

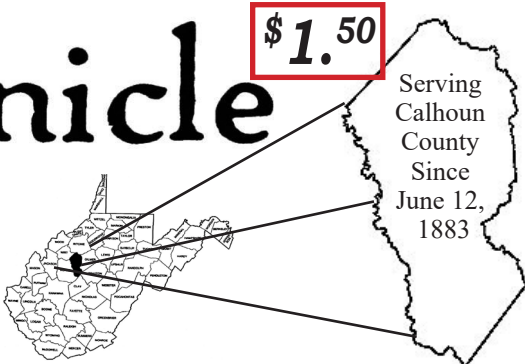


The Calhoun Chronicle

and

The Grantsville News

“Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts”



Whole Number 7215

Grantsville, West Virginia 26147

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Calhoun County High School Alumni Association reforming

By Gaylen Duskey

Last year unforeseen circumstances and a lack of volunteer help combined to force cancelation of the Alumni Reunion.

That unfortunate circumstance has inspired a few new people and the Calhoun County High School Alumni Association to re-form with vigor.

The group will meet at Mom’s Place Too restaurant Feb. 21, 2026, with all graduates of CCHS invited to attend come with your ideas and questions.

The new CCHSAA officers are Jim Sullivan president, Terry Snider Harris vice president, Sharon Hartshorn Lynch, secretary and Tanya Wagoner Cunningham, treasurer.

Last year Sullivan said: “We are in need of more help to make it happen in 2026. Please contact Terry Harris or me if you are eager and ready to help make it happen again.”

Terry Harris also shared concerns about the planning process, noting that tasks such

as spreadsheets and labels require more hands-on assistance.

“We need more help to make it happen in 2026,” Harris said last year. “Please contact Jim Sullivan or Terry Harris if you can help or have any questions about what is involved.

“If you have already sent in a reservation, it will be returned to you. Volunteers are needed to fill the offices of secretary and treasurer and to join the committee. Books are in good order, just need someone to continue the good work that has been done.

“We are very sorry to disappoint those who planned to attend after having such a success last year.”

The organizers encourage alumni who are willing to dedicate time and effort to reach out and contribute to the planning process. With the right support, they hope to bring the reunion back in 2026.

But that was last and this year the CCHSAA is hoping an earlier start brings about a better result.

Calling All Local Artists: Help Create Calhoun County’s America250 Mural

The Calhoun County Commission is thrilled to announce an opportunity for local artists, art groups, and community organizations to contribute to a historic project celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

As part of the statewide America250 Mural Project, the Commission is seeking creative minds to design and execute a mural that captures the essence of Calhoun County’s rich history, heritage, and its connection to West Virginia’s role in shaping America’s story.

This initiative is part of a larger effort to create a mural trail across West Virginia, showcasing the state’s unique contributions to the nation’s history. Calhoun County has been awarded up to \$5,000 in grant funding from the West Virginia Department of Tourism to bring this vision to life. The mural will be prominently displayed at the Calhoun County Park, serving as a lasting tribute to the community and its place in the broader narrative of America’s 250th anniversary.

What the Commission is Looking For: The County Commission is inviting proposals that include:

- A general concept or theme for the mural that reflects the county’s identity and historical significance.
- Information about the artist or group interested in leading the project.

At this stage, detailed designs are not required. Instead, the Commission is looking for conceptual ideas that can be refined later in collaboration with the selected artist or group. The final design

must incorporate the official West Virginia America250 logo, as mandated by the program.

Key Details:

- Funding:** Up to \$5,000 provided by the West Virginia Department of Tourism.
- Location:** The mural will be painted at Calhoun County Park.
- Deadline for Completion:** The selected mural must be finished by May 1, 2026.
- Submission Deadline:** Proposals or expressions of interest must be submitted by February 23.
- How to Submit Your Proposal:** Artists and groups interested in this unique opportunity can submit their proposals via email to Administrator Jennifer Randolph at calcom26147@gmail.com. Alternatively, submissions can be dropped off in person at the Courthouse Annex, located at 229 Court Street, Grantsville.

This project is made possible through financial support from the West Virginia Department of Tourism and the National Endowment for the Arts. It offers a rare chance for local creatives to leave a lasting mark on the community while contributing to a statewide celebration of America’s 250th anniversary.

The Calhoun County Commission will carefully review all submissions and select the proposal that best aligns with the goals of the America250 program and the county’s vision for this historic project.

For additional information or questions, please contact the Calhoun County Commission.

You are allowed to test your own water for contaminants to be safe

By Gaylen Duskey

Do you have no faith in the tests showing chlorine levels in your house after other groups has tested it?

If you run you out a glass of water from your kitchen sink and test away.

Is that possible?

Is it legal?

You betcha Red Rider it is perfectly legal.

How is it legal or affordable since people have said it may not be either?

Because once the water passes through the water meter it becomes YOUR water. Your sewage too but that is a story for later.

And as your water you can do whatever you want to with it – drink it, bathe in it, wash your clothes or dishes or flush your commode. That’s because it is your water since you have bought and paid for it.

Here is what the Calhoun County

Commission was told Thursday:

“Ownership of Water After the Meter Once public water passes through the meter and enters the customer’s private plumbing system, the customer becomes the owner of that water.

“The customer has the right to select any qualified or certified professional or laboratory to test water at their tap.

“Testing conducted inside the home represents water within the customer’s private system.”

So if you think the water your get from your tap may have chlorine or any other contaminant in it – test it.

The testing part was bandied back and forth between the Town or Grantsville, the Pleasant Hill and Mount Zion public service districts and the county commission a few days back.

Rural Water professionals discovered chlorine levels over the 4.0 ppm threshold outlined acceptable by the EPA,

WATER cont. on page 6

Big difference is what mayor says forensic audit would coast and what WV Code says

By Gaylen Duskey

How much would a forensic audit cost the Town of Grantsville in a worst case scenario where the town had to pay for the audit?

The entire cost of the audit?

There seems to be a big, big difference on how much it would be.

Grantsville Mayor John Villines answering a question about the possibility of a forensic audit at the town’s Feb. 9, 2026, meeting said: “The forensic audit? I called myself and requested it and there’s not enough evidence for it to be done free and I don’t have \$100,000-plus dollars sitting around and I am not wasting the taxpayers’ money.”

According to West Virginia Code: §6-9-8 the costs shall not exceed the sum of \$3,000 for services rendered to a Class IV municipality.

That’s a difference of at least \$97,000.

That’s a huge difference and it does make one question why such a difference. A misstatement? A misunderstanding?

Could be any of those things but we have obtained West Virginia Code §6-9-8 verbatim.

“West Virginia Code: §6-9-8

“Payment of Cost of Services of Chief Inspector; Revolving Fund

(a) The cost of any service or act performed by the Chief Inspector under the provisions of this article as to any county or district office, officer, or institution shall be paid by the county commission of the county. The cost of any service or act to any board of education shall be paid by the board. The cost of any service or act to any municipal corporation shall be paid by the authorities of the municipal corporation: Provided, That in municipalities in which the total revenue from all taxes does not exceed the sum of \$2,000 annually, the cost, including the per diem and all actual costs and expenses of the services, shall not exceed the sum of \$200.

“The cost of this service shall be the actual cost and expense of the service performed, including transportation, hotel, meals, materials, per diem compensation of deputies, assistants, clerical help, and other costs that are necessary to enable them to perform the services required. However, the costs shall not exceed the sum of \$3,000 for services rendered to a Class IV municipality: Provided, howev-

AUDIT cont. on page 6

OUR HISTORY

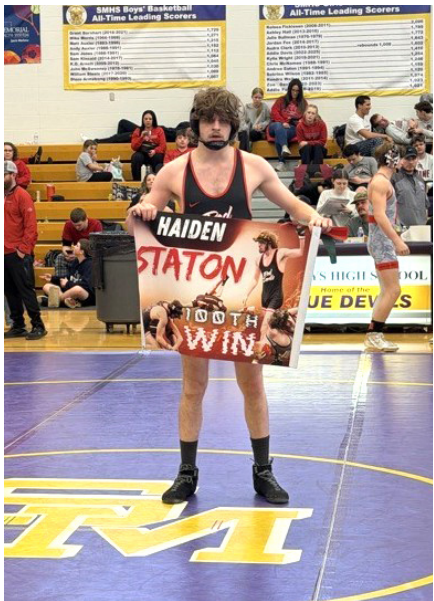
Hovah Hall Underwood

Hovah Hall Underwood was a prominent figure in West Virginia’s history, serving as First Lady during two separate terms (1957–1961 and 1997–2001). Born in Grantsville in 1919, she was an accomplished musician and educator, earning degrees from Salem College and West Virginia University. Her career included teaching, working at a defense plant during WWII, and a decade in child welfare services. She married Cecil H. Underwood in 1948, who became both the youngest and oldest governor of West Virginia.

As First Lady, Hovah focused on

raising her children during Cecil’s first term but took on a more active role in his second term, championing women’s and children’s issues and supporting various organizations. Her dedication to public service extended beyond her tenure, including founding the Hovah Hall Underwood Children’s Home in Ona, West Virginia. She passed away in 2004, leaving a legacy of service and advocacy. Her ashes, along with her husband’s, were interred in Spring Hill Cemetery, with a monument honoring their lifelong commitment to serving others and advancing science.

See story on page 6

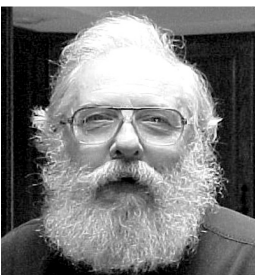


Although Calhoun did not win the LKC wrestling championship a couple RED Devil wrestlers did achieve milestones as sophomore Tucker Sampson won the 150 pound championship while Haiden Staton picked up his 100th career victory.



CRESTON NEWS

BY ALVIN ENGELKE
PHONE 275-3578



The weather finally warmed and much of the snow has melted although there are yet icy spots. Last week with clear main roads it was obvious to spot the problem areas, mostly drive-ways that caused water to run out on the road making icy spots [black ice]. In olden days the county would send out equipment to resolve those areas to avoid wrecks, injuries & deaths but, apparently, it would seem that Engineer Evans’ “Core Maintenance Manual & Guide” does not address such issues so none of the problems were solved. After all, unlike tree top trimming there is no big money in doing routine maintenance. The ice is also breaking up & going downstream.

As a result of the cold weather, snow, ice & treatment chemicals the surface of the W. Va. Route 5 bridge in Creston has taken another turn for the worse. One needs to go slow.

While not really Creston news Tony McVey had twin photogenic calves, one of those cheery good news stories that all like to read.

Local residents took in the Fire Department meal in Elizabeth.

There will be Bingo March 7 at Creston.

It was reported that Antero, the big Denver driller got into a tiff with the EPA and the W. Va. Environmental folks. It is said that now there is a \$3.8 million settlement.

The St. Valentine’s Day meal at Shade Tree was a popular event on Saturday. Folks got to meet Cash’s friend Lucy.

Teddy Ball went to visit the doctor the other day and then he was sent to the ER and from there to the OR. He is now recovering from open heart surgery.

Brandon Ferrell had appendix surgery.

Some news came from down at the lower Potomac swamps that will impact local folks and others all over the nation positively. The 2009 “endangerment finding” that CO2 (Carbon dioxide) was a danger has now been rescinded and thus all the “pollution” rules concerning carbon dioxide are now moot. CO2 is the raw material used by green plants to make all the food we eat, either directly or indirectly when plant products are fed to animals to make meat, eggs, dairy products, etc. With the new emphasis on eating healthy foods we will now all do better and at much lower cost. It was reported that with meals for the army, real food meals will cost \$10 while the “highly refined stuff “ was costing \$14/day. While that is happening the legislature, for reasons that are not really clear, have said they were going to do a “favor” for the deep state and implement for the Ohio River drainage the same onerous regulations that shut down many farms where the water goes into the Chesapeake Bay. Why would our elected representatives answer to the deep state? One would hope that someone in the State Senate or in the House of Delegates stands up and says,

“No”. We do not need more government employees running around telling us what to do and increasing the debt. DOGE the program before it starts. If someone has some worthless sons-in-law that need government jobs, perhaps they could exercise, get in shape and join the military, ICE or CBP. This involves SJR 7.

Someone introduced a bill in the legislature that says if one discovers something other than oil & gas then the company does not have to pay royalty on the valuable substance. A century ago it was reported that gold nuggets were found in the drillings over in Doddridge County and now there is lithium, a very valuable element found in certain brines. Another bill requires you to agree to have the coal long walled under your house, so it is guaranteed to subside. Folks need to talk with those folks who say they represent us. The coal bill has been labeled “The forced subsidence bill” in honor or the various forced pooling bills that the legislature did to enrichen the out of state [and nation] oil & gas companies.

Some local folks were visiting folks under the golden dome at the Mouth of the Elk.

Expand Energy was looking after some of their properties in Wood County.

The Comely Kim was visiting Wilma Mowrey.

ON Tee Vee the other day there was a display of the reach of the deep state & CIA concerning the Epstein papers. One of the deep state men said there would be no prosecutions, and it became obvious why. Some of the top men & women from the Big Eared One’s administration shall we say, “looked bad” and a woman had to step down from her position at Goldman Sachs. Men in various European governments have been forced to resign. It would look like a certain blond woman needs to seek other employment.

An outfit that wants to lease oil & gas in Gilmer County said they would provide a gross lease but the language talks about the BTU value of the natural gas at the well head which is a fictional value. Gas from those wells is sold at the tailpipe of the fractionation plants after the removal of the natural gas liquids, ethane, propane, normal & iso butane, the pentanes, etc.

Earlier it had been reported that Mother Hope (Hope Gas) & Megan had problems supplying natural gas to their customers. Now it was learned that Mountaineer Gas [that has the old Cabot plant] likewise had difficulty keeping some of their Creston customers warm. What happened to those folks who wanted to abandon gas gathering lines and the natural gas that was being produced into those lines?

The price of local Pennsylvania grade crude rose to \$63.63/bbl. With condensate fetching \$45.63/bbl. & Marcellus & Utica light bringing \$52.63/bbl. Of course locally it has been very difficult to get the oil trucks to tanks on location to haul the oil.

OBITUARY



Dottie Vaughan

Dottie Elizabeth Vaughan, age 76, of Grantsville, West Virginia, passed away on February 10, 2026, at Winchester Medical Center, with her loving family at her side. Dottie was born to the late Benjamin Clyde Hicks and Lula Hicks. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Dorcas Hicks, and Debra Isaac. She is survived by her

devoted husband, Alan Vaughan; her children, Flint Moore of Spencer, West Virginia, and Teddy Cruickshanks of Charleston, West Virginia; her stepson, Alan Vaughan Jr. (Becka) of Martinsburg, West Virginia; her cherished granddaughter, Julie Moore of Elkins, West Virginia; and her step-granddaughter, Ainsley Wykle. She is also survived by her siblings, Deane Drake, Bill (Jane) Hicks, Doris Methney, and Barto Hicks, along with several nieces and nephews whom she loved very much.

Dottie was a retired equipment operator in the construction industry, a profession she carried out with strength and dedication. She was also a waitress at the Grantsville Hotel & Restaurant for many years, where she was

known for her warm smile and friendly spirit. Above all, she loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Her faith was the foundation of her life, and she joyfully sang southern gospel music for several

years, sharing her love of the Lord through song.

Dottie faithfully cared for her family and home, living out the words of Scripture:

“She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.”

— Proverbs 31:27–28 (KJV)

At Dottie’s request, there will be a private gathering at a later time.

Please visit obituaries and tribute wall at omps-funeralhome.com

What in the world is securitization?

By Charlotte Lane
WVPSC Chairman

The word “securitization” is one you’re going to be hearing a lot more of if you pay attention to utility rates in West Virginia.

The word involves a method to spread the cost of an item over a period of time, rather than requiring the buyer to pay the entire price up front.

Think of it as a home mortgage. You buy a house for \$100,000, but no one expects you to pay for that all at once.

Instead, you allocate those payments to be made on a monthly basis over a 20-year period. The monthly payment then is manageable. You don’t get instant sticker shock.

The Legislature in 2023 passed a law to provide for this sort of stretched-out, gradual payments in rate cases through a system known as securitization.

The Public Service Commission, using that new law, recently authorized a power company to come up with a securitization plan in a case in which the company was seeking a \$250 million rate increase.

The PSC reduced the rate request in August but told the company to come back to the PSC with a securitization plan that the Commission could use to stretch out the full impact of the rate increase over a number of years. And, as a result, rates may decrease.

Generally, securitization is achieved

by a company selling bonds to immediately recover its outlay. The ratepayers then pay additional amounts on their monthly bills to pay down and eventually dispose of the bonds.

To enhance its own expertise in this area, the Commission, in an order issued August 29, 2025 (Case No. 25-0310-EP), said it would hire an outside professional adviser to help it with this critical issue.

The amounts involved in this case are very large. They could run to \$2.5 billion. They cover a number of issues for which the company is seeking recovery, such as storm damage, environmental controls at plants, fuel costs, and other important issues involved in keeping electricity-production plants operational.

In its order, the Commission noted it received more than 5,000 comments in one case and 200 in a separate case in which the customers asked for rate relief.

We said in the order, “The Commission believes that securitization will provide the rate relief the customers seek.”

This is not going to be an easy process. There is no magic silver bullet here.

The trade-off is a smaller power bill, but a bill that will be stretched into the future to cover the life of the bonds.

We are eager to learn what we can from the adviser we will hire. We are equally interested in trying to hold the line on what our ratepayers have to pay in their monthly bills.

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.

AMERICA250 MURAL DESIGN REQUEST

The Calhoun County Commission is inviting local artists, art groups, and community organizations to submit proposals for participation in the America250 Mural Project, a statewide initiative celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

As part of this project, Calhoun County has been awarded up to \$5,000 through a grant from the West Virginia Department of Tourism to support the creation of a hand-painted mural that reflects our County’s history, heritage, and connection to West Virginia’s role in America’s history. The mural will be part of a statewide mural trail and showcased as part of West Virginia’s America250 celebrations. A location at the Calhoun County Park has been identified for the mural.

The Commission is seeking creative proposals that include:

- A general concept or theme for the mural
 - Information about the artist or group interested in completing the project
- Final designs are not required at this stage of the submission process; conceptual ideas are sufficient.

Final designs will be developed in coordination with the County Commission and must incorporate the official West Virginia America250 logo, as required by the program.

Once a proposal is selected and approved by the West Virginia Department of Tourism, the mural project must be completed by May 1, 2026. Submission Deadline:

This project is supported with financial assistance from the West Virginia Department of Tourism and the National Endowment for the Arts, and represents a unique opportunity to leave a lasting artistic legacy in Calhoun County.

PROPOSALS OR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FEBRUARY 23.

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO ADMINISTRATOR JENNIFER RANDOLPH AT CALCOM26147@GMAIL.COM OR DROPPED OFF AT THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX AT 229 COURT STREET, GRANTSVILLE.

For more information, please contact the Calhoun County Commission.

The Calhoun County Commission reserves the right to select the proposal that best meets the goals of the America250 program and applicable county guidelines.

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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

Michael Showell

ADVERTISING

Debra Smith

debra@mountainmedianews.com



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

Feb. 19, 1908: Orval Elijah Brown was born near Lizemores in Clay County. Brown, a free-spirited individual, gained notoriety as the "Clay County Wild Man" during the Great Depression for his untamed physical appearance, which included a flowing beard and the wearing of little more than a self-made loincloth.



Feb. 19, 1943: Author Homer Hickam was born in Coalwood, McDowell County. Hickam's second book, *Rocket Boys: A Memoir*, was published in 1998 and became a runaway bestseller. It was adapted into the film *October Sky*.

Feb. 20, 1875: The legislature approved a bill to move the state capital from Charleston back to Wheeling.

Feb. 20, 1995: The legislature voted to make the Golden Delicious apple the official state fruit.

Feb. 21, 1895: Bluefield Colored Institute was established by the legis-

lature to prepare Black West Virginians for the teaching profession. After several name changes, the school became Bluefield State College in 1943 and achieved university status in 2022.



Feb. 21, 1913: Workers' compensation passed the legislature, modeled on the German system Governor Hatfield had studied in the Ruhr Valley coalfields.



Feb. 21, 1940: Governor Gaston Caperton was born in Charleston. In 1988, Caperton defeated incumbent Arch Moore to become the state's 31st governor.



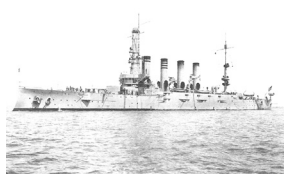
Feb. 22, 1927: Long-time Agriculture Commissioner Gus R. Douglass was born in Mason County. Douglass, a Democrat,

was first elected commissioner in 1964. Re-elected nine times, Douglass was the longest-serving agricultural commissioner in the country.



Feb. 22, 1918: 33,000 schoolteachers and service personnel walked off the job over wages and health benefits. The strike drew national attention, and teachers in five other states organized work stoppages.

Feb. 23, 1867: Lincoln County was formed from Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, and Putnam counties. The county was named for Abraham Lincoln.



Feb. 23, 1905: The first USS West Virginia was commissioned. The armored cruiser was renamed the USS Huntington in 1916 to allow the transfer of the original name to a newly authorized battleship.



Feb. 23, 1945: Harrison County native "Woody" Williams distinguished himself during the Battle of Iwo Jima by neutralizing seven concrete pillboxes. This act of heroism earned Williams the

Medal of Honor.

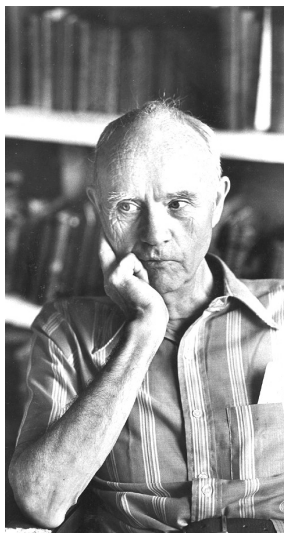
Feb. 24, 1918: Judge Kenneth Keller "K. K." Hall was born at Greenview, Boone County. Hall spent 47 years on the state and federal benches.



Feb. 24, 1928: Doctor Donald L. Rasmussen was born in Colorado. After coming to work at Miners Memorial Hospital in Beckley, he became a driving force in the passage of state and federal black lung legislation.

Feb. 25, 1903: An armed posse ambushed striking miners in their homes in the village of Stanaford near Beckley. Six miners were killed; federal judge B. F. Keller exonerated the posse.

Feb. 25, 1911: Newspaperman Jim Comstock was born in Richwood. In 1957, he founded the *West Virginia Hillbilly*, a weekly newspaper that circulated inside and outside the state.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Calhoun County Library hours are Mon., Wed., and Fri., 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Tue. and Thur., 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Online 24 hours at <https://calhounlib.com/>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

County Farmer's Markets

Calhoun County Farmer's Market, Upper West Fork Park, Chloe. Wednesdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,

Arnoldsburg Farmer's Market, West Fork Park, Arnoldsburg. Fridays 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Berea Gardens Drive Thru Farmer's Market, Berea Gardens, Minnora. Wednesdays 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Grantsville Farmer's Market, Season details not yet available.

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

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MISCELLANEOUS

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New Books at Calhoun County Library

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W.E.B. Griffin’s Direct Action by: Jack Stewart
Stuart Woods’ Blown Away by: Brett Battles
Dark Joy by: Christine Feehan
The Right To Remain by: James Grippando
The Perfect Marriage by: Jeneva Rose
Home Is Where The Bodies Are by: Jeneva Rose
The Invisible Woman by: James Patterson
Holmes, Marple & Poe by: James Patterson
The Forget-Me-Not Library by: Heather Webber
The First Time I Saw Him by: Laura Dave
Woman Down by: Colleen Hoover
The Devil’s Daughter by: Danielle Steel
The Restoration Garden by: Sara Blaydes
More Than Nothing by: Sophie Hamilton
Blood Like Ours by: Stuart Neville
Spasm by: Robin Cook
The Friend of the Family by: Dean Koontz
No One Would Do What the Lamberts Have Done by: Sophie Hannah
My Husband’s Wife by: Alice Feeney
NON-FICTION
Of Course It’s Good! by: Jessica Secrest
The Miracles Among Us by: Dr. Marc Siegel
The Perimenopause Revolution by: Dr. Mariza Snyder
Investigating Sound by: Christine Taylor-Butler
The Beginner’s Guide to Acupressure by: Karin Parmore
Get Started in Finger Knitting
INSPIRATIONAL
Dusk’s Darkest Shores by: Carolyn Miller
Midnight’s Budding Morrow by: Carolyn Miller
Dawn’s Untrodden Green by: Carolyn Miller
LARGE PRINT
The Unseen by: Kat Martin
The Umbrella Maker’s Son by: Tod Lending
JUVENILE FICTION
A Waffle Lot of Love by: Ben Clanton
Talons of Power Graphic Novel
Asterwood by: Jacquelyn Stolos
Would You Rather? Ancient Egyptians
All Together Now by: Hannah Dove
Unreal: Can You Tell Fact From Fake by: Kate Simpson
YOUNG ADULT FICTION
A Sky Beyond the Storm by: Sabaa Tahir
Daedalus Is Dead by: Seamus Sullivan
A Matter of Murder by: Tirzah Price
And the River Drags Her Down by: Jihyun Yun
Beth is Dead by: Katie Bernet
CHILDREN’S
Together We Are Sunshine by: Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
Rain And The Reading Horse by: Maria Gianferrari
Help Me Find My Hamster by: Brooke Hartman
Ruby Maps Her World by: Jane Yolen

A Colorful Cityscape with Dahlias: Dahlias Bring Vibrancy to Urban Green Spaces

Dahlias are becoming a staple in public landscapes across many cities. From parks and roadside verges to roundabouts and planters, they deliver a long-lasting burst of color and support biodiversity.

Bold Contrasts and Extended Bloom
Dahlias bloom from July until the first frost. The range is extensive, and breeders introduce new cultivars every year. Nearly every flower color is represented, including multicolored varieties. Single and semi-double blooms are especially attractive to bees and butterflies due to their accessible nectar and pollen. For landscaping, low and medium-height types such as Mignon, Topmix, and anemone-flowered dahlias are ideal. Dark-leaved varieties are popular for their striking contrast between foliage and flowers.

From Planting to Lifting
Dahlias thrive in almost any soil, provided it drains well and isn’t too dry. On poor soils, organic fertilizer is recommended. Tubers are planted after the last frost in a sunny location, with the crown just below the surface. The plants quickly form a dense cover, leaving little room for weeds. In fall, the tubers are lifted, and the bed can be prepared for spring-flowering bulbs.

High Visual Impact
Dahlias look stunning in groups or mixed plantings and pair beautifully with other plants. Verbena bonariensis adds an airy feel, while ornamental grasses bring structure and movement. Combinations with summer bloomers such as Canna and Crocosmia enhance the seasonal display. In any planting scheme, dahlias deliver exceptional visual appeal.

Did You Know?
Dahlias originate from Central America, particularly Mexico. The Aztecs used the tubers as animal feed.

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Atom X



Calhoun County Board of Education Meeting Report for Feb. 16, 2026

The Calhoun County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Feb. 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in Mt. Zion, West Virginia. The meeting followed the agenda as outlined below:

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order promptly at 5:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

III. Delegations
No delegations were presented during this meeting.

IV. Recognitions
The Board recognized individuals and groups for their contributions and achievements. Specific recognitions were not detailed in the agenda.

V. Board Acknowledgements
Board members acknowledged various accomplishments and updates within the district.

VI. Approval of January 12, 2026, Regular Minutes
The minutes from the January 12, 2026, regular meeting were reviewed and approved as presented (Attachment A).

VII. Discussion and Reports (Attachment B)
The Board engaged in discussions and reviewed reports, including:

Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center Report: Horst Motz, Superintendent, presented the report from the January 20, 2026, meeting.

Superintendent Reports:
Updates from directors and schools were shared. Instruction and curriculum updates were discussed. The attendance report was reviewed. Current updates regarding district operations were provided.

Legislative updates were shared, highlighting any changes or impacts on the district.

VIII. Old Business (Attachment C)
The Board reviewed and approved the following policies:

Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage (Personnel Chapter).

Bus Driver Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage (Personnel Chapter).

IX. New Business (Attachment D)
The Board addressed the following items:

Finance Approval:
General Fund Invoices totaling \$254,153.61 were approved. Supplements amounting to \$30,040.47 were approved. Transfers of \$(6,800.99) were approved. The January 2026 Financial Statement was reviewed and accepted.

Public Hearings on the 2026-2027 School Calen-

dar: The Board recessed the regular meeting to conduct **Public Hearing #1** on the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar. The presentation outlined key dates, holidays, and scheduling considerations for the upcoming school year. Feedback from attendees was collected during the hearing. The Board announced that **Public Hearing #2** on the 2026-2027 school calendar would take place on **March 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m..**

Following the public hearing, the Board reconvened the regular meeting.

Policies Out for Comment: The Board announced that the **Promotion/Retention Policy** (Instruction Chapter) was out for public comment.

X. Personnel (Attachment E)
The Board reviewed and approved the following personnel matters:

Retirements: No retirements were reported.

Resignations:
Shauna Yeager, Substitute Teacher, effective February 6, 2026.
Kevin Cunningham, Authorized/Certified (Non-Paid) Assistant Track and Field/Cross Country Coach.

Employment:
Homer Wilson was approved as a Certified/Authorized Non-Paid Assistant Middle School Softball Coach (Job ID 57091).

William C. Barnhart was approved as a Certified/Authorized Non-Paid Assistant Middle School Softball Coach (Job ID 57091), pending certification.

XI. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned following the completion of all agenda items.

Future Board Meeting Dates
The Board announced the following upcoming meeting dates:

March 16, 2026 (Regular Meeting) – Calhoun Board of Education.
April 13, 2026, 5:30 p.m. (Regular Meeting) – Calhoun Board of Education.
April 21, 2026:
3:30 p.m. (Work Session) – Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center.
4:30 p.m. (Statutory Meeting) – Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center.
5:00 p.m. (LSIC Meeting) – Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center.
May 13, 2026, 5:30 p.m. (Regular Meeting) – Calhoun Board of Education.
June 15, 2026, 5:30 p.m. (Regular Meeting) – Calhoun Board of Education.

The February 16, 2026, meeting was productive, with significant discussions and decisions made, including the public hearing on the 2026-2027 school calendar. The Board looks forward to continuing its work in the upcoming meetings.

Calhoun County Commission Meeting Summary

Date: February 13, 2026, **Time:** 1:32 p.m. **Location:** Calhoun County Commission Office

Opening:
Meeting called to order by President Commissioner Lupardus.

Commissioner Arthur opened with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees: Commissioner Rush, Commissioner Arthur (via phone), County Administrator Jennifer Randolph, County Clerk Whitney Butler, Sheriff Graham Knight.

Public Comments:
Adam Mills discussed utilizing local businesses for county needs and offered to donate time and installation fees for O & M building renovations. He estimated \$6,800-\$7,000 for upgrades and was asked to provide an itemized equipment list.

Approval of Minutes:
Minutes from January 29, January 30, and February 4 were approved unanimously (3-0).

Sheriff’s Proposals:
Sheriff Knight proposed community service hours as an alternative to home confinement to reduce costs. Discussion tabled for budget meetings.

Proposal to create a county Amazon Business account was tabled for two weeks pending research on fees and setup restrictions.

Proposal to purchase a service agreement through iTech was tabled until after a fire inspection.

Requests and Updates:
Minnie Hamilton Health Systems was approved to begin the process of obtaining unclaimed property under the name of former Calhoun General Hospital (motion carried 3-0).

Robin Hughes provided updates on O & M building renovations. Discussion was tabled pending a detailed report.

Funding request from Committee on Aging Director Rick Poling for \$5,609.50 for meals and \$1,100 for gravel was approved (motion carried 3-0).

Commissioner Rush shared updates on Calhoun County Park construction and potential technological upgrades.

Request to advertise for local artists to submit work for a mural project was approved (motion carried 3-0).

Robin Hughes provided updates on Mount Zion PSD vehicle sale, sewer system grant applications, and safety equipment purchases.

Board Appointments:
Resignation of Jason Wilson from Roane LEPC and E911 Advisory Board was accepted (motion carried 3-0).

Gary Alvis was approved to join the Roane LEPC (motion carried 3-0).

Mason Snider was approved to join the Animal Shelter Board (motion carried 3-0).

Makaiah Ratliff was approved to join the E911 Advisory Board (motion carried 3-0).

Grant Updates:
\$140,000 grant for two Sheriff’s department cruisers and \$37,000 grant for courthouse lighting were presented.

President Lupardus suggested a work session to address legal issues with three water projects: Horse Ridge, Annamoriah Rt 5, and Upper West Fork.

Financial Approvals:
Erroneous Tax Assessments and Consolidations were approved (motion carried 3-0).

Wills, Bonds, and Settlement of Estates were approved (motion carried 3-0).

Invoices for payment were approved after discussion (motion carried 3-0).

Budget revisions totaling \$7,475 were approved (motion carried 3-0).

Other Discussions:
Kelli Barr presented on Holiday and Overtime Pay Scales. The E911 Handbook will be reviewed before further discussion.

Adjournment:
Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m. (motion carried 3-0).

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Hovah Hall Underwood: from Grantsville teacher to teacher of the state

Hovah Hall Underwood was a remarkable figure in West Virginia’s history, serving as the state’s First Lady during two distinct periods: 1957–1961 and 1997–2001. Born on April 12, 1919, in Grantsville, she was the daughter of Roche Hall and Theodocia Betts Hall. Her early life was marked by academic and musical achievements, graduating from Calhoun High School in 1937 and later earning an A.B. degree from Salem College and a Certificate in Social Work from West Virginia University. She was an accomplished musician, proficient in piano and saxophone, and even gave private lessons.



Hovah’s career began as a teacher at Grantsville Grade School, followed by work at a defense plant during World War II. She later dedicated a decade to child welfare services, showcasing her passion for helping children. Her commitment to social work and advocacy for children would become a defining feature of her life. While attending Salem College, Hovah met her future husband, Cecil H. Underwood, through her sisters, who were his classmates. The couple married on July 25, 1948, at Knotts Methodist Church in Grantsville. They had three children: Cecilia, Sharon, and Craig, the latter born the day after Cecil was sworn in as governor in 1957. Hovah’s role as First Lady evolved significantly over the years. During her husband’s first term as the youngest governor in West Virginia’s history, she focused on raising their young children in the Governor’s Mansion. However, when Cecil Underwood became the state’s oldest elected governor in 1997, Hovah took on a more active role. She championed women’s and children’s issues, supported numerous organizations, and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of West Virginians. Her

efforts included involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the Huntington Museum of Art, Marshall University Artist Series, and America’s Promise, among others.

Hovah’s dedication to public service extended beyond



her time as First Lady. She was a member of various organizations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Governor’s Mansion Preservation Foundation, and the American Association of Social Workers. Her advocacy for children culminated in the establishment of the Hovah Hall Underwood Children’s Home in Ona, West Virginia, which provides shelter for children in need. On September 23, 2004, Hovah suffered a stroke and passed away the following morning at the age of 85. True to her lifelong commitment to service, she had requested that her body be donated to medical science, and it was sent to the Marshall University School of Medicine.

Hovah’s legacy lives on through her contributions to

the state and her dedication to improving the lives of others. Her husband, Cecil Underwood, who passed away in 2008, ensured that their shared commitment to service was memorialized with grave markers in their respective birthplaces. Their ashes were interred in Spring Hill Cemetery in Tyler County, West Virginia, near the Underwood family farm. The inscription on their monuments reads: “They gave their lives in service to others and their bodies at death to science,” a fitting tribute to their lives of selfless dedication.



WATER

while performing tests in a sink at the water plant on Wednesday afternoon. Once those levels were confirmed the health department was contacted. After several hours of flushing performed by the Town of Grantsville’s staff at the water plant the health department sent a field representative to test and the levels had subsided by Thursday morning to acceptable levels. The process of flushing by the town led to multiple complaints throughout the system of milky or cloudy water due to the mass amounts of water flushed throughout the system and had stirred it up. It all started on Monday when some Pleasant Hill, residents reported a strong chlorine taste and scent. On Wednesday the town issued a public notification warning customers not to consume the water, stating that boiling the water would not make it safe to drink. And when the town said it was all right to drink the

water again it recommended water users flush their system (water pipes, faucets, etc.) for five minutes before consuming the water. Confused? Don’t be. If your water worries you, buy you some testing equipment and test it. We checked on line and found several testing kits and we picked out one kit at random. That was the Varify 17-in-1 Complete Drinking Water Test Kit and is sold by Amazon. **Key Features:** **17 Essential Parameters:** Test for chlorine, fluoride, lead, iron, bacteria, and more to ensure your water is safe and healthy. **Professional-Grade Quality:** Reliable and precise results with every test strip. **User-Friendly Design:** Color-coded system for

quick and easy water quality assessments in minutes. **Accurate and Reliable:** Includes **100 test strips** (in 5 sealed pouches to maintain freshness) and **2 bacteria test kits** with results in just 48 hours. **Pricing:** **Current Price:** \$26.97 (Save 18% from the original price of \$32.99) **Cost Per Test:** Only \$0.27 per count! **Free Shipping:** Get fast, free shipping with Amazon Prime. **FREE Returns:** Hassle-free returns for your convenience. So if you honestly want to know how safe your water is this kit will cost you about a quarter per test. Remember other tests may be available at other stores and locations if you want to shop elsewhere. Get yourself a test kit and test it yourself. And then you will know.

AUDIT

ever, That the Chief Inspector may charge up to an additional \$3,000 for costs incurred for each service or act performed for a utility or park system owned by a Class IV municipality and for each policemen’s and firemen’s pension and relief fund maintained by the municipality: Provided further, That if a municipality is required to undergo a single audit by the federal agency or agencies making a grant, the cost limitations of this subsection do not apply: And provided further, That the Chief Inspector shall provide a written quote for all costs in advance for all services required by this article. “The Chief Inspector shall render to the agency liable for the cost a statement of the cost as soon after the cost was incurred as practicable. The agency shall allow the cost and cause it to be paid promptly in the manner that other claims and accounts are allowed and paid, and the total amount constitutes a debt against the local agency due to the state. Whenever there is in the State Treasury a sum of money due to any county commission, board of education, or municipality from any source, upon the application of the Chief Inspector, the sum shall be at once applied to the debt against the county commission, board of education, or municipality. The fact of the application of the fund shall be reported by the Auditor to the county commission, board of education, or municipality, which report shall be a receipt for the amount named in the report. All money received by the Chief Inspector from this source shall be paid into the State Treasury, deposited to the credit of an account to be known as the Chief Inspector’s

Fund, and expended only for the purpose of covering the cost of the services, unless otherwise directed by the Legislature. “The cost of any examination, service, or act by the Chief Inspector made necessary, or the part thereof that was made necessary, by the willful fault of any officer or employee, may be recovered by the Chief Inspector from that person, on motion, on 10 days’ notice in any court having jurisdiction. “(b) For the purpose of permitting payments to be made at definite periods to deputy inspectors and assistants for per diem compensation and expenses, there is hereby created a revolving fund for the Chief Inspector’s office. The fund shall be accumulated and administered as follows: “West Virginia Code 56-9-8 administered as follows: “(1) Subject to legislative appropriation, the sum of \$25,000 to be transferred to this fund to create a revolving fund which, together with other payments into this fund as provided in this article, shall constitute a fund to defray the cost of this service; “(2) Payments received for the cost of services of the chief inspector’s office and interest earned on the invested balance of the chief inspector’s revolving fund shall be deposited into this revolving fund, which shall be known as the Chief Inspector’s Fund; “(3) Any appropriations made to this fund may not be considered to have expired at the end of any fiscal period; and “(4) The chief inspector may transfer an amount not

to exceed \$400,000 from the Chief Inspector’s Fund to the special operating fund created in §32-4-401 et seq. of this code: Provided, That any transfers shall be completed prior to July 1, 2003. “(c) Notwithstanding §61-11A-4 of this code, a court may, in its discretion, when sentencing a defendant convicted of a felony or misdemeanor based upon any audit, examination, or investigation by the State Auditor, which discloses misfeasance, malfeasance, or non-feasance in the office on the part of any public officer or employee, order reimbursement to the State Auditor for the actual costs of auditing, investigating, or prosecuting a violation. “(1) There is hereby established a special fund in the State Treasury known as the “State Auditor’s Public Integrity and Fraud Fund.” The fund shall be administered by the State Auditor to enhance fraud detection, prevention, transparency and enforcement efforts for the purposes of carrying out the duties under this article, and §12-4A-3 of this code and shall consist of moneys deposited in the fund pursuant to this subsection, any other funds appropriated by the Legislature, and the interest or other earnings on the moneys in the fund.” So while the cost of a forensic audit could be more than \$3,000 the cost to the audited facility (in this case the Town of Grantsville) will be limited to \$3,000 since that is the rate a Class IV Municipality must pay. Is it worth \$3,000 to have the financial questions surrounding the Town of Grantsville answered? That is the big question.

Continued from Page 1

Continued from Page 1

Glenville State University Celebrates Annual GSU Day at the Capitol

On Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, Glenville State University (GSU) made its way to Charleston, for its annual GSU Day at the Capitol. The event brought together students, faculty, and staff to engage with legislators and state officials, showcasing the university’s dedication to preparing career-ready graduates and addressing the evolving needs of the state.

Throughout the day, GSU representatives highlighted the university’s academic programs, learning opportunities, and student success initiatives, emphasizing its commitment to delivering accessible, quality education. The discussions underscored GSU’s role in strengthening rural communities across West Virginia, helping students improve the areas they call home.

The day was packed with activities, including a guided tour of the Capitol building, a Q&A session with Supreme Court Justices Thomas H. Ewing and Gerald M. Titus, II, and a visit to the Culture Center. GSU representatives also attended the Governor’s proclamation with Chief of Staff Thomas McCaffery and received special recognitions in both the House of Delegates and Senate Chambers, where citations were issued in honor of the day.

Senator Ben Queen of the 12th District praised GSU’s impact on the state during the event, recognizing the university’s 154th anniversary. “GSU continues to raise the bar and expand opportunities for our students, ensuring they are prepared for both today’s and tomorrow’s jobs,” Queen said. He

highlighted GSU’s contributions to various sectors, including education, healthcare, law enforcement, and business, particularly in rural communities where opportunities can transform lives. “For my district, GSU is more than just a campus. It’s an anchor, economic driver, and source of pride for generations of West Virginians,” he added.

The day concluded with a Legislative Reception at the Woman’s Club of Charleston, hosted by Janet Bailey and 1010. The event brought together legislators, alumni, and friends of the university for an evening of connection and celebration. Remarks from GSU Student Government President Graylin Floyd and Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw highlighted the university’s

significant impact across the state.

GSU Day at the Capitol continues to strengthen the university’s relationship with state government and emphasizes the importance of investing in higher education to support West Virginia’s economic growth. “GSU Day at the Capitol is a powerful reminder of the role Glenville State University plays in shaping the future of West Virginia,” said GSU President Dr. Mark A. Manchin. “We are proud to showcase how GSU continues to prepare career-ready graduates who are committed to serving and leading in the Mountain State.”

For more information about GSU Day at the Capitol and other university news, contact the GSU Marketing and Public Relations office at 304-462-6391.

North Star Child Advocacy Center Receives \$5,000 Contribution from Delegate Scot Heckert and the State of West Virginia

North Star Child Advocacy Center (NSCAC) is proud to announce the receipt of a \$5,000 contribution from the State of West Virginia, awarded through the Local Economic Development Assistance Grant by the House of Delegates. The check was presented to NSCAC Executive Director Greg Collins, marking another milestone in the center’s mission to support abused children in the community.

Wood County Delegate Scot Heckert has been instrumental in securing this funding, which will be used to enhance the center’s security measures, including the installation of interior and exterior cameras and electric door locks. These upgrades are essential to ensuring the safety and well-being of the children and

staff at the center, especially following the recent expansion of office space.

This marks the fourth consecutive year that Delegate Heckert has supported NSCAC through this grant, bringing the total contributions to \$20,000 over the past four years. “Delegate Heckert has been a major supporter of our program since before he was elected to the House of Delegates. Once elected, he has not only supported us with this particular grant, but he has personally contributed to every North Star Night Out fundraising gala and visited the center many times to see what was needed and praise the staff for what they are doing for our abused children,” said Greg Collins, Executive Director of NSCAC.

In addition to his financial support,

Delegate Heckert has demonstrated his commitment to the center’s mission through other initiatives, including organizing a recent food drive specifically for the children served by NSCAC. “Delegate Heckert’s passion for what we are doing is apparent in every conversation. He backs up the talk with actions every time. He is a great champion for our children and uses his voice and network to bring people to us that can help North Star. People call me often stating, ‘Delegate Heckert said I need to get in touch with you.’ We are blessed to have delegates in Charleston that care about what is happening to our kids,” Collins added.

North Star Child Advocacy Center is dedicated to providing support and resources to children who have experi-

enced abuse. The center is grateful for the continued support from Delegate Heckert and the State of West Virginia, which allows them to expand their services and create a safer environment for the children they serve.

For more information about North Star Child Advocacy Center, to learn how you can help, or to request a tour of the facility, please contact NSCAC at 304-917-4437 or via email at nscac@northstarcac.org. You may also contact the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation (PACF) to leave an endowment or legacy gift to North Star. Additional details can be found at northstarcac.org.

Contact: Greg Collins, Executive Director 304-917-4437 Ext. 100 g.collins@northstarcac.org

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY INFORMATION

LEGAL

Tariff Form No. 8
(RULE 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE RATE
NOTICE is hereby given that Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer), a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers in Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming Counties in West Virginia.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective Thursday, March 5, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will produce, on a total Company basis, \$26,793,000 annually in additional revenues, or an overall average increase in revenues of approximately 8.44%. The \$26,793,000 consists of an increase in base rates of \$43,764,000 and a decrease in the Company’s Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program (“IREP”) of \$16,971,000. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$) INCREASE	(%) INCREASE
Residential	\$ 9.63	% 10.57
Commercial	\$ 14.23	% 4.09
Large Commercial	\$ 1,058.29	% 1.31
Industrial	\$ 378.26	% 1.69
Resale	\$ 125.36	% 1.31
Other	\$ -	% -

This increase incorporates the rate impact of the cumulative investment under the IREP that was placed into service as of September 30, 2025. As a result, the Company proposes to reduce the IREP component of its rates relating to that investment when the new base rates go into effect.

Resale customers of Mountaineer Gas Company include Canaan Valley Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, Inc., and City of Philippi.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

Anyone desiring to intervene and act as a party in the case should file on or before May 5, 2026, a Petition to Intervene complying with the Commission rules on intervention in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 150 C.S.R. I, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. The Commission may establish a final deadline for intervention. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written protest as soon as possible, although protests will be accepted by the Commission through the pendency of this proceeding. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission’s rules on intervention. All interventions may be mailed and addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston West Virginia 25323 or may be hand-delivered. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us) using the “Submit a Comment” link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary at the same address as above.

A complete copy of the Company’s tariff proposals and a representative of the Company to provide information concerning this tariff are available to all customers, prospective customers or their agents at the following office of the Company:

501 56th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304

A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CALHOUN COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF NAME NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Jennifer Benson will come before the Honorable Anita Ashley, Judge of the Circuit Court of Calhoun county, West Virginia, in the Calhoun County Courthouse, Grantsville, West Virginia on the 4th day of March, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., of said day, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, and Petition said Circuit Court of Calhoun County, West Virginia for an order changing the name of Jennifer Benson to Jennifer Grady-Benson, pursuant to Article 5 of the Code of West Virginia of West Virginia of 1931, as amended.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court on this 12th day of February, 2026.

Maria Arnold
Clerk of Court

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASED VALUATION OF PROPERTY

At the meeting of the Calhoun County Commission held on January 30th, 2026 the Commission voted unanimously to meet on February 23rd, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Little Court Room of the Calhoun County Courthouse to increase the assessed valuation of all classes of managed timberland \$120 per acre in all districts of Calhoun County.

The meeting is open to the public for comments and suggestions. Eric Lupardus, President
Calhoun County Commission

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONVEYANCE OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROPERTY (MINNORA CHARGE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will, on or after February 26, 2026 QUITCLAIM, GRANT and CONVEY to **Interdenominational Outreach Ministry Association**, 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 at the Junction of the Meadow Run and State Road No. 16, and running thence with the meanderings of said State Road, 856 feet to a telegraph pole on the lower side of said road; thence, crossing said road and running S. 42 W., 51 feet to a stake on the end of a bridge; thence S. 35 W., 380 feet up the run to a stake at the run; thence S. 46 E., 320 feet to a stake at the lower side of the Meadow Run Road; thence with the meanderings of said road, N. 58 E. 38 feet to a stake, N. 37 E., 231 feet to a stake; N. 34 h E., 150 feet to a stake; N. 84 E., 200 feet to a stake; and N., 88 E., 185 feet to the beginning, containing 4 acres more or less.

And being the same property conveyed to the Trustees of the Minnora Charge of the Methodist Church from Gathel B. Conley and Abraham Conley by Deed dated July 22, 1940 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Calhoun County, West Virginia in Deed Book 80, at Page 161, reference to which is hereby made.

All three of the Churches on the Minnora Charge (Walker United Methodist Church, Orma United Methodist Church and Minnora United Methodist Church) of the Little Kanawha District of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church were closed effective February 25, 2025 by resolution of a majority of the District Superintendents of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Dated February 10, 2026.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By: Robert N. File, Attorney
130 Main Street
Beckley, West Virginia
(304) 253-3358

Announcement: West Virginia Trappers Association Annual Spring Fur Auction

The West Virginia Trappers Association is excited to host its annual Spring Fur Auction from **March 6-8, 2026**, at the **Gilmer County Recreation Center**, located at **1365 Sycamore Run Road, Glenville, WV**.

Event Schedule:
Thursday, March 5th: Board of Directors Meeting at 7 PM.

Friday, March 6th: Consignment for finished fur, roots, deer horns, etc., begins at 9 AM.

Saturday, March 7th: Consignment for finished fur continues, starting at 9 AM.

Sunday, March 8th: Fur Auction begins at 1 PM.

Vendors will be present throughout the weekend. For more information, contact Jeremiah at **304-916-3329**, visit our **Facebook page**, or log on to **www.wvtrappers.com**.

Calhoun County Solid Waste Authority Monthly Meeting

Date: February 18th, 2026, Time: 5:00 PM Location: Mom’s PlaceToo, 340 Main Street, Grantsville, WV 26147

Tire Collection Event Date: February 20th, 2026, Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

For more information, contact: Tanya Cunningham, Assistant Director Calhoun County Solid Waste Authority 2427 W. Little Kanawha Hwy

Public Announcement: Natural Resources Commission Meeting on Feb. 19

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) invites the public to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Natural Resources Commission on **Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, at 6 p.m.**

The meeting will be held in-person at six locations across the state, where attendees can provide input directly to local commissioners and WVDNR staff. A view-only livestream will also be available for remote participants at youtube.com/@WVcommerce/streams.

In-Person Locations:

District 1: 1110 Railroad St, Farmington, WV 26571

District 2: 1 Depot Street, Romney, WV 26757

District 3: Elkins Operation Center, 738 Ward Road, Elkins, WV 26241

District 4: 2006 Robert C Byrd Drive, Beckley, WV 25801

District 5: WVDNR Headquarters, 112 California Avenue, Charleston, WV 25305

District 6: 76 Conservation Way, Parkersburg, WV 26104

Agenda Highlights:
Presentation of the National Wild Turkey Federation Award

Review and approval of previous meeting minutes
Public comments

Updates on legislative matters and big game harvest figures

Discussion of proposed hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations

Planning for future meetings

The West Virginia Natural Resources Commission advises the WVDNR on conservation efforts, hunting and fishing regulations, and protection of fish and game species.

For more information, visit **WVdnr.gov/natural-resources-commission** or contact Andy Malinoski at **304-553-9305** or **Andy.E.Malinoski@wv.gov**.

Report on Mountaineer Gas Company’s Proposed Rate Changes

Affected Areas: The proposed rate changes by Mountaineer Gas Company will impact approximately 218,000 customers across the following counties in West Virginia: Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming.

Purpose of the Rate Changes: The proposed rate changes aim to generate \$26,793,000 annually in additional revenues for Mountaineer Gas Company. This includes:

An increase in base rates of \$43,764,000.

A decrease in the Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program (IREP) component of \$16,971,000.

The rate changes also incorporate the impact of cumulative investments under the IREP that were placed into service as of September 30, 2025. The IREP component of rates will be reduced when the new base rates go into effect.

Proposed Increases: The average monthly bill changes for various customer classes are as follows:

Residential: \$9.63 increase (10.57%)

Commercial: \$14.23 increase (4.09%)

Large Commercial: \$1,058.29 increase (1.31%)

Industrial: \$378.26 increase (1.69%)

Resale: \$125.36 increase (1.31%)

Other: No increase
Note: These increases are averages, and individual customers may experience higher or lower changes.

Effective Date: The proposed increased rates and charges are set to become effective on **Thursday, March 5, 2026**, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

Public Participation:
Customers can file a **Petition to Intervene** by **May 5, 2026**, to act as a party in the case.

Written protests can be filed at any time during the proceeding.

Protests or requests to intervene should state the reason for the protest or intervention and comply with the Commission’s rules.

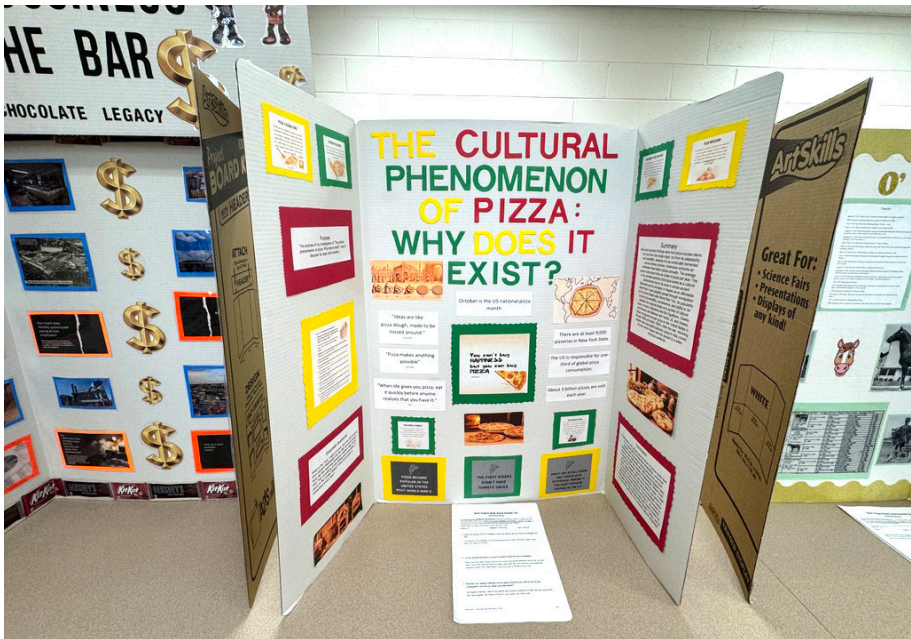
How to File:
Mail interventions or protests to: Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary Public Service Commission of West Virginia P.O. Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323

Protests can also be filed online at **www.psc.state.wv.us** using the “Submit a Comment” link.

Access to Information: A complete copy of the tariff proposals and a company representative are available at: Mountaineer Gas Company 501 56th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304

Additionally, the tariff is available for public inspection at: Public Service Commission 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, WV 25301

Conclusion: The proposed rate changes by Mountaineer Gas Company aim to address increased costs and infrastructure investments. Customers are encouraged to review the tariff and participate in the proceedings if they wish to protest or intervene.



Social Studies Fair Winners

This year’s Social Studies Fair was a resounding success, with 45 students presenting 25 remarkable projects. Congratulations to all participants for their creativity and hard work! Here are the winners:

Division II – Group Winners

Anthropology (1st): Elizabeth Collins & Alianna Hill — *Man O’ War*

Economics (1st): Silas Cunningham & Bentley Snodgrass — *The Business Behind the Bar*

Sociology (1st): Reagan Morgan & MaKenna Cunningham — *Fyodor Dostoevsky*

State & Local Studies (2nd): Judd Helmick, Mason Sampson & Gabriel Cunningham — *Mothman*

U.S. History (2nd): Haley Nicholas & Kylee Stewart — *Why Did the Revolutionary War Happen?*

Sociology (3rd): Annie Nelson & Elana Harris — *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

Sociology (Honorable Mention): Sadie McGlothlin, Aubry Richards, Adriana Griffin & Colbie Wilson — *History*

of Taco Bell

Division II – Individual Winners

Anthropology (1st): Evan Griffin — *The Cultural Phenomenon of Pizza*

Psychology (2nd): Harlow Sarratori — *Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease*

Sociology (2nd): Ariana Bremar — *The History of Softball*

Division I – Individual Winners

Sociology (2nd): Talia Mayle — *How Music Icons/Artists Affect Fashion Culture*

U.S. History (2nd): Sophia Goodrich — *The Battle of Gettysburg*

World History (2nd): Halynn Whyt-sell — *The History of Makeup*

Division I – Group Winners

World History (1st): Henley Cunningham & Scarlett Probasco — *One World, Five Rings: Mapping the Olympics*

Sociology (1st): Chase Parsons & Isaac Fitzwater — *Randy Moss: An NFL Legend*

Congratulations to all the winners, especially the 1st place recipients who will advance to the Regional Fair in March!

Students Selected for Health Career Shadowing Program



Pictured from l to r, Amanda Fisher, Executive Director NWVAHEC, Raeonna Stamper, Madison Jones, Raylee Cunningham, Addison Collins, Klynn Keith, Kayleigh Cunningham, Paige Sterns, Steve Whited, CEO MHHS.

Local sophomores and juniors have been selected to participate in the Moving Onward and Upward (MOU) program through a partnership between the Northern West Virginia Area Health Education Center (NWVAHEC) and Minnie Hamilton Health System (MHHS). The program runs from January through April and provides students with hands-on exposure to careers in the health sciences.

The MOU program allows high school students to explore health care career interests through active participation in a health care setting. Students gain firsthand experience with a variety of job skills through hands-on clinical shadowing experiences and mentoring. In addition, participants become certified in CPR/First Aid and complete independent project assignments that help them learn about the education and training required for careers in health professions. Students who successfully complete the program are eligible to receive a stipend and a one-year ACT or SAT test preparation course provided through The Princeton Review.

This year’s selected students represent Calhoun Middle/High School, Little Kanawha Valley Christian School, and Gilmer County High School. Students participating in this year’s program are Addison Collins, Raylee Cunningham, Kayleigh Cunningham, Madison Jones, Klynn Keith, Raeonna Stamper, and Paige Sterns.

The mission of the Northern West Virginia Area Health Education Center is to improve access to quality health care for underserved populations by training, recruiting, and retaining health care professionals. NWVAHEC focuses on three key groups: students in grades 9–12 through pipeline programs, college-level health professions students through community-based training, and current health care professionals through continuing education.

NWVAHEC serves the following counties: Barbour, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Hancock, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Wetzel, Wirt, and Wood.

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