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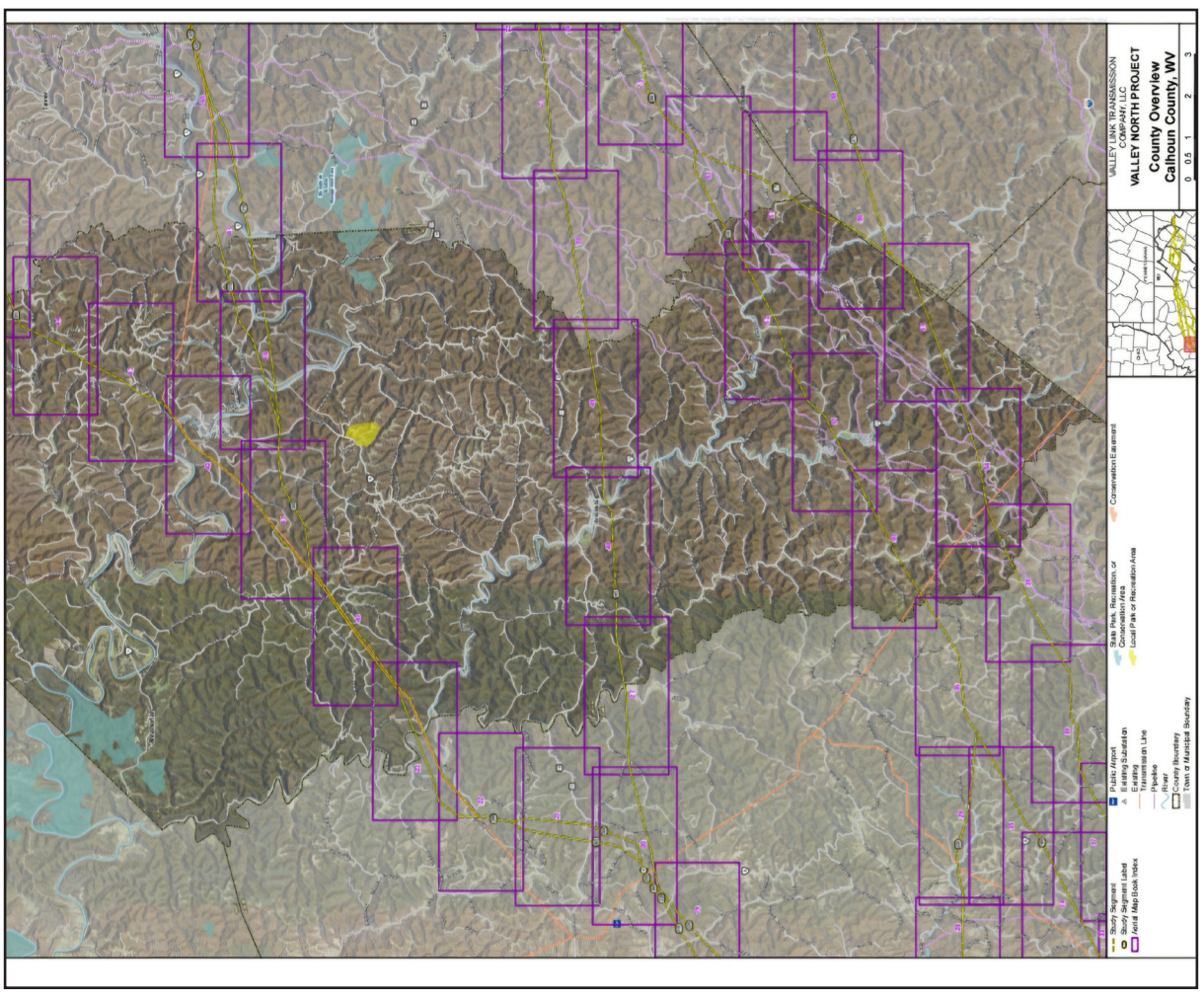
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New Valley North Map Proposal Released



On Monday, Valley North shared the most recent transmission line pathway proposal for Calhoun County.

Minnie Hamilton Receives Grants to Help Expand Health Care Access

By Stephen Smoot

At the end of September, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey came to Minnie Hamilton Health System's Gilmer County facility to make a major announcement. Minnie Hamilton would be a part of a major series of grants awarded to Vandalia Health for the hospital system serving Calhoun and Gilmer counties, as well as Stonewall Jackson Hospital in Lewis County.

A $1.7 million grant will go to Minnie Hamilton from the State's Connected Care Grid Initiative. According to the West Virginia Department of Health, the grid "expands healthcare access across West Virginia by establishing telehealth sites, community care hubs, and remote monitoring programs backed by shared data systems." For Minnie Hamilton, this will take the form of "a mobile medical clinic designed to bring health care services directly into rural communities across the region."

West Virginia University has mobile units allocated for specific issues, such as testing units for breast and lung cancer. In Pendleton, Hardy, Grant, Mineral, and Hampshire counties, the Potomac Highlands Guild has launched mobile service for mental health. The Minnie Hamilton mobile unit will "provide primary care, chronic disease management, behavioral health services, wound care, diagnostic services, telehealth specialty consultations, and care coordination closer to where patients live."



Minnie Hamilton will follow WVU Medicine's success in using mobile units for remote health care service delivery.

Wound care serves as a vital service because advanced diabetes will often lead to wounds that heal with great difficulty due to damage from high blood sugar.

Mobile unit services will be designed to be preventative as well as responsive. Staff using it can assist with chronic disease management, avoiding the development of severe conditions such as foot wounds in diabetics. Earlier access to preventative care will keep many from diabetes, heart disease, and related conditions. Said West Virginia Secretary of Health, Dr. Arvin Singh, "the mobile unit will bring health care directly to patients, helping remove barriers to care while connecting residents to preventative services, chronic disease management, specialty consultations, and follow-up support."

Drones will also play a leading role in health care delivery in the near future. The Cleveland Clinic last August offered the first long-term deployment of prescription drugs to people's homes, but with a radius currently of only five miles. The Minnie Hamilton project, by necessity, will be much more ambitious. Rather than delivering into the suburbs of a major American city, it will traverse hills and hollows many more miles away. Drones will carry "time-critical supplies, blood products, and lab specimens across West Virginia." The expectation is that this project will reduce emergency response times "and streamline provider operations across four rural counties, replacing fragmented couriers with a single reimbursable service line."

Third, Minnie Hamilton will receive funding to implement artificial intelligence-supported documentation technology. One major factor in the rising cost of health care in the 21st century has been the Obamacare legislation's massive expansion of health care coding. Until AI, this laborious task had to be done by human beings. Expansion of codes helped insurance companies more precisely both bill and keep their records, but imposed the cost of the task first on health care systems, then ultimately on patients. Providers can reduce their documentation time by approximately 70 percent and see more patients in the time saved. Humans would not be excluded from the process, but would continue to validate decisions, make sure all is done in compliance with the law, and take care of more complex situations.

Ultimately, the inclusion of AI should have a positive effect on the cost of health care delivery.

According to Nevada State University, the key roles of AI would lie in "maintaining accurate and thorough patient records", "supporting the medical coding process that allows for effective billing", and "securely storing data that can be collected and analyzed to improve processes and patient outcomes."

All patient information is protected under federal privacy laws.



Governor Morrisey has made addressing workforce issues by improving health care access a signature program.

Governor Morrisey's Rural Health Transformation Programs Start to Take Shape Across West Virginia

By Stephen Smoot

"The overall vision is to dramatically improve healthcare outcomes for people in the state of West Virginia," said Governor Patrick Morrisey a few days after he made major announcements at Minnie Hamilton's Gilmer County facility. Three grants to Minnie Hamilton will bring advanced technology to bear on mitigating challenges in delivering health care and related services in rural West Virginia.

With the passage of the "One Big Beautiful Bill" last summer came $50 billion in grant funding that will go to states between 2026 and 2030. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will operate the program. According to a White House release the program "is uniquely designed to promote innovation and long-term sustainability of rural healthcare." It explained that "when legacy programs link funding to reimbursements for services provided, they do not promote long-term sustainability." Rural hospitals have lower volumes of patients, but must maintain a certain level of service access to accommodate unforeseen situations such as pandemics or natural disasters.

Each state provided a blueprint of how it would use funding, subject to approval by CMS. West Virginia received $199 million for 2026 and about $500 million for the life of the program. TAccording to the Governor, this represented one of the highest per capita awards in the region. The original stated goals included expanding access through both in-person and digital or virtual medicine, investing in attracting medical talent while retaining workers already in state, improving transportation access for patients, and developing a slate of prevention programs to help rising generations not have to contend with chronic disease.

Last week, he shared that he was "focusing on the fundamentals" of key state issues. He shared his list of health care priorities currently, saying "We need to make sure we're bringing healthcare closer to patients. So that means more telehealth, it's investing in technology, and it means mobile healthcare clinics as well. One of the announcements we made this week is going to enable a number of counties to have better access to mobile healthcare. Other announcements allowed us to allow us to bring invest heavily in telehealth."

West Virginia's blueprint focused on linkage between health care problems bedeviling the state and also the social and economic impacts. Federal government missteps in creating a nutrition chart that encouraged the eating of carbohydrates and also initially seeing powerful new narcotic medicines in the 1990s as not addictive when they were helped to fuel serious chronic health care problems for decades after. West Virginia has higher than average rates of chronic drug addiction, diabetes, heart disease, and related health issues. Governor Morrisey's program focused on mitigation of current challenges while putting a focus on prevention.

Said Governor Morrisey, "It's an opportunity of a lifetime for West Virginia, because it's the first effort we've ever seen that tries to engage in prevention. and attack the root causes of problems before they exist and take people out of the workforce."

The Federal Reserve Economic Data (or FRED) shares that labor force participation has seen the rates struggle over the decades. The late 1970s saw it dip to a little higher than 51 percent, rising by 1990 to almost 56 percent. That slowly dropped by January 2017 to 53 percent with a nadir in April 2020 of 52.7. It has bounced between 53 and 55.5 percent since then. The Mountain State has the lowest percentage while Nebraska has nearly 70 percent of eligible people working.

Chronic health problems related to low rates of workforce participation thus represent a long term issue that the State has struggled to address for decades.

Getting that participation rate up, according to the

HEALTH 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

Elfego Baca was a handsome young sheriff's deputy when he had his famous two-day gun battle with 80 cowhands from the Texas John Slaughter ranch. He survived, and four cowboys didn't.

He then went on to a law enforcement career in Socorro, New Mexico and then became an attorney. But Elfego wouldn't be Elfego if he just filed briefs. Oh no. This man who was the subject of a Walt Disney film half a century later, became a lawyer you could write home about. His clientele stretched from Albuquerque to El Paso and he gave practicing law the same … flamboyance ….. he gave to law enforcement.

One of the best stories of Elfego's lawyer days … and please remember these days were often alcohol enhanced … thank you … concerned a client in El Paso. Baca was in Albuquerque at the time, so the client wired him, saying, "I'm in jail in El Paso and charged with murder. Please come."

And Elfego wired back. "Leaving immediately with three eyewitnesses."

xxxx

Brought to you by "The Secret of the Gila Cliff Dwellings, a New Mexico Rangers Mystery" by Lon Lawrence. Contact inks.crowbar.5e@icloud.com.

Orange You Glad It's Bisque Season

by Matthew Welsch

October is when sweet potatoes, butternut squash, and pumpkin all hit their stride at once. They're sweet, they're cheap, they come in abundance, and every one of them is its own beautiful shade of orange, the color of autumn. Put all three in one pot for a delightful celebration of the season.

As much as I love this sweet fall bounty, it breaks my heart a little as a chef when I see people ramp up the sweetness to a full-on dessert level with candied pecans, brown sugar, and marshmallows. Each of these delicious vegetables has already got it going on. Please don't cover up those beautiful flavors.

Now, I'm not one to mess with tradition, but do me a favor and try this recipe, as well. I think you'll see that there's more than one way to eat these ingredients.

I made a version of this bisque for the Riffle Farms Bison Roast last month, an annual event at the farm in Terra Alta. Riffle Farms is West Virginia's only commercial bison farm, started in 2017 by Liz and Jimmie Riffle. You don't need to make 5 gallons, though. Here's a scaled-down recipe to feed your family with some leftovers for lunch the next day.

Roasting is the key to this recipe. It's where the real flavor comes in. I suggest roasting everything in bison tallow, if you can get it, but that reserved Mason jar of bacon fat next to your range will work great, too. Or a simple, neutral oil does the same job, and may be a little more heart-healthy.

Use a small sugar pumpkin, sometimes sold as a pie pumpkin, instead of the big carving kind, which runs stringy and watery. Roast it all hard at a high heat until the edges caramelize, and season the finished soup boldly. Squash soup needs more salt than you think.

A nice hunk of sourdough bread makes this a meal. I was fortunate enough at Riffle Farms to have Hinerman Hill on hand with their fresh-baked loaves. Hinerman Hill Farm is a family-run farm in Preston County that turns out artisan sourdough and small-batch granola, and they teach sourdough classes too. If you can't get that, and you don't have time to make your own, the heartiest, crustiest bread you can find will do in a pinch.

Here's how we put it all in one pot.

Fall Bisque

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Time: 1½ hours

1½ lbs Sugar Pumpkin, peeled, seeded, and cubed (one 2½ to 3 lb pumpkin)

1½ lbs Butternut Squash, peeled and cubed

1 lb Sweet Potato, peeled and cubed

3 T Bison Tallow, Bacon Fat, or Oil

1 ea Yellow Onion, diced

3 cloves Garlic, minced

4 T Unsalted Butter

4 C Vegetable or Chicken Stock

½ C Apple Cider

1 C Heavy Cream

1 T Maple Syrup

1 t Dried Sage

1 t Dried Thyme

¼ t Nutmeg

¼ t Cinnamon

TT Kosher Salt and White Pepper

¼ C Hickory Nuts or Pecans, toasted and crushed (topping)

½ C Sour Cream, loosened with a splash of buttermilk (topping)

ROAST: Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Toss the pumpkin, butternut squash, and sweet potato with the fat and 1½ teaspoons salt. Spread across two sheet pans in a single layer and roast for 40 to 45 minutes, stirring once and swapping the pans halfway, until soft and caramelized at the edges. You want dark tan colors, not burnt, but squash has a lot of water in it and can take the abuse.

SWEAT AROMATICS: While the vegetables roast, melt the butter in a large soup pot over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook for 8 to 10 minutes, until soft and fragrant but not browned.

SIMMER AND BLEND: Add the roasted vegetables, stock, cider, sage, and thyme. Simmer for 20 minutes. Blend until smooth with an immersion blender, or work in batches in a regular blender, leaving the lid vented so the steam can escape.

FINISH: Stir in the cream, maple syrup, nutmeg, and cinnamon. You'll notice there's just a touch of maple. One tablespoon complements the dish rather than overtaking it. Season with salt and white pepper, tasting as you go. Ladle into bowls and top each with toasted nuts and a spoonful of the buttermilk sour cream. Serve with plenty of bread.

Enjoy, friends. Save a bowl for the first really cold morning.

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The Problematic Socialism of Public Water Systems

By Stephen Smoot

Americans have, by and large, rejected the socialist model of economics and for good reason. Socialism has failed to deliver almost everywhere applied. That said, in some specific sectors, Americans have preferred to allow government to take a lead.

This makes sense in some areas. Law enforcement, for example, in West Virginia used to be a private sector enterprise in some localities. West Virginia history notes the Baldwin and Felts Detective Agency, for example, as the villains of the Mine Wars era. They emerged as such after some towns hired them to perform law enforcement functions from keeping order to investigating serious crimes.

Their role in the events leading up to the Matewan Massacre shows why that did not work out.

A large number of West Virginia residents rely on public water and sewer systems and this is also, in many areas, not working out. Problems have piled up because of the nature of, as Karl Marx would put it, the government "owning the means of production."

The Polish academic Bartomliej Kaminski identified the key flaw in a Socialist or Communist economic system. He stated that these systems fail because the operators make economic decisions for political reasons. When this happens, failure almost always follows because even in a Socialist or Communist system, resources are still limited and decisions on allocation must be made to ensure the best possible set of outcomes.

Now consider a municipal town council operating a water and sewer systems. When customers pay their water and sewer bills, the money should go back into the system for operational and normal maintenance costs. As the system operates now, when major expenses such as damage or failure of major equipment, long stretches of pipe, or the need for an extension, these entities must go to the state or federal government with hands extended, begging for help.

A number of town systems across the state also serve as the primary source for surrounding public service districts in the same county.

Many of these towns, and also PSDs, do operate with fiscal discipline. They raise rates when needed and make good decisions on how to use funding. Most of the time, these are the systems that have few to no problems. Others do not use good fiscal discipline and in many of those cases customers end up suffering as a result.

Town councils are more subject to pressure than PSD boards, however, because they are elected and not appointed. Being elected officials subjects them to concerns and pressures related to that role. Some may fear losing the next election if they vote responsibly and keep rates rising incrementally. PSD board members are separated from local government and can make decisions without concern over the next election.

And also, some PSDs do a better job than others at maintaining fiscal discipline. That gets more difficult as time goes on, costs rise, and the number of rate payers declines without system extension.

People elected to town councils or chosen for PSD boards are just as concerned about their fellow townspeople as anyone. That is very important to remember. It is a good thing to be kind, but sometimes hard decisions are required. Over time, the costs of operating and maintaining water and sewer service go up. If funding does not rise with inflation, maintenance gets deferred. Problems build up. Failures start to happen.

And the people are left with poor service and nowhere to turn.

These bodies have the essential job of voting to raise water and sewer rates when the cost of running and maintaining the service rises. That said, they are kind people who are sensitive to the needs of their friends and neighbors. They don't want to see people on fixed incomes or the single parent working two jobs to get by to endure more burdens.

In many localities, rates remained unchanged, funds to run the systems diminished relative to costs, and then the "bill" arrived for payment in unclean water, sewer line breaks, or other issues.

Some have proposed that West Virginia - American Water Company take over a number of these municipal and public service district entities. This would put the system under private control, but closely supervised by the West Virginia Public Service Commission.

Calhoun County Commission President Eric Lupardus last summer addressed that proposal in an official meeting and rejected it for that locality. His reasoning was logical in that he feared that a rural and remote county and its residents would get left behind if absorbed into a major corporation.

That is a reasonable point and most residents likely agreed that would not represent a good solution or outcome for the county.

That said, to put local water systems on more secure ground, decisions to raise rates cannot be left in the hands of elected officials or the same problems will continue to pop up.

Another solution could lie in the West Virginia State Legislature passing a mandatory incremental increase in local public water and sewer rates to match the increase in inflation across the board.

That solution would address the problem of delayed rate hikes, but there is another issues here as well. A balkanized system of dozens of local government entities operating more or less independently puts them at a significant disadvantage in economies of scale. Larger organizations can absorb and spread rising costs more broadly across the system. Rates would not have to rise as quickly in such a situation for water and sewer. Also, larger entities have better capacity to obtain grant funding because of the "more bang for the buck" idea.

While that would seem to make the argument for consolidation under West Virginia - American Water, another option is possible.

Another option could lie in looking at the model of companies such as Hardy Telecommunications, Shentel, or Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks Telecommunications.

These companies date back to the 1930s at the very beginning of the extension of rural telephone service. Rural communities in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (remote in the 1920s and 30s), Hardy County, and Pendleton County formed non profit cooperatives that function as private companies. The fact that they have to overcome the challenges of extending service in rural and mountainous areas prevents them from being able to operate on a for profit model.

Another similar model is seen in poultry production cooperatives that came into existence to provide alternatives to growers that help them compete for better compensation for their hard work.

West Virginia could look at the formation of county or even regional water and sewer cooperatives that separate decision-making from elected officials and merge town and PSD entities into a single cooperative. They could follow the telecommunications cooperatives as a model for corporate structure and business strategy..

Like PSDs, they have boards of directors and executive directors who make major decisions, again under the supervision of the PSC. The value here lies in moving the decision-making process away from those who are negatively incentivized by kindness or political fears into not raising water and sewer rates when needed. Additionally, private companies have the ability to go after operating capital with much more flexibility than simply putting in a request to a government board and waiting.

The problem of deteriorating systems is real and will keep getting worse. A great deal of infrastructure came into being during the works programs of the Great Depression. Older towns and cities decades ago absorbed ramshackle, crazy-quilt private systems into what they built and in some cases no one knows the exact form of the current network.

All of this means that the problem is bad and getting worse. That said, money alone will not solve the problem. Getting the government out of water and sewer will provide a more stable and secure system.

This also serves as an example of why government is incapable of providing good service consistently, because it is quite bad at allocating resources in the most logical and efficient ways. Logic and efficiency will not provide everyone with the perfect outcome every time, but it will provide the best results in the largest number of cases.

Stepping back to look at the broader issue, Socialism does not work because it expects a mule to be a horse. It expects a slow moving, sometimes dimwitted, often stubborn animal to be fast moving and dynamic. It assumes the mule is superior because it is a mule, not because the mule has even one time proven itself in a horse's role.

Mules are mules and have a specific purpose that they perform well so long as they stay in their roles. Expecting a mule to be a horse is failure waiting to happen. Similarly, one cannot ever rely on government to perform optimally when providing goods and services because, alas, government is the mule of the metaphor.

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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When It Comes to Secure and Fair Elections, Trust Matters

Kris Warner
WV Secretary of State

As technology continues to evolve, so do the ways Americans seek information. Increasingly, people turn to social media artificial intelligence tools to answer everyday questions. From what started as a new type of search engine for planning a vacation or researching a school assignment, some AI users are now using these same tools to obtain information about voting and elections.

While these technologies offer tremendous potential, voters should exercise extreme caution when relying on AI-generated responses for election information.

A recent study cited by The Hill found that nearly one-third of election-related responses provided by popular AI chatbots were incomplete, inaccurate, or outdated. The researchers discovered examples of chatbots providing incorrect Election Day information, outdated voter registration requirements, inaccurate election deadlines, and even omitted details that voters need to be eligible to cast a ballot.

That finding should concern us all.

The right to vote is one of the most fundamental in the United States. Missing a registration deadline, misunderstanding ID requirements, or receiving incorrect location information for voting could result in a voter missing the opportunity to vote in an election.

So how can AI tools, with their seemingly endless potential and ability to adapt, get basic information wrong?

It's because election information is not static. Deadlines change. Procedures vary from year to year. Laws are amended. Election deadlines differ from state to state.

AI systems are only as reliable as the information they have available. Unlike trained election officials, AI tools may incorrectly rely on outdated sources, incomplete information, summaries instead of statutory text, and generalized data that does not accurately reflect current election procedures specifically in West Virginia.

As Secretary of State, I want every eligible West Virginian to have access to accurate, trustworthy election information.

That is why I encourage voters to treat AI-generated election information as a starting point, but never as the final authority.

If a chatbot provides information about voter registration, absentee voting, polling locations, ID requirements, or election deadlines, take the extra step to verify that information through official sources: the Secretary of State's Office and your local county clerk's office.

Election officials work year-round to maintain accurate voter registration records, update election calendars, administer voting procedures, and provide factual information to the public. These are the individuals charged by law with conducting elections and helping voters navigate the process.

Everything a voter needs to know about the upcoming November 3rd General Election can also be found on the WV Secretary of State's Office official election webpage at GoVoteWV.com.

Unfortunately, we live in an era when misinformation spreads quickly. Sometimes, it is intentional. Sometimes, it is simply the result of outdated or incomplete information. Either way, inaccurate election information can create confusion, undermine confidence in our elections, and even prevent someone from having the opportunity to vote.

The best defense against misinformation is verification.

Before sharing election-related information with family, friends, or on social media, ask a simple question: "Did this information come from an official source?"

If the answer is no, take a moment to verify it.

Start with GoVoteWV.com to check important election deadlines, register to vote, confirm voter registration status, locate polling places, review election resources, and find county clerk contact information. Or you can refer to a local election official's website.

Official sources provide certainty that no chatbot, social media post, or online rumor can guarantee.

Technology will continue to shape how citizens interact with government, and our office welcomes innovations that make information more accessible. But no matter how sophisticated AI becomes, there is no substitute for information that comes directly from election officials.

As we approach the upcoming General Election, I encourage every voter to verify before they trust, confirm before they share, and rely on official sources for election information.

Secure and fair elections work best when voters have confidence that the information they receive is accurate. Together, we can ensure that every eligible West Virginian has the facts they need to make their voice heard at the ballot box.

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1

Governor, represents the goal of a healthier workforce. The idea lies in getting the body and mind healthy, then the individual will be able to focus on improving his or her condition in other ways. "To me, that's the essence of rural health transformation," he said, "because we need to get more people in the workforce. We need to get people healthier. This is a great opportunity to do that. So what does that mean practically? It means that we're trying to make sure that there's strong access, healthcare, for people in the communities, access to nurses, access to hospitals, access to physicians.. We need to make sure we're bringing healthcare closer to patients. So that means more telehealth, it's investing in technology, and it means mobile healthcare clinics as well."

Improvement in workforce participation also translates to easier attraction of investment that brings jobs and tax revenue to the state. Some of the areas that have seen the least progress in economic development unfortunately sometimes also have the highest levels of chronic health issues.

West Virginia University has seen great success in sending mobile testing units for breast and lung cancer into rural areas and the rural health transformation will build on that, plus expand opportunities for telehealth as well.

Laws, however, may serve as a barrier to expansion of telehealth in some fields. For example, West Virginia requires that to offer telehealth services in optometry, a doctor must be physically present in addition to the provider online. This creates barriers because many communities struggle to attract the services of such professionals. Even Keyser, the second largest city in the Eastern Panhandle with about 10,000 people living in town and nearby, saw one of its main eye clinics shut down services for months because it had no eye doctor on site.

Better access to medicine through advanced technology makes getting to the doctor less of a challenge for rural residents. Those who keep up with regular visits tend to have fewer chronic health problems, but transportation for many remains a struggle. Bringing medicine as close to people as possible reduces barriers.

"All of it does tie together, good economics are tied inextricably with better healthcare outcomes," shared Governor Morrisey.

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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Dear Recycle Lady,

I have been recycling all my office paper, magazines and newspapers. Are there any types of paper that cannot be recycled?

Paper Recycler

Dear Paper Recycler,

Yes, there are several types of paper that can't be recycled. Freezer paper and wax paper are neither recyclable nor compostable as they are coated with either vegetable wax or petroleum-based paraffin. Used parchment paper isn't recyclable either as it may be stained with food or cooking oils. The short fibers that make up tissue paper prevent it from being recyclable. However, it is compostable and breaks down quickly in your compost bin. Napkins and paper towels are not recyclable either as they are a very low grade of paper. They are both made from paper that may have been recycled five to seven times, thus the fibers are very small and short. However, both napkins and paper towels can be composted and are considered brown material, as long as they haven't been used to wipe up oil, butter, milk or lard. Gift wrapping paper, paper coated with plastic, and sticky paper are not recyclable, and neither are thermal receipts. Thermal receipts contain chemicals that are harmful to the environment and to humans, thus they are neither recyclable nor compostable. Paper cups and plates are not recyclable as they may have food or grease on them, both of which are contaminates. Any kind of paper, whether white, colored, magazine, newspaper, or cardboard, can't be recycled if it is not clean and dry. Grease and food must never be on paper products to be recycled as grease and food will not mix with the water needed to break down the paper into fibers. If greasy or food-laden paper is put in with clean paper, the entire batch is contaminated and cannot be recycled. Thus, it all goes to the landfill.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What do I do with clothes that are wearable, but I no longer want to wear?

Let's Avoid Waste

Dear Let's Avoid Waste,

There are many online sites for buying, selling, or donating used clothing. These online options offer choices that are not available locally. Just google used clothing websites to see the many opportunities. There are several ways used clothing can be donated locally: The Americana Shop on the corner of Foster and Court streets in Lewisburg, Goodwill located in the Red Oaks Shopping Center at the opposite end of the shopping center from Kroger, off 219 South in Fairlea, The Caldwell Thrift Store in Caldwell on the corner of Route US 60 and WV 63, and Greenbrier Better Living located on Route 219 in Ronceverte. As you get out your fall clothes and find ones you no longer want, consider the possibilities and choose the one that suits best. Then, sit back and enjoy all those organized closets and drawers and celebrate a job well done.

Dear Recycle Lady,

When I removed the white cap from a plastic bottle, a small white plastic band remained on the bottle that I am unable to remove. Can plastic bottles be recycled with the bands still on the top of the bottles? Also, why can't bottles be recycled with the top on? The tops of some bottles say to leave the top on for recycling. Top or

No Top

Dear Top or no Top,

Yes, plastic bottles are recycled with the white plastic band still on the bottle. However, be sure to remove the cap before recycling. Since bottles and caps are made of two different kinds of plastics, they can't be recycled together as they have different melting points when processed. Large cities can recycle bottles with the caps on, but it takes specialized equipment with a pressurized system to remove the caps. Our local Recycling Center doesn't have this equipment, so all caps must be removed. Bottles to be shipped out of the Recycling Center are crushed and baled and if a top is still on a bottle, it becomes a "projectile" and is a danger to our staff.

Dear Readers,

It has come to my attention that I omitted the word "each" following "25 pounds of oral products recycled." It should have 6 boxes of 25 pounds EACH for a grand total of 150 pounds of tooth brushes, etc.!

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

Governor Morrisey Joins Federal Partners to Launch NEST Program in West Virginia

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. - Governor Patrick Morrisey today joined Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator Tom Engels at WVU Medicine Golisano Children's to launch the national expansion of the Newborn Essentials Support Toolkit (NEST) Program, with West Virginia becoming the first state to receive kits as part of the expansion. The initiative provides families with essential newborn and postpartum supplies along with trusted health information and resources.

"Every child deserves the strongest possible start in life, and that begins with making sure mothers and families have the support they need when they welcome a new baby," said Governor Morrisey. "NEST brings together practical resources and important health information at a time when they can make a real difference for both mother and child."

NEST is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that brings together public and private partners to support mothers and babies during the critical period surrounding childbirth. Approximately 2,000 kits are expected to be delivered to West Virginia families during this phase of the program.

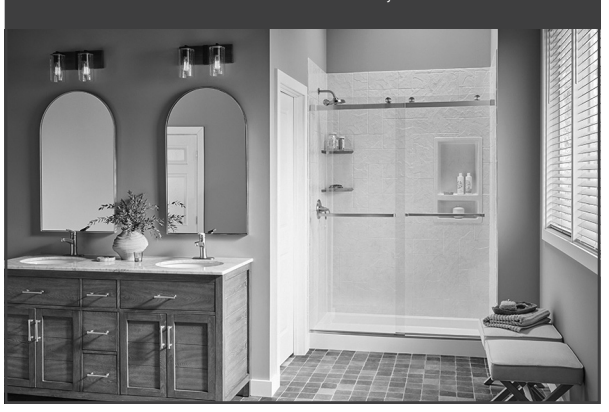
Each NEST kit includes more than 20 newborn and postpartum essentials, including diapers, wipes, an infant thermometer, postpartum recovery and breastfeeding supplies, and a blood-pressure monitor. Families also receive information on postpartum health, infant safety and care, feeding and nutrition, and programs and resources available to support parents and their babies.

Governor Morrisey and Administrator Engels toured WVU Medicine Golisano Children's before participating in a roundtable with patients and health care leaders to discuss the needs families face during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.

West Virginia is also investing approximately $200 million in federal Rural Health Transformation funding to expand access to care, strengthen the health care workforce and improve health outcomes across the state.

"We want West Virginia to be the best place in America to raise a family, and that means supporting families from the very beginning," said Governor Morrisey. "By working with the Trump Administration and our health care partners, we can give parents more tools to care for their children and help more West Virginia babies get a healthy start."

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Obituary



Brenice Little

Brenice Little, 93, inherited her wings on October 10, 2026. She was born on October 1, 1933, in Grantsville, WV., a daughter to the late George and Gatha Digman Nichols.

She cared for children in her home for many years. She was a loving mother and devoted wife. She was a member of Kanawha United Methodist Church for over fifty years, spending many years as their charge treasurer as well as a Sunday school teacher, and serving on several committees.

In later years, she was a resident at the Ohio Valley Health Care Center where she received exceptional care.

She is survived by her children, Larry (Sharon), Cindy (Monty), Ed (Angie), and many grand and great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Gail Little of 64 years; five brothers and four sisters.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for memorial donations to be sent to the Ohio Valley Health Care Activities.

Funeral service will be held at 1:00p.m., Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Lambert Tatman Funeral Home, Pike St., South Parkersburg with Alfred Hickman officiating. Interment will follow at Sunset Memory Gardens. Family will accept friends and loved ones for visitation at 11:00 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home.

Lambert Tatman Funeral Home, South Parkersburg, has been entrusted with Brenice's final wishes and is honored to serve her family.

Nucor Steel West Virginia opens applications for 2027 Nucor Technical Academy

Career-focused program combines college coursework, paid training and hands-on electrical maintenance experience

APPLE GROVE, WEST VIRGINIA - Nucor Steel West Virginia is accepting applications for its 2027 Nucor Technical Academy class, a career-focused training program designed to prepare high school graduates and GED recipients for electrical maintenance careers at Nucor.

The 27-month program combines classroom instruction with structured, hands-on assignments alongside experienced Nucor maintenance teammates. Students begin with online general studies coursework and limited on-the-job training at their sponsoring division before relocating to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for technical courses at Shelton State Community College and on-the-job training at Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa.

"The Technical Academy gives students a strong foundation in electrical maintenance while allowing them to learn directly from experienced teammates in a real manufacturing environment," said Marcus Brown, electrical supervisor at Nucor Steel West Virginia. "It is an opportunity to build technical skills, understand the importance of safety and teamwork, and begin a meaningful career with Nucor."

Students who complete the program can earn an Associate in Applied Science degree in Electrical Technology and are expected to be prepared for entry-level maintenance electrician opportunities. The program includes paid class and on-the-job training time. Tuition, textbooks, housing, and travel costs are paid by Nucor for students who meet the program's academic requirements.

Applications are open September 1 through December 31 for students entering the following summer.

Candidates entering in 2027 must be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2027. The program is competitive, and selection is based on program requirements and participating division needs.

To learn more and access application information, please visit www.nucor.com/nucor-technical-academy.

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Calhoun County Runners Excel at Elk River Trail Meet; Tingler Sets New School Record

CLAY COUNTY, W.Va. — The Calhoun Middle High School cross country team delivered an impressive performance at the Elk River Trail Cross Country Meet, earning top finishes across multiple divisions while highlighting both individual excellence and team depth.

The high school boys dominated the competition, placing four runners in the top five and showcasing one of their strongest performances of the season. Jackson Clawson led the way by capturing the individual championship with a winning time of 17:58.6. Teammate Braidin Ferrell was close behind in second place at 18:00.0, while Eli Ferrell crossed the finish line in third place with a time of 19:17.0. Zac Smith rounded out the Red Devils' top finishers with a fifth-place performance in 19:30.9.

The Calhoun girls were equally impressive, led by Brooke Tingler, who continued her historic season with a runner-up finish in 20:09.8. In the process, Tingler broke the Calhoun County High School girls cross country school record for the second time this season, further cementing her place among the school's top distance runners.

Carissa Sands added another top-10 finish for the Lady Red Devils, placing seventh in 24:22.9, while Gabi Smith finished ninth with a time of 25:28.3.

The middle school girls squad also turned in a strong showing. Lillian Caldwell led Calhoun with a 10th-place finish in 15:00.2, followed closely by Temperance Caldwell, who placed 11th in 15:27.7. Mackenzie Tingler earned a top-15 finish as well, taking 15th place with a time of 16:51.1.

In addition to their success on the course, the Red Devils competed in pink uniforms in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, showing support for those affected by breast cancer and helping promote awareness throughout October.

The Elk River Trail Meet provided another strong performance for the Calhoun program as the team continues preparing for the postseason. With a school record performance, individual race champions, and numerous top-10 finishes, the Red Devils demonstrated both talent and determination against a competitive field.

Calhoun Results

High School Boys

1st — Jackson Clawson, 17:58.6



2nd — Braidin Ferrell, 18:00.0

3rd — Eli Ferrell, 19:17.0

5th — Zac Smith, 19:30.9

High School Girls

2nd — Brooke Tingler, 20:09.8 (School Record)

7th — Carissa Sands, 24:22.9

9th — Gabi Smith, 25:28.3

Middle School Girls

10th — Lillian Caldwell, 15:00.2

11th — Temperance Caldwell, 15:27.7

15th — Mackenzie Tingler, 16:51.1









Red Devils Journey to Valley

Last Friday night at Mount Zion, Calhoun County hosted Wahama in the WV MetroNews Class A Game of the week. The game, which pitted the #9 Red Devils against the top-ranked White Falcons, was also designated as Alumni Night. The Red Devils defense was able to hold Wahama to its lowest point total of the season. Unfortunately, Wahama's defense also held Calhoun's offense to its lowest score of the year and cruised to a 49-7 shellacking of the Red Devils.

Wahama took the opening kickoff and scored on a quick drive. Calhoun started out well on its first possession, moving the ball as well as Wahama had, though the gains were shorter and the drive longer. The drive stalled at midfield when the Red Devils, already playing without the services of their starting quarterback, lost their backup as well. Wahama intercepted a Calhoun pass, and scored two plays later.

The remainder of the half was all White Falcons. The second quarter ended with the visitors up 49-0. The homestanding Red Devils were limited to 27 yards of total offense and only 2 first downs.

By mutual consent of both coaches, the final two quarters were shortened to eight minutes and played under a rolling clock. The Red Devils held the White Falcons scoreless in the second half, and managed to mount a scoring drive in their second (and final) possession of the half. Ezra Anderson, Chase Schoolcraft and Rome Riddel took turns carrying the ball on the 92-yard drive. The highlight of the possession was a 35-yard gain by Schoolcraft, and Riddel lugged the ball over the goal line to avoid the shutout. Riddel also kicked the first extra point of his career to set the final score at 49-7.

Despite the score, there were still some highlights in the game. Ezra Anderson had a fine 34-yard run in the first half, the only significant Red Devil gain until the final drive. Nic Butler intercepted a White Falcon pass in the second quarter, an incredible catch of a line-drive pass that was a near carbon copy of a play he'd made at Wirt County earlier in the season. The Red Devils also played a very clean game, committing only five penalties – all false starts – during the contest.

This was the second time this season that a Calhoun game was selected as the Class A Game of the Week. The first time was the Red Devils' 26-7 at Wirt County in week 3.

It's easy to be discouraged after such a rough game, but the Red Devils are 4-2 and have four very competitive games to close out the season, starting with an away game against Valley this Friday. This will be the seventh meeting between the two opponents since the series started in 2020. Valley holds a 4-2 lead all-time, but the Red Devils clobbered the Lumberjacks 65-14 in last year's homecoming contest. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00 at Thomas C. West Stadium in Pine Grove.

Wahama	29	20	0	0	- 49
Calhoun	0	0	0	7	- 7

W - Cooper Roush, 16 run (Hunter Miller kick) 9:55 1st

W - Jairus Robinson, 5 run (Trace Simpkins run) 6:07 1st

W - Robinson, 12 run (Simpkins run) 4:14 1st

W - Robinson, 10 run (pass failed) 1:21 1st

W - Simpkins, 45 run (Charlie Long pass from Simpkins) 5:12 2nd

W - Robinson, 3 run (pass failed) 4:32 2nd

W - Roush, 28 pass from Simpkins (pass failed) 0:39 2nd

C - Rome Riddel, 3 run (Riddel kick) 2:33 4th

TEAM STATISTICS

Wahama		Calhoun
18	First Downs	7
23-287	Rushes-Yardage	35-127
106	Passing Yardage	-7
7-13-1	PC-PA-Int.	2-5-1
96	Return Yardage	10
0-0	Punts-Avg.	4-30.3
0-0	Fumbles-Lost	2-1
4-40	Penalties-Yards	3-15

OFFENSE

Calhoun rushing – Ezra Anderson 8-67, Rome Riddel 13-35, Chase Schoolcraft 9-16, Gavin Hicks 4-13, team 1(-4). Total 35-127.

Calhoun passing – Chase Schoolcraft 1-3-1, 1 yard; Gavin Hicks 1-1, -8 yards; Reese Schoolcraft 0-1. Total 2-5-1, -7 yards.

Calhoun receiving – Ezra Anderson 2-(-7).

DEFENSE

Calhoun tackles (solo-assists-total) – Chase Schoolcraft (4-0-4), Robert Davis (3-1-4), Ezra Anderson (3-0-3), Nic Butler (2-1-3), Lance Grogg (2-1-3), Dayvon Mitchell (1-2-3), Rome Riddel (0-3-3), Reese Schoolcraft (2-0-2), Sam Bailey (2-0-2), Chase Toney (1-0-1), Kristian Frederick (0-1-1). Total 20-9-29. Interception: Nic Butler

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Local Business Directory Information

Fall turkey season begins October 10

Licenses can be purchased online at wvhunt.com

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) today announced that turkey hunting will return to West Virginia when the fall season's first segment opens in all 55 counties on Oct. 10.

The first segment of the fall turkey season is open Oct. 10-18 in all 55 counties. The second segment will be open Oct. 26 to Nov. 1 and provides an additional week of hunting opportunities in 16 counties. A third and final segment will be open Oct. 26 to Nov. 15 and provides three additional weeks of hunting in 14 counties.

"We encourage hunters to take the opportunity to reconnect with the outdoors and pursue one of West Virginia's most elusive game birds," said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. "There's nothing like bagging your own wild turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. It's a wonderful tradition to share with family and friends, and we remind everyone to stay safe, follow season regulations and make the most of West Virginia's unmatched autumn woods."

During the fall turkey season, only one bird of either sex can be harvested using a bow, crossbow or gun, including air rifles that are .22 caliber or larger. Hunting hours range from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. The use of electronic calls and bait is prohibited. For more information about the fall turkey season, check page 41 in the West Virginia Hunting Regulations Summary, available online at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations.

All hunters 15 and older are required to have a valid West Virginia hunting license and valid form of identification while hunting, which can be purchased at license agents across the state or online at WVhunt.com.

Governor Patrick Morrisey Issues Statement on Passing of Frank Giardina

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Governor Patrick Morrisey today issued the following statement on the passing of Frank Giardina, a longtime West Virginia broadcaster, former Marshall University athletics administrator and former member of the Attorney General's Office.

Frank Giardina was a remarkable West Virginian, and I was fortunate to know him and work alongside him during my time as Attorney General.

Frank had a deep Christian faith and a gift for connecting with people. Whether behind the microphone calling Marshall games, working with student-athletes or serving the people of West Virginia, he made a lasting impression on those around him.

One of the many memories I recall fondly is traveling with Frank and hearing him regale me with stories about the sports legends in every county we visited. He was such a good man, and he loved our state so, so much.

Denise and I join Frank's many friends and admirers in mourning his passing. His contributions to West Virginia and the lives he touched will not be forgotten. Our prayers are with his family and loved ones.

WAG Trap-Neuter-Return on October 26

On Monday, October 26, the Welfare of Animals Group (WAG) will be humanely trapping feral cats in the Mt. Zion area to have them spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and ear tipped (the universal sign that a cat has been part of a Trap-Neuter-Return program). We would appreciate if you would not put food out for them on Sunday, October 25, as we will be trapping on Monday morning. Once the cats have recovered from anesthesia (at least 24 to 48 hours) we will return them to their exact location. They will be healthier, happier, and not reproducing and fighting. Thank you for your cooperation. So far we have spayed and neutered 1,203 community cats (643 females and 560 males).

Please keep your personal cats indoors or put a collar on them on Monday the 26th. If you have any questions, please call Linda at 304-354-7506.

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

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



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Macfarlan Community Church Homecoming

Macfarlan Community Church
98th Homecoming
Sunday, Oct 18,2026
Dale Cunningham leading service at 10 am followed by lunch then singing by Mark Chapman
7919 Staunton Tpke Macfarlan WV 26148

LEGAL

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Calhoun, WV — General Election — November 3, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER
To vote you must darken the oval ( ) completely next to the candidate or issue of your choice.

NATIONAL TICKET

FOR U.S. SENATOR (Vote for ONE)
- SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO REP Charleston Kanawha Co.
- RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON DEM Morgantown Monongalia Co.
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED LBN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED MTN
- S. MARSHALL WILSON CST Hedgesville Berkeley Co.
- Write-in, If Any

FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for ONE)
- CAROL MILLER REP Huntington Cabell Co.
- VINCE GEORGE DEM So Charleston Kanawha Co.
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED LBN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED MTN
- BELINDA FOX-SPENCER CST Peterstown Monroe Co.
- Write-in, If Any

STATE TICKET

FOR STATE SENATOR 12TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT (Vote for ONE)
- BEN QUEEN REP Bridgeport Harrison Co.
- LYNETTE MURRAY DEM Clarksburg Harrison Co.
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED LBN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED MTN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED CST
- Write-in, If Any

STATE TICKET

FOR MEMBER OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES 62ND DELEGATE DISTRICT (Vote for ONE)
- ROGER HANSHAW REP Wallback Clay Co.
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED DEM
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED LBN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED MTN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED CST
- Write-in, If Any

COUNTY TICKET

FOR CIRCUIT CLERK UNEXPIRED TERM (Vote for ONE)
- TAYLOR GREEN REP Arnoldsburg
- MARIA ARNOLD DEM Mount Zion
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED LBN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED MTN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED CST
- Write-in, If Any

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER Not more than one resident of any magisterial district may be elected (Vote for ONE)
- RONNIE DAKOTA LAUGHLIN REP Grantsville Lee Dist.
- SAMANTHA JARVIS DEM Chloe Washington Dist.
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED LBN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED MTN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED CST
- Write-in, If Any

COUNTY TICKET

FOR COUNTY CLERK UNEXPIRED TERM (Vote for ONE)
- JENNIFER STUDER REP Millstone
- WHITNEY BUTLER DEM Arnoldsburg
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED LBN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED MTN
- NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED CST
- Write-in, If Any

BALLOT ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Amendment No. 1: Citizenship Requirement to Vote in West Virginia Elections

Summary of Purpose: This amendment provides that in all elections held in West Virginia only citizens of the United States who are citizens of this state are qualified to vote.

Instructions to Voters:
To vote in favor of the Amendment submitted, darken the oval next to "FOR". To vote against the Amendment, darken the oval next to "AGAINST".

- FOR
- AGAINST

POLL CLERKS — POLL CLERKS — PRECINCT 1 Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01

SAMPLE

LEGAL

THE CALHOUN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE WILL BE-HOLDING PUBLIC TESTING OF ELECTION EQUIPMENT ON 10/15/26 AT 10 AM IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE COURTHOUSE.

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CALHOUN COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: PETITION OF:
Randy Allen Proctor — Case No. CC-07-2026-P-29
FOR A NAME CHANGE TO:
Randy Allen Starcher

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF AN ADULT

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of November, 2026, at the hour of 11;00 AM, or as soon thereafter as this matter may be heard, before the Circuit Court as Calhoun County, located at 363 Main St., Grantsville, the Petitioner, Randy Allen Proctor will request an Order from the Court for a name change to: Randy Allen Starcher.

Any person who has objection to the name change for any reason may appear at the date, time and place set forth above and shall be heard in opposition to such change. The hearing may be rescheduled without further notice or publication. Any person who has objection may contact the Circuit Clerk's office at (304) 354-6910 to verify the date and time of the hearing.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2026.

PETITIONER

WITNESS my hand and seal this 28th day of September, 2026.

Clerk of the Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

To place your Legals Call us at (304)-647-5724

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until November 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
025	2026070003	S307-33-3.68 00	STBG-0033(546)D	RESURFACING Leatherbark - Arnoldsburg Midpoint

COUNTY: CALHOUN

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' licence is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for $500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

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

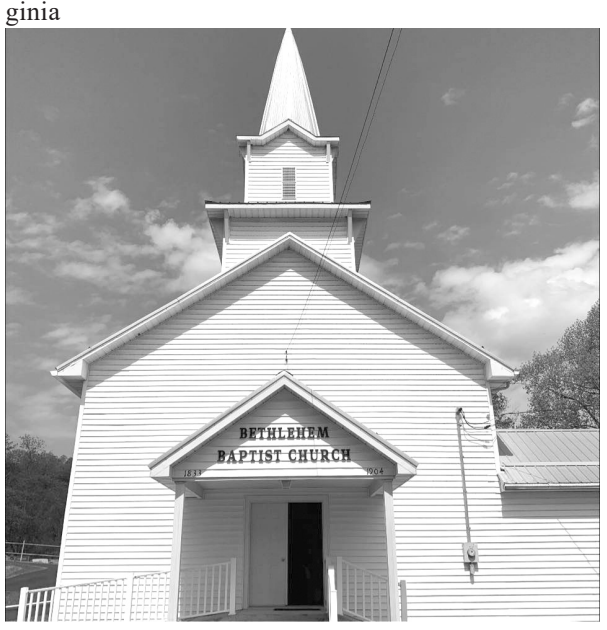
None listed

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

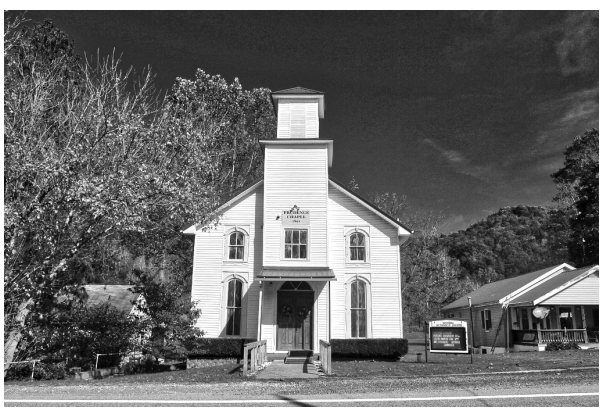
Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am

Mt Zion United Methodist Church



Worship 10:00 am, 304-514-1346

Prudence Chapel



CLOSED

Walker Church

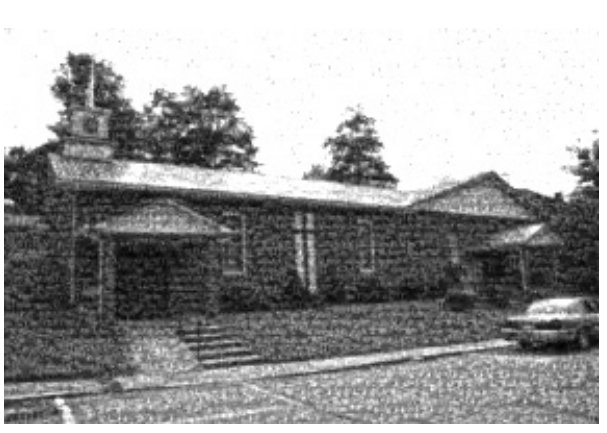
CLOSED

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



USDA Rural Development Invests $25 Billion to Strengthen Rural Communities Nationwide

(Morgantown, WV., October 7, 2026) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development recently announced nearly $25 billion in rural community investments nationwide in fiscal year 2026. These projects strengthen essential infrastructure, expand housing and business opportunities, and ensure rural families and farmers have the tools they need to succeed.

In West Virginia, Rural Development invested more than $265.9 million in loans and grants in fiscal year 2026 to support these efforts.

"Rural Development's work this year reflects our commitment to West Virginia's future." said State Director, John Reisenweber. "Over the past year, we have delivered critical investments that are improving the daily lives of residents throughout the state. From upgraded water systems to expanded broadband and affordable housing, these projects strengthen our communities and create opportunities for people who call West Virginia home."

These nationwide investments are supporting local priorities in West Virginia and delivering real results for rural residents, farmers, businesses, and communities, including:

Water and Environmental Programs: Rural Development invested $34.2 million to build and repair water and wastewater systems, protecting health and supporting economic growth in small towns nationwide.

Telecommunications: Rural Development invested $4.6 million to expand internet access to rural households, farms, businesses, and community institutions.

Community Facilities: Rural Development invested $7.2 million to build and improve hospitals, fire stations, first responder equipment, and other essential community facilities.

Business Programs: Rural Development invested $35.7 million to support rural small businesses, value-added agriculture, and job creation through loans and grants that strengthen local economies.

Housing Programs: Rural Development invested $184.2 million to help rural families achieve safe, affordable homeownership and to support the development of affordable rural rental housing.

The investments mark only the beginning of USDA's commitment to deliver resources that communities can rely on to improve their quality of life. Focusing on the needs of rural America helps build more resilient communities across the nation.

Looking ahead, USDA Rural Development will continue to deliver targeted investments that strengthen our communities by responding to rural needs across West Virginia.

For more information on USDA Rural Development investments in rural America, visit the Rural Data Gateway. The Rural Data Gateway is an online tool that strengthens USDA Rural Development partnerships with rural people, entrepreneurs, government officials and Congress by making agency investment data accessible to the public.



LOCAL STORIES.
LOCAL PEOPLE.
LOCAL CONNECTIONS.

More Than Just Paper and Ink.
We don't just report the news; we live it alongside you. By sharing local stories told by local people, we create the local connections that turn a zip code into a home. When you read The Calhoun Chronicle, you aren't just staying informed—you're keeping our community's heart beating strong.

WEST VIRGINIA Press
ASSOCIATION • SERVICES • FOUNDATION
In print and online, your community's stories live here.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2026

Valley link

Media Contacts:
FirstEnergy: Lauren Siburkis, (330) 203-8850, lsiburkis@firstenergycorp.com
Dominion Energy: Craig Carper, (804) 219-8314, Howell.C.Carper@dominionenergy.com
American Electric Power: George Porter, (540) 985-2968, gaporter@aep.com

Upcoming Valley North Project Open Houses Will Showcase Potential Routes

Updated project information reflects feedback from more than 6,500 people who participated in the first round of outreach

FAIRMONT, W.Va. – Community members are invited to attend a new series of open houses this November to learn more about the Valley North Project and provide feedback as the project continues through the route development process in West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia.

The open houses are an opportunity for community members and landowners to learn about the project, review potential route options, ask questions and share feedback directly with the project team. Residents whose properties are within 1,000 feet of the proposed routes have been notified. These events build on the strong participation from the first round of open houses this summer, when more than 6,500 community members attended to learn more and provide input. Residents whose properties are currently no longer near a potential route under consideration have also been notified.

The Valley North Project team used feedback gathered during the June and July open houses, along with environmental, cultural and land-use information, to refine broader study segments into potential routes. During this phase of outreach, Valley Link is focused on gathering additional feedback from landowners and communities within the potential route areas before route recommendations are finalized.

"The questions and feedback we received this summer helped shape not only the project but also the information we'll be sharing at these upcoming open houses," said Isaac Rhoades, president of Valley Link. "Attendees will see more detail on topics that matter most to communities, including local economic impacts, health and safety, and how potential routes are being evaluated. Even if you attended an open house this summer, I'm confident you'll find new information and gain a deeper understanding of the project during this next round of conversations."

Open House Schedule
Community members are invited to attend one of the following open houses to learn more about the Valley North Project, review potential routes and share feedback with the project team. All open houses will follow a drop-in format with no formal presentation, and attendees may stop by at any time during the scheduled hours:

- **Nov. 4** | Misty Mountain Event Barn, 430 Mountain Road, Fisher, W.Va. | **4 to 7 p.m.**

A JOINT VENTURE OF
TRANSOURCE Dominion Energy FirstEnergy Transmission



UHC welcomes Mohammad Almomani, MD to UHC Neurology

Bridgeport, W.Va.—Mohammad H. Almomani, MD, joins UHC Neurology at WVU Medicine United Hospital Center, where he will practice alongside Drs. Gabriella P. Casinelli, Jonathan Hanson and Daniel M. Mandel. Dr. Almomani brings extensive training in neurological care, academic medicine, and clinical research to the growing neurology team.

He recently served as Academic Chief Resident in Neurology at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, after completing his neurology residency training there. Prior to his neurology training, he completed an internal medicine internship at UTMB and practiced as a physician in Jordan, where he worked with the Ministry of Health and Doctors Without Borders.

A graduate of Yarmouk University Faculty of Medicine in Irbid, Jordan, Dr. Almomani has distinguished himself as both a clinician and educator throughout his medical career. At UTMB, he supervised and mentored residents, interns and medical students while providing bedside instruction, procedural training and didactic lectures across neurology, internal medicine, and psychiatry.

His commitment to medical education earned him recognition as UTMB's Resident Teacher of the Year in 2024, as well as the John Sealy School of Medicine's Teaching Excellence Recognition Award.

Dr. Almomani has also developed a strong reputation as a researcher, contributing to numerous peer-reviewed publications, scientific presentations and quality improvement initiatives. His scholarly interests span a broad range of neurological conditions, including epilepsy, autoimmune neurological disorders, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and neuroinfectious diseases.

He has presented research at national conferences and has participated in projects exploring the use of artificial intelligence to improve neurological diagnosis, documentation, and patient care. His work reflects a commitment to advancing neurological science while improving outcomes for patients.

An active member of several professional organizations, including the American Academy of Neurology, American Neurological Association, and American Medical Informatics Association, His



Mohammad Almomani, MD
UHC Neurology

combination of international medical experience, advanced neurological training, academic leadership, and passion for patient-centered care will further strengthen the comprehensive neurology services available at UHC.

Patients throughout North Central West Virginia will benefit from his expertise as the neurology team continues to expand access to specialized neurological care throughout the region. UHC Neurology is located at 527 Medical Park Drive, Suite 107, in Bridgeport. Please call 304-933-3843 for more information.

About WVU Medicine United Hospital Center
United Hospital Center (UHC) is the result of a merger between St. Mary's and Union Protestant hospitals in 1970. This bold move provides North Central West Virginia with a regional community hospital that offers a vast array of services. The new UHC opened in 2010 and is located along I-79 in Bridgeport. The 736,403 square foot structure rises eight stories. It is designed around the environment with patients, family, employees, and community in mind, which includes enhanced patient privacy, a high level of technological integration, and improved access to care. The acute care facility has 292 private inpatient rooms and a medical staff that consists of more than 366 physicians, advanced practice providers, and allied health professionals. UHC has more than 2,613 employees and is a member of WVU Medicine (West Virginia United Health System). For more information about UHC, please visit uhcwv.org.