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Whole Number 7213

Grantsville, West Virginia 26147

Thursday, February 5, 2026

2026 election season under way in Calhoun

By Gaylen Duskey

The 2026 election season in Calhoun County is officially under way with only the mail which may have some late candidate papers keeping things from being official.

As of Jan. 31, 2026, the Calhoun County Clerk's office had 15 different candidates filing for office with two of them filing for two different spots.

The unofficial candidate list for the May 12th 2026 Primary Election has been released, showcasing a diverse group of individuals vying for various offices.

However, one notable absence is the lack of democratic candidates filing for the Calhoun County Executive Committee. The Republican Party has a robust list of candidates, including some which may meet in the primary since the executive committee must be made up of a male and a female member from each of the magisterial districts – Center, Sheridan, Sherman, Washington and Lee – along with any at-large members the chairman (Shari Johnson) may want to select.

Here is the complete list of candidates, categorized by political party and the of-

fice they have filed for as of Jan. 31, 2025:

Democrats:

Calhoun County Commission: Lee Rush, Shelia Burch, Samantha Jarvis

Calhoun Circuit Clerk: Maria Arnold

Calhoun County Clerk: Whitney Butler

Republicans:

Calhoun County Commission: Adam Mills, Dakota Laughlin

Calhoun County Clerk: Jennifer Studer

Calhoun Circuit Clerk: Taylor Green

Calhoun Republican Executive Committee: Mason Snider, Adam Mills, Jess Metz, Cheryl Plato, Ari White, Denise Carter, Timmy Carter, Jennifer Studer, Dana Godfrey, Shari Johnson

State Republican Executive Delegations: Mason Snider, Adam Mills, Eric Lupardus

The absence of Democratic candidates for the executive committee raises questions about the party's strategy and representation in the upcoming election. Will this impact the balance of political power in Calhoun County? Only time will tell as the primary election approaches.



Minnie Hamilton Health System Shares Construction Progress and Facility Upgrade Timeline

Courtesy Ridgeview News

Minnie Hamilton Health System is pleased to share an update on the progress of its ongoing construction and facility upgrade project, a significant investment aimed at enhancing patient care, expanding services, and improving the overall experience for patients, visitors, and staff.

Construction is currently focused on "drying" in the new two-story addition and beginning the installation of the wall framing, plumbing, and HVAC systems of the first floor. Work will continue to the second floor, and once the new lobby opens later this summer, construction will transition to the one-story Kitchen and Cafeteria addition.

In addition to upgraded facilities, Minnie Hamilton Health System is preparing to introduce additional services that will further expand access to care in the re-

gion, with details to be announced in the near future.

"This project represents our commitment to meeting the growing needs of our community while modernizing our facilities to support high-quality, patient-centered care," said Stephen Whited, CEO.

Projected Construction Milestones

- First Floor Clinic Completion: August 2026
- Second Floor Completion: December 2026
- Kitchen/Cafeteria Completion: April 2027
- Phase 2 Final Completion: August 2027

The upgraded space will allow Minnie Hamilton Health System to better serve patients through improved clinical areas, enhanced support services, and modernized amenities for both patients and staff.

Answers not yet forthcoming on fraudulent check

By Gaylen Duskey

Its been more than a month now and we still have no answers on the fraudulent \$12,850 check written on the Town of Grantsville checking account.

While we have had other controversies – lots of controversies – a major felony has seemed to been lost in the fog.

Why?

Because of the smoke from other fires.

How?

Because there has been other fires.

And that's why attention needs to be paid to the felony that happened a couple of days before Christmas before it does actually become lost in the smoke and fog.

It was and is (until it is solved) a major crime that affects all the citizens of the town and the county and all the officials in the governance of both.

And there needs to be some clarification of what is going on now.

There are still some important questions that need answered about the fraudulent \$12,850.00 check that was written on the Town of Grantsville.

To background a little bit on Dec. 23,

2025, the town was informed that a person named Elaine Washington or Augusta, Ga., had cashed a \$12,850.00 check on a Bank of America bank in Richmond, Va.

From the original story reported by *The Ridgeview News*:

"The Mayor and council members informed Ridgeview that there had been an attempt, or possibly a successful cashing of a \$12,850.00 check at a Bank of America in Richmond Virginia. The check, written to Elaine Washington from the General Account of the Town Of Grantsville, was dated December 22nd, 2025, and cashed December 24th, 2025. The person for which the check was allegedly written to, was from Augusta, Georgia.

"According to Mayor Villines and council members they were first informed that the check cashing attempt was not successful, but later received an overdrawn notice from Calhoun Banks. Calhoun Banks told them that it was an automatic letter and not an issue. But because the Town has been locked out of their online access, they do not know if it was cashed or not. The matter of fraud

ANSWERS cont. on page 2

OUR HISTORY

Robert Homer Mollohan (1909-1999) was born on Sept. 18, 1909, in Grantsville the son of Robert Perry and Edith Witte Mollohan. He attended Calhoun High School where he was an outstanding athlete.

After high school he dedicated his life to public service eventually being elected to congress for nine terms. His son Alan Mollohan was also elected to Congress for

See story on page 8

several terms.

He passed away at the age of 89 in Fairmont, West Virginia, and was buried in his wife's family cemetery in Gilmer County. Mollohan's life was marked by his deep ties to Calhoun County, his dedication to public service, and his impactful political career. His deep devotion to public service served as an inspiration to the establishment of the Mollohan Foundation.

It's Official: The Appalachian Classic is returning to Calhoun

"Our passions are the true phoenixes; when the old one is burnt out, a new one rises from its ashes." — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

By Gaylen Duskey

Odds are Johann Wolfgang von Goethe did not know Erin Springston, but he described her.

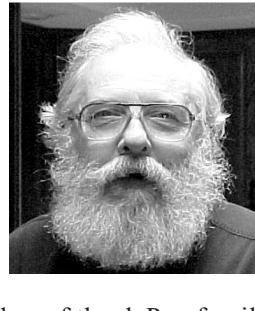
Now she is the Appalachian Classic which she almost single handedly raised from the ashes like a phoenix and now the mountain bike race is returning after a nearly decade long absence.

Somewhere along the way the idea of resurrecting the mountain bike race and the accompanying festival burned to the

APPALACHIAN CLASSIC cont. on page 4

CRESTON NEWS

BY ALVIN ENGELKE
PHONE 275-3578



There will be Bingo at the Creston Community Building on February 7 with the kitchen opening at noon. All are invited to come, visit and have a good time.

The Creston area currently has real winter weather with lows near or below zero, icy roads, frozen water pipes, no school or church services, etc. The windbags like Albert Gore, Jr. and John Heintz-Kerry (Jon Carty) are maintaining low profiles at their beach front villas as they know the oceans are not going to rise from their now debunked "global warming". Even BlackRock's Larry Fink is now talking about using hydrocarbons, coal, oil & gas to supply reliable power. While the snow came last Saturday, Friday evening the road scraper & truck from Calhoun County came to deal with treacherous conditions on the Richardsonville Road.

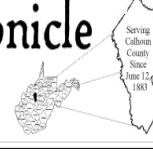
In the northeast oil had to be used to provide power as the electric from hydropower from Canada was cut off as it was needed in that nation. Power rates there are very high because of "climate mandates", money spent on windmills & solar panels and the closing of reliable coal plants. Then some of them had the audacity to blame President Trump for high electric bills. Across the line in the Old Dominion, Gov. Spamerger, a former CIA agent just raised electric bills \$1100/year by forcing the power companies to pay the "carbon tax". She had run as "a moderate" but she has now shown her true colors going after legal gun owners and raising all sorts of taxes for the 'worker's paradise'.

Some Creston folks attended the investiture ceremony for Arch A. Moore Capito as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of W. Va. at the Robert C. Byrd federal building down at the Mouth of the Elk. The court room was packed with judges, lawyers, sheriffs, police chiefs, local politicians, poohbahs and nabobs. Local folks had to take off their shoes and belts to enter the federal court house. This time there was a chair.

The Calhoun Chronicle



and
The Grantsville News



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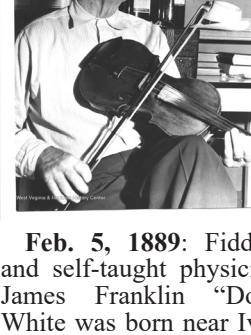
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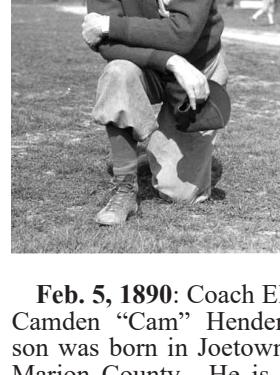


Contact: Stan Bumgardner • bumgardner@wvhumanities.org • 304-346-8500

Feb. 5, 1784: Nancy Hanks (Lincoln), the mother of Abraham Lincoln, was likely born in Hampshire County, Virginia, on Mikes Run at the bottom of New Creek Mountain in what is now Mineral County, although historical records of her early life do not exist.



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



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

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

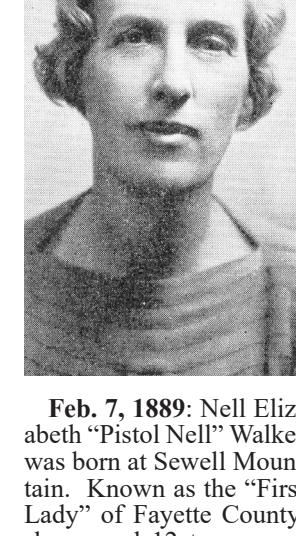
Feb. 6, 1732: Revolutionary War general Charles Lee was born in England. Late in his life, during the war, he moved to what is now Jefferson County.

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

Feb. 6, 2007: Selva Lewis "Lew" Burdette,

a native of Nitro, died in Florida. Burdette was an outstanding major league baseball pitcher who spent most of his career with the Milwaukee Braves. In 18 major league seasons, he won 203 games and lost 144. He was MVP of the 1957 World Series.

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



Feb. 7, 1889: Nell Elizabeth "Pistol Nell" Walker was born at Sewell Mountain. Known as the "First Lady" of Fayette County, she served 12 terms as a member of the House of Delegates.

Feb. 8, 1892: Cartoonist Irvin Dugan was born in Huntington. For many years, his "Adam" cartoon character was a feature on the editorial pages of the *Herald-Dispatch*.

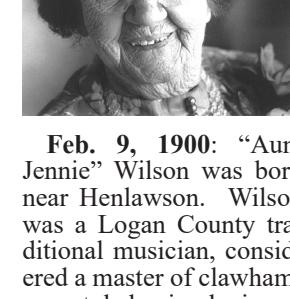


Feb. 8, 1915: Photographer Volkmar Kurt Wentzel was born in Dresden, Germany. He immigrated with his family to the United States at age 11. As a teenager in West Virginia, Wentzel took up with an eclectic group of people who had retreated to Youghiogheny Forest, a Preston County artists' colony.

Feb. 8, 2010: Frederick Appleton "Fred" Schaus, West Virginia University basketball All-American, coach, and athletic director, died at age 84 in Morgantown. Schaus coached WVU,

Feb. 8, 1918: Medal of Honor recipient Herbert Joseph Thomas Jr. was born. He excelled as a football halfback at South Charleston High School, and Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Hospital (now part of WVU Medicine) in South Charleston is named for him.

Feb. 9, 1843: Republican leader Nathan Goff Jr. was born in Clarksburg. In 1888, Goff lost West Virginia's most controversial gubernatorial election to A. B. Fleming. Goff's initial 106-vote majority was challenged by Fleming, and both men were sworn in on inauguration day. The case dragged on until 1890, when Fleming was determined to be the rightful winner.



Feb. 9, 1900: "Aunt Jennie" Wilson was born near Henlawson. Wilson was a Logan County traditional musician, considered a master of clawhammer-style banjo playing.

Feb. 9, 1938: Multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and sound engineer Wayne Moss was born in Charleston. He recorded with Brenda Lee, Roy Orbison, Dolly Parton, Bob Dylan, and many more, performed in the band Barefoot Jerry, and played a key role in developing Nashville's studio system.

Feb. 9, 1950: U.S. Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's speech to a group of Wheeling Republicans launched the 1950s red scare. McCarthy, a Wisconsin Republican, claimed in his speech to have a list of 205 communists who worked in the U.S. State Department.

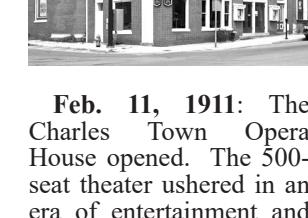
Feb. 10, 1904: Jay Legg was shot and killed by his wife, Sarah Ann, in their home in Clay County. The trial, conviction, appeal, and acquittal of Sarah Ann led to a popular West Virginia folk ballad, "The Murder of Jay Legg."

Feb. 10, 2010: Frederick Appleton "Fred" Schaus, West Virginia University basketball All-American, coach, and athletic director, died at age 84 in Morgantown. Schaus coached WVU,

1954-1960, to a 146-37 record, and lost by one point in the 1959 national championship game.

Feb. 11, 1903: Artist Grace Martin Taylor was born in Morgantown. She produced an immense body of work in various styles and enjoyed a lengthy career at the Mason College of Music and Fine Arts in Charleston.

Feb. 11, 1904: Clarence Watson Meadows was born in Beckley. His mother hoped he would become a Baptist minister, but he ultimately entered politics, becoming the 22nd governor of West Virginia.



Feb. 11, 1911: The Charles Town Opera House opened. The 500-seat theater ushered in an era of entertainment and service lasting more than 30 years.

Feb. 11, 1923: Eight members of the Black Hand were arrested in Harrison County. The Black Hand was the name and symbol of an underworld society of Italian immigrants that extorted money from other Italian immigrants.

Feb. 11, 1935: The first houses in the Tygart Valley Homesteads were ready for occupancy. One of three resettlement projects in West Virginia, the homesteads were intended to provide a new start for unemployed farmers, miners, and timber workers.

Feb. 11, 1949: Singer and pianist Ethel Caffie-Austin was born in Bluefield and raised in Mount Hope. As "West Virginia's First Lady of Gospel," she performed around the world, taught countless students, earned the Vandalia Award, and founded the West Virginia Black Sacred Music Festival.



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, Chloc. 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.

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APPALACHIAN CLASSIC

Continued from Page 1

point of becoming a spark and on Aug. 7, 2025, the Friends of the Appalachian Classic was created and the hard work of taking a racing trail back from the woods and meadows was under way.

Springston along with Anna Alexander and a sporadic group of volunteers worked diligently and things began taking shape to revive the race and festival.

The festival is part of major changes the Calhoun County Park has seen recently.

Advances has been made in the park's Dark Skies star watching program including new housing and the addition of equipment and necessities.

Then there is the upcoming events making the park a hub of outdoor camping activities with at least one group establishing the park as a major hub for trail exploration in West Virginia.

And the park has several areas for athletic events, picnicking and barbecues and Heritage Village which is a recreation of life in Calhoun County years ago.

It has been a rapidly growing area, but the return of the Appalachian Festival may be the crown jewel of all the positive happenings.

And this is thanks to the boundless energy of Springston.

Recently she made the following announcement:

Mark Your Calendars: The Appalachian Classic Returns June 21, 2026!

Exciting news!

The Appalachian Classic (a race sanctioned by the West Virginia Mountain Bike Association) is making its grand return to Calhoun County Park on June 21, 2026. Get ready for a weekend packed with fun, adventure, and activities for the whole family. Whether you're a racing

enthusiast, an art lover, or simply looking for a great time outdoors, this event has something for everyone!

What's New? This year, we're thrilled to announce a reconstructed race course, complete with new trail signage, rest areas, and artistic features along the trails. Plus, bike wash stations will be installed near the barn to ensure your ride stays in top condition. We're working hard to create an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

Get Involved! With the date set, we're kicking off promotions and looking for sponsors and volunteers to help make this event a success. If you'd like to contribute, we'd love to hear from you!

Tentative Race Weekend Schedule:

Thursday, June 18, 2026: Set up for race and weekend activities.

Friday, June 19, 2026:

Arts & Crafts Expo with open-mic and jam sessions (all day).

Heritage Village tours, storytelling, and History Alive (all day).

Fishing and Disc Golf Tournaments begin (all day).

Appalachian Classic Mild and Opening Ceremony (midday).

Gene Vance Memorial Walk/Run/Ride (afternoon).

Talent Show and Official Race Weekend Welcome (evening).

Fireside Tall-Tale-Telling Circle and WVAA Star Party (night).

Saturday, June 20, 2026:

Arts & Crafts Expo and Heritage Village activities continue (all day).

Day 2 of Fishing and Disc Golf Tournaments (all day).

Battle of the Bands (afternoon into night).

State Road Rage Race (morning-



MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

Calhoun County Park

afternoon).

Sunday, June 21, 2026:

Arts & Crafts Expo with open-mic and jam sessions (morning-afternoon).

Heritage Village tours, storytelling, and History Alive (morning-afternoon).

Day 3 of Fishing and Disc Golf Tournaments (morning-afternoon).

Appalachian Classic Race (morning-afternoon).

Closing Ceremony and Awards (afternoon).

Don't miss this incredible weekend of fun, community, and celebration. Spread the word, and we'll see you at Calhoun County Park for the Appalachian Classic!

You can contact Springston at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/782482024289555> if you have questions or just want to lend a hand.

Commission Continues to Face O&M Concerns

Courtesy Ridgeview News

Calhoun Commissioners Eric Lupardus, Craig Arthur, and Lee Rush met for the rescheduled regular second monthly meeting at 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 29th, 2026

Under delegations Dana Godfrey spoke to the Commission about his concern regarding the safety for Mt. Zion and Pleasant Hill PSD staff whom he recently scene working on along the road in the Arnoldsburg area with what he considered to be inadequate safety equipment.

Commission President Eric Lupardus commended the PSD staff for their recent work on leaks in frigid temperatures and requested that the PSD's get safety regulations on road work procedures for staff and drivers that are followed by the Department of Safety.

Dana Godfrey asked the Commissioners why the O&M Manager, Brian Arthur, recently resigned as well as what happened to the funding given to the Town of Grantsville for his salary. Commissioner Lupardus responded that Arthur had resigned due to non-payment and that there were likely legal procedures in play between Arthur and the O&M Board in charge of the consolidation. The Commission is also looking at taking action.

The Ridgeview News commented to the Commission that "Someone from the State of West Virginia needs to take an emergency action on the current water company situation and the safety of Calhoun water customers. The recent Wayne County vandalism incident brings attention to the necessity of having proper management staff."

Commissioner Lupardus replied that the Commission is moving ahead to create an emergency plan that includes public water and other community agencies during a natural disaster.

Sheriff Graham Knight requested the approval of the Commission for the purchase of 2018 Dodge Durango Pursuit AWD, with 84,260 miles for \$16,795.00. The vehicle is outfitted with all police equipment with the exception of a radio. Sheriff Knight said that the free shipping

offered by Chicago Motors, Inc will cover the cost of the radio.

Commissioner Lupardus made a motion to transfer \$7,500.00 from the money received from the insurance for a Sheriff Department totaled vehicle claim, which will be added with \$10,000 available in the Sheriff's budget to cover the cost of the vehicle. Commissioner Arthur seconded the motion, and the matter was unanimously approved.

The Mt. Zion PSD agenda request for the Commission to consider Emergency Funding was tabled due to the inability of the Board members to appear and the results of a request for help from the Governor's office that was made by Mt. Zion PSD.

The Animal Shelter project continues to move forward. The Commission agreed to deposit \$5,000 into the Animal Shelter's checking account to keep it from closing. The Animal Shelter Committee continues to actively meet and plan for the project opening. Jennifer Randolph, County Administrator also requested that money be transferred for the payment of the property survey from the animal shelter funds. Commission Craig Arthur asked why all of the money that had been set aside for the Animal Shelter could not be transferred. Commissioner Lupardus said that it could, but they were waiting on it to be done through actions at an animal shelter board meeting.

Commissioner Lupardus discussed Emergency Shelters, Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS emergency preparedness, saying, "We have a need to keep the discussion going to have existing or new facilities in place if emergencies arise. We also plan to use grant funding through State and Federal Resources to accomplish it.

Commissioner Arthur recommended that the commission look toward the use of local parks in each community and Commissioner Lee Rush agreed with that approach.

Commissioner Lupardus stated that although in the recent storm, we did not lose power as expected, we did have agencies that stepped up and were prepared to provide emergency shelter.

Calhoun County Park President Donald Pitts informed the Commission that the park board had discussed it, but they currently do not have an emergency generator and would need to seek funding for it. Other than the generator, the park is fully equipped with showers, restrooms, kitchen and are ADA compliant.

Steve Whited, CEO of Minnie Hamilton Health Systems stated that the Hospital has certain sites designated but would be open to having other locations as well. He also said that there was emergency grant funding for a generator.

The Calhoun County Park has been working toward providing internet to park visitors which would allow communication at that location, which is currently unavailable through cell phone providers. Donnie Pitts has been working with Melissa O'Brien, External Affairs Manager for Citynet as well as Adam Mills to determine the best method of installation. The matter was tabled until further research is complete.

Pitts also informed the Commission that at the current kitchen appliances in the park barn are no longer safe to operate and in need of replacement. Suggestions were made to consider the appliances at the Annamoria Army Resolved Center as well as those that will be replaced within the next six months during the Minnie Hamilton Health Systems renovations. Donnie Pitts said that the park would be willing to consider any of those to replace what they have.

It was also mentioned that the West Fork Park is in need of new appliances and should be considered among the donations.

Commissioner Lupardus made a motion for the Commission to provide \$2,000 to pay for the trout stocking of Calhoun County Park for the youth fishing day. The motion was approved by all commissioners.

With the upcoming election, both the Democrat and Republican parties were to appoint Ballot Commissioners. The Democratic Party appointed Melissa Hixon, and the Republican Party appointed Mason Snider. The Commission approved both.

Under Resignations/Appointments to Boards and Authorities, Paula Carter and Hope Carter were appointed to the Calhoun County Park Board.

Craig Hickman was appointed to fill the open board position of the Pleasant Hill PSD which expires June 30, 2031.

The Commission approved the hiring of a Tax Deputy for Sheriff Graham Knight's office. Megan Bopp was hired at \$15.00 an hour.

County Administrator, Jennifer Randolph wrote and received a REAP Grant for \$80,174. The grant will pay for a forklift, garage doors and a surveillance camera for the Cabot Recycling Center on Route 5 West.

The Ridgeview News questioned if this grant was a separate grant application or did it compete with funding also recently applied for by the Cabot Recycling Center Director, Lisa Cooper. Administrator Randolph replied that the two funding requests were entirely separate, Cabot Recycling had applied for \$150,000 and received a partial grant but did lose \$25,000 in salary funding. The Commission applied for \$100,000 and were awarded the \$80,174. Neither effected the outcome of the other.

The Commission went into executive session for the discussion of legal matters. They returned with no action taken during that time.

Commissioner Lupardus requested that the Commission budget \$1,200 for marketing of Calhoun County events, then later rescinded the request and requested \$5,000 be budgeted by the Commission for Marketing. The matter was approved by all three Commissioners and will focus on Way Point Zero, the adventure travel camp ground that will open June 6th, as well as Festivals and other local events.

Next Regular Meeting: February 12 @ 1:30 pm

Board of Review and Equalization Meetings: January 30; February 4, 13, 19 and 25 at 1:30 pm; February 9 at 4 pm & TEAMS Agendas are subject to revision up to two days prior to the meeting.

Calhoun County Hunters Harvest 13 Black Bears in 2025

Hunters in Calhoun County harvested a total of 13 black bears during the 2025 archery and firearms seasons, according to the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR). The harvest included 2 bears taken with bows or crossbows, 1 bear during the September-October gun season, 9 bears during the buck gun season, and 1 bear during the December firearms season.

Other nearby counties also reported their harvest numbers for 2025:

Clay County: 42 bears (4 bow/crossbow, 5 September-October gun, 4 buck gun, 29 December firearms)

Roane County: 13 bears (5 bow/crossbow, 0 September-October gun, 8 buck gun, 0 December firearms)

Wirt County: 12 bears (4 bow/crossbow, 0 September-October gun, 6 buck gun, 2 December firearms)

Ritchie County: 12 bears (1 bow/crossbow, 1 September-October gun, 6 buck gun, 4 December firearms)

Gilmer County: 25 bears (5 bow/crossbow, 4 September-October gun, 8 buck gun, 8 December firearms)

Braxton County: 60 bears (12 bow/crossbow, 5 September-October gun, 8 buck gun, 35 December firearms)

Statewide, hunters harvested a total of **2,469 black bears** during the 2025 seasons, with firearms accounting for the majority of the harvest. The top five counties for bear harvests were:

Webster County: 146 bears

Randolph County: 145 bears

Pocahontas County: 115 bears



Boone County: 196 bears

Kanawha County: 163 bears

For more information about hunting opportunities in

West Virginia, hunters can consult the West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, available at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations.

Grand Opening Announcement: Waypoint Zero Overland Outpost – “Gateway to the Galaxy”

Join us for the exciting **Grand Opening** of Waypoint Zero Overland Outpost, a brand-new primitive overland campground located on a serene mountain-top meadow in **Calhoun County Park, Grantsville, West Virginia**.

This special event celebrates the launch of a unique campground designed for **overlanders, off-grid campers, and adventure travelers** who cherish dark skies, responsible travel, and authentic backcountry experiences.

Event Details: **Date:** June 6th, 10 a.m. **Location:** Calhoun County Park, Grantsville, West Virginia **Setting:** Peaceful mountain meadow with certified dark skies

What to Expect:

Official ribbon-cutting ceremony
Welcome remarks & campground introduction
First community campfire gathering
Stargazing under certified dark skies

Overland rigs & camp setups on display
Meet fellow overlanders & local partners

Whether you're arriving in a fully built rig, rooftop tent, ground tent, or simply want to explore and connect with the community, **everyone is welcome!**

Come celebrate the launch of this incredible destination and experience the beauty of West Virginia's backcountry.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mike Stump Memorial Youth Tournament Announcement

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026, **Location:** Calhoun Middle High School, 50 Underwood Circle, Mount Zion, WV 26151

Registration:

Deadline: Thursday, February 5, 2026,

Online Only: Register at [Trackwrestling](http://Trackwrestling.com) (Walk-ins not accepted)

Entry Fee: \$35.00 (Online payment only)

Admission:

Adults: \$10

School-age (5-17): \$5

4 & under: FREE

Weigh-Ins:

Saturday, Feb 7: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Sunday, Feb 8: 6:30 AM - 8:00 AM

Note: Must weigh-in wearing a singlet

Schedule:

Coaches Meeting: 8:30 AM

Wrestling Starts: Immediately after

Awards:

Trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishers

Rules:

Scholastic rules

1-minute periods

Sudden death overtime

Referee's decision is final

Proof of age required if challenged

Age Divisions & Weight Classes:

Open Division:

4U (2021-Pres.): 35, 40, 45, 50, HWT (65 MAX)

6U (2019-2020): 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, HWT (95 MAX)

8U (2017-2018): 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 85, 105, HWT (135 MAX)

10U (2015-2016): 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 105, 115, 125, HWT (160 MAX)

12U (2013-2014): 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 115, 125, 135, 145, 160, HWT (200 MAX)

Middle School: 70, 78, 86, 94, 102, 110, 116, 123, 128, 135, 145, 155, 171, 190, 215, 285

Girls Division:

6U (2019-Pres.): Madison Weight System

9U (2016-2018): Madison Weight System

12U (2013-2015): Madison Weight System

Contact: Michael Fitzwater Phone: 304-677-5413

Email: michael.fitzwater83@yahoo.com

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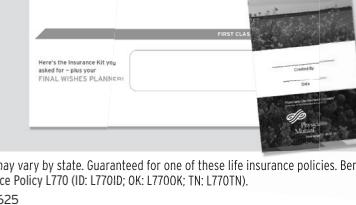
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IC: H6YU52

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Work continuing on Calhoun Chronicle Church Directory

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are still working toward creating a Church Directory for the Calhoun Chronicle and these are the churches we have thus far. We would like for you to look over the churches we have information about and correct anything we may have wrong in the church's summary.

Also, if we missed any churches in the county, please let us know and tell us about your church. We look forward to hearing from you because each and every church is very important. Also, we would like to get information on churches in neighboring counties where Calhoun people may attend such as churches in Smithville, Stumptown and Creston. We look forward to hearing from you.

APOSTOLIC

None listed

BAPTIST

The Church at Annamoriah

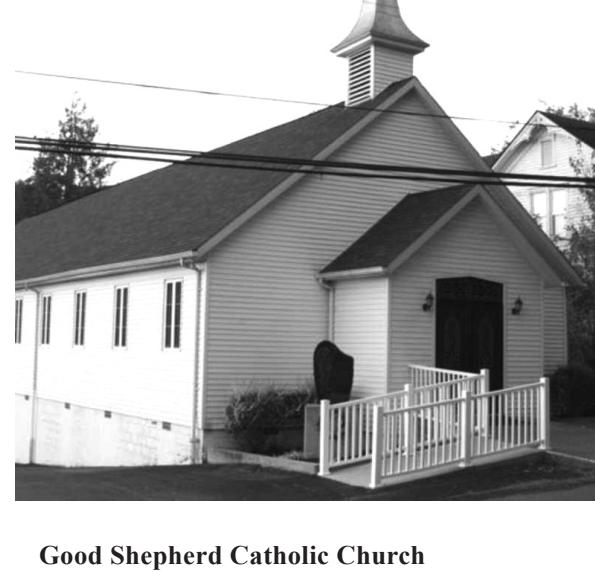
PASTOR DR. BARRY A. MILLER

SS @ 10:00 & Worship @ 11:00 Located about 1/2 of a mile out Katie's run road Annamoriah, West Virginia



Phone 304-354-7780, Find us on Facebook!

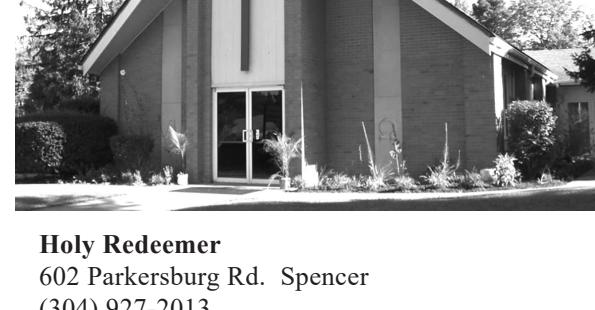
CATHOLIC



Good Shepherd Catholic Church

701 Mineral Road, Glenville, WV.

Pastor: Father Gary Naegele, Mass schedule: Sun. 11:00 a.m. Daily Mass and Holy Day as announced in bulletin; Confessions: before Sunday Mass.



Holy Redeemer

602 Parkersburg Rd. Spencer
(304) 927-2013
holyredeemerwv@gmail.com



St. Elizabeth of Hungary

St Rt 14 S, Elizabeth
(681) 236-2700
stelizofhungary@gmail.com



Steer Creek Church of Christ 3466 Rosedale Road Stumptown, WV 25267 Sunday Morning Bible Study/Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.

INDEPENDENT



PLEASANT HILL CHURCH

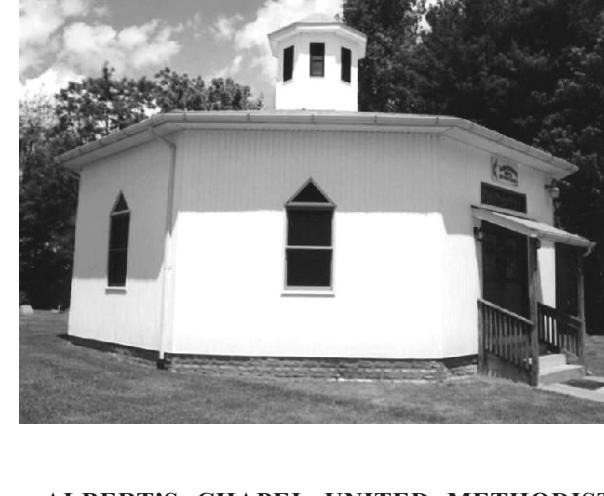
Pastor, Rick Matheney

3757 N. Calhoun Highway, Grantsville, WV 26147.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Church

Big Bend, WV Pastor: Mike Doherty Phone: 304.916.4668 Sunday Morning: 10:00 am Sunday

Evening: 6:30 pm Wednesday Evening: 7:00 pm
METHODIST



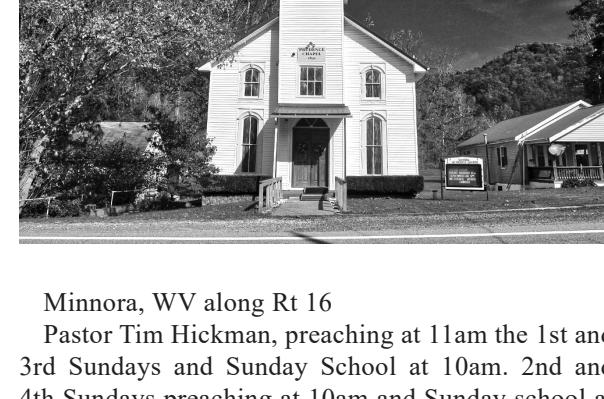
ALBERT'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am
Mt Zion United Methodist Church



Worship 10:00 am, 304-514-1346

Prudence Chapel



Minnora, WV along Rt 16

Pastor Tim Hickman, preaching at 11am the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Sunday School at 10am. 2nd and 4th Sundays preaching at 10am and Sunday school at 11am. 304-354-7365 Everyone is welcome.

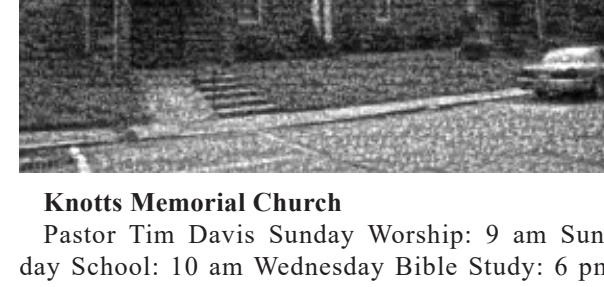
Walker United Methodist Church



located 1627 Walker Rd in Chloe, WV Pastor Tim Hickman Sunday services start at 10 AM

Orma United Methodist

Located at 17663 South Calhoun Highway. Sunday services beginning at 10 A.M. Pastor Timothy Hickman, preaches every first and third Sunday morning at 10 A.M. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Knotts Memorial Church

Pastor Tim Davis Sunday Worship: 9 am Sunday School: 10 am Wednesday Bible Study: 6 pm Thursday Men's/Women's groups: 6 pm Congregation Led Services <https://www.KnottsChurch.com>

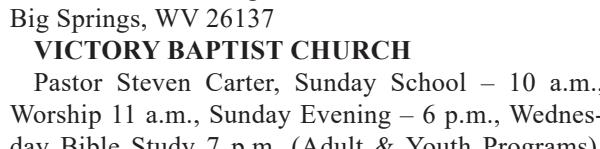
NON DENOMINATIONAL

Cornerstone Praise and Worship 527 Highland Street, Grantsville, WV. Pastor: Kevin Church Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am, Sunday Evening Prayer Group 6:00 pm Wednesday Bible Study 6pm (adults and youth). Find us on Face book!

Prosperity Baptist Church
844 Leading Creek Rd.
Big Springs, WV 26137

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Steven Carter, Sunday School - 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m., Sunday Evening - 6 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. (Adult & Youth Programs).



Calhoun County Schools Preschool & Kindergarten Enrollment Announcement

Calhoun County Universal Preschool is excited to announce that enrollment packets for the 2026-2027 school year are now available for parents to enroll their children in Pre-K or Kindergarten.

Enrollment Details

Eligibility:

Pre-K: Children who are **4 years old before July 1, 2026.**

Kindergarten: Children who are **5 years old before July 1, 2026.**

Enrollment Packets: Enrollment packets can be picked up at the following locations during school hours:

Arnoldsbury Elementary

Pleasant Hill Elementary

DOHS

Calhoun County Board of Education

Registration Fair

To assist families with the enrollment process, Calhoun County Schools will host a **Pre-Registration Fair:**

Date: Friday, March 6, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Location: Calhoun County Middle High School

At the registration fair, families can complete necessary documentation, and children will receive **hearing, vision, and dental screenings**. There will also be interactive stations for students to visit.

If school is canceled or delayed on March 6, the registration fair will be rescheduled for **Friday, March 13, 2026**, at the same location and times.

Required Documents for Preschool Enrollment

All children applying for preschool must have the following documents submitted before the start of the 2026-2027 school year:

Pre-K Universal Application

Certified Birth Certificate (Vital Statistics Certificate from Charleston only)

Immunization Record

Preventative Health Screen (Well Child)

Dental Check

Hemoglobin Test (available through your physician)

Lead Screen

Proof of Income (W2, 1040, or proof of Government Assistance)

Completed preschool packets are due by the date of the registration fair. While packets will be accepted after the fair, classroom preference will be given based on the date the application is received.

Developmental Screening for Children Under 3

Children from birth to age three who are suspected of having developmental delays are eligible for screening to determine if services are needed.

Contact Information

For more information or to schedule an appointment for the registration fair, please contact:

Saundra Ballengee: 304-354-6022 ext. 402

Jackie Allen: 304-655-8616 ext. 110

For general inquiries, please contact:

Bonnie Sands, COO Curriculum and Instruction

Phone: 304.354.7011 ext. 317

Email: bonnie.sands@k12.wv.us

We look forward to welcoming your child to Calhoun County Schools!

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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 March 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
012	202283005	S383-REC/AL-26 00	STBG-2026(006)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS D-3 RECALL STRIPING 2026 DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: CALHOUN

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 Guarantee 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.

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

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

Enter this 5th day of February 2026.

Whitney D. Butler

Clerk of the County Commission

Class II Legal

LEGAL

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The undersigned Clerk of the County Commission of Calhoun County does hereby give NOTICE that, pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code §44-1-4(b), there has been filed and there is pending before me and the said County Commission an Affidavit for ancillary administration of West Virginia real estate without the appointment of any personal representative and does state as follows:

Decedent	Decedent's Address	Date of Death	Date of Affidavit
1. Vernon Richards	10575 US HWY 2 W. MARION, MT 59925	January 1, 2025	January 9, 2026

The decedent died owning real estate situate in the State of West Virginia. As reported in the affidavit filed herein, (a) the decedent has left no will as far as is known; (b) no will of the decedent has been presented or probated in this State or in any other jurisdiction; and (c) more than sixty days have passed since the death of the decedent and no personal representative or administrator of the decedent's estate has been otherwise appointed in the State of West Virginia for any proper purpose.

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

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

Enter this 5th day of February 2026.

Whitney D. Butler

Clerk of the County Commission

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NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that proceedings in the following estates are pending before the County Commission of Calhoun County, West Virginia, at the Courthouse in the City of Grantsville, West Virginia;

Decedent	Personal Representative	Address
Randal Gainer	Kenneth Gainer	559 White Pine Rd., Grantsville, WV 26147
Kevin Ray Starcher	Amelia Starcher	900 White Pine Rd., Grantsville, WV 26147
William Wood	Bryan Gungle	491 Sand Ridge Rd., Millstone, WV 25261

February 5, 2026

Notice is hereby given that the preceding estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Calhoun County Clerk's office at 363 Main Street, PO Box 230, GRANTSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA 26147. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provision of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue of jurisdiction of the commission, shall file notice of an objection with the County Commission within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred.

Any person interested in filing claims against an estate shown below must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code, 44-2 and 44-3. All persons having claims against one or more of the estate(s) shown above, whether due or not, are notified to exhibit their claims, with the voucher thereof, legally verified, to the Clerk of the Calhoun County Commission at Calhoun County Clerk's Office at 363 Main Street, PO Box 230, GRANTSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA 26147 on or before April 6, 2026. Otherwise they may be law be excluded from all benefit of said estate(s). All beneficiaries of said estate(s) may appear on or before said day to examine said claims and otherwise protect their interests.

Settlement of the estate(s) of the preceding named decedent(s) will proceed with or without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.

Whitney Butler, Clerk
Calhoun County Commission
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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 December 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 culvert 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 et al 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

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

Local Apprentice Completes West Virginia Rural Water Apprenticeship Program

The West Virginia Rural Water Association (WVRWA) proudly recognized John Canterbury on January 28, 2026, for the successful completion of the Water Operator in Training Apprenticeship Program.

John completed the WVRWA two-year apprenticeship with the Town of Grantsville, WV, gaining valuable hands-on experience while fulfilling required coursework and on-the-job training. Through his dedication and hard work, he earned his Class 2 West Virginia Water Operator License, marking an important milestone in his professional career and strengthening the local water workforce.

The WVRWA apprenticeship program prepares skilled operators to serve West Virginia communities by combining technical instruction with real-world utility experience. Graduates like John play a critical role in ensuring safe and reliable drinking water for residents across the state.

John was officially recognized during a presentation of his Department of Labor Certificate of Completion, a nationally recognized credential. Throughout his apprenticeship, he also earned CPR/First Aid, Flagger Certification, Water Distribution Certification, Class 1 Water Operator Certification, and successfully completed the program with his Class 2 Water Operator License.

WVRWA congratulates John Canterbury on this outstanding achievement and thanks the Town of Grantsville for its continued commitment to workforce development. His success reflects the value of apprenticeship programs in building strong communities—one water professional at a time.



Mt. Zion PSD Release December Meeting Minutes for the Hiring of Brian Arthur

Minutes for the December 8, 2025, Special Joint Operations and Maintenance Meeting of the Mount Zion PSD

A special meeting of the Board of the Mount Zion Public Service District was held on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6 PM at the county courthouse. The President and Secretary being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM and, per the special rules previously adopted, presided over by Hon. Comm'r Craig Arthur, President of the County Commission.

Initially the Town of Grantsville lacked a quorum of Town Counsellors. Proceedings were delayed until a third Town Counsellor could join the meeting by way of telephone.

Mr. Michael Westfall was interviewed first. Having

already been interviewed in depth in the prior attempt at hiring the interview was brief.

Mr. Brian Arthur was interviewed second. He presented his credentials and answered a series of questions from all three entities. Mr. Arthur subsequently laid out his terms of employment: a \$90,000/year salary, medical insurance for himself and his family, and a continuation of his state retirement in the new position.

Mr. White moved that we enter executive session at 7:14 to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Trenten Cunningham of Pleasant Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously viva voce.

At 7:22, the executive session was ended.

Mr. White moved that we accept the two resumes as nominations for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Tony Arthur of Pleasant Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously viva voce.

Mr. White moved that nominations be closed and the means of selection be written ballot. Mrs. Hughes seconded. Motion carried unanimously viva voce.

Ballots were cast by all members present. The Town Counsellor joining by telephone informed President Arthur of her vote verbally and he counted it with the paper ballots. By unanimous vote, Mr. Arthur was selected for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Trenten Cunningham of Pleasant Hill moved to adjourn at 7:33. Mr. Tony Arthur of Pleasant Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously viva voce.

Signed by
Robin Hughes, January 9, 2026
Ari White, January 9, 2026

Mollohan shaped Calhoun and Calhoun shaped Mollohan

Robert Homer Mollohan, born on September 18, 1909, in Grantsville, West Virginia, was deeply rooted in the history and politics of Calhoun County. His family lineage and upbringing in the region played a significant role in shaping his political career and legacy.

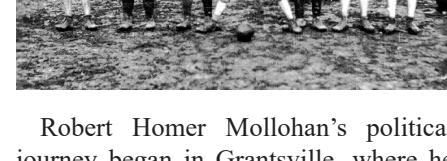


Mollohan was the son of Robert Perry Mollohan and Edith Witte Mollohan.

His father, Robert Perry, moved to Grantsville in 1908 and became a prominent figure in the community. He operated a store and was appointed Deputy Assessor by Robert J. Knotts in 1910. At the age of 21, Robert Perry became the youngest Justice of the Peace elected in West Virginia. He later served as the Calhoun County Clerk from 1939 until his death in 1946. Robert Homer's brother, Ernest Mollohan, also contributed to the community by operating the Calhoun Super Service and serving as the President of the first Calhoun Board of Education.

The Mollohan family's history in Calhoun County dates back over 150 years. Robert Homer's grandfather, Perry Mollohan, was a farmer and co-founder of the first general store on the West Fork with R.J. Chenoweth. His great-grandfather, Nathan Mollohan, was an early settler in Washington Township, owning 5,000

acres in the West Fork region. Over the years, the Mollohan family intermarried with other prominent Calhoun families, including the Ellison, Boone, Shock, Huffman, Hamrick, Duffield, Knotts, Boggs, Westfall, Hamilton, Witte, Jarvis, Stump, and Vanhorn families. These connections helped establish the Mollohan family as a significant force in Calhoun politics.



Robert Homer Mollohan's political journey began in Grantsville, where he demonstrated a natural flair for politics at a young age. He started ringing doorbells to rally votes and became a Precinct Captain at just 23 years old. His early political involvement laid the foundation for a career in public service. Mollohan married Helen Holt of Gilmer County, further strengthening his ties to the region.

Mollohan's career included various roles that showcased his commitment to public service. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service from 1933 to 1938 and served as District Manager for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) from 1939 to 1940. During his tenure as WPA Administrator, he oversaw the planning of the current Calhoun jail and courthouse. He also served as Superintendent of the Industrial School for Boys at Pruntytown from 1941 to 1948, where he worked to improve the lives of young boys in the region.

Mollohan's political career reached its peak when he was elected to the

U.S. House of Representatives for West Virginia's 1st congressional district in 1953. He served nine terms in Congress, interrupted only by an unsuccessful bid for governor in 1956. Despite setbacks, Mollohan remained a prominent figure in West Virginia politics, known for his ability to secure funding for local projects and his dedication to his constituents.

The 1956 West Virginia gubernatorial election took place on November 6, 1956, marking a significant political shift in the state. Republican Cecil H. Underwood defeated Mollohan, becoming the first Republican governor elected in West Virginia since 1928. Underwood, who had just turned 34 years old a day before the election, became one of the youngest governors in U.S. history. He won the election with 440,502 votes (53.88%) compared to Mollohan's 377,131 votes (46.12%), securing a decisive victory with a margin of 63,371 votes.

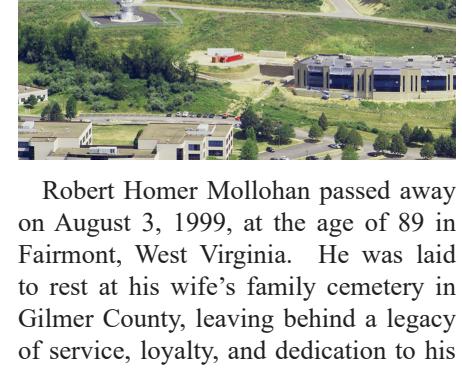
Underwood's campaign focused on reforming the state's political system, which he believed was plagued by corruption. His first act as governor was to announce on television that all state employees were fired, aiming to dismantle the "machine" system. He later advocated for an organized civil service, a retirement pension system, and temporary employment relief for low-income families. Despite the ongoing national debate over educational desegregation following the Brown v. Board of Education decision, Underwood continued his Democratic predecessor's efforts to desegregate West Virginia schools and supported civil rights legislation.

In Calhoun County, the race was particularly close. Mollohan narrowly won the county with 2,100 votes (51.05%), while Underwood received 2,014 votes (48.95%). The margin of victory for Mollohan in Calhoun County was just 86 votes (2.09%). Despite losing in Calhoun County, Underwood's strong per-

formance in other counties secured his statewide victory.

Ironically Underwood too had ties to Calhoun as he married Hovah Hall, a native of the county.

Throughout his life, Mollohan maintained strong ties to Calhoun County and Grantsville. He frequently returned to connect with friends and express his gratitude for the support he received from the community. His legacy in Calhoun County is marked by his old-style political approach, where he prioritized helping people in need and building alliances within families and constituents. Mollohan's contributions to the region, both as a politician and a businessman, left a lasting impact on the community he cherished.



Robert Homer Mollohan passed away on August 3, 1999, at the age of 89 in Fairmont, West Virginia. He was laid to rest at his wife's family cemetery in Gilmer County, leaving behind a legacy of service, loyalty, and dedication to his roots in Calhoun County and Grantsville.

