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Whole Number 7233 | Grantsville, West Virginia 26147 | Thursday, July 16, 2026

DoHS Announces 2026 School Clothing Allowance Program

July 10, 2026

The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS), Bureau for Family Assistance will begin accepting school clothing allowance applications on Monday, July 20, 2026, for eligible children enrolled in West Virginia schools. All families must apply and may do so online at www.wvpath.wv.gov or by requesting a paper application be mailed to them by contacting their local DoHS office or by calling 1-877-716-1212. Applications will be accepted until August 15, 2026, or until the available funds are fully allocated, whichever occurs first. To be eligible for approval, applications must reach the local office before the program closes.

The program's opening had been on hold amid uncertainty over the state's federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding. Governor Patrick Morrisey announced that West Virginia has ensured that the funding needed to open the program for families this year will be available.

"We are doing this the right way, and we're working to make funding streams last. COVID-era reliance on one-time money helped create these challenges, so now we are working to put this program on solid footing. Starting July 20, West Virginia families can apply for the School Clothing Allowance," said Governor Patrick Morrisey.

Each eligible child will receive a $200 benefit that may be used toward the purchase of appropriate school clothing or piece goods for families who sew clothing for their children. The monthly income for a family of four for the school clothing program may not exceed $3,483. Verification of income for July 2026 must be submitted with the application.

School clothing allowance program recipients will receive payments on their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card. This allows for both online transactions and an increased choice of vendors when purchasing school clothing or piece goods. The EBT card will operate like a debit card and can be used at any retailer who accepts EBT cash transactions. Parents or guardians of children in foster care will receive the school clothing allowance benefit as a check.

Those needing to update their address may do so at www.wvpath.wv.gov or by calling DoHS's Customer Service Center at 1-877-716-1212.

No. of Persons in Household	Income Limit	No. of Persons in Household	Income Limit
1	$1,696	6	$4,675
2	$2,292	7	$5,271
3	$2,888	8	$5,867
4	$3,483	9	$6,463
5	$4,079	10	$7,059
+ $596 for additional persons			

Income Limits for the School Clothing Allowance Program for 2026



Conception of what the new adult exercise equipment at the Town park will look like. Photo shared by WVU Extension Service, Calhoun County.

Making Grantsville More Healthy and More Accessible

By Stephen Smoot

Those who do a lot of walking in and around Grantsville in the past six weeks or so may have found it easier to get around. At the beginning of June, park benches were installed along some of the most used sidewalks in the area.

For both the administrations of President Donald Trump and that of Governor Patrick Morrissey, the goal "Make America Healthy Again" has taken shape. Governor Morrissey in particular made his own weight loss journey an example and urged the state to join him in walking regular "Mountaineer Miles."

That effort has inspired communities around the state to look at what they could do to advance the agenda. High levels of chronic obesity in areas of the state translate to high levels of chronic disease, which has ripple effects in nearly every social field.

The health journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step. For Donna Schoolcraft of the Calhoun County West Virginia University Extension Service and Emily Murphy, Associate Professor at the West Virginia University College of Applied Sciences, the benches represented a first step toward encouraging more healthy habits and lifestyles locally.



Hope Gas employees, Town of Grantsville Mayor John Villines, Council members Tanya Cunningham and Rissa Staples mark the installation of park benches to encourage healthy habits

Murphy called it "a collaborative effort." It started

HEALTHY cont. on page 4

Health and Food Partnerships Address "Nutrition Insecurity" In Community

By Stephen Smoot

"The healthy choice is not always the easy choice" when it comes to food, says Emily Murphy, Associate Professor at West Virginia University's College of Applied Human Sciences.

Those choices matter, she says, because "food and physical activity are our first line of defense" in preventing chronic health problems, such as heart disease, type two diabetes, and other potentially debilitating conditions.

She described a great need for help in the area of promoting healthy food choices because the "state has very high levels of chronic disease and disability." Murphy added that at the State level, officials have started exploring this more deeply and to form "a coalition across the state to address actual needs."

Donna Schoolcraft, West Virginia University Extension Agent for Calhoun County, called the problem "nutrition insecurity." She emphasized that one cannot simply tell those who need support to just "go eat healthy" and call it a day.

More must go into, she says "teaching people how they can put spinach into foods in such a way as they want to eat it." Basically, the idea lies in teaching how to cook healthy foods in more delicious, or more accessible, ways.

"Many haven't been exposed to a variety of vegetables," explained Murphy, who went on to state that one goal lies in "teaching how to cook them in different ways, roasting, steaming. We take it for granted that people know how to cook and eat healthy."

Schoolcraft referred to the FARMACY program pioneered by Minnie Hamilton Health Systems and other regional health systems around four years ago. In April 2025, Minnie Hamilton described it as one that "provides fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to people with chronic diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol, who might also find it challenging to eat healthfully on a budget."

It went on to add that "Your medical provider gives you a prescription for the produce, just like a prescription for medication, so it is a formal part of your medical care and treatment plan."

Murphy described another grant funded project that

NUTRITION cont. on page 4

U.S. Supreme Court Case From 1853 Could Have Impact on Current Methodist Church Schism Disputes



First Methodist Church in Parkersburg. Just as before the Civil War, social tensions have led to a separation.

By Stephen Smoot

After the United Methodist Church became less so following schisms over religious practice and positions on social issues, debates over property and asset ownership soon followed.

Over the past few months, both the West Virginia State Legislature and West Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals have examined the issue and the law surrounding it. It would almost serve the cause of appropriateness for West Virginia to address this issue. Bishop Francis Asbury, who led the split from the British Methodist Church in 1784, labored for many years among many other "circuit rider" preachers in the then-western Virginia mountains to establish Methodism in remote areas.

At one point in his journal, he bemoaned the fact that his converts in eastern Virginia kept moving west into the mountains, keeping the church from growing in the eastern counties.

By the 1840s, however, a dispute emerged over a Georgia bishop owning slaves. He had inherited and received by marriage two slaves that he did not wish to own. He desired to emancipate them once they could support themselves, according to Wofford College Archivist Phillip Stone in an article, but both requested to stay with him for humanitarian reasons. State law made it difficult to emancipate a slave as well.

Over this dispute over the slave owning bishop's worthiness to serve, which tapped into the general conflict over slavery itself, the Church separated into separate northern and southern organizations.

Nine years afterward, a dispute arose over a church operated institution in Cincinnati called "The Book Concern." The founders of Methodism, Charles and John Wesley, promoted the ideal that Christians should be avid consumers of books. By 1787 when American Methodists had charted their own path, the first "Book Concern" was started in Philadelphia with $600.

The publishing house would print materials for sale to Methodists in rural, remote, or frontier areas. It also published popular magazines which were among the most circulated of such works in America at the time.

Profits from those sales would go to support the needs

CHURCH cont. on page 5

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

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

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

Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowship

Accepting Applications Through August 17, 2026

The Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowship are now accepting applications for the 2027 program year! Mid Atlantic Arts partners with Grow Appalachia and the Appalachian Studies Association to support fellows from Central Appalachia. The deadline to apply is Thursday, August 17, 2026.

The Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowships are intended to honor, celebrate, and support foodways tradition bearers and practitioners in Central Appalachia. Fellows may include but are not limited to, home cooks and bakers, seed savers, farmers, community elders, keepers of recipes and traditional foodways knowledge, hunters, and foragers, who have made significant and long-term contributions to sustaining and supporting the foodways heritage of their communities. Applicants must be from an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) designated county, and priority will be given to applicants from OH, VA, and WV.

The 2027 Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellows will be honored at an awards ceremony and invited to present at the 2027 Appalachian Studies Association 50th Annual Conference at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. In addition to the monetary award of $5,000 to support their ongoing community-based work, fellows will receive a unique physical award created by an Appalachian artist.

Mid Atlantic Arts' Central Appalachia Living Traditions program is partnering with Grow Appalachia and the Appalachian Studies Association to host the Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowship in 2027.

USDA, HHS, EPA Join Forces to Bolster Consumer Protections from Heavy Metals and Other Contaminants in Food

(Washington, D.C., July 9, 2026) – Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin announced an updated Memorandum of Understanding to reaffirm their shared commitment to protecting consumers from heavy metals and other contaminants in food.

For decades, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have coordinated through the National Residue Program to monitor and regulate meat, poultry, and egg products. This updated MOU strengthens collaboration under this program and adopts new methods to better detect and address potential risks.

"American farmers, ranchers, and producers grow and raise the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world. Together with our partners at HHS and EPA, we are strengthening the health of American families and giving consumers confidence in the safety of our food supply," said Secretary Rollins. "This new MOU modernizes how our agencies work together and streamlines the way we share information, coordinates scientific expertise, and improves how we detect and address potential risks. This is the Trump Administration improving the way our government works so we can better protect the American people and ensure the safety of our food supply, which is truly a national security and health priority."

"Protecting Americans from harmful contaminants in food is a core priority of the Trump Administration," said HHS Secretary Kennedy. "We are strengthening oversight, improving detection, and coordinating across the federal government to reduce exposure to heavy metals and other toxins. I appreciate Secretary Rollins and Administrator Zeldin for their leadership as we work together to protect American families and Make America Healthy Again."

"At the Trump EPA, we are excited to help advance new policies to Make America Healthy Again. Today's announcement ensures a safer food supply by supporting new testing methods to reduce metal residues in produce, meat, and, for the first time ever, processed foods," said Administrator Zeldin. "We want Americans to feel confident the food on their plate has been held to the highest standards of safety. It's an honor to serve on the MAHA Commission, led by Secretary Kennedy, working with great partners like Secretary Rollins to pave the way for a healthier nation for generations to come."

As part of this effort, the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has already taken steps to modernize monitoring for heavy metals in foods by implementing a new, streamlined laboratory method to measure the quantity of 18 heavy metals at extremely low levels. If elevated or unusual levels are detected, FSIS conducts science-based assessments to determine when the agency should take action to keep risky products out of the food supply. Additionally, FSIS will also expand its surveillance for heavy metals to include processed foods, such as sausages and ready-to-eat meals, which combine ingredients from multiple sources.

The data collected by FSIS shows heavy metal contamination of raw meat and poultry products is extremely rare and FSIS will continue to publish results of this surveillance testing online, ensuring transparency for industry and consumers.

This updated MOU further advances efforts to Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) and builds on the MAHA Report's goal of reducing children's exposure to heavy metals, PFAS, and other harmful contaminants.

Letter from the Editor

1) Opinion Editorials (Op-Eds) and Letters to the Editor may contain constructive criticisms, thoughts, and observations based on reliable information. Each submission is reviewed and accepted on an individual basis.

2) Discourse should be generally respectful, without profanity, rooted in fact, professionally presented (satire is acceptable), and written by the person submitting. All submissions are subject to revision concerning writing mechanics, space available, and accuracy.

3) Editorial staff reserves the right to contact others concerning the subject matter to balance the presentation of the issue and/or concern.

3) Phone numbers must be included to facilitate editorial questions and fact-checking processes.

Editorials, letters to the editor, press releases, meeting notices, and announcements can be sent to contact@calhounchronicle.com.

Booksmaxxing

By Stephen Smoot

In recent years, a social media movement called "looksmaxing" has emerged and grown in which young men take increasingly extreme and bizarre measures to appear a certain select way that they feel will make them more appealing to women.

This includes even breaking facial bones and resetting them to achieve whatever look they feel is most desired on top of rigid diet and exercise routines.

At the end of the day, they work very hard and spend a lot of money on a delusion that such steps will make them attractive. It is also ephemeral because the youthful look dies quickly when age and time sets in.

One does not need to say much to illustrate the stupidity of this in terms of building attractiveness. As far as respect is concerned, it is quite doubtful that telling a woman that you intentionally broke your facial bones to look better will earn respect.

A better way to spend the hours to gain respect, confidence, and possibly even position is directed reading.

Or you can call it "booksmaxing."

Educators want students to enjoy reading for its own sake, as a sign of good character and high intelligence. They unintentionally sell reading as if those students have potentially the same love of learning that they have, and that books will serve as a haven of mystery, learning, and entertainment like it did for them.

The problem with the 21st century lies in the unfortunate fact that reading, for the first time since the Guttenburg press, has real competition in terms of being able to grip and hold onto a mind. Television and motion pictures never replaced true reading as the smartphone has.

Society faces serious problems if reading and basic literacy fall aside as worthy intellectual pursuits.

Studies for the past several years have shown that reading on screens, and also not reading much at all, results in brains less capable of processing information and understanding the world. The very building blocks that build a brain to its potential do not fall into place without reading from a printed page. Only hands on learning and related work develops the brain and its capability to understand and function in the world as well as reading actual books.

The smartest of students come from either reading real books or working with their hands and brains together in farming or the trades. Some of America's greatest minds in fields such as law and government started off as farmers, combining work experience and book learning. John Adams loved the feel of manure fertilizer in his hands as much as reading or writing a book.

The Atlantic has repeatedly sounded the siren on the abandonment of reading by the younger generations. They call it "post literate" but history knows these periods well.

It calls them "Dark Ages."

An intentional program of study starting in youth and extending through life does the same, maybe more, for building the brain as physical workouts build the body.

Reading the right kinds of books can make any brain more powerful, more capable, and better at besting others in the fields of endeavor that really count.

For example, the philosophers and many of the other writers of the classical period, as well as the great religious minds of the Middle Ages, focused on the fundamentals of knowledge, of faith, of humanity itself.

Reading Aristotle, Seneca, Cicero, Saint Augustine, and others takes focus, concentration, and brain power. It brings a two fold benefit in that it adds to a person's knowledge, but also builds brain power because the works read force the brain to think about concepts both broad and deep. Every thought used in analysis and examination strengthens the brain.

Another benefit from reading the great thinkers and minds comes in seeing how others approach a certain fundamental issue or problem. The mass of writers in Western Civilization gave great consideration to pretty much every single problem that a human being might encounter. Reading from these minds gives ones own brain experience with the problem, perhaps preparing the mind for when it meets the same issue later on.

And the biggest advantage towards a well-read person is mastery of not only knowledge, but concepts, not only language, but how to most effectively use it, not only teaching human history, but guiding a person for the future.

Another deep well of learning where the average person may find benefit comes in biographies and autobiographies of great men and women. Reading about their personalities, how they approached problems, how they dealt with successes and failures gives guidance on what to do or what not to do. It can also provide insight on human nature itself.

Literature may tell fictional stories, but the best of writers reveal truths about humanity. No greater poet ever lived than David, author of the Psalms. No written work has had the same historical or cultural impact as the Psalms in all of human history because his work straddles the line between an autobiography of personal anguish combined with great literary expression.

No author ever illustrated human nature as well as William Shakespeare. Though his plays mostly came from literary portrayals of historical people and events, they achieved most in articulating human archetypes. No other writer has more vividly portrayed the deep recesses of the human personality or soul as Shakespeare. His characters remain a pool of stock archetypes that modern writers steal, often unknowingly, so deep have they immersed themselves into the culture.

Also, they are based on very real human traits that the precise and insightful mind of the writer put to paper and stage. Know the literary archetypes he wrote on, and one will better understand humanity itself even in the everyday.

Reading books with the aim of challenging and building the mind will give those who undertake the task with a more powerful mind. It will equip the person with advantages over others that can help them win jobs or debates. It will provide a helpful perspective on one's own life just as well as it does history, culture, or current events.

While reading any book will develop the mind somewhat, just like working out, the bigger challenge, the bigger reward. Also, the beginner must work their way up to the bigger challenges.

Like building a body, building a mind takes time and dedication. It takes a plan of priorities based on goals and desired outcomes. One can't just read simplistic materials and expect best results.

Unlike building the body, the effects of building a brain last throughout life. Age always beats a built up body at some point, but a well cultivated mind continues to grow unless sapped by disease.

Making reading for building brain capacity a priority will not fail to give the person undertaking the challenge a smarter individual more capable of understanding the world around them and making the most of opportunities presented.

Simply put, the developed brain, whether from the right kind of reading or the right kind of hands-on work, gives the person who has it significant advantages over those who have not developed their minds similarly. In today's world, the notion of advantage conferred is a better selling point on reading than traditional ways of trying to get kids to want to read.

Doing it because it's a good thing to do is great, but kids need to see how reading can make them winners in lif. Also, if they do not challenge themselves in reading or hands-on work, they will fall behind those who undertake these activities.

It is also important to understand that one must read beyond what schools assign. It must be a lifestyle, not an assignment from the teacher, to provide the most benefit.

Reading well and/or hands-on education and work helps one to end up smarter, likely more successful, and you don't have to break the bones of your face to see desired results.

The Calhoun Chronicle

and

The Grantsville News

"Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts"

Serving Calhoun County Since June 12, 1883

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Community Notices

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 will open June 11 from 9 a.m to 1 p.m. Come and shop from a wide selection of produce, eggs, baked goods, and more

Donations for the upkeep of the Freed Cemetery are greatly appreciated. This cemetery is in Calhoun, WV off Leading Creek Road. Donations should be sent to P.O. Box 551 MacFarlan, WV 26148 c/o Rick Murphy. Thank you in advance.

The Calhoun County Library Board is seeking bids for filling and paving an area for a parking lot located on Mill Street in Grantsville, WV.

The approximately 5658 sq. ft. lot will need fill and dirt work including curbs and striping and to include both concrete and asphalt paving cost comparisons.

Must have a valid contractor's license and be insured and bonded. We would like to have a list of recent comparable work as well. Specifications are available at the Calhoun Library located at 250 Mill St. Grantsville, WV.

Sealed bids are due by Wednesday, June 9th by 4pm and will be opened and read at a public library board meeting. The library board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality therein. All bids must be valid for a period of 60 days from the date of opening. **Calhoun County Solid Waste Authority Monthly Meeting** July 15, 2026, 5:00 pm, Mom's Place Too, 340 Main Street, Grantsville, WV 26147 **Monthly Tire Collection July** 17th, 2026, 10 - 2

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



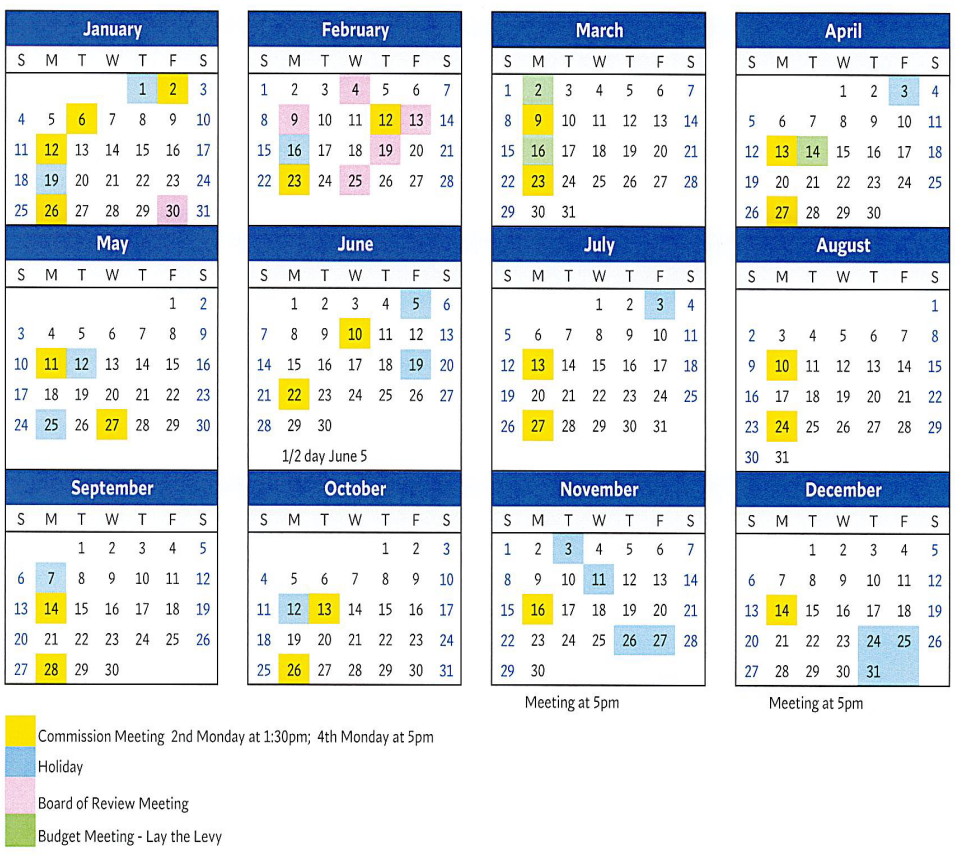
Calhoun County Committee on Aging, Inc.

July 2026



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Menu Subject To Change Without Notice	2% Milk and Margarine Served Daily	1 Cream Tomatoes sausage Potatoes Apples Ww biscuit	2 Sloppy joe Coleslaw Applesauce Ww bun	3 CLOSED Happy 4th of July
6 Baked Steak Mashed Potatoes Broccoli, Cauliflower Pineapples Whole Wheat Bread	7 Cold Turkey Sandwich on ww bun Lettuce, tomato, onions Pasta w/vegetables Fruit	8 Fish Mashed Potatoes Green Beans onions Oranges Whole wheat Roll	9 Chicken tenders Mac n Cheese Pears Carrots Whole wheat bread	10 Seasoned Beans Ham Ww Cornbread Cucumbers & Onions Fruit Crisp
13 Tomato sauce beef macaroni Brussel sprouts Fruit Ww roll	14 Beans w/ ham Greens Onions Ww Cornbread Applesauce	15 Taco Salad Whole wheat chips Tomato Lettuce Cheese Brownie fruit	16 Pork Chop Mashed Potatoes w/ gravy Peas Fruit Whole Wheat Bread	17 Italian Sausage Kraut Carrots Juice Ww roll
20 Ribs, Onions, Pep- pers Ranch Potatoes Peas Whole Wheat Bun Mixed Fruit	21 Chicken Patty Beets Potatoes Fruit Salad w/ oranges Whole wheat bun	22 Pizza Corn Jello with fruit	23 Salisbury Steak w/ Brown Gravy Potatoes Brussel Sprouts Oranges, Pineapples Whole Wheat Bread	24 Lasagna Vegetables Ww Garlic Toast Applesauce
27 Chicken salad sand- wich Slaw Onions & Cucumber tomato salad juice Ww bun	28 Calico Beans Kale Peaches Ww Cornbread	29 Hamburger Lettuce/Onion/ Tomato Potatoes Banana Pudding Whole Wheat Bun	30 Chicken pasta stem vegetables Beets Mixed fruit Ww bread	31 Baked Beans & Wieners Buttered Peas Mixed Fruit Whole Wheat Bread

2026 Calhoun County Commission



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WEST VIRGINIA Press
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HEALTHY

Continued from Page 1

in early April when a group of community stakeholders came together to come up with a good pathway on which to establish a Mountaineer Mile. Schoolcraft noted that "we walked around town, identifying barriers." They wanted to find a route "that could be made for the community and the area to encourage people to walk."

The Centers for Disease Control has long advocated for the benefits of regular walking. It recommends 150 minutes per week of moderate exercise, such as walking. "Benefits," the CDC notes "include improved cognition for children six to 13 and reduced feelings of short-term anxiety for adults . . . and help you sleep better."

It also reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease and type two diabetes, as well as improving the immune system and strengthening bones, joints, and muscles.

The CDC and West Virginia University have noticed that certain areas of the state have high levels of obesity. They created the High Obesity Program to bring resources to those areas

According to a WVU website, the "CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (DNPAO) began the program in 2014 to combat the obesity problem using environmental approaches and help reduce adverse health outcomes such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and some cancers."

One of the early steps in local implementation lies in "convening partners to assess community assets and needs and leverage resources," which is what took place from April through June in finding a good Mountaineer Mile route. That said, the stakeholders noticed barriers to those who might need the most support in starting a regular walking program.

Murphy, whose expertise is in obesity and programs to address the issue, noted some of the barriers seen. Walking distances in Grantsville could prove a problem for "older people", those who "are not physically active", overweight, or suffering from a disability. She wants to target those who "are not necessarily exercising 30 minutes a day or are active in their daily life."

For some it could "be insurmountable to park your car and walk to the County Courthouse."

One purpose served by the benches could lie in helping people have confidence to walk farther distances. If a park bench sits between where they start a walk and where it ends, they might go a little farther knowing they can rest somewhere in between. "Or if it's really hot out", which can make walking longer distances challenging for even the fit at times.

This thought led the group to put some benches in areas of shade. One priority point for Schoolcraft lay in providing a bench to help those walking from town to Foodland and Family Dollar.

Schoolcraft went on to add that some in the community have had surgeries such as hip replacements and needed the extra help.

The project found tremendous support locally. Schoolcraft shared that Town of Grantsville Mayor John Villines and the Town Council "have been instrumental within city limits." Other vital partners included the Calhoun Family Resource Network, Amanda Smith from the Molasses festival, and Moms on Main contributed as well. She also thanked the Calhoun County Commission's support.

Hope Gas, as Schoolcraft described "received shipments, assembled them in their shop, and donated the concrete and supplies to install all six park benches." This help was key because the HOP grant cannot fund construction or related activity.

Efforts did not end there. Murphy stated that the effort to get the State to recognize the proposed Mountaineer Mile have stalled, but that through West Virginia University, a route was established. Murphy shared that to provide the most benefit to those who need the route most, exercise pathways are carefully plotted on flat ground to prevent unnecessary obstacles.

The High Obesity Program provides funding to help such initiatives because it "funds land grant universities and colleges in states with some of the highest obesity areas of the country, specifically, those with counties where more than 40 percent of the adult population is obese."

It adds that "Grantees collaborate with existing cooperative extension and outreach services at the county level in their states to develop obesity solutions."

Murphy and Schoolcraft continue to leverage the program to provide more solutions. They have explored ideas to help turn schools into indoor walking areas, especially since when in collaboration, the school system is not liable for accidents. Frisbee golf installed at Calhoun County Park will help give more fun and competitive options for exercise. Grant funding could also support more hiking trails and waste receptacles there as well.

Also at the end of June, the Extension Service announced another collaboration with the Town of Grantsville. A new grant will allow the service "to purchase outdoor adult exercise equipment and bike rack."

"Thank you to Grantsville Town Council for allowing us to install these items at the city park for community usage."

NUTRITION

Continued from Page 1

helps food banks have more knowledge about the kinds of foods they order. According to Food Bank News, a system developed by Blue Ridge Food Bank in conjunction with James Madison University, helps food banks and other related charities make more sense of nutrition.

The Nourish program, as it is called, uses software developed by Blue Ridge Food Bank. It categorizes food into three color-coded categories. Green means eat often, yellow means "choose sometimes", and red "choose rarely." Red also means "does not add value," nutritionally speaking.

The color coded system not only helps recipients of food better understand what they should eat and when. It also helps organizations create pools of data based on the level of nutritious food they receive and then distribute.

"For outside stakeholders like donors and healthcare partners, our ability to present the data and give them something visual to understand the profile of our inventory is incredibly important," said Michael McKee, CEO at Va.-based Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, who was quoted in Food Bank News.

He added that "It's going to become all the more important as healthcare payers and providers are asked to invest more in human service organizations like food banks. We can't just say, 'Well, our food meets nutritional standards, trust us.'"

West Virginia University goes a step farther by also helping food pantries develop strategies on how to get the most for their dollar for healthy options, which often cost more. Murphy said "Fresh is best, but frozen and canned can be prepared in healthy ways."

Nutrition training also helps to arm food pantry staff with information. WVU now offers a microcredential program for food pantry workers. Microcredentials are conferred after one or a short series of classes focusing on a specific topic. Those who earn the microcredential can show a potential employer that they have a strong level of nutrition knowledge.

Organizations who employ those with credentials can make a stronger case for grant and other methods of community funding as well.

Schoolcraft adds that another key element lies in community outreach. That includes "showing up to local festivals and community events as well as "soliciting help input from community members."

Public Open House • Valley North Transmission Project

PJM Interconnection LLC, the federally regulated regional transmission operator, selected the Valley North Transmission Line Project as a forward-thinking solution to strengthen the region's electric transmission backbone, support long term reliability and help drive economic growth for decades to come. The Valley North Project was developed by Valley Link Transmission, LLC, a joint venture between Dominion Energy, FirstEnergy Transmission and Transource Energy (jointly owned by American Electric Power and Evergy) to build the modern infrastructure needed to keep electricity reliable and affordable for homes, businesses and growing industries across the Mid-Atlantic region. The project is still in its early stages, and we're committed to keeping the process open and collaborative. Right now, we're reviewing potential study segments by looking at environmental, cultural and land use information, along with feedback from landowners and the community.

We invite landowners and interested parties to attend an upcoming open house for the proposed Valley North Transmission Line Project.

The Valley North Project will build approximately 260 miles of new 765 kV electric transmission line between Putnam County, West Virginia, and Frederick County, Maryland. It also includes two new substations in Hardy County, West Virginia, and Frederick County, Maryland. This project increases the electric grid's capacity to deliver electricity across the region, reducing the risk of outages and improving reliability.

We are hosting open houses across multiple counties, and you are welcome to attend whichever one fits your schedule. The open houses will feature information stations where you can learn about the project and speak to team members one-on-one at your own pace.

There is no formal presentation, so you're welcome to stop by whenever it's convenient for you. All open houses will be held from **4 to 7:30 p.m.** Doors will open at 4 p.m. All open house locations are available on our project website at ***vltransmission.com/valley-north.***

Community input plays an important role. It helps us understand what matters most to your community, learn about any potential impacts and find ways to reduce those impacts as we move forward.

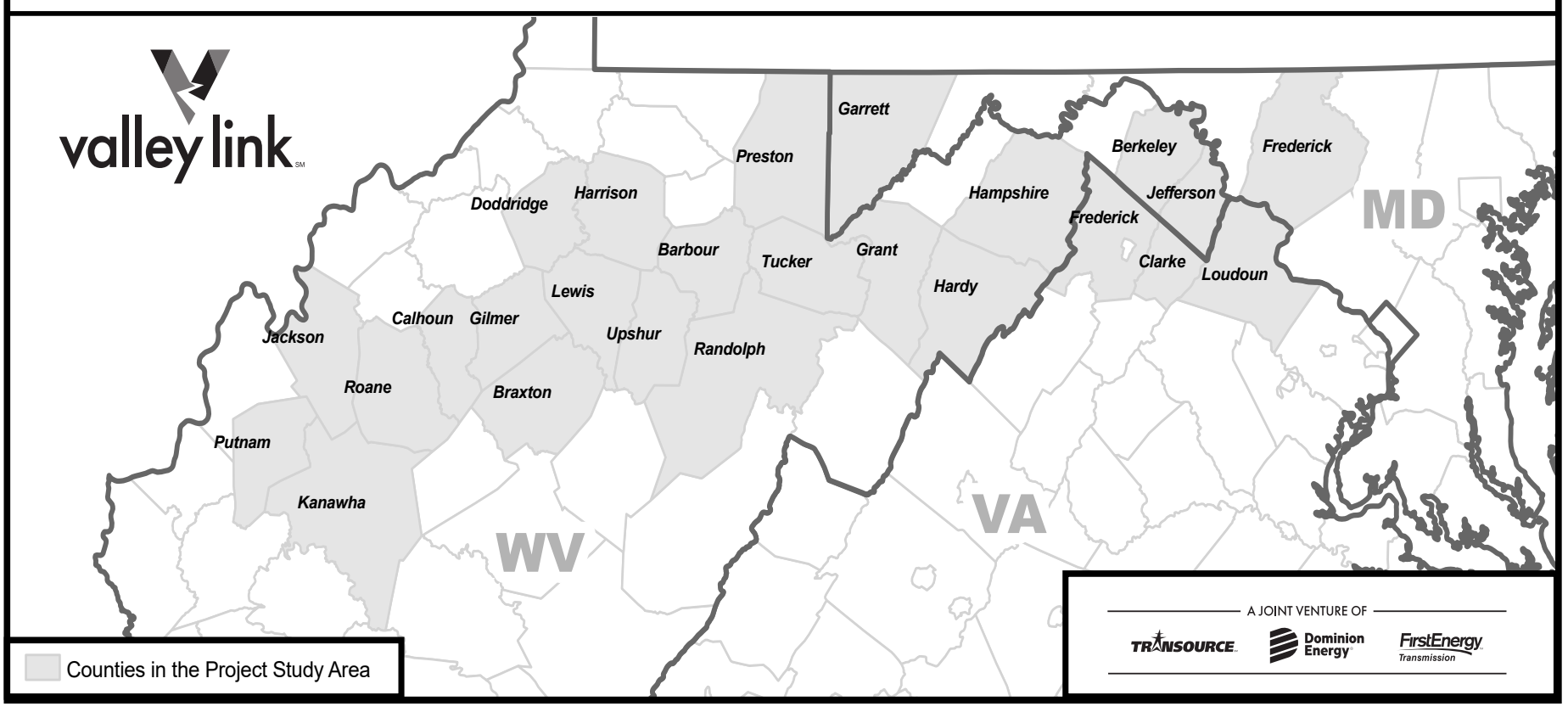
There is an open house near you. Please join us!

Wednesday, July 22, 2026
Calhoun County, WV
4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Calhoun County Middle-High School
50 Underwood Circle
Mt. Zion, WV 26151

Wednesday, July 22, 2026
Gilmer County, WV
4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Glenville State University Waco Center
921 Mineral Road
Glenville, WV 26351

Can't attend an open house? Visit ***www.vltransmission.com/valley-north*** for project materials and additional open house details.

vltransmission.com/valley-north
vlnorth@vltransmission.com
(304) 207-0120



CHURCH

Continued from Page 1

of often impoverished circuit riding preachers who traveled from church to church in such regions to preach the Gospel. At some point well before the Church split, a "Book Concern" opened operations in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1853, a dispute emerged over which of the two organizations had rights to the proceeds of it. This case went to the United States Supreme Court as Smith v. Swormstedt (1853).

The case syllabus shared that the "property, known as the Book Concern" had come from "the result of the labors and accumulation of all the ministers." It added that "The Methodist Church was divided. It was not a case of the secession of a part from the main body. Neither division lost its interest in the common property."

The Book Concern was administered by Leroy Swormstedt and others who were all citizens of either the states of Ohio or New York. Representatives of Methodist Episcopal Church South demanded the appropriate share of proceeds to distribute amongst circuit riders adhering to the southern Church.

The nature of how the Church divided, according to the Southern plaintiffs was that its organization "was entitled to its proportion of the common property real and personal of the (original American) Methodist Episcopal Church . . . to which the members of the church south had contributed more than their share." Representatives from Methodist Episcopal Church North did not dispute the facts presented so much as their interpretation.

Southern Methodists claim that the conference created two distinct and legitimate Methodist Churches. Northern Methodists saw the action as "an unauthorized separation" that meant "they have hereby renounced and forfeited all claim, either in law or equity, to any portion of the property in question."

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Nelson, who also served as Chief Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, delivered the opinion of the court. He relied heavily on the veteran Justice Joseph Story who served as Chief Justice John Marshall's right hand during much of his tenure. Justice Story is still regarded as one of the great American legal minds.

The defendants made an objection to the suit itself, attacking the notion that a small handful of Southern Methodists could represent the diverse needs of all. Justice Story articulated three foundational points on how they could do so, which also serves as underpinning for what would become known as "class action" suits in the future. Each refers to the "common interest or a common right" connecting the plaintiffs.

Justice Nelson alleged that the defendants argued their case a little too well. He interpreted their arguments to lead to the legal conclusion that neither northern nor southern Methodists retained rights to the assets, and "are deprived of any right to a distribution."

The Court ordered a tallying of the Book Concern's finances with an aim towards the equitable distribution thereof between the two Methodist organizations.

In West Virginia, one of the heartlands of the original Methodist Church in America, both legislative and judicial bodies are looking at similar issues almost 170 years later. Once again, disagreements over social issues and doctrine led to the creation of competing Methodist organizations, but many others chose to abandon the concept of denominationalism altogether and create independent churches and congregations.

As West Virginia Metro News reported, the position of the United Methodist Church is that "all local church property is held in an irrevocable trust for the benefit of the entire denomination." Local churches, again according to Metro News, have asserted that the Methodist Conference has no rights to individual churches because they paid for, maintained, and insured those properties.

Metro News also shared that one objection from the UMC is that a secular court has no authority to judge Church issues, based upon the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and similar language in that of the State of West Virginia. Smith v Swormstedt (1853) would seem to negate that argument on its very face.

The West Virginia State Legislature also considered the matter in HB 4515, but elected to not pass legislation this year due to potential Constitutional issues.

Effective language in HB 4515, intentionally or unintentionally, generally follows the outline of the 1853 case. It establishes a process to determine rights in church property for both the former UMC and the current church and would have ordered either reimbursement to the UMC or individual church depending on which side was determined to have the greater interest.

Case law in the United States rests on the principle of stare decisis. This means that courts follow the previous precedent established unless conditions have changed significantly.

Valley Link Project to Add Urgently Needed Capacity, Heading Off Future Power Reliability Problems

By Stephen Smoot

Two weeks ago, PJM Interconnection LLC shared an alert that many on social media turned intentionally or unintentionally into unnecessary scare posts. The organization, which manages the electric grid in 13 states, operates between the Atlantic and the Mississippi, and between Virginia's southern border and Pennsylvania's northern. Its mission lies in ensuring grid reliability while also keeping costs down as low as possible.

The alert was intended for certain select customers who had agreed to reduce their power consumption during peak times. This list ranges from residential to large commercial customers. They receive a benefit for the voluntary move. Also, PJM's diligence prevented the need to ask all customers to swelter in the heat without benefit of sufficient air conditioning, as New York State asked its system customers to do.

The same alert was issued in June of 2025 with the added request of electric power companies to defer scheduled maintenance of lines and other infrastructure until maximum levels of demand decreased somewhat.

While not an emergency in the short term, these alerts indicate a long-term problem. Power demand has increased dramatically in the 21st century. While data centers are the popular target of blame, long-term consumer trends have driven the problem as well.

For example, in the 1980s and 90s, most at-home recreation did not require electric power. The rise of high capacity systems for video gaming and also the increased need of more powerful computing for professional and business needs drove demand up sharply before the common use of artificial intelligence and its increased need for expanding infrastructure of data centers.

Also in the past two decades, the Mountain State has seen extraordinary success in adding large-scale manufacturing across the state, from Proctor and Gamble and Clorox in Berkeley County to the Nucor steel mill near Point Pleasant. These have driven the state economy forward and have brought thousands of jobs and significant tax revenues to state and local governments, but also add to electric power demand as well.

Within the PJM system the Valley North project, as Valley Link explains, will bring added capacity to grid infrastructure. This will mitigate the burdens brought by increasing demand and hold off the threat of mandatory power reduction for all customers or grid shutdowns.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation serves as a non profit entity that observes and reports on the different grid systems, such as PJM Interconnection, that serve North America north of the Mexican - U.S. border. It issued a report in January on the long-term grid reliability for PJM, given current conditions.

Through the end of 2028, PJM is rated as seeing "elevated risk." To that entity, that describes "a region where resource adequacy criteria are technically met, but planned power resources are likely to result in energy shortfalls or operating challenges during extreme peak conditions" such as PJM faced in the first week of July.

Starting in 2029 PJM, if current capacity is not expanded, is expected to enter the "high-risk" realm as power demand starts to outstrip grid capacity. This "increases the risk of load loss or rolling blackouts during extreme weather or periods of high electricity demand."

PJM Interconnection relies heavily on power production in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrissey's 50 by 50 plan to expand electric power production would make the Mountain State part of the solution in meeting those needs and also helping to stabilize grid capacity for the long term.

West Virginia, through PJM, is in the same pool of production and consumption as the other states in the system.

Lauren Siburkis, a spokesperson for Valley Link, explained the need for the project and also the positive impacts it could bring to local communities along the planned lines. The company is holding open houses in each county that will host a section of the project.

She explained that "the Valley North Project is designed to move electricity to where it's needed most across West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland." Added capacity is critical, she states, because "demand continues to grow rapidly due to new industries, technology, and population needs our existing grid is being pushed closer to its limits."

Along with NERC and PJM, Siburkis confirms that failure to add to capacity will cause a higher "risk of service interruptions, voltage issues, and even broader outages over time." She compares the electric grid to the highways system in that a major transmission line serves the same purpose as an interstate highway or Appalachian Corridor project. It allows "traffic" to move more efficiently and also avoid local "congestion" that could cause customers problems in high peak demand periods.

Not adding more capacity to address rising power demand would have the same effect of not improving highway systems when a community adds population and business over time.

"One of the most common misconceptions," stated Siburkus, "is that this project is simply 'pass-through' infrastructure that doesn't benefit West Virginia or local communities. That is not accurate." Primarily, it will provide a "foundation" for growth locally and more broadly while adding capacity to maintain reliable service overall.

Siburkis also shared that the project will "create both short-term and long-term economic benefits for the communities they serve." First, "transmission infrastructure contributes to local tax bases that help essential public services." The company operating the lines pays taxes that support schools and county needs such as fire, EMS, basic infrastructure, and other needs.

She added that "industry and federal research shows that every one dollar invested in infrastructure can generate up to $1.50 to $2.50 in broader economic activity, a dynamic called in economics "the multiplier effect."

Construction will require hundreds of workers from a broad spectrum of fields whose money will go into the local economy. Over the long-term, compensation to landowners hosting parts of the infrastructure will continue to add to economic growth. Though not on the same scale, a year of major natural gas pipeline construction in Jackson County several years ago gave it the biggest economic boost of any county in the nation.

Connection to these lines "helps connect communities to commerce and opportunity." Companies seeking to expand or invest, she explained, will prefer a local area with access to reliable power.

Valley Link's schedule of open houses, Siburkus explained, gives local residents "in all potentially affected areas (an opportunity to) participate in the public open house process where they can review preliminary routes, speak directly with project representatives, and provide feedback that will help inform future decisions." The process will include "early" and transparent communication, one-on-one work with landowners, gathering local information to reduce or mitigate potential impacts and adjusting when needed, and providing fair compensation.

Calhoun County residents will have the opportunity to learn more and share input on July 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Calhoun County Middle/High School

Siburkus added that the company will take into account environmental, cultural, historical, and community impact while making final determinations along its routes.

"Our goal," she stated, "is to be open about these real challenges and the role this project plays in addressing them so that people are informed, not alarmed."







Local Business Directory Information

WAG Trap-Neuter-Return on July 27

On Monday, July 27, the Welfare of Animals Group (WAG) will be humanely trapping feral cats in the Grantsville area to have them spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and ear tipped (the universal sign that a cat has been part of a Trap-Neuter-Return program). We would appreciate if you would not put food out for them on Sunday, July 26, as we will be trapping on Monday morning. Once the cats have recovered from anesthesia (at least 24 to 48 hours) we will return them to their exact location. They will be healthier, happier, and not reproducing and fighting. Thank you for your cooperation. So far we have spayed and neutered 1,159 community cats (625 females and 534 males).

Please keep your personal cats indoors or put a collar on them on Monday the 27th. If you have any questions, please call Linda at 304-354-7506.

If you are aware of a feral cat colony in your area, please let us know. Female kittens can begin breeding at four months old, so the best time to spay/neuter a colony is when there are only 5 or 6 cats. Trap-Neuter-Return is provided to Calhoun County residents at no cost to the caretaker.

Partial funding for Trap-Neuter-Return is provided by The Oakland Foundation, The Bernard McDonough Foundation, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and the Calhoun County Commission.



LEGAL

CALHOUN COUNTY COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Calhoun County Commission is seeking competitive bids for construction of a 40'x80' metal building at the County Park in Grantsvillle, WV. This project consists of site preparation, concrete pad installation including plumbing lines and drains, construction of a 40' x 80' x 12' steel building kit (provided), installation of doors, windows and gutter system.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Monday, July 27 at 3 p.m. at the Calhoun County Park located at: 380 Park Place, Grantsville, WV 26147. Bidders must have a valid contractor's license, references and must be insured. Detailed specifications will be provided at the pre-bid meeting.

Sealed bids will be due by Monday, August 10, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. when they will be opened and read at a public Commission meeting.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality therein. All bids must be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening.

LEGAL

CALHOUN COUNTY COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Calhoun County Commission is seeking competitive bids for office renovations in her office at the Courthouse in Grantsville, WV. This project includes but is not limited to demolition, electrical work and minor construction.

Bidders must have a valid contractor's license, references and must be insured. Project details will be provided at the County Clerk's office.

Written quotes are due by Monday, July 27, 2026 at 5 p.m. when they will be opened and read at a public Commission meeting.

The Clerk and/or the County Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality therein. All bids must be valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening.

LEGAL

PROPER DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS ANNOUNCED -
Submitted by Jeannie Bennett-Yoak, Calhoun County Schools

Policy 4350 is based on requirements of Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended. Requirements specific to records of identified exceptional students are incorporated into this policy.

Records must be maintained for 5 years following the student's graduation. At that time, public notification shall inform parents/eligible students of timelines when personally identifiable information collected, maintained, or used is no longer needed to provide educational services to the student.

If notification is not received from the parent/eligible students requesting that the documentation be mailed to them, records will be destroyed in a timely fashion.

Any student who graduated in 2019 from Calhoun County High School and received special education services while attending elementary or high schools (this includes the gifted program), may contact the COO of Student Services at 304-354-7011, ext. 310, to make arrangements to pick up your file or have it mailed.

If notification has not been received at the Calhoun Board of Education Office by Friday July 31, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., then the 2019 graduating classes special education files will be destroyed. If you are aware of someone who graduated with this class whose records we may be holding, please notify them so they may contact our office before the deadline.

LEGAL

(2024-C-000004 - CALHOUN COUNTY - RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE)

To: HEFFNER HAROLD C/O JOHN HARALD HEFFNER, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CENTER MAP 5 PARCEL 0048 0000 3002

You will take notice that RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2024-C-000004, located in CENTER District, SNIDER RIDGE 2 3/4 A SUR 1/3 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HEFFNER HAROLD C/O JOHN HAROLD HEFFNER, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CALHOUN County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on April 4, 2025. RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after September 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before August 31, 2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2023 - 1700.	$	192.64
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2024 - 1678.	$	117.34
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	154.65
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	28.58
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	$	254.20
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**747.41**

You may redeem at any time before August 31, 2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 23, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of CALHOUN County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2024-C-000003 - CALHOUN COUNTY - RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE)

To: HEFFNER HAROLD C/O JOHN HARALD HEFFNER, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CENTER MAP 5 PARCEL 0047 0000 3002

You will take notice that RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2024-C-000003, located in CENTER District, SNIDER RIDGE 1.17 AC SUR 1/3 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HEFFNER HAROLD C/O JOHN HAROLD HEFFNER, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CALHOUN County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on April 4, 2025. RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after September 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before August 31, 2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2023 - 1699.	$	88.66
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2024 - 1677.	$	21.28
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	154.65
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	28.58
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	$	254.20
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**547.37**

You may redeem at any time before August 31, 2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 23, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of CALHOUN County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000313 - CALHOUN COUNTY - H3 LLC)

To: DAVID ROBINSON, DAVID ROBINSON, RONALD ROBINSON, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT WASHINGTON MAP 9999 PARCEL 0002 5070 3001

You will take notice that H3 LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2025-C-000313, located in WASHINGTON District, 1/8 81 WALKER, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of ROBINSON RONALD, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CALHOUN County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on April 23, 2026. H3 LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 26111.	$	85.10
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 26090.	$	23.09
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	164.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	754.16
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**1,026.75**

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 25, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of CALHOUN County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2024-C-000002 - CALHOUN COUNTY - RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE)

To: HEFFNER HAROLD C/O JOHN HAROLD HEFFNER, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having a n undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CENTER MAP 5 PARCEL 0034 0001 3002

You will take notice that RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2024-C-000002, located in CENTER District, YELLOW 16.19 ACRE TRACT 2 1/3 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HEFFNER HAROLD C/O JOHN HAROLD HEFFNER, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CALHOUN County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on April 4, 2025. RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after September 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before August 31, 2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2023 - 1698.	$	85.10
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2024 - 1676.	$	23.09
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	134.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	754.16
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**996.75**

You may redeem at any time before August 31, 2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 23, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of CALHOUN County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2024-C-000001 - CALHOUN COUNTY - RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE)

To: HEFFNER HAROLD C/O JOHN HARALD HEFFNER, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CENTER MAP 5 PARCEL 0034 0000 3002

You will take notice that RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2024-C-000001, located in CENTER District, ST RT 16 PARCEL #1 16.19 AC SUR 1/3 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HEFFNER HAROLD C/O JOHN HAROLD HEFFNER, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CALHOUN County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on April 4, 2025. RICKY OR DEBORAH MCGUIRE requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after September 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before August 31, 2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2023 - 1697.	$	107.93
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2024 - 1675.	$	38.80
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	184.65
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	28.58
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	$	254.20
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**614.16**

You may redeem at any time before August 31, 2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 23, 2026

Christal G. Perry

Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of CALHOUN County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000312 - CALHOUN COUNTY - H3 LLC)

To: DAVID ROBINSON, DAVID ROBINSON, RONALD ROBINSON, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having a n undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT WASHINGTON MAP 9999 PARCEL 0002 5060 3001

You will take notice that H3 LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2025-C-000312, located in WASHINGTON District, 1/8 81 WALKER ROGERS ELLISON GAS, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of ROBINSON RONALD, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CALHOUN County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on April 23, 2026. H3 LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 26110.	$	85.10
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 26089.	$	23.09
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	134.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	754.16
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**996.75**

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 25, 2026

Christal G. Perry

Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of CALHOUN County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2024-C-000123 - CALHOUN COUNTY - GARNET GAS CORPORATION)

To: MYRTLE MOLLOHAN ESTATE C/O MARY JANE DAGGETT, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS & ASSIGNS OF MYRTLE MOLLOHAN AND MARY JANE DAGGETT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT WASHINGTON **MAP** 9999 **PARCEL** 0002 1630 0000

You will take notice that GARNET GAS CORPORATION, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2024-C-000123, located in WASHINGTON District, 1/8 29 W F, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of MOLLOHAN MYRTLE, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of CALHOUN County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on February 9, 2026. GARNET GAS CORPORATION requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2023 - 25473.	$	94.16
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2024 - 25544.	$	24.82
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	110.64
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	219.16
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**448.78**

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 15, 2026

Christal G. Perry

Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of CALHOUN County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Substitute Trustee, WV Trustee Services, LLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated June 11, 2021, executed by Borrower(s), McNeill Reed and Sierra Reed, to Andrew C. Skinner, the Trustee of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Calhoun County, West Virginia, in Book 183, at Page 238. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 110 Horse Ridge Dr, Grantsville, WV 26147. WV Trustee Services, LLC were appointed as Substitute Trustees by APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE dated June 11, 2026, of record in the Clerk's Office. The borrower(s) defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustees have been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustees will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Calhoun County, in Grantsville, West Virginia, on the following date:

28th day of July, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.

A certain lot tract or parcel of land lying and being situate on the waters of Laurel Creek, in the District of Sherman, County of Calhoun, State of West Virginia, further bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center line of a Hope Natural Gas Company Road, said point being a common corner with the D. Riddle seven acre tract and I. Durst 13.15 acre tract, thence N 67-36 W, 126.14 feet to an iron pipe; thence S 55-36 W, 291.05 feet to an iron pipe; thence S 50-57 E, 200 feet to a point; thence N 39-44 E. 315. 16 feet to the place of beginning, containing 1.08 acres, more or less.

However, it is expressly understood and agreed between all of the parties hereto that this deed is made and accepted subject to all of the exceptions and reservations which are contained in the deeds from the predecessors in title of the parties of the first part as to the oil gas and other minerals within and underlying the aforesaid real estate, together with the mining and operating rights and privileges thereunto appertaining.

It is further expressly understood and agreed between all of the parties hereto that this deed is also made and accepted subject to any easements and rights-of-way which may now be operative over, through and across the aforesaid real estate.

TERMS OF SALE:

1) The property will be conveyed in an "AS IS" physical condition by Deed containing no warranty, express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-ways, easements, covenants, conveyances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.
2) The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia Code § 11-22-1.
3) The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.
4) The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.
5) The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.
6) The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten (10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

WV Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee

BY: _____
Jim Ashley, Limited Signing Officer
WV Trustee Services, LLC
McGuire Office Center
618 Tenth Street, Suite 108
Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 853-3336
jim.ashley@wvtrusteeservices.com





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SBA, USDA Sign MOU to Combat Lawfare Against Farmers, Ranchers, and Small Businesses

New Partnership Gives Producers a Direct Line to Report Costly Regulations and Advance Lasting Reform

WASHINGTON — Thursday, July 2, 2026, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to combat lawfare targeting farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and small businesses. The agreement gives America's producers a direct line to report the regulations and rules driving up costs and impacting productivity, while helping SBA and USDA identify broader patterns of regulatory abuse to advance lasting deregulatory reform. View photos from the MOU signing ceremony here.

"Farmers and ranchers do some of the hardest and most essential work in America, yet they have faced a growing burden from costly federal regulations - crushing generational businesses that lack the time, money, or legal resources to fight back," said SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler. "With our MOU, the SBA and USDA now offer America's producers a direct line to report lawfare, with a new infrastructure to deliver lasting regulatory reform. Thanks to President Trump's leadership, we are eliminating barriers and supporting small businesses in their mission to keep America fed, clothed, and fueled."

"Producers and ranchers who feed this nation should never face the full power of government alone," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins. "This partnership with the SBA creates clear pathways for redress, ensures fairness in enforcement, and demonstrates that Washington stands with, not against, the hardworking Americans who sustain our country. Through the USDA Lawfare Portal and interagency collaboration, we are delivering real protection under the Farmer and Rancher Freedom Framework."

Under the agreement, USDA will operate a centralized lawfare portal to receive complaints involving any federal agency and will share those submissions with SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman for case management and coordination. Matters involving USDA will be handled through the Department's designated channels, while complaints involving other federal agencies will be referred by SBA to the appropriate agencies for coordination and resolution.

The MOU also authorizes SBA to analyze complaint data to identify recurring lawfare practices and enforcement or regulatory issues that may be disproportionate, inconsistent, or abusive, helping inform potential deregulatory action for broader reform.

This partnership builds on broader Trump Administration regulatory relief efforts for rural America. This year, in partnership with SBA and USDA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reaffirmed farmers' right to repair – clarifying that manufacturers can no longer use the Clean Air Act to justify limiting access to repair tools or software. The SBA and USDA likewise supported EPA efforts to remove costly Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) sensor requirements for diesel equipment – in an action expected to save farmers $4.4 billion a year.

The MOU also advances President Trump's Executive Order, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation, by supporting the Administration's broader effort to cut red tape and restore a federal government that works for farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and small businesses.



From Left to Right: CNC Syndicate owned by Jeremy Buffington; Vet Owned Radon owned by John Rosanna; Trickett's LLC owned by Colin McFadden; Ursus Brew Works owned by Jason Martin; Dirty 304 Drone Wash owned by David Crabtree; Patriot 1:9 Gunsmithing owned by David Gibson; Hasten Services owned by James Merrill; WV Secretary of State Kris Warner, and Department Commander, The American Legion Department of West Virginia Rich Crumm

Secretary Warner Officially Launches WV Certified Veteran-Owned Business Program at American Legion Convention in Huntington

Huntington, W.Va. – WV Secretary of State Kris Warner officially launched the new West Virginia Certified Veteran-Owned Business (CVOB) Program on Friday during a special presentation at the American Legion State Convention in Huntington.

The new program, authorized by the West Virginia Legislature through House Bill 5227, became effective on July 1 and establishes a formal certification process for veteran-owned businesses operating in the Mountain State. With the launch of the initiative, West Virginia becomes the 15th state in the nation to offer a statewide veteran-owned business certification program.

Secretary Warner was joined by Ryan Kennedy, Cabinet Secretary of the WV Department of Veterans Assistance, American Legion leaders, veteran business owners, and convention attendees as the program officially kicked off. During the event, Warner and Kennedy recognized the first seven (7) businesses to receive certification under the new program.

"West Virginia has a proud tradition of military service, and many of our veterans continue serving their communities long after leaving the armed forces by starting businesses, creating jobs, and driving economic growth," Secretary Warner said. "The Certified Veteran-Owned Business Program is a meaningful way to recognize those contributions and highlight the important role veteran entrepreneurs play in our state's economy."

The Secretary of State's Office has developed the guidelines and criteria that eligible veteran-owned businesses must meet to receive certification. Approved businesses may display the official Certified Veteran-Owned Business logo at their business locations, on printed materials, and on their websites, social media and wherever they choose. Certified veteran-owned businesses will also be featured on a dedicated directory page on the Secretary of State's website, helping consumers identify and support veteran-owned enterprises by county across West Virginia.

The program will be administered through the Secretary of State's Business Division and reflects the state's commitment to honoring veterans not only for their military service, but also for their continued leadership as business owners, innovators, and job creators.

"Supporting veteran-owned businesses is about more than just recognition," Warner said. "It is about expressing our gratitude to the men and women who served our nation. As I do for all businesses, I hope that they have every opportunity to achieve success in their next mission."

Secretary Kennedy applauded the new initiative and its potential to strengthen opportunities for veterans across the state.

The Secretary of State's Office is encouraging eligible veterans who own businesses in West Virginia to apply for certification. Applications are now available through the Secretary of State's website. To qualify, applicants must complete the certification application and submit documentation verifying their veteran status, including a DD-214, as outlined in the application instructions.

Veterans who have previously qualified for the Secretary of State's Boots to Business program must submit a separate application for CVOB certification but are not required to resubmit their DD-214 documentation.

The WV Certified Veteran-Owned Business Program represents another step toward strengthening support for veterans and promoting entrepreneurship throughout the state.

For more information about the program or to apply for certification, visit the WV Secretary of State's website.



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Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center Announces 2026 Teacher of the Year – Mr. Jim Snyder!



We are thrilled to recognize Mr. Jim Snyder for his unwavering dedication to automotive education and student success at the Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center.

Since beginning his career at the Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center in 2012 as an instructor, Mr. Snyder has brought both his love of teaching and experience in automotive technology to numerous students. He and his students provide countless community service hours throughout the school year by servicing vehicles. His knowledge, leadership, and passion make a difference every single day.

Thank you, Mr. Snyder, for all you do for our students, SkillsUSA chapter, community and the center! Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!