



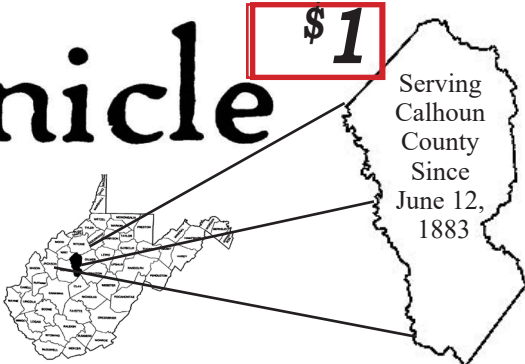
The Calhoun Chronicle

and The Grantsville News

“Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts”

\$1

Serving Calhoun County Since June 12, 1883



Whole Number 7185

Grantsville, West Virginia 26147

Thursday, July 3, 2025



Law, justice and Hope

AMC Project: A Beacon of Hope for Calhoun County

By Gaylen Duskey
Law, justice and hope ...

“There will be lots more pictures coming from today (Wednesday) but I have to say that this one is definitely one of my favorites,” Crystal Mersh Chairman of the Board of American Medicines Company (AMC) said. “I have named the photo: “Law, justice, and hope.”

And with those words a name and a face have been put on Calhoun County’s efforts to bring a pharmaceuticals producing factory to one of the poorest counties in the United States while creating the first medicine producing facilities in the United States in a quarter century.

This Don Quixote story may someday be a fairytale come true.

And when it does it will be the biggest news story in many a day for all the right reasons.

First it will make the United States safer. Second it will facilitate a financial awakening in one of the poorest counties

in one of the poorest states in one of the poorest regions – rural Appalachia. And finally it will show to all the world that it can be done if you are willing to dream and work to reach that dream.

Yes, this whole thing may seem to be a Don Quixote fairytale, but fairytales sometime come true.

An explanation of *Don Quixote*, a Spanish novel by Miguel de Cervantes, published in two parts in 1605 and 1615 may explain. It is considered the first modern novel and one of the greatest works of Western literature. The story follows Alonso Quijano, who, after reading too many chivalric romances, becomes the knight-errant Don Quixote, accompanied by his squire Sancho Panza. The novel explores themes of illusion versus reality and has had a profound influence on literature, inspiring works like *The Three Musketeers* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. It is also one of the most translated and best-selling books of all time.

LAW, JUSTICE AND HOPE cont. on page 7

Dog days of summer are under way

By Gaylen Duskey
The other day at the start of the late June heat wave a trip out the Hog Knob Ridge Road – the gravel one which branches off Route 5 – the change of the road from a farm road to nothing more than a wide path through the woods became evident.

The once more heavily populated beginning of the old road saw some old farms trying mostly in vain to hold on from the always encroaching growing woods as many used to be pastures were now completely tree covered except for house lots and gardens except for the one remaining working farm where the owner was busy mowing one of the fields.

Time had changed so much.

A half-century ago gardeners used to hold July 3rd almost as important as July 4th.

That was because July 3rd was the beginning of “dog days” and depending on

how the weather was on that day was how it would be for the next month or so and if the day was dry that was cause for concern since the gardens would need watering and the wells were in danger of running dry.

And this was before the days that area fire departments would sell water to the citizens and before water was available at the water plant.

In other words if it got too hot and dry the farmer was in more trouble than he may have been able to handle.

And this “dog days” story was rooted in history and astronomy.

An explanation garnered from several sources tells the story:

“The name “Dog Days” comes from Sirius, the Dog Star, which is the brightest star in the night sky. Sirius is part of the constellation Canis Major, meaning “Greater Dog.” In ancient Greece, Egypt, and Rome, the heliacal rising of Sirius—

its appearance at sunrise—was believed to contribute to the extreme heat of summer.

“The Greeks even named Sirius after the word “seirios,” meaning “scorching.” While we now know that Sirius’s appearance doesn’t affect Earth’s weather, its timing during the peak of summer ensures the lore lives on.

For the ancient Egyptians, Sirius’s rising was a welcome event. Known to them as Sothis, the star’s appearance coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile River, which brought fertile soil to the otherwise arid land. This event was so crucial to their survival that the Egyptians began their new year with the new Moon following Sirius’s first appearance on the horizon.

In contrast, the Greeks and Romans viewed Sirius’s rising with dread. They associated it with drought, disease, and discomfort. Roman poet Virgil even de-

scribed Sirius as the “bringer of drought and plague.” This belief persisted for centuries, with old folklore warning that rainfall during the Dog Days was a bad omen.

“A verse from The Old Farmer’s Almanac in 1817 captures this sentiment: “Dog Days bright and clear Indicate a happy year; But when accompanied by rain, For better times, our hopes are vain.”

“Today, the Dog Days are less ominous and are simply associated with the peak of summer’s heat. According to The Old Farmer’s Almanac, they span 40 days, beginning on July 3 and ending on August 11. This period follows the summer solstice and marks the height of sweltering temperatures.”

Today many of the farms are gone and there are ways to deal with the heat and dry that sometimes comes with “dog days” still to some out there the way “dog days” comes in still has a meaning.

Happy birthday America!!!

By Gaylen Duskey
This is the story of us ... the story of the United States of America.

It has been 249 years reaching today – July 4th, 2025.

On July 4th, 1776, our Founding Fathers formally ratified the Constitution starting with these words:

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

And just like that we became The United States of America.

Of course there was that nasty war we had to win against Britain ... an uphill

fight at best and the coming together later to draft the Bill of Rights and set up a government and how that government would operate.

Then we had to beat Britain once again in the War of 1812 before putting down of a revolution of our own in the Civil War when 11 southern states sought to leave the Union and more than half a million of us died keeping us together.

Yet we survived.

The story of Independence Day begins with the Revolutionary War, which erupted in April 1775. At first, few colonists sought complete independence from Great Britain, but growing hostility and revolutionary ideas, such as those in Thomas Paine’s pamphlet *Common Sense* (published in early 1776), shifted public sentiment. On June 7, 1776, Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee proposed a resolution for independence dur-

AMERICA cont. on page 4

Update from AMC Chairman of the Board Crystal Mersh

“It has been an incredibly busy week. I started in Washington, DC, where I am proud to say I lasted a half day listening to a few folks from Health and Human Services describe how foreign countries were the answer to solving *The Greatest Unknown American Healthcare Crisis*. I literally boiled over in my seat and ran to the podium when they concluded, and as politely as possible, informed them that this crisis would be solved with American innovation and grit—just like it was originally solved in 1984 the first time.

Overall, the meeting was very good. It confirmed that we are indeed making

progress in zeroing in on the problem statement and that the risk is only escalating due to geopolitical factors. It does still appear that funding is somewhere in the channels, but time will tell. Overall, good intel and good news.

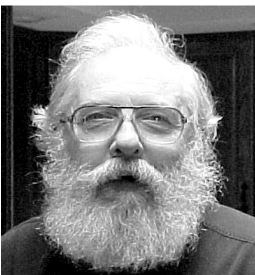
Back in West Virginia, we had an extraordinary day in Glenville and Grantsville. Thanks so much to GSU for hosting us in their beautiful new Health Care Educational facility. Several members of the FINEX team from Calhoun (Eric Lapardus, Michael Fitzwater, Sheila Burch, Steve Whited, Craig Arthur, Mark Sarver, and Roger Propst) came and



AMC cont. on page 7

CRESTON
News

BY ALVIN ENGELKE
PHONE 275-3578



Rev. Kevin Gillespie brought the message and served Holy Communion at the Burning Springs M. E. Church. This was his last service at the church.

The Creston area has been having a heat wave and there are scattered storms. It seems every summer there is hot weather but such has nothing to do with windbags like Albert Gore Jr. who tries to claim that such is a new thing so he can get rich.

Black eyed Susans are now adding color as one drives along area roadways. Folks are enjoying green beans, tomatoes and sweet corn as well as new potatoes.

The Creston ATV Poker Run will be Saturday July 19. There will be some nice places along the route for the whole family to stop for a picnic in a scenic spot.

Larry Wease has now joined the local folks who are “enjoying” Lyme’s disease.

A local fellow had occasion to go down I-77 through Jackson County and near Ripley the blacktop had all been taken off leaving the concrete road which looked good. However, it was observed that the concrete was being destroyed and removed with one crew gathering up the rebar. When a Creston resident went to work for the state road in 1984 it was explained to him that “concrete roads are Republican roads while black top roads are Democrat roads”. One can imagine the cost of removing perfectly good concrete to eliminate ‘a Republican road’

just to prove a political point. This is the same highway department who says “We don’t have any money to fix [make passable] a short section of the Rock Camp road. Perhaps tar and feathers would help these gentlemen.

It has now been shown that the Chinese communist party is the one funding “environmental” groups working against energy in the USA. No surprise as Russia used to fund the “Big Green” groups to fight natural gas projects that would impact Putin’s sale of natural gas to fund his wars and such.

Kendra II has opened a facility in Springville Pennsylvania to remove Lithium from oil field brines and Boston based Gradiant will soon open a facility that might be able to supply 50 per cent of the nation’s need for the metal. Locally the brine is being disposed under ground and in some places with bad consequences. Why not use W. Va. Brine to recover a valuable asset?

Dr. Drew Pinsky has a recent talk about the problems with spike proteins generated by Dr. Fauci’s Messenger rna “Vaccine”. Of particular note was the increase of strokes in young folks among those who took “the jab”.

The price of local Pennsylvania grade crude is \$64.52/bbl. With condensate fetching \$46.52/bbl. And Marcellus & Utica light bringing \$53.52/bbl. Natural gas [elsewhere] is \$3.26. Gasoline prices range from \$2.70 to \$3.30/gallon.

Class of 1965 - 60th Reunion Announcement

Dear Classmates,

Who could have imagined back in 1965 that we would one day celebrate our 60th class reunion? We are truly blessed and proud of the closeness we share as friends. It’s time to come together once again to catch up and make more memories!

Reunion Details:

Date: Saturday, August 30th, Labor Day Weekend

Time: Shelter available all day; lunch served at 12:00 PM

Location: Dupont Park, DERC Park #5 Large Covered Shelter Address: 380 Downey Rd., Wash. WV (Directions available on the DERC website) *Turn left to enter the park, cross the hill, make another left, and go to the end of the blacktop at the shelter.*

Cost: \$25 per person (includes lunch and expenses; proceeds not used will go to the flower fund) **Menu:** Choice of 2 entrées and 4 sides (catered by Terry Harris) **What to Bring:** Drinks, homemade desserts, lawn chairs for added comfort, and lots of memories and stories!

Additional Events:

Friday, March 21st: Lunch at Western Sizzlin Steak House at 1 PM

Concert: Jimmie Fortune at PHS Auditorium, sponsored by Jerry Smith for MOV Veterans. Tickets: \$10 (Call Jerry at 304-488-5083)

Alumni Day: July 4th weekend at CCHS

Please RSVP as soon as possible!

Contact Information:

Barbara Heiney: 263 Mathews Rd., Grantsville, WV 26147 Phone: 304-482-7640 or 304-354-6014

Terry Harris: 304-354-7263

Email: travisba@hotmail.com

RSVP Details:

Indicate attendance: Yes / No

Include guest count

Amount sent (\$25 per person)

Provide your current address, phone number, and email

Let’s make this reunion a memorable one! We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Warm regards, Barbara Cottrell Heiney

I am not Eisenhower, but we have made a lot, an awful lot, of progress

By Gaylen Duskey

After last week’s column and me being a cockeyed optimist – I said the time was right to go ahead with the AMC (American Medicine Company) announcement it was planning to build in Calhoun County – I was prepared to write an exhilarating column about the wonderful news.

I even mentioned Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and how June 6, 1944, time was not perfect for D-Day because of weather conditions and the like but it was the perfect time.

It turned out that I was neither the one making the AMC decision nor was I Dwight Eisenhower.

It did not happen, but I still believe it will happen as the folks of Calhoun County put on a tremendous show and presented a great list of reasons why it should happen.

Crystal Mersh Chairman of the Board of AMC issued some good news about the presentation.

“The AMC team was extremely impressed with the progress of the past year. They summarized their observations in that last year they could see the renewed hope and enthusiasm but this year they could clearly see tangible and impactful progress toward the common goal of economic development.

“It was also clear that the grass roots movement where people take control of and refuse to accept that they are victims of their circumstances has been continues to be highly motivational and effective in achieving the goal.

“They now have no concerns about the ability to secure work force here. There remains some concerns about attracting the most senior leadership roles ... but we will charm them with pickles and pies and personality. What’s not to love about Houners?”

Not a thing Crystal not a damn thing.

As a matter of fact I am warming up to the term Houners after always referring to people from Calhoun as Calhounians – which I am sure is the grammatically correct term – for years.

But we are like a Timex watch it that we can take a licking and keep on ticking.

For those too young to know what I am talking about newscaster John Cameron Swayze did a commercial back in the 1960s for Timex watches where they subjected the watch to all sorts of terrible things only to say in the end of the commercial that Timex “takes a licking and keeps on ticking.”

And folks, we are the “Timex” of history because we have had our share of lickings only to keep on going.

And people are beginning to notice.

But we are more than that we are a people who care about other people.

I have had that brought home to me watching the actions of a person I interact with almost every day.

I don’t know if its spelled Chaz or Chas but her caring for all among us shows me what we all should be doing.

I have watched her take care of the elderly, the young, strangers and old friends and she treats each and every one with respect and courtesy.

Her name is Chastity Shock, and she works as a waitress at Mom’s Place Too in Grantsville and starting July 1, 2025, she will be one of the newest members of the Grantsville Town Council.

Recently the good folks at Charleston got a taste of how everyone else is treated at Mom’s Place Too.

Anne Becket of The Summit Studio of the WV State Historic Preservation Office while on a visit with Crystal Mersh of the 1982 Foundation bragged on Mom’s Place Too both the food and hospitality of owner [Lisa D’Ann Cooper](#) and her staff. Beckett also loved getting a milk shake at J&B at the old soda fountain. She actually encouraged the entire Board of Directors to visit and do the same.

Grantsville may not be many things but if given a chance it can be a gracious town as Becket discovered.

And while as residents of Grantsville and Calhoun may have our squabbles – hellacious squabbles sometimes – we are

gracious to those visiting us.

After Becket left there were still other visitors to Mom’s Place Too this Friday. There was a couple from Beckley visiting Calhoun County en route to visiting all 55 counties in West Virginia. Calhoun was the 49th they had visited. Turns out we knew several of the same people. He even remembered the long gone *Raleigh Register* newspaper that I was sports editor of a lifetime ago.

The other couple was from Port Lucie, Fla., but she had relatives in Calhoun County and was in the process of building a container house a few miles out of town on Route 7.

Also there was longtime Calhoun native Dana Godfrey and Robin Mersh of 1982 Foundation fame.

Chaz treated everyone like friends and family.

But it was no surprise to me since I have seen her go well above and beyond being nice to customers.

I know she helps old folks like me who sometimes have a bit of trouble walking but she does the same for those with even more trouble walking and those who cannot walk.

I have seen her “talk” to those that cannot talk.

I have seen her go to Walgreens to buy ice cream for a little girl who wanted ice cream when the restaurant had run out of ice cream.

So many different things, so many different times.

She has shown me – and anyone else smart enough to watch – just what a person should be by doing what a person should do.

I have high hopes for Grantsville now that extraordinary people like her are in a position to affect our future.

She seems to be a great addition to our town’s government as does new Mayor John Villines, recorder Shannon Waldron and council members Jess Metz, Tanya Cunningham, Rissa Staples and Emilee Morgan.

I look forward to better days.

I have already made one suggestion I hope the town acts on.

I was sitting outside Mom’s Place Too one afternoon looking at the flowers hanging on holders up and down the street.

“You need a water wagon,” I said to Chaz.

“No, seriously you need a way to make sure all the flowers get watered a couple of times a week and a water wagon is a way to do it.”

By “water wagon” I mean you could get a big water tank with a sprayer system that could be attached to back of side-by-side (I think the town has one or two) and once or twice a week they could drive by and water the flowers without them (the flowers) needing physically raised and lowered as needs done currently.

And in the winter you could put a blade on it and help keep streets and sidewalks plowed.

Or a pickup truck could serve as a “water wagon” instead.

And it doesn’t stop there as I plan to also suggest the town have a “house of the month” type thing where it would award something like a \$100 shopping coupon (put the bite on some of the remaining town stores to offer a coupon two or three times a year) for the winner.

Then there is a need for a gazebo somewhere in town (maybe the old Rainbow Hotel lot of at City Park) where they could hold ice cream socials and small concerts.

Then I still think we need to plant Ginkgo trees at the old Rainbow Hotel location and put some benches and name it the Larry D. Harris Memorial Park while naming the city park Mayor’s Park and put up a list of all the mayors the town has had. Yes, it would take a little work but with enough people researching it could be done.

I see great things ahead for Calhoun County and the Town of Grantsville. The door is open, and we just need to walk through it.

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

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 mechanism,

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@calhoun-chronicle.com.







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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://calhounlib.com/>.

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, Berea 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.

July 3, 1863: At Gettysburg, Union troops in the 1st West Virginia Cavalry took part in a fruitless charge against Confederate infantrymen during the waning moments of that historic battle.

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 its first state park—Droop Mountain Battlefield. 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: Jazz drummer Butch Miles was born in Ohio. He grew up in Hinton and Charleston and eventually performed with Mel Torme, Count Basie, Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, Tony Bennett, Itzhak Perlman, and many others.

July 5, 1896: Cartoonist Kendall Vintroux was born at Frazier’s 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. He became the winningest coach at the University of Southern California (USC) and later the first head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the National Football League.

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), and as U.S.

minister to France.



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 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, 1889: 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.



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Parkersburg Area Community Foundation Executive Director Fred Rader Announces Retirement; Search for Successor Begins

Retirement Announcement:
Fred Rader, Executive Director of the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation & Regional Affiliates (PACF), will retire at the end of 2025 after 20 years of service.

His tenure included achievements such as cost-saving measures (e.g., solar panel installation), office facility improvements, and growth in grantmaking resources and assets under management.

PACF expects to award nearly \$4 million in grants and scholarships this fiscal year.

Leadership Praise:
PACF Board Chair Tom Whaling commended Rader’s leadership during staff transitions and his contributions to the organization’s success.

Rader is the sixth Executive Director in PACF’s 62-year history.

Search Committee Formation:
A Search Committee has been established to identify the next Executive Director.

Former Board Chairperson Bob Wright will lead the committee, joined by members Lexi Miller, Randy Dick, Linda Gerrard, Judy Ritchie, and Tom Whaling.

Executive Search Firm Partnership:
The committee selected The Benefactor Group, a Columbus, Ohio-based firm with 25 years of experience, to manage the search process.

The firm specializes in community foundation leadership and will ensure a fair and objective process.

Search Committee Chair Statement:
Bob Wright expressed confidence in finding a candidate who can elevate PACF’s mission and success in partnership with donors and grantees.

Next Steps:
Updates on the search process and contact information for the search firm will be shared as they become available.

Interested individuals can visit <https://pacfwv.com> and <https://benefactorgroup.com> for more details.

Media Contact:
Ashley M. Knight Communications and Outreach Specialist Parkersburg Area Community Foundation
Email: ashley.knight@pacfwv.com

Announcement: Magnified! Vacation Bible School

Join us at Macfarlan Community Church for an exciting week of discovery!

Dates: Sunday, July 6 – Thursday, July 10 **Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Discover the Bigness of God in the Smallest of Things!

All are welcome!

Public Service Announcement

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program is a supplemental food program designed to support pregnant, post-partum, or breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to the age of five. WIC provides food assistance, breastfeeding support, and nutrition education to families in Calhoun County.

To apply for the WIC Program or to learn more, contact the local office at **304-354-6898** or the main office in Parkersburg at **304-428-3688**.

The **Calhoun County WIC Clinic**, located at **300 Mill Street, Grantsville**, is open every **Wednesday in July from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. Please note that hours may be subject to change.

Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for updates and additional information.

Thank you for your support!

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AMERICA

ing a Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia. After heated debate, Congress postponed the vote but formed a committee—including Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston—to draft a formal declaration.

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted in favor of Lee’s resolution for independence. John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail, predicting that July 2 would be celebrated with “Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations.” However, on July 4, Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, making that date the symbolic birth of American freedom.

Celebrations began immediately. Colonists held mock funerals for King George III, symbolizing the end of British rule, and public readings of the Declaration were accompanied by parades, bonfires, and cannon fire. Philadelphia hosted the first annual Independence Day celebration on July 4, 1777, with fireworks and a 13-gun salute honoring the 13 colonies. George Washington marked the occasion in 1778 by issuing double rations of rum to his soldiers.

After the Revolutionary War, Independence Day became a unifying event for the new nation. By 1781, Massachusetts declared July 4 an official state holiday. Over time, the holiday evolved, with political leaders using celebrations to address citizens and foster unity. By the late 19th century, it became a major occasion for leisure activities, family gatherings, and patriotic displays.

In 1870, Congress made July 4 a federal holiday, and in 1941, it was expanded to include paid leave for federal employees. Today, Independence Day re-

mains a cherished symbol of American freedom, celebrated with fireworks, barbecues, parades, and the display of the American flag, accompanied by the national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Happy birthday America and may there be many, many more.

Here is a brief timeline for America:

- Native American Heritage** • ~14,025 years ago: First Americans arrive via Bering Land Bridge
- ~5000 BCE: Advanced agricultural systems developed
- 800-1600 CE: Mississippian culture thrives
- ~1450: Iroquois Confederacy formed
- European Contact** • 1000 CE: Norse Vikings settle in Newfoundland
- 1492: Columbus reaches the Caribbean
- 1513: Ponce de León reaches Florida
- 1607: Jamestown, first permanent English settlement
- Colonial Period** • 1607-1776: Thirteen British colonies established
- Revolutionary Period** • 1765: Stamp Act
- 1773: Boston Tea Party
- 1774: First Continental Congress
- 1775: Battles of Lexington and Concord
- 1776: Declaration of Independence
- 1781: Victory at Yorktown
- 1783: Treaty of Paris ends Revolutionary War
- Early Republic** • 1787: Constitution written
- 1789: Constitution takes effect; George Washington becomes first president
- 1791: Bill of Rights ratified
- 1803: Louisiana Purchase
- 1812: War of 1812
- 1823: Monroe Doctrine
- 1846-1848: Mexican American War
- Modern United States** • 1861-1865: Civil War
- Industrial Revolution
- World War I and II
- Cold War
- Civil Rights Movement
- Digital Revolution

Calhoun County Park Independence Day Celebration

Join Calhoun County Park for a festive Independence Day celebration! Enjoy a day filled with patriotic activities, live entertainment, and family-friendly fun.

Schedule:
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM: Live performance by the **John-ny Staats Project**
9:30 PM: Camping available

Sponsors: Event sponsors:
Calhoun Banks
Minnie Hamilton Health System
Other Nearby Celebrations:
Vienna Freedom Festival Date: June 27-28, 2025, Location: Spencer’s Landing Highlights: Live music, carnival rides, food trucks, craft vendors, patriot para-

chute team, hot air balloon rides, rodeo, aerial drone light show, and fireworks at 10:15 PM on Saturday. Admission is free, with food and rides priced separately.

Ripley Independence Day Celebration Date: June 30 – July 5, 2025, Location: Downtown Ripley and Jackson County Fairgrounds Highlights: Over 200 parade units, free concerts, carnival rides, Firecracker 2-Mile race, food vendors, live entertainment, and fireworks on July 4. Admission is free.

Spencer Fourth of July Celebration Location: Hill behind Wal-Mart Celebrate Independence Day with Spencer’s local festivities!

Make this Independence Day unforgettable by attending one or more of these exciting events in the region!

Creston Community ATV Summer Poker Run Announcement

Join us for the Creston Community Building’s Summer ATV Poker Run on **Saturday, July 19th!** Located at **340 Anns Run Road, Creston, WV 26141**, Creston is just 13 miles from Elizabeth and 14 miles from Grantsville on WV Route 5. Look for posted signs to guide you.

Event Details:
Registration: 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the Creston Community Building
Entry Fee: \$10
Prizes:
1st Place: 30%
2nd Place: 10%
3rd Place: 10%

Important Rules:
Riders must stop at all stations to avoid disqualification.

Riders must return to the building by the posted deadline for payout.

NO 2-wheelers.
NO backpacks in the building.
All minors MUST wear helmets.

Enjoy door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and delicious food from the kitchen, which will be open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

For more information, call **(304) 494-4064** or **(304) 275-3578**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Happening at the Family Resources Network

The outlines various initiatives, announcements, and resources shared by Tina Persinger Hamrick, the administrator of the Calhoun Family Support Center. Below is a detailed summary of the events and happenings:

Community Engagement and Feedback
Tina Persinger Hamrick is actively seeking input from families, particularly adults with children, regarding their needs, preferences, and opinions on training, incentives, and activities. She encourages representation from various categories of parents, including home-school parents, dads, sports parents, music parents, and parents of children in different educational stages (Pre-K to high school). The goal is to gather diverse perspectives to better serve the community.

Food Pantry Initiative
A new project was announced, starting July 1st, to establish a food pantry for families with children in the home. Eligibility criteria specify that the child must be 18 years or younger or still in high school. This initiative aims to address food insecurity among families in the area.

Food Resources in Calhoun County
The document lists several food assistance resources available in Calhoun County, including:
Calhoun Community Resources in Grantsville, WV.
Strait Creek Community Building in Brohard, WV.
First Baptist Food Pantry in Grantsville, WV.

Creston Community Food Pantry in Creston, WV.
Catholic Charities Food Mobile at Minnora Mission in Orma, WV.
Veterans Table (for veterans only).
Department of Human Services in Grantsville, WV.
Calhoun WIC Office in Grantsville, WV.
Calhoun FRN/FSC in Grantsville, WV (for families with children under 18).

These resources provide food assistance to families and individuals in need, with specific programs tailored to veterans and families with children.

Housing Opportunity
The Calhoun Family Support Center is accepting applications for a HUD-approved 3-bedroom apartment. The apartments are recovery-friendly, requiring applicants to pass a drug screening and be subject to random drug tests. Interested individuals are directed to contact Jess Metz at the center for applications.

Community Support and Outreach
The overarching theme of the document is community support and outreach. Tina Persinger Hamrick and the Calhoun Family Support Center are working to address critical needs such as food insecurity, housing, and family engagement. By soliciting feedback and providing resources, they aim to create a supportive environment for families in Calhoun County.

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Boatright honored

Chase Boatright stood tall among the crowd of 280 athletes at the Youth World Series in Ocean City, MD. Competing in the 16U Division, his athleticism and determination caught the attention of everyone around him.

Out of 31 teams, Chase’s performance shone the bright, earning him the prestigious All-Tournament selection.

He is a member of the Calhoun High School baseball team.

2025 Calhoun Youth Football Schedule

(Source: Kevin Cunningham)

Practice and Equipment Handout:

First Day of Practice: Monday, July 21

Helmet Fitting and Football Equipment Handout: Wednesday, July 23

Regular Season Games:

Saturday, August 9: Grid @ St. Marys - 10:00 AM

Sunday, August 16: Ritchie County @ Home - 1:00 PM

Saturday, August 24: @ Braxton County - 12:00 PM

Labor Day Weekend: No Game

Saturday, September 6: @ Wirt - 1:00 PM

Sunday, September 14: South Harrison @ Home - 1:00 PM

Sunday, September 21: @ Gilmer - 1:00 PM

Sunday, September 28: Doddridge County @ Home - 1:00 PM

Saturday, October 4: @ Roane Coun-

ty - 1:00 PM

Sunday, October 12: Webster County @ Home - 1:00 PM

(Note: All start times are for C team games, with B and A teams following. Flag games will start 1 hour prior to the listed start time.)

Playoffs:

1st Round:

Saturday, October 18 @ Ravenswood (2 and 4 seeds for West Division)

Sunday, October 19 @ Roane County (1 and 3 seeds for East Division)

2nd Round:

Saturday, October 25 @ Braxton County (Winners from Oct. 19 games)

Sunday, October 26 @ Ritchie County (Winners from Oct. 18 games)

Championship: Saturday, November 1 @ Doddridge County

Cheer Competition:

Sunday, November 2: @ Williamstown

Hillbilly Golf The Players July 4th

According to Crystal Mersh:

The 1982 Foundation is bringing excitement to the golf community with its Hillbilly Golf Classic Series for 2025. The next event, “The Players,” is set to take place on July 4th, marking the second round of this unique tournament. While no qualifying winners have emerged yet—since participants must play three rounds across two events—the competition is heating up. Currently, Brandon Cottrell and Whitley Cottrell hold the top score, making them the ones to beat.

The series offers enticing rewards, with the Adult division’s top potential earnings standing at \$1,500. For those looking for a fun twist, the 19th Hole in One Challenge is still open. For \$20, players get 20 balls to try their luck at hitting a hole-in-one on the 19th hole, which is approximately 120 yards away. The

first person to achieve this feat will walk away with a \$5,000 prize. This challenge is less about skill and more about chance, making it a thrilling addition to the event.

The Hillbilly Golf Classic Series spans four events throughout the year, with teams of two competing for the highest score across their best three rounds. Participants must play in at least two of the four events, and multiple rounds are permitted. The schedule includes:

May 26: The Open (Memorial Day)

June 7: The Wood Festival Classic

July 4: The Players (Independence Day)

September 1: The Masters (Labor Day)

With a \$25 entry fee per person per round, this series promises fun, camaraderie, and a chance to win big. Whether you’re a seasoned golfer or just looking for a good time, the Hillbilly Golf Classic Series is the place to be.



The Boss Lady

Route 33 Wrestling Returns to Spencer Armory This July

Route 33 Wrestling (Rt33W), Spencer’s hometown professional wrestling promotion, is set to return to the Spencer Armory on Saturday, July 12. The live event will feature high-energy action, family-friendly entertainment, and pivotal matches with championship implications.

Among the most anticipated matchups of the evening are two semifinal bouts in the Wild and Wonderful West Virginia (WWWV) Championship tournament. Sponsored by the City of Spencer, the tournament will determine the inaugural holder of the new title. The first semifinal match will see The Unwiling Tatiana square off against Nurse Mika, followed by a bout between John D Crazy Hillbilly and Handsome Nick Hamrick. Winners will advance to the tournament final, scheduled for September 6.

“We’re looking forward to giving the community something fun and exciting to enjoy this summer,” said Jessi McCumbers, owner and director of Rt33W. “The energy at our shows comes from the fans, and we’re grateful to be able to bring that excitement to Spencer.”

The July 12 card also features a Rt33W

Open Weight Championship defense, as newly crowned champion “The Babushka Baron” Jeffrey John takes on top contender “The Leviathan” Michael Anthony. In tag team action, Grappling, Inc. will defend their titles against The Brothers of Seduction. Additional matches will be announced in the coming weeks on Route 33 Wrestling’s Facebook page.

Tickets are available at a discount in advance at Smoker Friendly on Ripley Road or via Route 33 Wrestling’s Facebook page. Regular admission will be sold at the door beginning at 6 p.m. on the day of the event. Children aged five and under are admitted free.

About Route 33 Wrestling, LLC Founded in 2017 by stuntwoman and actor-combatant Jessi McCumbers (aka “The Boss Lady”), Route 33 Wrestling is a 100% woman-owned and -run pro wrestling company located in the heart of Spencer, WV.

Route 33 Wrestling’s core goals are to make quality live sports entertainment accessible to all and to put the “professional” in “professional wrestling.”

For more information, please visit linktr.ee/route33wrestling.



WEST FORK RIDING CLUB JUNE SHOW RESULTS 2025

Results for the June show are:

1. **Open Halter:** 1st Lexi Williams with Dillion, 2nd Garalea Fulks with Skittles, 3rd Kelsey Ferguson with My Blue Eye Duchess, 4th Nevaeh Fulks with Orea, 5th Amber Byrd with Cuervas Golden Surprise, 6th Kylee Stout with Sugarfoot, Participation: Kaycee Conley with Spirit, Avarie Duelley with Roxy, Cordelia Nicholas with Princess Luna, Bentley McCumbers with Quigley, Harlow Fitzwater with Spud, Catelynn Badgett with Blue, Holli Harper with Sissy, Briaunna Harrison with Bandit, Katie Elkins with Hello Dolly

2. **Lead Line:** Isaac Starcher with Shadow, Morgan Badgett with Blue, Abby Morgan with Tubs, Grayson Starcher with Pay Day, Kaycee Conley with Spirit, Harlow Fitzwater with Spud, Lydia Hill with Indigo **ALL RIDERS ARE WINNERS AND RECEIVE A TROPHY**

3. **Costume Class:** 1st Kaycee Conley with Spirit, 2nd Lydia Hill with Indigo, 3rd Morgan Badgett with Blue, 4th Harlow Fitzwater with Sally, 5th Cordelia Nicholas with Princess Luna, 6th Katie Elkins with Hello Dolly

4. **Pee Wee Poles:** 1st Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, 2nd Avarie Duelley with Spartan, 3rd Alliana Hill with Trippin in Cash, 4th Avarie Duelley with Roxy, 5th Harlow Fitzwater with Sally, Bentley McCumbers with Quigley

5. **Juvenile Poles:** 1st Briaunna Harrison with Hazel, 2nd Holli Harper with Sissy, 3rd Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, 4th Natalie Tanner with Stryker, 5th Briaunna Harrison with Bandit

6. **Open Poles:** 1st Jenna Knotts with Harley, 2nd Holli Harper with Sissy, 3rd Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, 4th Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, 5th Briaunna Harrison with Hazel, 6th Norene Jewell with Lucky Tank, Participation: Natalie Tanner with Stryker, Chelsie Dobbins with Reggie, Carley Bauman with Fellon, Kristi Condon with Snow White

7. **Pop Drink:** 1st Cassi Bailey & Lauren Lovejoy with TwoSocks, 2nd Ally Dobbins & Laifa Pierson with Captain, 3rd Jesalynn & Catelynn with Sid, 4th Briaunna Harrison & Holli Harper with Hazel, 5th Sabrina Burdette & Patsy Townsend with Blue, 6th Allianna Hill & Lizzie Collins with Cash, Participation: Lyndia & Paislie with Indigo

8. **Flag Race:** 1st Natalie Tanner with Stryker, 2nd Allianna Hill with Trippin in Cash, 3rd Chelsie Dobbins with Reggie, 4th Briaunna Harrison with Aslan,

5th Norene Jewell with Lucky Tank, 6th Patsy Townsend with Daisy Mae, Participation: Patsy Townsend with Blue, Kristi Condon, with Snow White, Kelsey Ferguson with Gun Dawg, Briaunna Harrison with Hazel, Camry Bailey with Punky, Holli Harper with Sissy, Bentley McCumbers with Quigley, Grayson Starcher with Pay Day, Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, Issac Starcher with Shadow, Jenna Knotts with Harley, Avarie Duelley with Spartan

9. **Potato Drop:** 1st Kelsey Ferguson with Gun Dawg, 2nd Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, 3rd Bentley McCumbers with Quigley, 4th Camry Bailey with Punky, 5th Kaycee Conley with Spirit, 6th Katie Elkins with Hello Dolly, Participation: Isaac Starcher with Shadow, Harlow Fitzwater with Sally, Grayson Starcher with Pay Day

10. **Stick Horse Race:** Jansen Duelley with Roxy, Kaycee Conley with Spirit, Morgan Badgett with Spiderman, **THESE GUYS ARE ALL WINNERS.**

11. **Pee Wee Barrels:** 1st Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, 2nd Avarie Duelley with Spartan, 3rd Harlow Fitzwater with Sally, 4th Leah Blake with Blue

12. **Juvenile Barrels:** 1st Briaunna Harrison with Hazel, 2nd Kylee Stout with Fury, 3rd Kelsey Ferguson with Gun Dawg, 4th Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, 5th Natalie Tanner with Stryker, 6th Holli Harper with Sissy, Participation: Holli Harper with Vegas

13. **Open Barrels:** 1st Kelsey Ferguson with Gun Dawg, 2nd Patsy Townsend with Daisy Mae, 3rd Jenna Knotts with Harley, 4th Briaunna Harrison with Hazel, 5th Natalie Tanner with Stryker, 6th Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, Participation: Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, Kylee Stout with Fury, Chelsie Dobbins with Reggie, Holli Harper with Vegas, Kristi Condon with Snow White, Norene Jewell with Lucky Tank, Holly Harper with Sissy, Norene Jewell with Snow White

14. **\$100.00 Barrels:** Only pays first place 1st Kelsey Ferguson with Gun Dawg, Participation: Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, Patsy Townsend with Daisy Mae, Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, Norene Jewell with Lucky Tank, Chelsie Dobbins with Reggie, Holli Harper with Sissy, Briaunna Harrison with Hazel, Kristi Condon with Snow White, Natalie Tanner with Stryker, Holli Harper with Vegas

15. **Straight Barrels:** 1st Jenna Knotts with Harley, 2nd Natalie Tanner with Stryker, 3rd Briaunna Harrison with Hazel,

4th Kylee Stout with Fury, 5th Holli Harper with Sissy, 6th Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, Participation: Norene Jewell with Lucky Tank, Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, Holli Harper with Vegas, Avarie Duelley with Spartan, Bentley McCumbers with Quigley, Kristi Condon with Snow White, Carley Bauman with Fallon

16. **Open Trail:** 1st Norene Jewell with Lucky Tank, 2nd Kristi Condon with Snow White, 3rd Katie Elkins with Hello Dolly, 4th Kylee Stout with Sugarfoot, 5th Avarie Duelley with Roxy, 6th Lexi Williams with Dillion, Participation: Brittany Lamb with Satin

17. **Pee Wee Pleasure:** 1st Nevaeh Fulks with Oreo, 2nd Ally Dobbins with Two Socks, 3rd Camry Bailey with Punky, 4th Katie Elkins with Hello Dolly, 5th Avarie Duelley with Roxy, 6th Lizzie Collins with Trippin in Cash, Participation: Jesalynn Peters with Jack, Lydia Hill with Indigo

18. **Open Western Pleasure:** 1st Kelsey Ferguson with My Blue Eye Duchess, 2nd Chelsie Dobbins with Reggie, 3rd Holli Harper with Sissy, 4th Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, 5th Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, 6th Bentley McCumbers with Quigley, Participation: Allianna Hill with Trippin in Cash

19. **Juvenile Pleasure:** 1st Lexi Williams with Dillion, 2nd Kelsey Ferguson with My Blue Eye Duchess, 3rd Katie Elkins with Paystubs, 4th Kylee Stout with Sugarfoot, 5th Holly Harper with Sissy, 6th Natalie Tanner with Stryker

20. **Spotted Saddle Horse:** 1st Lexi Williams with Dillion, 2nd Nevaeh Fulks with Oreo, 3rd Kylee Stout with Sugarfoot

21. **Walk Trot:** 1st Katie Elkins with Hello Dolly, 2nd Kelsey Ferguson with My Blue Eye Duchess, 3rd Kristi Condon with Snow White, 4th Holly Harper with Sissy, 5th Avarie Duelley with Spartan, 6th Kylee Stout with Fury, Participation: Lizzie Collins with Trippin in Cash, Lydia Hill with Indigo, Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, Chelsie Dobbins with Reggie, Norene Jewell with Lucky Tank

22. **Pee Wee Marshmallow Race:** 1st Allianna Hill with Trippin in Cash, 2nd Bentley McCumbers with Quigley, 3rd Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, 4th Camry Bailey with Punky, 5th Isaac Starcher with Shadow

23. **Marshmallow Race:** 1st Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, 2nd Lexi Williams with Dillion, 3rd Jenna Knotts with Harley, 4th Holli Harper with Sissy, 5th Norene Jewell with Lucky Tank, 6th Lauren Lovejoy with Quigley, Participation: Brianna Harrison

with Hazel, Kristi Condon with Snow White, Natalie Tanner with Stryker, Holli Harper with Vegas

24. **Stock Race:** 1st Briaunna Harrison with Hazel, 2nd Briaunna Harrison with Aslan, 3rd Jenna Knotts with Harley, 4th Natalie Tanner with Stryker, 5th Holli Harper with Sissy, 6th Holli Harper with Vegas, Jesalynn Peters with Jack Daniels, Bentley McCumbers with Quigley, Kylee Stout with Fury, Norene Jewell with Lucky Tank, Kristi Condon with Snow White, Chelsie Dobbins with Reggie, Briaunna Harrison with Bandit

25. **Slow Pace:** 1st Ally Dobbins with Two Socks, 2nd Katie Elkins with Paystubs, 3rd Kylee Stout with Sugarfoot, 4th Brittany Lamb with Satin, 5th Lizzie Collins with Trippin in Cash

26. **Slow Rack:** 1st Amber Byrd with Signatures Moonlight Jewel, 2nd Gavin Lindenthal with Lexi, 3rd Nevaeh Fulks with Oreo, 4th Lexi Williams with Dillion, 5th Kylee Stout with Sugarfoot

27. **Country Pleasure Rack:** 1st Amber Byrd with Signatures Moonlight Jewel, 2nd Willis Lynch with Big E, 3rd Gavin Lindenthal with Lexi

28. **Gaited Ladies Pleasure:** 1st Brittany Lamb with Satin, 2nd Amber Byrd with Signatures Moonlight Jewel

29. **Gaited Gentleman’s Pleasure:** 1st Gavin Lindenthal with Lexi, 2nd Willis Lynch with Big E, 3rd Coy Bailey with Two Socks

30. **Juvenile Pace/Rack:** 1st Lexi Williams with Dillion, 2nd Kylee Stout with Sugarfoot

31. **Style Rack:** 1st Willis Lynch with Big E, 2nd Gavin Lindenthal with Lexi

32. **Country Open Fast:** No entries

33. **Trail Pleasure Rack:** 1st Gavin Lindenthal with Lexi, 2nd Amber Byrd with Signatures Moonlight Jewel, 3rd Lexi Williams with Dillion, 4th Willis Lynch with Big E

34. **Jack Benny & Lucille Ball:** 1st Amber Byrd with Signatures Moonlight Jewel, 2nd Richard Burns with Two Socks, 3rd Melinda Lamb with Captain

35. **Open Gaited Pleasure:** 1st Amber Byrd with Signatures Moonlight Jewel, 2nd Gavin Lindenthal with Lexi, 3rd Lexi Williams with Dillion, 4th Brittany Lamb with Satin, 5th Katie Elkins with Paystubs, 6th Allianna Hill with Trippin in Cash

36. **Gaited Western Pleasure:** 1st Gavin Lindenthal with Lexi, 2nd Amber Byrd with Signatures Moonlight Jewel, 3rd Lexi Williams with Dillion, 4th Katie Elkins with Paystubs, 5th Brittany Lamb with Satin

37. **Open Fast Pace:** No entries

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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LEGAL

RE: DISBURSEMENT OF VEHICLES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In order to disburse of vehicles in the possession of Furrs Auto and
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disbursed of within 30 days from the date of this publication. Owners
or persons claiming to own said vehicle must present proof of owner-
ship of said vehicle. All towing and storage charges must be paid in
full no exceptions.

- 91 Lincoln - Serial Number 50Y89G660814
- 94 Ford F350 - Serial Number 2FDKE38C0PB30088
- 82 Chevrolet - Serial Number 12876AS246128
- 85 Jeep Wrangler - Serial Number 1J4FY19P25P264169
- 79 Chevrolet Truck - Serial Number 50Y89G66081.1Y

Harold C. Ullum
Rep. of Estate (Administrator)

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 July 22, 2025 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
020	2024070009	S3070-35/5-0.62 00		SLIDE REPAIR W/PILING Bryner Run 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 ac-
cordance 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 Guar-
anty 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 adver-
tisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, 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 dis-
criminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

ONLINE AUCTION

LOTS BEGIN CLOSING @ 6P ON 7/9

PREVIEW: 7/7, 3-6PM

PICKUP: 7/11, 12P-6P

FIREARMS P/U: 7/15, 4-5PM (SHINNSTON)

LOCATION:
185 RIGHT TRACE FORK ROAD, BIG SPRINGS, WV

2014 Kubota Diesel Side X Side, CAT 931 Dozer

Kubota L2900 Farm Tractor, Trailers

Firearms, Ammo, Loads of Reloading Items

Tools, Farm Implements, Shop Equipment

Outdoor Gear, Mens Clothing, Hunting/Fishing Items

Household Items, Furniture

Terms: 15% BP. Full terms online. All firearms regulations
strictly observed. See full terms for details.

JOE R. PYLE COMPLETE AUCTION & REALTY SERVICE

Joe Pyle, Broker WV212 | Jordan Kiger WV2246



JOE R. PYLE
COMPLETE AUCTION & REALTY SERVICE

(304) 592-6000

5546 Benedum Drive, Shinnston, WV

www.joerpyleauctions.com

Canceled!!!

The Alumni Day all-class reunion scheduled for
July 5 (Saturday) has been canceled.

If you were planning on coming to it – don't.
Maybe next year.

Calhoun County
Commission Special
Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 3, 2025, Location: Court-
house, Grantsville, WV 26147 Time: 3:30 PM

Agenda 3:30 PM - Proclamation: Calhoun Goes
Purple

4:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance Followed by Prayer

II. Call to Order

III. Calhoun County PSD Work Session

Review of Checklist Items

Review of Harassment Policy, Forms

Other IV. Adjournment

Alices Attic &
GCMFA Announces
July Sessions and
Events

Courtesy Ridgeview News

Bingo Cash Frenzy: Join us this Saturday Night,
June 28th. Doors open at 5:00pm and Bingo kicks off
at 6:00pm. Progress Pot stands at \$500.00.

No Music Lessons July 1st!!! Enjoy your 4th of
July holiday.

Lessons will be as follows on your regularly sched-
uled times:

July 8th

July 15th

July 22nd

July 29th

Karate: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:45pm loca-
tion: Alice's Attic lower level.

NO BINGO July 4th

JAM NIGHT July 11th 6:00pm

BINGO July 18th Doors open 5:00

Everyone Welcome!!

Announcement: Remaining
Full Moons of 2025

Get ready for six magical lunar events this year! Each full moon comes
with its own unique glow and centuries-old name inspired by nature, har-
vests, and folklore. Mark your calendars and don't miss these cosmic chap-
ters:

July 10 – Buck Moon

August 9 – Sturgeon Moon

September 7 – Corn Moon + Lunar Eclipse

October 6 – Harvest Moon

November 5 – Beaver Moon

December 5 – Cold Moon

Join us at Calhoun County Park for some unforgettable stargazing under
the unfettered night sky. Let the Moon remind you of the magic of time!
Follow us for more lunar updates, night sky events, and stargazing secrets.

CALHOUN
COUNTY GOES PURPLE

JOIN US AS CALHOUN COUNTY OFFICIALLY
SIGNS THE WEST VIRGINIA GOES PURPLE
PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF RECOVERY,
AWARENESS, AND HOPE ACROSS OUR STATE!

DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2025

TIME: 3:30PM

LOCATION: 363 MAIN ST,
GRANTSVILLE, WV 26147

IF YOU'RE IN OR NEAR CALHOUN COUNTY, WE
NEED YOU!

WEAR YOUR PURPLE ATTIRE AND HELP US
SHOW THE POWER OF COMMUNITY AS WE
TURN ONE COUNTY PURPLE AT A TIME!

TOGETHER, WE ARE WEST VIRGINIA UNITED
IN RECOVERY — AND CALHOUN IS LEADING
THE WAY! ♥

LAW, JUSTICE AND HOPE

Continued from Page 1

The picture Mersh cited shows a youthful Calhoun Sheriff Graham Knight working with retired judge Larry Whited and Chris McCormick one of the operations supervisors for Hope Gas in Grantsville.

Law, justice and hope. When everything falls in place the name and the image figures to find a place in Calhoun, West Virginia and American history.

On June 25, 2025, more 100 attendees gathered at the Saundra Johnson Aquatic Center in Grantsville, West Virginia, to hear updates on the American Medicines Company (AMC) project. This ambitious initiative aims to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Calhoun County, bringing over 300 high-tech jobs to the area and revitalizing the local economy. The project, led by Crystal Mersh, seeks to address critical concerns about the reliance on overseas pharmaceutical production and the risks it poses to American medicine supplies.

The Vision for AMC
AMC plans to manufacture essential medicines for conditions such as blood pressure, diabetes, and thyroid disorders. With much of the global pharmaceutical production concentrated in countries like India and China, disruptions in supply chains could leave Americans without life-saving medications within 30 days. AMC’s goal is to mitigate this risk by producing these critical medicines domestically, ensuring a stable and secure supply for the nation.

Why Calhoun County?
Calhoun County has been chosen as the potential site for this transformative project due to its readiness to embrace economic growth and its strategic efforts to prepare for AMC’s arrival. The community has opened its doors wide, offering support and enthusiasm for the initiative. The project promises to turn the area, which has faced economic stagnation for decades, into a hub of opportunity for jobs and industry.

Political Figures in Attendance
The discussions and events surrounding the AMC project were attended by key political figures, including:

Senator Ben Queen
Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw
Members of the **Calhoun County Commission** (except Commissioner Craig Arthur, who expressed his support despite being unable to attend due



Senator Ben Queen

to a prior commitment to Vacation Bible School)

These leaders joined AMC officials, local law enforcement, the Grantsville Volunteer Fire Department, Minnie Hamilton representatives, and several local business owners to discuss the project’s progress at the state, federal, and county levels.

Community Engagement
The day’s events included a photo shoot at the projected location, where about 50 residents gathered to capture their excitement for the project. Later, over 100 attendees participated in a dinner and discussion at the Saundra Johnson Aquatic Center. The enthusiasm was palpable as community members and officials shared their hopes for the future.

An impromptu tour of the former high school, now known as Avalon, showcased the progress being made on the building’s transformation. The first floor will feature mercantile spaces, including a restaurant, while the second floor will house STEM school classrooms. The third floor is set to include apartments, hotel rooms, and an outdoor balcony for hosting events.

Timeline and Concerns

While the timeline for the AMC project remains uncertain, the company and community are working tirelessly to prepare for its arrival. The main concerns driving the urgency of this project include the vulnerability of American medicine supplies and the need to create sustainable economic growth in Calhoun County.

A Bright Future
The AMC project represents a turning point for Calhoun County, offering hope for economic revitalization and addressing a critical national issue. With over 300 high-tech jobs on the horizon and the unwavering support of local leaders and residents, the community is poised to embrace this opportunity and transform its future.

Exciting News from the 1982 Foundation!
Crystal Mersh of the 1982 Foundation is proud to announce that the WV State Historic Preservation Office has officially voted to accept the nomination of our historic building (Avalon, the old Calhoun County High School and campus) onto the National Registry of Historic Landmarks.
“This is a proud moment for Cal-

houn County and our community,” said Mersh. “Anne Becket of The Summit Studio delivered an incredible presentation, describing our town as ‘historic, charming, and full of pride.’ Her words truly captured the spirit of Grantsville and the pride it represents for Calhoun County, both past and present.”

Becket also shared her love for Grantsville, highlighting local gems like Mom’s Place for its amazing food and hospitality, and J&B’s old soda fountain for its delicious milkshakes. She encouraged the entire Board of Directors to visit and experience the charm of our town firsthand.

Mersh was joined at the meeting by Roger Propst and Loretta Propst, all of whom were impressed by Becket’s historical representation of the building and its significance to the community.

With this milestone achieved, the next step is to present the nomination at the National Park Service level. We are excited to continue this journey and celebrate the rich history of Calhoun County.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this effort—what a great day in Charleston!

AMC

Continued from Page 1

shared the progress of the past year and continued plans for the future.

The American Medicines Company (AMC) team was highly impressed with the progress and even more so with the confidence of the FINEX team. We discussed extensively the many options for workforce development, including locations, approaches, and partners. The FINEX team presented detailed insights into the educational system workstream and public safety workstream. The Calhoun Commissioners discussed other endeavors to bring business to the county.

In the AMC debrief, it was clear that Calhoun is the preferred location in West Virginia, but we will always have a Plan B, as would any responsible business. Their only concern is our ability to attract and bring specialized management positions to the area, but I assured them that we continue to work on all the factors that impact that ability.

We then traveled from Glenville to Big Bend for a photo opportunity. During the bus ride down, I understand that Summer Rogers acted as a tour guide. The AMC is very impressed with our very first employee and described her as mature beyond her years and a very engaging and excellent communicator.

In 100-degree weather, we had over 50 people ranging in age from 8 to 88 show up to hold a gigantic American flag in front of the gates to where we hope will be our first AMC facility. The crowd was welcoming and enthusiastic despite the heat.

Back in Grantsville, the AMC held a brief meeting where we broke into a fight, as we often do, about the details of our commercial strategy, which is complex. The team is under tremendous pressure as we are plowing unfamiliar ground and have to make assumptions

without a lot of hard data, which is hard for scientists and finance folks—not so hard for the marketers, thus the fights.

What is amazing to me is that despite the intense arguments and rough discussions, we fold up shop and walk off to the bus all happy and still friends. It just goes to prove that in business, disagreement is never personal as long as the team is focused on the common goal, as these folks are. Frankly, we simply do not allow those who may be focused on self-interests or interests other than the common goal into our businesses. We are not unique in that, but we are hardliners for sure.

Then we headed to dinner, where the Spice chefs and a few local chefs provided *A Taste of West Virginia*, complete with Clayton Barnhart’s amazing pickles, Pauline Ferrell’s sweet, iced tea, Burl Cindy Cottrell’s homemade cornbread, and Terry Hickman’s award-winning pies. The Pool Co-op team did an excellent job supporting the chefs and serving the dinner. They also worked all week to do the final preparations of the area for the dinner.

The entertainment was provided by our very own Jones & Falls and friends. Thanks to Bruce A. Jones for pulling this together with folks traveling from far and wide. The music was excellent. Thanks to the whole 1982 Foundation team and Hardway Construction, who worked in the heat all week to get ready. The site never looked better.

We had several state government and business leaders in attendance, including a full contingent from our neighbors, Hope Gas. We had so many first responders also, and they were planning a surprise landing of the Health-Net helicopter, but they got waved off due to weather in the area.

We also had many local leaders, including the new Mayor, Recorder, and



Crystal Mersh addressing the AMC

the entire Town Council. It was exciting to see them all in attendance and to hear their enthusiasm to lead the town into progressive times.

We offered a brief tour of the construction site led by Jeremy Hardway and Amos Walker. Then the AMC executives provided an overview of our business, why we started AMC, and our goals for locating in rural areas with a strong sense of working community.

Leslie Prince Rudolph was introduced as the newly minted Chief Operating Officer for AMC. She shared her reason “why” she chose to be in this business and why it means so much to her—a very personal story of her mother’s long-term chronic illness and how medicines gave her mother a much longer life and time with her. Leslie will be located at the first plant initially, so thanks for making her feel welcome and loved. She was delighted to meet our people and take selfies with folks.

Leslie is both a scientist and a business leader. She has worked in the US and Europe and was always a top talent at Novartis. She is an alumna of MIT and a native of our neighboring state, Ohio. She will be back for visits and to meet with me and state officials. Keep

an eye out for her and say hello—you will love her.

Yesterday, we concluded our business meetings on our QxP and Virtuosi businesses, had lunch, took an important phone call, and concluded our work as a team.

IT SIMPLY WAS A GREAT WEEK
Thanks to all who contributed, participated, or otherwise supported the week’s events in any way.

It just goes to show that when we work together, we can do anything. When we hold hope in our hearts, we can find a way. When we use our sense of community to overcome our many obstacles—which were, for decades, the excuses we allowed to keep us from great things—we can indeed do anything!

I will conclude by saying: we use this sense of community in trying times and times of despair all the time. IT IS NOW TIME TO USE OUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.

We have proven time and again that we can and will carry each other through times of distress. Now, we can carry each other to prosperity.”

New Mayor, Recorder, and Council Sworn In

The newly elected officials of Grantsville have officially been sworn into their positions following the 2025 Municipal Election. According to the Calhoun County Clerk’s office, the officials had

20 days from the certification of the election to complete the swearing-in process. Grantsville Mayor-elect John Villines, along with the new council members, will officially take office on July 1, 2025.

Their first official meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2025, at 6 p.m. The swearing-in ceremonies were conducted by Calhoun County Clerk Jean Simers. Among those sworn in were

Councilwoman Jess Metz, Shannon Waldron (a write-in candidate), and councilwomen Chastity Shock, Rissa Staples, Emilee Morgan, and Tonya Cunningham.



Jean Simers swearing in John Villines



Jean Simers swearing in Jess Metz

Calhoun County Commission Meeting Highlights

Ordinances, Broadband, and Community Initiatives

The Calhoun County Commission convened on June 23, with Commission President Craig Arthur leading the opening prayer. The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including special recognitions, community concerns, ordinance approvals, and updates on broadband and public safety initiatives.

Special Recognitions

Former Commissioners Kevin Helmick and Roger Propst were honored for their years of service to Calhoun County. Helmick, a Democratic Commissioner who served for 14 years, and Propst, a Republican who stepped in to replace an early exiting Commissioner, received engraved plaques as tokens of appreciation from Commissioners Craig Arthur, Jacob McCumbers, and Eric Lupardus.

Community Concerns

Hortz Motz addressed the Commission with several concerns:

Water Meter Reliability: Motz expressed concerns about the accuracy

of older water meters and suggested researching the feasibility of an app like “Eye on Water,” which tracks water usage and alerts users to leaks.

Water Consolidation Impact: He inquired about how water consolidation would affect district rates.

Broadband Funding: Motz questioned the benefits of the \$2.7 million broadband funding for frontier areas and expressed hope for improved service under Verizon’s acquisition of Frontier Communications.

Commissioner Lupardus encouraged citizens to attend Pleasant Hill PSD meetings to address water issues. Melissa O’Brien, External Affairs Officer for Citynet, provided updates on broadband installation in Calhoun County and surrounding areas. She noted that while Starlink is being considered for some areas, fiber remains the more reliable and cost-effective option, with monthly costs ranging from \$50 to \$75.

Ordinance Approvals

The Commission unanimously ap-

proved two key ordinances:

Unsafe Structure Ordinance: Designed to improve living conditions without infringing on property rights, this ordinance aims to create safer communities.

Salvage Yard Ordinance: This measure was also passed unanimously to regulate salvage yards in the county.

Public Safety and Education

Sheriff Graham Knight recommended donating a 2013 Ford Taurus, a former Sheriff’s Department cruiser, to the Calhoun Gilmer Career Center for training purposes. The motion was approved unanimously. Knight also rescinded his request for drug testing equipment due to high costs, citing quotes of \$37,000 and \$42,000. He emphasized the ongoing presence of heroin and fentanyl in the county and the need for cautious testing.

Community Initiatives

The Commission proclaimed September as “WV Goes Purple” to raise awareness for National Recovery Month. Commissioner Arthur highlighted the impact of drug addiction on families and com-

munities, while Lupardus praised the Calhoun Family Resource Network (FRN) for its efforts to improve residents’ quality of life.

Civil Service Pay Scale

The Calhoun Civil Service Board ratified a competitive salary rank pay scale for the Sheriff’s Department. Starting salaries range from \$19 per hour for uncertified probationary deputies to \$28 per hour for higher ranks. The Chief Deputy’s salary, a politically appointed position, was recommended to exceed civil service ranks.

Budget and Appointments

Budget transfers were approved to address negative balances in the 911 account. Jacob McCumbers was appointed to the Benefits Advisory Board, and County Administrator Jennifer Randolph volunteered as the employee representative. An additional employee is still needed for the committee.

Next Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2025, at 5 p.m.




Roger Propst honored



Kevin Helmick honored

Dark Shark Nebula



Greg Brandes captured the stunning Dark Shark Nebula (LDN 1235) at Calhoun County Park, using an Askar103 APO telescope with a .6 reducer and a 2600MC Pro camera mounted on an AM3. Over four clear nights from June 20-22, 2025, he accumulated 10 hours and 50 minutes of exposure time, producing this breathtaking image without the use of filters.



Calhoun had a lot of royalty at the West Virginia Folk Festival in Glenville recently as Hallie Mace Queen Flora of the Calhoun Wood Festival and Emily Grace Anderson the 2025 West Virginia Roadkill Cook-Off Queen were honored.