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The Calhoun Chronicle and The Grantsville News

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"Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts"

Whole Number 7211 | Grantsville, West Virginia 26147 | Thursday, January 22, 2026

Town Refuses to Pay O&M Salary

Courtesy Ridgeview News

The Calhoun O&M Water Board met briefly on Monday night (Jan. 12, 2026) following the Calhoun County Commission Meeting. This meeting was called after the Town of Grantsville's refusal to pay the newly hired O&M Manager, Brian Arthur, to determine the next course of action.

At a previous meeting, the unanimous hiring of Arthur was decided by the three boards: Mt. Zion PSD, Pleasant Hill PSD, and the Town of Grantsville.

The funding for the position comes from an ARP Grant provided by the Calhoun County Commission. The Town of Grantsville was allocated $80,000 to cover the salary of the O&M Manager, while Mt. Zion PSD received funds to cover the Manager's benefits.

However, according to those attending the meeting, the Town denied that it was a full hire, claiming it was merely a consideration for hiring Arthur. This was despite the presence of two attorneys, including the Town's attorney, at the meeting where the vote was made.

The meeting lasted only long enough for the board to decide to continue the matter until both the town's attorney and the county's attorney have the opportunity to discuss the town's concerns on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026.

Although the Town had informed the O&M Board that they would not be attending the meeting, Councilwoman Chasity Shock appeared on the Town's behalf. Also in attendance were Commissioners Craig Arthur and Lee Rush, along with Ari White, Trenton Cunningham, Robin Hughes, and Tony Arthur. Both the Town and County Attorneys joined the meeting via Teams.

Two council members walk out of most recent meeting

Courtesy Ridgeview News

The Grantsville Town Council met on Tuesday, Jan. 13th, 2026.

Following the recent resignation of Jessica Metz, who had moved from the city limits and could no longer hold the position of councilwoman, another resignation was made by Isabella McCormick, on Tuesday, Jan. 13th, 2026. McCormick was appointed as Town Recorder in October of 2025.

The Town Council has held multiple meetings lately to address the issue of missing staff and missing money with the report of a $12,850 check having been cashed or attempted to be cashed at a Richmond, Va., bank.

Two citizens attended the Tuesday night meeting as well as council members, Tanya Cunningham, Chasity Shock, Emilee Morgan, and Marissa Staples and Mayor John Villines.

Mayor Villines was reported to have gone over finances and hand a copy of the accounts to each council member to go over.

The resignation of McCormick as recorder was noted with the mayor wanting to get an assistant to help Marissa Staples, who is office manager as well as a council member.

It was at this point that former council member and failed mayoral candidate Courtney Alexander was suggested to fill the position, since she is already familiar with everything. Alexander has reportedly been assisting the town recently in office operations.

A council member disagreed with the idea of hiring Alexander saying she had already been turned down as recorder by the council and the meeting became heated between council members, with Mayor Villines trying to calm the situation down. Two council members left the mayor and other two council members to the meeting which then lacked a quorum, believing that the behavior was unacceptable by professionals.

The next regular Town Council meeting is set for the first Monday of February (Feb. 2, 2026).

We want to get better and we'd like your help

By Gaylen Duskey

We are in the midst of trying to standardize while adding new features which we feel will make our county and the newspaper better and more entertaining.

We want to implement a new feature called **2026 Update** where we take a look at projects that are being done and perhaps some that need to be done as we bounce back from what has been a long term of financial malaise.

We also want to standardize our history with a new feature called **Our History** (The Story of Calhoun) where we try to take an in-depth look at the people and events which have made us the people we are now.

We also hope to give you inside looks into Calhoun sports today and yesterday. For instance this week we took a look at scheduling for the football team.

Incidentally we also want to include the following information about who to contact for our various services.

For news articles please contact us at realfang@citlink.net or contact@calhounchronicle.com. However for advertising and circulation please contact Mountain Media, LLC, PO Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901, (304) 647-5724.

A while back we did an article about what we needed from you, our readers. We are reprinting the article in hopes of generating those things today.

Things that we need from people:

Sports teams join MaxPreps and report their schedule, roster, team stats, games etc. to MaxPreps. This allows us (*The Calhoun Chronicle*) access to the games where we can rewrite and publish the games. I have been told that some of our teams use Game Changer, and I am trying to get that loaded on my computer. Also, some teams use The Athlete for scoring their events. We are working to get set up so that we can get stats to write game reports easier.

County schools to send in honor rolls and student and faculty activities. This allows us to publish your news. Probably the best at this right now are the folks at Arnoldsburg Elementary School and the Little Kanawha Christian School. And thank you for it. But we also want reports from Pleasant Hill Elementary, Calhoun Middle School and Calhoun High School and the Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center.

Information from all Calhoun County's churches. Right now, we have a goodly group listed in our Church Directory, but we would like to have every church in the county listed. We would also like to have our churches send us information on special preaching and teaching, revivals, sings, etc. The most important thing we can hear is the word of God. Please help us get the word out.

Agenda and meeting schedules from every agency that gets government funding for basic operations. The Calhoun Board of Education has been very good at getting that information to us and *The Ridgeview News* in a timely manner. The new Calhoun County Commission has been very attentive to those details recently. The Town of Grantsville has been very hit and miss but we are hoping that a new broom following the June election will do better.

People to let us know about things such as reunions, special programs and the like. Currently we are kept well informed by the Calhoun High School Alumni Association, Minnie Hamilton Health Systems and the 1982 Foundation about those kinds of things and we thank them greatly, but we would like to hear from the rest of you. Let us know what is going on so we can let others know too.

So please let us know by sending us an email at contact@calhounchronicle.com or to my personal email at realfang@citlink.net or contact our friend Shari Harday Johnson of the *Ridgeview News* at talk2shari@gmail.com.

And we thank you.

Avalon construction update

By Crystal Mersh

For everything there is a season ... construction update.

2026 is the time for the community to reap the benefits of our hard work.

2026 started with a very productive first week. So much progress in the Learning Center. The walls are looking great. The soaring ceilings with the Nana walls provide bright beautiful classrooms that will be filled with children who will "Learn to love to Learn".

The gas connection is finally ready to go and will be hooked up this week. All MEPs will be back on site next post-holiday season.

In the main building it is sheet rock and plaster going full steam. It is really looking good and taking shape. With the sheet rock up in the library suite we can now get a feel for the grandeur of the space and once the door to the roof top deck is installed it will be truly amazing.

We did a detailed design review and laid out tile plans which will include 10,000 sq ft of white Turkish marble for floors and showers. Blue veined marble for kitchen backspaces. Beautiful modern case work for kitchen cabinets with granite countertops will be the show cases for the apartments along with modern electric fireplaces below the TVs. They will be comfy and beautifully furnished and decorated. The furniture is already purchased and in my basement here in Atlanta. I have a very big basement and a five car garage full of stuff ready to be transported as soon as it is completed.

The concrete work for the outside walls and walks looks so nice. The alley way between the two buildings will have steps and a ramp making it accessible for all.

The windows are ready to be installed in The Varsity and so are the beautiful red oak hard wood floors. All of the appliances are purchased and on site and ready to be installed including a bright red wood fired pizza oven this will be a show case in the restaurant. Large red leather doors will also be a beautiful focal point for the hallway into the retail area. This week we are working on the stairway options and design. We will consult with the architect and then evaluate our options. At first we did not think a spiral staircase could work but Dennis Spaur and I saw one at Ponce City Market (a multi-use conversion of the old east coast Sears warehouse) that proved to us it could work for the space. So we will be investigating.

The design and finish is almost complete just a few more lighting and plumbing fixtures to select.

The plans for the grounds include the movement of the electronic sign down to the parking lot area where we removed the tree. A huge rock donated by Sharon Yanero and family will be installed near the big rhododendron as the marquee sign for AVALON. Many thanks to the Yanero family for this very kind gesture.

Mason James is in the process of reconciling all the brick orders. As soon as we know how many we have left we will do a post and sell the remainder. Thanks for your patience on this. When the weather breaks we will be looking to start the brick preparation.

Natasha N McCumbers and Shana Beard Spaur are working on start up plans for the Appleseed day care and KOIOS private STEM school. And the whole team worked on Monday and laid out all our objectives for the year.

It was a busy three days in town as I was also dealing with the 2026 QxP business ramp up which is like drinking water from a fire hose and then I was off to what turned out to be an excellent meeting in a private club next door to the White House ... a pretty big step for a lil gal from Calhoun County. It just goes to show to all our youth ... you can do anything you want to do, and God will bless you beyond your wildest dreams if you keep Him in your heart.

Next week we will have a detailed timeline for all trades and confirmation of all remaining items to be purchased. Very pleased with the progress and I must say that Dennis Spaur is pretty good at keeping all the multitude of plates spinning. It is an incredibly complex project with lots of points of contact and communication.

We wish to thank all who have supported us last year and helped us get to where we are now. Time to finish this thing and open the doors. God willing.

The tragic capture of Phebe Tucker Cunningham

Calhoun County's Most Storied Woman – Her Children Murdered, Her Spirit Unbroken

(Rewritten from an article By Bob Weaver)

High on a peaceful hillside above Leading Creek Road in Calhoun County lies one of the region's most solemn and historic resting places — the grave of **Phebe Tucker Cunningham (1761–1845)**. Her life story, one of violence, tragedy, captivity, and resilience, connects modern Calhoun County to the raw, perilous world of the American frontier in the late 18th century.

A Frontier Woman Remembered

Phebe Tucker was born in 1761, likely in what was then the western reaches of Virginia — a land of dense forests and scattered homesteads pressed against Indigenous hunting grounds. She later married **Thomas Cunningham**, a soldier in the **Revolutionary War**, and together they became early settlers in what would one day become north-central West Virginia.

Their frontier settlement was located along **Bingamon Creek**, a tributary of the West Fork River, in present-day Marion County. At the time, this was true wilderness — a borderland between native tribes and newly arriving settlers. Frontier families lived in constant tension, for although treaties had promised peace, raids and retaliations continued for years

PHEBE TUCKER CUNNINGHAM cont. on page 6

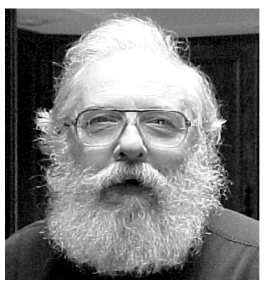
The Grantsville Town Council meets the first Monday of every month in the city building on Main Street at 6 p.m.

The Calhoun County Commission meets the second Monday of every month in the Calhoun Courthouse meeting room at 9 a.m.

The Calhoun County School Board meets the second Monday of every month at 5:50 p.m. in the school board office at Mt. Zion.

Creston News

BY ALVIN ENGELKE
PHONE 275-3578



The Creston area received a little snow, and it would seem that winter weather has returned. Some daffodils had started to come out of the ground.

Gilmer County came to play basketball as well as the Callhoun JV Thursday, so the Wirt road crew worked Thursday to patch the worst holes in the Creston bridge before the school buses hit the rim bending holes. Routinely the bridge department looks after all the bridges. Before the patching a well-known Brooksville resident who was on his way to Parkersburg hit "the big one" and he had to modify his Parkersburg trip by getting a $163 alignment before coming back home. The Wirt road crew has been cleaning the ditch along W. Va. Route 5.

Otis "Bud" Lowther, age 95, passed away at the nursing home in Elizabeth. The brother of Sylvia [Mrs. Oris] Meadows, he had been living in Creston. Burial was in the Hiney cemetery in Gilmer County.

Donnie Nutter is back home after spending some time up in Ohio.

Roger Whited is buying the Bingman farm at Creston. It includes the Isaac Swiner tracts, the Grim farm & the Marshall Vandal farm. Marshall Vandal was one of Francis Marion Hopkins' drinking buddies and Marshall Vandal was one of the principals in the "Bottling Works & Saloon" that was located at the foot of Ann Street in Parkersburg. Nick Leone, one of the Bingman heirs, had been visiting locally.

It was learned that now mail from local post offices is no longer taken for sorting at the end of the day but is taken in the morning when mail Is delivered. It was noted earlier that if one needs a specific date showing mail was sent one must go to the local office and ask that the letter is hand cancelled. Mail is still delivered seven days/week to local offices. The problem with illegal aliens with CDLs made a lot of news after several awful crashes killing innocent American citizens. It was learned that one of the big employers of the illegals was the post office although they now say, "they are working on the problem".

One of the bigger "boondoggles" of the Biden Junta were the hydrogen hubs with the claim that hydrogen was the fuel of the future. Some of the projects have been killed outright but the ARCH 2 hydrogen hub that was supposed to make "W. Va. Rich" is still alive but on hold since there is not much market for hydrogen now. U. S. Sen Capito says "it will happen" but not sure when. The promotional photo shows hydrogen tanks that are unrealistic at best as one understands how to safely store the gas. The Pleasants Power plant was to be converted to hydrogen but, apparently, all that has fallen through. Presently the plant is operating as the power grid folks said there was need for the power. The plant is said to be for sale once again.

With leadership from socialist Bernie Sanders there is a push to stop the building of data centers citing all sorts of claims of harm to the citizens & taxpayers. In fact the anti-fracking folks are now the anti-data center crowd. Of course the Chinese communists are all for it as this would assure that Dictator Xi will overpower America.

February 2 is Agriculture & Forestry Day at the W. Va. State Legislature. One can park at the ballfield and ride the bus to the capitol. Folks gather in the rotunda by 10 A.M. And then go visit legislators, watch the sessions, etc. The Taste of W. Va. Legislative session is at 6 p. M. At the Marriott.

Creston bingo starts February 7 with the door opening at noon at the Creston Community Building.

Those who plan to run for office have until January 31 to file. For county offices one goes to the County Clerk, otherwise, to the Secretary of State's office under the golden dome. Some in the past tried to have letters postmarked on the last day but with the new rules for cancelling letters such likely will no longer work after the early closing of post offices on Saturday.

The head of Expand Energy, which is the merger of Chesapeake and SWN (Southwestern) said that the firm isn't going to drill for gas when the price is $3.50. The NYMEX presently is $3.128/MMBTU. The EIA (Energy Information Agency) believes the average 2026 price will be $3.46 and next year it will be $4.59.

The State of Ohio leased some property in Carroll County Ohio and received a $6,000/acre bonus.

Kamala Harris just purchased an $8 million home on the beach at Malibu. Apparently being a vice president was very lucrative. Al Gore, Jr. & the Big Eared One also have ocean front properties so the hype about sea level was all show. It is now clear that CO2 levels are not related to temperature variations but that's OK because Junior Gore has made his fortune.

The price of local Pennsylvania grade crude is $58.44/bbl. With condensate fetching $40.44/bbl. And Marcellus & Utica light bringing $47.44/bbl. The price of WTI (West Texas Intermediate) is $60.47 and Brent (North Sea) crude is $63.76/bbl.

No Miranda Rights in Heaven; spread the love

By Shari Johnson
Publisher Ridgeview news

I've spent considerable time in the Word of God, especially since caring for my mother, who has dementia. The greatest blessing of staying with her is the time I get to spend in the Word, uninterrupted by what was my life before this stage. I love and adore my family, but they are loud and distracting. It's not that I am not grateful for them, but we are called to be a people of study. 2 Timothy 2:15 says: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." So, staying with my mother gives me time for quiet.

For the time being, I am in the book of Jeremiah—the weeping prophet—who makes no bones about the truth when it comes to telling Israel what God is revealing to His people. God has advised and chastised, but He will not mirandize, because we have no rights before God outside of His Son, Jesus Christ.

There Is No Excuse Nor Justification for Sin

God provided prophets, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, to give messages of truth to the people of Israel, but they chose not to listen. When Jeremiah wouldn't stop speaking about what God says, they imprisoned him. When he sent another preacher out to deliver the Word of God to the people and their leaders, the king didn't like it.

Jeremiah 36:5-7: "And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I cannot go into the house of the LORD: [6] Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD'S house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities. [7] It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return everyone from his evil way: for great is the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people."

So Jeremiah's servant did just that. He sent his servant Baruch with the words God had given him to read in the house of the Lord. But the church's reaction wasn't one of "Thank you, brother, for that word of advice." Rather than listen to the Words of God, they sought the opinion of the hierarchy of men. When Michaiah heard it, who was in the house of the Lord when Baruch read the scroll, he took that information to the princes and scribes to see what they had to say about it. They told Baruch to go and hide himself and Jeremiah, and they put the scroll in the chamber of the scribe. They then told the king what had been read. So the king sent for the scroll, and as he heard the words read, he took out a knife, cut the pages, and threw the scroll in the fire.

When I read those words, my heart sank. How could anyone take the Word of God and destroy it? But then I think of our world today. They are doing their best to get rid of the Word of God. They have removed it from schools, they don't read it in their homes, and they promote, as much as possible, lifestyles and behaviors that go against the Word of God. Is there any difference in the disrespect of our modern society than there was in the king who threw the scroll in the fire?

There Is No Escaping Sin's Penalty

Sin separates us from the Lord and brings judgment upon the sinner, or collectively as a nation, even if you're not directly involved. I have no doubt that there were Israelites who didn't agree with the king's behavior. And there were obviously still some good people because Jeremiah sent a word from God to the Rechabites, who were descendants of Moses' father-in-law. They were proselytes (converted to Judaism) who practiced what they preached. When Jeremiah offered them wine, they informed him that they didn't drink because God had told them not to. These were an obedient people and known for it. They lived in tents, as did their ancestors, not subscribing to the worldliness of a house. They did not take the Word lightly. So God told them that their bloodline would continue. God tells us very much the same thing.

Those who accept the crucifixion of Christ as a sacrifice and payment for sin and believe every word of God have the promise of eternal life. God will never turn you away. But that's not to say you won't have trouble in your life. You are surrounded by a world of sin, for which you should be the example of God. But just because you are a child of God doesn't mean you can stand in a house burning down around you and not get burnt. Sin's penalty has many innocent victims. Sometimes, God tells you to get out of that place of fire and get yourself to safety.

Jeremiah 36:3 KJV: "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

God gave Israel a chance. But when they heard the Word of God spoken, some feared, and some spoke out for the king not to burn it (Jeremiah 36:25). But the king did it anyway, and judgment came on all of Israel.

There Is No Way to Avoid Judgment (Or Is There?)

Judgment came in the form of Babylonian captivity. No longer were there any heirs to the throne from that king's bloodline. But what about the men who tried to stop the king from burning the scroll? Judgment fell on them too. And as long as we in America continue to allow our leaders and citizens to mock God, judgment is going to come upon us. God has allowed so many blessings in America. I believe that He continues allowing some of them because there is still a remnant of God's people that try their best to stand strong. They have a relationship with the Lord. Do you?

Do you read His Word, pray to Him, and speak with Him as you would a great leader who chooses to allow you to be His close friend? You would be so honored if any national leader of your choosing chose to bring you into their immediate circle of friends. Well, the Creator of the Universe sent you an invitation through the Word of God. Did you meet Him when He invited you, or did you just put it back in the envelope to wait until later to open it?

Later may never come.

Praise God for the mercy that awaits us in Heaven and travels along with us in the form of the Holy Spirit, allowing us to converse with God for direction in this world. I believe that one of the reasons the King threw the word of God into the fire was because he knew that the word had power, or Satan knew and coerced him to do it. The word says in James 4:7 – "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

God spared the Rechabites because they were obedient. And although we will all stand before God, we will not stand before Him in judgement of sin, but rather to answer for what we've done as a child of God and for His Kingdom. How we handled His Word, and His wisdom that He provided to us? And the only way to get there, instead of the great White Throne Judgement, which is were all sinners who have not accepted Christ will stand to face Judgement for their unforgiven sins, is to have accepted Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Understand that you could do nothing worthy of getting yourself into Heaven and serve Him to the best of your ability.

I pray you know Him.

Letter to the Editor

Introducing the Calhoun County Community Calendar – Invitation to Participate

Editor,

We are developing the Calhoun County Community Calendar, a centralized, public-facing platform designed to consolidate and promote local events, meetings, and gatherings in one accessible location. This free resource will allow various entities—including commissions, councils, committees, nonprofit organizations, parks departments, and community groups—to easily post and share event details such as date, time, location, and description. The goal is to better inform residents about upcoming opportunities and strengthen community connection. We especially welcome participation beyond government agencies. We encourage contributions from:

Local parks and recreation programs

Fundraisers and charitable events

Festivals, fairs, and cultural celebrations

Schools, clubs, and other community organizations

There is no cost to contribute events or to access the calendar—it is a public service project created for the benefit of all Calhoun County residents. If you're interested in learning more, contributing events, or discussing how your organization can get involved, I'd be happy to schedule a brief conversation. I can also share a link to view the current progress and features of the calendar—just let me know! Thank you for helping make our community stronger and more connected.

Best regards,

Adam Mills
CEO Networking WV.
Certified IT Specialist
P: (304) 501-5959
Adam Mills <adam@networkingwv.com>

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 mechanics, 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.

The Calhoun Chronicle
and
The Grantsville News
"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://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.

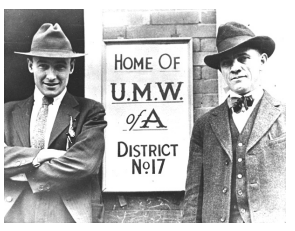
To add your community service information to this listing email contact@calhounchronicle.com.

e-WV The West Virginia Encyclopedia

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

Jan. 22, 1927: Confederate General John McCausland died. After the fall of the Confederacy, McCausland fled the country. He returned in 1867 and spent the remainder of his life on his large farm in Mason County.

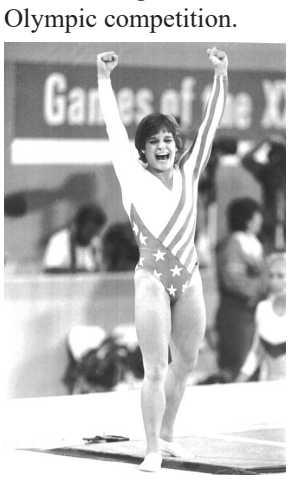
Jan. 23, 1850: Raleigh County was established by an act of the Virginia General Assembly. The county's founder, Alfred Beckley, named it after Sir Walter Raleigh.



Jan. 23, 1888: Union leader Fred Mooney was born in a log cabin on Davis Creek in Kanawha County. He was secretary-treasurer of United Mine Workers of America District 17 from 1917 to 1924 and was a radical leader in the West Virginia Mine Wars.

Jan. 23, 1890: The United Mine Workers was organized at a meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Three months later, in Wheeling, UMWA District 17, encompassing most of West Virginia, held its first meeting, elected M. F. Moran as district president, and launched what became a struggle of more than 40 years to unionize the state's coal mines.

Jan. 24, 1968: Mary Lou Retton was born in Fairmont. She made history at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles when, at 16, she became the first American woman ever to win a gold medal in gymnastics and the first native West Virginia woman to win a gold medal in Olympic competition.

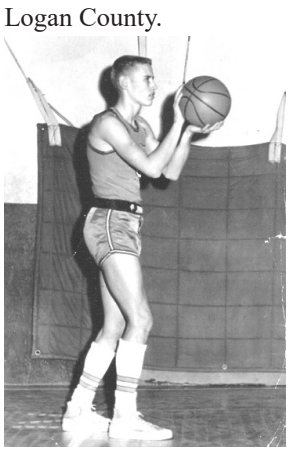


Jan. 25, 1814: Francis Harrison Pierpont was born near Morgantown. On June 20, 1861, Pierpont was unanimously elected as governor of the unionist Reorganized State of Virginia, which sat at Wheeling until West Virginia entered the Union two years later.

Jan. 25, 1878: Activist Lenna Lowe Yost was born in Basnettville in Marion County. She held key leadership roles in the woman's suffrage and temperance movements.

Jan. 25, 1889: Anna Johnson Gates was born in Kanawha County. The state's first female state legislator, Gates was elected to the House of Delegates in 1922 and served a single term.

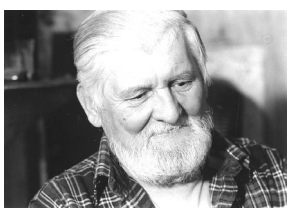
Jan. 26, 1850: Wyoming County was formed by the Virginia General Assembly from part of Logan County.



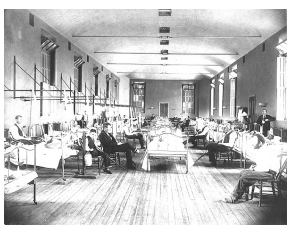
Jan. 26, 1960: Burnsville High School basketball player Danny Heater scored 135 points in a varsity game against Widen, setting a national record. Heater went on to receive an academic scholarship to attend the University of Richmond.

Jan. 27, 1925: Bernard L. Coffindaffer was born in Nicholas County. In the 1980s and 1990s, Coffindaffer erected clusters of crosses along the highways of West Virginia and much of the Southeast.

Jan. 27, 1933: Folk artist George Connard Wolfe was born in Standard, Kanawha County. A self-trained sculptor, he made his own tools from automobile leaf springs and engine valves and worked in stone and wood.



Jan. 27-28, 1998: Flat Top on the Mercer-Raleigh county line received a record snowfall of 35 inches in a 24-hour period.



Jan. 28, 1902: Miners Hospital No. One opened at Welch, with a young Dr. Henry Hatfield as president. The legislature had passed a law requiring state hospitals for those engaged in dangerous occupations, and eventually three hospitals for miners were built in different sections of the state.

Jan. 28, 1937: In a flood that drove a million Ohio Valley residents from their homes, the Ohio River crested at Huntington at 69.45 feet, more than 19 feet above flood stage. By the time the water receded, five people were dead, and the city was in ruins. Parkersburg, Ravenswood, and Point Pleasant also were badly damaged.

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Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund Grant Equips Land Resources Students with Advanced Forestry Measurement Tools

Glenville State University's Department of Land Resources has received a Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund grant to purchase modern forestry field instruments that will strengthen student training in forest measurements, timber inventory, and applied natural resource education.

Grant funds will be used to add key equipment for hands-on learning, including a hypsometer/clinometer for measuring tree height and a bark thickness gauge to improve the accuracy of inside-bark diameter calculations and volume estimates. These tools will expand the department's ability to equip more students during field exercises and support growing enrollment.

The equipment will be integrated across Forest Technology, Natural Resource Management, and Wildlife Management courses, giving students more opportunities to practice standard forestry measurement techniques and produce more accurate height, diameter, and volume estimates during labs and field exercises.

"This grant provides our students with the tools needed to make accurate tree measurements in the field and apply those skills in forest inventory," said Dr. Rico Gazal, Professor of Forestry.

For more information about the programs of the Department of Land Resources at Glenville State University, contact the Department of Land Resources at Land.Resources@glenville.edu or (304) 462-6370.

County Commission Requests WV State Audit of County Finances

Courtesy Ridgeview News

Calhoun Commissioners met Monday evening (Jan. 12, 2026) at 4 p.m. for their regularly scheduled January meeting, welcoming newly appointed Clerk Whitney Butler. The Commissioners thanked her for accepting the position, which allowed the County Clerk's office to reopen after being closed due to the resignation of Jean Simers.

Commission President Eric Lupardus, Commissioners Craig Arthur and Lee Rush, and County Administrator Jennifer Randolph were in attendance.

The Commissioners discussed the America 250 mural project, with Committee member Donna Schoolcraft reporting that they were unable to find a building owner willing to allow a mural painting on their property. Two options now being considered are the Calhoun County Park Barn and the backside of the Calhoun Courthouse, both requiring organizational approval. Commissioner Lee Rush agreed to speak with the Calhoun County Park board to see if the barn location would be possible.

County Administrator Randolph requested that the County Commission create a new parking lot assignment, as it has not been updated since 1988. The Commission agreed that the lot will be reassigned, with elected staff being first to select (or keep) their current assignment, police officers choosing second, and employees selecting third by seniority. The parking spots around the courthouse annex will be reserved for the County Commission, who are now in that office on a regular basis.

The recent contract under consideration with Roane County Emergency Squad serving Calhoun returned to the agenda for closure. The Commissioners voted unanimously to sign the contract, allowing Minnie Hamilton to relinquish the ambulance service, which will now be managed by Roane County EMS. Commission President Lupardus expressed satisfaction with the arrangement, stating that Minnie Hamilton and Roane County EMS have worked from day one to ensure the safety of the county's citizens. Calhoun will have two 24-hour ambulances, one located at the Minnie Hamilton Clinic in Arnoldsburg and the other at Minnie Hamilton Health Care Center in Grantsville, for dispatch from those locations. Regarding levy funding, it can only be used for Calhoun, so it will be placed in a separate fund by Roane County for the payment of Calhoun staff and expenses. This agreement added an extra ambulance and an additional full-time crew. Commissioner Arthur stated that there was no choice but to enter into the contract when Minnie Hamilton decided to stop providing ambulance service. The matter was not put out for bid because the Attorney General gave permission to accept the Roane offer, as this was a critical service that could not be delayed.

Calhoun County Assessor Jason Nettles requested and received approval from the Commission to extend the deadline for keying personal property until February 25, 2026.

Under Commission Reports, Commissioner Lee Rush reported that the Calhoun County Park had made $815 in proceeds from the Christmas light viewing project. He also shared that the trail system has been completed under the direction of Erin Springston and will be opened for the Mountain Bike Race and hikers to use the trails.

Calhoun County Park events now being planned or scheduled for the 2026 year include:

Appalachian Classic Bike Race
Installation of Starlink Internet for park attendees
Astronomy Outreach
Waypoint Zero – Opening 6/6/26
Oshoway Memorial Egg Hunt
April Fools Bluegrass Event – 4/11/26
WVSSA Star Party – 5/15-17/26
Eastern Star Car Show – 5/16/26
Search and Rescue Training – 5/20/26
Kite Festival

The opening of Waypoint Zero will coincide with the weekend of the Calhoun County Wood Festival. The park is working with the Calhoun Wood Festival Committee to ensure all events can be attended. The next Calhoun County Park meeting will be held on February 5, 2026, at 6 p.m.

Sheriff Graham Knight reported that the Civil Service Exam was given to six applicants (20 had applied to take it, but sickness prevented several from attending). Two were existing officers, and four of those testing were non-certified. Both the written and agility tests were administered, with Sheriff Knight noting that the weather did not deter those testing.

According to the Calhoun 911 report, the Calhoun Sheriff's Office received 1,246 calls, 25 of which were mental health calls that typically required eight hours of the officer's time for processing.

A new X-ray machine will be installed in the Courthouse for security. Sheriff Knight requested that the public have patience, as the new process may take longer to access the courthouse offices. Due to this, Isaiah Wilson was moved to a full-time position in the Sheriff's Department to operate the X-ray machine.

New board appointments were made to both the Mt. Zion PSD Board, with Jess Metz and Craig Hickman appointed, and the Pleasant Hill PSD Board, with Cindy Boggs and Sandra Marks appointed. Commissioner Lupardus acknowledged their contribution of property for the Animal Shelter and noted that both would be an asset to the Animal Shelter project.

A request by Calhoun Commission Administrator Jennifer Randolph and Sheriff Graham Knight was made for a grant application for a Records Management staff person. The grant would provide $15,000 for 470 hours of destroying and digitizing records that are currently occupying considerable storage space in the Courthouse. The request to apply was approved.

Under the agenda item for Budget Review, Budget versus Actual, the Commission entered into Executive Session to address a charge or grievance against a public officer or employee. Upon returning, they stated that no action was taken during the executive session. However, Commission President Eric Lupardus made a motion to contact the State of West Virginia's Auditor's Office to request a financial audit, which was unanimously approved by all Commissioners.

WVDNR Launches Eastern Newt Citizen Science Survey

Public encouraged to report newt observations to support amphibian conservation

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced the start of a new citizen science project to track the distribution and abundance of eastern newts across the state. The eastern newt, also known as the red-spotted newt, is a small salamander commonly found in West Virginia's forests, fields and wetlands. It is unique among salamanders because it has three distinct life stages: an aquatic larval stage with external gills, a terrestrial red eft stage that can last several years and an aquatic adult stage. Members of the public are encouraged to report eastern newt sightings in any life stage. "Citizen science plays a critical role in conservation and this survey gives West Virginians an opportunity to directly contribute to protecting one of our most recognizable native amphibians," said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. Data collected through the survey will help WVDNR biologists better understand eastern newt populations and prepare for the potential arrival of a newly described chytrid fungus that is deadly for eastern newts. While the fungus has not yet been documented in North America, biologists expect it to arrive in the future. "Disease is one of the leading threats to amphibian populations globally," said Kevin Oxenrider, the WVDNR's amphibian and reptile program leader. "That's why it's so important to understand where eastern newts are now and how common they are across West Virginia. Every observation helps us build a clearer picture of their status before this disease arrives." Outdoor enthusiasts can help prevent the spread of amphibian diseases by washing boots, boats and gear between visits to different outdoor locations, especially aquatic habitats and allowing gear to fully dry for at least 48 hours before reuse. The survey will take two years to complete. Members of the public who see the iconic salamander are encouraged to report their sightings to the WVDNR through the Survey123 app or online at WVdnr.gov/eastern-newt-survey.

WVDNR stocks 46 waters during week of Jan. 5

Anglers are reminded to purchase a 2026 fishing license and trout stamp

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced that the following lakes and streams were stocked with trout during the week of Jan. 5:

•Anthony Creek
•Barboursville Lake
•Big Run Lake
•Blackwater River
•Cacapon Park Lakes
•Cedar Creek Lakes
•Chief Logan Pond
•Conaway Run Lake
•Curtisville Lake
•Deegan Lake
•Elk River (Randolph, Webster)
•Fitzpatrick Lake
•Gandy Lake
•Glady Fork
•Hinkle Lake
•Howards Creek
•Hurricane Reservoir
•Huey Lake
•James P Bailey Lake
•Knapps Creek
•Krodel Lake
•Larinem Park Lake
•Laurel Fork Lake
•Laurel Fork (Randolph)
•Lick Creek Pond
•Little Beaver Lake
•Mannington Lake
•Middle Wheeling Creek (Delayed Harvest)
•North Fork Fishing Creek
•North Fork South Branch
•Opequon Creek
•Pendleton Lake
•Ridenour Lake
•Rollins Lake
•Shavers Fork (Bemis)
•Shavers Fork (Lower Section)
•Shavers Fork (Upper Section)
•South Branch (Catch and Release)
•South Branch (Franklin)
•South Branch (Petersburg)
•South Branch (Smoke Hole)
•South Fork Fishing Creek
•Spruce Knob Lake
•Thomas Park Lake
•Turkey Run Lake
•Wayne Dam

While daily trout stockings are not announced in advance, the WVDNR publishes a list of recently stocked waters at WVdnr.gov/fishing/fish-stocking. In the event of inclement weather, hatchery staff will make up missed stockings before the end of the month (weather permitting) by making additional stocking runs or adding extra fish to upcoming stockings. For more information about trout stocking locations, anglers should check pages 6-7 in the Fishing Regulations Summary, available to download at WVdnr.gov/fishing-regulations.

All anglers 15 years and older are required to have a West Virginia fishing license and a valid form of identification while fishing in the state of West Virginia. Trout stamps are required for those fishing for trout. Licenses and stamps may be purchased online at WVfish.com.

Calhoun 2026 football schedule taking shape

By Gaylen Duskey

It's the middle of winter, and the high school football season has been over for a while now for most of us, but for some, it is going hot and heavy.

Those folks are the ones working on getting the football schedules ready for the upcoming season, such as those in charge of putting together the schedules at small schools, such as Calhoun County.

And it is not always easy.

Right now Calhoun County seems to have nine games scheduled but getting the 10th game to fall into place is not always the easiest thing to do.

The Red Devils have two open dates on the schedule with these possible opponents among in=state schools of a comparable size:

9/18 - Open (Potential opponents: Weir, Montcalm, Meadow Bridge)
10/9 - Open (Potential opponents: Montcalm, Meadow Bridge)

Sounds easy, right, just schedule one of those three teams on one of those two dates.

Let's consider the options.

First Weir is a Class AA school and enrollment wise is quite a bit bigger than Calhoun so neither team may want the game exactly for that reason.

So how about Meadow Bridge at Montcalm?

Size wise both work fine.

No problem, right?

Right now Calhoun only has four home games, so the Red Devils are seeking a home game. Would Meadow Bridge or Montcalm be willing to play in Mount Zion?

If so, what about next year would Calhoun be willing to travel to Meadow Bridge, which is in very rural Fayette County? Or to Montcalm which is even further away in rural Mercer County?

All those questions need to be answered when putting together a schedule.

Right now is appears as if Calhoun has lost four teams from the 2025 schedule as Wahama, Tolsia, Clay and Buffalo are gone from the 2025 schedule. They have been replaced by East Hardy, Weirton Madonna, St. Marys and either probably Meadow Bridge or Montcalm.

Tentative 2026 Schedule:
8/28 - Gilmer
9/4 - Richwood
9/11 - at Wirt
9/18 - Open (Potential opponents: Weir, Montcalm, Meadow Bridge)
9/25 - at East Hardy
10/2 - at Madonna
10/9 - Open (Potential opponents: Montcalm, Meadow Bridge)
10/16 - at Valley Wetzel
10/23 - St Marys
10/30 - at Webster
11/6 - Ritchie

Teams with Openings That Coincide with Calhoun Open Dates:
9/18: Weir, Montcalm, Meadow Bridge
10/9: Montcalm, Meadow Bridge

Teams Lost from 2025 Schedule:
Wahama
Tolsia
Buffalo
Clay

2025 Schedule with Scores:
8/29/25 - Gilmer County (L, 20-46)
9/5/25 - Richwood (W, 34-14)
9/12/25 - Wirt County (L, 12-42)
9/19/25 - Wahama Senior/Middle School (L, 8-57)
9/26/25 - Tolsia (L, 12-52)
10/3/25 - Buffalo (L, 26-63)
10/10/25 - Clay County High School (L, 0-56)
10/17/25 - Valley Wetzel (W, 65-14)
10/31/25 - Webster County High School (W, 41-28)
11/7/25 - Ritchie County (L, 0-38)

A Calhoun Middle School player and some Ritchie Middle School players perform a basketball ballet in the air during a recent game at Mount Zion. Clear Blue Skys Studio caught the action and saved it for posterity.

PHEBE TUCKER CUNNINGHAM

Continued from Page 1

after the Revolution.

Phebe Cunningham's name lives on today through countless descendants and through her symbolic place in American history: hundreds of women have joined the **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)** because of her husband's and her own sacrifices. A now-defunct local DAR chapter in Calhoun County bore her name as a tribute.

The Fateful Attack of 1785

In the year **1785**, a band of six Native Americans arrived at Bingamon Creek and approached the neighboring homes of **Thomas and Edward Cunningham** — brothers whose farmsteads sat close together but not within direct line of sight. Thomas, the elder, was away on a trading journey over the mountains, leaving Phebe and their four young children at home. Edward, his wife, and children were nearby.

As both families sat down for their midday meal, chaos struck. A warrior appeared suddenly inside Phebe's cabin. Seeing Edward's house so near, the intruder feared being shot and hesitated. Edward, witnessing the attack, bolted his own door, armed himself, and prepared to fire through a small window—an opening used as both light source and firing port.

Shots were exchanged between the houses. The Indian fired first, narrowly missing Edward; logs splintered beside his head. The warrior then used an axe to cut an escape hole through the back of Phebe's cabin wall.

Inside, Phebe, fearing for her children's lives, dared not flee. She believed leaving the house would draw fire from outside. Her courage was both physical and maternal — knowing she might be killed, she refused to abandon her children.

When the warrior finally broke through the wall, he turned his cruelty on the family. One by one, he struck Phebe's children with his tomahawk, killing them in cold blood. He ordered her to step outside, which she did—clutching her surviving infant, stepping in horror over the body of her slain child.

Outside, the attackers scalped the dead and set fire to the Cunningham home. Edward and his son fought desperately to keep their own house from burning, dousing flames while musket balls whistled around them. The Indians eventually withdrew, retreating westward—but with Phebe as captive.

Three Years in Captivity

The Cunninghams' neighbors soon buried the remains of the murdered children. Parties of settlers scoured the woods for days, but the war party had vanished without a trace. They could not have known the ordeal Phebe would face during the next three years.

Phebe's captors moved westward, at first carrying a wounded companion. They sought refuge in a mountain cave along Bingamon Creek as search parties roamed nearby. Phebe later recounted that she had been able to hear the searchers' voices as they passed, while her captors quietly aimed their guns, prepared to kill her and any settler who stumbled upon them.

The party then traveled deep into the Ohio Country, enduring long marches through forest and river valleys. Phebe, suffering from hunger and constant fear, still carried her infant. As the days passed and starvation set in, her milk dried up. When blood came in place of nourishment and the baby cried from hunger, one warrior ended its life with a single blow from the tomahawk. Phebe was forced to watch—helpless.

Her only subsistence for ten days, she later told, was the head of one wild turkey and three pawpaws (a native fruit). Her feet were so burned and blistered from river crossings that her skin and nails peeled off with her stockings. Eventually, her captors took her to a Delaware Indian village, and then to the home of the father of the wounded warrior they had left behind. Her clothing was not replaced — a sign that she was not being adopted but was likely to face torture.

The Intervention of Simon Girty

At the village, Phebe's fortune shifted through the unlikely compassion of one man — **Simon Girty**, the infamous American-born frontiersman who had sided with the British and Native tribes during the Revolutionary War. Girty was often portrayed as a deserter and alleged "white savage" by settlers, but history shows him to have been complex — sometimes ruthless, sometimes merciful.

When he arrived in the village for treaty discussions, Phebe seized her only chance. She clutched the stirrup of his saddle and pleaded for him to save her. At first dismissive, Girty eventually relented to her desperate persistence. He ransomed her from her captors and delivered her safely to the group of white commissioners negotiating a peace with the tribes.

They transported her to a station on the south side of the Ohio River, where she met two men, Thomas Long and Mr. Denton, who were traveling home to Kentucky after seeking their own captive children. They gave her a horse and supplies to aid her return to civilization.

The Long Road Home

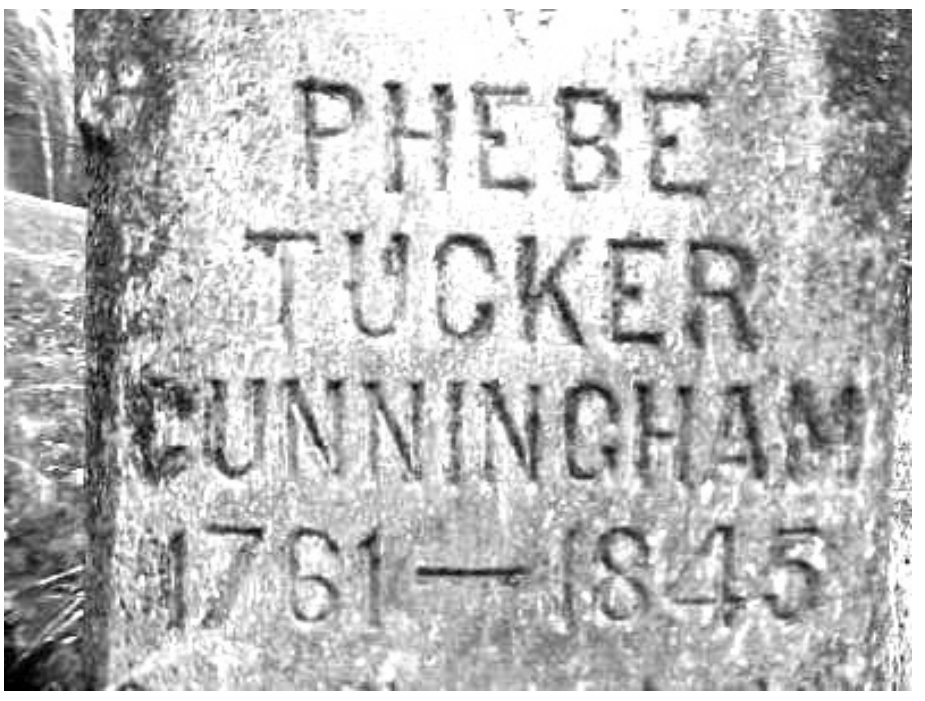
The journey eastward across Kentucky and into Virginia was grueling and dangerous. Large bands of travelers were often ambushed; wilderness roads were perilous. Still, Phebe pressed onward, aided by strangers and frontier hospitality.

At **Holston** (near present-day Kingsport, Tennessee), she obtained another horse left behind by a hunter and continued north up the Valley of Virginia toward her home in **Harrison County**. When she finally arrived, exhausted and scarred by her ordeal, she learned that Thomas—believing she might still be alive—had departed earlier in search of her in Kentucky.

Shortly after, the two were reunited. Their home, their family, and their peace had been destroyed, but they were alive and together once more. They settled again in northwestern Virginia and later raised new children. With time, their grief softened into faith and endurance characteristic of frontier life.

Her Resting Place

Phebe lived to the remarkable age of 84, passing away in **1845**. She was buried on **Leading Creek** in **Calhoun County, West Virginia**, in the **Shimer Cemetery**—just above the road that now bears the same name. The site lies one mile west of Prosperity Church and two miles from State Route 16.



Buried near her are early settlers **Isaac Collins (1792–1871)** and **Rachel Collins (1794–1882)**, as well as **Isaac Collins (d. 1833)**, Phebe's grandson. The Shimer, Snider, and Collins families rest there together in peaceful obscurity, overlooking the same rolling hills where frontier settlers once carved their homes from the wilderness.

Legacy

Phebe Cunningham's story has endured for over two centuries — passed down through frontier histories, local writings, and the genealogies of countless descendants. Her suffering personalized an era defined by cultural conflict, survival, and unthinkable loss.

To those who visit her grave today, the quiet hill above **Leading Creek** offers more than a burial site. It is sacred ground in the story of America — the resting place of a mother whose courage transcended horror, and whose endurance represents the spirit of all frontier women.

Job Openings, upcoming events in Calhoun County

Full-Time Staff Member - Circuit Clerk Office

Posted by: Maria Arnold, Calhoun County Circuit Clerk

Responsibilities: Answering calls, handling accounts receivable, greeting the public, record keeping, jury panel management.

Requirements: High school diploma, excellent verbal and written communication skills, professional, organized, detail-oriented, multitasking ability. Previous experience and references preferred.

Benefits: Medical, retirement, paid vacation, medical leave.

Application Details: Available at the office (8:00 am - 4:00 pm). Deadline: January 29, 2026.

Part-Time Deputy Clerk - County Clerk Office

Posted by: Whitney Butler, Calhoun County Clerk

Responsibilities: Assisting the public with records, voter registration, political and real estate filings, answering calls, and other office duties.

Requirements: High school diploma, good communication and computer skills.

Application Details: Accepted at the County Clerk's office (8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday-Friday). Deadline: January 30, 2026.

Upcoming Events

Queen Flora Pageant: May 16, 2026 (Open to Calhoun residents only).

Little Miss and Mr. Miss Pageant: May 16, 2026 (Open statewide).

Miss, Teen, and Preteen Pageant: May 17, 2026 (Open statewide).

For updates and online entry forms, visit the Calhoun County Wood Festival Pageants Facebook page. Contact Patty Haught at 304-588-1081 for more information.

School Roundup

Health Career Shadowing Program Local sophomores and juniors from Calhoun Middle/High School, Little Kanawha Valley Christian School, and Gilmer County High School have been selected for the Moving Onward and Upward (MOU) program. This initiative, running from January to April, is a partnership between the Northern West Virginia Area Health Education Center (NWVAHEC) and Minnie Hamilton Health System (MHHS). Students will gain hands-on experience in health care settings, receive CPR/First Aid certification, and complete independent projects. Successful participants will earn a stipend and a one-year ACT/SAT prep course from The Princeton Review.

100th Day of School Celebration Pleasant Hill students will celebrate the 100th day of school on January 29th. They can choose to decorate a shirt representing the 100th day or dress as if they are 100 years old. The event promises to showcase students' creativity and school spirit.

Mike Stump Memorial Youth Tournament The annual wrestling tournament will take place on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at Calhoun Middle High School. Registration is open online until February 5, 2026, with no walk-ins allowed. Entry fees are $35, and admission costs $10 for adults, $5 for school-age children, and free for kids under 4. Weigh-ins are scheduled for February 7 and 8, and awards will be given to the top four finishers in each division. For more information, contact Michael Fitzwater at 304-677-5413 or michael.fitzwater83@yahoo.com.

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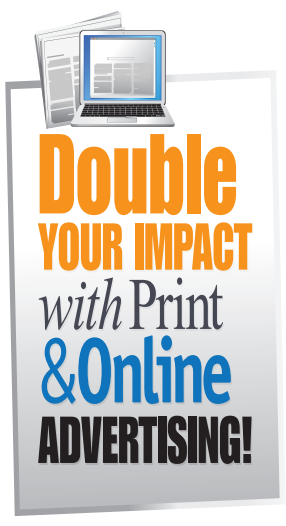

LEGAL

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
At Charleston
A PROCLAMATION
By the Governor

WHEREAS, the passing of Justice Tim Armstead, has caused a vacancy in the office of Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, article VIII, section 7 of the Constitution of West Virginia provides that if from any cause a vacancy shall occur in the office of a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Governor shall issue a directive of election to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law for electing a justice of the court in which the vacancy exists, and the justice shall be elected for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, section 3, article 10, section 3 of the West Virginia Code provides that where an unexpired tem of office for a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals is for a period longer than two years, the vacancy shall be filled by a successor who has timely filed a certificate of candidacy, and has been elected in a nonpartisan election and qualified to fill the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, at the time of Justice Tim Armstead's retirement, more than two years remained unexpired in the term of office for the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE,
I, PATRICK MORRISEY, Govemor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in my by the Constitution of West Virginia and the laws of this State, do hereby proclaim and declare that the unexpired term of office for Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia shall be filled by the voters of West Virginia at the primary election to be held on May 12, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Ninth Day of January, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand "Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.

PATRICK MORRISEY
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
At Charleston
A PROCLAMATION
By the Governor

WHEREAS, the retirement of Justice Elizabeth D. Walker, has caused a vacancy in the office of justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, article VIII, section 7 of the Constitution of West Virginia provides that if from any cause a vacancy shall occur in the office of a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Governor shall issue a directive of election to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law for electing a justice of the court in which the vacancy exists, and the justice shall be elected for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, section 3, article 10, section 3 of the West Virginia Code provides that where an unexpired term of office for a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals is for period longer than two years, the vacancy shall be filled by a successor who has timely filed a certificate of candidacy, and has been elected in a nonpartisan election and qualified to fill the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, at the time of Justice Elizabeth D. Walker's retirement, more than two years remained unexpired in the term Of office for the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE,
I, PATRICK MORRISEY, Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority Vested in my by the Constitution of West Virginia and the laws of this State, do hereby proclaim and declare that the unexpired term of office for Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia shall be filled by the voters of West Virginia at the primary election to be held on May 12, 2026.

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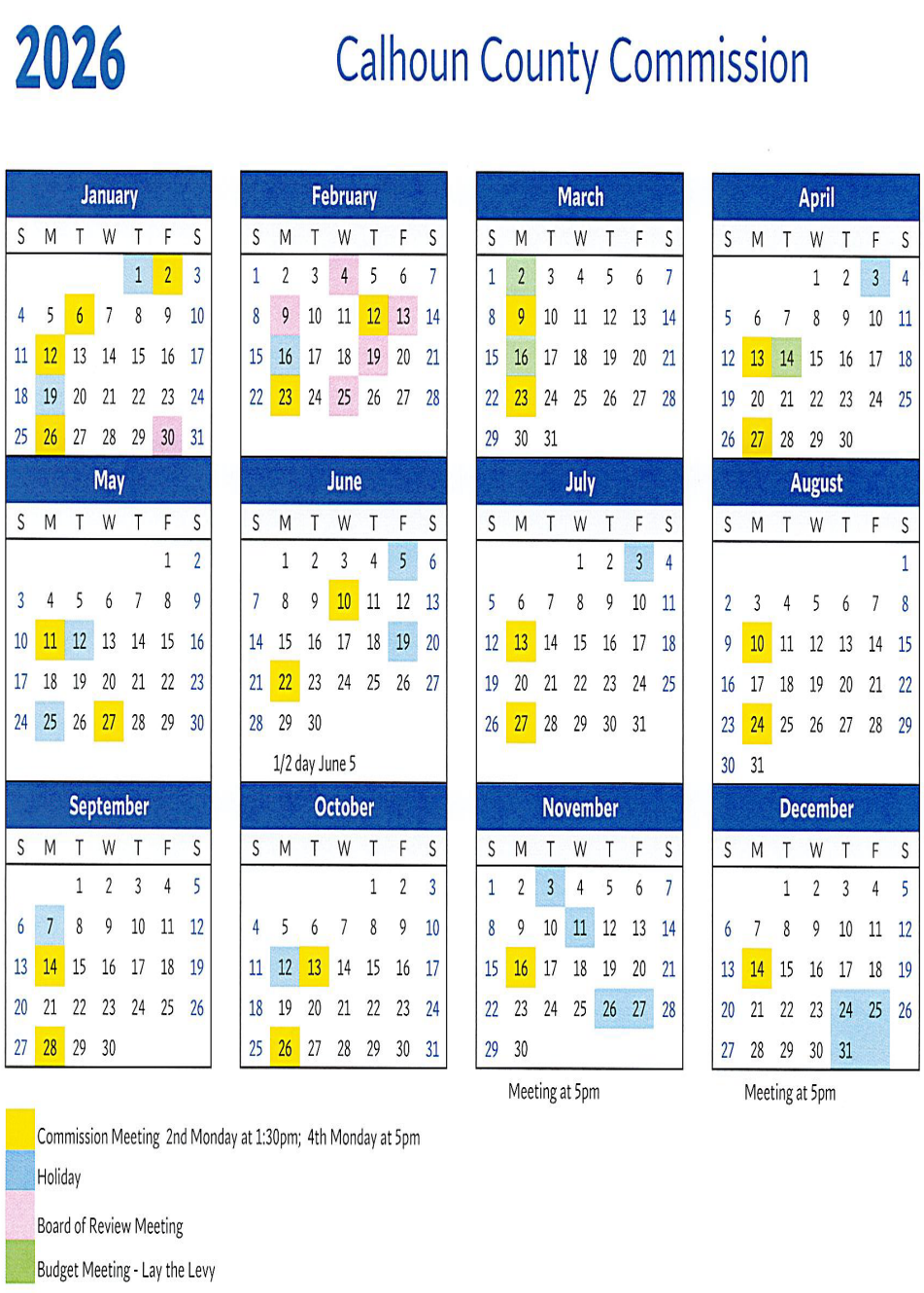
PATRICK MORRISEY
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

SECRETARY OF STATE



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 February 10, 2026 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
008	2021000727	S383-STR/IP-26 00	STP-2026(162)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS ROADWAY STRIPING DISTRICT WIDE **COUNTY:** CALHOUN, JACKSON, WIRT, WOOD

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 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 discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

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The Calhoun Chronicle
P.O. Box 400
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contact@calhounchronicle.com

Arnoldsburg Elementary School 1st Semester 25-26 Honor Roll

Principal's honor roll – All As

Kindergarten – Charlotte Bain, Ainsley Davis, Alexander Hall, Dauson Harris, Scarlett Houchin, Gracelynn Hughes, Dallas Mace, Ethan Morris, Spencer Parsons, Emma Starcher, Hayden Teykaerts

First Grade - Rylan Arthur, Greyson Grogg, Ronin Gungle, Sofia Jones, Lydia Long, Kaden Marks, Alivia Nichols, Henry Poore

Second grade – Carolina Blosser, Natalia Bremar, Ethan Fitzwater, River Parsons, Jaxson Peters, Hadley Propst

Third grade – Emersyn Butler, Jayce Daniels, Kenna Hall, Paxton Hughes, Talia Mayle, Waylon Poore, Kendall Richards

Fourth grade – Gracelynn Baker, Kinsley Burch, Isaac Fitzwater, Thorin Gungle, Lydia Hill, Paislie Jarvis, Kyson Sampson

A and B Honor roll

Kindergarten – Anna Proctor, Ryder Swisher

First Grade – Gabriella Anderson, Brier Arnold, Kason Carder, Lilith Craddock, Reed Falls, Edith Goodrich, Hal'Lee Hughes, Memphis Quick, Jacob Rose, Bryer Swisher

Second grade – Savannah Allen, Selena Allen, Morgan Arnold, Abigail Hicks, Katelynn Holbert, Sophia Kilby, Alaina McClain, Clayton McCullough, Blakely Moss, Paisley Sauer, Savannah Wagoner

Third grade – Lydia Burch, Brantley Davis, Grayden Detweiler, Rosslyn Dye, Sadie Goodrich, Emma Hardway, Savannah Leavitt, Chase Parsons, Gavin Parsons

Fourth grade – Wyatt Blosser, Natalie Craddock, Jacsen Harris, Wyatt Hartshorn, Michael McClain, Dexter Murphy, Kamryn Stewart, Bryson Swisher, Axton White

Pleasant Hill Elementary

First Semester
Principal's Honor Roll
Kindergarten:
Kesslyn Allison
Reagan Boatright
Abigail Doherty
Chase Francis
Harmoni Lanham
Isabel Richards
1st Grade:
Bentley Crislip
Negan Ferrell
Kane Hall
Lucas Johnson
Tryton Small
Jaxon Snodgress
Zahrina Taylor
Lilly Villers
Elihu White
2nd Grade:
Summer Anderson
Fa/ma Aparicio-Ruiz
Aiden Marks
Dakota Mounts
Jace Nicholson
Saphira Woodring
3rd Grade:
Azriella Nelson
Scarle Probasco
Sawyer Sims
Sawyer Frum
4th Grade:
Bradley Brentley
Genevieve Riggs
Ryder Simmons
Hayven Small
Dakota Snider
Haylynn Whytsell
A-B Honor Roll
Kindergarten:
Ihla Cone
Barre Probasco
1st Grade:
Colesyn Burrows
Remington Richards
Atley Swisher
Anson Williams
Elijah Yeager
2nd Grade:
MacKenna Bevel
Hunter Boyd
Mavrik Dow
Kyson Kerby
Nicholas Powell
3rd Grade:
Avery Norman
Emery Atkinson
Henley Cunningham
Jessa Ferrell
Porter Groves
4th Grade:
Rylan Boatright
Colton Burrows
Liam Carpenter
Zion Coleman
Rayden Schoolcraft
William Thurmer
Kierra Wise

Calhoun Middle High School

Principal's Honor Roll – 1st Semester

Middle School: Raelyn Arnold, Chelsea Bailey, Robert Bixman, Elijah Capps, Elizabeth Collins, Chandler Cottrell, Silas Cunningham, Alexander Dickson, Melanie Ferrell, Emma Frail, Willis Gainer-Pittman, Sophia Goodrich, Evan Griffin, Ellie Hall, Paisley Harper, Parker Hoskins, Olivia Houchin, Audrey Johnson, Mackenzie Justice, Leyland Kerby, Abram Kilby, Michelle McGuire, Reagan Morgan, Mark Plumby, Christian Pridemore, Harlow Sarratori, Bentley Snodgress, Brooke Tingler, Adalida Trippett, Eliana White, Maison Wilson

High School: Sam Bailey, Emilee Burns, Holly Carper, Kyle Christman, Mason Craddock, Ryleigh Crislip-Garrett, Raylee Cunningham, Lilly Falls, Makayla Ferguson, Dagan Gainer-Pittman, Honie Holbert, Aleeya Hosey, Brianna Jarvis, Kelbie Johnson, Madison Jones, Isaac Kinder, Lana Laughlin, Hallie Mace, Trevor Mayle, Faith McClain, Kaleigha Morris, Andria Persinger, Mylea Pierce-Hess, Trinity Probasco, Zander Quick, Preston Sauer, Alex Shern-Bender, Jamie Sims, Maddox Siwicki, Orrin Smith, Regan Smith, Rylan Smith, Raeonna Stamper, Danika Starcher, Lydia Starcher, Tressie Starcher, Kaili Studer, Jacob Toney, Mackenzie Wright

Calhoun Middle High School
Honor Roll – 1st Semester

Middle School: Colton Anderson, Sophia Bartelt, Jayden Boyd, Kyla Burrows, Temperance Caldwell, Hailey Carpenter, Addison Caudill, Arabella Craddock, Gabriel Cunningham, Makenna Cunningham, Dane Davis, Levi Ferrell, Allie Frederick, Daisy Gibson, Adrianna Griffin, Jacob Gumm, Embree Gungle, Olivia Hardman, Landon Hawkins, Bodhi Heiney, Cyrus Helmick, Allianna Hill, Riley Holbert, Bristol Hoskins, Haygan Houchin, Kenlie Jarvis, Mandy Johnson, Charles Kilby, Mason Laughlin, Adalina Lee, Tempie Legg, Tyler Mayle, Audrey McCumbers, Jaelyn McCumbers, Marcus McGuire, Matthew McGuire, Braylea McKown, Natalie Miller, Annie Nelson, Haley Nicholas, Kaley Nicholas, Alyssa Ogle, Carley Osborne, Quintin Parkin, Kinsley Parsons, Layla Parsons, Chase Pierce, Jason Powell, Kaelyn Powell, Pyton Quick, Kallah Reip, Corey Rose, Brysten Sampson, Eden Sampson, Gwen Sampson, Kaylee Sampson, Mason Sampson, Karlie Simmons, Bronson Smith, Isabella Staples, Mercy Starcher, Aaron Stevens, Kylee Stewart, Jozy Swiger, Mackenzie Tingler, Aiden Villers, Laici Walls, Colbie Wilson, Alayna Wolford

High School: Micha Allen, Clay Allison, Ezra Anderson, Laney Arnold, Emily Basnett, Jacob Boggs, Evan Burch, Katelyn Carder, Camden Carpenter, Nolan Carpenter, Brennah Casner, Kylie Caudill, Khloe Cobbett, Addison Collins, Aubrey Collins, Madison Cunningham, Hannah Dupree, Morgan Ferrell, Ashlynn Fletcher, Lillian Gibson, Ryan Harper, Hoyt Helmick, Amera Hosey, Baeleigh Lane, Addison Laughlin, Jace Lemon, Addison McCumbers, Alex McKown, Cooper Morris, Caydence Moss, Kyrian Mounts, Addelyne Murphy, Karlee Nelson, Allie Ogle, Trinity Olenyn, Camry Parsons, Paislee Perkins, Makyia Quick, Brody Richards, Josie Richards, Kamri Richards, Aydann Rogers, Summer Rogers, Whitney Rogers, Tucker Sampson, Carissa Sands, Olivia Sarratori, Chloe Sillaman, Emily Sillaman, Kendall Snodgress, Alex Starcher, Orion Swearingen, Jasmyne Tingler, Josiah Wilson, Roman Wilson, Kian Wise, Olivia Zwoll

Stump Funeral Home and Cremation, Inc., employee updates

This marks a proud milestone for two of our dedicated **S**tump Funeral Home and Cremation, Inc., team members as they embark on their educational journeys in Mortuary Science.

Isabella R. Stump "Ellie", our 2nd-year apprentice funeral director and embalmer, is beginning her studies at the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS). Ellie is the 6th generation of the Stump family to carry on the legacy of our funeral home, which has been serving families since 1897. Her passion and dedication to the profession have been evident since she was just 11 days old, accompanying her mom, Gina, to work. Ellie, we are so proud of you and wish you the best of luck as you continue to serve our community with heart and commitment!

Kade Swearingen, also a 2nd-year apprentice funeral director and embalmer, is starting his first day at the Cincinnati College of Mortuary School, a place close to our hearts as it is our alma mater. Kade has been an integral part of our team, and we are honored to support him on this journey. We are confident he will thrive, make lasting friendships, and create wonderful memories as he prepares for his career in funeral service. Best wishes, Kade!

Please join us in congratulating Ellie and Kade as they take these important steps toward their future. We are proud to have such dedicated individuals as part of the Stump Funeral Home family!

Ellie Stump

Kade Swearington