7:30
21 Roane Co. A 7:00
29 Ritchie Tour.A TBA
30 Ritchie Tour.A TBA

January
6 Tug Valley A 7:30
11 Webster Co. A 7:30
13 Wirt Co. A 7:30
18 Tug Valley H 7:30
20 Clay Co. A 7:30
25 Williamstown .. H 7:30
28 HIT Tournament
So. Harrison .. A TBA
30 Wirt Co. H 7:30

February
1 So. Harrison H 7:30
3 Gilmer Co. A 7:30
9 LKC Placement ... TBA
11 Night of Champ. .. TBA
15 Ritchie Co. H 7:30
16 Williamstown .. A 7:30
17 Sectionals TBA

Mar.
2 Regionals TBA
Most JV games at 5:45 p.m.

2022-23 CCHS Varsity Boys Basketball Schedule

December
8 23 So. Harr. 72 L
9 42 Webster 76 L
13 38 Doddridge 73 L
20 Gilmer Co. A 7:00
22 Roane Co. A 7:00
28 Wirt Co. H 7:00

January
3 Clay H 7:00
5 Park. Catholic .. H 7:00
10 Valley Wetzel .. H 6:30
12 Braxton Co. A 7:00
13 Van H 7:00
17 Clay A 7:00
20 Paden City H 7:00
24 Doddridge H 7:00
26 Van A 7:00

February
3 Valley Wetzel .. A 7:00
7 So. Harrison H 7:00
9 Gilmer Co. H 7:00
13 Paden City A 7:00
16 LKC Placement H 7:00
17 Meadow Bridge H 7:00
18 Night of Champ. .. TBA
21 Meadow Bridge A 7:00
24 Sectionals TBA

March
9 Regionals TBA

2022-23 Calhoun Middle School Girls Basketball Schedule

Games are at 6 p.m., unless noted

December
No results
1 Ritchie A
5 George Washington ... A
7 Gilmer A
12 Braxton H
13 Ravenswood A
19 Geary A
21 Clay H
22 Braxton A

January
3 Gilmer H
5 Ravenswood H
10 Geary H
11 Spencer H
18 Ritchie H

Varsity Wrestlers Second At Webster County; Staton First In 144 Weight Class

The CCHS wrestling team won four straight duals on Friday at Webster County High School, before placing second on the day after losing to Lewis County, 53-18, in the finals.

On Saturday, Calhoun filled nine of 14 weight classes in a tournament at Webster.

Calhoun's Haiden Staton won the 144 lb. championship, compiling

a 2-0 record, with one pin and 21 points.

Placing second were Ian Persinger (2-1, 150), Wyatt Nichols (1-1, 157), Adam Lane (1-1, 165), and for the B team, Adam Hughes (2-0, 144).

In third place were Joe Nelson (2-1, 132), Trevor Collins (4-1, 285). In fourth were Isaiah Boggs (2-2, 126) and Levi Stump (2-2, 215).

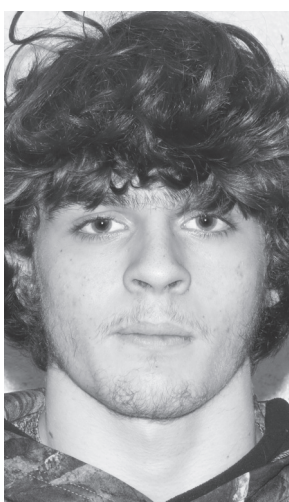
Calhoun will wrestle at Clay County on Friday, Dec. 30.

Friday, Dec. 16 at Webster County Duals (4-1)

Calhoun 36
Philip Barbour 24
Calhoun 36 Nicholas 33
Calhoun 48 Pike View 18
Calhoun 26 All-Stars 12
Lewis 53 Calhoun 18

Saturday, Dec. 17 Calhoun individual results at Webster Co.:

126 - Isaiah Boggs, 2-2, 2 pins, 11 pts., 4th
132 - Joe Nelson, 2-1, 2 pins, 11 pts., 3rd
138 - Anthony Schoo, 0-1, 2 pts., 6th
144 - Haiden Staton, 2-0, 1 pin, 21 pts., Champion



Haiden Staton 144 lb. Champion

150 - Ian Persinger, 2-1, 16 pts., 2nd
157 - Wyatt Nichols, 1-1, 1 pin, 15 pts., 2nd
165 - Adam Lane, 1-1, 1 pin, 13 pts., 2nd
215 - Levi Stump, 2-2, 2 pins, 15 pts., 4th
285 - Trevor Collins, 4-1, 3 pins, 17 pts., 3rd

Calhoun B

144 - Adam Hughes, 2-0, 2 pins, 19 pts., 2nd
215 - Ethan Jarvis, 3-3, 3 pins, 16 pts., 6th
215 - Jobe Loudin, 1-2, 1 pin, 4 pts.
215 - Brandon Marks, 0-2
285 - Jordan Collins, 0-2

CMS Mat Team 7th

The CMS wrestling team competed in the Little Kanawha Conference Middle School tournament last week.

The team accumulated 102 points to finish 7th of 11 schools.

Individual records were as follows:

78 - Zack Smith, 4-2, 5th
94 - Wattson Nichols, 4-2, 7th
94 - Eddie Burrows, 2-2
102 - Reese Schoolcraft, 3-1, 2nd
102 - Jules Williams, 0-2
110 - Ezra Anderson, 5-1, 3rd
116 - Charter Cottrell, 0-2
123 - Eli Bailey, 4-1, 3rd
145 - Nick Butler, 1-2, 7th
285 - Richard Bush, 2-1, 2nd

Wolfram Wins Week, Ferrell Wins Season

Judy Wolfram was the only contestant in Final Week 7 of the Mini Football Prognostication Contest to pick eight of 10 winners. She receives a \$10 gift certificate from Grantsville Foodland.

Other top records in Week 7 were by William Duskey, Levi Ferrell and Mike Propst, each 7-3, and Angie Slider and Louise Wolverton, each 6-4.

Winner of the 2022 Mini Football Prognostication Contest is Levi Ferrell, who finished the contest with a 45-24 record, edging out Angie Slider, who finished at 44-25.

Ferrell wins a \$25 gift certificate from Grantsville Foodland.

Other top contest records were by Mike Propst, 43-26; Judy Wolfram, 40-29; and Shara Arison, Jim Erlewine and Brenton Slider, each 38-31.

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History of The Christmas Tree

by Robert Leo Smith, Associate Professor of Wildlife Biology at W.Va. University
(Reprinted from a past issue of the Chronicle)

Christmas trees. They stand crowded and forlorn and looking strangely out of place in the shopping lots. (Cut and carted from the open countryside). They stand in countless windows, with colored lights radiating the seasons other cheer and warmth to

a cold outdoors. In a few short days after Christmas, they will be tossed on the garbage heap, tattered, worn and dried. One could, if he so wished, get emotional about the trees. He could imagine them growing to lumber instead, or providing shelter for wildlife, but then one could also argue that of all the products of the soil, none brings greater joy to families, and more dramatically

presents the message of peace on earth, good will to men, than the Christmas tree. The Christmas tree has a long tradition in the culture of western man. Its early beginnings can be traced back to the Druids of ancient Gaul, who decorated their houses with sprigs of evergreen to symbolize eternal life and the revival of the sun god. They also believed that

evergreen boughs over the door kept out witches, ghosts and evil spirits. When the Romans observed the feast of Saturn, or Saturnalia, celebrating the return or rebirth of the sun, they too decorated their homes with evergreens. The feast was also given to merrymaking, eating, drinking, and gift exchange. Later, the early Christians in Rome replaced the feasts of

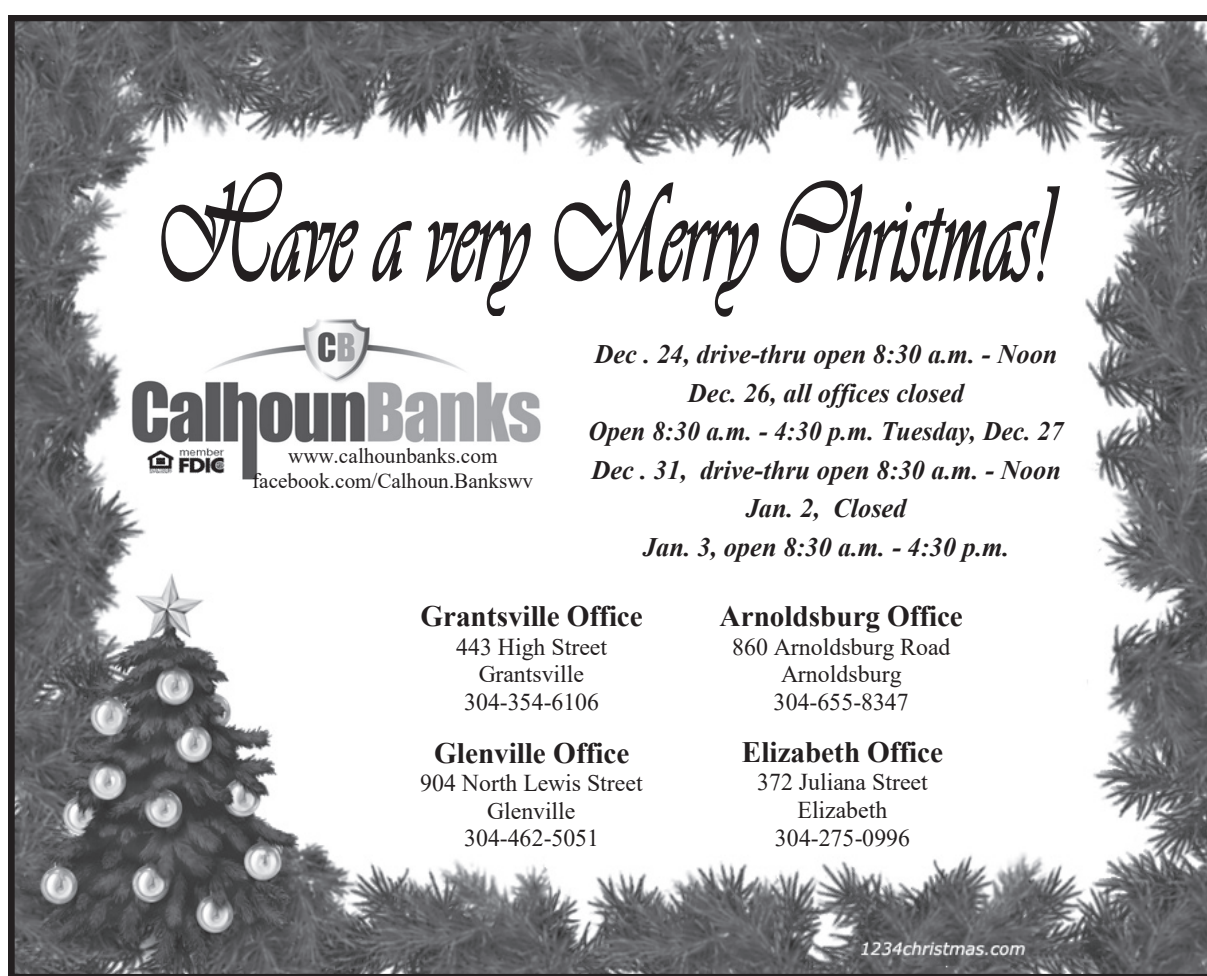
Saturn with the feast of Christmas. The decorated Christmas tree, as we know it today, goes back to about year 1500 in the province of Alsace along the upper Rhine River, then a part of Germany. A nearly German legend places the Christmas tree even further back than that, to the eighth century. St. Boniface, an English missionary, supposedly got some German tribes to set up a fir tree at Christmas to replace their traditional sacred oak. As early reference from Strausburg, Germany, in 1605 states, "At Christmas, fir trees are set up in rooms and hung with roses cut from paper of many colors, apples, wafers, spanglegold, sugar, etc." Later, cookies in the shape of flowers, angels, hearts, men and animals replaced the wafers. Fruits were gilded or covered with colored paper and hung on the tree, as well as toys, dolls, and strings of beads. The use of lights on Christmas trees is also a German custom, credited to Martin Luther. He is supposed to have cut a small fir tree, brought it into his home, and attached lighted candles to it to represent the starlit sky of Christmas Eve. The use of candles did not become an accepted decoration in Germany until about 1700, when the custom of Christmas trees spread from the Rhine River to the rest of Germany and to Austria, especially in the cities and towns. Although the candles were beautiful, they were

unsafe and were lit for only a very short period of time and carefully watched. INTRODUCED IN AMERICA The Hessian mercenary soldiers that fought for the British in the Revolution are often credited with introducing the first Christmas trees into America, but the custom really didn't get a start until 1816 among the German settlers in Eastern Pennsylvania. By 1825, a number of homes in Philadelphia had Christmas trees, and by 1840 the custom had become fairly common in Pennsylvania. A German political refugee introduced the Christmas tree in New England at considerable risk. In fact, Christmas trees were banned in Boston as paganistic until around 1845, when the Christmas tree won out. By 1850, the Christmas tree had spread throughout the eastern United States, following wide publicity given to the introduction of the tree into England by Prince Albert, the German consort of Queen Victoria. Until then, the English relied on the Yule log, roast goose, and evergreen decorations for its Christmas spirit. IN THE WHITE HOUSE Franklin Pierce was the first president to introduce the Christmas tree to the White House in 1856 for a group of Washington Sunday School children. The first Christmas trees sold commercially in the U.S. were marketed by



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&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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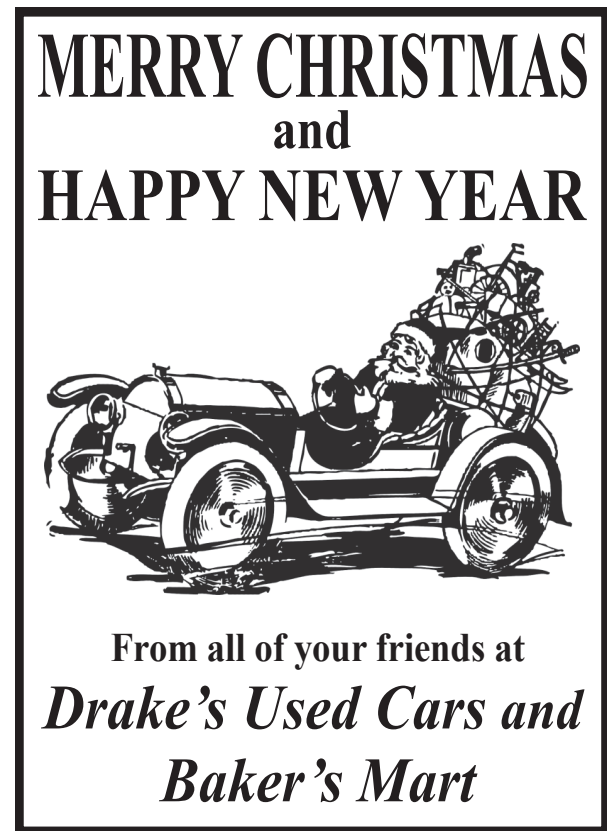
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We wish you a season filled with cheer.
As the snow falls to the ground,
May peace and joy reign all year around!
Thank you for visiting us this past year.*

Minnie Hamilton Health System

*Merry Christmas
from
Minnie Hamilton Health System
And Staff*

a Mark Carr of the lower Catskill Mountains. He sold two ox loads of firs in New York City in 1851.

**FIRST THE FIR,
THEN THE PINE**

The most popular tree for Christmas was the fir, probably because it was the most abundant in the forests of western Germany, where the custom originated.

As a result, many of our Christmas legends, poems, songs and stories are centered around the fir tree.

One of Hans Christian Anderson's most famous tales is The Fir Tree, and the old German folk festival song, "O Tannenbaum" offers a hymn of praise to the fir tree.

In the U.S. the most popular trees were also fir which grew widely in New England and northern New York state and the mountains of the Appalachians.

The fir tree has given way to the pine. The great demand for Christmas trees has stimulated the commercial production of plantation grown trees for Christmas.

Responding well to shaping and rather easily

grown, Scotch pine, native of Europe, has become the most popular of all Christmas trees.

Second most popular tree in the U.S. is the Douglas fir, which is harvested from western forests as well as from plantations in the West and the East.

Balsam fir, the little fir tree, ranks third, black spruce is fourth, and eastern red cedar is fifth. Red cedar is more popular in southeastern states and one rarely sees it used in our region. In southern West Virginia, it is quite popular.

Scotch pine, Norway spruce, and white pine are popular in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Ohio.

At one time, it was almost traditional for many families to go out to the country to cut their own tree and some still do.

Some Christmas tree growers encourage customers to come to their plantations and select their own, but most of us go down to the Christmas tree lot, and search among the trees until we find one that meets our idea of what a Christmas tree should look like. Often,

what looked great on the lot doesn't look quite so good in the house.

**NOW A TRIP
TO THE ATTIC**

If a present trend continues, the trip to the plantation or the shopping lot for the Christmas tree will be replaced by a trip to the attic. For the artificial tree is catching on, and, like the natural tree, it, too, has a history.

The first artificial tree appeared in the U.S. in the early 1900s. The tree marketed by a European firm was made of goose feathers. It never became popular.

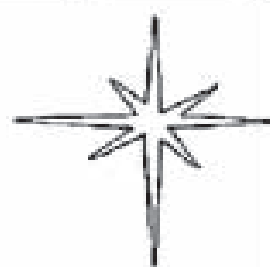
In the 1940s, a rayon visca tree was introduced. It was small, collapsible, and not very attractive. They were sold until 1960.

In the early 1950s, a molded plastic tree was introduced, manufactured by companies that made molded plastic flowers. Although realistic in appearance they were never widely accepted.

In the late 1950s, the aluminum tree was introduced. They became fairly popular, reaching their peak in 1962 and

(Continued on Page 9)

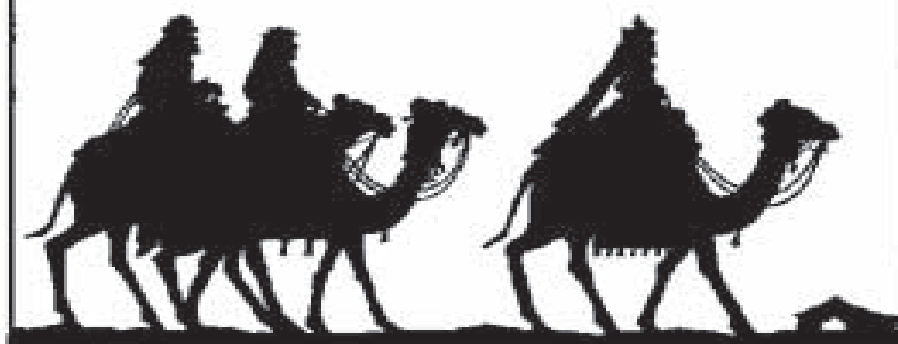
**Blessings
Of The
Season**



'Tis the season to be Thankful for all the blessings the lord has bestowed upon us.

*We wish all our friends, family and everyone that patronized the **Nu-Look, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

With Love, Linda



**Have a Jolly
Holly-Day**

Wishing you a Holiday filled with merriment and mirth - Plus lots of love and laughter, With joy and peace on earth!

With our thanks for your valued patronage.

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CHRISTMAS
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This Holiday Season**

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and good times, too
Is our Christmas
wish for you ...
Plus lots of great gifts
and wonderful food,
To put you in
the festive mood,
And when at last the
holiday's through ...
May our warm wishes
remain with you!*

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**Do You Hear
What We Hear?**

*The Christmas bells
are ringing,
signaling the start of
another Holiday
season. May you
reach out to others
this year and be
blessed in return.*

**Calhoun County
Committee
on Aging**

CALHOUN REALTY TEAM

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Calhoun Realty Team welcomes our newest team members...

Jerry D. Mann - Jerry is a Veteran that served our country with the US Army and has moved to Calhoun County to build his real estate career.

Crystal A. Elkins - Crystal prides herself in providing excellent customer service and always strives to exceed her clients expectations. With a BA in Advertising/Graphic Design, she has the knowledge to effectively market your property and help you reach your buying or selling goals.

Sheila R. Rader - Sheila worked as a real estate agent in Ohio for several years. Serving the North Central West Virginia area, Sheila is ready to take on new clients to help them reach their goals.

723 Nobe Road, Big Bend, WV || 1.841 Acres +/- || Ridgetop living with new updates! This 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home is located just 6 miles from Grantsville. Everything in this home is on the main level. The inside boasts lots of beautiful handcrafted wood walls and cabinets made by a local craftsman. So many new upgrades to list: HUGE brand new wrap around deck that leads down to the new greenhouse, new gutter drains, new stainless kitchen appliances and a carrier central heating cooling system with warranty that was installed this year. Need storage space? The full length basement, cold cellar and 12X20 outbuilding with power is perfect for all your needs. Underneath the home is a garage perfect for mowers, a small tractor and equipment. Have a family coming in with an RV? No problem, RV hookups on the property ready to use. Home also has natural gas for cooking, heat and hot water with two natural gas wall heaters installed in case the power is lost to the main gas furnace. **\$159,900**

1395 Big Root Road, Big Bend, WV || 1 Acre +/- || Looking for a move-in ready home? This is it! This home has 3 bedrooms with 2 bathrooms. The home has a true Master Bedroom with a Master Bathroom. No appliances? No need! This home has all appliances needed that have been purchased recently. In the living room you will find a wood fireplace for the brisk nights. The dedicated dining room is ready for many more family dinners. The large back deck is great for entertaining multiple guests. The front yard is flat and easy to maintain. The backyard is mostly uphill with a few benches in the ground perfect for a garden (current use). For the price, this is a perfect move-in ready home just minutes from Grantsville. **\$129,900**

955 Vaughan Road, Grantsville, WV || 1 Acre +/- || Great quiet neighborhood just a few miles from the Town of Grantsville. This charming 3-bedroom 2-bathroom home is perfect for the first-time homebuyer or elderly couple looking for one-level living. The living room flows easily into the kitchen dining area with a door onto the back porch. All of the bedrooms are on one end of the home. This home does feature a Master Bedroom and Bathroom. This home has central heating and air. The basement of the home is accessed from outside and has a garage door. The property has 1 acre of land. Bring your personal belongings and move into this VERY CLEAN home.

3670 E. Little Kanawha Highway, Grantsville, WV || 1.58 Acres +/- || Remodeled from the studs, this house looks brand new on the inside! The living room, kitchen and dining room all wraps into one big open floor plan making it perfect for hosting guests. Sliding glass doors in the dining room lead out into the carport making it an easy walk with a handful of groceries. All on one end of the house, you will find 3 bedrooms and the guest bathroom. With no stairs, this home is perfect for one-level living. Outside, there is a large fenced area great for kids and pets to roam. Did I mention Riverfront? Bring your kayak, fishing pole and cooler and have a great float down the Little Kanawha River. Need a mother-in-law suite or guest house? The garages have an apartment perfect for the occasion! The rest of the garage has 3 stalls perfect for the car enthusiast or mechanic. Storage is not an issue on this property. Want to just purchase the house or garage? Contact the listing agent for details. ** The owner of this property is offering a 14 month home warranty paid for at closing! ** This property is located in the 100-year flood zone. If you are financing this property, you will need to obtain flood insurance. **\$179,900**

452 Sycamore Road, Millstone, WV || 2.19 Acres +/- || A very quiet and private home with FREE GAS! This split-level home sits back off of a quiet county road in Calhoun County, WV. There are 2 bedrooms up stairs with another partial finished bedroom in the basement. There is a full bathroom on each level as well as a family/living room. If you are two families living together, the downstairs does have a private entrance through the garage without going through the main door. Speaking of garage, you have 2 over-sized 1 car garages. One attached to the house, the other detached. The FREE GAS and water well make utilities cheap! You have a backup metered gas already in place. Sitting on 2.19 Acres +/- this is the perfect country setting relaxation. Less than 5 miles to town! Don't wait on this one! **\$199,900**

435 High Street, Grantsville, WV || In the 1930's, they built them to last! This beautiful 4-bedroom 1.5-bathroom brick home sits in downtown Grantsville, WV. Original hardwood floors, oak steps/handrailing and 6 fireplaces! (Currently housing gas space heaters) On the main level you have a living room, family room, kitchen, dining room, sunroom, mud room and a half bath. Upstairs you will find all 4 bedrooms and a full bathroom. Inside the main bedroom there is a huge walk-in closet and a normal closet with a window that overlooks the Koi Pond in the side yard. Almost all windows have been replaced with new vinyl windows. Washer and dryer are in the basement. Have children or animals? The private back yard has a brand-new privacy fence that was installed in 2021. This property is on street city parking or, you can use one of the 2 off-street single car garages. If you are looking for that historic style home with a small-town feel, this is it! This home is conveniently located across the street from a 24/7 critical access hospital and within walking distance to a few stores, restaurants and more! **\$199,900**

256 Carroll Road, Big Bend, WV || 1.21 Acres +/- || Looking for your very own fishing camp or mini-RV camp?? This 1.21-acre lot with three 30amp hookups with water and septic in place may be what you're looking for. This river camp comes with a large storage shed to store all your camp necessities and toys. Site also has a metal car port that can be used for vehicle cover or picnic tables. So, if you're looking for a place to just get away or maybe a way to make some extra income this camp has loads of potential. Also, with today's housing costs you could live cheap with your own RV on this site. Located next to the property is a natural gas compressor that does make noise when turned on.



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CLASSIFIEDS

Bring Classifieds to the Chronicle office or mail to Box 400, Grantsville, WV 26147. Classifieds Ads must be paid in advance. Classifieds are \$3 plus 10¢ a word after 20 words.

For Rent

FOR RENT -- Rivers Edge Apartments, unfurnished, utilities included except wifi and phone; 2-bedroom, 1 bath, with loft, \$725, plus deposit; 3-bedroom, 1 bath, \$800, plus deposit. Lease required. Close to Grantsville, Minnie Hamilton Health System. Call 304-532-8117. 9/2/rtn

Snow Removal

NOW accepting bids for snow removal at the Calhoun DHHR Office parking lot. Anyone wishing to submit a bid, please send to: Calhoun Co. DHHR, Attn: Sheila Schoolcraft, P.O. Box 280, Grantsville, WV 26147. Please submit bids as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 304-354-6118. Please ask for Sheila Schoolcraft or Patricia Richards. rt/2/23

Personals

WANTED -- Shapely school teacher lady with tall, nice figure, for wife in Grantsville area. Send photo standing in jeans, phone, address to Box Holder, 4167 Yellow Creek Road, Big Bend, WV 26136. Teacher ladies write. 4tp/12/1-22

Career

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HANDS On The River Massage, Geraldine Gardner, LMT, 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, W.Va. Call 304-541-9139 for an appointment. swc

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County Has 2 Cases; State Nearly Doubles In a Month

Dept. of Health and Human Resources reported only two COVID-19 cases in the county in the last seven days--one confirmed and one probable--and Calhoun stayed under green alert.

Reported weekly cases in the State have nearly doubled in the last four weeks, going to 2,507 on Tuesday, after being 1,330 on Nov. 22.

The daily percent positivity for West Virginia was 10.4 on Tuesday, the highest since 11.0 on Oct. 14. Twenty-five counties were "yellow alert" on Monday.

Calhoun's total cases

are now 2,246 (1,126 confirmed and 1,120 probable).

The county's confirmed cases remain the lowest of all counties. County deaths have remained at 15 since May 3, the lowest in the state.

Net new cases in area counties, in addition to Calhoun, in the last week (and county totals/deaths) are: Roane, 37 (4,329/47); Braxton, 16 (4,902/52); Ritchie, 16 (2,931/32); Clay, 3 (2,667/53); Gilmer, 1 (2,518/23); and Wirt, 1 (1,719/26).

New cases in the area were 75, compared to 69, 60 and 51 the past three

weeks. Cases now total 21,327.

New West Virginia cases were 2,507, an increase from the last four weeks of 1,924, 1,856, 1,403 and 1,330. Total cases during the pandemic are 620,606.

The number of deaths reported by DHHR in the last week was 12, down from 18 and 26, the

previous two weeks. Total deaths in West Virginia are 7,661.

The number of new cases in the United States was 435,261, a decrease from 461,782 last week. Total cases since the pandemic began are 101,760,149.

New deaths in the U.S. were 3,119, a slight increase from last week's

2,991. Total deaths are 1,112,970.

New weekly worldwide cases were 4,018,419, an increase over last week's 3,796,966. Since the pandemic began, worldwide cases reported total 657,942,119.

Worldwide deaths in the last week were 13,394, nearly 1,300 more than last week's 12,097, and

3,124 more than the previous week's 10,270. Total deaths from the pandemic are 6,672,484.

DHHR reported that 1,005,998 West Virginia residents have been fully vaccinated (56.1%), an increase of 582 in the last week. There have been 615,642 booster shots given, an increase of 2,217 from last week.

\$2.5 Million Grant For MHHS Includes Water/Sewer Project

In a news release, U.S. senators Shelley Moore Capito, ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) committee, and Joe Manchin, member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, have announced a \$2.5 million grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission for Phase 1 renovation of Minnie Hamilton hospital.

"Meeting the water and wastewater challenges of West Virginia's communities includes the health systems our residents and patients rely on every single day," said Capito.

"I'm pleased we were able to deliver resources through this grant funding to the Minnie Hamilton hospital that will enable them to replace and upgrade their water and sewage utility systems.

"It will have a tangible impact on the facility in Grantsville, and in my role on the EPW committee, I'll continue to look for ways to support projects like this one through the Appalachian Regional Commission."

"The Appalachian Regional Commission's continued commitment to revitalizing and strengthening Appalachia is great news for our state and the entire region," said Manchin.

"Funding announced

will support renovating the Minnie Hamilton hospital to ensure the hospital can continue to provide quality healthcare services for West Virginians.

"Investing in our local communities creates good-paying, long-term jobs, and spurs economic opportunities, and I look forward to seeing the positive impacts of the investment.

"As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocating for resources to boost economic growth across Appalachia and ensure that every West Virginian can access the healthcare services they need and deserve."

Camden Clark Earns Top Rating

WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center has earned its third consecutive three-star rating from Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for its patient care and outcomes in isolated coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) procedures.

The three-star rating denotes the highest category of quality and places Camden Clark among the elite for heart bypass surgery in the U.S. and Canada.

The STS rating system is one of the most sophisticated and highly regarded overall measures of quality in health care, rating the benchmarked outcomes of cardiothoracic surgery programs.

It is calculated using a combination of quality measures for specific procedures performed by an STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database participant.

"We're thrilled to receive a third consecutive, national three-star rating from the Society of

Thoracic Surgeons," said Geoffrey R. Cousins, MD, FACS, who leads the cardiothoracic surgery program.

"This prestigious award is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing the safest, highest quality care to our communities.

"(It) also affirms that you can receive some of the most advanced and nationally recognized cardiac care close to home, right here in the Mid-Ohio Valley."

Approximately 20% of participants receive the three-star rating for isolated CABG surgery. The latest analysis of data covers July 2019 to June 2022, and includes 1,000 participants.

"We are so proud of the team of physicians and staff in our cardiac program. Specifically, our cardiovascular surgery team, led by Dr. Cousins, has achieved admirable clinical outcomes and contributed to the excellence in care provided to the Mid-Ohio

History of The Christmas Tree--

Natural trees are convenient, and simple to put up and store away. They leave behind no mess, present no disposal problems, are safe, and do not present a fire hazard.

The appearance of a

good artificial tree is often superior to a natural tree. Each year sees improvements. They will, in a few years, feel and smell more like natural Christmas trees.

An artificial tree seems

very artificial. We already live in a plastic age of artificially quite removed from the earth that supports us. Christmas was the one time of year when even urban man experienced the delight.

Changes To DHHR Include Hiring Bonus

Following Gov. Jim Justice's announcement of a new leadership team to help address challenges facing W.Va. Dept. of Health and Human Resources, the team consisting of Interim DHHR Cabinet secretary Dr. Jeff Coben, Dr. Clay Marsh, and Retired Major General James Hoyer have announced their initial plans and actions.

"This powerhouse of a team immediately got to work on (Dec. 12)," said Justice. "We have made instant recommendations and instant moves to begin the process of moving DHHR forward by solving the issues identified by our expert team."

As a result of personal

follow-up following a job fair by DHHR's Bureau for Social Services, two new Child Protective Service (CPS) workers and one Youth Service worker were hired in the Eastern Panhandle, which has experienced a critical shortage of staff in these areas.

Twenty-six counties, including Calhoun, are eligible for a \$2,500 sign-on bonus for the positions of CPS worker, CPS worker trainee, and Social Service worker 3 (youth services), which requires a one-year employment commitment.

Individuals seeking to apply for one of these positions may do so by visiting dhhr.wv.gov and

clicking on the Employment tab at the top of the page.

Justice also issued an executive order that allows individuals who have retired from DHHR to come back on a limited basis, while still drawing their full retirement.

Individuals who have recently retired from DHHR, and who wish to explore opportunities to assist with the new incentive, should contact DHHR.

DHHR plans to immediately begin recruiting a future workforce by coordinating with and reaching out to high school programs, Mountaineer Challenge Academy, W.Va. Dept. of Education's Technical and Adult Education division, W.Va. Community & Technical College system, college-level health sciences students, and the Jobs & Hope West Virginia program.

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WEST VIRGINIA CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



Statistics:

In West Virginia (condensed dashboard)
 Each Monday since Mar. 16, 2020 (last complete daily list on July 30, 2020, issue). Last Monday in month, plus last daily DHHR reports (last complete weekly list, July 8, 2021, issue).

	Positive Cases	Negative Cases	Deaths	Percentage Positive	Accum. Daily
2020					
Mar. 30	145	3,682	1	4.4	6.0
Apr. 27	1,063	41,976*	36	2.5	3.4
May 25	1,774	84,551#	72	2.1	1.2
June 29	2,849	165,233	93	1.7	1.4
July 27	5,999	257,670	106	2.3	2.6
Aug. 31	10,250	425,613	214	2.4	6.8
Sept. 28	15,512	537,332	337	2.8	4.2
Oct. 26	22,223	712,744	424	3.0	3.7
Nov. 30	47,842	1,083,114	735+	4.2	6.5
Dec. 28	81,436	1,375,189	1,263	5.6	11.3
2021					
Jan. 25	115,839	1,726,886	1,899	6.3	7.3
Feb. 22	129,854	1,989,304	2,263	6.1	3.9
Mar. 29	140,991	2,288,383	2,638~	5.8	3.9
Apr. 26	151,671	2,526,409>	2,821^	5.7	3.7
DHHR stopped updating on weekends and holidays.					
May 24	160,354	2,724,689	2,775	5.6	5.7
June 30	164,041	2,844,286	2,891	5.5	1.5
July 30	167,016	2,953,133	2,946	5.4	6.4
Aug. 31	189,690	3,203,536	3,084	5.6	9.5
Sept. 30	240,459	3,623,522	3,670	6.2	10.6
Oct. 29	270,984	3,957,070	4,426	6.4	10.8
Nov. 30	294,794	4,235,663	4,868^	6.5	9.1
Dec. 30	328,162	4,537,412	5,336	6.7	19.3
2022					
Jan. 31	446,771	4,959,152	5,763	8.3	21.6
Feb. 28	490,111	5,221,878	6,317	8.6	8.3
Mar. 31	497,769	5,422,855	6,831	8.4	1.2
Apr. 29	501,204	5,545,521	6,856	8.3	5.0
May 31	515,925	5,695,003	6,948	8.3	11.7
June 30	532,503	5,857,108	7,064	8.3	6.6
July 29	555,107	5,999,712	7,156	8.5	9.0
Aug. 31	582,666	6,168,504	7,286	8.6	9.3
Sept. 30	600,558	6,297,974	7,416	8.7	5.3
Oct. 31	608,104	6,386,972	7,522	8.7	5.7
Nov. 1	608,341	6,389,683	7,530	8.7	5.6
Nov. 2	608,652	6,393,967	7,534	8.7	5.0
Nov. 3	608,965	6,398,184	7,534	8.7	5.2
Nov. 4	609,356	6,402,245	7,534	8.7	5.4
Nov. 7	609,944	6,410,450	7,536	8.7	4.2
Nov. 8	State holiday. No report.				
Nov. 9	610,432	6,416,906	7,538	8.7	4.6
Nov. 10	610,675	6,420,276	7,538	8.7	4.5
Nov. 14	611,358	6,431,030	7,557	8.7	4.5
Nov. 15	611,586	6,433,631	7,557	8.7	5.6
Nov. 16	611,813	6,437,325	7,557	8.7	4.5
Nov. 17	612,047	6,440,585	7,569	8.7	5.1
Nov. 18	612,262	6,443,808	7,581	8.7	4.6
Nov. 21	612,710	6,451,247	7,787	8.7	5.1
Nov. 22	612,916	6,453,788	7,590	8.7	4.9
Nov. 23	613,165	6,455,890	7,594	8.7	7.3
Nov. 28	614,030	6,469,221	7,594	8.7	8.5
Nov. 29	614,319	6,472,249	7,605	8.7	6.1
Nov. 30	614,646	6,476,327	7,611	8.7	5.4
Dec. 1	615,040	6,480,044	7,618	8.7	6.3
Dec. 2	615,332	6,483,165	7,627	8.7	6.1
Dec. 5	615,922	6,490,167	7,627	8.7	6.2
Dec. 6	616,175	6,492,205	7,631	8.7	7.7
Dec. 7	616,506	6,495,715	7,636	8.7	5.8
Dec. 8	616,804	6,498,951	7,636	8.7	6.1
Dec. 9	617,094	6,503,409	7,638	8.7	3.9
Dec. 12	617,812	6,510,032	7,646	8.7	6.5
Dec. 13	618,099	6,512,151	7,649	8.7	8.3
Dec. 14	618,480	6,515,551	7,649	8.7	6.8
Dec. 15	618,893	6,518,661	7,657	8.7	8.4
Dec. 16	619,323	6,521,618	7,661	8.7	8.0
Dec. 19	620,243	6,527,737	7,661	8.7	8.8
Dec. 20	620,606	6,529,796	7,661	8.7	10.4

*Laboratory duplicate results removed.
 # In alignment with updated definitions, statistics include probable cases that are individuals who have symptoms and either serologic (antibody) or epidemiologic (a link to a confirmed case) evidence of disease, but no confirmatory test.
 +Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services added 27 deaths from Vital Registration Office.
 ~Includes 168 COVID-19 related deaths that were not properly reported to DHHR.
 ^Includes extra COVID-19 deaths reported through death certificates, or decreases determined via certificate error.
 `162 deaths removed, as the death certificates did not officially list COVID-19 as the cause of death.
 >29,531 non-COVID-related lab results were removed.

As of Sept. 20, 2021, total cases by county are not listed by DHHR. Each county must be totaled separately; therefore, the following numbers are as of Monday, instead of the usual Tuesday total:
 Cases by county (case confirmed by lab test/probable case): Barbour (5,822), Berkeley (43,581), Boone (8,365), Braxton (4,902), Brooke (6,175), Cabell (33,030), Calhoun (2,246), Clay (2,667), Doddridge (2,462), Fayette (16,212), Gilmer (2,518), Grant (4,639), Greenbrier (12,366), Hampshire (7,091), Hancock (8,164), Hardy (5,503), Harrison (25,203), Jackson (8,506), Jefferson (17,729), Kanawha (57,536), Lewis (6,802), Lincoln (6,956), Logan (12,464), Marion (19,486), Marshall (10,970), Mason (8,594), McDowell (7,155), Mercer (22,365), Mineral (9,933), Mingo (9,647), Monongalia (30,482), Monroe (5,532), Morgan (5,066), Nicholas (9,140), Ohio (13,584), Pendleton (2,289), Pleasants (2,469), Pocahontas (2,486), Preston (10,800), Putnam (20,317), Raleigh (29,221), Randolph (11,727), Ritchie (2,944), Roane (4,314), Summers (3,593), Taylor (5,700), Tucker (2,330), Tyler (2,645), Upshur (8,710), Wayne (11,431), Webster (2,753), Wetzel (5,331), Wirt (1,719), Wood (27,312), Wyoming (9,259).

Calhoun was 53rd of 55 counties to record a case; Calhoun and Webster, last counties to hit 100 positive cases, Dec. 10, 2020; Calhoun last county to 200 cases, Jan. 23, 2021; last to 300, May 6; last to 400, July 22; last to 500, Sept. 1; last to 600, Sept. 6; last to 700, Sept. 13; last to 800, Sept. 27; last to 900, Oct. 21; 54th to 1,000, Nov. 13; 1,100, Dec. 7; 1,200, Dec. 23; 1,300, Jan. 11, 2022; 1,400, Jan. 19; 1,500, Jan. 25; 1,600, Feb. 2; 1,700, Feb. 10; 1,800, Mar. 3; 1,900, May 26; 2,000, July 13; 2,100, Aug. 25; 2,200, Oct. 14. Calhoun's first COVID-19 death reported on May 26, 2021, as a 74-year-old woman; second, Sept. 15, 2021, woman, 73; third, Sept. 29, man, 79; fourth, Sept. 30, man, 73; fifth, Nov. 1, woman, 73; sixth, Nov. 23, woman, 86; seventh, Dec. 1, female, 56; eighth, Dec. 6, female, 92; ninth Dec. 7, male, 93; 10th, Jan. 21, 2022, female, 80; 11th, Feb. 9, female, 50; 12th, Feb. 24, female, 71; 13th, Mar. 2, male, 40; 14th, Apr. 21, female, 82; 15th, May 3, female, 86.

In United States: Each Monday since Mar. 16, 2020, plus last nine days since July 28, 2020. Last Monday of each month since Mar. 30, 2020, plus daily totals in last month. Last daily list in July 28, 2020, issue. Last weekly list in July 8, 2021, issue.

In World: Each Monday since Mar. 16, 2020, plus last nine days since July 28, 2020. Last Monday of each month since Mar. 30, 2020, plus daily totals in last month. Last daily list in July 28, 2020, issue. Last weekly list in July 8, 2021, issue.

2020	Positive	Deaths	Positive	Deaths
Mar. 30	164,610	3,170	800,049	38,714
Apr. 27	987,916	55,425	3,014,808	207,904
May 25	1,688,739	99,356	5,482,990	347,162
June 29	2,637,909	128,452	10,234,889	505,144
July 27	4,373,561	149,856	16,429,464	653,266
Aug. 31	6,175,600	187,232	25,417,858	852,100
Sept.28	7,321,465	209,454	33,332,536	1,003,542
Oct. 26	8,890,481	230,512	43,383,433	1,160,977
Nov.30	13,755,039	273,130	63,236,339	1,468,737
Dec.28	19,579,987	341,187	81,293,122	1,775,977
2021				
Jan. 25	25,705,299	429,511	99,917,297	2,142,799
Feb.22	28,767,835	511,302	112,093,051	2,481,796
Mar.29	30,966,974	562,551	127,963,064	2,799,992
Apr.26	32,824,618	586,152	148,006,342	3,127,343
May31	34,043,110	609,544	171,180,032	3,563,041
June28	34,494,690	619,424	182,010,787	3,945,739
July 31	35,688,506	629,064	198,207,725	4,232,644
Aug.31	39,946,708	656,393	218,104,333	4,531,744
Sept.30	44,200,421	713,953	234,173,044	4,795,746
Oct.31	46,799,970	766,117	247,382,939	5,018,389
Nov.30	49,301,070	801,326	262,581,538	5,233,860
Dec.31	55,252,823	845,745	287,003,899	5,454,054
2022				
Jan.31	75,578,076	907,190	375,571,291	5,687,759
Feb.28	80,567,757	973,119	436,088,544	5,974,311
Mar.31	81,740,722	1,006,445	486,702,223	6,167,304
Apr.30	83,037,059	1,020,660	512,204,412	6,263,058
May31	85,730,697	1,031,286	529,951,029	6,318,405
June30	89,236,449	1,042,291	551,566,924	6,362,509
July 31	93,069,863	1,055,051	581,762,769	6,425,341
Aug.31	96,149,016	1,069,748	607,186,847	6,499,097
Sept.30	98,165,904	1,084,282	622,061,434	6,552,509
Oct. 31	99,345,927	1,095,204	635,540,493	6,594,093
Nov. 1	99,374,721	1,095,315	635,823,814	6,595,011
Nov. 2	99,400,959	1,095,646	636,139,652	6,596,099
Nov. 3	99,496,443	1,096,717	636,590,928	6,599,924
Nov. 4	99,580,091	1,097,881	636,990,100	6,602,209
Nov. 5	99,602,478	1,098,038	637,462,395	6,604,884
Nov. 6	99,643,590	1,098,228	637,709,035	6,605,298
Nov. 7	99,647,812	1,098,235	637,839,498	6,605,995
Nov. 8	99,681,448	1,098,387	638,232,215	6,607,377
Nov. 9	99,697,922	1,098,524	638,619,088	6,608,633
Nov.10	99,809,767	1,099,494	639,019,253	6,610,744
Nov.11	99,841,513	1,099,784	639,541,202	6,612,304
Nov.12	99,890,506	1,100,121	640,074,955	6,614,851
Nov.13	99,895,236	1,100,125	640,274,549	6,615,322
Nov.14	99,898,467	1,100,127	640,443,113	6,615,758
Nov.15	99,935,047	1,100,296	640,789,392	6,616,858
Nov.16	99,974,381	1,100,631	641,238,706	6,618,664
Nv.17	100,054,794	1,101,370	641,708,805	6,620,774
Nv.18	100,108,704	1,101,843	642,117,528	6,622,212
Nv.19	100,156,325	1,102,439	642,794,281	6,625,286
Nv.20	100,162,519	1,102,505	643,020,311	6,625,837
Nv.21	100,209,101	1,102,668	643,215,399	6,626,455
Nv.22	100,251,354	1,102,915	643,615,416	6,628,060
Nv.23	100,279,698	1,103,355	644,117,458	6,629,552
Nv.24	100,382,913	1,104,229	644,642,684	6,631,794
Nv.25	100,431,052	1,104,661	645,054,483	6,633,125
Nv.26	100,458,989	1,104,751	645,878,233	6,635,774
Nv.27	100,462,144	1,104,754	646,116,052	6,636,159
Nv.28	100,465,087	1,104,755	646,282,424	6,636,723
Nv.29	100,507,928	1,104,879	646,694,537	6,638,042
Nv.30	100,532,711	1,105,049	647,611,736	6,639,221
Dec.1	100,625,493	1,105,546	648,168,776	6,641,101
Dec.2	100,743,392	1,106,378	648,755,570	6,643,011
Dec.3	100,787,779	1,106,607	649,527,570	6,645,576
Dec.4	100,796,300	1,106,640	649,820,495	6,646,169
Dec.5	100,863,106			



Recognized for Exceeding Standards during 5th grade were, left to right, Sam Bailey (Math), Greyson Hill (Math/Science), Kelbie Johnson (Math) and Trinity Probasco (Math/Science).

CM/HS Students Recognized--

(Continued from Page 1) Laina Kelly, Shayna Arnold; 2nd, percussion, Nick Dickey, Killian Kimble, Amelia Cain, Trey Heiney; and 3rd, drum major, Zenna Zwill.

Marching Band Invitational: 2nd, Overall Class D, Sandra Tanner, Abby Reed, Halle Lawson, Felicity Marks, Brody Richards, Braydon Marks, Bret Richards, Griffin Parsons, Emily Bell, Mia Collins, Destiny Langford; 2nd, color guard, Ashlyn Fletcher, Ashley Arnold, Caelan Harper, Mickaylee Cowan, Addie Welch, Laina Kelly, Shayna Arnold; 3rd, drum major, Zenna Zwill; 3rd, twirlers, Jaiden Francis, Emily Anderson; 5th, percussion, Nick Dickey, Killian Kimble, Amelia Cain, Trey Heiney.

Ripley Viking Fest: 1st, color guard, Ashlyn Fletcher, Ashley Arnold, Caelan Harper, Mickaylee Cowan, Addie Welch, Laina Kelly, Shayna Arnold; 1st, percussion, Nick Dickey, Killian Kimble, Amelia Cain, Trey Heiney; 2nd, twirlers overall, Jaiden Francis, Emily Anderson; 3rd, Band Overall Class D, Sandra Tanner, Abby Reed, Halle Lawson, Felicity Marks, Brody Richards, Braydon Marks, Bret Richards, Griffin Parsons, Emily Bell, Mia Collins, Destiny Langford; 3rd, drum major, Zenna Zwill.

GSA exceeds standards:

4th grade, English language arts, Chelsea Bailey, Hailey Carpenter, Emma Frail, Payton Quick, Luke Strange-Paylor, Eliana

White, Paisley Harper, Riley Holbert, Makenzie Justice, Mark Plumby, Liam Staton, Aaron Stevens, Brooke Tingler.

4th, math, Chelsea Bailey, Hailey Carpenter, Mason Cunningham, Kale Forinash, Emma Frail, Ellie Hall, Luke Strange-Paylor, Keegan Sampson, Payton Quick, Mark Plumby, Braydon Hardway, Landon Hawkins, Cyrus Helmick, Riley Holbert, Tyler Helmick, Bristol Hoskins, Makenzie Justice, Brooke Tingler, Mason Laughlin.

5th, English language arts, Ezra Anderson, Sam Bailey, Kelbie Johnson, Trevor Mayle, Trinity Probasco, Rylan Smith, Lydia Starcher, Danika Starcher, Mackenzie Wright.

5th, math, Sam Bailey, Greyson Hill, Aleeya Hosey, Kelbie Johnson, Jace Lemon, Trevor Mayle, Trinity Probasco, Paityn Roberts, Lydia Starcher, Danika Starcher, Mackenzie Wright.

5th, science, Greyson Hill, Trevor Mayle, Trinity Probasco, Danika Starcher.

6th, English language

arts, Kaylee Adams, Addison Collins, Ryleigh Crislip-Garrett, Anessia Kerby, Aubrey Laughlin, Laura Reeves, Tucker Sampson, Kendall Snodgrass, Owen Swisher, Jasmyn Tingler.

6th, math, Ryleigh Crislip-Garrett, Evan Miller, Tucker Sampson, Jasmyn Tingler.

7th, English language arts, Clay Allison, Jesse Bailey, Raylee Cunningham, Madison Jones, Kylee Quick, Maddox Siwicki.

7th, math, Clay Allison, Jesse Bailey, Cooper Morris, Maddox Siwicki.

8th, English arts, Addison McCumbers, Madison McCumbers.

8th math, Lana Laughlin, Logan Walls.

8th, science, Logan Walls.

11th, English language arts, Levi Morris, Jaelyn Jett, Joshua Hixon, Mason Siwicki.

11th, math, Levi Morris, Jesse Hess, Mason Siwicki.

11th, science, Levi Morris, Jaelyn Jett.

Golf: Landon Bennett, individual 2nd at Region



11th Graders Exceeding Standards included, left to right, Mason Siwicki (English Language Arts/Math), Jaelyn Jett (English Language Arts/Science), and Joshua Hixon (English Language Arts).

IV golf tournament; 12th, Class A state tournament.

Volleyball: Christeena Craddock, All-LKC, 1st team; All-State, honorable mention;

Jose Lynn Yeager, All-LKC, special honorable mention; Chelsea McCumbers, All-LKC, honorable mention; Karlee Garrett, All-LKC, honorable mention.

The Local School Improvement Council presentation for CM/HS was given.

Superintendent reports included director and school reports; required trainings per WVBE Policy or WV Code; literacy progress by grade; school calendar development for FY24; super senate meeting; faculty senate in lieu of; preliminary comp. for FY24; State list of events; vaping issues at CM/HS; middle school empowerment; JUUL national settlement.

Items approved: --Finance: General fund invoices, \$654,432;



Exceeding Standards in Math in 5th grade was Ezra Anderson (left); and in Math/English Language Arts in 7th grade was Maddox Siwicki.

supplements, \$28,839; November financial statement.

--Home school requests: parent Erica Martin, kindergartener (Hope scholarship intent); parent Cassie Elkins, 7th and 3rd (Hope scholarship intent).

--Surplus items: gas motor, old, from a dump truck, doesn't run.

--Out for bid: roof restoration/installation of solar panels.

--Policies out for comment: Chapters, Students; Title: Open Enrollment

Policy; Title: Student Drug Testing.


Personnel items approved:

--Employment, professional, Julie Sears, Robin Hughes, substitute teachers; Terri Jones, Jim Morgan, long term substitute elementary teachers, CM/HS; Rick Kinder, long term math teacher, CM/HS.


The next regular meeting of the board will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 5:30 p.m., at the Mt. Zion board office.



Recognized for Exceeding Standards in English Language Arts in 4th grade included, left to right, Chelsea Bailey, Eliana White, Riley Holbert, Liam Staton, Aaron Stevens, Brooke Tingler and Emma Frail.

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DEADLINE 01/31/2023

Masquerade
Calhoun County High School varsity cheerleaders will sponsor Winter Wonderland Masquerade Ball, a semi-formal, on Saturday, Jan. 7.
Middle school students will attend from 6 to 7:30 p.m. High school students will attend from 8 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$7 single and \$10 couple. D.J. will be John Frail. All school rules and dress codes must be followed.

Merry Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



From your friends at
Mom's Place Too
Lisa, Chasity, Joyce, Joe, Felicia

We extend our love and wishes to family near and far.

Happy "Holy" Day

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New owner,
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Mountain Momma Auto Supply, LLC
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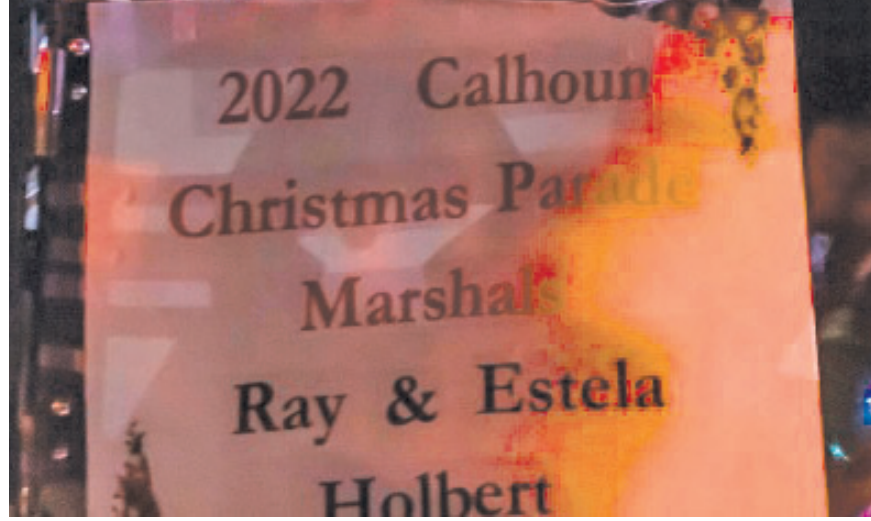


Happy Holidays
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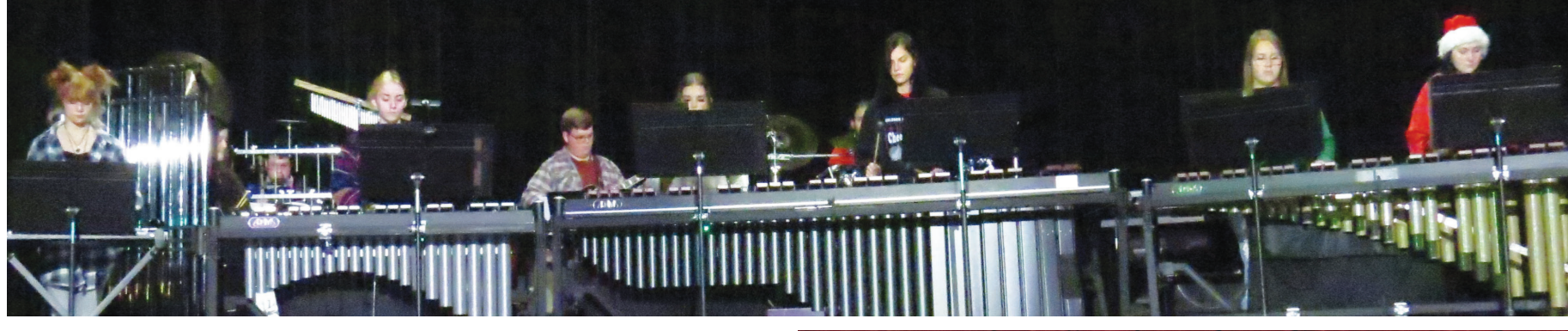


Scenes from the Christmas Parade

submitted by Judy Powell



Scenes from the Performing Arts Christmas Showcase



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Commissioners Kevin Helmick (left) and Matt Walker (right) presented Michael Hicks with a plaque for his six years of service as a county commissioner.