



The Calhoun Chronicle

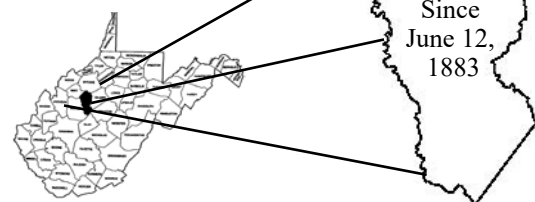
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and The Grantsville News

“Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts”



Whole Number 7058 Grantsville, West Virginia 26147 Thursday, July 4, 2024

Happy Independence Day, America!

By Catherine Boeckmann
 Excerpted Almanac.com

We think of July 4, 1776, as a day representing the Declaration of Independence, America’s revolutionary Charter of Freedom, and the document upon which the nation’s founding principles were established. But July 4 wasn’t the day that independence was declared. Nor the day that the Declaration was officially signed.

So, what did happen on July 4, 1776?
 This holiday commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by delegates from the 13 colonies on July 4, 1776. On the 4th, the Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence.

dence. This is the day we celebrate the birth of the United States of America.

Here are more dates to remember:
 -- April 19, 1775, was the start of the American Revolution. During the Battles of Lexington and Concord (Mass.), the first shots were fired between colonists and British troops. After these first military conflicts, tension between Britain and her American colonists continued to mount.
 -- July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted for independence from Britain. Two days later, on July 4, 1776, Congress approved the final draft of the Declaration of Independence, which had been drafted by Thomas Jefferson (back in June) and edited by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

July 8, the first public reading of the Declaration took place at the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Later that same day, other readings occurred in Trenton, New Jersey, and Easton, Pennsylvania. Printer John Dunlap made about 200 copies of the Declaration, with the date of July 4. Known as the “Dunlap Broadside,” these were distributed throughout the 13 colonies. However, it wasn’t until August 2, 1776, that the Declaration was officially signed. John Hancock, president of the Congress, was the first of 56 delegates to sign this enlarged version, writing in big, bold letters.

INDEPENDENCE cont. on page 4

Build it and they will come? Maybe, maybe not

In movies miracles happen
 In the movie Field of Dreams, a voice from the sky says, “build it and they will come.”

So, in the middle of an Iowa cornfield, he builds a baseball diamond and they come.
 Except they don’t.
 And that’s not even what was said.
 The iconic line “If you build it, he will come” from Field of Dreams is often confused with “If you build it, they will come”. “If you build it, they will come” is never said in the movie but remains the line most often quoted.

A clip from the end of Field of Dreams where Ray talks to his father as a young man (he did come).
 The movie closes with the hundreds of cars approaching the baseball field. In other words, he built, they came.
 But that was a movie.
 This was not.
 A few decades ago, Calhoun decided to create an industrial park and it did take a strip of land below the Bethlehem Church Cemetery along the Little Kanawha River about a mile east of Grantsville along West Virginia Route 5.

other utilities needed for development. Everything was in place except for anybody letting businesses know it was available.

And nothing happened.
 Finally, years later some of the lots were bought and some things were built. Now there is the Grantsville water plant, a DHHR building and a garage.
 Now Calhoun is getting another chance to bring in business and this time recruiting is not a problem.
 Calhoun is attempting to convince a medical production company – American Medicines Company – to locate in the county and a group of county leaders have joined together to make the county more palatable.
 The group has held meetings to determine what is needed for the company to want to come here.
 First would be a good location and one has been found near Annamoriah. It is the old West Virginia National Guard Armory located on the long straight just above the Little Kanawha River across from Annamoriah hill.
 The armory is available and recently an agreement was reached to make much of the surrounding property available too.
 Currently the confederation of groups working on the

country’s bid for the factory include the school system, the local bank, local political leaders, Minnie Hamilton Health System, Glenville State University, local realtors, the Little Kanawha Area Development Corporation, local media and Crystal Mersh who moved back to Calhoun three years ago to support revitalization efforts of our county.

The working name of the recruitment corporation is FINEX ... Facilitating Investment & Economic Expansion using the Phoenix bird as a logo over the outline of Calhoun with the tagline: FINEX Rising.
 Currently the biggest need for the area is affordable housing for the 500 or so possible employees of the new company.
 Expectations are for approximately 500 employees at salaries of around \$110,000 per employee.
 Other areas in West Virginia are also bidding for the facility but Calhoun is near the top of places entering into the bidding process and the recruitment group working toward bringing in the factory to Calhoun County is prepared and preparing whether it gets this factory or not.
 The group stands ready to continue working to attract business to Calhoun County in the future.

Little Kanawha River cleanup planned



Most of us never think about river pollution. We just look out at the Little Kanawha River and watch it roll through Calhoun County en route to joining the Ohio River in Parkersburg.
 And that’s about it. It’s a river. It’s wet. It flows through Calhoun County.
 So what?
 Whether we realize it or not the Little Kanawha is polluted with all sorts of debris, especially automobile tires.
 A few days ago, some volunteers led by Brenda Bush went out on the venerable old river in search of tires and trash.
 “A few of us got a head start a few days ago in a hot spot area,” Bush said. They collected 82 tires in just four-tenths of a mile going from the town bridge to where old drive thru bank was.
 Eighty-two tires in four-tenths of a mile?

the way ending at a pickup area beyond Furr’s at a pickup area where a cook out will take place.
 While floating and collecting tires and trash designated sports have been set up where the debris will be set off so that REAP crews can come along with their dump trailers and pick up the refuse.
 Volunteers are needed for the 2024 river clean up. Volunteers are asked to bring any john boats or kayaks they own to be used in the flotilla. Some boats will be provided by REAP however any additional boats will be welcomed.
 If you would like to join this group or for more information, please contact Brenda Bush (304-428-8250) or Lisa Cooper (304-531-2672).

Folks, we have a problem.
 The Calhoun Solid Waste Authority along with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection/Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) will be holding their annual river cleanup on the Little Kanawha River on August 10 starting at 8:30 a.m.
 Last year a volunteer crew of approximately 30 people took about 300 tires from the river in a three-mile span.
 This year the clean-up will start near the Grantsville bridge with the boats being put in the water behind the Nu Look Beauty Shop on River Street. The float will continue about three miles down the river picking up tires and trash along



Calhoun mermaids



Friday night was mermaid night at the Sandra Johnson Aquatic Center as the pool’s youth management group presented their own mermaids (such as Savannah Cunningham) and the movie the Little Mermaid. Then on Saturday night the pool celebrated ‘80s Night with music, dancing and swimming.

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. There will be no service next week.

Florence Sandy, age 90, passed away at the Worthington nursing home in Parkersburg. She was the daughter of Kelly Lockhart of Burning Springs and was the widow of Korean War vet Frank Sandy. Burial was in the Rector cemetery. Before marrying Frank she was Nellie Merrill's hired girl back when Ed Merrill ran the Creston ferry and was assisted by Walto Boggs.

There were 212 riders on the Creston poker run. Jake Mason from Long Bottom Ohio was first followed by Miranda Atkinson from Spencer (Triplet) and Jennifer Morgan from the State of Delaware. Dee Myere won the 50/50. All those who rode said they had a great time, beautiful scenery, games, water & mud to play in, etc. Some got to use their winches to pull others through mud holes in a Roane County "highway", one tipped on the side in a big gully going down into "Rock Camp and another tipped into one of the "he man holes" that was covered by green pond scum. Folks come from far & near to have a good time and the events maintain the community building and pay for Christmas and other parties for the children, Veteran's Day, homecoming, etc. The community would like to thank all those who came & rode, those who set up and took down the ride, cut out the trees, worked on the bad places, sent out the cards, filled out all the paperwork, cooked and served the food, set up and cleaned the building, donated the door prizes & the quilt, sold the tee shirts & all the rest. Never the less, someone went out and changed the direction on a sign, painted over the arrows and painted one in the wrong direction causing some to go to Elizabeth and some to Lucille. It is sad that there are those who would work to cause problems for folks who are just out to have a good time with family and friends.

Ellen Hedge was consulting with the medical folks after getting a sore on her leg.

Renee Lynch Gray retired and celebrated by going on the poker run. She made a video of some of the road down in Beaver Dam. Some of that road was washed away during the deluge that happened in the spring.

Cap'n Spock was attending to business with the DMV down at the Mouth of the Elk. The folks had advised him that it might take days for the paperwork needed to keep his chariot legal to come by snail mail and, in the interim, he would not be

"legal".

Many local folks watched "the debate" and it became obvious to those who do not follow the news that the Delaware multi-millionaire who always bragged about \$\$\$ is not in charge of anything other than getting ice cream.

Smithville oil man Warren Haight, age 89, passed away. Recently the Haughts, under the name of Delta Helix, purchased several wells from HG Energy.

There seem to be lots of fawns and several sets of twins. Others have seen mother turkeys with their 'children'.

Milkweeds, butterfly weed, black eyed Susans have added a lot of color to the roadsides & fields.

Gov. Jim Justice's finances have again been in the news as a federal court ordered assets to be sold off to pay debts which, some say, now are in the \$1 billion range. He is said to be a financial wizard who is going to Washington to look after our needs, or maybe the business interests of the Manchin family under the guidance of Larry Puccio who also guides "Big Jim".

An outfit called First Solar donated \$1.5 million to the Biden campaign. Now, from the "Inflation Reduction Act" a/k/a the Green New Deal, the taxpayers are to give First Solar \$10 billion. One might say that was a very good "investment" although less kind words, like bribes, could be used.

For reasons that are not clear the price of ethane has dropped to less than the price for methane which is \$2.68/MMBTU at the Henry Hub down in Louisiana. EQT, which sells its methane for big bucks as LNG [liquified natural gas] paid under \$1.50/mcf and Greylock paid just under 33 cents/MMBTU. Obviously, some do well, others, not so much. Ethane is the feedstock for antifreeze and polyethylene.

The "wise ones" insist that all the children need to be vaccinated with all sorts of shots, many of which apparently, are not even tested and the percentage of autism, learning difficulties, & such increase while, apparently, no autistic Amish children have yet to be found. Now would public health folks lie? The answer is, well yes, they told all sorts of whoppers about Dr. Fauci's lab made virus which he promised in 2017 would happen. Fauci told the truth once.

The Elizabeth/Wirt County fireman's festival and ice cream social & parade will be July 6 in Elizabeth. Come early and watch the parade.

The price of local Pennsylvania grade crude oil is \$80.54/bbl. With condensate fetching \$62.54/bbl. And Marcellus & Utica light bringing \$69.54/bbl. It was noted that in central West Virginia gasolene is less than \$3/gallon.

First up for a Calhoun Hall of Fame – Bernard P. Bell

By Gaylen Duskey

The bridge that spans the Little Kanawha River in Grantsville is the Bernard P. Bell Memorial Bridge with a notation that he was a Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

And that's probably all almost everyone crossing the bridge knows about Bernard P. Bell.

Yep. Born somewhere in Calhoun County. Moved away. Won Congressional Medal of Honor. Died. End of story.

And that's pretty much it. Accurate. Simple. But way too short.

And that's why we need to have a Calhoun Hall of Fame and why I am pushing for one and Bernard Pious Bell is my first nominee. And why not? He is the only Medal of Honor winner from Calhoun County but hardly the only noted military person from the county.

He was born and raised on Hog Knob ironically living in the same house (not at the same time) as Roy D. 'Red' Stump a three-time winner of the Purple Heart and the subject of an episode of television show "It's a Miracle."

Plus, he lived less than a mile from the home of CSM Clover D. "Whitey" Ice the person who the intelligence school at Fort Huachuca, AZ, is named after.

Hog Knob has turned out several heavy hitters in Calhoun history but back to Bell.

Bernard Pious Bell's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

Rank and organization: Technical Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company I, 142d Infantry, 36th Infantry Division. Place and date: Mittelwihl, France, December 18, 1944. Entered service at: New York, N.Y. Birth: Grantsville, West Virginia. G.O. No.: 73, August 30, 1945.

Citation:

For fighting gallantly at Mittelwihl, France. On the morning of December 18, 1944, he led a squad against a schoolhouse held by enemy troops. While his men covered him, he dashed toward the building, surprised two guards at the door and took them prisoner without firing a shot. He found that other Germans were in the cellar. These he threatened with hand grenades, forcing 26 in all to emerge and surrender. His squad then occupied the building and prepared to defend it against powerful enemy action. The next day, the enemy poured artillery and mortar barrages into the position, disrupting communications which T/Sgt. Bell repeatedly repaired under heavy small-arms fire as he crossed dangerous terrain to keep his company commander informed of the squad's situation. During the day, several prisoners were taken, and other Germans killed when hostile forces were attracted to the schoolhouse by the sound of captured German weapons fired by the Americans. At dawn the next day the enemy prepared to assault the building. A German tank fired round af-

ter round into the structure, partially demolishing the upper stories. Despite this heavy fire, T/Sgt. Bell climbed to the second floor and directed artillery fire which forced the hostile tank to withdraw. He then adjusted mortar fire on large forces of enemy foot soldiers attempting to reach the American position and, when this force broke and attempted to retire, he directed deadly machine gun and rifle fire into their disorganized ranks. Calling for armored support to blast out the German troops hidden behind a wall, he unhesitatingly exposed himself to heavy small-arms fire to stand beside a friendly tank and tell its occupants where to rip holes in walls protecting approaches to the school building. He then trained machine guns on the gaps and mowed down all hostile troops attempting to cross the openings to get closer to the school building. By his intrepidity and bold, aggressive leadership, T/Sgt. Bell enabled his 8-man squad to drive back approximately 150 of the enemy, killing at least 87 and capturing 42. Personally, he killed more than 20 and captured 33 prisoners.

Bell's family moved to Point Pleasant where he lived when he entered the army. He left the Army on June 19, 1945, with the rank of warrant officer.

He died on January 8, 1971, after accidentally choking to death while eating, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Hopefully we will be able to give life to the Calhoun Hall of Fame and work with local government, the Calhoun Historical Society and concerned and interested citizens to do this.

Do you have a candidate?

Let me know. Let's make this a reality.

THE TRUTH: What is the truth?

Why do we see the truth from so many different angles? Especially what is the truth about America? I, and millions of others see America as a victim of Joe Biden and the current administration, seeing them as evil and knowing that the re-election of Donald Trump and his MAGA ideals will heal the country. We see the Biden supporters as misled victims of a lying political party, a lying mainstream media and a lying deep state. On the other hand supporters of Joe Biden see us MAGA supporters as liars and stupid. We are diametrically opposed with the major difference being we look at them as misled and they look at us more personally as liars and stupid. When will THE TRUTH come out?

When will we know who is right and who is wrong? And will those in the wrong be able to accept the truth? And will those in the right be able to be magnanimous in accepting those who were wrong back? It's a helluva problem but one that must be solved for America to go forward. God help us.

Until next time stay safe but don't live life in a bubble.

DNR updates upcoming hunting regulation changes

Updated hunting regulations for white-tailed deer, wild turkey and black bear went into effect on July 1, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced recently with the release of its 2024-25 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary. "With West Virginia's world-class deer seasons and other small and big game hunting opportunities, hunters have a lot to look forward to this fall, so we want to encourage everyone to review these important changes and plan accordingly," said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. The updated regulations summary is available to download at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations. Hunters who wish to obtain a printed copy should contact their local hunting and fishing license agent or WVDNR district office. Copies will also be available at the WVDNR's Elkins Operation Center and South Charleston headquarters by July 1. Major changes include the following:

Antlerless deer season dates and open counties have changed.

Fall wild turkey season dates and open counties have changed.

Season dates and open counties for black bear firearms hunting seasons have changed.

The annual antlered deer bag limit for all regular deer seasons combined is two,



except that three antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area by Class XS license holders.

Deer carcass transport regulations are now implemented for Jefferson County.

Coyote night hunting is permitted only on private land with written consent of the private landowner from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31.

In addition to reviewing the updated regulations, hunters are reminded to purchase their 2024 West Virginia hunting license and stamps before the seasons start this fall. To purchase a license and stamps, visit WVhunt.com. To learn more about the WVDNR's license products, such as durable license cards, visit WVdnr.gov/2024-licenses.

OBITUARY



Dr. Jerry Wilson

Dr. Jerry Dick Wilson, 87, of Greenwood, died on Monday, June 24, 2024. Born in Co-shocton, OH, on May 6, 1937, the son of the late Walter and Mary Wilson, he is survived by his wife Sandra daughter, Lee Sulkin (Steve) of Frisco, TX and son, Tod Wilson of Charleston; three stepdaughters, Kimberly Church (Kevin) and Tricia Funk (David), both of Grantsville, WV., and Kimberly Arnold of Simpsonville; and a stepson, Jon Christopher Cook of Woodruff; eight grandchildren, Sha Wilson, Sky Wilson, Sidney Sulkin, Caleb Sulkin, Ethan Sulkin, Samara (Chris) Keith, Brittany Frymier and Joshua (Nicolle) Funk; and seven great-grandchildren, Kinlea Church, Kylynn Keith, Cruz Frymier, Carter Funk, Keegan Hepstall, Hayden Hepstall, and Landon Hepstall.

After graduating as valedictorian of his high school class in 1955, he served three years in the U.S. Army, being trained and working as a medical technologist, subsequently becoming registered with the national

AMT (American Medical Technologist). Upon discharge, Jerry entered Ohio University earning B.S. in physics, while operating the University Health Center medical laboratory. His M.S. was obtained from Union College (Schenectady, NY) while working for the General Electric Co. as a dialectic behavior physicist. He returned to Ohio University where he earned his Ph.D. in 1970.

While a graduate student at Ohio University, he taught physical science courses as a faculty lecturer. During this time, he coauthored a textbook, "An Introduction to Physical Science", with three other faculty members. It was published locally, and then nationally in 1971. (This book was to follow him through most of his life.) He published another textbook, "An Environmental Approach to Physical Science", while at Ohio University.

On graduating with his doctorate, he remained on the faculty at Ohio University for five years before accepting a position at Lander College (now University) in 1975. Dr. Wilson taught 17 years at Lander University, 14 of which he served as department Chair. During his tenure at Lander, he authored five more textbooks in physics and physical sciences, retiring in 1992. Some of his textbooks were translated into Spanish, Italian, Jap-

anese, and Korean.

His retirement was a busy one, authoring two more textbooks along with new editions of existing textbooks. One of these, of which he was particularly proud, was the 2021 publication of the 15th edition of the original 1971 physical science text, having been in production and used at colleges and universities across the country for 50 years. Also, while at Lander he began writing a question-and-answer column, the "Science Corner", in 1982 for the local newspaper. Gaining in scope, the name was changed to the "Curiosity Corner", and eventually appeared weekly in five regional newspapers and on the internet until January 2024. Dr. Wilson lived a long and productive life.

A memorial service was conducted at 10:30 am Saturday, June 29, 2024 at St. Mark United Methodist Church with Rev. Jason Wilson and Rev. Dan Smyth officiating.

The family is at the home in Bridge Point and received friends at the church immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Jerry D. Wilson Excellence in Science Scholarship at Lander University.

Blyth Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Greenwood, SC is assisting the Wilson family.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

1) Opinion Editorials (Op-Eds) and Letters to the Editor may contain constructive criticisms, thoughts, and observations based on reliable information. Each submission is reviewed and accepted on an individual basis.

2) Discourse should be generally respectful, without profanity, rooted in fact, professionally presented (satire is acceptable), and written by the person submitting. All submissions are subject to revision concerning writing me-

chanics, space available, and accuracy.

3) Editorial staff reserves the right to contact others concerning the subject matter to balance the presentation of the issue and/or concern.

3) Phone numbers must be included to facilitate editorial questions and fact-checking processes.

Editorials, letters to the editor, press releases, meeting notices, and announcements can be sent to contact@calhounchronicle.com.

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and
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"Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts"

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Calhoun Civil Air Patrol Squadron holds weekly meetings on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at 413 High Street Grantsville, WV.

The First Baptist Calhoun Food Pantry on Route 5 E outside of Grantsville is a non-profit food pantry open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Community Resources Incorporated (CRI) Food Pantry: Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.- 4 p.m., with free USDA commodities to those who qualify (food pantry only) on Court Street.

Upper West Fork Park meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Calhoun County Park, a Night Sky Park, is always open - except for a special occasion or event that requires closing of the gate. The park board meets the 1st Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. in the park's "barn."

Calhoun County Historical Society meets at the Family History Center Museum (former Quality Shop) on Main Street on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

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. Online 24 hours at <https://calhouncountylibrary.org/>.

The Cabot Recycling Station buyback program is held on Tuesdays, Thursdays from 8:00-4:00, Saturdays from 8:00-12:00 west of Grantsville on Rt. 5. Tire collection is held the third Friday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Car, ATV, and light truck tires, 16 inches or less accepted, with a limit of 10 tires per person free of charge. Tires on wheels not accepted. Calhoun resident tires only.

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

Minnora Methodist Mission Thrift Shop is open Mon & Wed 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fri 10 - 1, providing affordable clothing and household items.

The Welfare of Animals Group (WAG) can assist low-income Calhoun County homes with 50% of their cat or dog spay/neuter fee. For information call 354-7042. Donations of dry cat food can be dropped off at Calhoun County Library, Grantsville.

The **Grantsville Pickleball Club** plays on Tuesday and Thursday nights in the Town Park at 7:00 p.m., weather permitting.

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

Mark your calendars for **Heartwood in the Hills Homecoming** on September 21, 2024 honoring 42 years of Celebrating the Artist in Every Person.

Lion's Club Bingo is held in the Lion's Club Building, 103 Stump St., Grantsville, on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 6 p.m.

Little Kanawha Calhoun Bus Schedule: Monday through Friday - Service within Grantsville city limits. Monday - Service to/from Annamoriah and Creston along Route 5 East/West. Tuesday - Service to/from Millstone, Arnoldsburg, Westfork, and locations south. Wednesday - Central county service to/from Mt. Zion, Russett, and Stumptown. Thursday - Roundtrip service along Route 16 North including Pleasant Hill, Nobe, Broomstick, and Big Springs. Roundtrip service from Grantsville to Parkersburg. Service between counties is available Monday-Friday to/from Grantsville. Call Toll-Free: 866-354-5522.

County Farmer's Markets
Calhoun County Farmer's Market, Upper West Fork Park, Chloe. Wednesdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,
Arnoldsburg Farmer's Market, West Fork Park, Arnoldsburg. Fridays 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Berea Gardens Drive Thru Farmer's Market, Beres Gardens, Minnora. Wednesdays 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Grantsville Farmer's Market, Season details not yet available.

To add your community service information to this listing email contact@calhounchronicle.com.

e-WV The West Virginia Encyclopedia

www.wvencyclopedia.org

Contact: Stan Bumgardner • bumgardner@wvhumanities.org • 304-346-8500

July 4, 1882: The steamboats Scioto and John Lomas collided on the Ohio River as they were returning from holiday excursions. The Scioto sank almost instantly, and 70 people drowned.



July 4, 1918: Poet Muriel Miller Dressler was born in Kanawha County. Her poem "Appalachia," published in 1970, was her signature piece.



July 4, 1928: West Virginia dedicated Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park. Droop Mountain was one of the most important Civil War battles fought on West Virginia soil.



July 4, 1938: Musician Bill Withers Jr. was born into a miner's family of 13 children in Slab Fork, Raleigh County. In 1971, he released his first album, Just As I Am, including his first Grammy-winning song, "Ain't No Sunshine." In 2015, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

July 4, 1944: Drummer Butch Miles was born in Ohio but grew up in Hinton and Charleston. He became one of jazz's greatest drummers, performing with the likes of Count Basie, Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, and Tony Bennett.

July 5, 1896: Cartoonist Kendall Vintroux was

born at Fraziers Bottom. He began his career with the Charleston Gazette when he submitted a cartoon about the town of Poca's first paved road. Many of his drawings are now in the collection of the University of Charleston.

July 5, 1923: Football coach John McKay was born in Everettville, Monongalia County, and graduated from Shinnston High. McKay is the winningest coach in University of Southern California history, leading his teams to a 127-40-8 record from 1960 to 1975, when he became the first head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



July 5, 1950: Army Private Kenneth Shadrick of Wyoming County was one of the first U.S. servicemen killed in action in the Korean War.



July 6, 1806: Statesman Charles James Faulkner was born in Martinsburg. Faulkner served in the West Virginia legislature, U.S. Congress (1851-59, 1875-77), as U.S. minister to France, and as an aide to "Stonewall" Jackson during the Civil War.



July 6, 1848: Historian Virgil A. Lewis was born in Mason County. In 1905, Governor Dawson appointed Lewis as the first director of the Bureau of Archives and History.



July 6, 1883: Judge "R. D." Bailey was born at Baileysville, Wyoming County. Bailey came into wide prominence as the judge of the Matewan Massacre trial in 1921.

July 7, 1928: The Madonna of the Trail monument was dedicated in Wheeling. It is one of 12 such statues erected along the National Road to honor America's pioneering women.



July 8, 1894: Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photographer, Aegerter built both a studio and darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement. The glass plate negatives survive today in several archived collections.



July 8, 1924: Rock 'n' roll pioneer Johnnie Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as "Roll Over,

Beethoven." Berry's hit "Johnny B. Goode" was supposedly written as a tribute to Johnson.



July 8, 1961: Sutton Dam was dedicated by Governor Wally Barron. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam for the purposes of flood control, low-flow augmentation and recreation.



July 9, 1942: An explosion at the Pursglove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in an eight-month period.



July 9, 1989: Treasurer A. James Manchin resigned after being impeached. With a stock market downturn in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly \$300 million in investments for which he was responsible.

July 10, 1769: Physician Jesse Bennet was born. He performed the first successful caesarian section in America in 1794, on his own wife and without proper equipment and with no antiseptics. He later established a large practice in Mason County and served as an Army surgeon in the War of 1812.

July 10, 1936: The temperature in Martinsburg reached 112 degrees. It tied the record for the state's hottest recorded temperature, which had been set August 4, 1930, at Moorefield.

Library Trivia Night

We had a wonderful evening of trivia with lots of new faces!

9 teams competed in 6 rounds of trivia questions, with the "All In The Family" Team taking the win. Our West Virginia round was the crowd favorite, and homemade pepperoni rolls were enjoyed by all for refreshments.

Thank you all for coming out and participating! We hope you've enjoyed it as much as we have. Our next Trivia Night will be July 25, 2024.

WIC office open

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program is 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.

The Calhoun County WIC Clinic is located at 2 B Hospital Drive Grantsville. It is in the lower level of the Minnie Hamilton Health Care Center and is located in the same area as the health department. The WIC office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, with a clinic held every Wednesday.

The Calhoun County WIC Office will be closed Thursday July 4th and July 29th - July 31st for a conference.

Morgan Morgan Family Reunion set

The 2024 Morgan Family Reunion will be held on July 27, Pricketts Fort, Fairmont, WV. For further information please contact; mrshillbilly83@yahoo.com or call 304-782-1469. Registration is required. This is a great opportunity to meet your Morgan cousins. This is for any descendant of Morgan Morgan.

Reunion scheduled

The Curtis Hathaway Reunion will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2024, with lunch at noon at the Calhoun County Park Herbert Smith Building.

Senior Center music

Music At the Senior Center on July 13th 50/50 and concessions will be available stats at 6 pm Everyone welcome.

Food giveaway

There will be a free food giveaway on Friday July 5 4-5 pm at Brohard Community Building free opportunity provider. For more information contact Shelly Murphy at 304-354-6739.

INDEPENDENCE

Continued from Page 1

-- August 4, 1776, after delegates of the Continental Congress had signed the document, the Declaration of Independence was made official.

How Did Our Founders Envision Independence Day Celebrations?

John Adams envisioned the celebration as one filled with fun, games, and fireworks — not an occasion for displaying military strength (as one might expect)!

On July 3, 1776, he wrote these words to his wife Abigail, describing the way that he hoped future Americans would celebrate their independence.

“Yesterday the greatest Question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men. A Resolution was passed without one dissenting Colony ‘that these united Colonies, are, and of right ought to be free and independent States, and as such, they have, and of Right ought to have full Power to make War, conclude Peace, establish Commerce, and to do all the other Acts and Things, which other States might rightfully do...’

The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

On July 18, 1777, an issue of the Virginia Gazette describes the July 4 celebration in Philadelphia:

“The evening was closed with the ringing of bells, and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks, which began and concluded with thirteen rockets on the commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated. Everything was conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and the face of joy and gladness was universal.”

A number of years passed before celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common. Interestingly, the deaths

of John Adams (and Thomas Jefferson) seemed to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated. And it was almost a century later (in 1870) that Congress declared July 4 a national holiday.

What’s really special about America’s celebration of freedom is it was quite different for its time, focusing on the joys of freedom. Many countries have emulated this spirit of celebration ever since.

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in the history of the United States. It was an official act taken by all 13 American colonies in declaring independence from British rule.

The document was originally written by Thomas Jefferson, but Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, along with Jefferson then worked together to make changes. The final draft of the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, but the actual signing of the final document took place on August 2, 1776.

Here is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence (U.S. 1776):

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.”

More Fourth of July History:
 July 4, 1776: Thomas Jefferson noted in his “Weather Memorandum Book” that the weather was cloudy, the temperature 76°F.
 July 4, 1826: Both John Adams and

Thomas Jefferson—signers of the Declaration of Independence who each later became president—died on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the declaration.

July 4, 1884: The Statue of Liberty was formally presented to the United States by the people of France.

July 4, 1911: It was a hot Fourth of July in New England. All-time state records were set in Nashua, New Hampshire (106°F), and Vernon, Vermont (105°F).

4th of July Trivia

While we celebrate with fireworks, let’s not forget the freedom that our founding fathers declared to the world over two centuries ago. Here are some fun facts you may not know about the holiday:

Q. Why is the name “John Hancock” synonymous with “your signature”?

A. Hancock’s bold signature on the Declaration of Independence dwarfed the signatures of the other signers. Legend says that Hancock wanted the king of England to see the rebellious signature without having to wear his spectacles!

Q. When did America declare independence?

A. Congress ruled in favor of independence on July 2, 1776. Two days later, on July 4, Congress accepted Jefferson’s declaration document. Nonetheless, John Adams thought July 2 should be Independence Day.

Q. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4?

A. Only two men signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 — John Hancock, president of the Congress, and Charles Thompson, secretary of the Congress.

Q. On what day did most people sign the Declaration of Independence?

A. August 2, 1776.

Q. When did Independence Day become a national holiday?

A. The Fourth of July was not declared a federal holiday until 1938!

Q. Is anything written on the back of the Declaration of Independence?

A. Yes, but not a treasure map like a certain favorite film suggests! The mes-

sage “Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776” is written upside down on the back of the Declaration of Independence.

Q. Where is the Declaration of Independence document today?

A. Thomas Jefferson’s original draft was lost, and the one eventually signed is the “engrossed” document. It is kept at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., for all to see.

Of the 200 printed copies of the Declaration made by John Dunlap (the Dunlap Broadides), only 27 are accounted for. One of these was found in the back of a picture frame at a tag sale and sold at auction for \$8.14 million to television producer Norman Lear in 2000. It traveled the country on display to the public for ten years.

Q. Where was George Washington when the Declaration of Independence was written?

A. In July 1776, Washington was in New York with his troops. On July 9, he received his copy of the Declaration with a note from John Hancock telling Washington to share the news with his soldiers. The men were so excited that they rushed over to Bowling Green and tore down the statue of King George III. Shortly after this, the British, as Washington expected, attacked the colonists, and the American Revolution was under way. The colonists fought eight long, hard years (1775–83) for independence from Britain.

After the war, George Washington hoped to retire and return to Mount Vernon, Virginia. Instead, in 1789, the electors unanimously voted him in as the first president of the United States. Because it was such an honor, and he felt a great duty to his country, he accepted. He departed Mount Vernon on April 16 and arrived in New York City on April 30 for his inauguration. As he took his oath, standing on the balcony of the Federal Hall, the crowd broke into cheers. The members of his first Cabinet included Thomas Jefferson as secretary of state and Alexander Hamilton as secretary of the treasury.

Be Safe This Fourth of July

The Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department would like to remind our residents to be safe during the Fourth of July festivities.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission recently shared these safety tips around fireworks:

- Never allow children to play with or light fireworks, including sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit—hot enough to melt some metals.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area, and only purchase and set off fireworks that are labeled for consumer (not professional) use.
- Never use fireworks while also using alcohol or drugs.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby, in case of fire.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back to a safe distance quickly.
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Never place any part of your body directly over fireworks when lighting the fuse.
- Never point or throw fireworks (including sparklers) at anyone.
- After fireworks complete their burning, to prevent a trash fire, douse them with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding

Additionally, FoodSafety.gov shared grilling and picnic safety tips:

- Always start grilling with clean hands. You should

especially wash your hands before and after touching raw meat, poultry and seafood items to prevent the spread of foodborne illness bacteria.

-- Always wash fruits and vegetables before preparing. Run fruits and vegetables under clean, running water and gently rub to remove any debris. Dry fruits and vegetables with a clean cloth or paper towel to further reduce bacteria that may be present.

-- Never wash or rinse meat, poultry or seafood items. Doing so greatly increases your risk of cross-contamination because bacteria can be spread to other foods, utensils and surfaces.

- Always keep your raw meat, poultry and seafood items separate from ready-to-eat foods. Keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood chilled until ready to grill, in the fridge or in an insulated cooler, below 40°F.
- Clean work surfaces, utensils, and the grill before and after cooking.
- Examine the grill surface carefully for bristles that might have dropped off the grill brush. They could get into your cooked food and hurt you if swallowed.
- As soon as you put raw items on the grill, get a clean plate or serving dish ready for when the items are done. Ultimately, it is NOT safe to use the same plate or utensils you originally used to place raw items on the grill, unless they have been fully washed and sanitized.
- Throw away or thoroughly cook marinades and sauces that have touched raw meat or seafood.

• The recommended safe internal temperature varies depending on the product you’re cooking:

- Beef, pork, lamb and veal (steaks, roasts and chops): 145°F (63°C) (with a 3-minute rest time)
- Ground meats (including burgers and hot dogs): 160°F (71°C)
- Whole poultry, poultry breasts and ground poultry: 165°F (74°C)
- Fish: 145°F (63°C)

• The rates of food poisoning increase in summer because bacteria grow faster in warmer weather. Eating food left in the Danger Zone (40°F to 140°F) for too long can make people sick.

• Put leftovers in the freezer or refrigerator within two hours of cooking—or ONE hour if above 90°F outside.

• Throw away any remaining perishable food that isn’t refrigerated.

“We hope everyone enjoys a fun and most importantly, SAFE, Fourth of July,” said Amy Phelps, Public Information Officer of the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department.

Find more safety information at cpsc.gov and food-safety.gov.

The Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department serves Wood, Wirt, Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie and Roane counties. It is located at 211 Sixth St. in Parkersburg. The offices are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 304-485-7374 or visit the website, movhd.com for more information. Follow them at Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department.

Upper West Fork Park Schedule

Doors open at 4:30 P.M.
Kitchen opens at 5:00 P.M.
Music: 7:00 to 10:00 P.M.

- 2024**
 6/29/24 ATV/UTV Mud Race
 7/6/24 Mud Bog
 7/12/23 Sportsmen’s Bingo at Arnoldsburg Park
 7/13/24 Ruff Cut
 7/20/24 Flannel
 7/27/24 Frank Conn & Partners
 8/3/24 Stephanie and the Band of Brothers
 8/10/24 Ruff Cut
 8/17/24 Closed – bridge replacement
 8/24/24 Closed – bridge replacement
 8/31/24 Retro Country
 9/7/24 Stephanie and the Band of Brothers
 9/14/24 Sincerely Country
 9/21/24 Mud Bog
 9/28/24 Closed - Molasses Festival
 10/5/24 Frank Conn & Partners
 10/12/24 Closed – Black Walnut Festival
 10/13/24 Gospel Sing – Stephanie and the Band of Brothers 2:00-4:00
 10/19/24 Retro Country
 10/26/24 Dixie Highway
 11/2/24 Frank Conn & Partners
 11/9/24 Ruff Cut
 11/16/24 Stephanie and the Band of Brothers
 11/23/24 Dixie Highway
 11/30/24 Retro Country
 12/1/24 Christmas Gospel Sing – Rick Poling 2:00-4:00
 12/7/24 Stephanie and the Band of Brothers
 12/14/24 Ruff Cut
 12/21/24 Dixie Highway
 12/28/24 Flannel

Calhoun Bus Schedule A.M. Routes

North Route 1
 Route 16 North-DHHR 7:20 AM, Rt 16 North Entrance of Yellow Creek 7:35 AM, Five Forks 7:40 AM, Pleasant Hill Elementary 7:43 AM, Vaughn Road, 7:46 AM, Calhoun Banks 7:50 AM, Minnie Hamilton 7:52 AM, Calhoun Middle High School

North End Route 2
 Starts at Creston 7:25 AM, Annamoriah Rd 7:30 AM, Monday Road 7:33 AM, Rt 5 Entrance of Yellow Creek 7:36 AM, Furs Auto 7:42 AM, Leading Creek 7:46 AM: Court House 7:50 AM, Foodland/Old High School 7:53 AM, Calhoun Middle High School

South End Route 1,
 Start at Stinson Store 7:20 AM, Rt 1 Walnut Rd 7:24 AM, Oka Rd (West Fork Riding Ring) 7:28 AM, Rt 16 Sears Run Road 7:31 AM, R16 Milo Road 7:35 AM, Rt 16 Nicut 7:40, Crummies Creek 7:43, The Y 7:51, Calhoun Middle High School.

South End Route 2
 Henrys Fork 7:20 AM, Rt 33 Pink Rd 7:24 AM, Rt 33 Beech/Jesse Run Rd 7:27 AM, Altizer Rd 7:31 AM, Rt 33 Spring Run Rd 7:34 AM, Rt 33 Sassafras Rd 7:45 AM, Russet Rd 7:55 AM, Calhoun Middle High School

Bus Schedule P.M. Routes - Reversal of morning routes with departure time from Calhoun Middle High School
 There will be no midday bus runs.

These bus routes are subject to change depending upon student enrollment on already established routes. Times are estimates only and parents are asked to have children there early on the first day and be prepared to wait beyond the announced arrival time. Parents must be there to receive their children, as the bus cannot wait for long periods of time.

Any changes in bus routes and/or schedules will be announced to children and parents, if possible, at least one day before changes are made.

Anyone having questions can call Joe Paxton, 304-354-7011, Ext. 315.

Lessons learned as a coach and later on

By Gaylen Duskey

I have coached off and on and once upon a time the team I coached was pretty good.

That was a long time ago back when I was still young and full of vim and vigor.

And I coached those young guys aggressively. I had 48 players. I lost one and played the season with 47 young seventh, eighth and ninth graders and they wanted to learn, and they wanted to do good.

So, did I.

One day while reading my Sports Illustrated magazine, I came across an article about a new offense that some high school coach had come up with that Bill Yeoman the coach at the University of Houston adapted and scored a ton of points.

They called it the wishbone.

It was quickly installed at schools like Texas and Oklahoma, and it was very, very effective whether it went under the name wishbone, flex bone, triple option or veer. It was basically the same thing with just a slight variance and a different name.

It works this way: "The wishbone has the quarterback taking the snap from under center, with a fullback close behind him, and two halfbacks (sometimes called tailbacks) further back, one slightly to the left, and the other slightly to the right. The alignment of the four backs makes an inverted Y, or "wishbone", shape. There is typically one wide receiver and one tight end, but sometimes two wide receivers, or two tight ends.

"The wishbone was designed to facilitate a running, option offense. It allows the quarterback to easily run the triple option to either side of the line. The

quarterback first reads the defensive tackle or linebacker who is unblocked. As he reads the tackle/linebacker, he rides the ball in the fullback's gut. If the defensive tackle/linebacker looks to tackle the fullback the quarterback pulls the ball out and runs down the line to his next option read, usually the defensive end/outside linebacker. If the end/linebacker looks to tackle the quarterback, the ball is pitched to the trailing halfback. The lead halfback is a lead blocker usually looking to block the outside defensive player, a safety or corner. The tight end to the option side 'arc' releases to block the safety."

It was that simple and any coach could run it if they had the athletes.

I had the athletes. I had running backs such as Chip Westfall, Rick Poling, Terry Hartshorn, Perry Campbell, Bruce Bates and Perry Richards. I also had quarterbacks Dean Cain, Smoke Secrist and Joe Wright and Joe Wright was a little magician running the triple option.

And we scored a lot of points and along the way confused a lot of people including the referees because this was way back in the 1960s and the had not seen a triple option offense before.

But we ran it, and we were pretty good at it.

Meanwhile Calhoun's varsity coach staff Robert 'Froggy' Young and John Porterfield did not run that offense so the guys they had coming in were good but not acclimated to what they were going to be doing when they got to the varsity level.

But all good things must end they say and for me it did when I got my orders to report to active duty otherwise known as basic training.

When I got back Froggy had moved on the coach at

Beckley Park Junior High School (he was a Beckley native and took this job to go home) and he was replaced by Frank Knight who had been head coach at Tyler County High School.

I was told I was not needed and got on with my life.

It was when I got on with my life as a sports writer and sports editor that I learned how wrong I had been while being right.

It was while working at the Huntington Herald-Dispatch I met coaching legend the late Carl Ward.

Ward coached at Ceredo-Kenova where he won 10 state football titles to go with two basketball title and a track championship.

During his career he went 244-61-1 in football and was elected to the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame on the first ballot.

I asked him how he just kept winning and he said I was the system.

And what was the system?

He said players starting in youth league through junior high through high school all ran the same plays from the same playbook.

Wow!

And here I was all aglow from winning games running plays that weren't even close to that the varsity was running.

I thought about that while checking out the schedule for the Calhoun youth league teams that was released this week.

I hope Jeff Goodrich gets ahold of the youth coaches and hands them a playbook with all the varsity plays. Hey, I know Carl Ward was a much, much better coach than I was so I would do it his way.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 4TH GRID @ NEW MARTINSVILLE 10:00 AM	SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH CALHOUN @ DODDRIDGE 4:00 PM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18TH BRAXTON @ CALHOUN 1:00 PM	SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH GILMER @ CALHOUN 1:00 PM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH CALHOUN @ RAVENSWOOD 1:00 PM	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH CLAY @ CALHOUN 1:00 PM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND CALHOUN @ ELK RIVER 1:00 PM	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH ROANE @ CALHOUN 1:00 PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH CALHOUN @ WEBSTER 1:00 PM	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH @ DODDRIDGE LKC 1ST ROUND PLAYOFFS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH @ ELK RIVER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH @ CLAY LKC 2ND ROUND PLAYOFFS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH @ WIRT	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH LKC CHAMPIONSHIP AT TYLER COUNTY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH CHEER COMPETITION AT CALHOUN	

REGULAR SEASON GAME START TIMES ARE FOR C TEAM, B AND A TEAMS TO FOLLOW. IF THERE IS A FLAG GAME IT WILL BE 1 HOUR PRIOR TO START TIME.

MUD BOG

Upper West Fork Park

Gates open at 9 am
 Race starts at 12pm
 Mud to follow

Tech ends at 11:30 for speed
 Registration closes at 11:45
 Drivers Meeting at 11:45
 All Drivers must be in staging area during class

July 6, 2024

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- *Modified
- *Super Street
- *Hot Street
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- *Old Heavy
- *Pure Street

MUD

- *Outlaw
- *Deep 3
- *Vacuum Mud
- *Deep 2
- *Deep 1
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Citizen of state should have lower tax rates

Gov. Jim Justice delivered his final fiscal year-end report, announcing that the annual revenue surplus will trigger another reduction in personal income tax rates.

State revenue collections exceeded estimates by \$826.6 million for Fiscal Year 2024, enabling a 3% or 4% personal income tax cut, as set by the trigger system in House Bill 2526, which the Governor signed in 2023.

"Today is truly a day for celebration in West Virginia," Gov. Justice said. "When I first took office, I promised you all a rocket ship ride, and look at us now. We've cut over a billion dollars in taxes, and it's truly unbelievable. This is exactly what a responsible government should do for its people, especially in a state like ours. When the state does well, the people do well. That's why we established these triggers. As West Virginia thrives, our people thrive and deserve that prosperity. We already have so much to be proud of, but there's more work ahead. I won't be your Governor much longer, and we need to continue marching towards eliminating the personal income tax. Doing so will only bring more and more people to this incredible place and promote even more goodness."

The bill's automatic trigger system reduces the personal income tax rate when revenue collections exceed the rate of inflation, which will be announced on July 11, 2024. This trigger puts the state on a path to elimi-

nating its personal income tax. Additionally, the Governor celebrated the end of the longstanding "pop tax," a 1-cent tax, which has been eliminated as of today.

"Today we have another historic announcement, which seems like we get to do quite often in the Justice Administration." Larry Pack, Acting Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Revenue, said. "We're cutting taxes across the board, yet our surplus keeps growing stronger. Under his leadership we've experienced unprecedented economic growth. Gov. Justice is right; the last seven years have indeed been a rocket ship ride. West Virginia is truly experiencing something special, and we should all be proud to watch it happen."

Gov. Justice also asked the legislature to consider additional tax cuts when they come to town for a planned special session in August as they consider a child care tax credit, which he proposed during his 2024 State of the State Address, among other funding matters. The Governor was joined by members of the West Virginia Legislature on stage, including Speaker Roger Hanshaw and President Craig Blair.

To date, Gov. Justice and the West Virginia Legislature have delivered over \$1 billion in tax cuts to the people of West Virginia. Today's tax cut begins on January 1, 2025. More information is available on the West Virginia State Tax Department's website.

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ASSOCIATION • SERVICES • FOUNDATION

CLASSIFIEDS

Bring Classifieds to the Chronicle office or mail to Box 400, Grantsville, WV

26147. Classifieds Ads must be paid in advance.

Classifieds are \$10 plus .35¢ a word after 28 words.

The legacy of G. Foster Hedges, Jr., and the will of a united community

In 1965, the outlook for modern health care in Roane County, W. Va., was bleak. A few experienced but aging physicians were responsible for serving the county's entire population; access to emergency care required traveling miles away to larger cities; and recruiting young, new providers to a rural community without modern facilities was a near impossible feat.

Living and working in a rural area brought unique health challenges to families, and Spencer, West Virginia native G. Foster Hedges, Jr., understood that in order for the community to progress, the critical need for access to modern health care close to home had to be met. Hedges acted with urgency and put his law practice aside to accept the challenge of building what would become Roane General Hospital (RGH).

The Hospital Development Company was organized in the spring of 1966. As Chairman, Hedges led a board of 14 local leaders and a handful of other dedicated volunteers on a mission to unite the community and raise \$500,000 to help pay for the construction of a new community hospital. It was a large undertaking that required tireless commitment from all in-

olved.

Hedges and his wife, Mary Helen, helped kickstart the effort by making an initial contribution of \$35,000 – an investment equivalent to more than \$337,000 in present day value. Other board members followed suit, and soon after so did the community.

The shared goal of a new hospital and the future it promised brought in donations large and small from across the region at an expedient pace. The community fundraising goal was surpassed in three and a half months under Hedges' leadership – an unprecedented success, even today.

The Hospital Development Company continued to secure federal funding and oversee the development of the project. When construction was completed in November 1969, Roane General Hospital was dedicated in a formal ceremony. On a hilltop in Spencer where prize-winning cattle once grazed, there was now a brand-new hospital that signified much more than quality health care for the community that helped build it. It was a dream realized for so many, including G. Foster Hedges.

Hedges served the hospital in a leadership capacity as Board Chairman from

1966 until his passing in 1986. He also served as Interim Chief Administrator during a vacancy in 1972. During those years, Mary Helen was also an influential voice supporting her husband in leadership activities on behalf of the hospital. The couple's commitment to RGH and their shared vision for a healthier community is one that has been carried on by younger generations of their family.

For the last 30 years, a member of the Hedges family has played an active role on the hospital's Board of Directors, including David Hedges (1994-2001), Tom Whittier (1994-2011), Christine Hedges (2011-2023) and Annie Hedges (2023-present day). Through many seasons of change, they have helped to ensure that the founding principles laid forth by G. Foster Hedges and the original members remain a guiding light in every decision that's made.

Today, Roane General Hospital is one of only five remaining independent, wholly-owned and operated Critical Access Hospitals in West Virginia. According to Chief Executive Officer Doug Bentz, Roane General Hospital's humble beginnings are what set it apart from other like-sized hospitals in the state. Though the facility has transformed in many ways over the years,

the vision and heart with which it operates are still very much the same.

Based in Spencer, W. Va., Roane General Hospital (RGH) is a health system dedicated to the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective health care across its primary and secondary service areas of Roane, Calhoun, Jackson and Wirt counties. The RGH network includes a critical access hospital with a 25-bed inpatient, acute-care unit; a 35-bed Swing Bed rehabilitation unit; a Level IV Trauma Center; five rural health clinics; a Long-Term care facility; and the Center for Wellness complex. RGH offers a wide range of services that include primary care, acute walk-in care, cardiology, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, general surgery, imaging services, infusion services, interventional pain management, neurosurgery, oncology and more. In recent years, RGH has become increasingly focused on improving the health of its patient population through its innovative Prescription for Your Health Program (P4YH). P4YH offers patients coordinated access, through a health coach, to a medical plan of care, nutrition education, and individualized fitness regimens. For more information about RGH, visit roanegeneralhospital.org.

WorkForce West Virginia announces July 3 Statewide Virtual Job Fair

WorkForce West Virginia announced the next date in a series of Statewide Virtual Job Fairs today. Both employers and job seekers are invited to participate in the virtual event on Wednesday, July 3, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

"We invite all West Virginia job seekers and employers to register now for our free Statewide Virtual Job Fair on July 3," said Scott Adkins, Acting Commissioner of WorkForce West Virginia. "These online job fairs provide job seekers here in the Mountain State an opportunity to connect with employers, learn more about available opportunities and take the next step in their careers. Whether you're looking for seasonal employment, a recent graduate ready to start your career or ready for a complete career change, you can find your next step here."

Registration is required for both interested employers and job seekers. Register as a job seeker for the July 3 Statewide Virtual Job Fair.

"WorkForce West Virginia's Statewide Virtual Job Fairs continue to see monu-

mental success in pairing West Virginia employers with qualified job seekers," said James Bailey, Secretary of the WV Department of Commerce. "The June 2024 event saw a record 1,145 job seekers register to connect with more than 100 employers from various industries across the state."

When attending the event, job seekers are encouraged to dress professionally and have a calm, clutter-free background. The Virtual Statewide Job Fair portal features a Job Seeker Training video, a list of participating employers, and channels for attendees to register and log in.

After registering for the first time, new employers will create a "Virtual Booth" to connect with job seekers. After completion, this booth will be available during subsequent job fairs. Click here to register as an employer for the July 3 event.

For more information about WorkForce West Virginia and the Statewide Virtual Job Fairs, visit www.workforcewv.org or contact wfwv@wv.gov.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CALHOUN COUNTY COMMISSION/PARK SERVICE
CALHOUN COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
CALHOUN COUNTY PARK BATH & SHOWER FACILITIES

General Notice

Calhoun County Commission/Park Service (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

**Calhoun County Park Bath & Shower Facilities
Thrasher Project #060-10308**

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Calhoun County Park Community Building located at 380 Park Pl., Grantsville, WV 26147, until **Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

The Calhoun County Park Bath and Shower Facilities is a split face CMU building with pre-engineered wood trusses and corrugated metal roof. Utilities are located at adjacent Community Building that include water, electric, and gas. Sanitary connections are to be made to new septic system installed separately by Owner. The plan includes restrooms on either side of a central mechanical room and a series of individual showers along the back. At each gable end the roof structure extends with a 5'-0" overhang with a v-groove metal soffit.

Bids are requested for the following Contract: **Calhoun County Park Bath & Shower Facilities**

The Work will be substantially completed within 120 calendar days after the date when the Contract Times commence to run, and completed and ready for final payment within 30 days after the date when the Contract Times commence to run. Liquidated damages shall be \$50.00 per day.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

QuestCDN: <https://tinyurl.com/zu5z8553> or www.thetrashergroup.com

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website. The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

**The Thrasher Group, Inc.
600 White Oaks Boulevard
Bridgeport, WV 26330**

Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office by paying the amount of each set listed below.

Bidding Documents may be purchased from the Issuing Office during the hours indicated above. Cost does not include shipping charges. Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, printed Bidding Documents or electronic documents will be transmitted to the prospective Bidder. The shipping charge amount will depend on the shipping method requested. Bidding Documents are available for purchase in the following formats:

- Bidding Documents issued as hard copy full-size drawings and hard copy specifications, are available for **\$40.00** per set.
- Bidding Documents issued as digital drawings and digital specifications, are available for **\$20.00** per set via the following link:
QuestCDN: <https://tinyurl.com/zu5z8553>

Amounts paid are not subject to refund.

Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at

Calhoun County Commission/Park Service 380 Park Place Grantsville, WV 26147	The Thrasher Group, Inc. 600 White Oaks Boulevard Bridgeport, WV 26330
---	--

Contractor's Association of WV
2114 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25311

A two-envelope system will be used.

Envelope No. 1 must have the following information presented on the front:

Name and address of Bidder
Bid on Contract - Calhoun County Park Bath & Shower Facilities
Received by the Calhoun County Commission/Park Service

Envelope No. 2 labeled "Bid Proposal" shall also be placed inside of Envelope #1.

Envelope No. 1 will be opened first, and the Bid Opening Requirement items checked for compliance as outlined on the Bid Opening Checklist on page BOR - 1 of these contract documents. If such documents are found to be in order, Envelope No. 2 "Bid Proposal", will then be opened and will be publicly read aloud. If the documents required to be contained in Envelope No. 1 are not in order, Envelope No. 2 "Bid Proposal" will not be opened, and the Bid will be considered non-responsive and will be returned to the Bidder.

A bidder may not withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date set for the opening of bids. Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond payable to Calhoun County Commission/Park Service in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the base bid.

Contractor is required to provide the Drug Free Workplace Certification in accordance with WV Code 21-1D-5.

All Bidders are required to have a West Virginia Contractor's License per Section §21-11-11 of the West Virginia Code.

Bidders are advised that the Contract awarded under this Advertisement for Bids is to be funded (entirely/or in part) by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Neither the United States nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this Advertisement for Bids or any resulting Contract.

This Small Cities Block Grant project is to be financed in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the West Virginia Development Office and shall be referred to as Project #101-060-10308.

Bidders on this Work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 and "HUD Section 109", which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

The work to be performed under this Contract is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (Section 3). The contractor will ensure that to the greatest extent feasible opportunities for training and employment arising in connection with this SCBG-assisted project will be extended to lower income project area residents. Further, the contractor will, to the greatest extent feasible, utilize business concerns located in or substantially owned by residents of the project area, in the award of contracts and purchase of services and supplies.

The parties to this Contract agree to comply with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 135, which implement Section 3. Bidder's attention is directed to the Section 3 "Clause" set forth in the Contract Documents.

Bidders must comply with the requirements for Affirmative Action and Minority Business Enterprise participation as described in the Federal Specifications insert to the Contract Documents. Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Davis Bacon Act, the Copeland Act, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Act, and the West Virginia Division of Labor Wages for Construction of Public Improvements pursuant to West Virginia Code §21-5A-3.

Any Contractor submitting a Bid on this project hereby certifies, indicates and acknowledges that he/she has a license and meets all the qualifications required by the statutes of the State and subdivision in which the work is to be performed.

Bids received after the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids will be returned unopened to the bidders.

Calhoun County Commission/Park Service reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Pre-bid Conference

A mandatory pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Calhoun County Park Community Building, 380 Park Pl., Grantsville, WV 26147. Bids will not be accepted from Bidders that do not attend the mandatory pre-bid conference.

Instructions to Bidders

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: **Calhoun County Park & County Commission**
By: **Donnie Pitts**
Title: **Calhoun County Park Board President**
Date: **June 19, 2024**

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Under and by virtue of the terms of that certain Security Agreement bearing the 6th day of July 2023, Calhoun County Bank, Inc., now being the legal holder of the same will sell at public auction on 7/5/2024 at 10 AM:

**2018 SUZUKI KING QUAD 750
VIN#SSAAR41A4J7100395**

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

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until August 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
015	2023070004	S307-20-4.70 00		SLIDE REPAIR W/PILING Beech Rd Midpoint COUNTY: CALHOUN

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' licence is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferral, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The undersigned Clerk of the County Commission of Calhoun County does hereby give NOTICE that, pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code §41-5-13(b), there has been filed and there is pending before me and the said County Commission an Affidavit for ancillary administration of West Virginia real estate without the appointment of any personal representative and does state as follows:

Decedent	Decedent's Address	Date of Death	Date of Will
Argel Dean Stull	1671 Deermont Ave. NW Massillon, OH 44647	April 3, 2024	April 21, 2021

Name of Person Filing Affidavit	Address	Relation to Decedent	Date of First Publication
I. Sheila Villilo	2560 Parkbrook St. W Massillon, OH 44647	Daughter	July 4, 2024

Any interested person objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this State must file a written objection with the County Commission whose address is 363 Main Street; PO Box 230; Grantsville, WV 26147; within sixty (60) days after the date of first publication or thirty (30) days of service of this Notice upon such interested person filing the Notice, whichever is later.

Notice is given that if an objection is not timely filed, the objection is barred and that the Ancillary Administration of the West Virginia real estate of the above decedent shall be deemed final and complete in accordance with the provisions of law.

Entered this 3rd day of July, 2024

Jason Simard
Clerk
Calhoun County Commission

New Books at the Library

ADULT FICTION

Mind Games by: Nora Roberts
 You Like It Darker by: Stephen King
 Tom Clancy: Act of Defiance by: Andrews
 One Perfect Couple by: Ruth Ware
 The 24th Hour by: James Patterson
 Death Behind Every Door by: Heather Graham
 The Devil's Fortress by: Dale Brown
 The Mars House by: Natasha Pulley
 The Wartime Book Club by: Kate Thompson
 Look on the Bright Side by: Kristan Higgins
 Think Twice by: Harlan Coben
 Camino Ghosts by: John Grisham
 First Frost by: Craig Johnson
 One Deadly Eye by: Randy Wayne White
 The Bourne Sanction by: Eric Van Lustbader
 The Beach Trees by: Karen White
 The Rule of Four by: Ian Caldwell
 Shelterwood by: Lisa Wingate
 Stuart Woods':Smolder by: Brett Battles
 That Night in the Library by: Eva Jurczyk
 The Next Mrs. Parrish by: Liv Constantine
 A Talent for Murder by: Peter Swanson
 The Seaside Sisters by: Pamela Kelley
 Middle of the Night by: Riley Sager
 For the Love of Summer by: Susan Mallery
 Nothing Less by: Anna Todd
 The Dare by: Natasha Preston
 Maybe Someday by: Colleen Hoover
 When Mockingbirds Sing by: Billy Coffey
 The Summer Escape by: Jill Shalvis
 After Series 1-5 by: Anna Todd
 Temptation by: Ivy Smoak
 Sentinel by: Mark Greaney
 Market for Murder by: Heather Graham
 Proof by: Fern Michaels
 Swan Song by: Elin Hilderbrand
 Husbands & Lovers by: Beatriz Williams
 Sandwich by: Catherine Newman
 Eruption by: Crichton&Patterson
 Resurrection by: Danielle Steel
 Don't Let the Devil Ride by: Ace Atkins
 The Year of What If by: Phaedra Patrick
 Our Little Secret by: Lisa Jackson

NON-FICTION

Handbook of United States Coins 2025 by: R.S. Yeoman
 Underground Rescues
 Unusual Mammals: Aye-Ayes
 Everything About Bugs: Wasps
 Zodiac Signs: Taurus
 The National Birds of Central America
 The Complete Guide to Allergies
 The Movement Made Us by: David J. Dennis Jr.
 Taylor Swift

INSPIRATIONAL

The Pipe Organ by: Jane Orcutt
 Home for the Holidays by: Rebecca Kelly
 The Kindness of Strangers by: Susan Meier
 Life is a Three-Ring Circus by: Rebecca Kelly
 The Start of Something Big by: Sunni Jeffers
 Prayer, Paws & Providence by: Diann Hunt
 Hidden History by: Melody Carlson
 Tempest in a Teapot by: Judy Baer
 Slices of Life by: Judy Baer
 The Price of Fame by: Carlyne Aarsen
 Mystery at the Inn by: Carlyne Aarsen
 With Each Tomorrow by: Tracie Peterson
 Until Then by: Cindy Woodsmall
 Sarah by: Jerry Eicher
 Healing Hearts by: Beth Wiseman
 One Last Chance by: Susan May Warren
 Love on a Whim by: Suzanne Woods Fisher
 Toward the Dawn by: Mary Connealy
 A is for Amish by: Shelley Shepard Gray

LARGE PRINT

Miss Morgan's Book Brigade by: Janet Skeslien Charles
 A Short Walk Through A Wide World by: Douglas Westerbeke
 Think Twice by: Harlan Coben
 The Amish Teacher's Gift by: Rachel J. Good
 Mercury by: Amy Jo Burns
 Night Falls on Predicament Avenue by: Jaime Jo Wright
 Appalachian Song by: Michelle Shocklee

Unforgiven by: Shelley Shepard Gray
 Mind Games by: Nora Roberts

JUVENILE FICTION

Fergus & Zeke & the Great Farm Field Trip by: Kate Messner
 Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All by: Chanel Miller
 The Hammer of Thor by: Rick Riordan
 The Serpent's Shadow by: Rick Riordan
 The Blood of Olympus by: Rick Riordan
 The House of Hades by: Rick Riordan
 The Dark Prophecy by: Rick Riordan

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Red, White & Royal Blue by: Casey McQuiston
 I Am Number Four by: Pittacus Lore
 The Power of Six by: Pittacus Lore
 The Rise of Nine by: Pittacus Lore
 The Fall of Five by: Pittacus Lore
 The Revenge of Seven by: Pittacus Lore
 Ballad & Dagger by: Daniel Older

CHILDREN'S

The Prickletrims Go Wild by: Marie Dorleans
 With Dad by: Richard Jackson
 Lucky Dogs by: Joowon Oh
 Lucky Me by: Lawrence Schimel
 Dog vs. Strawberry by: Nelly Buchet
 Looking for Peppermint by: Maxwell Eaton
 King of the Mountain by: Susie Lee Jin
 Shake It Off! by: Vanessa Brantley-Newton
 Floof by: Heidi McKinnon
 The Squish by: Breanna Carzoo
 My Book and Me by: Linda Park
 Are You Small? by: Mo Willems
 Something About the Sky by: Rachel Carson
 Sleep, Little Dozer by: Diana Murray
 Two Wheels by: David Gibb
 The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Nature Walk
 Duck Duck Taco Truck by: Laura Lavoie
 The Book That Can Read Your Mind by: Marianna Coppo
 The Digger and the Dark by: Joseph Keuffer
 Bluey: Grannies & Other Stories
 Porcupine & Cactus by: Katie Frawley

WEST VIRGINIA

Four Score in Appalachia by: Patricia Richards McClure

Would you want a possum in your garden?

By Laura Miller, Gardening Know How

America's only marsupial tends to have a bad reputation. Perhaps, it's the opossum's appearance and nocturnal lifestyle that makes this creature so unappealing. After all, spotting a large, rat-like creature with beady eyes and a scavenger's appetite in a beam of light is just plain creepy.

But are Possums Good to Have Around?

Surprisingly, the answer is yes. Compared to other types of wildlife, they are very helpful. Opossums not only play an essential role in the ecosystem, but they can also be a valuable asset to your garden, in spite of the fact that most people are quick to control their numbers.

Opossums, sometimes called possum, benefit your garden by ridding it of small insects and pests. As omnivores, opossums consume a variety of foods. This includes the beetles, slugs, and snails that damage garden plants.

These nocturnal creatures also consume plant matter. In general, the opossum prefers fallen or rotting vegetation to fresh. Cleaning up dropped fruits and vegetables, which can harbor disease, is another benefit to having these creatures around.

Do Possums Control Ticks?

In many areas of the United States, tick populations have been increasing. These pests are carriers of Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. As ticks have become more numerous, so have the incidents of tick-borne diseases. Horticultural activities, such as weeding, put gardeners at increased risk.

One of the biggest benefits of opossums is their ability to control ticks. As meticulous groom-

ers, opossums consume about 95 per cent of the ticks which hitch a ride on their mammalian bodies. It's estimated that a single opossum eliminates over 5,000 ticks from the environment each year.

Consider these additional possum benefits:

Opossums hunt, kill, and eat mice, rats, and snakes (including poisonous ones).

Opossums are scavengers and clean up dead animal carcasses.

Opossums have a natural resistance to rabies and botulism, so they aren't likely to spread these diseases.

Opossums are immune to the toxins in bee and scorpion stings.

Opossums don't dig deep holes, but they will occupy burrows of other animals.

Unfortunately, there are also some disadvantages to having the helpful opossum hanging around your home and garden. Consider these opossum facts before enticing them to stay:

As scavengers, opossums will gladly consume pet food left outdoors. They have excellent memories and return night after night to finish up what Fido or kitty leave behind.

They can have fleas and drop flea larvae and eggs in your yard and garden.

Opossums are opportunists who will gladly shelter in your home, garage, or outbuildings.

They will help themselves to the kitchen scraps in your compost pile or bags of garbage set out for trash collection.

Opossums are carriers of equine protozoal myeloencephalitis or EPM. Grass, hay, and grain contaminated by opossum feces can transmit this incurable and deadly disease to horses.

OPOSSUM KNOWLEDGE

OPOSSUM ANATOMY

- Black eye
- Big, black, leathery, hairless ears with white tips
- Face is white
- Sensory whiskers
- Pink nose
- Poisoned snout
- Short legs and pink, clawed feet
- Big toe on hind foot is clawless and opposable
- Long gray or black fur
- Black base of tail
- Five toes on each foot
- Long, pinkish, scaly, prehensile tail. End of tail is whitish

GENERAL INFORMATION

- COMMON NAME: Opossum
- SCIENTIFIC NAME: Didelphidae
- TYPE: Mammals
- DIET: Omnivore
- GROUP NAME: Passel
- SIZE: Length from nose to tail: 2.5 feet
- WEIGHT: 8.8 to 13.2 pounds

OPOSSUM TRACKS

Front feet: 5 toes, clawless
 Hind feet: 5 toes, with opposable thumb

Direction of travel: Scale: 6 to 10 inches
 Front: 1.5" L X 2" W
 Hind: 2.5" L X 2.5" W

OPOSSUM FUN FACTS

- ADULT MALE OPOSSUM CAN WEIGH OVER 10 POUNDS.
- OPOSSUM HAVE 50 TEETH - MORE THAN ANY OTHER AMERICAN MAMMAL.
- BIRTH IS 13 DAYS AFTER CONCEPTION, AND YOUNG STAY IN THE POUCH FOR 80 DAYS.
- THE OPOSSUM IS THE ONLY NORTH AMERICAN MARSUPIAL (MEANING THEY HAVE A POUCH).
- OPOSSUMS CAN LIVE UP TO 6 YEARS.
- DUE TO AN OPOSSUM'S LOW BODY TEMPERATURE AND SUCCESSFUL IMMUNE SYSTEM, IT'S VERY RARE FOR ONE TO CARRY RABIES.

OPOSSUM DIET

ANIMAL CARCASSES, SMALL VERTEBRATES, SMALL AMPHIBIANS, INSECTS, GARBAGE, EGGS, PERSIMMON, FRUITS AND BERRIES

OPOSSUM V.S POSSUM

<p>POSSUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Australia, New Guinea, Sulawesi, New Zealand, and China. • Refer to the animals in Australia and nearby islands. • Have 4 primary color variations: black, gold, silver-gray, and brown. 	<p>OPOSSUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the North American continent, particularly on the mainland of the US. • Refer to the animals in the Americas. • Have a white face and a grayish-white body.
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