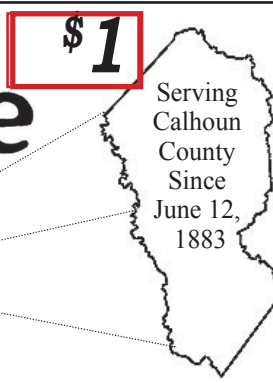


Attention Readers: Reasons out of my control, the Calhoun Chronicle is no longer located at 353 Main St. Grantsville. If you need to contact the Chronicle, please call 681-533-7345 and I will make arrangements to meet you. Thank you, Melissa

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The Calhoun Chronicle



and The Grantsville News

“Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts”

Whole Number 7054 Grantsville, West Virginia 26147 Thursday, February 1, 2024

County Commission Unexpired Term Candidate Aryeh White

My name is Aryeh “Ari” White and I am running for County Commissioner to bring opportunity to Calhoun County.

Despite my accent, I am the fourth generation of White to live in Calhoun County. This has been my favorite place in the world for just about as long as I’ve had thoughts on such things. As a child, coming to Grandma Lona’s farm meant good eating and so many strawberry candies I’d make myself sick, running and playing with her dogs and walking the fields with my grandfather. As I got older, it meant spending time with my grandfather, learning the names of trees, how to shoot, and fixing the barn roof. Older still, it became a refuge from the stress of education and work.

Most recently, Calhoun County became a refuge for my whole family from the liberal policies and corruption of New Jersey which drove my customers out of state, destroyed our business, and oppressed us at work and at home. Our decision to move came a year before COVID struck, but the do-gooder tyranny that characterized that period further assured us that we were making the right choice.

Today we are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful places on earth, surrounded by good and God-fearing people, and free from the worst excesses of government overreach.

Today I am running for Commissioner to preserve what makes Calhoun



great, to steer the county clear of the well-intentioned policies that have destroyed opportunity in so many other places.

After the War, my grandfather was forced to move to what he called the “Capital of West Virginia”, Akron, Ohio, to pursue opportunity. My father chased opportunity from Ohio to Pennsylvania, then Pennsylvania to New Jersey. For their last twenty years of operation, he was the in-house designer for Pilgrim Glass of Ceredo, West Virginia, working primarily from their corporate headquarters in New York City.

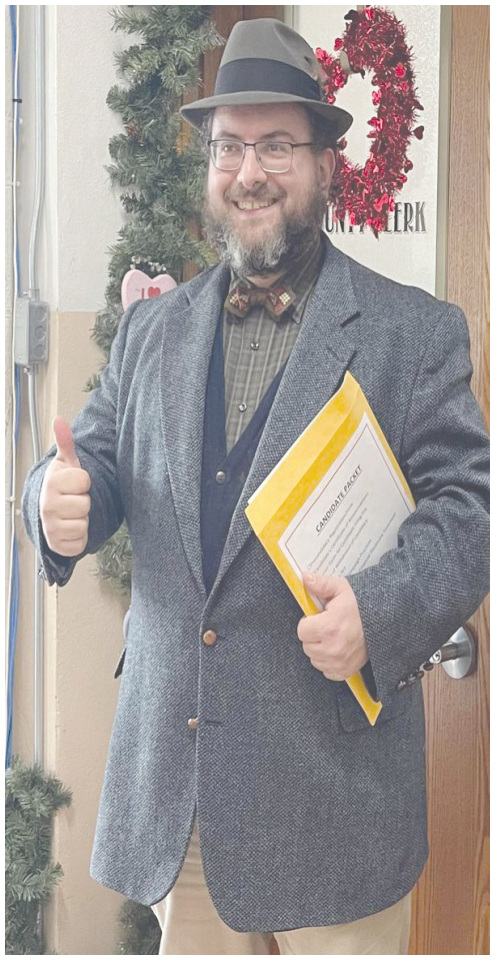
In New Jersey, my wife and I bought and expanded an electric motor repair business, eventually operating two locations, for nine years. While entrepreneurship may free you from incompetent management, it will not save you from government overreach or corruption. The opportunities that once drew my family to New Jersey were systematically destroyed by policies that ranged from liberal to asinine. With my customers driven from the state, our neighborhood deteriorating, and city officers greedily eyeing my shop building, my entire family fled to Calhoun County.

While my politics are steeped in cautious conservatism, I reject the status quo in this county. The opposite of growth is death, and this county is dying. You need not have been brought up on stories of how the land in this county was once clear and productive to know that something is terribly wrong. No healthy community has this many abandoned homes and businesses. We have lost more than half our population since the 1940s. We must soundly reject the policies of people proud to be the big fish in a small pond. Our pond must grow! As I raise the fifth generation of the White family in this county I am concerned that they, too, may be forced to move away for opportunity.

As candidate for Commissioner, I offer nearly a decade of experience operating a small business with two locations, an understanding of policy—including firsthand experience of how even well-intentioned government policies can destroy opportunity, familiarity with dozens of industries that would operate well in this county, a lifetime love of this place, and the earnest desire of a father to provide opportunity for his children.

Over the coming weeks I will be detailing my vision for this county. After all, a county as good as ours deserves a Commission that reflects their values, a Commission that serves them tirelessly, a Commission that will realize the potential of this county.

Together we can bring such opportunity to Calhoun County that our children will no longer need to leave to find it.



County Commission Unexpired Term Candidate Jacob McCumbers



I am Jacob McCumbers, and as you know, I am running for Calhoun County Commission, as a democratic candidate. I have lived in Calhoun all my life with my family. I went to school in Calhoun, later attending Glenville State College and receiving my degree. I currently live in Arnoldsburg with my three children: Jimmy, Tyler, and Colton. I currently am an educator and working at Arnoldsburg Elementary School. During my time and career, I was a 911 dispatcher for 8 years, the county assistant to the Office of Emergency Service, a volunteer fire fighter and Calhoun County EMS employee, I also serve as a county representative for the deputy sheriffs’ civil service board, and the president of the local association for West Virginia Education Association where I serve as the liaison between Charleston and the local education association for Calhoun. Over the years I was also a 4-H member and a leader, in which I started the Pleasant Hill Corn Poppers 4-H club, because I knew that the youth needed something to do in that area.



If elected to the Commission, I will dedicate my time bringing better opportunities to Calhoun, along with extra grant funds to help allocate the tax funding we receive yearly, bring something here for the youth of Calhoun, because today’s youth is tomorrow’s future. Our population has dropped in the past years (based on this past census, we now have 5,874 citizens) and will continue to drop, further dropping an estimated 350 by 2030 based on the census. If more opportunities are brought to this county, or extra activities for youth, then this number will begin to slow. Those who know me, know I will give 110% to accomplish this by working with fellow commissioners and other organizations to achieve better success for ALL.

I feel like the commissioner’s goals should be to help lay and disburse county funds based on the population. I also feel that the commissioner’s job is to make sure local citizens know where their tax dollars are going. We have one of the best night skies in the region and can welcome more people or even open a better destination for those to visit and camp at the Calhoun County Park, Arnoldsburg, Upper West Fork or Mount Zion Park. I will also help work with the small businesses that we have and try to bring in grants to help offset cost to keep them in business and working for the citizens of this county. As promised, I will continue to help locate a pharmacy to the Southern part of this county. I will also try to bring better water to locations that have inadequate drinking water. With that being said, I hope to have your vote on May 14th. Feel free to message with any questions or comments via email at jacobmccumbers@frontiernet.net. Let’s make a change one vote at a time. I’ll “bee” the change that is needed.

Latest Office Filings for Calhoun County

- Family Court Judge Circuit 4: Betty Gregory and Theodore “Ted” Davitian
- Judicial Circuit 5 Judge: Anita Harold Ashley and Joshua W. Downey
- County Commission (6yr): Kevin Helmick (D) and Eric Lupardus (R)
- County Commission (unexpired): Aryeh White (R), Alice Miller Holmes (R), Jacob McCumbers (D), and Roger Propst (R).
- Sheriff: Graham Knight (R) and Jeff Starcher (R).
- Assessor: Jason Nettles (D)
- Prosecuting Attorney: Michael Hicks (R) and Shannon Johnson (D)
- Magistrate Judges: Division 1 - Rick Postalwait and Maria Arnold
- Division 2: Lora Davis
- House of Delegates District 62: Justin H. Bordas (R) Roger Hanshaw (R)
- Governor: Kevin “KC” Christian (R)
- Next Week you will be introduced to Roger Propst, candidate for County Commissioner and Rick Postalwait, candidate for Magistrate Judge. The Chronicle strives to give equal opportunity to every political candidate.

OBITUARIES

"Grief is not a disorder, a disease or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve." - Earl Grollman

The Calhoun Chronicle did not receive any obituaries prior to printing deadline

There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love."
- Washington Irving

LETTER BOX

Letter to the Editor
Mr. Stephen Smoot

Recently our historic preservation company was invited to look at some upcoming rehabilitation work at the old high school. I was amazed at the progress thus far and the ongoing work to meet the project's goals.

For twenty-five plus years, glimmers of hope have been snuffed out by unreachable dreams and unmet challenges. This has fueled the disbelief and apathy of onlookers.

Most discouraging was the profit-seeking speculation, more than once, of this valuable cultural resource to the highest bidder. This dimmed the hopes of the most ardent and optimistic of the project's "boosters". I was once in that crowd and gave up on hope of any realization that a great historic preservation project that would become a fabulous community redevelopment tool could ever come out of this little rural hamlet, let alone anywhere else in rural impoverished

Appalachia, where the trade I took up some time ago is a very hard "sell".

Our services were consulted some twenty years ago by the elderly man at the time, who I believe was the third owner after the initial sell by the school board via sealed bid. His plans were rather modest, as he was only interested in the old school building on the campus, nothing more. He had even chosen a name for the apartment building the school was to become. Knowing at the time that combining tax credits- the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit with the West Virginia Housing Development's Low Income Housing Tax Credit, was the best possible combination to help fulfill his ambition, we convinced the WVHD staff to tour the site, as did the State Historic

Preservation Office. To our dismay, the staff architect was disinterested in any other material besides manufactured units, totally to the chagrin of the plaster and cut stone which are pervasive to this resource. If not gypsum panel boards, acoustical ceiling tiles and brick/block units he was not interested. They simply refused to endorse the project, which was not the cookie cutter concept they were accustomed to. The owner became disheartened and mounted a national bidding war fronted by his Los Angeles real estate son. He was awarded handsomely, and the school was once more subject to profit speculation.

The next owner, a doctor from metropolitan D.C., was even less willing to temper profit speculations with any dose of passion for the structure. It was once more speculated to a 40ish Tennessee military woman; while I could detect a passion, she obviously was unable to fulfill her ambition. I lost heart for the project at this point and waited a couple years later to try to revive an interest. While at the University of Kentucky in 2001-03, our program had an adjunct instructor who taught a redevelopment seminar to us graduate students.

Holly Wiedemann ran a successful business of these very schoolhouse rehabilitation projects into housing using these combination of credits for years in Kentucky and we referred her company to the nonprofit in Clendenin, 25045, for the redevelopment of the historic high school in that community. It was a success so, having developed scaled floor plans for the Calhoun School, we contacted them to look at the Calhoun numbers. They did and concluded that the "numbers" they crunched were not doable in this Census Tract. I personally let it go at this point, hoping upon hopes that a passionate benefactor would surface and look past the bare "numbers" that appeared bleak to this point.

Passion alone does not sustain this type of development. To add insult to injury, the little sister to this structure, the primary school, was demolished to pave the way for commercial redevelopment. The solace in this was that the high school was on the periphery, off the main road, amidst sparse commercial redevelopment opportunity in Grantsville.

Too, an egotistic millionaire would be hard pressed to disassemble and transport the cut stone to a faraway place, ala HGTV's Barnyard Builders.

From my vantage point I now see

- 1) a competent planning and construction management team,
- 2) developed plans in place, and
- 3) forward and sustained progress. It has very much lifted a heavy veil cast over this fine structure. If the plans are enacted, this redevelopment will be a shining example of infusing new vision and vigor into poor rural communities, the likes of which we have not seen in isolated rural West Virginia.

If the governor's development office wishes to positively change the population dynamics to those any state wishes to attract to its rural hinterlands, then this project must be placed in their crucible for closer examination.

For multitudinous reasons, West Virginia needs progressive forward-thinking change built around opportunities for the young and vigorous cross sections of our population. Grantsville and the greater region take note of this historic and fortunate turn of events that has stumbled upon you. The corner is finally turning on this decades long battle.

The former publisher of this paper, Helen Morris, also a teacher at this very school, would be so, so proud of The Class of '82.

I am Respectfully Yours,
Frank Unger, MHP
dba Past Respects

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.)

Thurs., Feb. 1: fish, carrots, macaroni and cheese, whole wheat bun, fruit.

Fri., Feb. 2: hotdog with meat sauce, baked beans, coleslaw, fruit, whole wheat bun.

Mon., Feb. 5: salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat roll.

Tues., Feb. 6: tomato soup, cheese salad sandwich, whole wheat crackers, fruit.

Wed., Feb. 7: rib sandwich with onions, potatoes, brussel sprouts, whole wheat bun.

Thurs., Feb. 8: pinto beans with ham, greens, onions, applesauce, whole wheat cornbread.

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, 304-354-7017, to be placed on a list.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thurs., Feb. 1: First Baptist Calhoun Food Pantry, Rt. 5, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Empowering Parents Workshop, CMHS, 4:30 p.m.

Grantsville Pickleball Club, NYA Building, 7 p.m.

CMHS Girls Basketball vs. South Harrison, CMHS, 7:00 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 2: Save the Children Parent Child Group meets at Arnoldsburg Elementary, 1:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Bingo for CGCC Health Occupations Students, Arnoldsburg Community Building, Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

CHS Boys Basketball Team vs. Wetzel, 7:00 p.m.

Sat., Feb 3: Mike Stump Wrestling Invitational, CMHS, 10:00 a.m.

Sing, Upper West Fork Park, 6:00 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 4: Calhoun Youth Basketball Games, CMHS, with Pre-K - 1st Grade at 12:30 p.m.

Mon., Feb. 5: Mt Zion PSD Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

Plesant Hill PSD Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

CHS Boys Basketball Team travels to Clay County, 7:00 p.m.

Tues., Feb. 6: First Baptist Calhoun Food Pantry, Rt. 5, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Calhoun County Library Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Empowering Parents Workshop, CMHS, 4:30 p.m.

Save the Children Parent Child Group, FRN, 4:30 p.m.

Calhoun Civil Air Patrol, 413 High Street, 6:00 p.m.

Creston Community Building Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Grantsville Pickleball Club, NYA Building, 7 p.m.

CMHS Girls Basketball vs. Wahama, 7:00 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 7: CHS Boys Basketball travels to South Harrison, 7:00 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 8: Empowering Parents Workshop, CMHS, 4:30 p.m.

CMHS Girls Basketball LKC Placement at home.

Pick Your Own Prize Bingo, Heritage Park Community Building, 6:00 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 9: Save the Children Parent Child Group meets at Arnoldsburg Elementary, 1:00 p.m.

The Calhoun Chronicle

and
The Grantsville News
"Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts"

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INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC

NEWSPAPER

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LETTER BOX

Dear Editor

With the upcoming election season, I know that when you go to your precinct to vote you are to provide identification. However, for some voters that have either recently registered or changed political parties, they may not receive an updated voter registration card. I know this from experience, I changed my registration from one party to another over six months ago and although I received confirmation from the Secretary of State's office, I still have not received a new voter registration card.

I have also heard that certain people in the county are receiving postcards in the mail advising them that they need to update their addresses for their voters' registration cards. I am not saying that the County Clerk is deliberately singling one party out over their addresses not being correct. What about the voters list that continues to contain names of registered voters who have passed away? These lists need to be updated.

But what if those people have two different residences in the county but are in different districts? Does that mean that if they live in one house and not the other, can they vote in the district of the home they do not physically live in the home?

I think it is time to have a closer look into what is going on in the County Clerk's office and make sure that all the citizens of the county are being treated equally!!

If this has happened to you and you are still waiting for your voter's registration card after numerous requests to your local County Clerk please contact the Secretary of State of West Virginia, the number to call is 304-558-6000.

Thank you

A Concerned Citizen of Calhoun County

Calhoun County Library Board

Meeting Feb. 6th

The calhoun county library board will meet Tues. Feb. 6th at 4:00. Meeting open to the public.

This Week In Calhoun History

The following reports are taken from the Calhoun Chronicle Archives.

1924, 100 YEARS AGO: Henrietta News

Miss Murrell Johnson is in Grantsville this week, employed in The Smith Store, during their 9 day sale.
 Mrs. Bettie Morris who has been visiting in our community for the past few weeks returned to her home at Grantsville Friday.
 Clay Sturm, of Grantsville was in our burg a while Sunday.
 Joe Suttle, of Wolf Run has been working for O. J. Gainer for the past few weeks.
 Miss Thelma Burns was visiting relatives and friends in Grantsville a couple of days last week.
 Oscar Pant, who has been at Richwood for a few months returned home Friday.
 Miss Madge E. Peninger was visiting Miss Euthal Gainer Sunday.
 Miss Scottie Plant is staying at the home of Mr. J. M. Bell.
 E. B. Bennett and Charley Maloney were seen going through here Saturday.
 E. A. Burns was looking after business interests in Grantsville Saturday.

1949, 75 YEARS AGO: Former Editor Dies.....

S. Paris Bell, former editor of the Chronicle, whose passing occurred in Spencer Saturday. He was editor of this paper from January 8, 1901 to December 10, 1901. During that time Mr. Bell operated The Chronicle in partnership with R. E. Hays. (pictured on left)



Services For Pfc. Coen: Services for Pfc. Alonzo Coen, 27, of Mudfork, killed in action in Germany in World War II, will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Coen Church at Mudfork and interment will follow in the church cemetery with Vandale mortuary in charge. The body arrived at the mortuary Monday and was taken to the home of his mother, Mrs. Geneva Coen of Mudfork, at 2 p.m. Wednesday.

Besides his mother, Pfc. Coen is survived by three brothers, George Coen of Akron, Gaylord Coen of Wallback, and Alton Coen of Mudfork; five sisters, Mrs. Esther Boggs of Clay, Mrs. Alma West and Mrs. Beulah Jarvis of Mudfork, Mrs. Mary White of Elana and Mrs. Eunice Jarvis of Stinson; two half-brothers, Everett Coen of Seville, O., and Earl Coen of Ivydale; and two half-sisters, Mrs. Effie Brannon of Mudfork and Mrs. Emma Carte of Obron.

This week at Kanawha Theatre

Sunday and Monday, February 6-7: Two Guys From Texas
 Tuesday and Wednesday, February 8-9: The Iron Curtain
 Thursday and Friday, February 10-11: Elephant Boy
 Saturday, February 12: Trail to Laredo

1974, 50 YEARS AGO: Early Childhood Development Program Provides Complete Medical Services

Complete medical services are provided for Calhoun children in the Early Childhood Development Program. From conception to age six all of those children in the program can have every possible medical care and services, in an effort to see that they get a healthy start in life. State and federal funds provide all these services in eight West Virginia counties for a three year project program.

About 328 children and 25 expectant mothers are enrolled in the project. Mothers receive pre-natal care, deliveries are made in the chosen hospitals, then the infant starts on his or her way, having check-ups, plus any kind of extra services, dental care, hearing tests, and any medical problems that comes up is handled through the clinic, or referral is made to appropriate agencies.

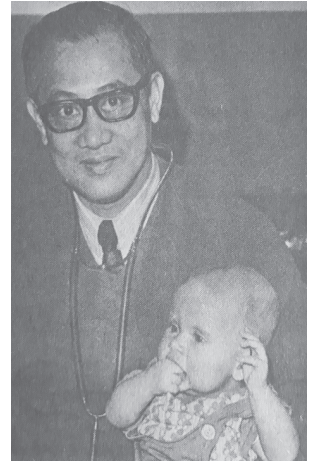
Even emergency medical services for the children is provided. Should the child need surgery that also is provided. A speech and hearing clinician is available as needed and children are sent to dentists.

In addition to all this, there is a formula distribution program. Transportation is provided in a project van.

Headquarters for this program is in the Health Dept. in the basement of the court house. Tom Hubbard is the social worker for the project: Joe McHugh is driver of the van; Susan Hall is clerk, and responsible for distributing formula; Ruth Fitz is the dental clinician; Jean Stump and Linda Hinkley are registered nurses, Dr. Cenon Zerrudo of Parkersburg comes three or four times a month for clinic days.

Plans projected for coming months include pre-natal clinics to be conducted by local doctors, plus establishment of a lab for blood work, in the clinic. There are some slight income restrictions enrollment in the program, but nearly all children in the county are eligible. Mothers can apply at the ECD office in the basement of the courthouse.

Dr. Cenon Zerrudo of Parkersburg (pictured left) is the pediatrician for Early Childhood Development, and is in Grantsville for clinic days three or four times a month. Christie Godfrey, daughter of Darlene and Rodney Gadfrey, is the patient.

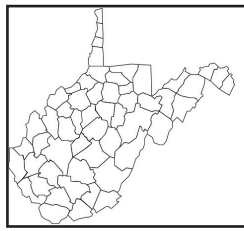


Matthew Basnett (pictured right), son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Basnett, Jr., is getting ready for a medical checkup as Linda Hinkley, R.N. holds him.



Barbara Basnett, above, with her son, Matthew, along with Particia Silverstine, right, ECD nurse from Gilmer, who comes to Calhoun to help on clinic days.

Joan Stump, R.N. (below) gives a hearing test to Christopher Urbanic.

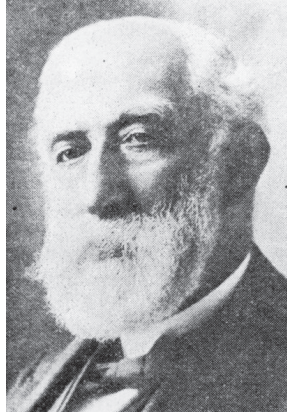


This Week In West Virginia History

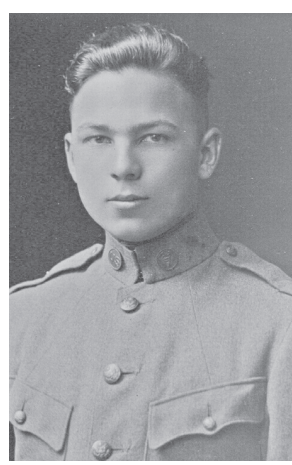
The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the W. Va. Humanities Council.

Charleston WV – The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org. The W.Va. Encyclopedia is a project of the W.Va. Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; 304-346-8500 or www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Feb. 1, 1832: Education reformer Alexander Luark Wade was born. Wade reorganized rural Monongalia County schools to require progress through eight prescribed levels with a graduating exercise and receipt of a diploma. Wade's system worked so well it was copied in other counties and states.



Feb. 1, 1901: Frank Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of World War I, was born in Missouri. Buckles purchased a farm in Charles Town in 1954 and continued to live there until his death in 2011.



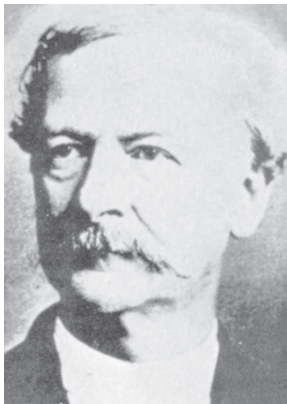
Feb. 2, 1908: Justice Marion Chambers was born in Huntington. Chambers was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the World War II Iwo Jima campaign in February 1945.



Feb. 3, 1923: Broadcast announcer Jack Fleming was born in Morgantown. He was the long-time "Voice of the Mountaineers."



Feb. 3, 1825: Confederate General William Lowther Jackson was born in Clarksburg. He was one of at least three Southern officers to bear the nickname "Mudwall."



Feb. 3, 1845: Gilmer County, located in the heart of West Virginia, was established from parts of Kanawha and Lewis counties. It was named for Thomas W. Gilmer, a governor of Virginia.

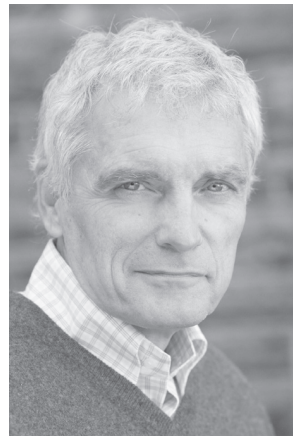
Feb. 3, 1961: The West Virginia legislature passed a resolution adopting "The West Virginia Hills" as an official state song. Prior to "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "The West Virginia Hills" was the best-known of our four official state songs.

Feb. 4, 1845: Doddridge County was formed from parts of Harrison, Lewis, Ritchie, and Tyler counties. It was named for Philip Doddridge, a Western Virginia congressman, state legislator and member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829-30.

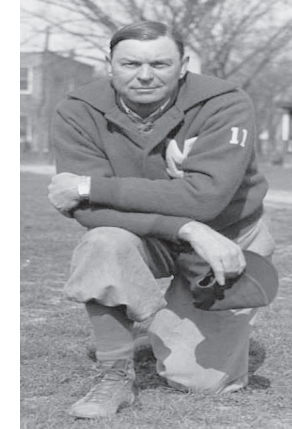
Feb. 4, 1945: The hotel at Minnehaha Springs was destroyed by fire. Built in 1914, it was the first facility in Pocahontas County built strictly for the tourist business and was a forerunner of today's local tourism economy.



Feb. 5, 1890: Coach Eli Camden "Cam" Henderson was born in Joetown, Marion County. He is a revered figure in Marshall University sports history.

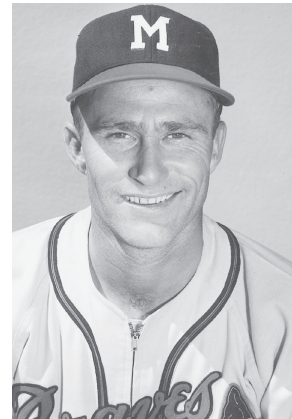


Feb. 5, 1889: Fiddler and self-taught physician James Franklin "Doc" White was born near Ivydale, Clay County. White served the community as doctor, dentist and midwife, delivering more than 1,800 babies.



Feb. 5, 1941: Actor David Lynn Selby was born in Morgantown. His stage and screen credits include the outdoor drama Honey in the Rock, and the television shows Falcon Crest and Dark Shadows.

Feb. 6, 2007: Selva Lewis "Lew" Burdette, a native of Nitro, died in Florida. Burdette was an outstanding major league baseball player who spent most of his career with the Milwaukee Braves. In 18 major league seasons, he won 203 games and lost 144.



Feb. 7, 1867: West Virginia University was established by an act of the West Virginia legislature. The college, originally called the Agricultural College of West Virginia, opened its doors in September 1867.



Feb. 6, 1882: Poet Anne Spencer was born Annie Bethel Bannister in Henry County, Virginia. In 1886, she and her mother moved to Bramwell, where she spent most of her childhood and adolescent years.

Feb. 7, 1889: Nell Elizabeth "Pistol Nell" Walker was born at Sewell Mountain. Known as the "First Lady"

My Home Among the Hills

by Melody Walburn



I know I talk a lot about weather, but can you blame me when our weather has been so crazy lately? We started last week with a three-hour delay because of temperatures in the single digits. I was wearing a heavy coat, scarf, and gloves. By the middle of the week, temperatures were in the 60's, and I was carrying a light jacket into school. At the end of the week, the snow turned to rain. The weathermen were talking about flooding, and I wore my raincoat to school on Friday.

Thankfully, the sun did come out a little bit, and we were able to take the students outside for recess a few times. Trust me, getting outside and running around a bit is key for elementary students. Even though they had to stay on the track because of the wet, muddy ground, that is better than having to stay inside in our classrooms. Indoor recess is no fun for anyone.

The big news this week was we celebrated 100 days of school. That is a major milestone in the school year. In all honesty, I can't believe how fast the time is flying. This means we have approximately 80 days of school left. I know from experience, that once we hit this point, the rest of the school year goes by in the blink of an eye. For me, time seems to be moving even faster now that I am teaching 4 th grade.

Speaking of 4 th grade, I have written before about needing to up my game as an elementary school teacher.

There are so many occasions to wear cute shirts, costumes, etc. I am working on building my wardrobe. I dropped the ball on the 100 th day of school, but I made up for it on Monday when the 4 th grade celebrated 101 days by dressing up like dalmatians. I ordered a dalmatian onesie costume and went all out. I even wore red tennis shoes to match my red collar.

I spent a number of evenings this week working at the history museum and Stump Hotel. We are getting ready to participate in the February 10th Shop Local Event. Our to-do list was long, but we made a lot of progress. All of the Christmas decorations are down, and we have rearranged the whole museum in order to highlight some exciting new donations. We also worked to put together two new Valentine's Day window displays. One window is a wedding theme complete with two bridal couples, a wedding cake, and a chandelier. The other features items for sale as well as a huge heart where visitors are encouraged to come in and "share the love" by creating a post-it of something/someone they love and posting it in our heart for all to see. We encourage everyone to stop by to help us fill that heart up with love!

This week are turning our attention to the Stump Hotel. We have an exciting new surprise here too. In order to show it off, we need to do some serious cleaning, organizing, and decorating for a new season. I know there are many people in Calhoun County that have not had the chance to see the wonderful restoration that has taken place in this historic building. February 10 th is your chance!

We have had a trip to Canton, Ohio, on the calendar for this past weekend since we learned that my nephew Landon had earned another award for his artwork. His latest art project was awarded a Golden Key and will now go on to a national contest. The plan was to get up early Saturday morning, drive to Canton, watch Landon receive his award, and then go to dinner with the family. All was going to plan. We were about eight miles outside of Canton when everything went off the rails. All of a sudden, Andy said there was something wrong with the car. In the blink of an eye, we were broken down on the side of the highway.

The next few hours saw us trying to get a tow truck to come get us, finding a Ford dealer to take the Bronco to, and then locating and renting a car to drive back to Grantsville. Needless to say, we missed Landon's ceremony.

We did make it to the college campus to see Landon's artwork and take some pictures. Then we let Landon choose where to eat. We made our own pizzas at a place called Blaze and then had ice cream at a Cold Stone Creamery. My "falling in chocolate" was delicious. We say goodbye to January this week and hello to February. I look forward to seeing what this month holds.

2-1-1 For Information

West Virginians can utilize the 2-1-1 program, operated by United Way of W.Va.

It connects callers with health and human services resources through trained certified specialists, to learn about specific programs, intake requirements, eligibility, operation hours and more.

"United Way of W.Va. provides an important service to West Virginians by helping users navigate the vast number of resources available to aid with healthcare issues, food shortages, mental health questions and more," said Sen. Joe Manchin.

important now than ever, as we battle the COVID-19 pandemic."

"United Way's new 2-1-1 will make information on a wide variety of local support services more accessible," said UW of Central W.Va. president Margaret O'Neal.

"Whether it's information for locating a health clinic, finding child care programs, or getting housing assistance, 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember, go-to resource for individuals and families."

To utilize these resources, West Virginians can call 2-1-1, text your zip code to 898-211, visit www.wv211.org/contact, or call 1-833-848-9905.

"This program is more

Recipe Corner

By Emma Howell

CHEESY MACARONI AND CHEESE

16 oz macaroni pasta (any shape pasta you like)
 1/2 C unsalted butter
 1 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp pepper
 1/2 C flour
 3 1/2 C milk, warmed
 1/4 C white wine (or sub w/chicken broth)
 1/2 lb Velveeta cheese, cubed
 1/2 lb cheddar, cubed

Topping:
 1/2 C panko bread crumbs
 1 Tbl parsley
 2 Tbl butter, melted

Heat 350°F; oven. Grease 9x13 glass dish (8x8 or round casserole, if making half the recipe).

Cook pasta for about 2-3 minutes less than called for, drain, set aside.

In a saucepan, melt 1/2 C butter, salt pepper, once melted add flour, stir until smooth. Let cook for 1 minute. Add milk, wine, bring to a boil, whisking. Add cheeses and stir until melted. Pour over cooked pasta and add to greased dish.

Combine the panko, parsley and melted butter in a small bowl. Sprinkle macaroni with panko topping, bake uncovered 30 minutes.

Breakfast casserole in the crock pot

Ingredients:
 1 bag 26 oz. frozen hash browns
 12 eggs
 1 cup milk
 1 tablespoon ground mustard
 1 16 oz. roll sausage
 maple, sage or regular sausage.
 Salt and pepper
 16 oz. bag shredded cheddar cheese

Directions:
 Spray crock pot and evenly spread hash browns at the bottom.

Crack 12 eggs in a large bowl. Mix well (and slowly) using a whisk. Add the milk.

Go ahead and sprinkle in the ground mustard. This might sound like a weird ingredient, but I've come to love (and use) this in most of my recipes.

Add plenty of salt.... and lots of fresh pepper. Mix well and set aside.

Cook the sausage on high heat, drain and set aside. Add sausage on top of hash browns.

Is this enough cheese? Maybe? Probably. Throw the whole big bag in there.

Mix it up well. Or good, depending on where you're from.

Pour the egg mixture over everything in the crock pot. Using a wood spoon, even everything out so it's spread evenly.

Turn the crock pot on low for 6-8 hours.

If you have a recipe you would like to share with our readers, please mail it to The Calhoun Chronicle PO Box 400 Grantsville, WV 26147 or email it to contact@calhouncronicle.com

Lions Club Music Feb. 10th

Bluegrass, gospel and country music by Starling Holbert at the Grantsville Lions Club Building (behind the Senior Center, Grantsville) on Saturday, Feb. 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Sign-up at the door. Concessions and 50/50 drawing available. Everyone is welcome. Come out and enjoy the evening. For more information, call 304-354-6085

Letter From Editor

1) OPED pieces may contain constructive criticisms, thoughts, or observations, which we publish on an individually approved basis.

2) No name-calling, hate speech, or other derogatory language is permitted. We do not publish letters containing "bashing," personal attacks, and the like. However, we do appreciate mindful concerns, assessments, and thoughts.

3) All letters must be signed by the author and include the city in which they reside.

Please note all submissions are subject to individual editorial approval.

LETTER BOX

Dear Editor

It's not something we think about every day, but unwanted sexual contact (also called sexual abuse) by a spouse, which is often violent, is not a criminal offense in West Virginia.

Sexually abusive behavior involving non-spouses or strangers is definitely a crime.

While spousal sexual abuse is a crime in the great majority of states, our law allows a spouse to escape prosecution for that sexual crime.

Why should a marriage license give a spouse a free pass from prosecution for non-consensual sexual abuse? It's wrong, but that's our law.

Injuries to a spouse from sexual abuse hurt just as much as injuries to a stranger.

Sexual abuse is a crime of violence and power. It is caused by the decision to control someone in the most personal way. It is not caused by sexual desire.

Our 2024 legislature will have an opportunity to correct this on behalf of spouses, but only if they hear from us and appreciate that it is an important issue to correct.

More information about this is available at <https://www.rdvic.org/sexual-violence>.

How horrifying and shameful that this sexual crime will not be prosecuted in West Virginia if the victim just happens to be the abuser's spouse.

Deb Miller, Reedsville,

Preston County 304-282-3870

CGCC Health Occupations Students

2nd Annual Bingo

February 2nd at 6 p.m.

Supporting: CGCC Health Occupations Students (CNA, Phlebotomy Technician, EKG Technician).

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\$20 card/entry

Silent Auction

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Rambling Prose

by Linda Crawford

Hillsdale College keeps me supplied with free copies of the Constitution to share with those like me who aren't "computerized." One thing in the Constitution is the process by which it can be changed or amended. Slavery, citizenship and voting are just a few of the amendments over the years to accommodate changes in society as well as correct problems in society or unfairness. The Bill of Rights has been a "plumbline" for protecting Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

The Communist Manifesto can be purchased in bookstores. "Separation of Church and State" comes from the Communist Manifesto. Like reading my Bible while a preacher preaches, referring to the Constitution while reading or listening is second nature. Verifying sources may have started at a very young age when my older siblings gave me a green persimmon and told me it was "the best kind". Having no aspiration to become a Judge Robert Bork or a Billy Graham, something can be learned and in my case relearned.

Chief Justice Roberts has weighed in on the Artificial Intelligence may have on the legal system

closing "We'll still need Justices", 2024 could be very interesting. A couple of trials in Scripture are long before modern law. The first is found in the book of Matthew starting in verse 47 of chapter 26. The decision appears to be made by the rowdy crowd. The Baby Jesus that draws so many at Christmas lived to be Crucified as a criminal. In the book of Acts, starting in Chapter 21 covers the trial of the Apostle Paul, himself a lawyer in both Jewish and Roman law. As does everything, both trials were part of God's plan for our Salvation.

Most of us oldsters learned old fashioned terms like witness, defense, conviction charges, innocent till proven guilty and "Your honor, may I approach the bench?" from old shows like Matlock or Perry Mason, or even the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird".

NOTICE TO MON POWER CUSTOMERS WITH RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY


Mon Power has contracted to maintain portions of its rights-of-way with an aerial saw consisting of approximately ten 24-inch rotary blades powered by a motor and suspended on a vertical boom beneath a helicopter. This maintenance method allows for the quick, safe, and efficient trimming of trees along our transmission lines. The aerial saw will be operating January through September 2024 in the following counties in West Virginia:

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Beginning at the Goff Run Substation off of US Rt's 33 and 119 east of Spencer West Virginia in Roane County. The line runs in a southeasterly direction crossing near CR 5/14 Daniels Run, CR 40 Slate Rd, CR 36/1, CR 48/3 Kaufman Rd, CR 48 Otto Rd, CR 48/2 Chambers Fork, CR 50/5 Clover Rd, CR 50 Keffer Hill, and CR 2/5 Linden Rd where the line taps into the Linden Road Substation. The line continues in a southeast direction crossing CR 27 Linden Bright Rd, and continues into Calhoun County near CR 20/8 Sang Run Rd, crossing CR 20/9 Big Run Rd, CR 1/5, Beech Fork, White Oak Rd, CR 17/2, and CR 28 Mud Fork Rd. The line then enters into Clay County crossing CR 38/1 W Fork Rd, CR 38 Clinic Dr, SR 16, Interstate 79 and Big Otter Creek, CR 19 Ossia Rd, Deadfall Run Rd, CR 16/2 Otterlick Rd, James Dunfield Rd, SR 4 Duck Rd, the Elk River, CR 11 Widen Ridge Rd, CR 11/4 Lantz Rd, Rock Camp Rd, CR 15/2 Swandale Rd, CR 52 Rush Camp, Buffalo Creek, and CR 15/4 Taylor Fork Rd. The line then enters Nicholas County and runs along Turkey Creek, crossing CR 19/26 Spruce Run Rd and US Rt 19, terminating at the Powell Mountain Substation off CR 19/41 Hookersville Rd north of Muddlety West Virginia.

For more information about Mon Power's Transmission Aerial Saw Program, call 1-800-686-0022. When contacting, please alert our Representatives that your call is pertaining to our Transmission Aerial Saw Program.

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Calhoun Youth Basketball 1/27

Game Results

K-1st Grade

K-1st grade is instructional learning time. The kids are learning the aspects of playing basketball.



2nd and 3rd Grade

Team Jarvis-0 vs. Team Heiney-33

Team Jarvis: Kyson Sampson, Raelyn Arnold, Lydia Hill, Sophis Goodrich, Paislie Jarvis, Braidyn Brannon, Axton White and Raines Riddel all played, but did not score.

Team Heiney: Haygan Houchin scored 21 points and Adam Francis scored 2 points, Aerial Heiney, Evert Wright and Carly Osborne played but did not score.



Team Sampson-7 vs. Team Heiney-40

Team Sampson: Henty Barnhart and Eli played but did not score; Savannah Sampson and Brenton both scored 2 points and Reese Dow scored 3 points.

Team Heiney: Adam Francis played but did not score; Aerial Heiney and Carly Osborne scored 2 points each; Evert Wright scored 4 points and Haygen Houchin scored 32 points.



Team Jarvis-18 vs. Team Sampson-8

Team Jarvis: Kyson Sampson, Raelyn Arnold, Lydia Hill and Axton White all played, but did not score. Sophis Goodrich, Paislie Jarvis and Braidyn Brannon scored 2 points each; Raines Riddel scored 12 points.

Team Sampson: Savannah Sampson and Brenton both played but did not score; Henry Barnhart and Eli scored 2 points each; and Reese Dow scored 4 points.



4th-6th Grade

Team Reip-16 vs. Team Helmick-3

Team Reip: Kailah Reip, Kenlie Jarvis, Mercy Starcher and Karleigh Daugherty played but did not score. Parker Hoskins scored 2 points, Addie Caudill scored 6 points, and Mason Sampson scored 8 points.

Team Helmick: Judd Helmick, Mason Laughlin, Annie Nelson, Colton McCumbers, Sophia Bartlett and Bryson Casner played but did not score; Cyrus Helmick scored 1 point and Mark Plumby scored 2 points.

Team Cunningham-10 vs. Team Church-20

Team Cunningham: Silas Cunningham, Payden Yeager and Liam Yeager played but did not score; Colbie Wilson scored 2 points, Tori Cunningham and Cruz Frymier scored 4 points each.

Team Church: Grayson Laughlin, James Marks, Allianna Hill and Haley Nicholas played but didn't score; Aaron Langford scored 2 points, Mandy Johnson, Tristan Rogers and Chandler Cottrell each scored 4 points; Tyler Mayle scored 6 points.

Team Staples-13 vs. Team Dow-15

Team Staples: Samuel Snider, Jackson Snider and Brenlyn Barr played but didn't score; Isabella Staples, Temperance Caldwell and Mason Cunningham scored 2 points each; Bentley Snodgrass scored 3 points and Keegan Sampson scored 4 points.

Team Dow: Payton Lamp, Kyle Shook and Baeli Frum played but didn't score; Abram Dow and Brody Crislip scored 2 points each; Koby Crislip scored 4 points and Jase Farley scored 7 points.

Team Helmick-6 vs. Team Church-30

Team Helmick: Judd Helmick, Mason Laughlin, Annie Nelson, Mark Plumby and Sophia Bartlett played but did not score; Cyrus Helmick, Colton McCumbers, and Bryson Casner scored 2 points.

Team Church: Chandler Cottrell, James Marks, Allianna Hill and Aaron Langford played but didn't score; Tristan Rogers and Haley Nicholas scored 2 points; Grayson Laughlin scored 6 points; Mandy Johnson scored 8 points; Tyler Mayle scored 12 points.

Team Staples-8 vs. Team Cunningham-10

Team Staples: Isabella Staples, Temperance Caldwell, Jackson Snider and Mason Cunningham played but didn't score; Keegan Sampson and Brenlyn Barr scored 2 points each; Bentley Snodgrass scored 4 points.

Team Cunningham: Silas Cunningham, Tori Cunningham and Payden Yeager played but didn't score; Liam Yeager scored 2 points; Colbie Wilson and Cruz Frymier scored 4 points each.

Team Reip-23 vs. Team Dow-12

Team Reip: Kallah Reip, Kenlie Jarvis, Mercy Starcher and Karleigh Daugherty played but didn't score; Parker Hoskins scored 2 points, Mason Sampson scored 9 points and Addie Caudill scored 12 points.

Team Dow: Koby Crislip, Kyle Shook and Baeli Frum played but didn't score; Abram Dow and Brody Crislip scored 2 points each; Payton Lamp and Jase Farley scored 4 points each.

Calhoun County HS Boys Basketball

Recap: Red Devils vs. Doddridge County Bulldogs

The Calhoun Red Devils's recent rough patch got a bit rougher on Tuesday after their third straight loss. They fell 50-40 to Doddridge County. The defeat unfortunately continues a disappointing trend for Calhoun in their matchups with Doddridge County: they've now lost eight in a row.

Despite the defeat, Calhoun had strong showings from Landon Bennett, who dropped a double-double on 13 points and 12 steals, and Owen Taylor, who scored 12 points along with five rebounds and five steals. Bennett also posted two blocks for the first time this season. The team also got some help courtesy of Dylan Buckius, who scored six points along with ten rebounds and five assists.

Doddridge County's win was a true team effort, with many players turning in solid performances. Perhaps the best among them was Landon Thomas, who scored 12 points along with two steals and two blocks. Thomas continues to roll, besting his previous point total in each of the last three games he's played. Another player making a difference was Jacob Dehaven, who scored ten points along with five rebounds and two steals.

Calhoun has been struggling recently, as they've lost five of their last six matches, which put a noticeable dent in their 4-7 record this season. As for Doddridge County, the victory was the third in a row for them, bringing their record for this year to 6-3.

Recap: Calhoun Red Devils vs. Van Bulldogs

The Calhoun Red Devils scored the most points they've had all season to find success on Friday. They blew past Van 79-38 at home. The victory was some much needed relief for Calhoun as it spelled an end to their three-game losing streak.

Calhoun had a senior duo take command as Dylan Buckius scored 22 points along with six rebounds and Landon Bennett scored 12 points along with nine steals. Bennett hasn't dropped below two steals for five straight games. Another player making a difference was Owen Taylor, who scored 11 points along with five rebounds.

Calhoun's win bumped their record up to 5-7. As for Van, they dropped their record down to 1-8 with that defeat, which was their tenth straight on the road dating back to last season.

Calhoun will challenge Gilmer County at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. As for Van, they will be playing in front of their home fans against River View at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Calhoun County Girls Basketball

Basketball Game Preview: Calhoun Red Devils vs. Union Tigers


The Calhoun Red Devils will head out on the road to square off against the Union Tigers at 2:45 p.m. on Saturday. Calhoun is hoping to put an end to an 11-game streak of away losses.

On Thursday, Calhoun took a serious blow against Gilmer County, falling 86-27. While losing is never fun, Calhoun can't take it too hard given the team's big disadvantage in MaxPreps' West Virginia basketball rankings (they are ranked 98th, while Gilmer County is ranked ninth).

Union suffered their biggest defeat since December 13, 2023 on Thursday. They were outmatched by Pocahontas County at home and fell 69-33. Union has now taken an 'L' in back-to-back games.

Calhoun's defeat dropped their record down to 0-8. As for Union, they have been struggling recently, as they've lost three of their last four contests, which put a noticeable dent in their 4-7 record this season.

Calhoun strolled past Union in their previous matchup back in February of 2022 by a score of 51-37. One of the biggest obstacles trying to stand in the way of that victory was Union's Bridgette Knapp, who scored 16 points along with eight rebounds and four blocks. Now that she won't be playing on Saturday, will it be that much easier for Calhoun to walk away with another win? Check MaxPreps.com after the match to find out.



Grantsville Pickleball Club

The Grantsville Pickleball Club is growing!
We play on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7:00, weather permitting and are averaging 12-15 players.
The best part is there are people there of all ages, abilities, and athleticism. There are even some who come to just watch and socialize. Equipment is provided for newcomers to give the sport a try. Come on out and watch everyone play if you are not sure what the game is all about. A fun time will be had by all who come out to play. Everyone is welcome! Come join us Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for some fun, fellowship, and physical fitness. We have found our Winter Season Home in the NYA Building.

The Red Devil wrestling squad was in action twice last week.

By Robert Bonar

On Tuesday, January 23, the team participated in a quad at Williamstown, an event scheduled to replace the cancelled Bob Zide Rumble from the previous weekend. The team lost dual matches to host Williamstown and Roane County before defeating Saint Marys in the final dual by a large margin. Reese Schoolcraft, Wyatt Nichols and Haiden Staton each won all three of their matches.

On Friday and Saturday, the team was at Ritchie County High School for the Single A Challenge, a tournament open to all Class A schools in the state. Greenbrier West and Williamstown tied for top team honors in the tournament, and the Red Devils came in eleventh with 95 points. Individually, Reese Schoolcraft, Wyatt Nichols and Sam Elmore placed third, Levi Stump earned fourth place, while Haiden Staton and Eli Bailey came in sixth and eighth, respectively.

This Saturday, Calhoun County will host the annual Mike Stump Invitational Duals tournament.

Williamstown Quad Team Records

Williamstown, 3-0
 Roane County, 2-1
 Calhoun County, 1-2
 Saint Marys, 0-3

Individual Records

106 Reese Schoolcraft, 3-0
 113 Lance Grogg, 0-3
 120 Christian Andreano, 0-3
 126 Noah Butler, 1-2
 132 Eli Bailey, 1-2
 138 Joe Nelson, 1-2
 144 Adam Hughes, 2-1
 150 Wyatt Nichols, 3-0
 157 Haiden Staton, 3-0
 165 Jobe Loudin, 1-2
 175 Sam Elmore, 2-1
 190 Landon Sampson, 0-3
 215 Levi Stump, 1-2

Single A Challenge Team Records

1	Greenbrier West	218.0
	Williamstown	218.0
3	Ravenswood	215.0
4	Tyler Consolidated	199.0
5	Buffalo Putnam	158.0
6	Wirt County	128.0
7	Doddridge County	125.5
8	South Harrison	125.5
9	Wahama	120.5
10	Saint Marys	97.0
11	Calhoun County	95.0
12	Midland Trail	69.0
13	Magnolia	47.5
14	Paden City	37.0
15	Ritchie County	36.0
16	Webster County	22.0
17	Tug Valley	13.0
18	Richwood	9.0
19	Gilmer County	0.0

Individual Records

106 Reese Schoolcraft, 3-1; Third Place
 113 Lance Grogg, 0-2
 120 Christian Andreano, 0-2
 126 Noah Butler, 0-2
 132 Eli Bailey, 2-3; Eighth Place
 138 Joe Nelson, 0-2
 Chase Schoolcraft, 1-2
 144 Adam Hughes, 0-2
 150 Wyatt Nichols, 4-1; Third Place
 157 Haiden Staton, 2-3; Sixth Place
 165 Jobe Loudin, 0-2
 175 Sam Elmore, 3-1; Third Place
 190 Landon Sampson, 0-2
 215 Levi Stump, 4-2; Fourth Place



106 Reese Schoolcraft, 3-1; Third Place



150 Wyatt Nichols, 4-1; Third Place



175 Sam Elmore, 3-1; Third Place



215 Levi Stump, 4-2; Fourth Place

CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL

MIKE STUMP INVITATIONAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024
WEIGH-INS: 8AM-9AM
WRESTLING: 10AM

CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL GYM
50 UNDERWOOD CIRCLE, MT. ZION, WV 26151

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

LEGAL NOTICE -- LEGAL NOTICE -- LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO REDEEM

(2021-S-00000028 - Calhoun County - WILLIAM OR TRACY HAKES)

To: LINDA SMITH-MEADOWS, JAMES J. MORRIS, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT SHERMAN MAP 11 PARCEL 005 004

You will take notice that WILLIAM OR TRACY HAKES, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000028, 4.3 AC FEE, located in SHERMAN, which was returned delinquent in the name of MORRIS JAMES J, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Calhoun County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 19th day of November, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after March 23, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 22, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 22, 2024.	\$ 126.73
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 22, 2024.	\$ 21.71
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022, following the sheriff's sale to March 22, 2024.	\$ 693.56
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 22, 2024.	\$ 95.92
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Jeff Starcher, Sheriff and Treasurer of Calhoun County.	\$ 937.92
Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.	\$ 35.00

You may redeem any time before March 22, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return this letter and both certified funds to the
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collection Division
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.

Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2

Save the Children Parent-Child

Discover an exciting opportunity for children and families in Calhoun County with Save the Children! Join our weekly Parent Child Groups, featuring the engaging "Freckles and Friends Kindergarten Readiness Group," designed to set the foundation for your child's academic and social success.

Key Highlights:

- Academic and Social Success: This group lays the groundwork for your child's success in kindergarten, focusing on language and literacy skills, problem solving, math skills, social-emotional competencies, and fostering a positive attitude towards learning.

- Free Early Childhood Education Services: Available to children aged 3 through 5, accompanied by valuable support for parents or caregivers.

- Monthly Parent Workshop: Enhance your parenting skills and stay involved in your child's educational journey.

Join our Weekly In-person Groups:

- Tuesdays: Calhoun FRN 4:30-6:30 P.M.**

- **Thursdays 2/15, 2/29:

-Fridays 2/9, 2/23: Arnoldsburg Elementary 1:00- 3:00.P.M.**

For more information, reach out to Debra Smith, KRA, at d.smith@k12.wv.us or call P.H.E (304) 354-6022 Ext 450 / A.E.S (304) 655-8616 Ext 510.

Empower your child's future with Save the Children!

NOTICE TO MON POWER CUSTOMERS WITH RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY

Mon Power has contracted to maintain portions of its rights-of-way with an aerial saw consisting of approximately ten 24-inch rotary blades powered by a motor and suspended on a vertical boom beneath a helicopter. This maintenance method allows for the quick, safe, and efficient trimming of trees along our transmission lines. The aerial saw will be operating January through September 2024 in the following counties in West Virginia:

Calhoun, Gilmer and Roane Counties (TMU-308 Glenville-Goff Run 138kV Line)

Beginning at the Goff Run Substation off of US Rt's 33 and 119 east of Spencer West Virginia in Roane County. The line runs in a northeasterly direction crossing US Rt's 33 and 119, Old Golf Course Rd, CR 1/1 Steel Hollow, CR 16 Triplett Rd, CR 1/1 Egypt Ridge, and Steel Hollow Rd. The line then enters Calhoun County crossing the West Fork of the Little Kanawha River, CR 12 Altizer Rd, CR 9/7 Husk Ridge, CR 14 Rowles Run Rd, CR 3 Joker Ridge Rd, CR 35/12 Pine Creek Rd, the Little Kanawha River and SR 5 north of Grantsville, CR 16 N Calhoun Hwy, CR 35/17 Bull River Run, CR 35/18 Kimble Rd, CR 35/33 Laurel Creek, and CR 35/21 Wright Rd. The line then enters Gilmer County crossing SR 5, the Little Kanawha River, CR 15 Grass Run Rd, Cedar Creek, CR 17 Lower Cedar Creek Rd, Tower Dr, the Little Kanawha River, and SR 5, and then terminates at the Glenville Substation off of SR 5 north of Glenville West Virginia.

For more information about Mon Power's Transmission Aerial Saw Program, call 1-800-686-0022. When contacting, please alert our Representatives that your call is pertaining to our Transmission Aerial Saw Program.



LEGAL NOTICE -- LEGAL NOTICE --

Calhoun County Board of Education
Public Hearing

Regarding the 2024-25 School Calendar

The first of two public hearings regarding the 2024-25 School Calendar for Calhoun County Schools will be held Monday, February 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Calhoun Board of Education office.

The second public hearing regarding the 2024-25 School Calendar for Calhoun County Schools will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Calhoun Board of Education office.

LEGAL NOTICE -- LEGAL NOTICE --

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Under and by virtue of the terms of that certain Security Agreement bearing the 14th day of June 2022, Calhoun County Bank, Inc., now being the legal holder of the same will sell at public auction on 2/09/2024 at 10 AM:

**2015 GMC SIERRA 4 DR
VIN#3GTU2VEC9FG161589**

Property can be inspected at the location of sale, prior to sale. Place of Sale: Calhoun Banks, 443 High Street, Grantsville WV 26147 Terms of sale: Cash in hand on day of sale. The bank reserves the right to bid or to reject any or all bids. We will be accepting sealed bids to be opened at the public sale. Calhoun County Bank, Inc. P.O. Box 430 Grantsville, WV 26147 304-354-6116

WAG: Please Help with locating

Feral Cat Colonies

The Welfare of Animals Group (WAG) is asking Calhoun county residents to help us address a long-observed problem with our animal community - feral or community cats. If you feed a feral cat colony in your neighborhood, or know someone who does, please call Linda at 304-354-7506 or notify us via our email calhounwag@yahoo.com.

Our humane and effective Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program's volunteers will live trap the cats, take them to the vet to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated for rabies, respiratory disease, worms, and fleas, and returned them to their outdoor home, at no cost to the colony's caretaker. The colony will be healthier and no longer producing unwanted kittens.

At four months old a female kitten can start breeding, and can have 2 or 3 litters per year. A mother cat nursing a litter of kittens goes back into heat when the kittens are only 3-4 weeks old. Removing cats from an area (i.e. catching and killing) is useless. When cats are removed from an area, then new, unsterilized cats move in to take advantage of available resources – and begin reproducing. This well-documented natural trend is known as the "vacuum effect."

Trap-Neuter-Return stops the breeding cycle and eliminates mating behaviors, such as yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. Trap-Neuter-Return also benefits public health because community cats are vaccinated against rabies.

We can only trap once a month, so please contact us soon if we can help with a colony. Thank you.

House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, Secretary of State Mac Warner and Gov. Jim Justice will be in attendance. This is an event you will not want to miss. Tickets are going fast

EVENTS PAGE

Upper West Fork Park Events

Upper West Fork Park meetings are held the second Tues. of each month at 6 p.m. Scheduled events are as follows (Saturday sings are 7 to 10 p.m., doors open at 4:30 p.m., kitchen opens at 5 p.m.):



Hey Kids You're Invited to Cordiella's

2nd Birthday Party

10 FEBRUARY 2024

At 01:00 Pm
358 Main Street
Grantsville, WV

West Central Beekeeper's Association

The West Central Beekeeper's Association will meet at the old Arnoldsburg Elementary School, Spring Run Road Arnoldsburg, WV (Calhoun County), the fourth Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Tire Collection

Tire collection will be held the third Friday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Cabot Recycling Station, west of Grantsville on Rt. 5. Tires accepted free of charge. Tires on wheels will not be accepted. Only car, ATV, and light truck tires, 16-inches or less, accepted, with a limit of 10 tires per person, open to residents of Calhoun only. Bring valid W.Va. ID. Sponsored by W. Va. DEP and Calhoun Solid Waste Authority.

First Baptist Calhoun County Food Pantry

The First Baptist Calhoun Food Pantry located on Rte 5 outside of Grantsville is a non-profit food pantry that is open on Tuesday and Thursday's from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.




The Family Crisis Intervention Center
Domestic Abuse Response Team
(304) 354-9254
HOTLINE 1-800-794-2335
P.O. Box 585, Grantsville, WV 26147

Spay/Neuter

Welfare of Animals Group (WAG) can assist low-income Calhoun County homes with 50% of their cat or dog's spay/neuter fee. It is cheaper to spay a pet than to pay the costs of caring for one litter of puppies or kittens. For information or to make an appointment, call 354-7042. Donations of dry cat food are appreciated, and can be dropped off at Calhoun County Library, Grantsville. The program is funded in part by The Bernard McDonough Foundation, The Oakland Foundation, W.Va. Dept. of Agriculture, and Calhoun County Commission.

Children's Crisis



The Children's Crisis and Referral Line can interrupt behavioral health crises by connecting families with behavioral health services in their communities. The option to call, text, or chat is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 844-HELP4WV (1-844-435-7498, call or text) or by chat at www.help4wv.com/ccl. The helpline links families with regional mobile crisis response and stabilization teams that can help deescalate by phone or respond in person.

Emotion Helpline

Are you or your loved ones feeling anxious, overwhelmed or emotionally exhausted? First Choice Services has a 24/7 emotional strength help-line called HELP304 to help navigate these uncertain and unprecedented times. Available via phone, text, or online chat, professional crisis counselors are trained to listen and help you find the way forward with stress-management strategies, as well as community resources and referrals. Talk to someone who cares and can help. Call the helpline at 1-877-HELP304 (877-435-7304) or online chat at www.help304.com.

Broomstick Cemetery Needs Donations

Broomstick Cemetery located in Calhoun County is really in need of donations to keep the cemetery mowed and looking nice for 2023. If you have loved ones buried in the cemetery, Please make a donation! You can send donations to Linda Blankenship, P.O. Box 13 Grantsville, WV 26147. You can make checks payable to the Broomstick Cemetery Fund. Thank you in advance!

Freed Cemetery Needs Donations

Donations are needed for the upkeep of the Freed Cemetery, located in Calhoun County off of the Leading Creek Road. Please send donations to Rickie Murphy, P.O. Box 55 Macfarlan, WV 26148. Make checks payable to Freed Cemetery. Thank you!

Liberty Hill Cemetery News

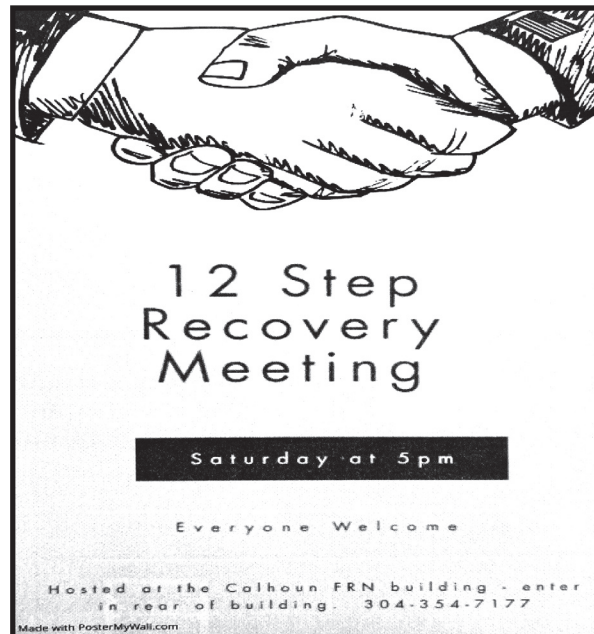
We need your donations to keep it looking neat. If you have loved ones buried in the cemetery, please donate. Donations can be mailed to Liberty Hill Cemetery, 3121 Lemuels Run Road, Mount Zion, WV 26151. Calhoun County Bank has been gracious to accept money in their drop box or donated at the banks. Thanks for your help.

Nobe Cemetery Needs Donations

If you have family buried in the cemetery, please make a donation. You can send donations to Barb Roberts, 359 Nobe Road, Big Bend, WV 26136 or for more information on how you can help the Nobe Cemetery call 304-354-7329. Thank you in advance.

Pleasant Hill Cemetery Needs Donations

In order to maintain upkeep of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery we are accepting donations at: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, PO Box 651, Grantsville, WV 26147. If you have questions or concerns please contact Cheryl Greathouse at 304-354-9513 or you may send an e-mail to cherylgreat@citlink.net. Please make checks payable to Pleasant Hill Cemetery Fund. Checks written payable to Pleasant Hill U.M. Church should state Pleasant Hill Cemetery Fund in the memo. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



12 Step Recovery Meeting

Saturday at 5pm

Everyone Welcome

Hosted at the Calhoun FRN building - enter in rear of building. 304-354-7177

Made with PosterMyWall.com

For more information on the 12 Step Recovery Meetings and resources please contact the Calhoun FRN at 304-354-7177

WIC Program

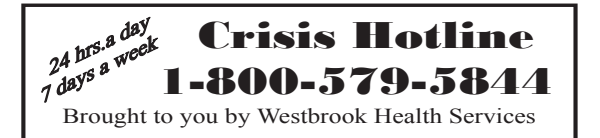
The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program is a supplemental food program for pregnant, post-partum, or breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to the age of five. WIC provides food, breastfeeding support and nutrition education to families in Calhoun County. To apply for the WIC Program or to receive more information call our local office at 304-354-6898 or our main office in Parkersburg at 304-428-3688. The Calhoun County WIC Clinic is located at 300 Mill Street, Grantsville every Wednesday from 8:00AM-4:00PM. The Calhoun County WIC Office will be closed every Friday.

Tobacco Quitline

Anyone interested in quitting can call the West Virginia Tobacco Quit-line, 1-877-966-8784 or 1-800-QUITNOW. The call is for West Virginia residents over the age of 18. The Quitline offers four proactive coaching calls and unlimited reactive calls. Participants are eligible for eight weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy: patches, gum or lozenges. Contact Jamie Jacobsen, 304-485-7374, ext. 152, or www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/.

Prevent Suicide

W.Va. Dept. of Health and Human Resources reports that the National Suicide Prevention Life-line, 1-800-273-TALK, is partnering with First Choice Services, a non-profit organization based in Charleston, to answer calls from West Virginians and offer assistance during their time of need. Calls to 1-800-273-TALK will be answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All call line staff have received training in applied suicide intervention skills, the gold standard in screening and assisting suicidal callers. Please reach out if need someone to talk to, you are important!



24 hrs. a day
7 days a week

Crisis Hotline

1-800-579-5844

Brought to you by Westbrook Health Services

Lions Club Bingo

Lions Club bingo will be held in the Lions Club Building, 103 Stump St., Grantsville, first and third Saturdays of each month at 6 p.m.

Food Pantry

CRI operates a food pantry, Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-4 p.m., with free USDA commodities to those who qualify (food pantry only) on Court St.

Library Hours

Calhoun County Library hours are: Mon., Wed. and Fri., 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Tue. and Thur., 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

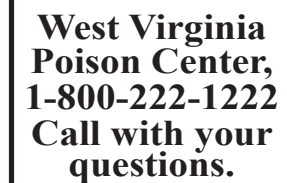
Civil Air Patrol

Calhoun Civil Air Patrol Squadron holds weekly meetings on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. located at 413 High Street Grantsville, WV. We are always looking for new members, so stop on by and check us out.

If you feel sick, please stay home. We have lots of new books and activities happening.

Check Conditions

Travelers can check the forecast, traffic, and road conditions all along their route by visiting wv511.org before heading out. Safe Travels while traveling through W.Va.



West Virginia Poison Center,

1-800-222-1222

Call with your questions.

Calhoun County High School Alumni Association

Contact Information

Calhoun County High School Alumni Association is in need of updated contact information to keep all alumni up-to-date on current events. Return the following information to CCHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 11, Grantsville, WV 26147, or email to nikkiboatright@gmail.com.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Maiden Name _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Class Year _____

Country Kitchen Music & Events



LIVE MUSIC
FOOD

ESTD 2023

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Exit 40
1-79
Big Otter, WV

304-286-5600

Country Kitchen is located at 6553 Big Otter Hwy Ivydale, WV. Come and enjoy some great food and music after taking a ride on The Devil's Backbone (Rt. 16).

Hours
Mon.-Wed.: 10 a.m. -9 p.m.
Thurs.-Sat.: 10 a.m. to Close

BIKER'S WELCOME!!!!

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Creston News

by Alvin Engelke
Phone 275-3578



Rev. Kevin Gillespie filled his regular appointment at the Burning Springs M. E. Church & served Holy Communion.

Creston had a "January thaw" and the snow all melted and along the Richardsonville road some chickweed is now in bloom. Now some streams are out of their banks.

The former state chairwoman had Byron Fisher write the proposed law based on how Mitch McConnell took control of Kentucky so local folks there have no power against the local representatives of the Deep State. He had some big fundraisers and he is using the SS to try to remove conservative Republicans who do not kiss "the ring" or wherever. What is sometimes referred to as a circular firing squad.

The comely Kim is visiting Wilma Mowrey. Tom Mowrey is still on the puny list & now is in rehab. The medical folks note that there is now a "new" virus out and about. Some wonder if it is Disease X that the ruling elites at the WEF (World Economic Forum) were talking about.

Mr. & Mrs. "Cooter" Marks were calling on Rev. Carl Marks. "Cooter" noted that was he glad that he no longer had to plow snow during storms but could go out on the porch and wave at his former co workers.

The State Road tree cutting crew is still in the Creston area doing "important work" according to those promoting the multimillion dollar spending spree. One W. Va. 5 resident noted that they broke the edge of the pavement, damaged the driveway, left deep tracks in the lawn and pulled mud on the blacktop. Those who drove down I-77 to the Mouth of the Elk noted that the "imperfections in the surface of the roadway" have not been fixed as the big honchos are too busy having trees cut to help out their contractor friends. As they say, "Follow the money." There is now a rim bender down in the capitol city. Maybe the big bosses don't know about COLD MIX. It would not take too long to fix the worst on the holes. A local person was up in Pocahontas County recently and sent pictures of the trees that had been altered for the so called leaf free roadways. All this makes W. Va. look like those in charge are a bunch of, at the very least, incompetents. Some years back they sprayed the rhododendron with herbicide and now the red buds are being removed with heavy equipment. Way back when the story was, "cut down to trees so the mudholes will dry up". None of these people have ever had to work to get extricated from a mudhole in the blazing sun on a hot day where there is no cool shade to take a breather from the effort to go on down the road.

A faithful reader of the Creston News who lives near Gregory in Braxton County noted that the pipeline folks put a lot of stone on the road going by his place but that recently the state road came along and "flat bladed" the road and shoved 500 tons or rock over the hill. The natives are restless in that neighborhood.

Barring inclement weather, the Creston Community Building will have a meeting at 6:30 P. M. at the community building on Tuesday February 6.. All willing workers are urged to attend.

Ellen Hedge fell and broke some bones. She is being fitted for a back brace. As we all age we do not bounce very well.

The ruling parties decided to stop all 17 facilities that were being built for export of LNG (liquefied natural gas) as there is a "climate crisis". If there was a real crisis someone would stop the flaring of natural gas that happens in third world countries and certain oil fields in the USA. If there were really a crisis Russia, India and China would stop building coal fired power plants and if there was really a crisis the Big Eared One, Al Gore Jr. and several other plutocrats would sell their ocean front properties and move to high ground.

Corporate raider Snowcap Resources tried to short Rusty Hutson's Diversified Gas & Oil by putting out articles saying that the company doesn't have the resources to plug wells that need to be plugged. Diversified has tapped into taxpayer funds and has a branch that is in the taxpayer plugging business. the effort was foiled. Diversified has numerous wells in the local area. Hutson's company is on the London stock exchange and is funded by Key Bank and United Missouri Bank so the firm is flush.

The price of local Pennsylvania grade crude rose to \$77.01bbl. with condensate jumping to \$59.01bbl. and Marcellus & Utica light bringing \$68.01 and medium \$77.01bbl. The Henry Hub price of natural gas is \$2.52 while November gas sold on the Dominion system (DTI) fetched just \$1.2954/ dekatherm. Natural gas liquids (ethane, propane, butane, etc.) fetched 89 cents/ gallon.

Mt. Zion PSD Meeting Agenda Feb. 5, 2024

- I. Call To Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Delegations
 - 1. Public Comment
 - 2. Potesta Engineering
 - 3. Dunn/Thrasher Engineering (Sewer Design Project)
 - 4. MOVRC
 - A. Sewer Design Project and draw down requests
 - B. Water Projects
- IV. Reports
 - 1. President's Report
 - 2. Treasurer's Report
 - 3. Operator's Report
 - 4. Office Management Report
 - 5. Billing Software and Meter Upgrade Report
- V. Unfinished Business
 - 1. Funding Requests to County Commission/Truck and Trailer
 - 2. Work Session Feedback – next one February 6th at 6:30 P.M.
 - 3. Water Supply Agreement with Town of Grantsville
 - 4. Debit Cards from Calhoun Banks
- VI. New Business
 - 1. Bowles Rice Agreement needs executed
 - 2. Town of Grantsville has applied for an 87% water rate increase
 - 3. Response to WV DEP Letter Regarding Sewer
 - 4. Personnel
 - 5. Any Other New Business
- VII. Adjournment until March 4, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.

Creston Community Building Meeting Feb. 6th

THE CRESTON COMMUNITY BUILDING WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR ON TUESDAY FEB. 6TH 2024 AT 6:30 P.M.

WEATHER PERMITTING.

ANYONE WISHING TO JOINT THE BUILDING CAN PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES OF \$1.00 AT THIS TIME UNTIL MARCH 5TH. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

FOR MORE INFO CALL CHARLES WHITE 740-860-3169 OR BARB WRIGHT AT 304-275-0006.

Rare Old Bird

By Deirdre Purdy

Was Trump's Term a Time of Peace & Prosperity?

I live deep in MAGA country where my local critics regularly inform me just how wrong I am. I try to figure out if they're onto something – or not.

As a regular theme, they will vote for Trump again because his first term was a time of unrivaled peace and prosperity.

A quick look back shows that Trump says it – and what he says, they believe, whether true or not.

PEACE –

Trump – *"There were no terrorist attacks while I was president."*

Domestic terrorism, which had been declining prior to 2016, increased by over 7,000 cases or 490%, starting with – and as a result of - the Trump administration.

January 6, 2021, was a massive act of domestic terrorism.

There was also foreign terrorism during the Trump administration.

In 2017, an assailant driving a rental truck crashed into a bike path in Manhattan, killing 8 and injuring 13. ISIL claimed responsibility.

In 2019, a member of the Saudi Air Force opened fire on a classroom at the Naval Air Base in Pensacola, Florida, killed 4 and injuring 8.

Five other foreign terror attacks in the US during Trump's administration are reported in the Global Terrorism Database.

Trump: *"I'm the first president in 72 years not to have any wars."*

That would be Jimmy Carter who never declared war or sought authorization to se force. Not a single soldier died in hostile action during his presidency.

At least 65 active-duty troops died in hostile action in Iraq and Syria during Trump's presidency.

PROSPERITY -

Trump has said more than 500 times, *"We had the greatest economy in the history of our country, probably the greatest economy in the history of the world,"*

By gross domestic product (GDP), Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and Clinton all substantially topped Trump's tepid 2.3%.

Trump: *"We did the biggest tax cuts in the history of our country."*

Trump's tax cut, as a percentage of GDP, is the eighth largest tax cut and smaller than two tax cuts passed under Obama.

Trump: *"We were starting to pay off the national debt." The US debt increased \$7.8 trillion during Trump's presidency.*

The Trump administration did enjoy low inflation and thus low interest rates (continuing Obama's economy) until Covid supply bottlenecks caused world-wide inflation, which was answered by raising interest rates. Action by the Biden administration has brought inflation under control, so the US is looking forward to lowering interest rates this year.

PROSPERITY – HEALTH & HAPPINESS

The Trump administration deserves credit for Operation Warp Speed, the rapid development of Covid vaccines, though Trump can't take credit for it because his MAGA base despises vaccines.

As president, Trump refused to take the pandemic seriously. His anti-vaxx, anti-mask, and anti-science statements and attitudes weakened public health in the US in ways that continue to degrade national wellness.

As the pandemic began, Trump downplayed Covid. January 2020: *"We have it totally under control."* *"By April, it miraculously goes away."*

Refusing to lead, Trump denied the main personal protection device available at the time. April 2020: *"Wearing a face mask ... somehow I don't see it for myself."* March 2020: *"I don't take responsibility at all"*

Against the advice of scientists, he recommended hydroxychloroquine as *"a great thing to try"* and ultraviolet light inside the body as a treatment.

In May, with 80,000 Americans dead and 38 million jobless claims filed, Trump denied reality: *"The coronavirus numbers are looking MUCH better, going down almost everywhere."*

By June, the US with 4% of the world population had 25% of the cases and the second highest per capita death rate in the world. July 2020: *"I think we have one of the lowest mortality rates in the world."*

Trump blamed the Centers for Disease Control. *"The number of deaths is far exaggerated because of CDC methods."* Dr. Fauci: *"The deaths are real deaths."*

The Republican anti-mask and anti-vaccine message has led to a 43% higher excess death rate among Republican than Democratic voters after vaccines became available. This seems like a poor long-term plan.

Trump brags about his appointment of three Supreme Court justices chosen for their anti-abortion stance who then overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Mothers who live in states that have since banned abortion are up to three times more likely to die during pregnancy.

Trump's was an administration of authoritarian aspirations and inadequate resources (hearts and minds). The economy was tepid, peace was threatened by domestic terrorism (a threat that continues to grow), and Covid mismanagement created an ongoing public health emergency.

Trump's was an administration of authoritarian aspirations and inadequate resources (hearts and minds). The economy was tepid, peace was threatened by domestic terrorism (a threat that continues to grow), and Covid mismanagement created an ongoing public health emergency.

It's helpful to look back at what actually happened during Trump's administration.

Let's balance that against what's happening now. Last week consumer confidence soared 28% among people of all political parties.

The stock market hit record highs. The Biden administration has added 14 million new jobs. Unemployment has been under 4% for 25 months. Inflation is controlled. Wages are finally rising. GDP was 4.9% in the third quarter of 2023 and 3.1% for the year.

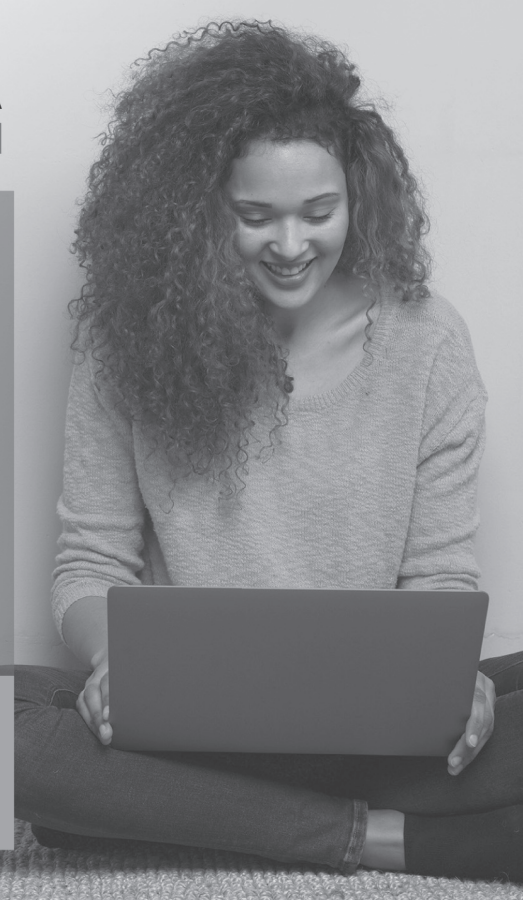
Let's give prosperity four more years. Vote for Biden and give him a Democratic Congress.

 **WEST VIRGINIA**
Office of Broadband

Affordable Connectivity Program

Are you getting your \$30/month internet discount?

See if you qualify at getinternet.gov or call 877-384-2575



Update From Crystal Mersh and Letter to Mayor of Grantsville

By Crystal Mersh

It's Time to Tell it All (and if everyone could share this post I would be appreciative):

Lamp Posts, Illegal meetings to appoint Ineligible Council Members, and Ego Ran Amuck

I know that there are those out there who think that I do not try to cooperate and work to the best outcomes, and they think that I just want to call people out rather than overlook a few failings. Well I believe that this blog will show you otherwise. It is factual. It is undisputed. And it is time that it is all exposed.

As you do know, I have spent considerable time working on projects and in particular supporting transparency and accountability in other local governmental agencies. In fact, much progress has been made and many new leaders, boards, and officials have emerged and already proven that a brighter today and tomorrow are not only possible but inevitable.

For the most part, I have not gotten involved in the Town of Grantsville in the same way as it appeared that there was a better governing body in place. I am sad to report that I was very wrong. You deserve to know the facts and the details.

Lamp Posts

My second proudest and yet shocking moment of the past two years was when we called for people to consider sponsoring a lamp post for the town. In a matter of hours, we had more than I thought we would ever have. This is a testament to the love for our county seat which we should realize is by definition the economic center and should be the crown jewel of the county. It should be a place where everyone is welcome, and enjoys an afternoon or evening out. So many good opportunities have come to Grantsville in the recent past and we should be proud that we are growing.

How did the lamp post project start?

During the Christmas events of 2021 (my first Christmas back), several people including two of the town council mentioned to me that it would be so nice if we had lamps posts to improve the look and feel of the town. At that time, I had no idea if I could help in anyway, but I did tell them that I would them that I would look around and see if we could find a way to support such a project. At that time, I do not recall if I personally discussed this with the mayor. I do however, know that the following Spring with the formation of our Bootstraps Project that the lamps posts were discussed extensively as part of the Beautification Program. At that time we began pursuing funding from The Truist Foundation to support several project including lamp posts. Judy Powell was a member of the Beautification Project and she personally committed and confirmed that the Mayor Petrovsky was informed of progress on the idea multiple times. Knowing Ms. Powell for sometime and the detailed manner in which she operates, I feel certain (my opinion) that the Mayor was regularly updated.

By the time that we made the post calling for the sponsorship, all seemed to deny knowing anything about the project. I will not pull out messages to prove otherwise, but I do have them. I cannot say whether I did or did not personally discuss this idea with the Mayor between Dec 2021 and last fall, but considering the number of conversations that we have had I would be surprised if I did not. That being said I will take full responsibility for his apparent lack of awareness, although there is equal chance that I could have very well had the discussion with the Mayor even on multiple occasions and he was busier talking than listening which has proven to be an issue.

During September of last year, I had several extensive discussions about the lamp posts with the Mayor. He expressed his support verbally and he committed to lead the evaluation of the installation options. At first we considered hard wired lights. The mayor insisted that this would cost \$1 million dollars to do such a project, but he never shared the details behind this estimate. Therefore after the meeting with the town council, we began exploring the options for commercial grade, solar, dark sky friendly lamps of the vintage style. I should also mention that Ed Casto of Alpha Omega lighting was present at that council meeting at the request of the mayor. I told Mr. Casto we were looking at 12 foot lamps and for those characteristics. He indicated that such a lamp if it existed would be around \$1400. I told him we were looking to stay under \$1000. I did not have any more follow up from Mr. Casto.

I spent a couple of weeks searching for a lamp that met the requirements with the help of my lighting guy in Atlanta. Two lamps were found. Both are manufactured in Houston by Northey Company (<https://melnorthey.com>). We selected the only vintage style lamp available, shared it with the public, received rave reviews and ordered the prototype.

Fast forward to now, after multiple discussions begging for the town to get involved, the Mayor consistently delegated this to others who were not equipped or paid to handle such an evaluation of installation that he committed to doing himself. To this day I am not aware of any work he has done to support the project, I am however aware of multiple and continuing questions and commentary that indicated to me that he may not be an "on board" as he professes to be. These include the following.

1. The repeated discussion of the unsubstantiated \$1 million expense to install electrical lights. Mr. Casto approached after the town council meeting and sought me out to tell me that number did not come from him.

2. During a discussion with the Mayor about a number projects including lamps and the park improvements, the Mayor followed up on my question to Councilwoman Staton as to why we were not asked by the town to support the park. I used that opportunity to make the point that the gift of at that time \$70,000 worth of lamps and \$12,000 from the Foundation was a pretty nice donation to the town. The Mayor's response was and I quote "well those lamps do nothing for the town". I then pointed out he might want to put some at the park to continue the upgrades there and he not so politely said "keep your hands off that park"...but he had no problem cashing the \$1000 check I gave him for the park upgrades. Again I fear talking more than listening could be a factor.

3. And now in the final phase still no plan for installation, so we formed a task force to take this on and scheduled a meeting to discuss which was dominated by the Mayor and again proved to date he had done nothing. We continue to have questions on who would install and the towns very limited resources to support installation (which consists of 4 bolts and in some cases a small concrete disk), concerns for where they cannot be installed and no discussion of where they can, questions on life span and warranty and on and on.... Mr. Casto was invited to the Lamp Post Task Force and reportedly told the group he had a lamp that met our needs which had a better warranty and was more affordable. However, in my conversation with Mr. Casto the next day he backtracked and told me "well you know these solar lamps are emerging and it will be hard to find one that is of the vintage look" and that he would need a few weeks. I told him that I had done the research and was aware of all of this and that I look forward to any options he can present by Monday of next week (today). So bottomline the Task Force meeting was completely railroaded by the Mayor and his guests rather than working on the plan for installation locations as intended.

4. And of equal or greater concern, I discussed last Sept with the Mayor, Councilwoman Staton, and the entire council, the tremendous opportunity that this in kind donation would afford the town in pursuit of other grants. I even went so far to suggest grants and avenues that could bring money for side walk improvements and other beautification projects. Many grants only require 20 percent match and therefore a sizable grant would be available (up as high as \$300,000). I have followed up on this multiple times and there appears to be no interest in using this very generous donation as match which is a real shame and an insult to those who have pledged lamps. I will also note that it was reported by the newly "appointed" Councilwoman Robinson indicated at the Task Force meeting that the lamps could not be used as match which is simply incorrect.

5. I followed up with the Mayor via email last week on the lamps installation

and match with no response to date. I did follow up to ensure he got the email and he informed he that he had had it printed for him.

Therefore to summarize in my opinion, the town government has illustrated no commitment to real skin in the game, just a lot of talk and late to the game concerns. This is in my opinion is more about control than the lamps frankly because 99.9% of any town government would see \$83,000 as the real heart felt gift it is and not some kind of turf war.

The Mayor has also made it clear that the decision to proceed or not lies with the town council which we of course clearly know. As such I have requested that this topic be on the agenda at which time we will present our proposed installation plan for consideration. This meeting will occur on Feb 5 and if the council rejects or refuses to act on the decision, the 1982 Foundation will regrettably need to cancel this project as we have no more time to spend on it due to our construction which is occupying our full attention this year.

Topic Two: Secret meetings, illegal votes and an appointment of ineligible council member

The Ridgeview News reported the first week of January on this emerging topic. (<https://ridgeviewnews.com/grantsville-town-council-holds-questionable-meeting-to-appoint-town-council/?fbclid=IwAR0ZlmYv5otWpcgFJWF-o48fPHkr18uk88xvHOL7akL29ako7v3sXOf35OI>). I believe that there will be a follow up on the continuation of the facts including the appointment of a council person not registered in the town per the voter registration 60 days prior to the appointment. But I will however, share my personal opinion on the matter.

Two persons applied to fill the vacancy: Emily Robinson and Teresa Overton. It causes me concern that the first meeting that occurred calling for a vote on the topic was held on a Saturday without any notice to the public and reportedly without the knowledge of the Mayor. All government meetings in the state of WV are subject to the Open Meetings Act that provides assurance that the citizens are assured of their right to participate in their government. At that time, Ms. Robinson was reportedly selected. At the next town council meeting, it was pointed out that the Saturday was an illegal meeting and therefore the council voted again creating another illegal vote, as this time the vote was not on the agenda another violation of the Open Meeting Act. And later it was discovered that Ms. Robinson was not even a registered voter in the town 60 days prior to the appointment resulting in the appointment of an ineligible council person.

So does this sound to you like there might be something more at play here? It surely does to me as I know for a fact and you do too of the qualifications and the blood sweat and tears that Teresa Overton has poured into the town only to be dismissed when she was in fact the only qualified candidate. So what's the reason behind this in your opinion Crystal? It's personal and it's directed at me. It stems from an on going proposal to the County Commission to install a policy for financial controls to govern gifts of the peoples monies to non-profits. This suggestion was raised by Shelia Burch and appropriately taken up by Commission President Craig Arthur who drafted such a policy. Immediately prior to these discussions a number of groups requested funding to include the Upper West Fork Park, Alice Miller Holmes, the Livestock Committee and the Lion's Club. Some of these requests were approved prior to the policies development; however, the Lion's Club request for \$17,000 to fix the foundation of their building is still pending. Not so coincidentally in my opinion, Emily Robinson has been the material player for the Lion's Club and has presented the topic several times at the Commission Meetings with what is in my opinion an haughty expectation that county money should be provided. Without getting into all the details as there has been much reported discussion with the Commission on this topic, it seems to have been turned into a exercise in "gaslighting" because every time that I bring up the policy which is my only concern, certain members seem to assert that I am making a statement about the worthiness of the Lion's Club project. I have not and I resent that this is being made to appear this way and further used to bully the Commission to provide the \$17,000. To date I have not commented on my opinion of this particular request, but I will here and now. I firmly believe if the people of this county wish to support a non profit then they know how to do that privately without using tax payer funds. I can tell you right now that everyone sees through this little gaslighting charade and we are not impressed. The senior members of the Lion's Club should be concerned for their reputation which is heartbreaking as on an international level and to date locally, it has been an honorable and respected organization that does tremendous good. So it is my belief that his has played into the illegal voting and appointment of an ineligible candidate. Otherwise, the only other plausible explanation would be that complete and utter incompetence on the part of the Town Council and Mayor.

But Crystal you are offended because Ms. Overton is your colleague and friend. You bet I am! And I bet you are too. We all see right through this attempt to deceive and gain funds, power and revenge. So my message is to the Town Council and Mayor, get it together and do the right thing or you might want to start making plans to pursue other opportunities (this is what we say in the private sector when someone gets canned).

PS An official letter will be delivered to each council member, the mayor, and the recorder outlining my concerns and references to associated WV code as well as a request to void the appointment and appoint the only qualified candidate at the Feb 5 meeting. I will post this letter later today. We are also considering filing a complaint with the circuit court should this matter not be appropriately handled on Feb 5. We have until end of March to file such a complaint. (See Letter to Grantsville Mayor Below)

<p>January 24, 2024 Town of Grantsville - P.O. Box 146, Grantsville, WV 26147</p> <p>Dear Mayor, Recorder and Council Members: I am writing to express in words my extreme disappointment with the way the Council "appointed" the new Council member, Emily Robinson. I also seek to see this illegal appointment revoked by the Council.</p> <p>On December 14, 2023, an advertisement was placed in the Calhoun Chronicle requesting individuals interested in joining the Town Council, to apply by December 29, 2023. Two people applied: Teresa Overton and Emily Robinson.</p> <p>On Saturday, December 30, 2023, Town Council members met in a private working session. This session was held without the Mayor's presence or providing him prior notification of the meeting, to select a new Council member. However, there was no public notice provided for this meeting. This is a violation of the West Virginia Open Governmental Proceedings Act (W. Va Code 6-9A-1 through 12). Therefore, making this meeting and vote invalid.</p> <p>On Tuesday, January 2, 2024, Ms. Overton spoke to Mayor Petrovsky in the afternoon. He informed her that the Town Council members had met on Saturday, without his knowledge until the meeting was nearly over. The Town Recorder called him after they had voted on the next Town Council member, and they selected Emily Robinson. Grantsville Town Council held their regular monthly meeting that evening (January 2, 2024) at 6:00 pm. At this meeting, the Mayor prompted the Town Council to revoke, because he was informed by the Ridgeview News that the town council's private "working session" was illegal. However, voting at this meeting was also illegal, due to the fact the vote was not on the agenda. Amendments to an agenda must be done two days before the meeting and posted for public observation.</p> <p>I have also learned that Emily Robinson was ineligible to run for Town Council or even vote in any town election. Per our County Clerk, Jean Simers, Emily Robinson is registered in district 7. Only people registered in district 6 are eligible to vote or run for office in the Town of Grantsville's election. On January 19, 2024, Ms. Overton asked the Town Recorder for a copy of the minutes of the last Town Council's meeting. The Recorder informed her that she did not have the meeting minutes typed. Furthermore, she was not permitted to make copies of the any approved meeting minutes; she could only read them. Per WV Code 6-9A-5 these are public records and are to be typed and available to the public within a reasonable time after the meeting.</p> <p>I just want the Town's government to do what is right. Any person who is a member of a public or governmental body required to conduct open meetings in compliance with the provisions of this article and who willfully and knowingly violates the provisions of this article is guilty of a misdemeanor.</p> <p>As part of their duty and oath, sworn in by each of the members of the Town's government, elected officials should be very familiar with The Municipal Handbook for Elected Officials. If they had been, these egregious errors would not have happened. This handbook should have been provided to the newest council members immediately upon taking office, my understand is that they were not. Those who have been part of the Town's government for some time, have no excuse to not know and follow this handbook. I insist that this matter be put on the agenda and addressed at the February 5, 2024, Town Council meeting. Ms. Overton is the only eligible person that applied for this Town Council seat. Therefore, I expect to see the Town Council rescind their illegal votes and appoint her to the council. I strongly recommend that this illegal appointment of the ineligible council member be revoked and Ms. Overton, who is the only eligible candidate, be appointed at the February 5th Town Council Meeting. Furthermore, be advised that if this matter is not handled in accordance to WV State Code, I will file a complaint in Circuit Court and have this matter reviewed.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sincerely, Crystal Mersh</p>
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Animal Tails: Adoptable Animals in Calhoun County

By Melissa West

Are you currently looking for a four legged addition to your family? The Calhoun Chronicle will feature rescued animals from the county. This animals are looking for a loving, forever home in Calhoun (local adoptions are preferred). If you see an animal you are interested in meeting and potentially adopting or to become a rescue home please contact me at 681-533-7345 and I will connect you with the community members who are currently housing them. If you would like to give donations of pet food and supplies, it is always needed.

Black dogs are the most overlooked dogs in shelters and are frequently euthanized. Please help our local dogs find a forever home!!!!!!

On the right you will meet Max. Max was found as a stray. He is approx 10 lbs. He is looking for his forever family.

ADOPTED!!!!!!

Max the Magnificent



Hope for Hope

Hope has been a stray most of her life. She's approx 2.5 years old. Approx 40 lbs. Great with other dogs. Sweet, timid demeanor. Needs adoption ASAP. She is an Australian Kelpie mix after "This is Hope" and before "She is approximately 2.5 years of age."

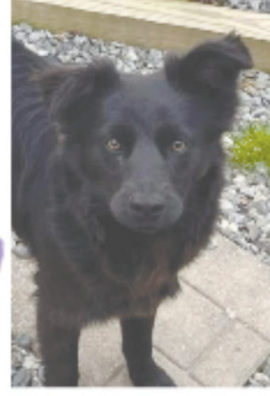


Sister



Brother

Ditch Dogs



Who dumps starving puppies in a ditch? A lot of people.

These two siblings were found in a ditch as puppies. (Sister above, Brother below)

They are now approx 1.5 years old. Spayed and neutered.

They live outside and receive very little to no attention.

They're lonely and need loving homes.

Unsure of mix. Very loving.



Missy has lived her entire life on a chain in the mud, rain, heat, cold and snow. She needs our help. She's a Norwegian Elkhound mix. Approx one and a half, 25 lbs. , spayed. Very gentle and loving. Please consider adding Missy to your family. This is an urgent situation.



Arnoldsburg Elementary School Announce 1st Semester 23-24 Honor Roll

Principal's Honor Roll – All As

Kindergarten – Savannah Allen, Selena Allen, Morgan Arnold, Natalia Bremer, Mila Cottrell, Amelia Duffield, Ethan Fitzwater, Alaina McClain, Perry Nichols, River Parsons, Hadley Propst, Paisley Sauer

First grade - Kimber Batton, Lydia Burch, Emersyn Butler, Emma Butler, Kaleb Butler, Braxton Carter, Jayce Daniels, Brantley Davis, Sadie Goodrich, Kenna Hall, Emma Hardway, Paxton Hughes, Savannah Leavitt, Talia Mayle, Skyler Nicholas, Chase Parsons, Gavin Parsons, Kase Perkins, Waylon Poore, Kendall Richards, Carlisle Wilson

Second grade – Gracelynn Baker, Kinsley Burch, Isaac Fitzwater, Thorin Gungle, Ronan Haney, Jacsen Harris, Lydia Hill, Paislie Jarvis, Kyson Sampson, Kamryn Stewart, Axton White

Fourth grade – Jaselyn Adams, Daisy Gibson, Charles Kilby, Kenlie Jarvis, Mason Sampson

A and B Honor Roll

Kindergarten – Landon Carpenter, Lincoln Hartshorn, Emma Holbert, Clayton McCullough

First grade - Raelynn Brannon, River Butler, Grayden Detweiler, Kayleb Harris, Weslee Harris, Grayson Jones, Zander McCumbers, Cayden Meeker, Abby Morgan, Kase Perkins

Second grade – Natalie Craddock, Michael McClain, Dexter Palmer, Bryson Swisher

Third grade – Sophia Goodrich, Colton Jarvis, Adalina Lee, Quintin Parkin, Brysten Sampson

Fourth grade – Arabella Craddock, Embree Gungle, Rylee Harris, Judd Helmick, Audrey McCumbers, Colton McCumbers, Jace Morgan



Pleasant Hill Elementary Announce 1st Semester 2023 Honor Roll

Principal's Honor Roll

Kindergarten- Fatima Aparicio-Ruiz, Wyatt Carpenter, Rylee Fulks, Sawyer Justice, Kyson Kerby, Charley Lamb, Dakota Mounts, Azriella Mounts, Jace Nicholson, Aila Richards-Compton, Saphira Woodring

1 st Grade- Emery Atkinson, Nathan Burkett, Henley Cunningham, Jessa Ferrell, Sawyer Frum, Owen Heiney, Cambry Mathes, Avery Norman, Scarlett Probasco, Sawyer Sims, Dakota Snider, Halynn Whytsell

2 nd Grade- Brentley Bradley, Zion Coleman, Genevieve Riggs, Willie Smith, Layton Snider, William Thurmer, Kierra Wise, Wyatt Blosser

3 rd Grade- Raelyn Arnold, Breanna Blosser, Willis Gainer-Pittman, Haygan Houchin, Kaelynn Powell, Savannah Sampson, Aiden Villers, Hazel Winkler

4 th Grade- Sophia Bartelt, Martha Bixman, Ariel Collins, Tori Cunningham, Jase Farley, Levi Ferrell, Emma Frederick, Cruz Frymier, Carson Norman, Brantley Schoolcraft, Kyle Shook, Mackenzie Tingler

A-B Honor Roll

Kindergarten- Mackenna Bevel, Carolina Blosser, Gunner Burrows, Aiden May, Noah Richards, Zayla Richards, Isaac Starcher

1st Grade- Kasyn Ellison, Piper Garrett, Mallie Poling, Meredith Toney

2nd Grade- Colten Echard, Wyatt Hartshorn, Mylah Park-Diaz, Ryder Simmons, Ira Weaver, Kaislee Sampson

3rd Grade- Baylee Allison, Jayden Boyd, Lillian Caldwell, Adam Francis, Jaxon Ingram, Abigail McCumbers, Brenton Slider

4th Grade-Andrew Carpenter, Zayden Corrigan, Landon Godfrey, Brooklyn Hartshorn, Annabelle Mathes, Maciah Nida, Dezarae Richards, Maison Wilson

Beautiful Sky

Beautiful purebred Husky

Rescue needed. Will consider local adopter. Application required.