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Confidence & Security: West Virginia Elections are a Model for Other States

By Mac Warner, WV Secretary of State

Congratulations, West Virginia! Once again, West Virginia has executed a great election, and demonstrated to the nation how to hold an election and deliver results on election night. We did so by leveraging technology, conducting extensive training, and following the law.

Consider that vote counting continued in other states more than a week after Election Day, while West Virginia held true to its pledge to provide confident results on election night. Our success story is a powerful precedent and evidence that WV is a national leader in election administration. We conducted a near-flawless election without limiting access or making concessions on security. The essence of honest elections is to make the voting experience simple and easy for the voter, all while following a secure election process structured by well-thought-out laws and careful planning

We have leveraged technology, from voting machines to GIS mapping and texting. Actual implementation of the technology has been done via meticulous preparation and training by county clerks, their staff, and our field investigators. In 2016, only 16% of registered voters in West Virginia were using state-of-the-art voting equipment. Now, with the help of millions of dollars of funding available to every county, West Virginia is on track to have 95% of registered voters in the state voting on the latest technology by 2024. This new equipment is ADA compliant and completely disconnected from the internet. Clerks train poll workers extensively on the equipment, thereby making the voting experience easy and safe for voters. Our clerks, election workers, and investigators deserve a huge pat on the back for their hard work and dedication to election integrity.

West Virginia was among the first in the nation to develop a relationship with federal agencies to prepare for and safeguard against foreign meddling in elections. West Virginia helped establish policies and procedures

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Blanch's Diner: Family, Food, and Memories

By: Betty Lee

A place where the coffee is hot and the food delicious, a place where you come to enjoy a county home-cooked meal and are greeted with friendly faces and smiles as soon as you walk in the door: Blanch's Family Diner in Clendenin has officially opened for business.

Blanch's was a well known spot years ago in town for locals, and now, years later, Blanch Jones' family has opened Blanch's Family Dinner to re-live some of those childhood memories. Daughters Lynn Taylor and Diana Chandler have made it their mission to bring back some of those memories to pass on to their families.

These ladies have taken pride in this diner, and you can tell in the

way they speak about their mother that this will be a place where you can definitely come and enjoy a meal and leave feeling like family. There is thought in even the smallest details inside the diner, such as the red checkered curtain tie backs, representing their mother.

"I remember when mom would have dinners or gatherings she would collect all the red checked table coverings and keep them, they were her favorite," said Lynn, speaking on the diner décor. The diner sign hanging in the entryway is the same sign that hung in the original diner.

The décor isn't the only thing that will be a tribute, some of those favorite menu items will be returning to the new diner, as well. Stop in and enjoy a slice of graham crack-

er pie or the popular diner burger. Making their guests feel like family is their goal. From serving coffee while the older generation gathers to chat, to employing local high school students to work after school, this diner is all about the family atmosphere.

Hours for the diner will be Sunday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. with daily specials. You can call 681-230-2088 for details and orders, stop by and visit, located in the previous Clendenin Gino's building, or swing by the drive thru for an easy pickup. Their staff includes Diane Chandler-Owner, Lynn Taylor-Manager, Amber Rucker- Chef, and Tiffany Mace-Evening Shift Lead.

Locally Made Livestock Feed Now Available At Chapman Farm and Feeds



By: Betty Lee

A new feed store is offering something a little different to the Clay County area. Chapman Farms and Feeds is providing locally made feed for cattle, hogs, horses, sheep, goats, chickens, dogs, and cats.

This adventure started when owner Channing Chapman decided to start making his own feed. He came up with recipes after research-

ing what ingredients were best for certain animals and ran with it. Channing and his wife, Tashauna, have sons that are members of 4-H and raise livestock, and Channing would make feed for their show animals and their commercial livestock as well.

Once he started this process he realized he could make feed for other farmers that often beat competing feed stores

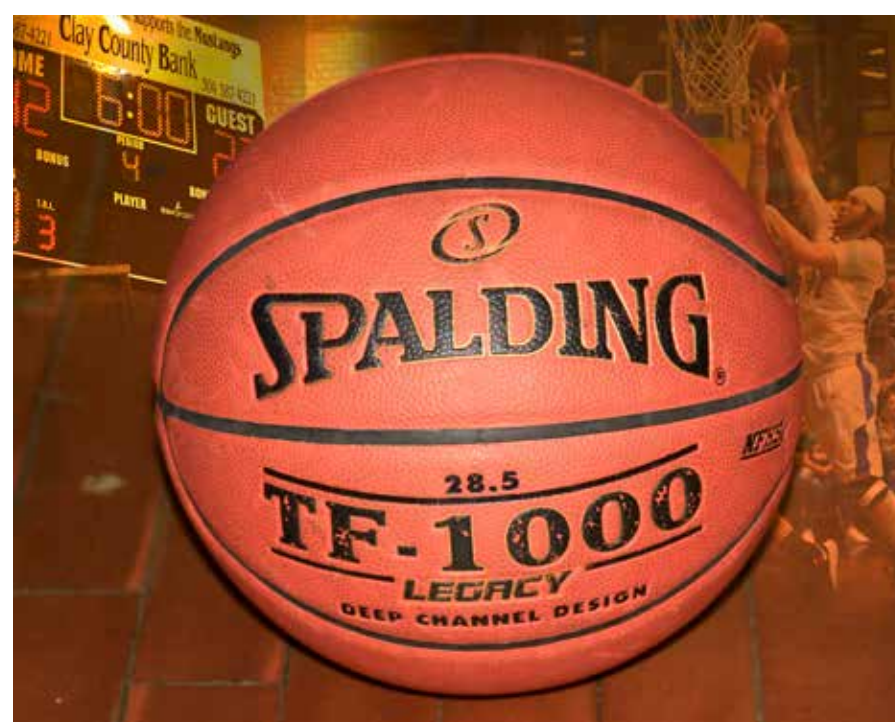
prices. All the steps were taken through the WVDA, manufacturing license obtained, feed samples analyzed, and they were ready for business.

A lot of Clay County farmers stop in and shop with Chapman Farms and they are excited for farmers from surrounding areas to give them a visit and hear about their personal farming operations as well.

You can also shop general farm supplies, fencing supplies, supplements, medicines, dewormer, ear tags, etc. at Chapman Farm and Feeds. Located 1 mile off the Serbia exit, they are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 304-678-8836 with any questions.



Basketball heats up the hardwood



Basketball preseason gets underway. Allen Hamrick photo.

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