Opinion..... Page 2
Calhoun/West Virginia History..... Page 3
Sports..... Page 5
Business Directory/Classified Ads..... Page 6

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Whole Number 7242 | Grantsville, West Virginia 26147 | Thursday, October 1, 2026

Verizon Responds to Fears Over Potential Copper Line Customer Cutoff

By Stephen Smoot

About two weeks ago WETM, a television news outlet in New York State, reported that Verizon released a statement concerning copper wire-based landline telephone service. It linked to a Verizon website that stated "across the country, Verizon is modernizing our networks and transitioning customers from legacy copper infrastructure to modern communications technologies built for how people live, work, and stay safe today."

WETM noted that the announcement was recent. Additionally, customers in West Virginia and elsewhere have received letters from Verizon alerting them to the possibility of disconnection.

In the Mountain State, the Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management also called attention to concerns over this statement. It shared that Verizon will not leave current copper line customers without service as part of modernization efforts.

Frontier acquired Verizon's West Virginia infrastructure in July 2010. Its tenure of ownership until the 2024 reacquisition of the network by Verizon has put it at the losing end of major lawsuits and ongoing lack of customer faith in Frontier's ability to deliver consistent service.

A Verizon release on the merger stated that "over approximately four years, Frontier has invested $41 billion upgrading and expanding its fiber network" nationwide. Nick Jeffrey, President and Chief Executive officer, noted that "it's also a vote of confidence in the future of fiber."

According to PC Magazine, Verizon has applications to discontinue copper line-based service in 18 states "saying that only just over two percent of the networks are in use across the affected locations

In a recent 17-page letter, Verizon shared that they "will confirm whether a Commission-approved replacement service is available at the customer's address prior to transitioning that customer off of POTS [Plain Old Telephone Service] over copper network facilities." The

VERIZON cont. on page 4



"The Show Must Go On" As the Molasses Festival Outlasts Mother Nature

By Stephen Smoot

Mother Nature gave the Molasses Festival her best shot, but couldn't stop the fun, games, entertainment, and education at Arnoldsburg last week.

Thursday saw the West Fork River and her watershed absorb a heavy late fall storm. Standing water on the festival grounds expanded on saturated ground, but the real concern came on the roadways. Many sections of West Virginia 16 and U. S. 119 and 33 , along with several backroads, were submerged underwater.

As if remorseful for ruining the day Thursday, the skies burst forth with brilliant sunshine and perfect temperatures on Friday. Standing water still forced some of the vendors into different spots, but many hundreds still came to enjoy the shopping, the food, the show, and, most importantly, community fellowship.

One could watch a team of older gentlemen as they practiced the age-old art of crafting molasses. They slowly ground the sorghum in sturdy old machinery before boiling the sap that came within. As the day went on, they produced jar after jar of the sweet syrup with deep notes of flavor. Aromas of molasses, somewhat sweet, but not entirely, carried through the breeze and reminded all of the heritage and traditions behind the festival. Vendors sold wood burnings, handcrafted items, and foods. The Country Store offered a broad va-

MOLASSES FESTIVAL cont. on page 8

Youngster's Entrepreneurship On Display At Molasses Festival



Young businessman Jace Morgan proudly displays his craftsmanship at the West Virginia Molasses Festival

By Stephen Smoot

About two years ago, Jace Morgan was another school kid coming to enjoy the entertaining, as well as educational, West Virginia Molasses Festival.

Most kids will spend a bit of money, peruse the vendors, buy some sweet treats, and enjoy watching the men grind the cane into molasses. Morgan likely did all that as well, but came away with inspiration as well.

"I saw a gift shop with wood burnings," noted Morgan, now 12. Fashioning fun or beautiful images on wood gripped his imagination "and I went from there."

Now fast forward to 2026. At the same age as many children once started newspaper routes, the young man has established his own business, Morgan Outdoors.

His first attempt at wood burning produced "a deer with an American flag." At first "I was really just trying it out. I was giving them out as gifts." As his skill developed and he received encouragement, Morgan made the jump into producing his art and products for the general public. For now, Morgan Outdoors travels to fairs, festivals, and craft shows regionally, but his first time selling as a vendor of wood burnings came at the 2025 Molasses Festival.

Morgan now is homeschooled, allowing him to focus both on his education and his business. Of course, running a business of any size, for people of any age, is a significant educational experience. Morgan has mastered not only the skills needed to create his work, but also customer service, communications, and marketing as well.

Kelly Morgan, Jace's Mom, stood in the back observing her son at work. "I'm definitely proud of him," she stated, adding "he prepares for it all year round."

When not crafting his art, Morgan stays busy outdoors, especially with hunting and fishing. "This is what I do when I'm not working," he noted.

Morgan also markets his wares online. His Facebook page is Morgan Outdoors and sports a Labrador Retriever sitting between deer horns with a forest background as a logo. With other businesses carrying the same name, this is how one can identify the site.

Calhoun Flooding Affects Over Two Dozen Homes, Closes Roads, Delays Festival





The Little Kanawha River still ran much higher than normal upstream from Grantsville leading into town Friday

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, more heavy rains struck the middle of West Virginia. This time the focus of precipitation forced a flood warning for almost all of Calhoun County. Most of the damage and impact ranged from Arnoldsburg moving south towards the county line, but high water affected the Grantsville area and other parts of Calhoun County as well.

Kelli Barr, Director of Calhoun County Emergency Management, shared that "Arnoldsburg area and to the south were heavily impacted."

Many roads saw closure due to water either crossing the road or rising from streams to cover it. West Virginia Route 16 alone was covered in several areas. Several other roadways, Barr noted, were "impassable." Organizers of the West Virginia Molasses Festival at Arnoldsburg Volunteer Fire Department cancelled Thursday's festival, but reopened Friday. Arnoldsburg VFD among several other agencies was active in helping keep people safe during the event as well. Standing water on Friday forced a reshuffling of vendors and other participants in the Molasses Festival. That event enjoyed bright sunshine on Friday and Saturday.

She shared that "25 homes, at a minimum, were affected" and that a number of farms saw their planned second cutting of hay at least delayed. "There was no loss of life, thank God above," shared Barr.

In addition to Arnoldsburg, Barr related that Upper West Fork VFD, Calhoun 911, the County Office of Emergency Management, and the Roane County EMS all banded together to assist residents. County Commissioners Eric Lupardus and Lee Rush took to the roads to monitor rising waters and remain abreast of events as they developed.

FLOODING cont. on page 4

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

Hey, I was there to help, right? Right there in the kitchenette loaned us by the Roosevelt Hotel in Anchorage. My wife, Pam, ran the headquarters for the Iditarod Dogsled Race, and it was the second year of the race, 1974, and there I sat, a genuine Alaskan long-distance dog musher who had participated in the first race the year before.

So when a nicely dressed elderly gentleman with a thick Boston accent stopped by for coffee and questions about the race … hey, I'm there for you.

He said his name was Norman Vaughan and he had some questions, and we talked for more than an hour. Oh, I explained to this obvious city guy all about how the dogs were hooked up, and how far we could go each day, depending on weather. He was a good student, too. When he rose to go, he said, "Slim, I think we'll be seeing a lot of each other and become good friends."

Okay …

I'd never thought of dog mushing as something an elderly gentleman in a suit and tie from Boston would be interested in, but I've been fooled before. As a newspaperman, I've interviewed all kinds of fascinating folks over the years.

But there was something about Norman that I genuinely admired, even if I couldn't have said exactly what it was.

Pam and I discussed how this race had captured the attention of the world after just its inaugural run. For the record, it has begun (for 50 years now) on the first Saturday in March in Anchorage, then crosses Alaska to end up on Front Street in Nome in front of the Board of Trade Saloon, where Wyatt Earp was once the bartender, back when Nome was a boom town. This gives a guy a long, cold camping trip before he gets to Front Street. Many aren't able to complete the race for various reasons, and I was one of those. Four days in, I crushed an ankle. I crawled in the sled and the team took me 20 miles to the next checkpoint, where I was ignominiously airlifted to a hospital in Anchorage by Army helicopter.

So I guess it's only natural that a Boston gentleman would be interested in seeing how something like this could happen. And that's what Pam and I were discussing for the next half hour after Norman left.

Pam mentioned how nice it was of me to fill our visitor in on the wonderful world of dog driving. Hey, our cabin was 12 miles from the nearest road, and we had to drive the dogs to get to the car, right? Experienced dog mushers, both of us.

So about a half hour after Norman left, we were discussing him and sipping coffee when the news guy on the radio said, "The special guest at the musher's banquet tonight will be Colonel Norman Vaughan, who drove a dog team to the South Pole in support of the Byrd Expedition in 1930."

I didn't have to say anything because Pam was laughing so hard she couldn't have heard me anyway. Much to my regret, the floor in the Roosevelt Hotel didn't open up and swallow embarrassed dog mushers. I've had to live with the memory all this time.

Norman Vaughan drove his dog team to the South Pole as a possible rescuer in case Richard Byrd's plane was forced down. During World War II, Norman was in charge of dog team rescue in Greenland, where they could rescue any air crews forced down on the ice cap. More than 100 fliers were rescued by his dog teams.

Byrd named a peak in Antarctica after Norman and Norman went down there and climbed it with some friends just before his 89th birthday. He and I were friends for the rest of his life, and when Norman Vaughan finally was able to finish the Iditarod Race in Nome, one of my dogs was his leader.

But after giving this polar explorer the benefit of my vast experience in that hotel room for more than an hour, about all I could do is grin and shrug and say, "Well, at least now he knows how to do it the right way."

Brought to you by "Strange Tales of Alaska" now available online.



Dear Recycle Lady,

What is recycled water? I can't imagine reusing water!

Interested

Dear Interested.

Recycled water, also called reused or reclaimed water, is highly treated wastewater. The recycling process involves advanced treatment methods to remove harmful organisms and impurities in order to make it suitable for reuse. Water from sinks and showers, as well as industrial processes, domestic sewage and stormwater runoff can be treated and used for other purposes such as irrigation for agriculture, golf courses, landscapes, ground water replenishment, and even potable water supply. Recycled water that is to be used for drinking must meet all regulations required of water utilities. Water recycling is good for the natural environment as it reduces the demand for freshwater sources like rivers and lakes and can reduce water scarcity in drought-prone regions. According to https://pollution.sustainability-directory.com, it is a shift from a linear 'take-use-dispose' water model to a more circular and sustainable approach.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What exactly is a carbon footprint?

Need Information

Dear Need Information,

According to nature.org, a carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4)) that are generated by our actions and activities. Sometimes called the greenhouse footprint, your carbon footprint can be measured with a carbon footprint calculator. They can be found on several sites, such www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator. The average carbon footprint for someone living in the U.S. is 16 tons a year, which is one of the highest rates in the world. We can all lower our carbon footprint by making small changes in our lifestyle: walking short distances instead of driving, eating locally grown produce instead of produce that uses fuel to be brought in, and taking shorter showers which uses less hot water, thus less energy to heat the water.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What is single stream recycling? Is it used at the Recycling Center in Ronceverte?

Puzzled Recycler

Dear Puzzled Recycler,

Single stream recycling was introduced in the mid-1990s as a way to put all recyclables in a single bag, with no sorting required. In other words, all paper, metals, plastics, aluminum, cardboard, junk mail, and any other recyclable items were all put in the same bag and taken to a recycling center. Large cities have dedicated equipment that sorts all these recyclables and places them in the proper bins. However, the Recycling Center doesn't have this very expensive equipment or the number of employees necessary to sort mixed recyclables. Thus, any bags of mixed recyclables that are left at the Center are sent to the landfill.

Interesting Information – Ocean coral is not made up of rocks. It is made up of animals called coral polyps! These tiny animals make up the oceans coral reefs; a large underwater ecosystem. Often called "rainforests of the sea," these reefs support a huge variety of marine life and help protect coastlines from waves and storms.

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

Practical Civics Education For Better Functioning Citizenry

By Stephen Smoot

A profound convergence has taken place in American social understanding. In the past 30 years especially, almost every process and protocol has grown more difficult to navigate. At the same time, schools have had to address basic social problems and issues stemming from the opioid crisis and the decline of the traditional family.

The result is that the world has grown extraordinarily complex over the past several decades That is not the fault of good people trying to keep up, whether in government or just normal life. Ask any elected official, or representative of one, and they will tell you that developing knowledge and understanding of how American life operates requires months of"drinking from a fire hose" to grasp the across the board fundamentals.

People living their everyday lives, taking kids to ball practice, going to work, keeping up with the house, and a million other things, often don't have the time or energy after taking care of their life priorities to study the details and minutiae of issues that profoundly affect them.

Meanwhile, elected citizen officials have to navigate an increasingly complex landscape as they search for resources to address basic needs. Much of the complexity imposed stems from rules passed to prevent fraud or "taking advantage" of , or misuse of resources granted. West Virginia's unfortunate heritage of sharp-dealing local government officials has helped to burden responsible government entities with mountains of regulations and protocols.

Thirdly, a capability gap exists in the Mountain State between places that have experienced leadership and areas that have less able human capital in key positions. When local officials struggle to understand the systems needed to get the resources that they need, their constituents do not get basic needs met.

That all said, the lack of understanding of how things work among both the citizenry and sometimes government entities themselves present a real threat to solving problems at both the local and state level.

The West Virginia school system should consider a program of practical civics combined with the proper teaching of history.

First, establish that the teaching of history will not focus on grievance and error. United States history in particular offers much more positive than negative. The sins of America are far outstripped by her virtues and historical teaching should reflect that. History itself is about teaching to understand, not recounting grievances.

After all, if one teaches that the nation is fundamentally bad at every turn, why would the students taught thus feel any loyalty or obligation to her? Plus, teaching American history as a list of evils is fundamentally a form of falsehood anyway.

Equally important, the basic educational curriculum of civics and government needs to be West Virginia oriented and practically crafted. Here is a proposal.

In fifth grade, students need to master knowledge of the basic elements of government. That includes federal, state, and local, as well as the branches and officials' responsibilities at each level. Again, do not use a nationally produced textbook that will confuse children with mentions of townships, boroughs, etc.

In eighth grade, introduce local level problem solving. One could break a class into units of five, with a mayor, three council members, and a city manager in each. A teacher could get very creative with using examples to teach how these bodies make decisions. One could even use AI to craft citizen bots that would come up with questions, concerns, and ideas that could either be very good or very bad, but the group must address them.

The AI bot could even be "trained" to be confrontational and abusive to the "elected officials" whose roles the students take, giving a realistic view of what these officials must confront in some circumstances. This is important because too few people treat elected officials like fellow human beings when they feel outraged.

At this level students also need to start understanding the basics of economics, working with supply and demand charts, understanding supply chains, and other important problems.

A capstone would come in 11th grade. Students as individuals can be turned loose on long-term projects, such as grant writing for infrastructure projects and other basic priorities. They could be tasked to "manage" a volunteer fire or EMS company and deal with the headwinds against those valued organizations.

Community and technical colleges can build on this by creating a "Grow Your Own" program for local officials similar to what has been done for teachers.

What should be discouraged, however, is the teaching and encouragement of activism as an effective and appropriate response to concerns. Shouting and waving signs rarely promotes understanding or changing of policies, let alone minds. Activism and protest does make those engaged in it feel productive without real accomplishment. It's almost always akin to the old man shaking his fists at the sky, but often in reality only succeeding in inconveniencing others trying to get on with their day.

With repeated batteries of practical civics education, much can be done to expand learning and understanding while creating a direct local positive in a more knowledgeable citizenry. Some of those citizens could come directly into entry levels of local government staff after graduating from high school or also fire and EMS roles. Others could work in regional planning and development council positions. Active and involved minds need not move away to find success.

Students along the way would also need to develop understanding of how systems such as electric power production and transmission operate, how international trade works, and also, vitally important, personal finance and how that relates to microeconomics. Educating children on the reality of a community, as opposed to a social or ideological vision, will produce much better outcomes and a much more engaged young adult generation.

Education at the elementary and secondary level must focus on producing functional citizens and citizens cannot function well if they do not understand the world around them and how it operates.

This is vital because a free society in a Republic with democratic features needs a critical mass of people who understand how important elements work. We can no longer just assume that young people will absorb this along the way as they have in the past. We can no longer pretend that a society can function without knowing its own foundation and fundamentals.

The frightening question to consider is, do we have that critical mass currently?

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.

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and
The Grantsville News
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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** October 8, 2026, 5:00 pm, Mom's Place Too, 340 Main Street, Grantsville, WV 26147 **Monthly Tire Collection October 16**, 2026, 10 - 2

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UHC welcomes Kenneth Sabacinski, MD to UHC Orthopaedics

Bridgeport, W.Va.—Kenneth Sabacinski, MD is joining UHC Orthopaedics, with Peter J. Alasky, IV, DO; Crhistopher D. Courtney, DO; William J. Dahl, MD; Joseph J. Fazalare, MD; Carl Hasselman, MD; Joshua B. Sykes, MD; David L. Waxman, MD; and Ashley L. Yelinek, DO.

He began his medical journey with a Bachelor of Science-Business at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., before going on to the Charles E Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University College of Medicine in Boca Raton, FL for his medical degree.

Next came his residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at West Virginia University, followed by his fellowship in Adult Reconstruction at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass.

Board eligible, he treats conditions affecting the bones, joints, muscles, and connective tissues. He specializes in surgical and non-surgical treatments for injuries and disorders of the musculoskeletal system, helping patients regain mobility and reduce pain.

He has been widely published, active in professional conferences, and over the years has frequently volunteered for community service.

When he's not working, Dr. Sabacinski enjoys sports including tennis, baseball, football, and hockey, as well as traveling, experiencing new cultures, and family. He was an award-winning tennis player while on the Notre Dame varsity tennis team, serving as co-captain his junior and senior years. Dr. Sabacinski may be contacted at UHC Orthopaedics, 227 Medical Park Dr., Suite 101, Bridgeport, by calling 681.342.3500, or going to https://wvorthocenter.com/.



Kenneth Sabacinski, MD UHC Orthopaedics

Out of the Past



The first bank established in Calhoun County opened its doors in 1901 to a cautious public being "reluctant to hand over their money for keeping to someone else". Photo courtesy of WVU Online

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VERIZON

Continued from Page 1

Federal Communications Commission, the Commission referred to by Verizon, requires that replacement technology provide "substantially similar levels of network infrastructure and service quality as the service being discontinued."

One of the reasons given by Verizon for discontinuing the century-old service lay in the opportunity cost spent on maintaining the aging network. Verizon was quoted by the Rappahannock News as stating that "every day that passes without approval is a missed opportunity to unleash resources for investment, reduce inefficient energy consumption, and free useful copper fro more valuable purposes."

Last Friday, the FCC halted the process of approving Verizon's request to investigate further. It stated that the pause did not reflect a determination to deny the request.

The Pendleton County OEM shared, after speaking with State officials, that "it is our understanding . . . that no disconnection can occur without an approved alternative."

"If a location lacks fiber, adequate wireless coverage, or another approved replacement voice service, they will not discontinue the existing copper line service," stated the Pendleton County OEM. They added that the FCC required that Verizon inform a number of customers who are not part of Verizon's plan of disconnection.

Furthermore it encouraged "if you end up being advised that your location has an alternative service, such as cellular, and you do not, challenge that claim with Frontier/Verizon and also contact the FCC. We have found that FCC maps, particularly related to cellular telephone coverage, are not accurate and do not represent real life coverage."

FLOODING

Continued from Page 1

The river gauge at Grantsville provisionally showed water levels rising fast on Thursday and rising to about 35 feet by the 25th. Action level is at 34 feet and floodstage at 36. At Rocksdale, another gauge showed the waters cresting at 26 feet at 11:30 in the morning on Thursday. A National Weather Service report detailed "social media photos showing State Route 16 at the intersection of U. S. Route 119 flooded with two to three feet of water from West Fork Little Kanawha River." It also noted that photos showed Cook and Spring Road at U. S. 119 flooded and "several homes are surrounded by water as well."

Water also rose into West Fork Community Park.

Roane General Hospital Completes Major Inpatient Unit Renovation

Project creates all-private patient rooms and includes infrastructure upgrades

Spencer, W.Va. — Roane General Hospital announces completion of a $4.8 million renovation of its second-floor inpatient unit, bringing modernized patient rooms, upgraded infrastructure and enhanced spaces for patients, families and staff.

The 13,800-square-foot renovation represents a significant investment in the hospital's inpatient care environment and was made possible in part through funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

One of the most significant improvements for patients is the conversion of the unit to all-private patient rooms. The renovation also added full private restrooms to approximately half a dozen rooms, providing patients with greater comfort, privacy and convenience during their hospital stays.

The project included a complete replacement of the unit's HVAC system, with improved personalized temperature controls for patient rooms. Additional rooms were also equipped with enhanced airflow functionality, allowing the hospital to adjust air circulation as needed to support infection-control measures when isolation is required.

The nurses' station was redesigned to improve the flow of patients, families and staff throughout the unit, while new flooring, paint, ceilings and lighting create a more modern and comfortable environment throughout the space.

"This project represents a significant investment in our patients, our caregivers and the future of healthcare in our community," said Roane General Hospital CEO Doug Bentz. "We wanted to create an environment that is more comfortable and private for our patients while also giving our staff the modern, functional space and infrastructure they need to provide the best possible care. We are extremely proud to see this project completed and to be able to offer these improvements to the patients we serve."

USDA funding played an important role in making the renovation possible. Roane General received a $3 million USDA loan as well as a $1 million Community Facilities Grant through the USDA's COVID Track 1 program. The grant supported the installation of the new HVAC system and related improvements.

"USDA is proud to support Roane General Hospital's efforts to strengthen healthcare for local residents through our Community Facilities Program," said John Reisenweber, USDA Rural Development West Virginia State Director. "This renovation reflects our commitment to improving the quality of essential facilities like this one so rural residents can access the high-quality care they deserve. Ensuring that people in rural communities have reliable, modern healthcare close to home remains one of our highest priorities."

The completed renovation reflects Roane General's continued commitment to maintaining and improving local healthcare infrastructure while ensuring patients can receive quality care close to home.

For more information about Roane General Hospital and its services, visit roanegeneralhospital.com.

West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Urges Reporting of Wildlife Disease on New App

By Stephen Smoot

As fall hunting seasons ramp up and thousands of West Virginians take to the woods, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has a field work assignment. They have asked anyone who notices signs of wildlife disease or disease-related mortality, to report findings to the DNR.

Said Paul Johansen, chief of the Wildlife Resources Division, in a release last summer "The Wildlife Resources Section relies on timely reports of wildlife health events from the public across the state to help monitor population health. We encourage the public to report sightings of possibly sick animals." The State has provided an easy and online manner of reporting, through the ArcGIS Survey 123 app. This downloads on a mobile phone device and allows for detailed reporting and mapping of reports. One can also scan a QR code provided on the West Virginia DNR website.

"Users can upload pictures and report locations and other information of wildlife that appear to be sick, diseased or that have died. Information collected will allow the appropriate Wildlife Resources Section staff to determine if additional investigation is necessary," stated the release.

The DNR tracks a number of diseases and conditions, both in game and general wildlife. Just as in human populations, if diseases are left unmanaged and unaddressed, outbreaks could kill or injure large numbers of wildlife. In some cases, such as rabies and avian flu, these diseases could also threaten domestic livestock, pets, and even transmit to human beings.

One condition in white-tailed deer is in its emergence among affected animals now. Hemorrhagic disease, according to the WV DNR, "is a natural virus in white-tailed deer that appears seasonally in late summer or early fall and ends around the first hard frost. On very rare occasions the condition can create significant death rates, but often does "not have any substantial effect on the population." It spreads through the bite of a midge fly and has no effect on pets or humans. Meat from affected animals is not dangerous to consume.

Signs of HD in the wild include less fear of humans, disorientation, bleeding from the nose or rear end, and swelling on the face.

HD has no connection with the more serious Chronic Wasting Disease. This condition is caused by a "prion," an abnormally shaped protein in the brain that disrupts neurological functions. Another name for the family of conditions is called transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. The DNR says "there is no practical test of live animals to detect CWD, and there is no known treatment or vaccine. Postmortem testing is necessary for definitive diagnosis." This is because one would need a sample of brain tissue to confirm diagnosis. Animals pass the condition to each other through contact with bodily fluids.

The human condition of the disease is known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. It can occur sporadically or from eating meat from infected cattle, which also carry a form of the disease. While no known transmission has come to humans from deer, health officials strongly urge that meat from deer who appear sick or have died from disease not be eaten.

CWD generally is locally concentrated in the many states and Canadian provinces which have reported its presence. Most West Virginia cases come from the Potomac Highlands. The DNR reports that "as of April 15, 2026, 737 deer from Hampshire County, 39 from Hardy County, 63 from Berkeley County, 22 from Mineral County, 27 from Morgan County, 13 from Jefferson County and one from Grant County are the only animals found thus far to have the abnormal prion associated with CWD."

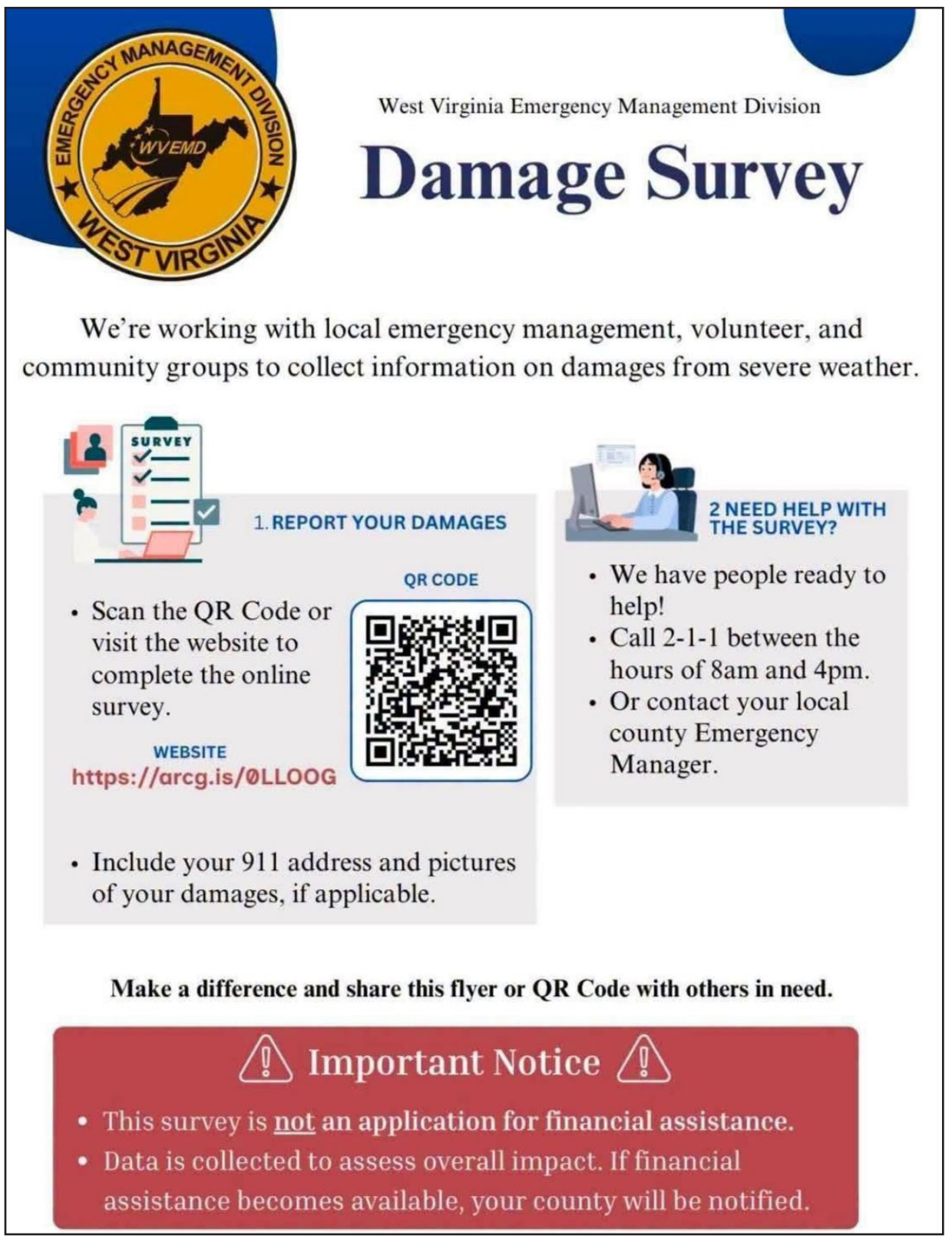
Measures to control CWD are in place. "The WVDNR also discourages supplemental feeding and baiting of deer statewide, bans these practices on public land, and also bans these practices anytime in Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton counties. In addition, there are restrictions on the disposal and transport of deer carcasses from Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties within the West Virginia containment area "

With no way to eradicate the disease, the DNR relies heavily on reports of CWD to investigate outbreaks and control them before they affect the herd or spread from the containment area.

Rabies also represents a significant threat, but to domesticated animals and humans. Rabid animals show disorientation, aggression, frothing at the mouth, and significant thirst. They are highly dangerous, so one should report sightings to both the DNR and also the county health department so residents can be alerted quickly.

Observers should also report issues with birds, especially unusual number of sick or dying animals. While a number of issues could cause this, the most significant could come from variants of avian flu.

Most birds in the wild exhibit few or no symptoms of avian flu, having developed natural immunity through exposure. The usual point of transmission to domestic chickens or turkeys comes through "backyard flocks," or small numbers of free ranging or yard-enclosed poultry. The WVDA has emergency protocols in place to address avian flu outbreaks, as poultry represents a significant percentage of the West Virginia agricultural economy. Reports allow DNR and/or WVDA experts to get into the field quickly, assess the danger, and recommend strategies to contain and eradicate the threat.





Calhoun County Runners Earn Top Finishes at Spencer Invitational

SPENCER — The Calhoun County Middle High School cross country teams turned in another strong performance at the 2nd Annual Spencer Invitational, highlighted by an individual championship and several top-20 finishes across both the high school and middle school divisions.

Freshman standout **Brooke Tingler** led the way for the Red Devils, claiming **first place overall** in the high school girls race with a winning time of **22:43.8**. Calhoun County also received a strong performance from Carissa Sands, who placed eighth with a time of 27:27.1. Tingler's victory marked the top individual performance of the day for Calhoun County and continued her impressive season on the cross country course.

The Red Devils also had an excellent showing in the high school boys race, placing three runners in the top 10. **Jackson Clawson** paced the boys team with a **fourth-place finish** in **20:17.3**. He was followed by **Braidin Ferrell**, who placed **seventh** with a time of **21:07.5**, and **Eli Ferrell**, who earned **10th place** in **21:57.6**.

In middle school competition, Calhoun County placed four runners among the field. **Lillian Caldwell** led the middle school girls team with a **10th-place finish** in **19:27.8**, while **Temperance Caldwell** was close behind in **12th place** with a time of **19:30.1**. **Baeli Frum** finished **16th** in **21:05.6**, and **Mackenzie Tingler** rounded out the team's scoring runners with a **20th-place finish** in **24:37.7**.

The results reflect the continued growth and hard work of the Calhoun County cross country program as athletes compete against some of the region's top runners. With strong performances from both experienced runners and emerging young athletes, the Red Devils continue to build momentum as the season progresses.

The Red Devils will return to action in upcoming meets as they continue preparing for postseason competition.









Calhoun County Runners Post Strong Performances at Ripley XC Invitational

RIPLEY — The Calhoun County Middle High School cross country team delivered several impressive performances at the Ripley XC Invitational on September 26, highlighted by a third-place finish from Brooke Tingler and a number of strong showings throughout both the high school and middle school divisions.

Leading the way for the Red Devils was Brooke Tingler, who earned a spot on the podium with a third-place finish in the girls high school race. Tingler completed the course in 22:07.3, continuing a strong season with one of the top performances of the meet.

In the boys high school competition, Jackson Clawson paced Calhoun County with a 16th-place finish in 18:45.6. The Red Devils then placed three runners within a minute of one another as Eli Ferrell finished 29th in 19:54.6, Braidin Ferrell followed closely in 30th with a time of 19:54.9, and Zac Smith placed 35th in 20:46.7.

Also competing for the high school girls team, Gabi Smith recorded a 17th-place finish with a time of 27:47.4, adding another top-20 result for Calhoun County.

The middle school squad also turned in a solid day of competition. Lillian Caldwell led the team with a 14th-place finish, crossing the line in 17:58.2. Baeli Frum finished 21st in 19:58.8, while Mackenzie Tingler rounded out the team's top finishers with a 24th-place finish in 22:33.3.

The invitational provided valuable experience against a strong field of runners from across the region. Calhoun County athletes showed determination and continued improvement as they compete through the heart of the season, with several runners earning top-35 finishes and gaining momentum for upcoming meets.

The Red Devils will look to build on these performances as they continue their 2006 cross country campaign.

Calhoun County Results

High School

Brooke Tingler, 3rd place, 22:07.3
Jackson Clawson, 16th place, 18:45.6
Gabi Smith, 17th place, 27:47.4
Eli Ferrell, 29th place, 19:54.6
Braidin Ferrell, 30th place, 19:54.9
Zac Smith, 35th place, 20:46.7

Middle School

Lillian Caldwell, 14th place, 17:58.2
Baeli Frum, 21st place, 19:58.8
Mackenzie Tingler, 24th place, 22:33.3







Red Devils travel to Weirton

Fresh off a bye week, Calhoun County will resume its gridiron campaign this Friday night by taking on the Madonna Blue Dons at Weirton. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00. This will be the third meeting between the two schools. Madonna defeated Calhoun County 16-0 in the first round of the 2008 playoffs in a game played at Weir High's old stadium downtown. The Dons also defeated the Red Devils 29-6 in 2023 at Mount Zion.

Madonna is 1-4 on the season and suffered a 41-7 defeat at the hands of Mathews (Ohio) last Thursday. The Blue Dons' only win thus far was a 41-0 drubbing of the Van Bulldogs.

The Red Devils have a chance to increase their record to 4-1 before hosting the top-ranked Wahama White Falcons at home next week.

2009 CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL STATISTICS

(Record 3-1)

RUSHING (carries-yards)
Trevor Mayle (13 TD) 108-558
Rome Riddel (2 TD) 45-183
Ezra Anderson (TD) 12-154
Chase Schoolcraft (3 TD) 2 3 -80
Gavin Hicks (TD) 4-44
Eli Bailey 6-44
Team 5-(-30)
Total (20 TD) 203-1,033
Opponents (7 TD) 112-537

PASSING (PC-PA-Int. yds.)
Trevor Mayle 25-356-3 318 yds.
(2 touchdown passes)
Gavin Hicks 1-2-0 29 yds.
Chase Schoolcraft 2-4-0 1 0 yds.
Total 28-41-3 357 yds.
(2 touchdown passes)
Opp. 25-55-6 459 yds.
(5 touchdown passes)

RECEIVING (catches-yds.)
Chase Schoolcraft (TD) 1 4 -137
Gavin Hicks (TD) 5-118
Lance Grogg 4-50
Rome Riddel 2-50
Ezra Anderson 3-2
Total (2 TD) 28-357

KICKING
Kickoffs (no.-yds. avg.)
Trevor Mayle 27-900 33.3
Opponents 18-526 29.2

Punts (no.-yds. avg.)
Chase Schoolcraft 3- 107 35.7
Opponents 10- 272 27.2

RETURNS
Kickoff returns (no.-yds.-avg.)
Trevor Mayle 4-92 23.0
Reese Schoolcraft 1-17 17.0
Nic Butler 4-58 14.5
Rome Riddel 1-13 13.0
Chase Schoolcraft 5-59 11.8
Total 15-239 15.9
Opponents 16-317 19.8

Punt returns returns (no.-yds.-avg.)
Nic Butler 1-21 21.0
Chase Schoolcraft 1-0 0.0
Total 2-21 10.5
Opponents 1-0 0.0

PENALTIES (no.-yds.)
Calhoun 17-156
Opponents 29-217
FIRST DOWNS run-pass-pen.--total
Calhoun 56-16-9--81
Opponents 32-13-3--48

DEFENSE
Interceptions-return yards (6-23) – Trevor Mayle 2-15, Lance Grogg 2, Nic Butler 1-8, Chase Schoolcraft 1. Opp.: 3-137.

Fumble recoveries-return yards (3-0) – Nic Butler 2, Lance Grogg. Opp.: 5-32 (TD).

Sacks (7) – Kristian Frederick 4.5, Eli Bailey, Chase Satterfield, Trevor Mayle 0.5.

Tackles (solos-assists-total) -- Ezra Anderson (9-29-38), Kristian Frederick (9-23-32), Trevor Mayle (7-19-26), Chase Schoolcraft (9-13-22), Rome Riddel (7-15-22), Nic Butler (3-18-21), Gavin Hicks (5-13-18), Reese Schoolcraft (4-10-14), Dayvon Mitchell (1-13-14), Sam Bailey (1-11-12), Lance Grogg (4-4-8), Cohen Blankenship (0-6-6), Hoyt Helmick (0-5-5), Eli Bailey (1-1-2), Michael Arthur (0-2-2), Chase Toney (0-2-2), Robert Davis (0-2-2), Caiden Wolford (1-0-1), Colin Grogg (0-1-1). Total 61-187-248.

FUMBLES-lost Calhoun 7-4; Opp. 7-3.

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

	R	P	EP	K	O	Tot.
Trevor Mayle	69	0	2	14	0	94
Chase Schoolcraft	18	6	2	0	0	26
Gavin Hicks	6	6	0	0	0	12
Rome Riddel	12	0	0	0	0	12
Ezra Anderson	6	0	0	0	0	6
Total	120	12	4	14	0	150
Opp.	42	30	18	1	14*	105

*Includes safety
Mayle: 14-of-18 EP
Opp.: 1-of-1 EP

TEAM SCORING (by quarters)
Calhoun 35 47 35 33--150
Opp. 36 22 37 10--105

SEASON RESULTS (6-4)
Calhoun 42 Gilmer 18 W
Calhoun 63 Richwood 42 W
Calhoun 26 Wirt 7 W
Calhoun 19 Sherman 38 L



Local Business Directory Information

6TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL & AVALON OPEN HOUSE

Saturday

OCTOBER 3, 2026

10 AM	Vendor Booths Open	1 PM	"Built to Last" *The story of your journey Intro of Amos & Dennis*
10 AM	Quilt Show		
10 AM	Rug & Floral Demo *In the gym*	3 PM	Yeast Bread Demo *Pauley Homestead*
10 AM	Apple Butter Making *Limited sales*	4 PM	Pretzel Demo *Twisted Dough*
11 AM	Quilting Demo	5 PM	Fire Cider Demo *Valhalla Farms*
12 PM	Car Show	5:00 PM	Music: John Richards
12 PM	Lunch Box Auction	7:00 PM	Music: Johnnys Project
12 PM	Petting Zoo Opens		

ON THE MENU

SATURDAY LUNCH
Box Social Auction

SATURDAY DINNER
International Kabob Grille
Carne asada • Caribbean chicken
Shrimp scampi • baked potato
Salad & dessert

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NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The undersigned Clerk of the County Commission of Calhoun County does hereby give NOTICE that, pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code §41-5-13(b), there has been filed and there is pending before me and the said County Commission an Affidavit for ancillary administration of West Virginia real estate without the appointment of any personal representative and does state as follows:

Decedent	Decedent's Address	Date of Death	Date of Will
1. Ann E. Starkey	20 Amberwood Parkway Ashland, OH 44805	April 24, 2024	March 1, 2023

Name of Person Filing Affidavit	Address	Relation to Decedent	Date of First Publication
Elizabeth A. Sirlouis	1993 Red Oak Dr. Mansfield, OH 44904	Daughter	October 1, 2026

Decedent	Decedent's Address	Date of Death	Date of Will
David Gerald Nitz	102 Mill Creek Ln Haughton, LA 71037	06/24/2025	06/24/1994

Name of Person Filing Affidavit	Address	Relation to Decedent	Date of First Publication
Mary Marlene Nitz	102 Mill Creek Ln Haughton, LA 71037	Spouse	October 1, 2026

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

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

Entered this 1st day of October , 2026

Clerk of the County Commission
Class II Legal

LEGAL

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

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

Decedent	Personal Representative	Address
Wilma Lee Smith	Rodney Smith	315 Country Lanes, Mt. Zion, WV 26151
Marnelle Yvonne Sampson	Cheryl Caldwell	1200 Springdale Drive, Jackson, MS 39211
Sherrie Ann Carter	Steven Carter	730 Nebo Walker Rd., Nebo, WV 25141
Paul Richard Goodrich, Jr.	Amber Siers	640 Hathaway St., Grantsville, WV 26147
Laszlo Mark Nemeth	Walter S. Nemeth	368 Gilford Rd., Vermilion, OH 44089

October 1, 2026

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

Any person interested in filing claims against an estate shown below must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code, 44-2 and 44-3. All persons having claims against one or more of the estate(s) shown above, whether due or not, are notified to exhibit their claims, with the voucher thereof, legally verified, to the Clerk of the Calhoun County Commission at Calhoun County Clerk's Office at 363 Main Street, PO Box 230, GRANTSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA 26147 on or before **December 1, 2026**. Otherwise they may by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate(s). All beneficiaries of said estate(s) may appear on or before said day to examine said claims and otherwise protect their interests.

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

Whitney Butler, Clerk
Calhoun County Commission

Minnie Hamilton Health System

An affiliate of Vandalia Health

LAB/HEALTH FAIR

OCTOBER 8, 2026

MHHS ARNOLDSBURG CLINIC

TIME

7am-10am

TESTS AVAILABLE

LAB PANEL (CMP, CBC, LIPID PANEL, TSH, A1C) $40

PSA– PROSTATE SPECIFIC ANTIGEN $15

B12– $5

FOLATE– $5

VITAMIN D– $16

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SBA Referral Leads IRS to Investigate Tax Liabilities Related To Potentially $100 Billion in COVID Loan Fraud

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced a new step in their joint efforts to address suspected pandemic relief fraud. Earlier this year, SBA referred more than $200 billion in suspected Paycheck Protection Program and COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) fraud to the IRS. The IRS compared tax information borrowers provided to SBA when applying for pandemic relief loans with information reported to the IRS. The comparison identified discrepancies associated with approximately $100 billion in loans. The IRS has opened examinations of cases identified through its review to determine whether additional taxes and penalties apply, including penalties for fraud.

The more than $200 billion in potentially fraudulent pandemic-era PPP and COVID EIDL assistance was first estimated by the SBA Office of Inspector General in June 2023 during the Biden Administration. The OIG estimated that nearly 20% of the approximately $1.2 trillion disbursed through SBA's pandemic-relief programs may have gone to potentially fraudulent actors.

"President Trump's White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud is exposing the industrial-scale theft that too often went unchecked during the pandemic and uninvestigated for years afterwards during the Biden Administration," said SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler. "For the first time, SBA, IRS, Treasury, DOJ, and federal law enforcement are collaborating across data and enforcement tools to follow fraudsters and uncover misconduct at scale. The IRS's identification of approximately $100 billion in suspected tax fraud sends a clear message: fraudsters who stole from SBA's COVID-relief programs will not only face accountability at the SBA. If they inflated payroll, fabricated employee counts, falsified business records, or otherwise lied to obtain taxpayer-funded loans, they will also face scrutiny from the IRS."

"The IRS's review of referrals by the SBA showed discrepancies involving $100 billion in loans," said IRS Chief Executive Officer Frank J. Bisignano. "The IRS has opened investigations because of SBA's referrals and will pursue penalties for tax fraud. We will continue working with the SBA, the White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud under the leadership of the Vice President, and our federal law-enforcement partners to identify violations and pursue appropriate enforcement."

The SBA and IRS are coordinating with the Department of the Treasury, SBA Office of Inspector General, Department of Justice, and other White House Fraud Task Force partners to identify suspected violations, recover taxpayer funds where appropriate, and pursue available administrative, civil, and criminal enforcement action.

This announcement builds on SBA's broader effort to identify pandemic-era fraud, recover taxpayer money, and protect SBA programs for legitimate entrepreneurs. Earlier this month, SBA announced suspensions for 870,000 borrowers tied to an estimated $39 billion in suspected PPP and COVID EIDL fraud. Including prior actions, SBA has suspended approximately 1 million borrowers tied to about $49 billion in suspected pandemic-era fraud. Those borrowers are barred from future SBA lending and other SBA programs, including 8(a) federal contracting.

SBA has referred approximately $22 billion in suspected fraudulent pandemic-era PPP and COVID EIDL loans to the Department of the Treasury for collection. That Treasury referral concerns outstanding balances owed to the SBA by specific suspected fraudulent borrowers and is separate from the SBA referral to IRS for tax-fraud analysis.

Investigations into any additional tax liability related to the potential $100 billion in pandemic relief program fraud remain ongoing, and individual cases will be evaluated based on the facts and applicable law.

Department of Homeland Security
Michael T. Baylous, Cabinet Secretary
Kenneth E. Tyree, Jr., State Fire Marshal

Phone: (304) 558-2191 Fax: (304) 558-2537

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Charleston, WV 25302
www.firemarshal.wv.gov

September 22, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office Urges Residents to Power Up Their Devices with Fire Safety in Mind

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office is pleased to announce the *theme for Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™), October 4–10, 2026, is "Charge into Fire Safety™: Safe Charging Is a Superpower."*

Fire Departments throughout the State are teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) to support Fire Prevention Week. This year's FPW theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower," focuses on the simple steps people can take to recharge safely. Safe charging means making smart choices every time you plug in. Many devices used in our daily lives - phones, tablets, laptops, tools, toys, e-bikes, and scooters—run on rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, which store a lot of energy in a small space. If they are damaged or charged the wrong way, they can overheat, start a fire, or even explode.

"The way you charge your lithium-ion battery devices can make a difference in helping prevent home fires," said Ken Tyree, WV State Fire Marshal. "It comes down to using simple habits each time you plug in."

· Use the cord and charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger can damage the battery and increase the risk of fire.
· Charge devices on a table, desk, or other hard, flat surface. Do not charge them on beds, couches, or under pillows. Devices and chargers produce heat during normal charging. Soft surfaces can trap heat and block airflow, which can cause the battery to overheat.
· Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, is smoking, or has a strange smell. These are warning signs that the battery may be damaged or failing.
· Unplug your device when it is fully charged. Do not leave it plugged in longer than needed. Leaving a device plugged in too long can increase heat and stress on the battery.
· Charge larger items like e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside and away from exits. These batteries are larger and store more energy. If they fail, fires can grow quickly and spread.
· When on a plane, keep your device where you can see it while charging. Do not charge devices in overhead compartments. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on a plane. If a battery overheats or fails, it is important for the flight crew to respond quickly.

Please support your local fire department's efforts to help and to reinforce these messages within the community.

For more information about fire prevention week programs in the area, contact your local fire department. To learn more about lithium-ion battery safety, visit fpw.org.

Media Contact: Public Information Specialist Tim Rock, timothy.t.rock@wv.gov
Office of the State Fire Marshal
304-558-2191 #

HUMANITIES COUNCIL RELEASES FALL ISSUE OF *PEOPLE & MOUNTAINS*



Charleston—The West Virginia Humanities Council has released the Fall 2026 edition of its digital magazine, *People & Mountains*. It can be accessed from the Council's website: wvhumanities.org.

This issue profiles award-winning journalist and historian Rick Atkinson, who will present the 2026 Betsy K. McCreight Lecture in the Humanities at the Capitol Theater, October 15, at 7:30 p.m., in Charleston. For more than four decades, the Council's annual McCreight Lecture has connected West Virginia audiences to some of the nation's premier public intellectuals.

Atkinson, a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner and former *Washington Post* journalist, is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling *The British Are Coming*. The first volume of his widely hailed Revolution Trilogy has earned numerous honors. The second volume, *The Fate of the Day*, continues the sweeping narrative of the American Revolution, capturing the conflict's critical middle years with vivid storytelling and insights. Atkinson also served as a historical advisor for Ken Burns' PBS documentary series *The American Revolution*, which commemorates the Revolution's 250th anniversary. Several titles on more recent conflicts preceded these efforts, including the much-acclaimed Liberation Trilogy, which chronicles the American military's role in Europe during World War II—the first volume of which, *An Army at Dawn*, won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 2003.

For more information about the lecture, contact Council Program Officer Kyle Warmack, warmack@wvhumanities.org, 304-346-8500.

The Fall issue also highlights an often overlooked tool of weavers. Fiber artist Enrica McMillon of Elkins explains how box tape looms were used, what they produced and why they were essential to life on the frontier. This article is part of the nationwide *By the People: Conversations Beyond 250* initiative, developed by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. West Virginia Folklife filmed demonstrations by traditional musicians and artists. The finished material will be deposited in the Smithsonian and featured in *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*. Both West Virginia Folklife and *e-WV* are projects of the Council.

Additionally, *People & Mountains* looks at the fascinating hunting and writing career of Preston County's George Bird Evans, who championed a philosophy of conservation, ethics and personal restraint. This issue also includes photos from a celebration of folklorist Gerry Milnes held at the Council headquarters in May. The West Virginia Humanities Council successfully nominated Milnes to be a 2026 National Heritage Fellow and this year's sole recipient of the prestigious Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship.

People & Mountains is published by the West Virginia Humanities Council three times a year. It profiles the Council's work and developments in the humanities statewide. It is available for free on the Council's website: wvhumanities.org.

MOLASSES FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1

riety of different foods and wares, including freshly made molasses.

All urged anyone interested in getting some of the festival namesake product because "it goes really fast!"

Saturday offered more excitement, from the parade at one o' clock and awards two hours later to live music and Lions Club Bingo.

At the conclusion of the fun and after the cleanup was done, the festival Facebook shared "what a week it has been, but we survived."

Since the festival not only survived, but also thrived despite the shortened schedule, it will in 2027 celebrate six decades of honoring Calhoun County's frontier and agricultural heritage.





















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Glenville State University Celebrates College of Business with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



GLENVILLE, WV – On Wednesday, 9/23, Glenville State University celebrated the official establishment of its College of Business with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by members of the GSU Board of Governors, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the University. The ceremony marked an important milestone in the continued growth of business education at Glenville State and recognized the people who have helped build the foundation for the new college.

GSU Board of Governors Chair Ann Green opened the formal portion of the ceremony by reading a resolution recognizing the College of Business. Greene and GSU President Dr. Mark A. Manchin then signed the resolution, officially commemorating the establishment of the college.

College of Business Chair Dr. J.D. Carpenter reflected on the history of business education at Glenville State and the people whose work made the transition to a college possible. "Today, we are able to stand on the shoulders of amazing people, who came before us including faculty, staff, students and alumni," Carpenter said. "This transition to College of Business is possible because of them and the foundation that they built. We are excited to take this to the next level."

Carpenter also highlighted the growth and evolution of business education at Glenville State University in recent years, including moving the Management and Accounting BSBA programs online, adding an MBA program with six specializations, retooling the Computer Information and Analysis degree, and introducing a number of micro credentials. "GSU continues to meet the business development needs of West Virginia and the world," Carpenter said.

Carpenter then recognized the faculty members who have helped shape the College of Business and emphasized their commitment to student and University success. "What I appreciate most is that this is not a faculty that simply shows up and teaches classes," Carpenter said. "This is a group that is invested in the success of the College, this University, and in one another. They bring different strengths to the table including accounting, marketing, management, sport management, technology, graduate education, professional experience, athletics, community engagement. Collectively they have created something that is much stronger than any one person could have built alone. I am enormously proud of them."

President Manchin spoke about the significance of the College of Business and its role in expanding opportunities for Glenville State University and its students. "The establishment of the College of Business is a reflection of Glenville State University's continued commitment to preparing students for the opportunities and challenges of a changing world," Manchin said. "Our students are learning from faculty who bring both academic knowledge and real-world experience into the classroom. As we expand our programs and reach more students, we are building on a strong tradition while creating new opportunities for the future."

Following the remarks, Manchin and Carpenter were joined by GSU students for the ceremonial ribbon cutting, officially marking the occasion.

The College of Business provides students with opportunities to pursue business education at multiple levels, with programs designed to prepare graduates for careers across a broad range of industries. In recent years, Glenville State University has expanded its business offerings to include online undergraduate programs, an MBA with six specializations, updated technology-focused programs, and micro credentials designed to meet the evolving needs of today's workforce.

The ribbon cutting celebrated the College of Business's new chapter while honoring the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters whose contributions helped make its growth possible.

"This is an exciting time to be a Pioneer," Carpenter said, "and, as always, we welcome students to come be a part of our future."

