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"Good Government, Pure Homes and Godly Hearts"

Whole Number 7242 | Grantsville, West Virginia 26147 | Thursday, September 24, 2026

"A Lot of Steps, A Lot of Paperwork, A Lot of Patience Along the Way"

Norman Ridge Water Project Goes Out to Bid

"We are excited to finally get this project moving forward!" shared Calhoun County Commissioner Craig Arthur, who has invested significant time and effort into helping to bring this and other projects to fruition. He added that "For years this project has sat idle until we started pushing hard again for this in 2023. Many people helped get this across the finish line including Pleasant Hill PSD staff and board members,"

The region has seen a growing need for safe water piped to the home. A number of residents have had to rely on wells or cisterns that can become unreliable during drought conditions. Others have to go to natural springs to obtain usable water. As Commissioner Arthur explained, "Many citizens supported this push, as many have had to haul water in the Norman Ridge area for years. Some have lost their husbands and now have been forced to try to haul water in their older ages. This extension project brings much relief to these citizens that have been promised water for well over 10 years."

Stephanie Good from Pleasant Hill Public Service District affirmed that the project had roots dating back to 2013 and in 2017 potential customers started paying tap fees. Good stated that Martha Harris signed on first 13 years ago. After all that time, Calhoun County Commission President Eric Lupardus was able to finally make the announcement in last week's Commission meeting that Pleasant Hill Public Service District would soon go out to bid on the Norman Ridge water expansion project.

"We went through a lot of different officials out at MOVRC (Mid Ohio Valley Regional Council). It

NORMAN cont. on page 4

Their Majesties Await the Festivities

The Molasses Festival Queens are ready and excited to commence their reigns. Photo courtesy of West Virginia Molasses Festival

Calhoun County Celebrates Old Time Traditions At Molasses Festival

By Stephen Smoot

Amanda Smith and her family moved to Calhoun County from Texas four years ago. While molasses may not have been one of the main selling points attracting the family, it has certainly occupied much of her time every fall since.

"This is our fifth Molasses festival," shared Smith. She serves on the festival committee along with Crystal Brennerman and Charles Thomas with Jason Nettles also part of "a whole effort."

Celebrating the old time Appalachian frontier tradition of molasses making has served as the focal point of the family-centered event since the beginning. Until cheap refined sugar entered American markets during the Great Depression, many in the remote areas of West Virginia made their own sweetener from sugar maple trees, honey, apple butter, or sorghum molasses. Maple requires certain conditions to thrive and does best in the higher elevations of the Alleghany Mountains. Sorghum famously thrives in extreme environments, having come originally from the North African Sahara Desert.

Handing down history and traditions to the younger generation is vital to the festival. Last year a reenactor talks about the Civil War with schoolchildren

Sorghum, which has similarities to corn, matures in September. At the same time as others have harvested corn or apples, farmers cut down the tall stalks, strip away the bitter leaves and seeds, then use a mule-powered device to crush the stalks in rollers. A vividly green colored juice is strained, then evaporated over a wood fire. One source uncharitably compares its appearance to "pond scum," but it also has a combined aroma of cut grass and sweet corn at this point. Those attending the process must continually skim off the foam that bubbles to the top, which contains impure materials. Once evaporated into a syrup, the liquid gets poured into jars for cooling and storage.

Of course the frontier had a tradition of gathering people from the area together when it was time to perform long hours of tedious work. Good company made the work go easier.

Thursday the 24th sees the opening of the festival at Upper West Fork Park. The big and little kitchen open up and start serving fresh made food. In the evening comes the crowning of the king and queen,

FESTIVAL cont. on page 4

State Treasurer and HOPE Scholarship Board Chair Larry Pack shared his vision for both traditional public schools and alternative models. Pictured here at the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Summit last month.

State Treasurer Touts HOPE Scholarship Impact While Also Calling for Better Support of Public Schools

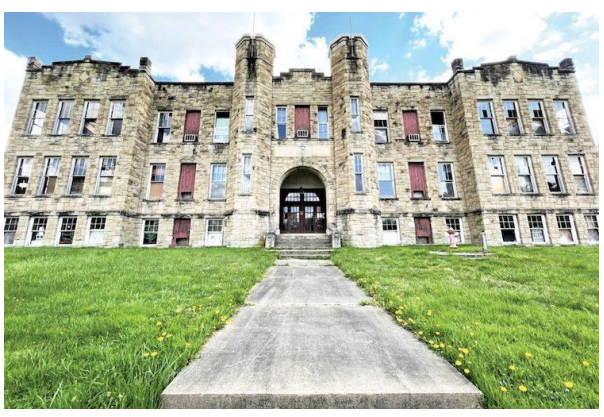
By Stephen Smoot

Many on both sides of the debate over traditional public education versus alternative forms of private schooling tend to frame the issue as either or. West Virginia Treasurer Larry Pack does not see public education on one hand as either traditional schools or homeschool-

HOPE cont. on page 10

Avalon Fall Festival & Open House Invites Public to See Five-Year Transformation in Calhoun County

October 2-3 event will feature guided tours, "Built to Last," local makers, food, music and family activities at the former Calhoun County High School.



The 1982 Foundation has repurposed the landmark former Calhoun County High School for a number of community purposes.

GRANTSVILLE, W.Va. - The 1982 Foundation will welcome the public to Avalon on October 2-3, 2026, for the 6th Annual Fall Festival and Avalon Open House, offering visitors an opportunity to see the transformation of the former Calhoun County High School and experience the broader vision taking shape on the campus.

What began as a community effort to preserve and reimagine a property with deep local history has grown into a multi-use development designed to support education, entrepreneurship, hospitality, recreation, community life and regional economic activity. The Open House will give residents, alumni, regional visitors and community leaders a closer look at how the historic school property is being adapted for its next chapter.

"Avalon is about more than restoring a building. It is about creating opportunities for young people, entrepreneurs, families and visitors while show-

AVALON cont. on page 3

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.

Home Country

Slim Randles

In a few days, all those rhymers who lived in Tin Pan Alley back when Gertie was a pup will be fulfilled once again. How's that you say?

Was a love song ever written that didn't have moon and in it? And the full moon will be here in a couple of days and it is our responsibility to go look at it.

A full moon is probably the basic cause of most superstitions and spooky stories and maybe even a religion or two. And that's because it shows us our world in an entirely different light than we're used to. A moon softens the hard edges of our everyday world. It casts a pall of loveliness on rocks and water and even old cowboys. And you know this is another reason so many people are married. In moonlight, even a cholla cactus looks friendly.

Many years ago we used to go to a place in the southwest part of Death Valley to catch wild burros. It was legal then, of course. Now keep in mind this is Death Valley in the summer. The lizards only came out at night and they each had a canteen. Yes, it was hot.

So what were supposedly human-type cowboys doing out there in that kind of heat? Sleeping in the shade of the stock truck. If we could. Because we only went jackassing there during a full moon, and only at night. This limited our burro roping possibilities, of course, because we wouldn't run our horses through the lava beds or in the shadows. The shadows were pitch black, and those lava beds could turn you and your horse into ground round, and becoming 2 acres of cowboy burgers didn't appeal to me.

So we'd hide in the shadows and watch the open valley before us. It was dotted with sagebrush and some other types of puckerbrush, but it was safe to run a horse there.

And soon, here would come the wild burros, wandering out into the valley, and we'd build a loop and come boiling out of there like the dawn of doom.

And if we were successful, we'd lead a wild burro back to the stock truck, talking to them all the time and letting them know that we had no intention of eating them.

One night I roped a little foal, put it up in front of me on the horse, and rode back to the truck. Along the way, I named him Barney. When the sun rose the next morning, I changed HER name to Barneyetta. We were the best of pals for years.

So why does this memory carve so deeply into my soul? Probably because it was done under a full moon. A full moon in the desert makes it almost light enough to read by, and at the same time making ugly objects become steeped in magic and mystery and beauty.

Don't miss the full moon. It's good for you.

Brought to you by the kids from Make-a-Wish Foundation. A gift from you will make you smile. 1-800-722-WISH.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I have a large collection of workbooks. They have a soft-cover and the pages appear to be made of paper similar to newspaper. Are these workbooks recyclable?

Dedicated Recycler

Dear Dedicated Recycler,

Since workbooks are made of paper, and paper is the most commonly recycled material worldwide, chances are your notebooks will be recyclable with a few checkups. Most workbooks are made of sheets of paper bound with a magazine-type cover, a cardboard cover, or a plastic cover. This cover must be removed before recycling the pages. The magazine cover (your soft cover) recycles with magazines, the cardboard cover recycles with cardboard, and the plastic cover goes in the trash. Before recycling the pages, check for heavily marked pages or pages with stickers. These pages should be torn out and trashed. The remaining pages with their soft cover can be recycled with magazines. After removing the cardboard cover or the plastic cover, the pages also recycle with magazines. Recycling these notebooks instead of sending them to the landfill is good for the environment. Every piece paper of paper recycled saves forests and minimizes energy usage. It means less rubbish sent to landfills, which produce methane that creates climate change. Have you considered donating your workbooks to a school or a group that works with children? Used notebooks can often be reused, particularly if they have empty pages.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Has the number of people using plastic bottles decreased after all the information that has been published about the hazards of drinking bottled water?

User of Steel Water Bottle

Dear User of Steel Water Bottle,

It appears that information about microplastics in plastic water bottles is finally having an effect. According to worldmetrics.org, 83% of U. S. households used plastic bottles regularly in 2023, whereas in 2026, this number decreased to 70%. However, the 40 billion plastic water bottles produced in the US indicates that the use of plastic bottles remains robust. Besides harmful microplastics found in bottled water, another concern is that BPA can leach from the plastics bottles during high temperatures leading to potential hormonal effects and hot water in plastic water bottles leach acetaldehyde molecules, a carcinogenic. Nano plastics that are smaller than micro plastics that leach from plastic water bottles can penetrate the blood-brain barrier causing inflammation in 93% of samples. Only 23% of plastic bottles in the U.S. are recycled and a single plastic water bottle takes 450 to 1,000 years to decompose in a landfill, releasing microplastics over time. The estimated 500 billion plastic water bottles used globally each year are a major contributor to the 60 million tons of plastic waste created globally every year. The cost to produce these plastic water bottles on the global market is projected to reach $78 billion dollars by 2028.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What are boxes like cereal boxes made of when it comes to recycling? I know that they aren't considered to be made of cardboard.

Need to Know

Dear Need to Know,

Cereal boxes actually are made of cardboard. Check the inside of your cereal box. If it looks like cardboard, it recycles with cardboard. Some boxes are made of white board, rather than cardboard, but they still recycle with cardboard.

Good News! Hawaii is testing a clever way to give ocean plastic a second life. They have found a way to turn discarded fishing nets and other recycled plastic into pellets that can be mixed into asphalt for roads. Researchers are studying whether these plastic-enhanced roads are durable and environmentally safe. The idea could help tackle two problems at once—marine debris and limited landfill space. Talk about making the road less wasteful! (fto.com)

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests recycleladywv@gmail.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

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.

Early Education and Schooling in West Virginia

By Stephen Smoot

In several months, the West Virginia State Legislature will convene its session for 2027. One of the primary topics of discussion will lay in the school aid formula.

The past 30 years have seen mounting costs for public education. For example in the 1980s many, perhaps most, of the schools in West Virginia lacked air conditioning. Today, HVAC represents one of the most pervasive costs of basic equipment used in schools. School buses in older times were more reliable and went longer without requiring maintenance. Modern emissions control devices in many cases have damaging effects on transmissions, leading to more transportation costs.

Schools have changed their focus as well. As society faces the impact of the decline of the traditional family, more children find themselves in homes that lack stability, or even caring. Grandparents now help or entirely raise about half of school age children in West Virginia. More children growing up without sufficient attention or care see developmental disabilities unaddressed, making their education more difficult.

Central offices have had to add staff to contend with modern issues, but the State will not cover their salaries.

Looking at where the area has been, however, in terms of education gives perspective on how the State can move forward.

In colonial times, education in Virginia came from the home library or that of family or friends. Those who had these resources and the motivation to use them could set themselves apart quickly. George Washington copied maxims from books on social behavior, taught himself mathematics and other fundamentals behind his first career as a surveyor for Lord Fairfax. He took this job at 16 and spent many months helping Lord Fairfax mark off lands in the South Branch watershed.

John Marshall grew up on the western frontier in Fauquier County. His father Thomas had a small collection of books and often borrowed from the library of Lord Fairfax. The young man who would grow up into one of history's great legal minds spent what would now be called the elementary school and middle school years devouring Roman and British authors, such as "Livy, Horace, Pope, Dryden, Milton, and Shakespeare," according to Jean Edward Smith, Marshall biographer and also Marshall University professor.

Smith described Marshall's early years as "an exceptional learning experience." Reading and rereading Alexander Pope gave Marshall common intellectual and cultural grounding with other Founding Fathers such as Washington and Benjamin Franklin.

Thomas Jefferson learned in a similar fashion, but saw this as a less than effective way to educate the masses. He proposed a public system of education, but the east and west of the Old Dominion disagreed. Eastern counties favored a system of public higher education while those west of the Allegheny Front advocated for early childhood and elementary education.

Harrison County hosted a meeting on the topic in 1841, with Judge Edwin Duncan explaining that the public Literary Fund paid for "a splendid university . . . accessible only to the sons of the wealthy planters of the eastern part of the state and to the southern states." He aergued that only two "from the northwest" attended.

"The men of small farms are left to their own means for the education of their children," shared the Judge. Books came at a premium price in the days before industrialized printing techniques.

Some areas did develop their own schools quite early on. Old Fields serves as the first location for a community school in modern West Virginia. Washington's 1748 surveying trip into the area noted that at one point he commenced work near "the School House."

Interestingly, this school was established on the Van Meter family's property near the fort. The current Hardy County Superintendent and future Harrison County Superintendent is Dr. Sheena Van Meter.

Impetus for more investment in expanding the school system prior to the Civil War came from continual reports that literacy in Virginia was in steep decline. By 1846, the General Assembly passed an act allowing county school commissioners to use local taxes to supplement efforts. Those funds were seen, as historian Charles Ambler wrote "as doles to the poor" and "fettered by much red tape in the forms of petitions and referenda and thus made impracticable."

Ambler added "instruction was, as a rule, poor and limited." Teachers were hired first for the ability to keep order in class.

After West Virginia achieved statehood, the first priority of the Republican Party "statemakers" lay in establishing a system of free public schools. Families had the option of sending children to them. Lawmakers advocated for them on the basis of the needs of the State. Early on, the focus lay on preparing students for patriotic citizenship, acquiring knowledge and skills to succeed in the workforce, and also military arts.

The State also constructed the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind in the former Romney Academy.

Free public schools became compulsory in 1897 when the Prussian system was adopted. After military defeat by Napoleon, the Kingdom of Prussia abolished serfdom and made childhood education mandatory. Prussia rose from secondary status in Central Europe to a dominant position by the 1860s. In 1872, it formed the leadership core of the industrial and military titan, the German Empire.

Prussian and later German success likely helped to recommend the model. State Superintendent of Schools and West Virginia historian Virgil Lewis also noted while promoting the legislation that only 15 percent of students attended and they came to class irregularly. Chronic absences bedeviled schools then as well as now.

Many of the same issues facing school systems in West Virginia today were seen then. The "good roads" movement did not start seeing benefits until after World War I. Some areas, such as Calhoun County, saw students boarding with families in town because they could not get from their homes to the schools.

Distance between home and school becomes an issue today when considering the cost of vehicles and fuel, as well as the dwindling number of school bus drivers.

School superintendents and other education administrators cite the fact that schools are continually asked to expand their roles. They are expected to provide support and assistance for students from homes facing significant challenges, stepping in where parents should all too often to provide for basic physical and emotional needs.

Historically, schools took care of education and almost nothing else. Their legal role as "in loco parentis" referred mainly to reactions to students, such as discipline, not in depth service and support.

School systems cannot undertake all of these roles and still have sufficient resources of time and money to educate. Yet until the traditional family returns as a predominant building block of society, large percentages of children will remain in need.

One option could be to build Communities in Schools into a mandatory part of every public school in West Virginia. They could operate within, but not as part of the county school system, or paid for by it. CIS would be the focal point of bringing together support and services to students, leaving school teachers and administrators with their focus on education.

CIS would then connect with other social service and mental health organizations to help the students in need while keeping educators' focus on education.

The past teaches lessons about education much as it does anything else. One lesson is that children can accept more intellectual challenges than they currently face. Washington mapped out northeastern West Virginia at the age of 16. Marshall was better versed in poetry and history as a teenager than many college professors.

Also, Alexander Hamilton learned mostly from books his father sold as a peddler and was fluent in Hebrew by his teen years. Harry Truman's favorite high school teacher in Missouri farm country was his Latin instructor.

These men worked broadly and thought deeply because they read books of true substance and/or artistry. They challenged themselves to become great, but understood the work and time needed to hit that mark. Washington taught himself surveying and also was one of the great experimental farmers of his day. These early skills and the time took learning them trained his mind for even greater achievements in life.

West Virginia's alternative systems of education are well-placed to educate children on the margins of public education, whether one means geographic margins, developmental and bahavioral margins, or parental preference margins. Homeschooling or the smaller classrooms of microschools have the flexibility to meet students at those margins because they are more free of regulatory and legal constraints.

Public school systems, however, will always be the workhorse educating most kids in state. We will always require them to carry the majority of the weight of the system. One has to keep the "workhorse" well maintained and supported as well because the families who choose these models deserve an effective education as well. Starving the workhorse keeps the work from getting done.

Fortunately, the economic development coming to West Virginia in the form of energy production and data center establishment will go a long way towards solving these fundamental funding issues. While state and local government should avoid simply using the excess monies coming down the pike to expand government, the hierarchy of state needs, including roads, health care, fire, EMS, law enforcement, and also public education, can be met at their level of need and provide a more effective level of service.

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and
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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.

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

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.

Calhoun County Solid Waste Authority Monthly Meeting September 23, 2026, 5:00 pm, Mom's Place Too, 340 Main Street, Grantsville, WV 26147

Monthly Tire Collection September 18, 2026, 10 - 2

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

AVALON

Continued from Page 1

ing what is possible when a community takes ownership of its future. This Open House is an opportunity for people to see how far we have come and where we are going next." shared Shana B. Spaur, Director of Operations, The 1982 Foundation Saturday, October 3, will feature guided tours from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and again from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. At 1:00 p.m., the "Built to Last" program will share the story of the project's journey and the community-driven work behind Avalon.

The weekend schedule also includes vendor booths, live music, a petting zoo, a quilt show, demonstrations, a car show, food offerings and family activities. More than 30 vendors and participants are scheduled to take part in the Fall Festival, including local makers, farms, food vendors and community organizations.

Avalon is being developed as a multi-use economic and community hub for Central West Virginia. The campus vision includes early childhood and K-12 education, hospitality, dining, retail and artisan opportunities, recreation, gathering spaces and programs designed to support local entrepreneurship and community engagement. The Fall Festival and Open House also provide an opportunity for visitors to spend additional time discovering Calhoun County, from locally owned businesses and dining to outdoor recreation, lodging and regional attractions.

West Virginia Tourism Economy Reaches Historic Milestone, Soars to Record $9.4 Billion Economic Impact

Annual Governor's Conference on Tourism highlights unprecedented visitor numbers, national accolades, and major state park investments

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Speaking before hundreds of tourism champions, hospitality leaders, and small business owners at the annual Governor's Conference on Tourism, state officials announced today that West Virginia's tourism economy has officially reached unprecedented heights, generating an all-time record economic impact of $9.4 billion.

"This tourism boom is a direct reflection of the hard work happening in every corner of our state, proving that when we cut red tape and move at the speed of business, travelers and companies alike are ready to experience everything West Virginia has to offer," said Governor Morrisey.

In 2025, the Mountain State welcomed 78.4 million visitors, marking a 1.6% increase over the prior year. Overnight travelers grew by nearly 2%, injecting $6.8 billion directly into local communities, averaging $18.7 million spent every single day to support small businesses, lodging, and outdoor recreation.

The announcement comes on the heels of major national recognition. Travel + Leisure recently ranked West Virginia as the second most naturally beautiful state in America, noting it as the only state in the top ten to perform consistently well across every category measured.

West Virginia's growing list of national accolades includes the New River Gorge, which was named one of the 11 most beautiful places in America by Architectural Digest and recognized as the nation's best underrated travel destination by U.S. News & World Report. Southern Living celebrated the town of Davis as one of the best Southern mountain towns to visit, while Travel + Leisure also highlighted the state as a top destination for an extended autumn season. Additionally, the West Virginia Department of Tourism earned the prestigious U.S. Travel Association ESTO Award for its 2026 Vacation Guide, with over 350,000 copies distributed since January.

To maintain momentum, a wave of upcoming infrastructure enhancements and private-public partnerships are currently in the works. This includes a $1.8 million investment at Twin Falls Resort State Park dedicated to comprehensive cabin renovations and brand-new lodge HVAC upgrades, alongside an additional $475,000 for upgraded cabin interiors and high-quality mattresses.

Launching in spring 2027, Out&West will introduce 32 upscale canvas-tent glamping sites featuring hotel-style furnishings across four state parks: Pipestem, Blackwater Falls, Lost River, and Summersville Lake.

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park is also celebrating the grand opening of the new Slabtown Campground this month, featuring 100 new sites, select equestrian hookups with corrals, and full amenities along the Greenbrier River Trail.

Other exciting developments include the historic Hill Hall Hotel project bringing a beautifully restored century-old building to downtown Fayetteville near the New River Gorge, the completely modernized and renovated tram at Hawks Nest scheduled to reopen to the public next spring, and a newly announced partnership between the Department of Tourism and the DNR with Firefly Ridge to bring fresh, innovative outdoor developments to state parks.

"From our record-breaking $9.4 billion impact and our soaring short-term rental market to our booming food, beverage, and recreation sectors, West Virginia is proving that authentic experiences matter," said Kayla Kessinger, Secretary of Tourism. "People are coming here for adventure, for peace, for unmatched natural beauty, and for the genuine warmth of Appalachian hospitality."

The booming visitor economy continues to serve as a vital engine for local prosperity. Tourism directly and indirectly supports 61,728 jobs across West Virginia, meaning roughly 1-in-15 jobs in the state are tied to the visitor economy. Visitor activity generated $2.3 billion in total personal income and brought in $643 million in state and local taxes, translating to nearly $882 in tax relief for every household in the state.

This progress builds upon a broader economic transformation across West Virginia, which has secured approximately $96 billion in private-sector investment and more than 19,000 projected jobs in less than a year.

"The secret is out, but our best days are still ahead of us," said Governor Morrisey. "Together, we are going to keep building on this record-breaking success, pushing new boundaries, and showing the world why West Virginia is truly Almost Heaven."

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NORMAN

Continued from Page 1

seemed like every time we got someone new, we had to start over," shared Good. Regional planning and development councils, such as MOVRC, often work with local entities to obtain grant funding and other support. They receive a percentage of grant funding awarded to compensate for their work and provide revenues for their operations. She added that Jim Heldreth, MOVRC engineer, helped to finally get the project underway.

By the fall of 2024, "I was asked to handle going out and getting easements for the project," stated Good. She explained that the PSD sent out letters to potential customers, needing 62 for the project to get underway while also securing the easements, in which property owners sign off on allowing infrastructure to cross their property. "It was definitely a group effort," recalled Good, sharing that "the Board we have now, they went out of their way to get everything we needed. They, Good, and Commission President Lupardus went door to door to secure the needed signatures for customers and easements, along with Hildreth.

Good also shared the dire need addressed by the project. "A lot of (the new customers) are elderly." During drought conditions when water wells failed, some of the new customers had to arrange for water transport. Good noted that volunteer fire companies helped to provide bulk water for a donation as well.

Additionally, she wanted customers to know that despite the length of time taken, "we definitely want people to know it was our top priority to get Norman Ridge off the ground." About 65 more households will now have access to public water as a result of those efforts.

Water and sewer projects often take significant time to put together. They often pull from different funding sources, which take time to apply for and receive. Permitting and other planning and preparation adds to the time required.

Applicants may bid on two contracts. The first goes for a "water distribution system including the furnishing and installation of approximately 4,950 (linear feet) of 8-inch waterline, 15,000 l.f. of 6-inch waterline, 26,500 l.f. of 4-inch waterline, 19,600l.f. of 2-inch waterline and miscellaneous appurtenances.

The second contract will be for "storage plant repainting including the repainting of a nominal 27' diameter x 24' high 100,000 gallon water storage tank and miscellaneous appurtenances."

A major step towards completing the process came in 2022. The Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council shared early that year that "staff prepared and submitted three infrastructure funding applications to the WV Department of Development for the Governor's recommendation to the Appalachian Regional Commission. It passed along the Pleasant Hill PSD request for $1 million. Governor Jim Justice returned with a recommendation for $2.5 million because, as a release from his office stated, residents "currently rely upon private wells or cisterns that provide poor quality or insufficient quantity of water." Calhoun County was assisted by categorization as "a distressed county" and funds from the United States department of Agriculture were "fully committed to the project."

In the same slate of grants, Minnie Hamilton received $2.5 million to "replace the water and sewer lines" at the Grantsville facility.

The advertisement for bids reported that "a pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on Oct 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pleasant Hill Public Service District . . . attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged, but not required." The deadline for bids is 1:30 p.m. on Oct 22.

"Seeing this project officially go out to bid is something worth celebrating," said the Pleasant Hill PSD in a release, then added "we're proud to see this project move forward and look forward to what it will mean for the future of our water system and the communities we serve." Good added that "it might have seemed like it took a long time, but we did everything we could in a timely manner."

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1

as well as the pretty baby contest.

Today's Molasses Festival brings those in modern times back to that sense of community coming together for a productive and positive purpose. Smith explained that involving young people in these traditions is vital.

"We focus a lot on the kids," shared Smith. "Friday is our heritage day when the schools come." Those include Calhoun County as well as Roane County students. "We rotate in stations," Smith explained. Students get to watch molasses making while also having an opportunity to enjoy a magic and canine show. Towards the evening, the Lions Club will hold a bingo game and live music will entertain from the stage.

Most importantly, however, the students get a chance to watch the older generation carefully craft the sweet liquid that serves as the inspiration for the fun and games. "They show the process of pushing the cane through the mill," Smith said.

The big day comes on Saturday with the parade lineup starting at Arnoldsburg Elementary School at 11 o' clock a.m. Two hours later, the parade begins with Charlotte Bain and Cooper Summers, both West Virginia State Champion wrstlers, serving as honorary parade marshals. After the parade comes Lions Club Bingo at three o' clock, parade awards at 3:30, and live music again at the same time.

During the entire proceedings, Smith expects that at least 40 vendors will sell their wares or services but that more could come at the last minute.

All that said, the Molasses Festival is not honoring a tradition that has passed by the wayside and only appears in late September. "There are still people who grow cane. We got the cane from the local community." The practice, Smith says, still has "deep roots in the community." The pace of the work is slow, but gives opportunity to observe and learn. Smith shared that she enjoys "watching the actual machines do that. That's old in itself."

Another major part of the effort to bring the festival to fruition every year comes from generous sponsors. These include Minnie Hamilton Heath System, Calhoun Banks, Arnoldsburg Medical Clinic, Arnoldsburg PTO, Hope Gas, and Calhoun County.

Built to Last: Another look at our History to see what we can learn from the past

The Goal was to Build Something Permanent....and so they did!

HOW A COUNTY WITH NO RAILROAD BUILT A FUTURE FOR MANY GENERATIONS BY DEFEATING THE SIX YEAR BATTLE LATER REFERRED TO AS THE CAMPAIGN OF DIRTINESS.

CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT WE WOULD HAVE BECOME HAD THEY NOT FOUGHT FOR CALHOUN CHILDREN? THEY HAD REAL FIGHT IN THEM AND SO DO WE. OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT LITERALLY JUST LIKE IT DID THEN! ENJOY THE HISTORY!

Calhoun County High School under construction on the South Side, ca. 1921–22. The Arnoldsburg Formation sandstone is up to full height — parapets stepped, crenellations cut, the twin entrance turrets finished to their caps — but there is no roof, no sash, no glass, and the ground is still raw spoil and scattered lumber. Count the men: eight or nine standing on the parapet and atop the turrets, hats on, nothing under them, and more looking out from the empty window openings on the upper floors. Nearly all of them were Calhoun County men. The caption across the bottom of the old print, in someone's hand, reads simply "High School Grantsville, W. Va."

On the Fourth of July, 1921, somewhere between three and five thousand people came to Grantsville. The town had maybe four hundred and fifty residents.

The hotels and restaurants were full by noon. The soft drink stands and confectioneries were mobbed all day. The Calhoun Chroniclereckoned it about as big a crowd as the town could comfortably hold, and one of the most orderly gatherings anybody could remember. The morning program ran on the courthouse lawn — devotions from Rev. J. Smith Dye of the Baptist church, a welcome from Albert G. Mathews, and Bruce Ferrell reading the Declaration of Independence in what the paper called his inimitable manner.

Then, in the afternoon, a delegation from the West Virginia Grand Lodge of Masons formed up and led the whole crowd across the Little Kanawha to the South Side, where the walls of a building were coming out of the ground. Gay Stalnaker, president of the High School Board, invited the Grand Master to lay the cornerstone. It was set according to Masonic ritual, sealed with a deposit of coins, rosters, newspapers, and other small evidence of life in 1921.

That stone is still there. As far as anyone knows, it has never been opened.

SIX YEARS OF FIGHTING TO GET TO A GROUNDBREAKING

Nothing about this building came easily, and the hardest part happened before a shovel touched dirt.

Into the 1910s, a Calhoun student who finished the eighth grade and wanted more had two choices: leave the county, or go over to the Glenville State Normal School in Gilmer. High schools were becoming a point of civic pride across the country, and some people here wanted one badly. Others — many of them poor, and taxed already — saw a luxury they were being asked to pay for and did not want.

The campaign got ugly. One account written years later called it simply a campaign of dirtiness. On June 10, 1915, the levy passed anyway, 599 to 300. Grantsville attorney Bruce Ferrell had written the bill; Delegate Howard Waldo carried it through the legislature.

A month later, somebody filed an injunction and the whole thing stopped cold. It sat until the circuit court dissolved it on March 22, 1916.

Then the second fight started, because approving a high school and siting one are two different arguments. Mt. Zion wanted it. Arnoldsburg wanted it — Arnoldsburg had lost the county seat to Grantsville in a struggle that ran thirteen years and produced at least one mysterious courthouse fire, and it had not let go. Grantsville won again, on the plain practical grounds that students had to get themselves to school and most of the students lived there.

The first High School Board of Directors — J.M. Hamilton, William Webb, G.W. Hardman, C.M. Eisman, and W.J. Sharps — went to work. In August 1916 they levied an additional fifteen cents per hundred dollars of assessed property value toward the site and the building. Their estimate for the whole project was $40,000.

The building would eventually cost $150,000.

THE LAND, AND THE ARCHITECT WHO CAME BEFORE IT

In an order of operations that would raise eyebrows today, the board hired its architect first and bought its land second.

S.W. Ford of Clarksburg came aboard in 1917. Stephen Wardner Ford was a Harrison County man, born in 1875, self-taught. He married Ina Vista Heavener over in Lewis County in 1900, practiced first in Salem, and settled permanently in Clarksburg in 1908, working out of the Harrison Building for the rest of his life. He designed houses, municipal buildings, and churches across north-central West Virginia until his unexpected death in 1944.

Ford worked in frame and brick. Stone does not appear in his known catalog — which is worth remembering, because the most striking thing about Calhoun County High School is that it is made of stone.

The land came on June 15, 1918: seven acres and eighty-one square rods bought from Florence Pell and her husband J.W. for $2,377.38, cut out of their fifty-three-acre tract at the mouth of Phillips Run. Old-timers knew that ground as the John Ball home place. A log cabin stood on it, put up sometime between 1835 and 1845, and in 1919 it was torn down to make room. One of the first structures in the settlement came down so the county's most ambitious one could go up.

Ford brought his plans in February 1920. On June 20 of that year, Scott Peninger — one of the county's pioneering educators — turned the first ground.

BUILT BY HOUNERS

Then, for the better part of a year, not much. The Great War had scrambled supply chains across the country, and material was slow coming into a county that had no railroad and would never get one. Everything arrived by river or by narrow, ill-kept road.

On April 21, 1921, the Chroniclewas finally able to report that active work on the big building on the South Side had commenced the week before.

The board hired William Holmes of Xenia, Ohio as construction foreman. Nearly everyone under him was local. P.Q. Shrake, a brick mason and contractor who had run the site the previous year, hauled in machinery for moulding and burning brick and set it up right on the school grounds to manufacture brick on site. M.A.C. Board's mill supplied a hundred thousand feet of framing lumber. The sandstone — Arnoldsburg Formation, a genuinely fine building stone — was quarried at sites around the county and hauled in.

The photograph at the top of this page was taken somewhere in the middle of all this. The walls are finished — every course of that stone quarried in this county, hauled to this bottom, and set by hand — but the building has no roof and no windows. What it has is men standing on the parapet.

Nobody made them climb up there for the picture. They climbed up because it was theirs.

There was a moment when it nearly went another way. With brick being fired on the property anyway, someone floated the idea of running the upper two floors in brick instead of stone. It would have been cheaper and faster.

They stayed with the stone.

Whose decision that was isn't recorded, but it almost certainly wasn't Ford's — brick was his habit, not stone. The likelier answer is local. Grantsville's Eureka Lodge went up in 1921 using the same sandstone laid by the same method, at the same time, and it is hard not to see the same hands and the same civic appetite behind both. Two decades later the county would build its fourth courthouse from that stone too.

What Ford gave them was Collegiate Gothic: a rectangular plan, a deep half-round arched entrance flanked by twin turrets, stepped parapets with corner crenellations, and rock-faced ashlar with tight beaded joints. It's a style that traces back to 1894 and Cope and Stewardson's work at Bryn Mawr, meant to summon Oxford and Cambridge. It went up on college campuses from coast to coast.

It also went up on a river bottom in a county of eleven thousand people who mostly farmed.

WHAT IT COST, AND WHAT IT MEANT

The overrun — $40,000 estimated, $150,000 spent — looks alarming until you put it beside the calendar. Wartime and postwar inflation ate a good part of it. The rest went into the decision the county kept making over and over: to build something permanent rather than something adequate.

The money to attempt it at all came out of the ground. Grantsville's real growth started with the Yellow Creek oil field in 1901, and gas strikes elsewhere in the county followed. Outside capital came in behind them. Godfrey L. Cabot built what was then the world's largest carbon black factory two miles from town, burning natural gas for the black pigment that would soon be going into automobile tires. Cabot's operation and the Hope Natural Gas Company employed a great many men in the county fields. Consolidated Natural Gas kept a district headquarters in Grantsville from the 1920s on. Timber went down the Little Kanawha to Parkersburg, and more than fifty shallow-draft sternwheelers were built in and around Grantsville to work that river.

Here is the part that gives the building its edge. By the early 1920s — while the walls were still rising — Cabot was already moving carbon black production out of West Virginia, first to Louisiana and then to Texas. The Grantsville plant was sold off and converted into a compressor station. The boom that made the school thinkable was ending before the school opened.

The doors opened Monday, September 17, 1923. Marvin Cooper came over from Glenville to serve as principal — a thickset, driving man of forty-five who left no room for a student to talk back — and better than a hundred students enrolled. Cooper started a football team that fall and a baseball team that spring, and the Red Devils have been the Red Devils ever since. The first class graduated in the spring of 1925: nineteen students.

Ground broken to doors open: three years and three months.

Two decades later, in the small hours of a winter morning in 1942, fire started in a basement electrical room and took everything but the walls.

That's the next story.

Brooke Tingler Breaks School Record, Finishes Fourth at 26th Annual Chick-fil-A XC Invitational

CALHOUN COUNTY, W.Va. (September 12, 2026) – Calhoun County Middle High School standout **Brooke Tingler**, a freshman, made school history Saturday at the **26th Annual Chick-fil-A Cross Country Invitational**, breaking the school's high school cross country record with a remarkable time of **21:00** while earning an impressive **4th-place finish** overall.

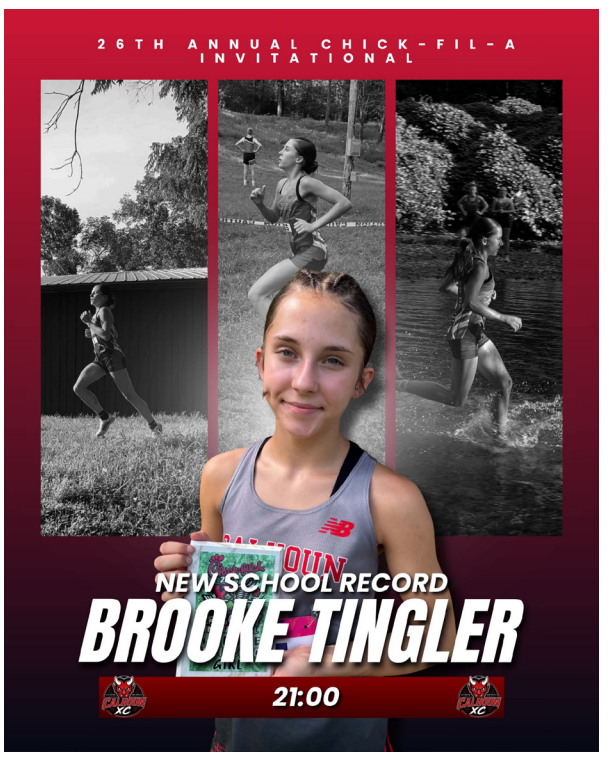
Competing against a talented field of runners from across the region, Tingler delivered a breakthrough performance that surpassed the previous Calhoun County Middle High School record and established a new benchmark for the program. Her fourth-place finish among some of the area's top competitors highlighted both her determination and her ability to perform on a big stage.

"Brooke's accomplishment is a testament to her dedication, perseverance, and work ethic," said members of the Calhoun County coaching staff. "Breaking a school record is an incredible achievement, and to do so while placing fourth at such a highly competitive meet makes it even more special."

The Chick-fil-A Cross Country Invitational is known for attracting some of the strongest runners in the region, providing athletes with an opportunity to compete against elite competition. Tingler rose to the challenge, running confidently throughout the race and crossing the finish line in **21:00**, securing both a top-four finish and her place in the Calhoun County record books.

The record-setting effort was celebrated by teammates, coaches, family members, and supporters who recognized the significance of the accomplishment. Beyond the new school mark, Tingler's performance reflects the continued growth of the Calhoun County cross country program and serves as an inspiration to future Red Devil runners.

As the season continues, Tingler will look to build on her historic achievement while helping lead Calhoun County Middle High School in upcoming competitions. With her new school record and outstanding fourth-place finish, she has already established herself as one of the program's most accomplished runners.



Monongahela National Forest Hosts Annual Cranberry Shindig September 27

RICHWOOD, W.Va., September 18, 2026 – Everyone is invited to the annual Cranberry Shindig Sunday, September 27, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center on the Monongahela National Forest. Bring the entire family to enjoy a day of mountain music, square dancing, artisans and fall color.

This year's event will feature old-time square dancing and the Old Dominion Cloggers. Starting at noon in the picnic shelter, long-time caller and dancer Lou Maiuri will provide square dancing instruction. Anyone can participate, no matter the skill level. At 1:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., the Old Dominion Cloggers will perform. Music will be provided by both the Juanita Fireball and the Continental Drifters.

In the nature center auditorium, The Bing Brothers, featuring Jake Krack, will perform starting at noon. Roy Moose with his Snakes of West Virginia program will be set up outside during the event.

In addition, demonstrations by artisans include soap making, fly tying, crocheted and knitted items, wood carvings, handmade jewelry, and more. Vendors will display and sell their wares, and food will be available for purchase.

We encourage visitors to explore these special scenic places while in the area.

Cranberry Glades, a National Natural Landmark, is especially beautiful during the fall when cotton grass is blooming and plants and trees are displaying their fall colors.

View three cascading waterfalls from the boardwalk at the Falls of Hills Creek.

Take a scenic fall drive on the Highland Scenic Highway.

The Nature Center is located 16 miles west of Marlinton and 23 miles east of Richwood at the intersection of Rt. 39/55 and Rt. 150 (Highland Scenic Highway). For more information about Monongahela National Forest please visit our website and social media.

About the Forest Service: The Forest Service has brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation for more than 100 years. Grounded in world-class science and technology — and rooted in communities — the Forest Service connects people to nature and recreation opportunities. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, supports the nation's forest industry and energy needs, and operates the largest and most respected wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. By providing assistance to state and private landowners and working with tribes and other partners, the Forest Service also helps steward an additional 900 million forested acres within the U.S.

Calhoun County Committee On Aging
October 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2% Milk And Margarine Served Daily	Menu Subject To Change Without Notice		1 Beans w/Ham Onions Apple- Cabbage Slaw beets ww Cornbread	2 Chicken w/pasta Stir fry Vegetables fruit Ww bread
5 Creamed chicken and Noodles Carrots Mixed Fruit Ww roll	6 Hamburger Patty on ww Bun Lettuce/Tomato Potatoes Sweet Corn Fruit	7 Fish Peas Mustard Greens ww bread Oranges	8 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Stem Vegetables Applesauce ww Garlic Toast	9 ham Salad sandwich Whole Wheat Bun Tomato Soup Onions/pickles Fruit ww crackers
12 Center Closed For Columbus Day	13 Baked Pork Chop Mashed Potatoes Mushroom gravy Spinach Applesauce ww Bread	14 Taco salad Cheese Lettuce Tomato Sour cream salsa Brownie Fruit Ww nachos	15 Chicken Patty onion Potatoes Vegetable pasta salad Grape juice ww bun	16 Mixed Vegetable with beef Soup Peanut Butter Sandwich Pineapple Gelatin ww crackers
19 Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes Gravy Green Peas Mixed Fruit ww Bread	20 A1 steak Mashed potatoes broccoli Fruit salad Ww bread	21 Meat Loaf Mashed potatoes gravy Carrots Grape Juice ww Bread	22 BBQ Rib & Onions Green Beans Peaches Potatoes ww Bun	23 Fish Potatoes Tomatoes, pickles Corn Fruit ww bun
26 Pinto Beans onions Brussel sprouts Fruit ww cornbread	27 Beef macaroni Tomato Onions Beets Fruit Ww bread	28 Cook's choice	29 Baked Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Carrots Ww bread Fruit	30 Calico Beans Kale Ww Cornbread Fruit Onions

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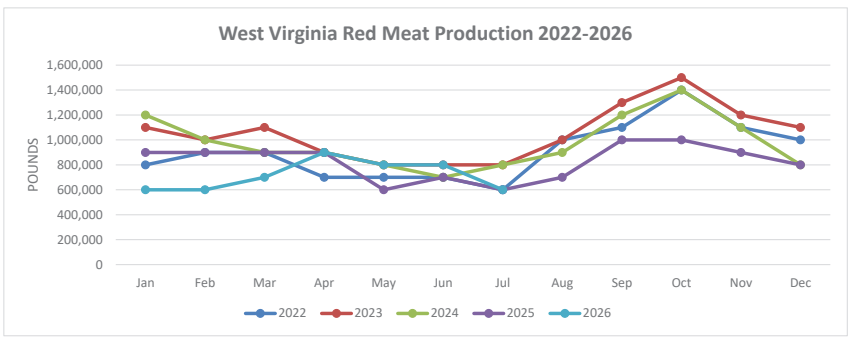
West Virginia Field Office
in cooperation with
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Kent Leonhardt, Commissioner
Alissa Cowell-Mytar, State Statistician

MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

Released: September 2026 Volume 39, Number 9

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in West Virginia during July 2026 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was down 14 percent from July 2025. **Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 672,000 pounds live weight, down 11 percent from July 2025. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 78 pounds from the previous year, at 1,291 pounds. **Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 129,000 pounds live weight, down 35 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from the previous year, at 275 pounds.



CASH RECEIPTS

Charleston, West Virginia - The 2025 cash receipts from farm marketings for all agricultural commodities in West Virginia totaled 1,179,471,000 dollars, an increase of 104.6 million dollars from 2024. Receipts from livestock and livestock products accounted for 80.1 percent of the State total. Cash receipts from crops accounted for 19.9 percent of the 2025 total.

The largest contributor to the agricultural marketings in the State continues to be poultry and eggs. Cash receipts from the poultry industry, which includes broilers, eggs, turkeys, and farm chickens, accounted for 44.4 percent of the State total. The second leading contributor was cattle and calves which accounted for 28.9 percent of the total in 2025.

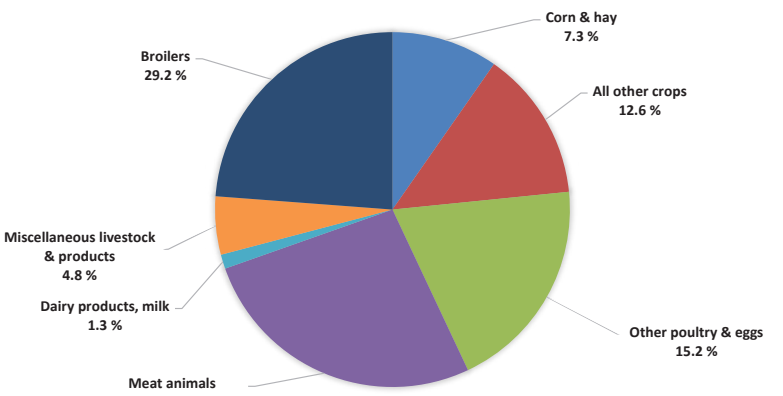
Nationally, West Virginia ranked 30th for cash receipts from poultry and eggs. Broilers were the main contributor from poultry and eggs, accounting for 29.2 percent of cash receipts in the State, ranking 20th in the nation. Other highly ranked West Virginia commodities include farm chicken receipts at 10th in the nation, turkey receipts at 11th in the nation and maple products at 12th in the nation.

West Virginia Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings: 2021-2025 [1/]

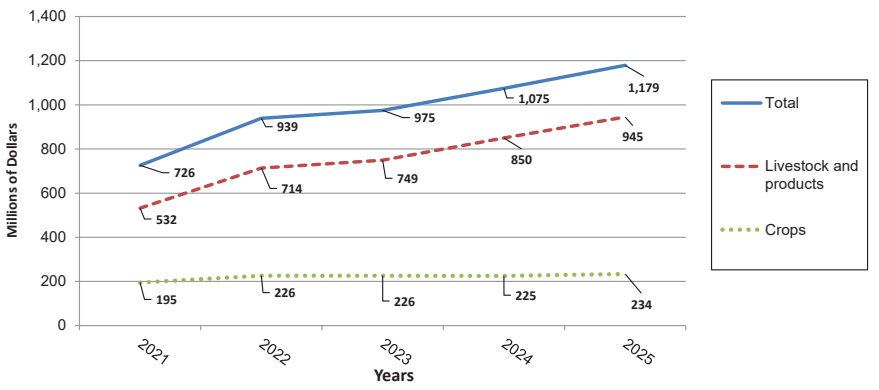
Commodity	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
			(000) Dollars		
Livestock and products	531,651	713,511	749,292	850,125	**945,126**
Meat animals	177,087	199,974	259,908	303,926	**349,030**
Cattle and calves	176,169	198,818	258,566	296,047	**340,328**
Hogs	918	1,156	1,342	7,879	**8,702**
Dairy products, Milk	13,213	18,323	13,130	12,312	**15,892**
Poultry and eggs	291,432	443,585	424,269	480,632	**523,796**
Broilers	137,362	253,555	232,224	347,351	**344,509**
Chicken eggs	58,331	64,852	71,677	61,637	**64,567**
Farm chickens	273	1,609	1,176	537	**135**
Turkeys	95,466	123,569	119,192	71,107	**114,585**
Miscellaneous livestock and products [2/]	49,918	51,629	51,986	53,254	**56,408**
Trout	978	1,193	2,090	2,163	**-**
Honey	1,326	1,613	1,741	1,523	**1,449**
Mohair	1	1	1	1	**1**
Wool	104	117	112	62	**64**
Other animals and products	47,509	48,705	48,041	49,504	**54,894**
Crops	194,631	225,512	225,589	224,769	**234,345**
Food grains (Wheat)	-	-	-	-	**-**
Feed crops	66,529	86,399	92,150	82,515	**85,938**
Corn	22,467	29,148	25,605	18,516	**13,157**
Hay	44,063	57,251	66,545	63,999	**72,782**
Oil crops (Soybeans)	-	-	-	-	**-**
Fruits and nuts [3/]	-	-	-	-	**-**
Apples	-	-	-	-	**-**
Peaches	-	-	-	-	**-**
All other crops [4/]	128,102	139,112	133,440	142,254	**148,406**
Maple products	-	-	-	570	**720**
Floriculture	19,173	17,385	16,742	18,378	**25,033**
Mushrooms	-	-	-	-	**-**
Miscellaneous crops	108,929	121,727	116,698	123,306	**122,653**
All commodities	726,282	939,023	974,882	1,074,893	**1,179,471**

[1/] Cash receipts reflect sales of commodities from farms where produced within a calendar year irrespective of the year of production. Data as of September 3, 2026. Values are rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not add due to rounding. '-' Means not available and in a forecast year indicates that insufficient data exists to forecast cash receipts for that commodity, and the amounts are instead included in the aggregate forecast totals. In an estimate year '-' indicates that commodity survey data is not available, and the amounts are instead included in either the 'miscellaneous crops' or 'all other animals and products' category. Beginning in 2021, any cash receipts for industrial hemp are included in the 'miscellaneous crops' category. [2/] Includes equine, sheep, and all other livestock. [3/] Includes miscellaneous fruits and berries. [4/] Includes greenhouse/nursery, Christmas trees, oats, vegetables, tobacco, and other crops. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/farm-income-and-wealth-statistics/data-files-us-and-state-level-farm-income-and-wealth-statistics.

Cash Receipts: Selected Commodities, West Virginia, 2025



Cash Receipts: Major Commodities, West Virginia, 2021 - 2025



WEST VIRGINIA CASH RENTS

West Virginia's **farm real estate value**, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, increased from 2025. Farm real estate value for 2026 averaged $3,640 per acre, up $120 per acre from last year. Cropland value increased $180 from last year to $4,400 per acre. Pastureland, at $2,400 per acre, was $70 higher than the previous year.

Cash rents paid to landlords in 2026 for cropland averaged $38.50 per acre compared to $44.50 per acre last year. Pastureland rented for cash averaged $19.00 per acre compared to $16.00 per acre last year.

West Virginia Cash Rents Expense per Acre

Land type	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change 2025-2026
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(percent)
Cropland	41.50	45.00	47.00	44.50	38.50	-13.5
Pasture	12.00	14.00	14.00	16.00	19.00	18.8

West Virginia Land Values, Average Value per Acre

Land type	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change 2025-2026
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(percent)
Cropland	3,700	3,920	4,050	4,220	4,400	4.3
Pasture	2,200	2,220	2,250	2,330	2,400	3.0
Farm real estate[1]	3,080	3,300	3,420	3,520	3,640	3.4

[1] Includes value of all land and buildings.

RMA REMINDS PRODUCERS OF UPCOMING CROP INSURANCE DEADLINES FOR FALL PLANTED CROPS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds agricultural producers that the final date to apply for or make changes to their existing crop insurance coverage is quickly approaching for fall planted crops. Sales closing dates vary by crop and location, but the next major sales closing date is Sept. 30.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2027 crop year. Crop insurance coverage decisions must be made on or before the applicable sales closing date. The USDA's Risk Management Agency lists sales closing dates in the Actuarial Information Browser, under the "Dates" tab.

Producers can also access the RMA Map Viewer tool to visualize the insurance program date choices for acreage reporting, cancellation, contract change, earliest planting, end of insurance, end of late planting period, final planting, premium billing, production reporting, sales closing, and termination dates, when applicable, per commodity, insurance plan, type and practice. Additionally, producers can access the RMA Information Reporting System tool to specifically identify applicable dates for their operation, using the "Insurance Offer Reports" application.

Federal crop insurance is critical to the farm safety net. It helps producers and owners manage revenue risks and strengthens the rural economy. Producers may select from several coverage options, including yield coverage, revenue protection and area risk plans of insurance.

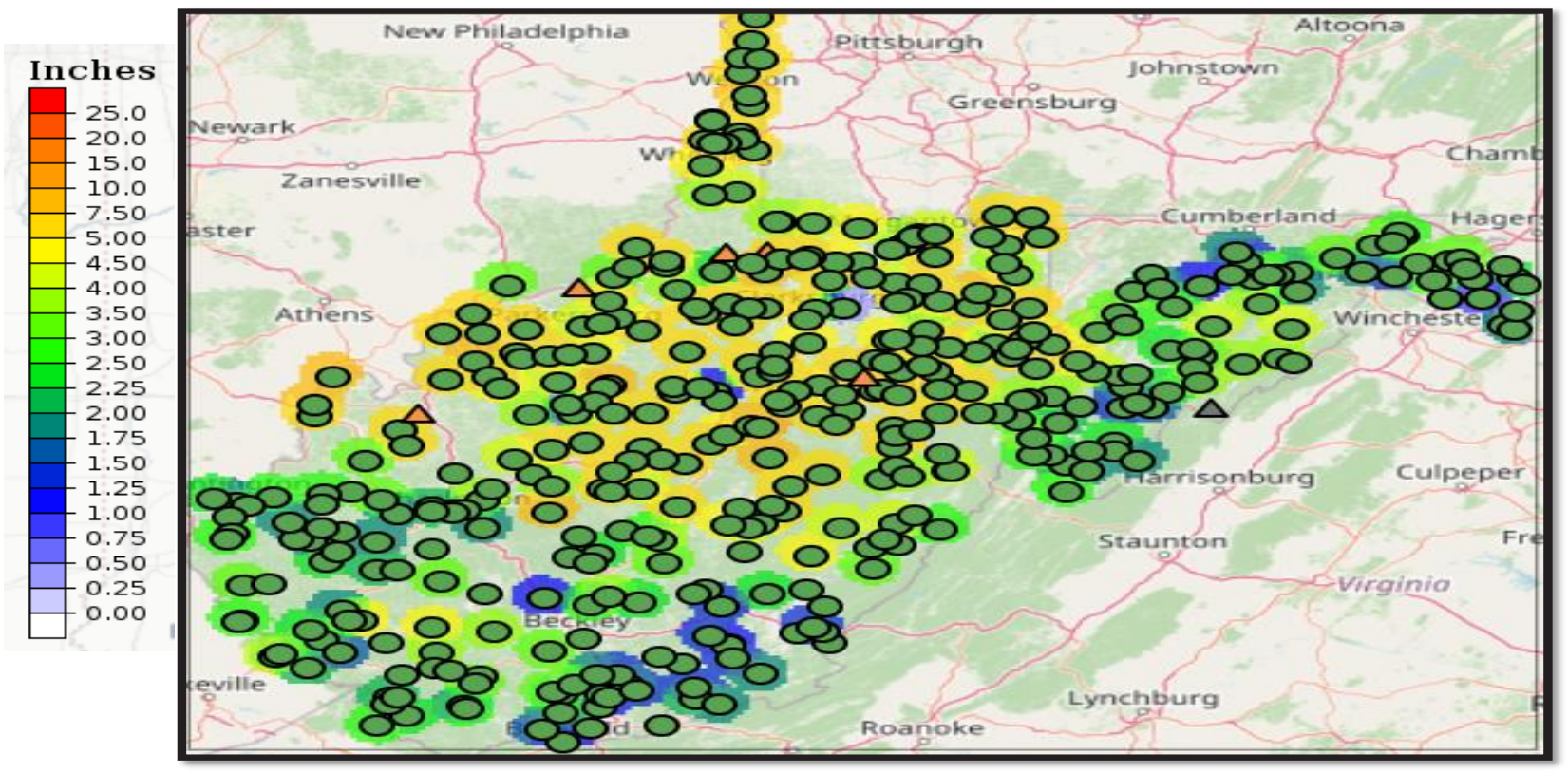
Crop insurance options include Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm. Whole-Farm Revenue Protection provides a risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one insurance policy and is available in all counties nationwide. Micro Farm aims to help direct market and small-scale producers that may sell locally, and this policy simplifies record keeping and covers post-production costs such as washing and value-added products.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available online at the RMA Agent Locator. Producers can learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov or by contacting their RMA Regional Office.

PRECIPITATION MAP

The WVEMD (West Virginia Emergency Management Division) IFLOWS (Integrated Flood Observation and Warning System) consists of 4 base stations, and 256 monitored meteorological gauges, all of which contain rain monitoring sensors. Over half of these also measure additional weather data, such as wind, temperature, and humidity. Through a coordinated effort with other State and Private entities, WVEMD IFLOWS funds the West Virginia Stream Gauge Network, which is serviced by the US Geological Survey (USGS). The West Virginia Stream Gauge Network consists of over 160 monitored stream gauges. The purpose of the WVEMD IFLOWS website is to provide access to meteorological and stream stage information during storm events. We are continuously coordinating with relevant Agencies, to ensure the effective utilization of this information, in flood forecasting, early warning systems and emergency response planning.

Below is the map showing West Virginia rainfall over the last 30 days (August 16 - September 17, 2026). Please visit https://wvdhsem.onerain.com/ for more information.



To look for West Virginia Statistics, visit our webpage:
USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - West Virginia

988
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Work continuing on Calhoun Chronicle Church Directory

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

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

APOSTOLIC

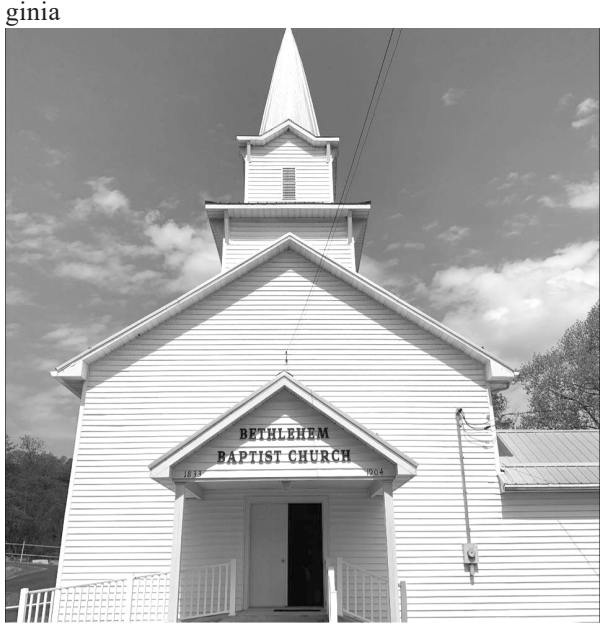
None listed

BAPTIST

The Church at Annamoriah

PASTOR DR. BARRY A. MILLER

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



BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School 10 a.m. – Worship 11 a.m.

Pastor: Tom Law

Route 5 East Little Kanawha Highway, Grantsville, WV

Brooksville Church Missionary Baptist

Pastor Matt Sanders, Sunday School – 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.,

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 PM (Adult & Youth Programs). Phone 304-354-6967 The Perfect Church for Those Who Aren't! Find us on Facebook! Brooksville Missionary Baptist Church

Chapel Baptist

1710 Nobe Rd Big Springs, WV, 26137, Pastors Harold Francis and Tom Law, Sunday and Wednesday Services 6 P.M. beginning in November.

(304) 354-6080 https://www.chapelbaptist.org

Enon Baptist Church

Russett Road Grantsville, WV 26147 Pastor John Vannoy

First Baptist Church of Grantsville

Associate Pastor Rick Godfrey

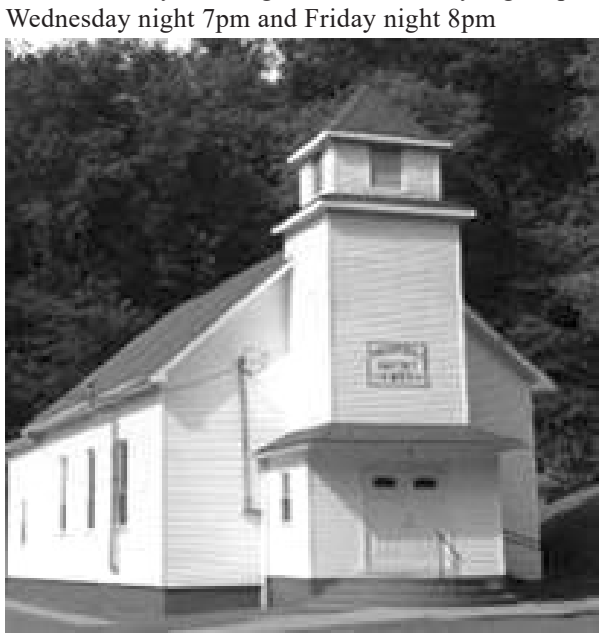
Sunday: 10:00 – Sunday school 11:00 – morning worship

Wednesday: 7:00 – Bible study

Pastor Ron's cell: +1 (304) 786-6273 Home: (304) 477-3339

Freedom Baptist Church

Chloe, WV, Campus Pastor Steve Boggs. Open at 10am Preaching at 10:30 am Call 304-655-7692 for information: Internet services Done by Pastor (Mike Worf) at Freedom Baptist Church of Okeechobee Florida Sunday morning 10:30am, Sunday night 8pm, Wednesday night 7pm and Friday night 8pm



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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CATHOLIC

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

701 Mineral Road, Glenville, WV.

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

Holy Redeemer

602 Parkersburg Rd. Spencer

(304) 927-2013

holyredeemerwv@gmail.com

St. Elizabeth of Hungary

St Rt 14 S, Elizabeth

(681) 236-2700

stelizofhungary@gmail.com

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

INDEPENDENT

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH

Pastor, Rick Matheney

3757 N. Calhoun Highway, Grantsville, WV 26147.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Church

Big Bend, WV Pastor: Mike Doherty Phone: 304.916.4668 Sunday Morning: 10:00 am Sunday Evening: 6:30 pm Wednesday Evening: 7:00 pm

METHODIST

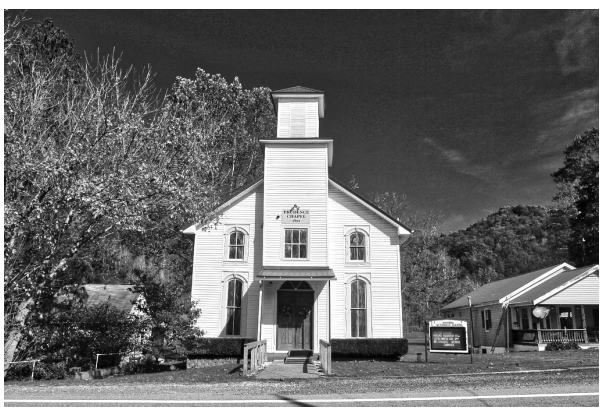
ALBERT'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am

Mt Zion United Methodist Church

Worship 10:00 am, 304-514-1346

Prudence Chapel



CLOSED

Walker Church

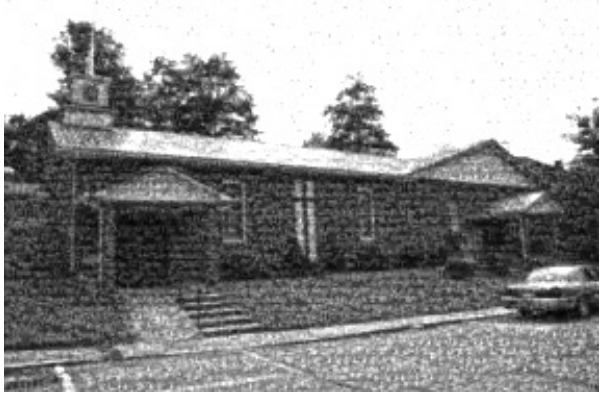
CLOSED

Orma United Methodist

CLOSED

Knotts Memorial Church

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



NON DENOMINATIONAL

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

Walnut Grove Community Church

6030 Barnes Run Rd

Arnoldsburg, WV 25234

Pastor Clark Samples

Sunday 10 AM & 6 PM

Thursday 7 PM

Updates are posted on our Facebook page, Walnut Grove Community Church

Local Business Directory Information

Protection your loved ones deserve ...
GUARANTEED Life Insurance up to $30,000.00
Modified Whole Life Insurance from Physicians Life Insurance Company
- Guaranteed acceptance for ages 45 to 85*
- No medical exam, no health questions
- Lock in your rate for life

Call for your FREE Information Kit
1-888-217-5559
Life55plus.info/WV
▸ Plus – you'll also get a FREE Final Wishes Planner just for calling!

*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Benefits reduced first two years. Insurance Policy L770 (ID: L770ID; OK: L7700K; TN: L770TN).
6236-0625

Calhoun graduates mark your calendars for October 9th, 2026

It will be a special night at the Calhoun Red Devil home football game. There will be a roped-off section of the bleachers for graduates to sit together and cheer on our home team.

The evening will be full of memories from school, visiting with friends, cheering with the cheerleaders and watching our school band. One more thing-there will be Calhoun Band Boosters hot dogs! It will be a great time and hope to see lots of you there.

KEEP IT LOCAL

Your trusted source for local news in print, online and on the go!

The Calhoun Chronicle
P.O. Box 400
Grantsville, WV 26147
contact@calhounchronicle.com

Who Will Pick Up the Keys Next? Bob Yoak's Legacy of Service to Veterans

For 23 years, Bob Yoak has picked up the keys.

He picked them up when a Veteran needed a ride to a medical appointment. He picked them up to travel the winding roads, small towns, and rural communities across West Virginia. Trip after trip and year after year, Bob made sure Veterans could get where they needed to go.

The Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center (LAJVAMC) Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) would like to congratulate Bob on the achievement of 23 years of dedicated volunteer service to our Veterans and their families.

A 1966 graduate of Calhoun High School and a U.S. Navy veteran, Bob and his wife, Nancy, have called Big Springs home for many years. Bob knows these communities and the people who live in them. For more than two decades, he has put that knowledge to work helping his fellow Veterans.

Since beginning with the LAJVAMC VTN in 2004, Bob has driven 385,202 miles, served 3,515 Veterans and their families, and volunteered nearly 18,000 hours.

To put that mileage into perspective, Bob has driven the equivalent of traveling around the world at the equator more than 15 times.

But if you know Bob, you know the numbers only tell part of the story.

Behind those 385,202 miles are thousands of trips. There was always an appointment to get to, a Veteran waiting for a ride, and Bob willing to get behind the wheel.

Over 23 years, the weather did not always cooperate, either.

Bob has seen plenty from the driver's seat. There have been states of emergency, flood watches, tornado watches, and sudden squalls of snow. Anyone who has spent much time driving the roads in and around Calhoun County, West Virginia, knows how quickly the weather can change.

There are some stories from those years that the people who know Bob will probably never forget. On one occasion, Bob came home from a trip to find Nancy, his wife, had taken shelter because of threatening weather. On another trip, the forecast was calling for the weather to deteriorate while he was gone. Before Bob left that morning, he made sure Nancy knew how to start their generator in case the electricity went out.

Then Bob did what Bob has done for 23 years. He picked up the keys.

That says quite a bit about the kind of volunteer Bob has been. It was never just about accumulating miles or hours. It was about being dependable. Veterans knew somebody was coming. Bob knew they were counting on him.

For the last two and a half decades, Bob has been a familiar face behind the wheel and a steady presence for the Veterans he has served. Some trips were long. Some started early. Some probably took him into just about every nook and cranny of this part of West Virginia. Every one of them mattered. Now We Need Someone Else to Pick Up the Keys

As Bob gets ready to retire from the VTN, we are incredibly grateful for everything he has given to our Veterans. His retirement also leaves us with a critical need, particularly in the Calhoun and Gilmer County area.

We need volunteer drivers.

You do not have to drive 385,202 miles.

You do not have to volunteer 18,000 hours.

You do not have to be Bob Yoak.

We just hope you might be willing to pick up the keys.

Whether you can drive one day a week or several days a week, there is a Veteran who can benefit from the time you are willing to give. VA provides the vehicle and fuel for approved VTN transportation. Volunteer drivers must meet applicable VA requirements, including a driver's license, age (21 years or older), medical, and driver qualification requirements.

Bob has kept the tires moving since 2004. He has traveled our highways, back roads, hollows, and communities, helping one Veteran at a time get where they needed to go.

As Bob finally gets ready to hang up the keys, we want to thank him for every one of those trips. We also want to thank Nancy, who has shared Bob with our Veterans for many years and, on at least one occasion, had to know how to get that generator running while he was out helping others. We thank Nancy for her willingness to share Bob with us and our Veterans. We have been changed for the better because we've known Bob and had the opportunity to work alongside him.

Bob, thank you for 23 years of showing up, picking up the keys, and making sure our Veterans knew they could count on you.

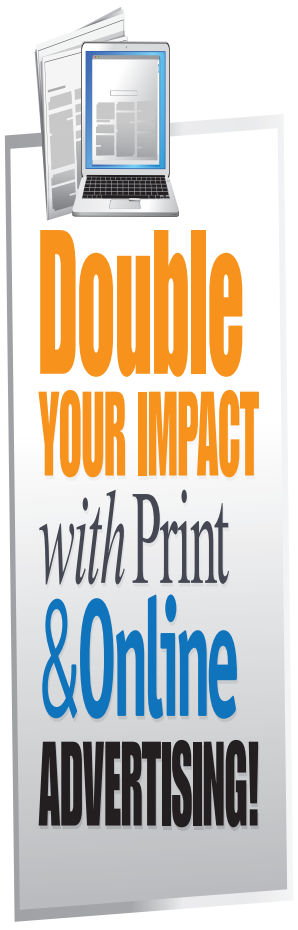
Those are remarkable numbers, but the legacy behind them is pretty simple.

A Veteran needed a ride. Bob picked up the keys.

Now we are looking for the next person or persons willing to do the same.

For more information about becoming a volunteer driver, contact the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center, Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) at 304-623-7621.

Western Auto
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT SALES, PARTS & SERVICE for
Husqvarna, Stihl, Briggs & Stratton
Western Auto is also your home and garden store.
315 Main St., Glenville
304-462-5631



LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

Serve Your Community. Make a Difference.

The Calhoun County Commission is seeking interested residents to serve on the **Mt. Zion Public Service District (PSD) Board**.

A Public Service District is a public corporation and political subdivision responsible for overseeing essential utility services that protect the health, comfort, and convenience of district residents.

Board Member Responsibilities

- Help ensure reliable water, sewer, and/or stormwater services for residents
- Oversee the operation, maintenance, improvement, and expansion of district facilities and services
- Attend board meetings (at least monthly)

Eligibility Requirements

- Must reside within the district
- Only one board member is required to be a rate-paying residential customer
- Newly appointed members must:
  - Take an oath of office at the County Clerk's Office
  - Successfully complete training established and administered by the Public Service Commission

Compensation

Board members are compensated for meetings attended based on the number of customers served by the district. Compensation ranges from $75 to $125 per meeting.

Why Serve?

By serving on a PSD Board, you help guide critical infrastructure and utility services that directly impact the quality of life in your community.

Interested?

Send a letter of interest to PO Box 230 Grantsville, WV 26147 or email calcom26147@gmail.com.

Help shape the future of your community's essential services. Volunteer to serve on your Public Service District Board today!

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 26-0704-G-390P
MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY
Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program Filing for 2027

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

On July 31 , 2026, Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer) filed its annual Application for approval of an Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program for 2027 (2027 IREP) with revised IREP rates for 2027, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 24-2-1k, which authorizes the Public Sen./ice Commission of West Virginia (Commission) to approve cost recovery of projects to replace, upgrade and expand natural gas utility infrastructure that are deemed to be just and reasonable and in the public interest.

In its Application, Mountaineer forecasts capital investment for calendar year 2027 of $83,000,000 as part of its multi-year plan. The 2027 IREP covers several categories of plant asset replacements and improvements, including mains, service lines, measurement and regulator stations, and house regulators. These plant investments are proposed to be made in Mountaineer service territories throughout the State. These investments are identified in the Application, which is on file and available for public inspection at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia and which may be viewed on the Commission's website, www.psc.state.wv.us.

Mountaineer proposes to increase IREP revenues by approximately $8,611,000 for IREP investments made from 2025 to 2027 through an increased IREP rate component to be effective on January 1, 2027, within the fixed or volumetric base rate component of its rates, depending on the applicable rate schedule under which service is rendered. Mountaineer projects that if the program and IREP rate increase are approved as requested, the average monthly bill for its various classes of customers will be changed on January 1, 2027 as shown below:

Mountaineer Gas Company - Proposed		
Type of Customer	$ Increase	% Increase
Residential	$ 2.40	2.79%
Commercial	$ 6.56	1.96%
Large Commercial (*)	$ 359.07	0.62%
Large Commercial	$ 454.84	0.22%
Industrial	$ 488.33	2.29%
Wholesale	$ 78.66	0.84%
(*) Percentage increases for Large Commercial and Industrial customers assume transport customers purchase their natural gas at the same price as the Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment rate.		

The increases shown above are compared to the rates currently in place and are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Each class may receive an increase greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive an increase that is greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increase or decrease) by the Commission in its review of the filing. Any change in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Commission.

The Commission set a procedural schedule, including a hearing date on the Application that will begin at 9:30 a.m. on November 6, 2026, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. If no opposition to the Application is received by the Commission prior to the hearing date, the hearing may be waived and the Commission may issue a final order within 150 days of the Application filing date.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene within 10 days following the date of publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. All requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the request to intervene and comply with the rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission will receive written public comments. All written comments and requests to intervene should state the case name and number and be addressed to the Commission Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Public comments may also be filed online at http://www.psc.state.wv.Us/scripts/onlinecomments/default.cfm by clicking the "Formal Case" link.

MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY

LEGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in him by that certain Deed of Trust, dated January 31, 2024, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Calhoun County, West Virginia, in Document No. 1982432, in Book No. 189, at Page 232, Austin D Metheney did convey unto Robert H. Skeens, Jr., Trustee(s), certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Seneca Trustees, Inc., as Substitute Trustee; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by MidFirst Bank to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Calhoun County Courthouse in Grantsville, West Virginia, on

September 30, 2026 at 12:00 PM

the following described real estate, together with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in 06 - Washington District, Calhoun County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

A tract of land situated on the waters of Beech Fork in Washington District of Calhoun County, West Virginia, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the intersection of Meadow Run. Road and the easterly edge of a private driveway to the subject parcel; thence leaving Meadow Run Road and with the driveway approximately 396 feet to an iron pin, being the TRUE PLACE OF BEGINNING; thence in an easterly/southeasterly direction along the fence line approximately 803 feet to an iron pin, which iron pin is approximately 25 feet from the property line of J. D. and Inga Brewster; thence in a southerly/southwesterly direction, approximately 25 feet to an iron pin; thence in a westerly, direction approximately 492 feet to an iron pin; thence in a southwesterly direction approximately 610 feet to an iron pin; thence in a westerly direction approximately 45 feet to an iron pin in the easterly edge of the driveway; thence with the edge of the driveway in a northerly/northeasterly direction approximately 765 feet to the place of beginning, containing 5 acres, more or less.

There is included in this conveyance the benefit of an easement along an existing driveway between. Meadow Run Road and the above-described property, for purposes of ingress and egress, as well the installation, maintenance, repair and removal of all utility services; and also an easement for a septic tank, leach field and pipeline on adjacent property now or previously owned by Jerry Sanger and Loretta Sanger; all as described in the prior deed in the chain of title.

This deed is made and accepted subject to the reservation by the grantors in the previous deed described above of an easement across this property for ingress and egress, and also an easement for access to a spring and water source for a trough located on adjacent land now or previously owned by the adjacent landowners.

This deed is also made subject to the grantee's liability for the costs of any fencing they may install, with the understanding that the grantors in the prior deed in the chain of title own the existing fencing and are solely liable for the costs to repair and maintain their fence.

LSOT: Deed Book 258, Page 286, dated February 29, 2016.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have an address of: 2575 Meadow Run Road, Orma, WV 25268.

The referenced real estate will be conveyed with no covenants of warranty, and subject to all covenants, restrictions, easements, rights of way and reservations which may be a matter of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office or visible upon the ground, all prior liens and encumbrances, including, without limitation, liens for real estate taxes, incinerator, sanitary and sewer charges. The purchasers at the sale shall be responsible for paying the recording costs and also the tax on the privilege of transferring real property (the cost of the tax stamp to be affixed to the deed). The purchasers shall be responsible for payment of all real estate taxes.

The subject property will be sold in "AS IS" condition. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: $9000.00 in cash and/or certified funds as deposit at the time of sale with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

FEDERAL TAX LIEN: In the event that there are Federal Tax Liens against the property, the United States would have the right to redeem the property within a period of 120 days from the date of such sale or the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust, the Trustee may postpone the sale by public announcement at the time and place designated or by posting a notice of the same, and act by agent in the execution of the sale. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at such sale.

SENECA TRUSTEES, INC.
5000 Coombs Farm Drive, Suite 104
Morgantown, WV 26508
(304) 413-0044
(304) 292-2918
Toll free: (888) 534-3132
Reference File No. 96567

LEGAL

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST

Default having been made in the payment of that certain note and debt secured by that certain **deed of trust**, executed by **Richard F. Starcher**, which deed of trust is **dated April 17, 2019**, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of **Calhoun County, West Virginia**, in **Trust Deed Book 178 page 217**, and demand for sale having been made by the beneficiary and holder of the note and debt secured thereby, to-wit: **Calhoun County Bank, Inc.**; notice is hereby given that on **the 6th day of October, 2026, at 11:30 o'clock AM, the undersigned, Substitute Trustee, Terry D. Reed, will offer for sale at public auction** to the highest bidder thereof, at the front door of the Courthouse at Calhoun County, West Virginia, subject to the reservations, exceptions and provisions hereinafter mentioned, described or referred to, the following described real estate, together with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, being more particularly described as follows:

All that certain land, subject to the reservations, exceptions and provisions hereinafter mentioned, described or referred to, together with the buildings and improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, including any manufactured structures, mobile homes, double wide or modular homes, situate in the Oral C. Hathway Addition to the town of Grantsville, the Center District, Calhoun County, West Virginia, and being part of Lot No. 7 on plat of said addition, which plat is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Calhoun County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 65 at Page 1, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at Hathaway Street on a line of Lot Nos. 7 and 6; thence with the line of Lot No. 6 and Lot No. 7, 90 feet to a stake, thence running across Lot No. 7 to the line of Lot Nos. 7 and 8 to a stake; thence with a line of Lot Nos. 7 and 8, 90 feet to Hathaway Street; and thence at Hathaway Street to the place of beginning.

The property herein conveyed is the same tract conveyed unto Richard F. Starcher by Frederick J. Tanner by deed dated April 17, 2019 of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Calhoun County, West Virginia in Deed Book 277 at page 278.

This conveyance is made subject to all existing reservations, restrictions, exceptions, conditions, easements, rights of way or other servitudes, if any, made, reserved or created in prior deeds of record in said Clerk's office, or which would be disclosed by a visual inspection of the premises.

This sale is further made subject to any and all terms of any other deeds constituting the chain of title. The aforesaid tract, and sale thereof, are subject to rights of way or easements and all prior reservations, exceptions, restrictions and agreements affecting the premises which are of record in said Clerk's Office or which would be disclosed by a careful inspection of the premises **and any unpaid real estate taxes**.

Said sale is further made subject to any prior reservations of coal, oil or gas, minerals, and mining, drilling and production rights pertinent thereto. No representation or warranty as to the status of title to the aforesaid property, nor the status of any appurtenances or rights pertaining thereto is given.

TERMS OF SALE

Ten (10%) Percent cash in hand on day of sale, remaining balance within thirty (30) days, and subject to any and all unpaid or unassessed property taxes against said real estate.

The undersigned Trustee reserves the right to continue, cancel, or postpone the sale of said real estate and property from time to time, and to reject all bids if deemed inadequate as he may determine necessary, without notice other than oral proclamation of said postponement, continuation or cancellation at the advertised time and place of said sale.

Dated at Buckhannon, West Virginia this 19th day of August, 2026.

Terry D. Reed, Substitute Trustee
State Bar No.: 3046
P.O. Box 310
Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201
304-472-1565

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
PLEASANT HILL PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
CALHOUN COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION

General Notice

Pleasant Hill PSD (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION
UDC PROJECT NO. 2018W-1746

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received by the **Pleasant Hill Public Service District, 122 Nobe Road, Big Bend, WV 26136 (mailing address)** at the office of the District, **250 Industrial Park Drive, Grantsville, WV 26147**, until **October 22, 2026** at **1:30 p.m.** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

Contract No. 1: Water Distribution System including the furnishing and installation of approximately 4,950 l.f. of 8-inch waterline, 15,000 l.f. of 6-inch waterline, 26,500 l.f. of 4-inch waterline, 19,600 l.f. of 2-inch waterline and miscellaneous appurtenances.

Contract No. 2: Storage Tank Repainting including the repainting of a nominal 27' diameter x 24' high, 100,000-gallon water storage tank and miscellaneous appurtenances.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:
Boyles and Hildreth, Consulting Engineers
108 Court Street
Spencer, West Virginia

Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, online at McGraw-Hill Dodge Information Services, Dodge Construction Network / Construction Projects and Bidding, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Printed copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office by paying the amount of each listed below. **In order to be considered a valid and responsible Bidder, the Bidder must obtain a copy of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office prior to the Bid opening date**.

Bidding Documents may be purchased from the Issuing Office during the hours indicated above. Cost does not include shipping charges. Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, printed Bidding Documents or electronic documents will be transmitted to the prospective Bidder. The shipping charge amount will depend on the shipping method chosen. Bidding documents are available for purchase in the following formats:

Bidding Documents issued as hard copy full-size drawings and hard copy specifications, are available for $150.00 per set.

Bidding Documents purchased as digital drawings and digital specifications, are available for $50.00 per set by being downloaded from a source designated by the Issuing Office.

Amounts paid are not subject to refund.

Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Bidding Documents may also be examined at:

Pleasant Hill PSD	Boyles and Hildreth, Consulting Engineers
250 Industrial Park Drive	108 Court Street
Grantsville, WV 26147	Spencer, WV 25276

Pre-bid Conference

A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on **October 8, 2026** at **10:00 a.m.** at the **Pleasant Hill Public Service District situated at 250 Industrial Park Drive Grantsville WV 26147**. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

Instructions to Bidders.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents. **No Bid security shall be waived or returned because the Bidder failed to or cannot comply with any requirements as set forth in the Bidding Documents or any applicable statutes of the United States, the State of West Virginia and/or all local ordinances.**

The Pleasant Hill PSD reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, including without limitation, nonconforming, non-responsive, unbalanced, or conditional Bids. Owner further reserves the right to reject the Bid of any Bidder whom it finds, after reasonable inquiry and evaluation, to be nonresponsible. Owner may also reject the Bid of any Bidder if Owner believes that it would not be in the best interest of the Project to make an award to that Bidder. Owner also reserves the right to negotiate Contract terms with successful Bidder and Owner reserves the right to waive all minor informalities not involving price, time, or changes in the Work.

Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act (Copeland Act), and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. The successful Bidder must comply with the provisions and minimum rates for wages for laborers and mechanics in accordance with the Davis Bacon Act and the West Virginia Division of Labor minimum wage requirements. The successful Bidder agrees to promptly provide all information and perform all work in accordance with the West Virginia Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace Act, §21-1D of the West Virginia Code.

This Project is to be financed in part or whole by a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and administered by the West Virginia Community and Development Office. This Project shall be referred to as Norman Ridge and Bull River Water Extension Project (Project No. WV-20934-30222) for ARC purposes.

No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the time of the opening of the Bids.

Any Contractor submitting a Bid on this project hereby certifies, indicates, and acknowledges that he has a proper, current, valid license, in accordance with the requirements of West Virginia State Code §21-11-6 and §21-11-11, to perform the contemplated work and meets all the qualifications required by the statutes of the State and subdivision in which the work is to be performed.

All Bidders must also include their Contractor's license number on any Bid(s) submitted. A Subcontractor shall furnish such person's Contractor's license number to the Contractor prior to the award of the Contract as referenced to in the West Virginia State Code §21-11-11.

All Bidders shall understand that their Bid will not be read, and rejected immediately, if proper Bid surety does not accompany the Bid or if the Bid is found to be incomplete or non-responsive. A determination, which may be in certain instances considered contingent upon review and opinion of legal counsel, will be made by the Owner, or his agents or representatives, prior to reading the Bid or the announcement that the Bid will not be read. Bidder shall acknowledge all Addenda issued on the correct page in the Bid Form. All information requested on the Bid Form must be completed, including unit prices in words, in ink or typewritten and the Bid Form signed in ink. It shall be understood that it is the Bidder's responsibility to provide a complete, fully responsive in all aspects, valid Bid Bond or valid Bid surety.

American Iron and Steel

Section 746 of Title VII of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Division A - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017) and subsequent statutes mandating domestic preference applies an American Iron and Steel requirement to this project. All iron and steel products used in this project must be produced in the United States. The term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and Construction Materials. The successful Contractor shall be solely responsible for maintaining a contemporaneous listing of all de minimis and minor components items, and their location at the Site, that have been incorporated in the Work.

Domestic Preference

This Project is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. 117-58, 55 70901-70953. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in this Project must be produced in the United States.

The following waivers apply to this Contract:
BABAA, AIS, *De Minimis*,
Minor Components,
Pig iron and direct reduced iron

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: Pleasant Hill Public Service District
By: Ira Arthur
Title: Chair
Date: September 16, 2026

HOPE

Continued from Page 1

ing, microschooling, or private schooling, but argued that the State should robustly support both.

State Treasurer Pack spent a full day last week in the Potomac Highlands. He toured the Dominion Energy power plant site to hear about proposed projects in Grant County, met with Grant and Hardy county officials in Petersburg, held discussions with the Hardy County Public Service District, and attended an arts even at Lost River. In a visit last year, he met with Pendleton County elected, government, and business leaders at Fisher Mountain.

"We need to do both," stated State Treasurer Pack, "we need to give people the chance to get the best education possible." He then related "if you are a statewide official, you have to be supportive of public schools." Then, he laid out ideas on how to bring needed support and improvement to them.

"We do public schools in West Virginia in a unique way," he explained, discussing four poles of authority at the county level, the West Virginia Board of Education, the executive branch, and the legislative branch. "Those four groups have to get together" to successfully address issues faced. He stated that a sense of urgency is needed because "our public schools are in somewhat of a crisis."

He explained that school administrators and local school systems encounter rules and regulations that hamstring their flexibility to address problems. "It's not an 'either or.' We have to remember our public school system is under strain. We have to help them."

The structure of funding schools was set decades ago, but State Treasurer Pack pointed out that the state has lost 200,000 students over that period of time. "Students are different too, now. There are a lot more behavioral issues." Much of that comes from the social impacts of the decline of the traditional family and the opioid crisis. The problem of students bringing trauma and neglect from their homes "falls on the school system to take care of. They have to do a lot more that they didn't have to do."

It was not mentioned by the State Treasurer, but another issue in school funding needs lies in the significant expansion of equipment seen as a basic need for school function. In the 1980s going into the 90s, most schools lacked air conditioning and had relatively rudimentary technology needs. Teachers used decades-old film projectors and record players where they now need regular costly upgrades in technology. Most schools also lacked central air conditioning until the last decade of the 20th century. Now HVAC represents one of the largest equipment expenditures for many systems.

The State Treasurer praised the work of Communities In Schools, a program initiated by former Governor, now United States Senator, Jim Justice and championed by First Lady Cathy Justice. "That is definitely something we need to fund more," he stated. Under current law, the funding for CIS for each county will dwindle to zero in the next few years unless the State Legislature revisits the issue. "We're big believers in it," he added, going on to say that "you can't put a dollar amount to" the services provided and impact created by CIS. "They can catch a child having trouble and get them turned around," he went on to say.

State Treasurer Pack then noted another way he felt the State must show support for public education. "We are woefully underpaying our teachers," added the State Treasurer., calling them "our most valuable players."

"Every one of us can remember two or three teachers who helped them get where they are in life," said State Treasurer Pack, who stated that he could name many more in his own life. He shared that discussion of a $50,000 per year floor for teacher salaries will return next legislative session.

State Treasurer Pack has also shared the success of the HOPE Scholarship program in supporting alternative educational paths and parental choice among them. He currently serves as Chairman of the HOPE Scholarship Board as well. Last week, he released the results of a survey of 900 participants that reflected 96 percent satisfaction with the program that allows for parental choice in use of education funds. "The HOPE Scholarship was created to put parents in the driver's seat when it comes to their child's education, and these responses show families are using that freedom in many different ways," said State Treasurer Pack in the release.

"There are so many good stories about what's happening," he added, going on to explain that parents had a number of options for alternative education than they had prior to the HOPE Scholarship. That included selections from different types of schools, such as those offering education in the Classical tradition, Catholic and other Christian schools, microschools, and more. Additionally, he shared that one half of home-schooled students in West Virginia decline to apply for HOPE support.

Parents have a number of reasons for selecting alternative models, including a desire for religious instruction, difficulty of traumatized students in adapting to a traditional public school setting, a preference for a model, such as Classical, unavailable in the school system, or myriad other motivations.

About 26,000 students rely on HOPE funding to access their mode of education apart from the public school system.

He reiterated his belief that West Virginia needs the traditional and the alternative models of education. "We have to fight for both."

PSC joins national effort to recognize truck drivers

CHARLESTON -The Public Service Commission of West Virginia (PSC) participated in National Truck Driver Appreciation Week by recognizing and thanking commercial truck drivers for their contributions to West Virginia and the nation.

PSC staff, transportation officers, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) staff greeted drivers at the I-64 Eastbound weigh station. The group distributed informational packets while personally thanking drivers for their dedication to keeping the nation's economy moving.

The packets included resources for the commercial motor vehicle community, information about the FMCSA's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, and tips for managing fatigue and staying alert behind the wheel, among other items.

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, observed September 13–19 this year, is an annual event organized by the FMCSA that recognizes the hard work and dedication of truck drivers and highlights the importance of safety on the roadways.

"Truck drivers make an important contribution to our communities and our economy," PSC Chairman Charlotte R. Lane said. "We appreciate the long hours, dedication, and commitment they bring to their work, and we are proud to join our transportation partners in recognizing them and supporting their efforts to stay safe on the road.

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PSC transportation, officer AJ Keyes

PSC Paralegal, Robin Lassak

FMCSA staff, Adam Poe