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West Virginia Farm Bureau's O'Dell Delivers An Update on Public Policy and Agriculture

By Stephen Smoot

Dwayne O'Dell, Director of the West Virginia Farm Bureau, last week delivered an update on the status of agriculture in the state and how public policy and legislative moves could affect it in the near future. This came during the annual meeting of the West Virginia Poultry Association.

He opened by discussing the "interesting" 2026 session of the West Virginia State Legislature, noting that the 304 bills passed focused a great deal on budget, education, and energy issues.

One bill, Senate Bill 84, came from State Senator Darren Thorne (R - Hampshire). It addressed the "open fields doctrine" that allowed for law enforcement to skirt Constitutional restrictions on warrantless searches. It states that "no law enforcement officer may place any surveillance camera of game camera on private land without first gaining consent" of the person in lawful possession of it through ownership or lease. Law enforcement can, however, place a camera outside the property line with sight into private property.

Another piece of proposed legislation came in response to some local governments banning honeybee cultivation out of worries that a swarm could harm people nearby. It would have removed authority from local government and placed it with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

This did not pass, but O'Dell stated that much of its goal had been accomplished by the 2019 "Right to Farm Act" which he had written. It prevents prosecution of those engaged in agriculture for environmental issues unless "clear and convincing evidence" exists.

Environmental cases that take the course of civil action had relied on a much lower standard of evidence, leaving farmers vulnerable to "lawfare" from activists and other malcontents. The "Right to Farm Act" required a much higher standard of evidence, thus potentially saving farmers untold amounts of money in defending themselves. The act also made the Mountain State, next to the Lone Star State, the most farming friendly state in the Union.

Also mentioned was House Bill 4416 that added forestry equipment to the category of untaxable farm equipment. O'Dell moved from that quickly to a more in-depth discussion of property tax assessments. He stated that West Virginia used to have the ninth lowest property



Dewayne O'Dell spoke on issues of significance to West Virginia farmers

AGRICULTURE cont. on page 4

1982 Foundation Looks Ahead at the Future Through Revitalizing the Past

By Stephen Smoot

One of the great lessons of the Book of Ecclesiastes lies in the circular nature of life, whether for an individual or a place.

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

Crystal Mersh, a native of Calhoun County, never wanted to leave but once she did, for a time couldn't envision coming back. But wherever she went, whatever she did, Mersh carried with her the history of Calhoun County. That history included a time where the Little Kanawha and railroads carried commerce, businesses in the towns thrived, and the people felt secure in a prosperous future.



The renaissance of the former Calhoun County High School building will serve as a focus for 1982 Foundation efforts at economic development and inspiring youth

Over the past few years, she has looked to transform a symbol of that confident past into a beacon for a brighter future, the strong and solid, but

1982 FOUNDATION cont. on page 4



Calhoun County again goes purple in support of drug recovery. Commissioners here with Crystal Williams from W. Va Goes Purple

County Commissioners Hear From Public On Transmission Line Proposals

By Stephen Smoot

As July concludes, the public will get the opportunity first-hand to engage Valley Link on their proposed transmission lines. Two citizens spoke to the Commission on that topic in the second meeting of July as part of the regular business before the elected body.

"Dear Lord we come to You today thanking You for another day, Father," prayed Commissioner Craig Arthur.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Calhoun County Commission heard from Crystal Williams from West Virginia Goes Purple. The organization seeks to unite all 55 counties in hope and resilience to support addicts seeking to recover and return to full and productive lives.

Williams shared that "it is a movement of awareness, prevention, recovery, healing" and noted that the Mountain State bore the distinction of being the first to have all counties express support for the movement and its goals.

She added that "what began as an idea to bring light into one of the darkest public health crises or state because they were based, has now become a powerful statewide movement, reminding individuals and families that they are not alone."

Commissioner Lee Rush read aloud the official proclamation honoring and supporting the movement while Commission President Eric Lupardus invited the representatives to return in September for related events held by the 1982 Foundation.

Next up came two speakers expressing opposition to the Valley Link transmission line project. Sailah Hill, a teacher at Arnoldsburg Elementary School rose first. She stated that "I think we all need to be asking questions about that. We need

COMMISSION cont. on page 4

PJM "Vulnerable to Vetoes and Agenda Control When the Region Needs Immediate Action" Says Feds

By Stephen Smoot

PJM Interconnection, the organization responsible for managing the electric power grid for 13 states, including West Virginia, must move swiftly to add capacity, says the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Chair Laura Swett stated that the "stakeholder process" is "slow when it should be fast . . . and vulnerable to vetoes and agenda control exactly when the region needs immediate action." While not singling out PJM, Swett stated that the problems faced this month serve as a wake up call across the United States.

Alarm bells among industry and federal officials went off when PJM "cleared nearly 7 GW below its reliability target and only drew 500 MW of new power supply," reported the trades publication Utility Dive.

FERC Commissioner Lindsay See expressed that "PJM has to be able to get reforms across the finish line in a timely and transparent way."

PJM Interconnection's primary responsibilities lay in maintaining grid reliability and also cost-effectiveness for customers. Its region runs from Pennsylvania in the north to parts of North Carolina in the south, and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River near Chicago.

West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrissey's pledge to add 50 GW (a single GW powers approximately 750,000 homes) of power generation by 2050, as well as added transmission lines to move the power to markets, would provide significant assistance in enhancing grid reliability. Failure to provide more power generation and reliable distribution could lead to rate hikes and/or power shortfalls at peak times.

This week on July 23, FERC will hold a special meeting to investigate the problems behind why PJM has not been able to see expanded generation or improved transmission logistics in a timely manner. Questions they will examine include those related to transparency reforms, reforms to the stakeholder process that "could ensure PJM can meet the region's challenges", "improve speed in decision-making while preserving stakeholder input", and a number of other issues.

FERC's goal lies in discussing "PJM Interconnection's (PJM) governance and stakeholder process, with a particular focus on identifying and evaluating concrete, actionable reforms to improve PJM's ability to address operational and market needs in a timely and efficient manner."

It could also suggest reforms to PJM's "governance and stakeholder process."

In other related news from the same FERC meeting, the agency directed the North American Electric Reliability Corporation "to file by December 31, 2026 one or more new reliability standards to address reliability risks in the Bulk Power system."

The resulting "Large Loads Action Plan" will address the impact of computational loads of data centers and crypto-mining operations with an eye toward ensuring that expansion of these facilities do not threaten function of the power grid.

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.

The Road to Union

A Journey Through the Highlands

Front Porch Appalachia

There are roads you travel to reach a destination.

Then there are roads that become part of who you are.

For me, this journey began before the engine ever came to life. It began with a belief that the greatest stories in Appalachia aren't found in tourist brochures or on interstate billboards. They're discovered along winding mountain roads where every small town has a history, every overlook has witnessed generations, and every front porch has a story waiting to be told.

My wife, and I pointed east, leaving behind the familiar hills of home in search of something far more valuable than another destination. We were searching for the people and places that remind us why Appalachia still matters.

Our first stop came in Beverly at Hoots Market.

Like so many Appalachian businesses, Hoots doesn't need bright lights or expensive advertising to draw people through its doors. It has earned its reputation the old-fashioned way—one satisfied customer at a time. Over one of the best Philly cheesesteaks I've ever eaten and a basket of fresh hand-cut fries, I was reminded that some of the finest meals in America aren't found in big cities. They're served by hardworking people who still believe quality and hospitality matter.

Leaving Beverly, the mountains began to rise around us.

Every mile carried us farther into the Allegheny Highlands, where the roads twist through some of the most breathtaking scenery anywhere in the eastern United States. Riding a motorcycle through these mountains is unlike traveling by car. You don't simply see Appalachia—you experience it.

You smell the forests after a summer rain.

You feel the cool mountain air as elevation replaces humidity.

You watch ribbons of fog rise from the hollers like the mountains themselves are taking a slow morning breath.

It's impossible not to slow down.

Impossible not to appreciate what surrounds you.

Eventually the road carried us to Snowshoe Mountain.

Known throughout the country for skiing, Snowshoe offers something equally remarkable during the summer months. Families wandered through the village, mountain bikers returned from the trails covered in dust and smiles, and visitors from across America stood together overlooking ridge after ridge of endless forest.

Standing there, I couldn't help but think about the economic impact tourism can have on rural communities. Every visitor who chooses Appalachia supports local restaurants, lodging, shops, outfitters, and small businesses. Every trip creates opportunity for someone who has chosen to build a life in these mountains.

That opportunity is exactly what Front Porch Appalachia hopes to encourage.

The journey continued south through some of West Virginia's most beautiful country before leading us to Pioneer Days.

Walking through Pioneer Days feels less like attending a festival and more like stepping backward in time. The sounds of traditional Appalachian music drift through the air. Craftsmen demonstrate skills passed from one generation to the next. Families gather beneath shade trees while children experience traditions that shaped the people of these mountains long before smartphones and social media.

There is something deeply reassuring about seeing history still being lived instead of simply remembered.

The festival isn't about nostalgia.

It's about preserving a way of life built on hard work, faith, family, craftsmanship, and community.

Those values remain as relevant today as they were two hundred years ago.

From there we continued toward one of West Virginia's most significant historic places—Droop Mountain Battlefield.

History has a way of becoming personal when you stand where it actually happened.

The Battle of Droop Mountain marked one of the last major Civil War engagements in West Virginia. Standing atop the mountain, it is difficult to imagine the hardships endured by the soldiers who fought across these ridges more than 160 years ago.

The observation tower offers one of the most spectacular panoramic views anywhere in the state.

From its summit, mountains stretch endlessly toward the horizon, layered one behind another until they fade into shades of blue.

Nearby, the Almost Heaven Swing invites visitors to pause for just a few moments and simply absorb the landscape.

No photograph truly captures what it feels like to stand there.

The wind.

The silence.

The overwhelming sense of perspective.

In those moments, it becomes clear why West Virginia earned its nickname.

Some places don't need words.

They simply remind you how small you are compared to God's creation.

As we continued south toward Monroe County, the pace of life seemed to slow even further.

The roads narrowed.

Traffic disappeared.

Farmhouses rested quietly beneath rolling hills.

It felt like traveling through a part of America that still values conversation over convenience.

Exactly the kind of place where Front Porch Appalachia belongs.

Because while every stop along the way had offered remarkable scenery, fascinating history, and unforgettable experiences, none of them were the true destination.

The destination waited quietly in Union, West Virginia.

Behind the weathered walls of a historic hardware store where generations of neighbors have gathered, shared stories, solved problems, and quietly demonstrated everything that makes rural Appalachia worth preserving.

That place is Kittles Hardware.

And that's where our story truly begins.

As the miles disappeared beneath my tires, one thing became clear: the greatest destinations in Appalachia are rarely found on a map. They're found in the people who still wave from their front porches, the stories passed down through generations, and the communities that refuse to let their heritage fade.

This journey was only the beginning.

In **Part Two**, we'll pull into a place where history isn't sitting behind glass—it's still being lived every day. We'll step inside Kittle's Hardware, where every creaking floorboard, every conversation, and every artifact tells the story of a way of life that built Appalachia and continues to define it.

Until then, thank you for taking this ride with me.

Pull up a chair... every porch has a story.

Wherever the road leads, I'll meet you there.

From the Front Porch of Appalachia. I'll see you in Part Two.

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.

Building a Better Anti-Woke Academic Program

By Stephen Smoot

West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrissey gave great fanfare to the creation of the Washington Center For Civics, Culture, and Statesmanship after its establishment was mandated in the 2025 session of the West Virginia State Legislature

A year later, some journalists have gleefully pointed out that the center has exactly one student, making this an example of a laudable idea that has not thus far been well-executed.

Professor Patrick Lee Miller, with primary academic expertise in philosophy, came over from Duquesne University to head up the effort of building a center from scratch.

Without delving into what Dr. Miller has done thus far, here is how one makes such a program successful.

First, do not make any of the materials "anti" anything.

Focus on the great aspects of Western Civilization much more than analyzing the tired and trite tropes invented in this century against it. For the 3,000 or more years that the West has had a defined civilization, it has gone broader and deeper in more fields than any other. Along the way, in both voluntary and, admittedly, involuntary ways, the West has shared the best of its thought and applied science and uplifted everyone with whom it made contact.

The United States itself has shown itself among the best that the West has produced, alongside the Roman Republic and the British Empire. Students should learn what makes the American "City on a Hill" worth the world's examination.

Second, work done through the center must apply to a solid slate of potential employment outcomes.

West Virginia University sits about three and a half hours away from Washington DC. In and around the nation's capital sit endless numbers of public policy issue advocacy organizations. The Center should be forging relationships with those that offer internships of substance, such as Young America's Foundation and its project, National Journalism Center (full disclosure, I ran the academic programs of NJC for three years.) Internships and job opportunities can also come through friendly congressional offices.

Some will simply enjoy the opportunity to learn from a different perspective but most, especially among conservatives, will ask the question "how will this help me to get a job?"

Subjects taught should include a judicious mix of the intellectual and of the applied. History, Religion, Philosophy, Economics, and Literature form a foundation of advanced knowledge that give those who study it seriously an advantage. The Center can teach how to apply that knowledge in the fields of public policy, teaching, journalism, and other fields. It should work to place students in hands-on experiences at every opportunity, paid if possible.

The effort is needed because the West is worth it. Critics focus on the elements of violence and intolerance over Western history and pointedly ignore the overwhelming positive impacts.

Teaching the history or culture of any nation should focus on its positive impacts in history. Every real and established nation in history has much more to its credit than debits. Germany had a thousand years of advancing culture and history before National Socialism. The soul of Russia is much more than Lenin, Stalin, or Putin.

And the United States in a short 250 years has done more good around the world for more people in more places than any other nation ever. No other country has worked for the interests of others and against its own for the greater good to the extent of the United States.

And the fact that the nation has decided to focus on itself and its own people for a change should not lead to cries of injustice and murder.

Any academic that disputes that the United States has served in that global role should be regarded with a grain of salt. Unfortunately, a swarm of Leftist ideologues hold too many positions in all aspects of the American education system and has warped this truth in teaching and writing.

And this has led to another reason why this Center is so potentially valuable. Never has the system of American higher education been held in lower esteem. It has used federalization of student loans to gouge its customers who believed the veiled threat made for so many years that those who don't go to college won't advance in life.

As it charged more and more, the value of the product declined. Too many courses on silly and foolish topics. Too much time gaslighting American students into thinking they are the bad guys. Too much emphasis on shoe horning in ideas, such as Socialism, that have no legitimate application in reality. Now the average four-year college degree has less value than an associates degree, much less than a trades education.

The last role of the Center might be its most valuable. As America has served as a city on the hill for the world, the Center should serve as one for the broader West Virginia University community. Teach the legacy and impact of the West with confidence, without apology or explanation. Teach about the warts, of course, but understand that warts only occupy a small part of the total surface of the body.

Don't grimly teach why the other side is wrong. Teach why the West is a great and profound civilization and that understanding will follow.

Letter to the Editor

Here were go again the robber barons are about to r*** West Virginia land owners again!

This time they wish to take our land and its value in an effort to line their coffers again. The "Valley North" line will run through some of the most beautiful land and way of life left in West Virginia to send power to Virginia with no benefits to the people of West Virginia... with our citizens footing the bill through the loss of property value and higher electricity costs.

I AM ASKING FOR OUR LOCAL AND STATE OFFICIALS TO STAND UP and against this Valley project and support the well being of our West Virginia values... this project has no benefits for the people of our state... only broken promises and abuse of the citizens of Calhoun County and our neighboring Counties. We must stand together and stop the theft of our wealth. They took our timberland our natural gas and coal resources and the local people are about to be robbed again... all for the wealth of people who don't even live here. What little wealth we have is now in jeopardy and when that is stolen where will we turn were will you turn!? They want to take or pay you little for the land that they take while their project depletes the remainder of your homes value to zero... along with your whole life's sweat tears and equity.

Don't forget nobody wants to live anywhere near these power lines!

For many people, their children and grandchildren's wealth will be decimated... for many people that is a life time of hard work.

I just learned of this project I will respond with more as this sinks in. Not everyone will be affected but please stand up for your fellow neighbors you could be next and you ..in turn, may need the support from your fellow

Calhouniens.

Look up the "Valley North" power line proposal.

I'm late to the game I just found out about the project on June 25th and only because my neighbor was given a map of the proposed route. There is a time limit to comment on the project.

Meeting at Calhoun Highschool July 22nd to voice any concerns to the companies involved. May also be a good time to voice your concerns about your utility bill rate increases... just saying.

Reed Krack
7490 Nicut Road
Orma West Virginia
3046557504

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.

Town of Grantsville Releases Water Information

GRANTSVILLE MUNICIPAL
WV3300701
Consumer Confidence Report – 2026
Covering Calendar Year – 2025

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you would like to observe the decision-making process that affects drinking water quality or if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please attend any regularly scheduled water board meeting held on the *First Tuesday]* of each month at 6:00PM in the *Grantsville Town Hall* or call Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500.

Your water comes from Surface water:

Source Name	Source Water Type
INTAKE	Surface water
INTAKE 1-LITTLE KANAWHA RIVER	Surface water
INTAKE 2	Surface water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in sources water before we treat it include:
Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife.
Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.
Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.
Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system has an estimated population of 595 and is required to test a minimum of 1 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

Water Quality Data

The following table lists all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2025. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated at the MCL.
Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Non-Detects (ND): lab analysis indicates that the constituent is not detected.
Parts per Million (ppm): or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
Parts per Billion (ppb): or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): measure of the radioactivity in water.
Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body
Monitoring Period Average (MPA): An average of compliance results for individual points collected over the entire compliance monitoring period (e.g. monthly, quarterly and yearly).
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is a key test for surface water systems.
Running Annual Average (RAA): the average of compliance results over the most recent 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs
Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Testing Results - For GRANTSVILLE MUNICIPAL

Disinfectant Contaminants	Facility Name	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
CHLORINE	TREATMENT PLANT	2/11/2025	0.6244	0.0234	ppm	4	4	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
CHLORINE	TREATMENT PLANT	1/1/2025	3.09	2.10 3.09	ppm	4	4	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Collection Date	Highest LRAA Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	MISSION HOUSE	2025	17	17 17	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	[illegible]	2025	28	20 35	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

WATER cont. on page 5

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

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WEST VIRGINIA Press
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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.

AGRICULTURE

Continued from Page 1

taxes in the nation. We have now moved to 19th."

Much of the reason for the escalation comes from the rules package attached to prior legislation addressing property taxes. O'Dell stated that "it directs assessors to assess at replacement value" taxable items on a property. With replacement values escalated substantially by inflation, the property tax rates have risen considerably in a very short amount of time.

O'Dell noted that "we don't want to hurt the school system" and noted that it receives 40 percent of State tax dollars yearly.

He then discussed the momentum toward the establishment of data centers in West Virginia, stating that "they could be a significant economic driver in this state, should they be approved and built." O'Dell mentioned he knew of "eight or nine" currently proposed.

"West Virginia is late to the table on this," he stated, then went on to share that the State "could nearly do away with the personal income tax in this state if they are built and taxed as proposed," O'Dell added before noting opponents' environmental complaints.

Of the proposed major electrical transmission line plans, O'Dell stated that the West Virginia Public Service Commission "will make the final decision."

Significant issues from the federal level include a lawsuit from activists seeking to force every American farmer to monitor emissions from their fields after laying out fertilizer. The Environmental Protection Agency has thus far refused to take such a radical step, but O'Dell warns "this issue is not going away."

Proposed federal legislation also includes $15 billion for farmers affected by drought and other problems in production.

1982 FOUNDATION

Continued from Page 1

unique stone edifice of the former Calhoun County High School.

"My grandfather was one of the masons who laid that hand cut stone," Mersh stated. She remembered also that "I left seven days after I graduated. I married a Marine. When I left was the only time I ever saw my Daddy cry."

The powerful drives that pushed her from home included that "I left because I wanted to be a scientist." She concluded studies at Fairmont State, went to work for Mylan Pharmaceuticals as it grew into a global powerhouse in the industry. As she rose in the field, Mersh moved on to work for Novartis before starting her own company, Quality Executive Partners.

Her heart "rejoiced in all my labour" but "to every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." The season was coming where Mersh would return to her home.

"When Calhoun County High School came up for sale," she recalled "I got a lot of emails." Mersh asked herself and others "what could I ever do with it" and saw "no economic base for a profitable investment."

"What profit hath he that worketh in that where" she would "laboreth?" as the Preacher of Ecclesiastes might ask. Mersh then crafted a vision inspired by her own painful separation from home. She wanted the school, an old light of beacon, hope, and community, to return to what it once was, a center of life and opportunity for Grantsville and Calhoun County.

That inspiration led her to start the 1982 Foundation, named for her graduating class. From the beginning, the vision lay in "let's do more than the typical. Let's change their lives."

"For a dream cometh through the multitude of business," the Book of Ecclesiastes advises.

Three years ago, the Foundation opened the Saundra Johnson Aquatic Center. A $1.1 million investment produced one of the best such public facilities in the state. Mersh remembered the community pool of her youth, "a social gathering place." She saw it as vital to the community," it doesn't matter what happens."

She hired a staff of young people, but noted "the kids weren't into it. They were on their phones, hanging out." Few came to the pool and at a certain point, she projected that she would lose $15,000 that year. Then she went and did "more than the typical." Mersh challenged her staff.

She told them how much it would take to put the pool into profitable territory and that any profit made beyond $15,000 they could split between them at the end of the season.

Then Mersh turned the now free market motivated staff loose almost as partners in the endeavor. They ran their own marketing and created their own promotions, ending up able to split $16,000 between the eight of them. Meanwhile, Mersh taught them business basics, such as how to read profit and loss statements, the difference between red numbers and green numbers.

"The kids at the pool became our role models" for how to build a motivated workforce for the businesses envisioned.

Mersh has also worked to renovate and redevelop the former high school campus. One exciting addition will be a Montessori preschool that will also help to address the child care shortage in Calhoun County. Montessori schools use the model of least possible structure to encourage more growth and critical thinking in children as they learn.

The need for "child care is one of the biggest things that keeps people out of the workforce," she noted, many of them women.

Soon to come will also be a STEM (science, technology, math) based school for kindergarten through 12th grade. It could serve as many as 120 kids. Entrepreneurship will also serve as a strong focus. An entrepreneurship hub will provide a platform for locals who want to sell cottage and canned foods, homemade crafts, and other heritage items. A commercial kitchen will be available for those who need one to create foods safely to meet relevant health codes.

Already, the building hosts spice centered events where people come to experience the tastes and foods of far away lands. Mersh said that usually 30 attend, but at times they see as many as 50 take part.

The former school will continue to serve as a home for education, including practical classes in cooking in a separate teaching kitchen. Mersh envisions Food Network style cooking competitions to encourage interested residents to apply what they have learned all their lives in preparing delicious foods.

The building will also include a farmers market between the two buildings.

"In the back, we will also have an American grille style restaurant, The Varsity" that will offer elevated steakhouse fare and also wood fired pizza. It will use the exposed brickwork already in place for unique décor as well.

"There is nothing like this in any of the counties that surround us," Mersh noted.

On the top floor, the building will include eight Air BNB offerings. This will, along with lodging at Calhoun County Park, help to draw the kind of day trip and weekend tourism that has helped the town of Thomas in Tucker County grow into a tourism center.

In fact, "Thomas was our role model" in envisioning the renaissance of Grantsville, a once-bustling town that featured multiple restaurants, a roller rink, movie theater, and more. Prior to the arrival of Corridor H, Thomas had numerous empty storefronts but few businesses. Local initiative and capital helped to develop a number of niche enterprises. The town grew into a draw for DC and Northern Virginia tourists.

Mersh and others see that Grantsville and Calhoun County could develop the same types of "getaway appeal" for Charleston, Parkersburg, Clarksburg, et cetera. That Thomas, Davis, and Tucker County have for DC. She points out that the Overlander group's focus on Calhoun County serves as a sign for great days of economic development to come.

As the Preacher of Ecclesiastes stated "truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun."

And the work of so many in Calhoun County, including the 1982 Foundation, would seem to guarantee sunnier days to come.



A Statement From Mount Zion Public Service District

We have successfully excavated the leaking pipe. At a depth of seven feet we located a failed bell and spigot joint in our 8" main. The digging was complicated and ultimately took almost ten hours due to the construction debris in the fill used by the original contractors that built this extension to our system.

The conditions we found in the hole will require equipment and personnel beyond that which the PSD possesses to repair properly in a timely manner.

The unusual depth of this line places it at the limit for our excavator to even reach it. It appears that the original contractor laid this line directly on rock which flexes and deflects this segment. In order to be assured that there will not be a repeat of this failure it is necessary to jackhammer and remove the rock below the line so it can be reinstalled properly.

We are currently working to bring in a crew with equipment, manpower, and expertise necessary to complete this job. We will update you as soon as we have confirmed times.

The PSD has been aware of the improper installation on this section of line for many years. Unfortunately, the work occurred decades ago and we have no legal recourse at this time. While the rate of failure along 119/33 is higher than it ought to be, replacing this entire section early would result in far higher customer rates than repairing the problems as they occur. Every repair makes this segment of the system more reliable.

Thank you for your patience.

COMMISSION

Cont. from Page 1

to be working together as a community to see how does this want to affect us."

Hill added that she wanted to see the Commission examine the issues in a cost-benefit type of analysis, both in material and financial terms as well as intangibles.

Will Dobbins also came to speak against the project. He shared that "we're being asked to bear every possible burden for this project while receiving almost zero benefit." Dobbins also referred to health-related concerns and the history behind industrialization in West Virginia.

Commission President Lupardus thanked the citizens for sharing their concerns and invited them to stay in touch with the Commission., telling them "I'd like to share my email and then if we could do maybe a once a month update or once a week update." He added that he felt encouraged by seeing citizens organizing on issues and expressing their opinions with civility and patience.

Next, Commissioners heard from County Administrator Jennifer Randolph that she has not yet been able to secure responses on bids for a grant-funded project to put LED lighting in the courthouse. She asked the grantor for assistance in finding contractors willing to perform the work.

Commissioners moved next to a special funding request from the Calhoun County Hallowe'en Committee, which puts on a program yearly in Arnoldsburg. Commission President Lupardus noted "it's a very well attended event" and the body voted to approve $1,400.

Whitney Butler, Calhoun County Clerk, requested permission to purchase a new computer to help both speed up work and provide more space in the office. Butler explained that "it is about on its last leg. It doesn't wake up from its nap very well, and even once it's awake, The software doesn't load. It takes probably two to three minutes to boot up the software."

Additionally, a newer system would need less wiring and other components, freeing up valuable space.

Towards the close of the meeting, Butler made the case that her office needed an additional employee. One of the key reasons lay in official audits sharing "findings" that the office had too few staff and too little segregation of duties.

Commissioner Arthur noted that with the pace of inflation that the estimate price of $800 could be insufficient. He suggested in his motion that the Clerk's office be allowed to go up to $1,000 for the purchase price. This was approved.

Calhoun County Office of Emergency Management Director Kelli Barr delivered reports that included updates on implementation of Next Gen 911. Capabilities from the advanced version of 911 telecommunication include, as Federal Communications Commission head Geoffrey Starks has said, "location information available to public safety answering points more quickly", and systems that will "ultimately . . . support the transmission of text, photos, videos, and data between the caller, the PSAP, and the first responder team."

Another potential benefit could come from utilizing the NEXisConnect platform. As Ted Sparks, Logan County 911 director has stated, it "displays . . . location before answering a 911 call."

On a related note, Commissioner Rush shared that Roane County EMS will purchase a new ambulance with reliable environmental controls to preserve drugs safely. It will use Minnie Hamilton as its home base as well.

Next, Commissioners took a few minutes to praise the Calhoun Family Resource Network, Tina Persinger, and all who supported the establishment of Bert's Place. This facility offers housing geared toward helping those in drug recovery while connecting the resident to services.

As Commissioner Arthur explained, "I think if we approach it, the godly way and the right way, growing together, it gives us all second, third, maybe 100,000 chances. That's just the God that we serve. It was a blessing to see that action."

Commissioners then discussed water infrastructure projects. Commission President Lupardus urged that the County needed to remain in expansion mode and eyed potential projects to run the system to the boundaries of Roane and Ritchie counties in the future, after completion of current endeavors.

Commission President Lupardus also noted that the County could in the near future be the first county in the state with complete digital mapping.

WATER

Continued from Page 3

Chlorine/Chloramines Maximum Disinfection Level	MPA	MPA Units	RAA	RAA Units
6/1/2025 - 6/30/2025	1.90000	MGL	1.90000	MGL

AVAILABILITY OF MONITORING DATA FOR UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS
Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available.

If you are interested in examining the results, please contact: Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500.

Total Organic Carbon Lowest Month for Removal	Facility Name	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	TT	Typical Source
CARBON, TOTAL	INTAKE	6/10/2025	3.4	0 - 3.4	MG/L	0	Naturally present in the environment

Analyte	Facility Name	Highest Value	Unit of Measure	Month Occurred
Turbidity	TREATMENT PLANT	2	NTU	May

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & U	2/11/2020	0.145	0.145	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM-228	2/11/2020	0.0718	0.0718	pCi/L	0	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity
Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

Percentage of samples in compliance with Std	Months Occurred	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Month Occurred	Sources	Level Indicator
100.00	12	NO	2	May	TREATMENT PLANT	Yes

Total Organic Carbon
The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

TOC	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	TT	Typical Source
CARBON, TOTAL	6/10/2025	3.4	0 - 3.4	MG/L	0	Naturally present in the environment

Secondary Contaminants-Non Health Based Contaminants-No Federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Established.	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	SMCL
SODIUM	3/11/2025	18.4	18.4	MG/L	20

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90TH Percentile	Range (low/high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, [illegible]	2025	0.0525	0 - 0.0812	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2025	3.09	[illegible]	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

[illegible] Please pay special attention to this section if you are especially sensitive to [illegible] contaminants in drinking water, such as people undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). If you have a well, we encourage you to have your water tested annually for contaminants. Additional information is available from your local health department. Contact your health care provider for more information about this issue.

[illegible] Our water system is required to have a cross-connection control program to prevent contaminants from backflowing into the drinking water supply. We have chosen to comply with this requirement by participating in the Grantsville Town Cross-Connection Control Program. Backflow prevention devices are required on all new commercial connections. For more information about your water system, please call CRAIG FOLK at 304-354-7500. Please help us protect our water system, which is your only source of water. Do not allow anyone access to your water system unless they are employed by the Grantsville Town Hall.

[illegible] We are pleased to inform you that during the past year we have not had any violations of drinking water regulations. We have been purchasing water from the Grantsville Town Hall.

[illegible] We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a schedule as directed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health. The results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025 are shown in the data table. If our water system had violations during this period, you will find explanations and steps we have taken to correct the problem. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a schedule as directed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health. The results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025 are shown in the data table. If our water system had violations during this period, you will find explanations and steps we have taken to correct the problem. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a schedule as directed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health. The results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025 are shown in the data table. If our water system had violations during this period, you will find explanations and steps we have taken to correct the problem.

Our water system received [illegible], a preliminary engineering assessment and capital improvement plan for our water system. Work on our water system must be completed and in operation by November 1, 2027.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500.

Source Water Assessment and Protection
[illegible] A Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAP) Report was completed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health in 2003. The assessment report contains maps showing the source water assessment area for each of the sources listed above, along with an inventory of potential contaminant sources identified within these areas and a susceptibility ranking for each source. The report describes the origin and contaminants of concern for each source, and the factors that were considered during the determination of susceptibility ranking for each source. A copy of the complete assessment report may be viewed by contacting Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500. A source water assessment has been completed for our water system, and the results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and past sample results. Anyone who would like to review the source water assessment report may request a viewing of the report by contacting Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500. A Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) is available for public information regarding our system and potential sources of contamination. This plan is available for review at our office during normal business hours. Additionally, the plan is available for review at the Grantsville Town Hall. Copies of the plan may be obtained by contacting Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500. A source water assessment has been completed for our water system, and the results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and past sample results. Anyone who would like to review the source water assessment report may request a viewing of the report by contacting Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500. A Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) is available for public information regarding our system and potential sources of contamination. This plan is available for review at our office during normal business hours. Additionally, the plan is available for review at the Grantsville Town Hall. Copies of the plan may be obtained by contacting Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500. A source water assessment has been completed for our water system, and the results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and past sample results. Anyone who would like to review the source water assessment report may request a viewing of the report by contacting Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500. A Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) is available for public information regarding our system and potential sources of contamination. This plan is available for review at our office during normal business hours. Additionally, the plan is available for review at the Grantsville Town Hall. Copies of the plan may be obtained by contacting Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500. Additional information is also available from the West Virginia Source Water Assessment and Protection Program at http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oehs/eed/swap/default.htm. For more information on source water protection and to learn how you can help protect drinking water sources, visit the EPA at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect.html#general.

During the 2025 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Fed Rep ID	Compliance Period	Violation Type	Category	Rule	Explanation	Actions Taken by Water System
540874	4/1/2025 - 4/30/2025	MONITORING, ROUTINE, MAJOR (RTCR)	MON	E. COLI	Failed to collect routine or replacement coliform samples	
540880	4/1/2025 - 4/30/2025	MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	MON	CHLORINE	Failed to monitor/report as required for chlorine or disinfection by-products	
540878	5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025	SINGLE COMB FLTR EFFLUENT (IESWTRLT1)	TT	TURBIDITY	Turbidity exceedance (single sample)	
540875	5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025	MONITORING, ROUTINE, MAJOR (RTCR)	MON	E. COLI	Failed to collect routine or replacement coliform samples	
540877	5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025	FAILURE TO COMPLETE OR SUBMIT MOR	MON	CHLORINE		
540879	5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025	MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	MON	CHLORINE	Failed to monitor/report as required for chlorine or disinfection by-products	
540876	5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025	MONITORING, RTN/RPT MAJOR (SWTR-FILTER)	MON	CHLORINE	Failed to collect and/or report required surface water treatment monitoring	

AVAILABILITY OF MONITORING DATA FOR UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS
Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available.

If you are interested in examining the results, please contact: Chad Drennen at 304-354-7500

Additional Required Health Effects Language:
Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Testing Results for: Seller Name

Reseller Contaminants

This report will not be mailed. A copy will be made available for review or your use upon request.
Your CCR is available at Grantsville Town Hall. To receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact us at the phone number above.

The West Virginia Encyclopedia
www.wvencyclopedia.org

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

July 23, 1863: Financier and industrialist Isaac Thomas Mann was born in Greenbrier County. As president of the Bank of Bramwell and the Pocahontas Fuel Company for three decades, "Ike" Mann held vast holdings in coal, timber and especially financial institutions.

July 23, 1900: Author Julia Davis was born in Clarksburg, the daughter of future presidential candidate John W. Davis. She achieved acclaim writing for youth and adults, fiction and nonfiction. She died in Ranson, near her Jefferson County home in 1993.

July 23, 1919: Novelist Davis Grubb was born in Moundsville. His renown came with his first novel, *The Night of the Hunter* (1953), a gripping suspense story adapted into a classic film in 1955 and for TV in 1991.

July 24, 1823: Arthur Boreman, West Virginia's first governor, was born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. His family moved to Middlebourne, Tyler County, when he was still an infant.

July 24, 1919: Sam Taylor of Mercer County became the first West Virginia State Police trooper. During his tenure, Taylor tracked moonshiners and bootleggers, and helped set up new state police detachments.

July 24, 1929: Cornelius Charlton was born in East Gulf, Raleigh County. Charlton was killed in battle during the Korean War, and he was honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor.

July 24, 1942: Actor Chris Sarandon was born in Beckley. A film, stage and television performer, some of his credits include *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *The Princess Bride* and an Oscar nomination for *Dog Day Afternoon*.

July 24, 1983: Kansas City Royals hall of fame player and Glen Dale native George Brett was involved in the "Pine-Tar Bat Incident." After hitting a game-winning home run against the New York Yankees, the umpires ruled that Brett's bat contained too much pine tar and called him out. The ensuing melee at home plate is classic baseball lore.

July 25, 1864: A colony of eight Catholic nuns set out from Washington, D.C., and Frederick, Maryland, for Parkersburg. The sisters, who created a monastery there and named it DeSales Heights, ran a boarding school for young women for 75 years.

July 26, 1922: Country music producer and recording label executive Jim Foglesong was born in Lundale, Logan County. In Nashville, he found success working with Roy Clark, Donna Fargo, Hank Thompson, Barbara Mandrell, The Oak Ridge Boys, Don Williams and many other artists.

July 26, 1942: Camp Washington-Carver was dedicated and opened to the public. The camp, located at Clifftop, Fayette County, was the first statewide 4-H camp for African Americans in the country. The camp's Great Chestnut Lodge is West Virginia's largest log structure.

July 27, 1895: Singer, instrumentalist and educator Revella Hughes was born in Huntington. After becoming a star of the Harlem Renaissance, she returned home to care for her ailing mother and lead the music department of Cabell County's segregated Black school system.

July 27, 1896: Clark Kessinger was born near Charleston. He was among the most prolific and influential fiddlers of the 20th century, and one of West Virginia's most important traditional musicians.

July 27, 1909: Coach "Dyke" Raese was born in Davis, Tucker County. He directed West Virginia University to its first major sports national championship, winning the 1942 National Invitation Tournament in basketball.

July 28, 1836: Nathan Cook Brackett was born in Maine. In 1867, he founded and became the first president of Storer College in Harpers Ferry. For 25 years, it was the only Black college in West Virginia.

July 28, 1915: Frankie Yankovic was born in Davis, Tucker County. Yankovic did more to popularize polka music than any other performer.

July 29, 1873: Malcolm Malachi "Mack" Day was born. As sheriff of McDowell County, he claimed that God had called him to enforce Prohibition, even arresting an uncle and his own son.

July 29, 1900: Musician Don Redman was born in Piedmont, Mineral County, and then graduated from Storer College in Harpers Ferry. He was a multi-instrumentalist whose innovative arrangements for jazz greats laid the foundation for the big band era.

July 29, 1915: Camp Good Luck, the world's first 4-H encampment, began at Elkwater, Randolph County.

July 29, 1918: Novelist Mary Lee Settle was born in Charleston. Her experiences in West Virginia, World War II and life abroad shaped her writing, including the National Book Award-winning *Blood Tie*. She is best known for the *Beulah Quintet*, a five-novel series tracing four centuries of West Virginia history.

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Live Event Wednesday
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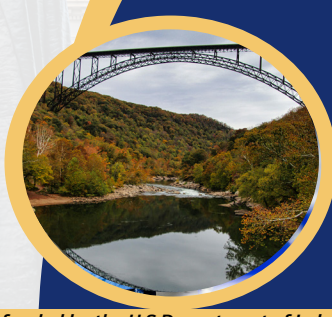
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM



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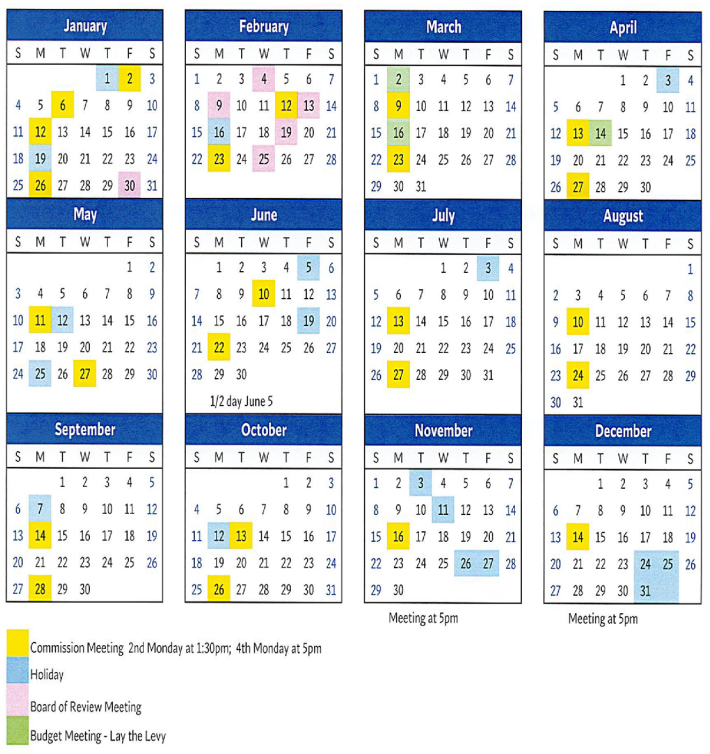
West Virginia's WIOA/Rapid Response program is 100% funded by the U.S Department of Labor through an award totaling $875,748.00

2026 Calhoun County Commission



LOCAL BUSINESS

DIRECTORY INFORMATION





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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TUCKER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE MATTER OF:
Muriel Lee Nicolosi,
Petitioner,
v. **Civil Action No. 26-C-16**
Rosabelle A. Nicolosi,
Respondent.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Muriel Lee Nicolosi, has filed a Petition for Emancipation pursuant to W.Va. Code §49-4-115. Any person objecting to such emancipation may appear and be heard in opposition to the petition at the hearing thereon, which will be held on **August 5, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** before the Honorable Anita Ashley at the Calhoun County Courthouse located at 363 Main Street, Grantsville WV 26147. The hearing may be rescheduled without further notice or publication.

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this the 20th day of July, 2026.

Circuit Clerk

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

(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

(2025-C-000003 - CALHOUN COUNTY - JAMES HICKEY & APRIL HICKEY)

To: OCCUPANT, DEAVIN BUTLER, JAMES BLANKENSHIP II, DEAVIN BUTLER, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA CIRCUIT COURT OF CALHOUN COUNTY, UNKNOWN CREDITORS, HEIRS AND ASSIGNS OF JAMES BLANKENSHIP III, UNKNOWN CREDITORS, HEIRS AND ASSIGNS OF DEAVIN BUTLER, 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 9999 PARCEL 0014 0001 0000

You will take notice that JAMES HICKEY & APRIL HICKEY, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2025-C-000003, located in CENTER District, BIG ROOT 1.85 AC SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of BUTLER DEAVIN & BLANKENSHIP JAMES II, 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. JAMES HICKEY & APRIL HICKEY requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after January 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before December 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 2024 - 519.	$	274.48
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 - 534.	$	223.64
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	209.95
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	914.50
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**1,622.57**

You may redeem at any time before December 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 July 14, 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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Appalachian Traditional Culinary Fellowship Accepting Applications

By Stephen Smoot

In his masterful epic work of history, David Hackett Fischer wrote of the cultural "ways" that settlers from the north English and lowland Scottish borderlands brought to the Appalachian frontier. There, traditional ways of cooking and eating blended with American Indian traditions. Settlers also found the frontier provided in some cases a bounty, and others a paucity, of foods traditionally enjoyed.

Mid Atlantic Arts, founded in 1979, provides direct grant support to projects throughout the region. Its Central Appalachian Living Traditions program offers an Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowship.

Two of the fellowship recipients for this year include Siara Benoit and Takia Gaylord of Mathias.

Benoit, according to the website, is an "autodidact whose civic engagement and independent study have shaped her more deeply than traditional education." IShe "turned to ancestral knowledge systems" and "embraces land stewardship and ancestral culinary practices as pathways to personal and collective healing.

Gaylord has a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from Tufts University who "designs and maintains Kinfolk Heritage Farm's growing spaces."

According to its website, "the fellowship started in 2022 during the Appalachian Food Summit. The Fellowship was launched because organizers recognized that there are few opportunities for monetary support and recognition of community-based foodways practitioners."

It also notes that the "foodways practitioner" has never received as much attention as other cultural fields. It offers as an example the fact that the "National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, our nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts, has never been awarded to a foodways practitioner."

Fellowships can go 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 respective communities."

That said, the list is not definitive. The fellowship is open to any type of practice related to the core mission of promoting and exploring traditional Appalachian food ways.

The application period opened last week, but closes on August 17. Those who earn the $5,000 fellowship commence work on November 1, 2026 and close by December 1, 2027. They must submit a final report on their work by January 31, 2028.

Applications are made online. Those submitting should be prepared to "upload 3 work samples of the highest quality available, with both recent and past examples to demonstrate the quality and longevity of the applicant's contributions. Samples may include Youtube links, audio clips, photos, website url, etc. "

All fellows must attend the 2026 Appalachian Studies Association to accept their award. A hand crafted item by an Appalachian artists will be given as part of the award. They must also "participate in a 1 hour session to share about their foodways work."

Costs and rates for residential electric bills

Air conditioning and heating are going to be the largest components of your monthly electric bill.

Let me take you through a number of things mentioned by the website ElectricRates.org.

Your bill can fluctuate because of old appliances, which can use vast quantities of power through inefficiency.

ElectricRates.org says heating and A-C account for between 40 and 60 percent of the average homeowner's electric bill.

This site suggests you can help control your electric rates by setting your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter. It helps if you can use a programmable thermostat. If not, fix the temperature by hand.

Check for leaks around windows and doors. This can be costly.

Check your current bill against the same month last year to see if this is one reason your costs have increased.

Old and inefficient appliances account for 10 to 25 percent of a customer's bill.

Consider replacing your older appliances with energy-efficient devices that bear an Energy Star certification.

Water heaters can account for between 14 and 18 percent of your bill.

To help in this area, you should fix the temperature at 120 degrees. Try to insulate your tank or consider a tankless or heat-pump water heater.

Devices on standby – what we call phantom loads, such as TVs, computers, chargers, and gaming consoles – all draw power when we think they are turned off.

Consider using power strips to actually turn them off. Unplug chargers when they are not needed.



PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

The old standby -- the space heater -- can cost you 10 to 30 percent more on your bill.

An average-sized space heater that runs eight hours a day can add 35 to 50 dollars to your monthly bill. Use sparingly and not for whole rooms. Keep rooms closed when the heaters are in play, and consider using a blanket instead.

Electric dryers, pool pumps, and poor insulation all have varying impact levels on your electric bill.

Poor insulation and air leaks can amount to up to 20 percent of your bill.

You should seal gaps with caulk or use weather-stripping. Put insulation in your attic.

And if you have an electric vehicle, that can add 25 to 60 dollars a month to your bill, depending on your rate.

Try to charge during off-peak hours.

All of us worry about our power bills. And I'm with you in having those concerns.

I hope this gives you some ideas about how you can manage yours.



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- Appalachian Treasures Quilt Show "West Virginia Wild"
- Artist Talk from Seay Earehart, Lead Scenic Artist for Netflix's *Stranger Things*
- Performance from John Ellison, Singer-Songwriter for "Some Kind of Wonderful"
- Appalachian Music with Daniel Lilly and The Lilly Mountaineers, Eternity's Crossing, Cassidy Dickens, Strings of Green and More
- Lincoln County Cloggers

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Friday, August 7 | 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Saturday, August 8 | 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM