



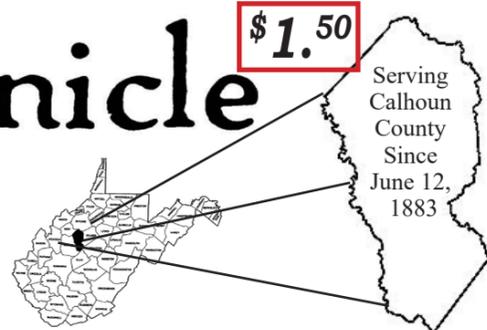
The Calhoun Chronicle



and The Grantsville News

“Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts”

\$1.50



Whole Number 7212

Grantsville, West Virginia 26147

Thursday, January 29, 2026



Tina Persinger-Hamrick

Persinger-Hamrick named 2025 WV Living Best of West Virginia Community Champion for Mid-Ohio Valley

Tina Persinger-Hamrick has been honored as the 2025 *WV Living* Best of West Virginia Community Champion for the Mid-Ohio Valley tourism region, a special recognition awarded to one individual or couple in each region for their transformative impact on their community.

Community Champions are nominated during the Best of West Virginia contest and selected by the *WV Living* team, separate from the reader-voted Statewide Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Regional Winners.

The Community Champion award celebrates people who move their communities forward through their businesses, organizations, volunteerism, philanthropy, and more.

“Best of West Virginia shines a light on great places, but our Community Champions are the heart behind those places,” says *WV Living* publisher Nikki Bowman Mills. “We choose just one Community Champion in each tourism region because we want to spotlight the people who are truly moving the needle. These are leaders who don’t wait for someone else to step up—they see a need, take action, and inspire others to join them.”

As director of the Calhoun Family Resource Network Family Support Center (FRN FSC), Tina Persinger-Hamrick works to assist and support families of all shapes, sizes, and needs through services like food pantries, courses and workshops for job readiness and parenting, recovery planning, and so much more.

For over 12 years, Persinger-Hamrick has played a role in the work the FRN FSC does for its community.

“We meet them where they are at and help them thrive,” she says. That means family members working through substance misuse looking for treatment and recovery support, those navigating situations with Child Protective Services and reunification, or grandparents in need of support in raising their grandchildren.

When it comes to her favorite part of the job, Persinger-Hamrick says bringing people together and helping them thrive evokes the most joy in her.

“The weight of the world is on their shoulders,” she remarks, “and seeing them smile when they leave because I listened—seeing those light bulbs go off, people get their first job, families being reunited—that’s what brings me joy.”

There is one particular project that she is most proud of, however. In December 2025, Persinger-Hamrick was able to announce that the Calhoun County FRN FSC was awarded a \$1.5 million Federal Home Loan Affordable Housing Grant to build 12 recovery-friendly affordable housing opportunities in the community in addition to the four it already manages.

Bert’s Place—named in honor of a woman who was close to the organization but passed away before the dream became reality—will expand the nonprofit’s services and offer even more support to those who need it, but it’s not the only way Persinger-Hamrick and her team are serving others.

“We try to meet the service gaps, no matter what they look like. Some need a food pantry, some a place to talk, some just need a washer and dryer. It benefits everyone and makes our whole community and state stronger.”

Mills notes that, while readers choose the Statewide Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Regional Winners in 85 categories, Community Champions represent the heart behind those successes — the people whose vision and dedication keep small businesses thriving and towns vibrant. All honorees are featured in the Winter 2025 issue of *WV Living* and at wvliving.com.

About WV Living and Best of West Virginia

WV Living is West Virginia’s premier travel and lifestyle magazine, championing small businesses, entrepreneurs, and community builders through uplifting stories and beautiful photography. The Best of West Virginia Awards feature 85 reader-voted categories with Statewide Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Regional Winners, plus one Community Champion selected in each tourism region. Learn more at wvliving.com or follow @wvlivingmagazine on Instagram and Facebook for updates.

First winter storm of 2026 hits Calhoun County

By Gaylen Duskey
 In Darryl Zanuck’s classic 1962 war movie *The Longest Day* German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel addresses his generals while looking at the English Channel: “Just look at it, gentlemen.

How calm ... how peaceful it is. A strip of water between England and the continent ... between the Allies and us. But beyond that peaceful horizon ... a monster waits. A coiled spring of men, ships, and planes... straining to be released

WINTER STORM cont. on page 8

OUR HISTORY

William Allison Shimer (1894–1983) was an esteemed American professor of philosophy, born on May 17, 1894, in Freed, Calhoun County, West Virginia. Growing up in the rural community of Freed, Shimer overcame humble begin-

nings to achieve remarkable academic and professional success. He passed away on December 7, 1983, in Kaneohe, Hawaii, and was buried in Mount Zion Cemetery in Ritchie County, West Virginia, near his birthplace.

See story on page 6

Arthur Resigns from O&M Manager Position; County Commission Responds

Statements from Brian Arthur and Calhoun County Commissioners following the refusal of the Town of Grantsville to pay the O&M General Manager wages of recently hired Arthur.

BRIAN ARTHUR
From: Brian Arthur RE: Resignation and Notice of Intent to Initiate Legal Proceedings

To: Town of Grantsville, Mt. Zion PSD Board, Pleasant Hill PSD Board, Calhoun County Commission

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my resignation from my position as General Manager effective **January 16, 2026**.

I am further formally notifying you of my intent to commence legal action against you due to your failure to pay my wages in accordance with the signed Offer of Employment. I have met my obligations under the terms of the Offer of Employment. Despite my requests to be placed on payroll and provided with a company vehicle and fuel card, you have failed to satisfactorily resolve this matter. Therefore, I am prepared to initiate legal proceedings to seek compensation and remedial measures unless you pay what is owed under the Offer of Employment.

To that end, I am formally requesting **\$10,000.00** to cover lost wages, accrued sick and annual leave, health insurance, personal vehicle wear and tear, and fuel. I expect payment by **January 29, 2026**. Failure to respond may result in the initiation of legal proceedings and will result in higher damages.

See **W. Va. Code § 21-5-4(e)** (“If a firm, person, or corporation fails to pay an employee wages as required under this section, the person, firm, or corporation, in addition to the amount which was unpaid when due, is liable to the employee for two times that unpaid amount as liquidated damages.”); see also **W. Va. Code § 21-5-1(c)** (“the term ‘wages’ means compensation for labor or services rendered by an employee.... [The term ‘wages’ shall also include then accrued fringe benefits capable of calculation and payable directly to an employee.”]).

If forced to file suit, this action will not only seek resolution as mentioned but may also include recovery of attorney’s fees, court costs, and other damages as legally allowable.

Consider this a formal demand for settlement. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me directly at **(304) 483-0774** or **(304) 275-1045**.

Sincerely, **Brian Arthur**
CALHOUN COUNTY COMMISSION

To the Citizens of Calhoun County,
 The Calhoun County Commission wishes to provide clarity regarding the recent developments involving the operations and

maintenance agreement between the Mt. Zion Public Service District, Pleasant Hill Public Service District, and the Town of Grantsville.

While the County Commission is not directly involved in the day-to-day operational decisions of this agreement, we are responsible for oversight of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** funds that were awarded to these three entities with the goal of encouraging cooperation and potential consolidation to strengthen water services across Calhoun County.

By unanimous vote of all three entities, **Mr. Brian Arthur**—an individual who is widely respected and highly qualified—was selected to serve as General Manager for the three systems. Mr. Arthur has spent several years traveling throughout the State of West Virginia providing training and technical assistance to public service districts and municipalities on water system operations. His expertise and experience represent a significant asset, and his departure is a tremendous loss for the citizens of our county, who deserve the highest level of professional service. The Calhoun County Commission offers its most sincere apologies to Mr. Arthur for the circumstances surrounding this matter.

In **December 2024**, approximately **\$1.2 million** in ARPA funding was allocated to support the cooperative operations and maintenance agreement. Each participating entity was assigned specific responsibilities and directed on how their respective portions of the funding were to be utilized. Under this allocation, the **Town of Grantsville** was designated to employ the General Manager, while **Mt. Zion PSD** was allotted funding to cover the benefits associated with that position.

Despite the unanimous vote by all three entities to hire Mr. Arthur, the Town of Grantsville declined to place him on its payroll, thereby refusing to comply with the agreed-upon terms. Mr. Arthur left his previous employment and began work under this agreement on **January 2, 2025**.

The Calhoun County Commission will now be reviewing the ARPA funding provided to each entity and will work closely with appropriate state agencies to ensure that all funds are fully accounted for and that any necessary reimbursements are properly made.

The Calhoun County Commission will not tolerate the misuse of public funds, nor will it allow the actions of a single entity—operating under a formal agreement—to undermine the functionality and reliability of water systems serving our residents. Our priority remains the protection of public resources and the delivery of dependable water services for all citizens of Calhoun County.

Sincerely, **The Calhoun County Commission**

Questions on the OEM refusal needing answered

Here are some questions after the Town of Grantsville’s refusal to pay the newly named Director of the OEM:

Grantsville’s Membership in the OEM Hadn’t Grantsville already joined the OEM?

Funding for the OEM Director Did Grantsville not receive money from the county to pay for the director of the OEM?

Financial Support from the County How much money did the town receive from the county?

Funding for Other PSDs What amount of funding did the other PSDs receive?

OEM as a Qualifier for Funding Is having an OEM a significant qualifier for obtaining water and sewer funding from state and federal governments?

Penalties for Leaving the OEM Are there any penalties if the town attempts to withdraw from the OEM?

Building for Joint Operations What is the status of the building purchased to house the joint operations?

Impact on Ongoing Projects How would withdrawing from the OEM affect ongoing projects such as Norman Ridge, Annamoriah, and the West Fork?

Effect on Side Road Water Access Would the dissolution of the OEM prevent water from reaching various side roads such as Hog Knob, Laurel Creek, etc. ?

Ethics of Actions What are the ethical implications of the town’s actions and the behavior of town officials?

Forensic Audit of Town Finances Would the misuse of funds earmarked for the OEM being withheld trigger a forensic audit of the town’s books? Could the county request a forensic audit of the town’s finances due to its monetary indebtedness to the county?

These questions are concerns that need to be answered regarding Grantsville’s involvement with the OEM, financial matters, ongoing projects, and ethical considerations brought about by the town renegeing on the agreement.

Town’s refusal to pay OEM director’s salary sets off major brouhaha

By Gaylen Duskey
 When the Town of Grantsville refused to pay the salary of newly hired OEM director it set off quite a brouhaha in Calhoun County and elsewhere.

That refusal caused Brian Arthur, who had been named as the OEM director,

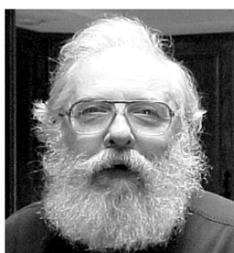
to submit his resignation and announce that he was filing suit against the OEM (Grantsville and the Pleasant Hill and Mount Zion PSDs) and the Calhoun County Commission for \$10,000.

The county commission issued a statement saying The Calhoun County Com-

OEM DIRECTOR cont. on page 4

CRESTON NEWS

BY ALVIN ENGELKE
PHONE 275-3578



On February 7 there will be bingo at the Creston Community Building. The kitchen opens at noon.

February 2 will be Ag & Forestry day at the W. Va. Legislature with a gathering at the well circa 10 A. M. (under the dome). One parks at the ball field and ride in on the Capitol Shuttle. At 6 P.M. In the evening at the Marriott Hotel will be the Taste of W. Va. Legislative reception. Those who love to eat should make it a point to attend and visit with your legislators.

January 31 is the last day to file for office, either at the county clerk's office or under the golden dome with the W. Va. Secretary of State. Get involved file for office & make a difference.

For the past few days the weather folks had been hyping the "big 2000 mile storm". All the talk brought to mind Little Johnny D. Rockefeller IV's blizzard back when he was playing governor. An emergency was declared, court houses were ordered closed and all were told to held for home. One Creston resident was at the Board of Equalization & Review meeting in the court house in Grantsville when all were told to shut down, go home before the blizzard hit. The local fellow went to the store, got a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk and started toward Creston. Somewhere below Cabot Station it started to snow but by the time he got to Creston the storm had passed, and the sun came back out. Thus ended little Jay's great blizzard.

This time around Saturday evening it started to snow with a few inches of accumulation. Church services were cancelled but power and natural gas service remained on. Then Sunday morning it rained on the snow making it obvious that, for most folks, the responsible thing was to stay home.

Taxpayers should be aware that there is the thing called Senate Joint Resolution 12 which is another attempt on the part of those who do not have the interests of the citizens as their main goal. The intent, just like "Amendment Two" from a prior election is to abolish the Taxation Limitation Amendment of 1932 that has protected homes and farms from high taxes that existed before the passing of the amendment. This was the last item passed by the Republicans in W. Va. Before the 80=plus years reign of the Democrat party. Now some "so called republicans" want to undo the good work as some down at the Mouth of the Elk have stated, "in West Virginia homes are taxed too low, homeowners should carry more of the tax burden to help [out of state] business. The scheme is to eliminate tax on "equipment & inventory" so as to "promote economic development". What this means that the \$billions of value in fractionation plants, compressor stations, pipelines, power lines, rail roads & factories would be tax exempt. In Wood County duPont would have a tax saving of over \$2 million. A question was asked at a recent meeting "down there" as to how the loss of tax would be made up and "the man" said, "I don't know".

One would hope that the legislature passes legislation requiring the state to check the meters on Marcellus & Utica wells to ascertain the actual production values of all that is produced and sold. There have been several class action suits over companies cheating on volumes, prices paid and improper deductions. The most famous was the Tawney case against one of the Rockefeller companies. Now with wells that make \$millions/month the issue has ballooned. The "elites" at the Mouth of the Elk have chosen to "look away",

"giving at the office" and such. Now it has been learned that the federal government may have been cheated out of \$2.7 billion in oil & gas royalties as it seems the federales "have not the time to check on the payments". Historically the worst situations involve the Indian Reservations — perhaps W. Va. Is in the running.

Greenland has been in the news lately as it is critical to stop rockets that would come from China & Russia to strike America. As reported in DAVOS where all the elite meet, each one in their private jet to tell the rest of us we must eat bugs to "save the planet". Well this time the globalists were put in their place, and it was noted that over the last 20 years the ice in Greenland, the Arctic Ocean & Antarctica has not changed since 2005 and that the seals & polar bears are doing well. Seems for the last 750,000 years things have pretty much stayed the same [in spite of the actions of Albert Gore Junior and Sparkle Beach Ken at the big Davos meeting].

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 granted immunity to the makers of childhood vaccines with the requirement now of 72 untested vaccines for babies and small children. Now 3.2% of children suffer from autism and many/most will require care for their entire lives.

In some places the DOH (locally the state road) are using a mix of 80% brine & 20% beet juice to pretreat roads during winter conditions. Because of the salt lobby W. Va. Cannot use free brine but must buy salt to make the brine.

Chevrolet (GM) has announced that electric cars are no longer the plan but regular gasoline powered models will be made. Ford, after losing \$billions trying to sell electric trucks [to be woke, etc.] said no more and that the scam is over.

Gary Abernathy noted that decarbonization is a costly scam as all the new electric generating stuff has been "renewable" but with all the taxpayer & rate payer dollars spent the effect is just a 2% reduction in the percentage of electric generated by hydrocarbons. PJM the outfit that oversees the power grid in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia & elsewhere [and includes Creston] indicated that because of a lack now of reliable power sources there might need to be rolling blackouts even locally. The old phrase of 'taking coals to Newcastle' comes to mind. This is absurd. Some folks in Pennsylvania are furious that \$92 billion would be spent there on AI data centers. Dictator Xi wants this so China can take over the world. The easy solution is come to W. Va., build the data centers, build gas fired power plants to run them and drill Marcellus & Utica wells to run the power plants. In Calhoun & Wirt counties the Utica is 1100 feet thick.

It is reported that Devon Energy is to acquire/merge with Coterra. Coterra acquired Cabot which was started by Godfrey L. Cabot in Wirt & Calhoun counties 'way back when'.

The new food pyramid is a welcome change from the toadies who promoted fruit loops as healthful for children. It's no wonder the elites hate Sec. Kennedy & President Trump.

Because of the winter storm the MYMEX price of natural gas went to \$5.28/MMBTU. Of course gas from Owl Hill is still less than \$1.00.

The price of local Pennsylvania grade crude rose to \$60.07/bbl. With condensate fetching \$42.07/bbl. (or just over \$1/gallon) and Marcellus & Utica light bringing \$49.07/bbl. It was also noted that the price of propane dropped as now there is a glut.

What's Changed in 250 Years? What lies ahead?

By Shari Johnson
Publisher Ridgeview News

This year marks the 250th birthday of the United States! I am old enough to remember the 200th birthday, when, at the age of 13, the Calhoun Red Devil Marching Band, 100-plus members strong, under the direction of the amazing John McKinney, marched in the Spirit of '76 Parade at Walt Disney World. That was beyond a very cool thing for Calhoun County, West Virginia, and for this country bumpkin, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This led me to wonder: what exciting news will Calhoun County, West Virginia, find itself a part of this year? I'm still believing in great things from the 1982 Foundation, the Town of Grantsville's businesses, and the County Government. I'm especially expecting God to do great things, even in the midst of Calhoun County's struggles.

This morning, I was reading in Jeremiah 32, verse 17, where Jeremiah wrote: "Ah Lord GOD! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." Not even our community! If He can create the earth from nothing, He can recreate our community with willing people.

Are you willing? Willing to step up and attend meetings to voice your opinion? Take a chance on opening a business in a community on the brink of greatness? Take the time and effort to spruce up your part of the community to show people that Calhoun is proud of where we live? Speak goodness and life into people who are willing to do those things?

As I flipped through the Farmer's Almanac, given to me by Dick Jarvis, owner of our hometown pharmacy, J&B Drug Store, I found an article about the differences between 1776 and 2026. I love those types of comparisons:

America's population:

1776 – 2.5 million

2026 – 337 million

Average cost of a home:

1776 – Estimated range \$400 to \$2,000

2026 – \$420,000

Tax burden as a percentage of income:

1776 – 1.5%

2026 – 31%

Life expectancy:

1776 – 35 years

2026 – 77.5 years

Wages:

1776 – \$1 per day, 6-day work week, \$300 per year

2026 – \$25.70 per hour, 40-hour work week, \$53,490 per year average salary

Most common pets:

1776 – Dogs, cats, squirrels, wild birds, raccoons, deer, horses, snakes, frogs, turtles, otters, and beavers

2026 – Dogs, cats, fish, horses, reptiles, chickens, gerbils, birds, hamsters, and rabbits

Most common occupations:

1776 – Farmer, commercial fisherman, blacksmith, cabinet maker, shoemaker, cooper, gunsmith, milliner, printer, and wig maker

2026 – Retail salesperson, health-care provider, fast food worker, general laborer, office clerk, customer service representative, cook, restaurant server, school teacher, accountant, assembly and fabrication technician

What was cooking on Independence Day?

1776 – On John and Abigail Adams' dinner table: turtle soup, poached salmon with egg sauce, green peas, boiled new potatoes, and apple pan dowdy for dessert

2026 – American favorites: BBQ pork, coleslaw, macaroni salad, grilled chicken, potato salad, deviled eggs, corn dogs, and sweet tea

Most popular sports:

1776 – Horse racing, boxing, cricket, and fives (a variation of handball)

2026 – Football, baseball, basketball, ice hockey, and soccer

One thing that hasn't changed, at least in our part of the country, is community. It may differ in terms of what's available for entertainment, but nothing beats an evening with friends and family gathering for their favorite things—watching sports, playing music, or spinning tales. With the busyness of life, it doesn't happen as often, but it's appreciated when it does.

As my mother's memories fade, occasionally her mind will go back in time, and she'll remember the days when community and family were the very breath of life in our home and community. She's not sure whose house she's living in, but she likes it. (It's actually hers.) A walk through it will show you what's been important to her.

Many of your homes may have similar walls. Life can rob my mother of her mind, but it cannot rob us of the impact she has had on us and instilled in us through her life.

What impact will you have on your family and community? It's a worthy question to ask yourself today. As we celebrate our 250th year as a nation, let's also celebrate the 170th year of Calhoun County.

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@calhouchronicle.com.

The Calhoun Chronicle



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



USPS 083200 -- ISSN: 1040-399X
INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC
NEWSPAPER
ESTABLISHED JUNE 12, 1883

Published by Mountain Media, LLC

Published weekly as a periodical postage paid at the Post Office in Grantsville, WV 26147, under the act of March 3, 1979. Subscription price in Calhoun County is \$41; other West Virginia residents, \$43; and Out-of-State, \$48. Minimum subscription: 6 months. Bundle with online for \$59 per year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

THE CALHOUN CHRONICLE
c/o Mountain Media, LLC

P.O. Box 429

Lewisburg, WV 24901

Phone 304-647-5724 Fax 304-647-5767

email contact@calhounchronicle.com

PUBLISHER

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ADVERTISING

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Jan. 29, 1903: The great rhododendron was designated the official state flower of West Virginia after being recommended by the governor and voted on by public school students.



host Peter Marshall, was also a West Virginia native.



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



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

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



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

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

Feb. 4, 1948: Contemporary artist Charles Jupiter Hamilton was born in New Jersey. He moved to West Virginia in 1977. His artwork was exhibited in New York, Miami, Boston, Atlanta, Washington D.C., and the West Virginia State Museum. One of his last works, a large street mural, is on Charleston's West Side on a street that bears his name.

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

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

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



Jan. 29, 1928: Wood sculptor Wolfgang Flor was born in Silesia, Germany (now part of Poland). After immigrating to Upshur County, he became a renowned artist in the late 20th century. His masterpiece is the Twelve Apostles in Wesley Chapel at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

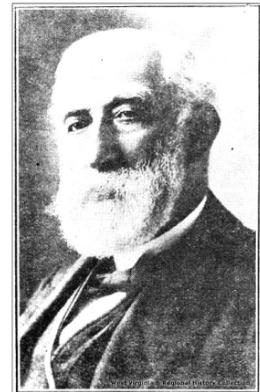
Jan. 30, 1818: Nicholas County was created by the Virginia legislature from parts of Greenbrier, Kanawha, and Randolph counties. The county was named for Wilson Cary Nicholas, a Virginia governor and U.S. senator who lived from 1761 to 1820.

Jan. 30, 1895: Mingo County was created from the southern part of Logan County. Mingo is the youngest county in West Virginia.

Jan. 31, 1878: Educator William Woodson Trent was born in rural Nicholas County. He served as state superintendent of schools from 1933 until 1957.

Jan. 31, 1922: Movie and television actress Joanne Dru was born Joan Letitia Lacock in Logan. Her movie career included more than 40 films. Her brother, singer and TV

Jan. 31, 1945: Sergeant Jonah Edward Kelley of Mineral County was killed in action while leading his squad against German positions during World War II. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "superb courage."



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

Feb. 1, 1901: Frank

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, Beria 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.

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

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HEALTH/MEDICAL

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Commission Agenda Announced for January 26th

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

- Monday, January 26, 2026 @ 5:00 pm
- I. Prayer Followed by Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Call to Order
- III. Public Comment – please indicate on the sign in sheet* if you would like to address the Commission
- IV. Review and Approve Minutes
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
 - a. Consider Purchase of Law Enforcement Vehicle – Sheriff Knight
 - b. Consider Emergency Funding Request – Mt. Zion PSD
 - c. Consider Funding Request – Animal Shelter
 - d. Discuss Buildings for Emergency Shelter/Law Enforcement/EMS/FIRE
 - e. Consider Internet Service for Calhoun County Park
 - f. Consider Kitchen Appliances for Calhoun County Park
 - g. Consider Stocking Ponds at Calhoun County Park
 - h. Consider Approval of Ballot Commissioners
- VII. Reports
 - a. Commissioner Updates

- b. Mt. Zion PSD
 - VIII. Resignations/Appointments to Boards and Authorities
 - a. Library Board
 - IX. Personnel
 - a. Consider Hiring Tax Deputy – Sheriff Knight
 - X. Grants
 - a. REAP Grant – Accept Award \$80,174
 - XI. XII. Erroneous Tax Assessments and Consolidations
 - Wills, Bonds, Settlements & Estates
 - a. Discuss Notice of Claim on Estate
 - XIII. Financial
 - a. Approval of Invoices
 - b. Budget Revisions & Transfers
 - i. Budget for Marketing
 - XIV. Adjournment
 - a. Next Regular Meeting: February 12 @ 1:30pm
 - b. Board of Review and Equalization Meetings: January 30; February 4, 13, 19 and 25th at 1:30 pm. February 9 at 4pm & TEAMS
- Agendas are subject to revision up to 2 days prior to the meeting

Town calls OEM meeting

Courtesy Ridgeview News

The following Agenda was forward by one of the local Public Service District Boards who advised that they were not notified by the Town Government of the occurrence of this meeting.

- Date: January 28, 2026
- Time: 1:00 PM
- Location: Grantsville Town Hall
- Call to order
- Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
- Mayor’s Communication
- Unfinished Business
- Hiring of General Manager
- New Business
- Letter from Brian Arthur
- Old Business
- Address procedures for implement the Service Agreement going forward.
- Payment of Bills
- Adjournment

Below is the agreement which was filed by the WV Public Service District affirming the Town of Grantsville as well as the Mt. Zion Public Service District and the Pleasant Hill District entered into a signed agreement to operate as the Operation & Maintenance Board of a Consolidation effort of the three water entities.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

At a session of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA in the City of Charleston on the 5th day of February 2025.

CASE NO. 24-0862-W-PWD-PC GRANTSVILLE MUNICIPAL WATER DEPARTMENT, MT. ZION PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT and PLEASANT HILL PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

Petition for consent and approval of an Operation and Maintenance Agreement by and among Grantsville Municipal Water Department, Mt. Zion Public Service District and Pleasant Hill Public Service District.

COMMISSION ORDER The Commission consents to the amended Operation and Maintenance Agreement.

BACKGROUND On November 4, 2024, Grantsville Municipal Water Department (Grantsville) filed a petition for consent and approval to enter into an operation and maintenance agreement (the Agreement) with Mt. Zion Public Service District (Mt. Zion PSD) and Pleasant Hill Public Service District (Pleasant Hill PSD) (collectively, the Parties), for the operation and maintenance of the separate water works systems of each party. The Petition stated that the Agreement had the full approval of the Calhoun County Commission.

On December 9, 2024, Commission Staff (Staff) filed an Initial and Final Joint Staff Memorandum, recommending that the Parties make two changes to the Agreement prior to the Commission’s consent:

Removal of the language that Mt. Zion PSD and Pleasant Hill PSD would no longer purchase water from Grantsville.

Clarification of expenses listed in Exhibit B to include only those related to the services that would be covered in the Agreement.

Staff recommended that with those changes, the Commission should give its consent pursuant to the authority of W. Va. Code §24-2-12.

On December 16, 2024, the Parties filed an Amended Agreement that incorporated the two changes recommended by Staff.

DISCUSSION The Amended Agreement, according to its language, serves to allow each of the Parties to remain eligible for USDA funding, while also centralizing certain services and personnel and sharing costs. Grantsville will

assume the operation and maintenance services of both Mt. Zion PSD and Pleasant Hill PSD, including billing and bookkeeping, with the three entities proportionately sharing expenses for fixed costs, including the hiring of a general manager who will be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the three waterworks systems.

Exhibit A of the Amended Agreement lists how each entity’s portion of the shared expenses will be determined, and Exhibit B lists the shared fixed expenses, with a provision that percentages are to be recalculated at the end of each fiscal year.

The Amended Agreement is for a one-year term, with the option of additional one-year renewals, and provides that an entity must provide a three-month termination notice in writing, and that such termination would be subject to Commission approval. The Amended Agreement does not have a provision for settling disputes that may arise during its performance. Any disputes arising from the Amended Agreement, that cannot be resolved informally, should be brought before the Commission for adjudication.

West Virginia Code §24-2-12 requires a public utility to receive Commission approval prior to contracting with another utility. Under W. Va. Code §24-2-12, the Commission may grant its consent to a proposed transaction upon proper showing that the terms and conditions thereof are reasonable, that neither party thereto is given an undue advantage over the other, and the transaction does not adversely affect the public in this State.

The Amended Agreement is reasonable and does not adversely affect the public. None of the Parties is given an undue advantage. Without specifically approving the terms and conditions of the Amended Agreement, the Commission will grant its consent, pursuant to W. Va. Code §24-2-12, for the Parties to enter into the Amended Agreement.

FINDINGS OF FACT Grantsville filed a petition for consent and approval to enter into an operation and maintenance agreement with Mt. Zion PSD and Pleasant Hill PSD, for the operation and maintenance of the separate water works systems of each party.

Grantsville filed an Amended Agreement that incorporated two changes recommended by Staff. The Amended Agreement does not provide a dispute resolution for the Parties during the performance of the Amended Agreement.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW The Amended Agreement is reasonable, does not adversely affect the public, and none of the Parties is given an undue advantage under the terms of the Amended Agreement.

Any disputes arising from the Amended Agreement that are not resolved informally should be brought before the Commission for adjudication. ORDER IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that without specifically approving its terms and conditions, the Commission will grant its consent, pursuant to W. Va. Code §24-2-12, for the Grantsville Municipal Water Department, Mt. Zion Public Service District and Pleasant Hill Public Service District to enter into the Amended Agreement that was filed on December 16, 2024.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the executed agreement be filed as a closed entry in this case within fifteen days of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon entry of this Order this case shall be removed from the Commission docket of open cases.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Executive Secretary of the Commission serve a copy of this Order by electronic service on all parties of record who have filed an e-service agreement, and by United States First Class Mail on all parties of record who have not filed an e-service agreement, and on Commission Staff by hand delivery.

A True Copy, Teste, Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary

Clarification of Water Consolidation In Calhoun County

By Roger Propst, former Calhoun County Commissioner

In recent days, I have seen Facebook posts, Ridgeview News reader feedback, and articles in the Calhoun Chronicle regarding the ongoing consolidation of the Town of Grantsville, Mount Zion, and Pleasant Hill Public Service Districts into one entity that will provide water to residents of Calhoun County. From this information, it is apparent to me that there is significant confusion about this process. From the perspective of a former County Commissioner involved in these efforts, I will attempt to clarify the confusion.

The topic of water consolidation is not something new. It has been explored in the past, but because of insufficient funds to launch the startup, some preliminary plans were developed but not followed through on.

During the Covid Pandemic, the County Commission was awarded \$ 1.2 million to use as needed for a myriad of purposes for the duration of the pandemic. The Commission at that time deemed securing high-speed internet in the county to be the top priority for the funds and voted to allocate the entire amount to that purpose. Because of untimely planning at the state and federal levels, it became apparent that the deadline for committing these funds to an actual project would not be met before having to return the entire amount to the federal government.

The Commission that I served on then began discussions on how best to commit the funds prior to the deadline of losing them. Those discussions led us to the conclusion that no need was more important in Calhoun County than providing water to our citizens. Since some groundwork had been laid for water consolidation in the past, discussions to revive that effort, involving the Boards of Pleasant Hill and Mt. Zion, and the Mayor and Town Council of Grantsville, began in earnest.

The County Commission informed the three entities that it was prepared to allocate the major portion of the 1.2 million dollars as start-up funds for the eventual official consolidation into one entity. In the meantime, working together as one by signing an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Agreement would be the starting point. The offer was met with enthusiasm by the folks at the meeting.

It is vitally important for everyone to understand that funds being allocated for the project must be used to purchase vehicles, equipment, spare parts inventory, large, costly replacement pumps, and other expensive equipment, a building to house the combined agency, and funds to finance the first year’s salary and benefits of an Operations Manager.

The mechanism for the Commission to use in granting funds to these three entities is spelled out in federal legislation (AARPA). Since the original \$1.2 million grant was awarded to the County Commission, it was necessary to issue sub-grant awards to the Town, PHPSD, and MZPSD. In a prior meeting, the committee discussed and agreed on how the funds would be allocated to each entity for specific expenditures.

Each of the sub-grantee agreements included the specific expenditures for which they were to use the funds. All expenditures of funds would be allocated to the consolidated O&M entity. None of these funds was to be used for any purpose other than what was listed in each sub-grant. It should also be noted that all equipment and supplies purchased with these funds do not belong to a specific location (i.e., Town, MZPSD, or PHPSD), but rather to the consolidated unit. These sub-grantees’ applications for funds, as noted in the documents approved by their governing bodies, were subsequently approved unanimously by the County Commission. Each district and the Town were to provide monthly updates on their grant expenditures.

It is vitally important to note that each of these three sub-grants included the funds awarded, and for what purpose, including the salary and benefits for the Operations Manager. Each grant application was approved by the PSDs and the Town of Grantsville Council as submitted. The County Commission unanimously approved each of these applications. In my opinion, the PSDs and the Town are obligated to spend the funds as agreed in their sub-grant applications.

Documents alluded to in this chronology should be available at the County Commission, the town of Grantsville, Pleasant Hill PSD, and Mt. Zion PSD.

OEM DIRECTOR

Continued from Page 1

mission will not tolerate the misuse of public funds, nor will it allow the actions of a single entity — operating under a formal agreement — to undermine the functionality and reliability of water systems serving our residents.

Which answered some questions but not all. For instance the town suggested it was not part of OEM but West Virginia Public Service Commission (WVPSC) Case No. 24-0862-W-PWD-PC dated 02-05-2025 said it was and has been for almost a year.

Also answered was that the county had given the town \$80,000 earmarked for the director’s salary. Left unanswered was where is the \$80,000 since it was not used for what it was earmarked for?

Overall the county has given roughly \$435,000 to the town but where is that money and what has it been used for? But left unanswered are the following questions:

Penalties for Leaving the OEM Are there any penalties if the town attempts to withdraw from the OEM?

Building for Joint Operations What is the status of the building purchased to house the joint operations?

Impact on Ongoing Projects How would withdrawing from the OEM affect ongoing projects such as Norman Ridge, Annamoriah, and the West Fork?

Then there is the biggest question of all: What about the ethics of it? The town has been the center of a lot of controversy recently and one has to wonder if this OEM fiasco may be

the straw that broke the proverbial camel’s back. In the past few weeks there has been:

Not one but two recorders quit as Shannon Waldron, who was elected as a write-in candidate, quit citing lack of cooperation from the town, and Isabella McCormick, who was named to replace Waldron, also resigned.

A move to get former council member and failed mayoral candidate Courtney Yoak Alexander named recorder caused two council members to walk out of the council meeting to deny a quorum thereby not allowing a vote. The council had voted once before to not allow Alexander the position.

A council member and a former town official were taken into custody by the police after an altercation at the city building.

The bank account was locked after a fraudulent check written on the town account for \$12,850 and made out to an Elaine Washington of Augusta, Ga., and cashed in Richmond, Va.

Citizens started a petition requesting a forensic audit of the town’s financial records and it has been circulated. Such an audit would not cost the town anything because it is free if cause is found to do the audit.

The town has also been the subject of an online investigation by the website Scuttlebutt.

So is the refusal to pay the director’s salary of the OEM as directed enough to trigger any action? And that may be the biggest question of all.

Calhoun's Performance at the 2026 Cornelius Godfrey Memorial Tournament

The 2026 Cornelius Godfrey Memorial Tournament showcased incredible wrestling talent, with teams competing fiercely for top honors. Among the competitors, Calhoun High School demonstrated resilience and determination, finishing in seventh place overall with a score of 99.0 points. The team had two finalists, six placers, 20 wins, 14 losses, nine pins, two technical falls, and three major decisions.

Team Standings

- Grundy (Grnd):** 179.0 points, 6 finalists, 8 placers
- Chapmanville (Chpm):** 169.0 points, 3 finalists, 9 placers
- St. Marys (StMr):** 158.5 points, 3 finalists, 9 placers
- Logan (Lgn):** 145.0 points, 2 finalists, 8 placers
- North Marion (NrtM):** 131.0 points, 3 finalists, 7 placers

- Man (Man):** 100.0 points, 2 finalists, 7 placers
 - Calhoun (Clhn):** 99.0 points, 2 finalists, 6 placers
 - Poca (Poca):** 98.5 points, 2 finalists, 6 placers
 - Ripley (Rply):** 57.0 points, 1 finalist, 3 placers
 - Buffalo (Bffl):** 53.0 points, 0 finalists, 3 placers
- Calhoun Wrestlers' Performance
- L. Grogg (120 lbs):** Placed 5th, earning points through a fall victory over Rogan Moore (Tug Valley).
 - C. Grogg (126 lbs):** Placed 5th, securing a fall victory over Colton Alvey (Grundy).
 - Burch (138 lbs):** Finished as the runner-up, losing in the championship match to Ayden Powell (St. Marys).
 - Anderson (144 lbs):** Placed 5th, winning against Kaige Winland (St. Marys) in the fifth-place match.

Fredrick (175 lbs): Placed 5th, earning points through a fall victory over Caleb Payne (River View).

Butler (190 lbs): Placed 5th, defeating Eli Wilson (St. Marys) in the fifth-place match.

Summary

Calhoun wrestlers showcased their grit and determination throughout the tournament, with six athletes earning placements and contributing to the team's overall score of 99.0 points. Notable performances included Burch's runner-up finish in the 138 lbs category and strong fifth-place finishes by L. Grogg, C. Grogg, Anderson, Fredrick, and Butler. Their efforts helped secure a respectable 7th place finish in the team standings, highlighting the depth and talent of Calhoun's wrestling program.

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WVDNR stocks 16 waters during week of Jan. 12

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. 12:

- Cranberry River
- Greenbrier River (Marlinton)
- Kings Creek
- Little River West Fork Greenbrier River
- Miletree Lake
- Mountwood Park Lake
- North Bend Tailwaters
- North Fork South Branch (Catch and Release)
- Pennsboro Reservoir
- South Fork Cranberry River
- Summit Lake
- Tomlinson Run
- Tomlinson Run Lake
- Tracy Lake
- West Fork Greenbrier River
- Williams River

While daily trout stockings are not announced in advance, the WVDNR publishes a list of recently stocked waters at WVdnr.gov/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.

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SEND ME TO SCHOOL IF:

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- I have sores that are dry, showing signs of healing, or are covered.
- I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.
- I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.



KEEP ME AT HOME IF:

- I have a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees even after taking medicine.
- I have untreated oozing sores that cannot be covered.
- I am throwing up or having diarrhea.
- My eyes are pink, crusty, and have white or yellow discharge.
- I am injured or too ill to participate in routine school activities.



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- They eat breakfast each morning.
- They wear their glasses every day.
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- Your child meets all State of West Virginia immunization requirements.

To discuss any health concerns contact your school nurse,
CMHS: Trudi Anderson
 t.m.anderson@k12.wv.us
 304-354-6148 EXT: 219

PHE & AES :Autumn Lilly
 autumn.lilly@k12.wv.us
AES: 304-655-6616 EXT:215
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The Life of William Allison Shimer: A Scholar from Freed, Calhoun County

William Allison Shimer, an esteemed American professor of philosophy, was born on May 17, 1894, in the small community of Freed, located in Calhoun County, West Virginia. His journey from humble beginnings to becoming a prominent academic and leader is a testament to his determination, intellect, and commitment to education and global understanding.



Early Life and Education

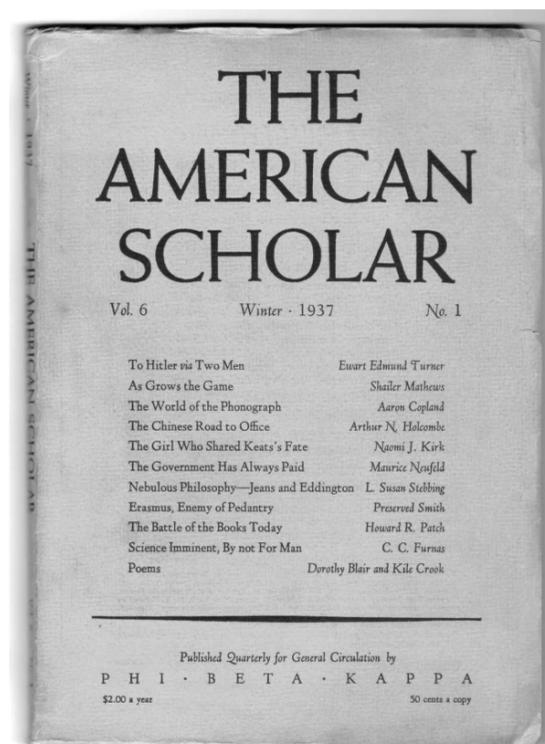
Shimer grew up in Freed, a rural area in Calhoun County, West Virginia. In 1914, he graduated from Glenville State Normal School (now Glenville State University) in Glenville, West Virginia. Despite his modest upbringing, Shimer was determined to pursue higher education. He enrolled at Harvard University in 1914 with only \$50 in his pocket and insufficient academic credits. A 1945 biographical sketch described him as a “West Virginia farm boy” who dared to start at Harvard under challenging circumstances. He completed four and a half years of coursework in just three years, living in an unheated room, surviving on \$1 worth of food per week, and working for 25 cents an hour to make ends meet. His perseverance paid off when he earned his A.B. degree from Harvard in 1917.

Shimer continued his academic journey, earning a master’s degree from the University of Rochester in 1922. He then returned to Harvard, where he obtained a second master’s degree in 1923 and a Ph.D. in 1925. His doctoral dissertation, titled *The History and Validity of the Concept of Relativity*, showcased his intellectual rigor and philosophical insight.

Academic Career

Shimer began his teaching career at Ohio State University and later joined Bucknell University, where he served as dean of the faculty. His contributions to academia were recognized when he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the prestigious honor society for the liberal arts and sciences. Interestingly, his election to Phi Beta Kappa occurred in absentia during World War I, thanks to the efforts of his first wife, Edith Richmond, whom he met while studying at Harvard. Edith was a student at Radcliffe College, and their partnership marked an important chapter in Shimer’s life.

Phi Beta Kappa and Founding *The American Scholar*



In 1930, Shimer was appointed executive secretary of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa. During his tenure, he conceived the idea for *The American Scholar*, a literary journal aimed at presenting scholarly work to a general audience. Shimer worked tirelessly to gain support from publishers and academics, and his vision was approved by the Phi Beta Kappa Senate in September 1931. The first issue of *The American Scholar* was published in January 1932, with Shimer serving as its first editor. He held this position for 12 years, shaping the journal into a respected platform for intellectual discourse.

In 1943, Shimer resigned from his editorial role to join the United States Navy during World War II. He served as a lieutenant and commanded a unit of the V-12 Navy College Training Program, contributing to the war effort through education and leadership.

Marietta College Presidency

After the war, Shimer was appointed president of Marietta College in Ohio, where he oversaw a period of rapid post-war growth. He expanded the college’s enrollment and physical facilities, leaving a lasting impact on the institution. Shimer also hired the renowned Swiss philosopher Fritz Marti to establish a philosophy department at the college, further solidifying its academic reputation.

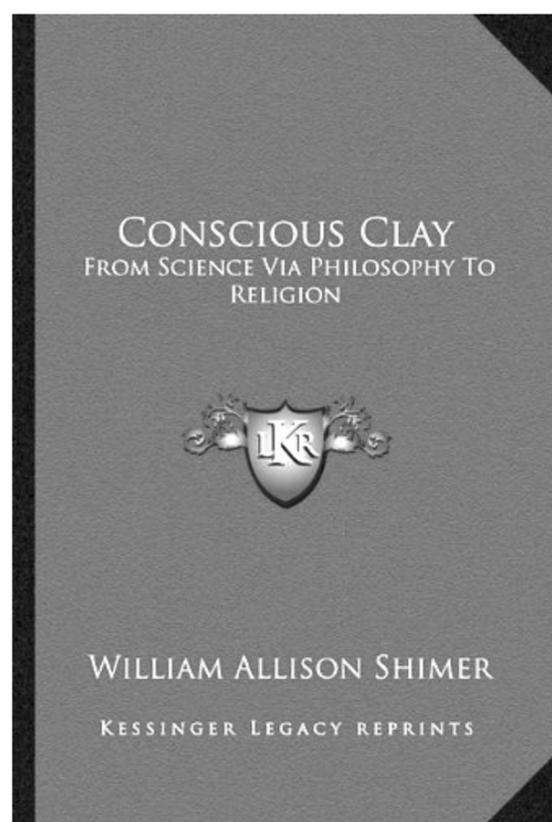
However, Shimer’s tenure at Marietta College was cut short due to personal controversy. After divorcing his first wife, Edith Richmond, he married Dorothy Blair, the college’s dean of women, a year later. The marriage attracted national media attention and led to a scandal that ultimately resulted in the college’s board of trustees forcing him to resign in July 1947, despite strong support from faculty, students, and the local community.

Life in Hawaii and Global Contributions

Following his departure from Marietta College, Shimer and his wife Dorothy moved to Hawaii in 1947. He began teaching at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, continuing his academic career. The couple also became deeply involved with the World Brotherhood, an international organization founded under the auspices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The

organization aimed to promote understanding among different religions and cultures, and Shimer and Dorothy headed its Asia Pacific chapter. They spent several years in Asia working on behalf of the organization and edited its quarterly journal, *Brotherhood*.

Later, Shimer served as a professor and librarian at Mauna’olu College, a community college near Paia, Maui. He retired from his academic career in 1968.



Writings and Philosophical Contributions

Throughout his life, Shimer wrote numerous articles on philosophy and related topics. In 1948, he published a book titled *Conscious Clay: From science via philosophy to religion*, in which he argued for the existence of God as “the eternal all-inclusive reality.” This work reflected his deep philosophical convictions and his ability to bridge science, philosophy, and religion.

Legacy and Death

William Allison Shimer passed away on December 7, 1983, at the age of 89 in Kaneohe, Honolulu County, Hawaii. He was laid to rest in Mount Zion Cemetery in Dutchman, Ritchie County, West Virginia, near his birthplace in Freed, Calhoun County.

Shimer’s life was a remarkable journey of resilience, intellectual achievement, and dedication to fostering understanding across cultures and religions. From his humble beginnings in Freed, West Virginia, to his contributions as a professor, editor, college president, and global advocate for brotherhood, Shimer left an enduring legacy in the fields of philosophy, education, and international relations.



Keep Your Student on Track in Middle and High School

The Calhoun Middle/High School has listed ways to keep tabs on students especially when it comes to attendance and released the following guidelines.

Pay Attention to Attendance.

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student’s social and academic development. Even as children grow more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school and understand how attendance benefits their health and success in school and beyond.

Did you know?

Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged and on track to graduation.

Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.

By 6th grade, chronic absence (missing 10%, or 2 days each month) is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.

By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of grad-

uation rates than 8th grade test scores.

What you can do - Make school attendance a priority

Talk about the opportunities available when your teen or preteen shows up to school every day.

Help your middle and high schoolers maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting enough sleep.

Consider limiting use of devices if they interfere with sleep.

Try not to schedule nonurgent medical appointments during the school day.

Help your student to stay healthy.

•If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your student stay engaged

Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes and whether they feel safe from bullies and other threats.

Make sure your students are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline

policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.

Monitor your child’s academic progress and seek help from teachers, school counselors or tutors when necessary. Provide teachers with your contact information.

Stay on top of your child’s social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.

Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.

If you notice signs of anxiety, support your middle and high schoolers, and if needed, seek advice from your school or health-care provider.

Communicate with the school

Know the school’s attendance policies both incentives and penalties.

Check on your preteen/teen’s attendance to make sure absences are not adding up.

Seek help from school staff, other parents or community agencies if you need resources and support.

Severe Blood Shortage: Urgent Call for Blood Donations

The American Red Cross is experiencing a critical blood shortage, with a 35% drop in blood supply over the past month. Hospitals are facing challenges in providing lifesaving care to patients, especially those in need of **O, A negative, and B negative blood types.**

High flu activity and extreme winter weather have significantly impacted blood donations, with over 400 blood drives canceled last month. Thousands of donations are urgently needed to ensure trauma victims, mothers in childbirth, and patients with sickle cell disease or cancer receive the care they need.

How You Can Help: Make an appointment to donate blood today by:
 Using the **Blood Donor App**
 Visiting **RedCrossBlood.org**
 Calling **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**
 Special Thank-You Offers:
 Donate by **Jan. 25, 2026**, and be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to **Super Bowl LX** in the San Francisco Bay Area. The prize includes

tickets, airfare, hotel accommodations, and more. Visit **RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl** for details.
 Donate between **Jan. 26-Feb. 28, 2026**, and receive a **\$20 e-gift card** to a merchant of your choice. Visit **RedCrossBlood.org/Heart** for details.
 Every donation can save lives. **Act now** to help patients in need during this critical time.
 For more information, visit **redcross.org** or contact Sharon Kesselring, Executive Director, at **(304) 488-5279** or **Sharon.Kesselring@redcross.org**.

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Western Auto

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT SALES, PARTS & SERVICE for

Husqvarna, Stihl, Briggs & Stratton

Western Auto is also your home and garden store.

315 Main St., Glenville
304-462-5631

Double YOUR IMPACT with Print & Online ADVERTISING!

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOTICE OF FILING

Application of **Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC** for Approval to Offer, Render, Furnish or Supply Natural Gas Supply Services to the public in West Virginia in Case No. 25-0905-G-EFPP.
Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC has filed an application with the West Virginia Public Service Commission ("PSC") for participation in an Enhanced Firm Pooling Program to provide natural gas supply services as a supplier or aggregator of natural gas services. Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC, proposes to sell natural gas and related services in all counties of West Virginia.

The PSC may consider this application without a hearing. Protests directed to the technical or financial fitness of **Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC** may be filed within 15 days of the date of this notice with the Executive Secretary of the PSC, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, WV 25301. Please include the Case No. listed above on the protest.

Additionally, please send copies of any protest to **Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC** attorney at the address listed below.

Austin D. Rogers

Babst Calland Clements & Zomnir, P.C.
300 Summers Street, Suite 1000
Charleston, West Virginia 25301
(681) 205-8888
(681) 205-8814 facsimile
arogers@babstcalland.com

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 term 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 non-partisan 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 MORRISSEY, Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in me 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 Morrissey
GOVERNOR

Kristi Warner
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 non-partisan 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 MORRISSEY, Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority Vested in me 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 Morrissey
GOVERNOR

Kristi Warner
By the Governor
SECRETARY OF STATE

2026

Calhoun County Commission

January	February	March	April
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
May	June	July	August
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September	October	November	December
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Meeting at 5pm
Meeting at 5pm

■ Commission Meeting 2nd Monday at 1:30pm; 4th Monday at 5pm
■ Holiday
■ Board of Review Meeting
■ Budget Meeting - Lay the Levy

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF CALHOUN COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

ROY EUGENE KING
3468 S. Calhoun Highway
Grantsville, WV 26147
Plaintiff
Civil Action No. 26-M07C-00002

v.
RYAN MITCHELL
75 Hathaway Run Road
Grantsville, WV 26147
Defendant

The object of the above entitled action is to obtain judgment against the defendant in the amount of \$5,000.00 plus interest and court costs incurred in the filing of this action and possession of rental property.
 And it appearing by an affidavit filed in this action that even after due diligence, the plaintiff was unable to discover the residence or whereabouts of the defendant and the process, delivered to the Sheriff of the county in which the defendant resides was not served either personally or by way of service upon an appropriate family member, after service was twice attempted by the Sheriff of the county.
 It is ordered that Ryan Mitchell do serve upon Richard Postalwait, magistrate, whose address is 363 Main Street, Suite 105, an answer or other defense to the complaint filed in this action on or before March 2, 2026, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against Ryan Mitchell at any time thereafter. A copy of said complaint can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.
 Entered by the Clerk of said Court January 14, 2026.

Spada Smith
Magistrate Court Clerk

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONVEYANCE OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROPERTY (WALKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

Notice is hereby given that Board of Trustees of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will, on or after October 17, 2025 QUITCLAIM, GRANT and CONVEY to the **Trustees of Walker Church** all of their right, title and interest in and to the following described lot or parcel of land, situate in Washington District, Calhoun County, West Virginia, and bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

BEGINNING at a Stake on the North side of the Public Road at the North edge of the right-of-way of said Road and with the Road on the North side S. 53 E. 6 pole to Stake five feet from the N. West end of a culbert Stone; thence leaving said Road at N. 28.5 E. 10 poles to Stake; N. 53 W. 6 pole to Stake S. 28.5 W. 10 poles to beginning, containing 60 sq rd.
 And being the same property conveyed to **The Trustees of the Walker Methodist Church**, from Rufus Witte etals by Deed dated October 28, 1950 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the county commission of Calhoun County, West Virginia in Deed Book 90, at Page 139, reference to which is hereby made.
 Said Bald Knob United Methodist Church was declared closed effective November 21, 2024 by resolution of a majority of the District Superintendents of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Dated January 22, 2026.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 By: Robert N. File, Chancellor
 130 Main Street
 Beckley, West Virginia 25801
 (304) 253-3358

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	PAVEMENT MARKINGS
		STP-2026(162)D	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' license 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
Grantsville, WV 26147
contact@calhounchronicle.com

WINTER STORM

Continued from Page 1

against us.”

In many ways that was how we awaited the arrival of Winter Storm Fern.

We waited. We prepared. We did everything we could. Yet in the end there was nothing we could do to stop the arrival of the storm just as there was nothing the Germans could do to stop the arrival of the Allies.

And in the end both the storm and the allies rolled right on through doing exactly whatever they wanted despite our best efforts.

Fern arrived here in central West Virginia not long after dark Saturday evening with about half a foot of snow, but sometime overnight the temperature warmed and the snow changed to rain so that by noon on Sunday icicles were hanging from roofs and trees and the roads while passable in most places were slick and uninviting.

But by the time Fern arrived we had

been bombarded by weather warnings and many of us had stocked up with food, fuel and other assorted cold weather needs.

And everything seemed to be working correctly as the Department of Highway trucks were just about the only emergency vehicles on the road and they had worked around the clock making driving condition as good as they could be.

Other emergency vehicles – police, fire and ambulances – for the most part were able to stay parked.

That was the situation Sunday afternoon as freezing rain quietly fell.

But that was only the halfway point of Fern.

Sunday night the cancellations started rolling in and for the first time this school year schools were closed in all 55 counties on Monday.

Also closed were most courts and state and county offices.

And Sunday night the DOH and the state police advised drivers to stay off the roads as snow, rain and ice were leading to rapidly deteriorating conditions.

Winter Storm Fern, which was expected to impact a significant portion of the United States from Friday through Monday did as many states further south suffered power outages in the hundreds of thousands with Tennessee listing a quarter of a million homes without power.

This storm was forecast to bring heavy snow and damaging ice to millions across 33 states, spanning from New Mexico and Texas to New England. The storm was anticipated to cause widespread dangerous travel conditions, long-lasting power outages, and tree damage.

And it did.

Winter storm alerts were issued by the National Weather Service for ar-

reas ranging from the southern Rockies to the East Coast, including major cities such as Dallas, Houston, Nashville, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.

These alerts included winter storm warnings and ice storm warnings, which indicated severe weather conditions with high expectations of disruptive snow, ice, and freezing rain. Power outages and impossible travel conditions were expected in these areas.

The storm’s impacts were being assessed using an index developed by NOAA’s National Weather Service, which evaluates factors such as snowfall, ice accumulation, flash freeze potential, and blowing snow. This index helps scale the severity of winter weather impacts, although not all factors may apply to every storm.

Winter Storm Fern was named by The Weather Channel.

Calhoun 911 Center Severe Weather Procedures

During severe weather or disasters, the 911 Center will prioritize the most urgent emergencies first. Responders will be dispatched as they become available, which may differ from normal operations.

When heavy snow occurs, residents will be asked to stay home for their safety and to protect emergency crews. Dangerous road conditions can develop quickly, increasing the risk of crashes that endanger both the public and emergency responders. Poor road condi-

tions can also slow emergency response times, and in some cases, the Division of Highways may need to clear routes for responders to reach the scene.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS), law enforcement, and fire departments will implement their severe weather response plans to ensure the safety of everyone.

Call Prioritization by the 911 Center:

- Priority 1 (Highest):
Imminent threat to life or property.

Examples: Immediate threat to life, active shooting, severe medical emergencies, robbery in progress, officer down.

Priority 2 (Urgent/Critical):
Imminent danger with a high likelihood of escalation.

Examples: Crime in progress (e.g., burglary, domestic violence), fire, bomb threat.

Priority 3 (As Soon as Possible):
Crimes that have just occurred, but the suspect is gone (cold reports).

Examples: Non-violent disturbances, significant property crimes without immediate threat.

Priority 4 (Routine):
Past incidents or minor crimes.

Examples: Vandalism, welfare checks, non-urgent service requests, fact-finding, report taking.

Priority 5 (Lowest):
In-house or non-dispatch calls.
Examples: Calls handled by dispatchers, officer-initiated activity, calls not requiring field response.

Emergency Warming Station Open for Extreme Cold Conditions

Date & Time: Saturday, January 24, 2026, Starting at 5:00 PM

Location: Grantsville WV Fire Department 341 South Calhoun Highway Grantsville, WV 26147

Who Should Come: This warming station is open to individuals and families who are without heat, electricity, or safe shelter due to extreme cold conditions.

What to Bring:
Blankets and pillows
Medications needed to last up to one week

Personal hygiene items, if available
Need Help Getting There? If you are stranded or unable to travel safely, please call **911** for assistance.

Extreme Weather Advisory: For your safety and the safety of emergency responders, please limit non-essential travel during severe winter conditions.

Help Spread the Word: Share this information with others to help keep our community safe and warm during this extreme weather event.

Stay safe and take care of one another!

WVDOH Winter Driving Tips

Stay safe on the roads this winter with these essential driving tips:

Prepare Your Vehicle: Check your tire tread and pressure, battery, windshield washer fluid, and ensure your wipers are in good condition.

Drive Safely: Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights, buckle up, and avoid distractions. Slow down, leave extra space between vehicles, and avoid using cruise control. Remember, it takes longer to stop, accelerate, and turn on snow-covered roads.

Keep Your Distance: Stay at least 100 feet behind snowplows.

Be Prepared: Carry a roadside safety kit with essentials like an ice scraper, jumper cables, flashlight, warm clothing, blanket, first aid kit, water, snacks, and sand or kitty litter for traction.

Check Conditions: Before heading out, check road conditions by dialing 5-1-1 or visiting www.wv511.org for traffic and weather updates.

Drive smart and stay safe this winter!

Routes and Priorities

The WVDOH established a snow and ice removal system based on the following priority groups:

First Priority Routes

Roads of major importance and high traffic volume are plowed and treated first and receive ongoing maintenance during winter events. These routes consist of all Interstates, major routes, and high traffic roadways connecting urban areas.

Second Priority Routes

Roads of just slightly less importance and traffic volume, such as school bus routes not included in First Priority routes. Second Priority routes are covered as conditions permit by the same equipment and personnel assigned to the maintenance of First Priority routes.

Third Priority Routes

Low traffic volume roads that receive attention only after all Second Priority routes have been covered.

Snow Removal Products in Use

The WVDOH is actively working to ensure safe roadways during winter weather events. A variety of snow removal products are being utilized to treat roads before and during icy conditions:

Sodium Chloride: Commonly known as road salt, it is mixed with rock, cinders, or sand to melt snow and ice on paved surfaces. Effective above 20°F, it is applied to surface-treated, gravel, or dirt roads.

Calcium Chloride: This liquid de-icer is used in extreme conditions and lower temperatures to melt ice and snow efficiently.

Brine: A mixture of salt and water, brine is sprayed on roadways as an anti-icing agent to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the road.

Stay safe and drive cautiously during winter weather!

What do you need before the storm

Before a winter storm, stock up on essentials to last at least three days, focusing on non-perishable food, water (one gallon per person/day), flashlights, extra batteries, a battery-powered radio, and medication. Ensure you have warm clothing, blankets, a snow shovel, ice melt, and a full tank of gas.

Essential Emergency Supplies
Power Outage Gear: Flashlights, lanterns, extra batteries, and portable power banks for phones.

Safety & First Aid: Fully stocked first aid kit, fire extinguisher, and carbon monoxide detector.

Food & Water: Non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food (canned goods, protein bars) and a manual can opener.

Warmth: Extra blankets, sleeping bags, and thermal clothing.

Home Preparation
Heating Fuel: Ensure you have 2x heating fuel (wood, propane, oil).

Snow Removal: Shovel, ice scraper, rock salt, and snow blower fuel.

Safety: Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.

Vehicle Safety
Supplies: Scraper, brush, jumper cables, bag of sand/cat litter for traction.

Emergency Kit: Blankets, flashlight, water, and snacks.

Other Crucial Items
Hygiene: Toilet paper, wipes, and sanitizer.

Pets: Extra food, water, and medication.

Documents: Essential papers in a waterproof container.

Do not run generators, grills, or camp stoves indoors.

WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS GUIDE
Be Ready Before the Storm Hits

- HOME PREP**
 - Insulate exposed pipes
 - Let faucets drip
 - Keep heat at a steady temp
 - Close unused rooms
 - Extra blankets ready
- EMERGENCY KIT (3 DAYS)**
 - Water (1 gal per person/day)
 - Non-perishable food
 - Flashlight + batteries
 - First aid kit + meds
 - Phone chargers/power banks
- CAR SAFETY**
 - Gas tank at least 1/2 full
 - Ice scraper & shovel
 - Blanket + warm clothes
 - Jumper cables
 - Kitty litter or sand for traction
- STAY INFORMED**
 - Enable weather alerts
 - Monitor local updates
 - Check on neighbors & elderly
 - Avoid unnecessary travel

PREPARED > PANICKED
Stay warm. Stay safe. Share this.