



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



Volume 133 No. 47 Periodical Postage Paid at Clay, West Virginia 25043-0180

Thursday, December 1, 2022 \$1.00

West Virginia Division of Forestry Urges Caution During Fire Season

In light of recent fires across the state, the West Virginia Division of Forestry (WV DOF) urges residents that fires must be attended at all times. Fall fire season started on October 1 and continues through December 31.

Debris burning is the single most common cause of wildfires in West Virginia, averaging more than 35% of all wildfires over the past 10 years. WV DOF reminds West Virginians to confine their outdoor burning to the hours of 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. according to the West Virginia State Code Chapter 20-3-5.

Fires set during that time must be put out before 7 a.m. "As we advance further into the fall fire season, I ask that everyone please use common sense and follow our burning laws," said Assistant State Forester-Fire Jeremy Jones, WV DOF.

As the crisp, dry fall season is in full effect, the air offers less moisture for grasses and leaf litter to absorb. Dry leaves and forest floor debris become more flammable. Burning is banned during the day because even in fall, relative humidity typically increases in the evening.

A summary of forest fire laws and safe fire practices can be found on the state Division of Forestry website online.

The forest fire law includes:

- * No outdoor burning from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- * Any fire set between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. must be extinguished before 7 a.m.
- * Before leaving any fire for any length of time, the fire must be completely extinguished.
- * Clear at least a 10-foot area (safety strip) around the fire and make sure all burnable material has been removed.
- * Any equipment that can throw sparks and operating on land subject to fire by any cause must be provided with an adequate spark arrestor.
- * If your fire escapes, you are liable for the costs of fighting the fire and any damage the fire may cause.
- * Violation of the burning law is punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.

To burn during prohibited periods for commercial burning, a permit must be obtained from the Division of Forestry.

The Division of Forestry protects nearly 12 million acres of forestland across West Virginia. More information on fire safety and programs such as forest legacy, logging and landowner assistance, visit the website wv-forestry.com.



Canopy clearing season begins for WVDOH

November marked the beginning of canopy clearing season for the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH).

Canopy clearing is the act of cutting branches and brush that overhang the Mountain State's roadways, and it's a vital part of prolonging the life of the pavement on West Virginia's 36,000 miles of road.

"Water is a highway's worst enemy," said Joe Pack, P.E., WVDOH Chief Engineer of District Operations. "Anything we can do to keep water off our roadways or to help dry up that water will prolong the life of that road."

Moisture left on pavement degrades asphalt fast, so maintenance crews cut away limbs and branches to allow sunlight to get to the roadways below.

In heavily forested counties like Marion, keeping limbs and branches cleared above roadways is particularly important, both for purposes of keeping roads dry and for the safety of motorists.

"There are a lot of trees in Marion County," said WVDOH District 4 Engineer Mike Daley, P.E. "What we're trying to do is open up the canopy so the sun can get in to expedite the melting process in the wintertime and dry the road up."

Like cutting grass in the summer, milling and filling potholes or clearing ice and snow, canopy clearing is part of the WVDOH core maintenance program. Combined, core maintenance procedures prolong the life of pavement and keep roads safer.

By law, maintenance crews are only allowed to clear canopy between Nov. 15 and March 31. The restriction is in place to protect endangered bat populations, which don't typically use trees during those months.

This time of year is also snow removal and ice control season for WVDOH; so a worker may be in a snow plow one day and in a bucket truck the next. Daley said crews of six to eight people are regularly on canopy cutting duty in Marion and surrounding counties.

Maintenance crews use bucket trucks, chainsaws, pole saws and chippers to clear away branches and limbs and grind them up. Bucket trucks have a reach of 40 feet, but maintenance crews have pole saws that are up to 175 feet long for reaching the highest branches.

In the past, the WVDOH was restricted to cutting a total of 140 acres of canopy a year, or 14 acres for each of the state's 10 highway districts. That restriction was lifted this year, allowing districts to cut more trees in between the winter snows.

Daley said the WVDOH hopes to clear 500 acres of canopy statewide this season, or 50 acres for each of the state's 10 highway districts.

With work continuing in all 55 counties across the state, the West Virginia Division of Highways and the West Virginia Department of Transportation remind the public of the importance of keeping everyone safe in work zones by keeping "Heads up; phones down!"

FEMA COVID-19 Reimbursement Exceeds \$4 Billion in Mid-Atlantic States

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has provided more than \$4 billion to Region 3 states and the District of Columbia for costs related to saving lives and protecting the public from COVID-19. In addition to Washington, DC, Region 3 includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Funds were distributed among local partners, state partners, school districts, other public entities,

and certain private nonprofits.

The federal funding reimbursed costs associated with emergency protective measures via FEMA's Public Assistance program. The program reimburses communities for actions taken in the immediate response and during recovery from a disaster. Eligible applicants include states, federally recognized tribal governments, U.S. territories,

FEMA cont. on page 2

This holiday season, donate financially or give blood to help those facing future crises

2022 has been a year of crisis for families in our local communities, across the country and around the world - from Hurricane Ian to the first-ever national American Red Cross blood crisis.

"Whether a crisis is felt by an entire community or a single person, it turns lives upside down - especially for the most vulnerable," Erica Mani, chief executive officer, American Red Cross Central Appalachia Region said. "This holiday season, join us to provide help and hope for people in need during future emergencies by making a financial donation, volunteering or by giving blood."

On Giving Tuesday and during the holidays, visit redcross.org to make a financial donation or an appointment to give blood for patients in the U.S. Individuals can also find volunteer opportunities in their area.

Responding to disasters of all sizes: This year's extreme disasters in the

U.S. are clear examples of the increasing frequency and intensity of the climate crisis. So far in 2022, 15 billion-dollar disasters have upended lives across the country - more than twice the number of billion-dollar disasters that struck annually two decades ago.

For these and tens of thousands of other disasters in the Central Appalachia Region and across the country, Red Cross volunteers have worked 24/7 to provide shelter, food and care - including flooding, tornadoes, deploying to assist those impacted by flooding in Kentucky, Hurricane Ian, wildfires in the west and so much more.

In the Central Appalachia Region, Red Cross volunteers have also provided relief and comfort after home fires and other local disasters, to help ensure no one faces a crisis of any size alone.

Helping families affected by global emergencies: Internationally, the con-

DONATE cont. on page 3

Holidays - Here They Come



Old rustic wooden tree with handmade ornaments. Allen Hamrick photo.

See Story on Page 8

BOOKED CENTRAL REGIONAL JAIL

CLAY COUNTY



Nuria Dawn Craddock
Booked 11/28/22
Possession of a controlled substance



Jeremy Granville McKenzie
Booked 11/28/22
Driving suspended, improper/expired registration, fleeing from officer (vehicle), simple possession, no MVI, no insurance

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Larry Charles Porche
Booked 11/28/22
Domestic battery



Mary Ellen Woods
Booked 11/28/22
Petit larceny, obstructing, trespassing asked to leave

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Kevin Michael Davis
Booked 11/22/22
Possession of a controlled substance



Bradley Andrew Henline
Booked 11/24/22
Domestic assault



Robert Lee Nicholas
Booked 11/21/22
Capias



Kenneth Allen Osborne
Booked 11/23/22
Home confinement violation

DHHR Announces Major Rate Increase for WV Ambulance Services

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Medical Services today announced a 10% increase in ambulance ground transportation rates which will provide more than 200 West Virginia ambulance providers with \$11.8 million in additional reimbursements per fiscal year.

“We have so much gratitude for West Virginia’s ambulance and emergency medical services workers, especially during the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting stress on the state’s health care system,” said Bill J. Crouch, DHHR Cabinet Secretary. “Together with Gov. Justice, we requested this increase because these funds are critical to our local ambulance services, many of which operate in rural areas

where access to healthcare is limited. I am proud to make this announcement today because I know how much it will mean for all our EMS workers, and all the West Virginians who rely on them to respond when they’re needed most.”

Effective today and retroactively beginning July 1, 2022, West Virginia’s ambulance rate will now be paid at the same rate as Medicare. This is the maximum rate that Medicaid is allowed to pay by statute. Reimbursement is the same for both governmental and private providers.

DHHR’s Bureau for Medical Services submitted the State Plan Amendment on September 8, 2022, and the amendment was approved by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on November 9, 2022.

DHHR Announces Supplemental Propane Payment for 2022-23 Winter Season

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) announced a supplemental payment to assist eligible residents with propane heating expenses for the 2022-23 winter season.

Residents who used propane for heating and who received a regular Low Income Energy Assistance Program payment this past winter will receive an automatic \$72 payment to assist with propane heating expenses.

The payments were made possible by a \$250,000 donation resulting from a class action settlement in the Swiger v. AmeriGas case, which was approved by Judge Robert B. Stone of the Monongalia County Circuit Court. The donation was facilitated by Attorneys David J. Romano of Romano Law Office, Clarksburg, West Virginia; Meghan M. Cloud of McGuireWoods, LLP, Charlottesville, Virginia; and Edgar C. Gentle, III, Court Appointed Claims Administrator, Hoover, Alabama.

“DHHR is once again pleased to provide this special propane heating assistance to 3,624 eligible families,” said DHHR Cabinet Secretary Bill J. Crouch. “We hope that this additional payment, enabled through a thoughtful donation, will help these households offset rising heating expenses this winter.”

All payments are expected to be issued by November 21, 2022.

A Reflection on our Freedoms

This fall, I was privileged to speak at the dedication of two Living Memorials remembering the fallen sons and daughters of West Virginia Gold Star families. As I spoke to the crowd, I remembered my own service overseas and how lucky I was to come home in one piece. Many of the men and women who have proudly served our country have not been as fortunate, including several that I have known personally. As we head into the holiday season and in the spirit of being thankful, it is vital we reflect on the blessings we have been given to live in this Nation. Take time to remember the sacrifices made by these men and women who have preserved our freedoms. Their memories serve as a reminder that freedom is never free.

To show we have never forgotten and to carry on the legacy started by Hershel “Woody” Williams, the Gold Star Mothers plan on planting Living Memorials in every county of the State. To date, they have planted five apple tree and two maple tree memorials. Each has 55 trees with one or more dog tags tied on them to represent a fallen West Virginian. We do this because every Gold Star mother will tell you their child dies twice - once at that fatal moment and again when their name is no longer mentioned. At every dedication, Gold Star mothers tell us their child’s name, as well as date and place of death. It is through these Living Memorials that their child’s sacrifice lives on.

As the Commissioner of Agriculture, I am proud to partner with West Virginia Gold Star Mothers in planning and planting these memorials. These plantings not only benefit local communities but serve as a symbol that we will not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I encourage everyone to visit these beautiful and peaceful sites. Please pick out a tree or two and read aloud the name on the dog tags attached to the tree. Most of us cannot fathom what it is like to be a Gold Star family, but we can show gratitude by remembering those who they have lost. We do not take for granted the brave men and women these families raised.

Our dedication to honoring the fallen, as well as our veterans and those currently serving in the military, isn’t isolated to just these memorials. Through our Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture program, we have made a commitment of working with our partners to create and expand services to our veterans and first responders. We have donated land to build a veteran’s home. Our staff has worked to expand access to mental health services, as well as resources for veterans who wish to transition from the battlefield to farm field. Each day we have staff working on how to help our veterans and first responders in West Virginia. Under my administration, we have made local heroes a top priority.

At the Department, we believe it’s vital to continue to make these men and women a priority given the current state of foreign affairs. From the conflict in Ukraine to the unrest in the Middle East, our men and women in the armed services find themselves in harm’s way. They proudly serve their country as they respond to threats towards the free world. Many of them are unsure of what the future holds for them or their families, so the least we can do is ensure they have the proper resources to transition into civilian life when they return home. This holiday season, I challenge you to show thanks for their service by supporting or volunteering for the veteran community. Keep these men and women in your prayers that they will someday return and, again, share the holidays with loved ones.

*Kent A. Leonhardt
West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture*

FEMA

(cont. from page 1)

local governments, and certain private non-profit organizations. These emergency protective measures included patient testing, purchasing of personal protective equipment (PPE), and patient care. Further reimbursement covered costs associated with storing, handling, transporting, distributing, and administering vaccines.

“FEMA is committed to providing mission critical funding to our state, local and nonprofit partners,” said FEMA Region 3 Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney. “The \$4 billion in aid reduced the spread of the COVID-19 virus within our communities. FEMA continues to work hand in hand with our federal, state and tribal partners to lessen the impacts of COVID-19.”

The total amount of Public Assistance funds received, as of October, per state and the District of Columbia are as follows:

Delaware: \$216,336,970
District of Columbia: \$722,221,321
Maryland: \$1,391,766,239
Pennsylvania: \$830,914,127
Virginia: \$784,516,159
West Virginia: \$94,111,245

The response to COVID-19 has been a highly coordinated effort between states, territories, and the federal government. In addition, to the \$4 billion in Public Assistance funding, FEMA actively collaborated with the National Guard on strategic Mission Assignments. To date, the total amount of Mission Assignment funds provided per state, are as follows:

Delaware: \$145,979,574.00
Maryland: \$405,582,023.50
Pennsylvania: \$265,271,549.00
Virginia: \$471,268,549.00
West Virginia: \$356,125,360.24

“The funds granted to Region 3 had profoundly positive impacts on our communities’ ability to respond to the risks of COVID-19,” Tierney said. “The funding provided the ability to purchase vital equipment and supplies. Ultimately, the funds ensured protection for frontline workers and the public.”

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Michael Showell, Publisher

The Clay County Free Press (USPS 116-660) is published weekly at 291 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia. Subscription Rate: In County, \$31.00, Out of County, \$36.00, Out of State, \$41.00. Periodical postage paid at Clay, West Virginia. Address all mail (subscription, change of address) to: PO Box 429, Lewisburg WV 24901 or call (304) 647-5724 or Fax (304) 647-5767. POSTMASTER Please give old address and your new address.

Heartlight*By Joseph J. Mazzella*

When I was a teenager our church sent a group of us teens on a religious retreat. There were lots of teens from other areas there as well. Over several days we had discussion groups, hikes, outings, lessons from the Bible and other writings, and a bunch of other activities all designed to help us learn and grow spiritually. The funny thing is that as well intentioned as all of these things were, over the years all of them have faded from my memory. Of my time at that retreat only one memory remains clear in my mind.

It happened during a free time period in the afternoon. Most of the other teenagers had formed groups and ran off together to do stuff. I chose, however, to stay in my room. I was missing my home and feeling a little sad and lonely. Finally, I walked down to the empty rec room and saw a record player with a stack of records nearby. I picked up the first one and put it on the turntable. Suddenly, Neil Diamond's voice filled the air singing his song "Turn on your Heartlight." This was a song I later learned was inspired by the movie "ET." I sat down and listened carefully. When the lyrics sang, "Turn on your heartlight, Let it shine wherever you go, Let it make a happy glow, For all the world to see," something happened in my own heart. I felt a warmth there, a light there, and a love there. It was as if God Himself was speaking to me through this song. I memorized the lyrics and often sang them to myself over the years whenever I was feeling sad or lonely. And they never failed to uplift my spirits, warm my heart, and bring me closer to God.

Maybe the best lessons in life are the simplest ones. Turn on your heartlight then. Let it shine wherever you go. Let it help you to share your light, love, kindness, and goodness with everyone you meet. Let its glow bring you closer to God today, tomorrow, and for all eternity.

DONATE*(cont. from page 1)*

Conflict in Ukraine has forced millions of people to flee for their lives. With such vast needs, the American Red Cross has provided financial donations and international crisis responders to support the global Red Cross network's response on the ground, which spans more than a dozen neighboring countries to deliver food, shelter, medical care, emotional support and other critical aid for displaced families.

Meanwhile, the American Red Cross has also provided financial support to the ongoing hunger crisis in Africa. Overall this year, as part of the world's largest humanitarian network, the American Red Cross provided humanitarian aid in more than 108 countries. Here in the Central Appalachia Region, Red Cross international efforts included International Humanitarian Law courses, Restoring Family Links and more.

Providing support for personal emergencies: In Central Appalachia Region, Red Cross workers have helped people through personal emergencies too, whether it was connecting a loved one with a deployed service member during a family crisis or training people to provide CPR for those suffering from cardiac arrest. In 2022, over 1,100 military families were supported during a crisis and nearly 15,000 people were trained in lifesaving skills in the Central Appalachia Region.

Overcoming the first-ever Red Cross blood crisis: In January 2022, the Red Cross experienced its worst national blood shortage in over a decade due to ongoing collection challenges and varied hospital demand during the pandemic. Patients in need of lifesaving blood transfusions relied on an outpouring of support from hundreds of thousands of generous blood donors to overcome the crisis. In 2022, almost 45,000 units of lifesaving blood were collected in our area.

Beyond national headlines, the need for blood is constant. One in 7 patients entering a hospital will need a blood transfusion. As seasonal illness and the threat of winter weather ramp up this holiday season, make a donation appointment and be a lifeline for car accident victims, parents with complicated childbirths, individuals battling cancer and people with sickle cell disease.

Give thanks and give back - now is the time to make and keep blood donation appointments. Book a time to give at RedCrossBlood.org. Thanks to our partners at Amazon, all donors who come to give blood from Nov. 28 through Dec. 15 will receive a \$10 gift card by email. (Terms apply. Visit rcblood.org/together)

Visit the Year-In-Review website for more information about how the Central Appalachia Region helped people in 2022 at redcross.org/car

The American Red Cross of Central Appalachia serves Boyd, Carter, Greenup and Lawrence Counties in Kentucky; Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties in Maryland; Belmont, Gallia, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Pike, Scioto and Washington Counties in Ohio; Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren Counties in Virginia; and all 55 counties in the State of West Virginia.

THE BAPTIST CLASSROOM*Pastor Doug Newell, IV***Canceled For Christ**

When John was an older man, he was the last living apostle who spends his last years as a prisoner on the isle of Patmos. He was disowned by the Jews long ago. The Gentile government persecuted him and was cast aside by churches that named the name of Christ. The latter probably hurt more than the former. To use our vernacular, we might say he was being "canceled." Diotrefes wouldn't receive John because he loved pre-eminence among the churches (3 John 9-11), and the heretics were actively working to destroy the churches from within with their false doctrine (2 John 7-11).

But in First John, he makes it very clear that he is not concerned with how he is perceived among the heretics and doesn't need Diotrefes nor his ilk. John turns his attention to faithful believers and reassures them of the truth in Christ Jesus, the true Jesus. John's purpose in writing this letter was that God's people would have joy in Christ. That joy comes in knowing

Christ, being confident in the truth, and having the assurance of salvation. He also writes that believers know and would have fellowship with him and with God. Imagine you meet as a church in your home. You are just a small group of people. But there is a growing faction with many intelligent, well-spoken, charismatic men who claim to have insight into the deep things of God that John (according to the heretics) doesn't have. They are telling all who would hear they have authentic Christianity, a better way. John did his part, but he got some things wrong, and they were improving upon what had been taught.

John writes this letter and reminds us that he was there when Jesus walked the Earth. Despite what these guys were teaching, John knew the real Jesus. He was an eyewitness and can tell you that the heretics are wrong. In First John, he will tell you about Jesus so you can fellowship with him. You can walk and believe with

the apostles. There are two fellowships, and John invites you to come with him and not join the fellowship of darkness. Communion with Christ is what's important, not coalitions with darkness.

Because to believe the Scripture, is to have fellowship with John by believing his testimony. You believe what the Apostle lived and died for, what he believed with all of his heart. The truth which motivated him and drove him. His hope, his faith. By receiving this gospel, you have the same hope, love, and object of faith and have joined the fellowship of the apostolic teaching.

And by receiving this truth, you have fellowship with the Holy Trinity. You are united to Jesus Christ in a real and vital union by receiving the gospel of Life. You are adopted into the family, and God is your Father. You are one in Christ and have fellowship with God.

With that being the case, who cares if others cancel you?

If Only I Would Take Notes*Dr. James L. Snyder*

As a writer, I always have a small notebook in my shirt pocket to take notes when I have an idea. I don't have too many ideas, so I want to write down any I get so I don't forget them. That has helped me out on many occasions.

There is one exception. When The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage talks to me, I fail to take notes about that conversation. You would think after being married as long as I have, I would know better.

I never think of it until she asks, "Do you remember what I told you this morning?" That always catches me off my guard, which I think she just may be doing this on purpose.

Usually, she says this after lunch, and I have no recollection of any morning conversations. But, because I don't remember, I get in deep trouble.

My confusion along this line is simple, is she saying this because it's true or because she knows I don't remember things? I believe that at this stage in our marriage, she has a good idea of what I can remember. Sorry to say, I don't.

Then I come in and have to face, "Do you remember what I told you this morning?"

Once, trying to get a step ahead, I said, "Yes, I do remember, and I'll get to it tomorrow." Thinking this will solve a problem, I smile and go about my business. But, boy, was I wrong.

I can never outmaneuver The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. When I said that, she replied, "Great, what are you going to do tomorrow?"

I knew I was backed into a corner and responded as cheerfully as possible, "I'm going to do tomorrow what you told me to do this morning."

I didn't get off on that one. I

didn't think I would, but you never know until you try.

At my age, I'm not quite sure how the game is being played. I cannot tell if what she was telling me now is what she said to me in the morning. I think she plays me along this line, because if I forget something, then it's all on me.

I try to tell The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that, at my age, I'm too poor to pay attention. I tell her when I save up enough money, I will spend it on paying attention.

She never buys that. She looks at me, both hands on her hips, and says, "What have I told you about saying that?"

If only I could remember, I could beat her at this game. I'm unsure if I'm forgetting or if it never actually happened. I have no viable proof.

One day I tried it out for myself to see if I could trick her. She came into my office, and I said, "Remember what I told you this morning?"

"Yes, I do," she said with a smirk, "here are the batteries you asked me to get at the store."

All I could do was say, "Thank you, my dear." I have no recollection of ever asking her to pick up any batteries for me at the store. If I did, I sure don't remember.

I have to give her credit on this one, she got me.

Turnaround is fair play, or so I thought, I came up with another idea.

The next time she said, "Remember what I told you this morning?" I looked at her and said, "Yes, my dear, and here are the donuts you asked me to get you this morning." I then handed her a box of doughnuts from the bakery.

She replied, "If you remember, I said, don't go nuts today."

I just can't win.

Of course, if I did get a notebook, I would have to buy a new

one every week to keep up with her conversations with me. It might be worth the investment; it could keep me out of trouble.

One time she asked me, "Do I need to get you some hearing aids?"

I'm thinking more about getting a recorder to tape our conversations. Unfortunately, I can't find one with that much memory to record her conversations.

I had one more ploy, at least a try. The next time she said, "Remember what I told you this morning?" Then, with my hands behind my back, I brought them forward with a bunch of flowers, gave them to her, and say, "Yes, my dear. Here are those flowers you requested."

What was the great pay-off for that time, I couldn't remember? She looked at those flowers and then looked at me and smiled and said, "Thank you." And that's all she said.

I racked my brain all day trying to figure out how in the world I was able to capture that one.

I may be learning to pay some attention; nobody knows how long this will last, at least me.

Reflecting on this I was reminded of one of my favorite Bible verses.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

My big failure is when I try to lean on my own understanding instead of trusting God. My trust in God will raise me above human understanding, which puts me on the right track. Also, my trust keeps me going in the right path.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

Home Country*Slim Randles*

Every now and then, thought Doc, that opportunity comes back to haunt me. Like it is right now on this crisp morning walk. It came early in his medical life, an invitation to join with a famous big hospital Back East. He'd make more money, he knew, and there was the seductive challenge of being on the cutting edge of what the world of medicine had to offer to the world of people.

He stopped for a minute and looked up through the stark tangle of bare limbs on a cottonwood tree. The filigree patterns of early winter never grew old to Doc. Sometimes they reminded him of capillaries or the branching out of small spring creeks heading for a trout river. And sometimes, they were just pretty

to look at and deserved a pause in Doc's morning walk.

He and his wife, known to everyone as Mrs. Doc, had come here to the valley many years ago. Each had become a local institution the way these things go in a small, rural area. They both regretted not having any children of their own, but the devotion each felt for the other tended to at least partially fill that emotional cavity.

Jeffrey Martin came trotting along the sidewalk on his way to school. Had his book backpack and lunch too.

"Mornin' Doc!" he said.

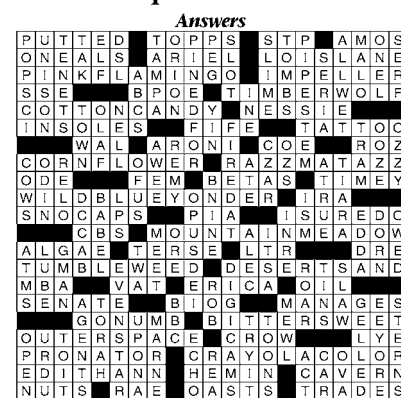
"Hey Jeff. How's school?"

"Just fine. Gotta run. I'm late."

Doc smiled after him. Third grade this year? Close to that anyway. Jeffrey had been a dif-

ficult birth. So had Jeffrey's mother. And Doc had been there for both of them. There's more than one way to have a family, Doc thought, smiling.

Give a kid's life a boost.
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Super Crossword

OBITUARIES



Mary Jane (Neal) Truman, 59, of Indore, entered into rest on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at Ruby Memorial Hospital following a long battle with Type 2 Diabetes. She was born on November 9, 1963.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Bob & Evelyn Neal; brother Verdis Neal; and granddaughter Caitlyn Morton all of Indore. She is survived by her husband and best friend of forty years, Dana; daughters, Terri (Steven) DeBoard of Indore, Carrie (Jared) Nottingham of Brownsville, WV, and Emily (Shawn) Adkins of Rosedale, WV; 10 grandchildren; four brothers; four sisters; countless nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

Visitation was held on Sunday, November 27, 2022 at Sycamore Community Baptist Church in Indore from 2 to 4 PM.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com

Wilson Smith funeral Home is honored to be serving the Truman family

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Mary Jane Truman, please visit our floral store.



Steve Franklin McLaughlin, 70, of Ivydale, West Virginia, entered into rest November 22, 2022. He worked 40+ years at the WVA METAL Manufacturing plant in Alloy until his retirement. He spent his later years enjoying much of the outdoors and the simple life at his cabin with his family and grandchildren who were very special to him. The warmth of his stories and laughter will be felt by family and friends forever.

He is survived by his wife, Charlene McLaughlin; their two children, Jason (Nikki) McLaughlin and Angela Bullard; two grandchildren, Alyssa (Anthony) Fugate and Cody Bullard; brothers Lester, Phillip, Ricky, and Bradford McLaughlin; and sisters Pamela (Douglas), Connie (Neal), Ann (Smith), and Patrisa (Rogers) McLaughlin.

Wilson Smith is honored to be serving the McLaughlin family.



WorkForce West Virginia announces December Statewide Virtual Job Fair

WorkForce West Virginia announces the next date in a series of Statewide Virtual Job Fairs. Both employers and job seekers are invited to participate in the virtual event on Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 12 to 3 p.m.

“We have seen unprecedented turnout at the past two Statewide Virtual Job Fairs,” said Scott Adkins, Acting Commissioner of WorkForce West Virginia. “Since we’ve started these monthly events, nearly 680 job seekers have registered to attend. Participating employers have received 350 resumes. It has been exciting to connect so many West Virginians with these great organizations across the state. Whether you’re looking for seasonal work, or want to take the next step

in your career, this virtual event is a convenient and innovative way to connect with West Virginia companies.”

Virtual job fairs allow job seekers to apply, live chat, video chat and interview virtually with employers participating in the event.

Registration is required for both interested employers and job seekers. Register for the Dec. 7 Statewide

Virtual Job Fair as either an employer or jobseeker.

The Virtual Statewide Job Fair portal features a Job Seeker Training video, a list of participating employers, and channels for attendees to register and log in. Job seekers are encouraged to dress professionally and have a calm, clutter-free background, as employers may request to engage in a video interview.

Upon registration, employers will create a “Virtual Booth” to connect with job seekers. After completion, this booth will be available during subsequent job fairs.

For more information about WorkForce West Virginia and the Statewide Virtual Job Fairs, visit www.workforcewv.org or contact workforcewvvirtualjobfairevent@wv.gov.

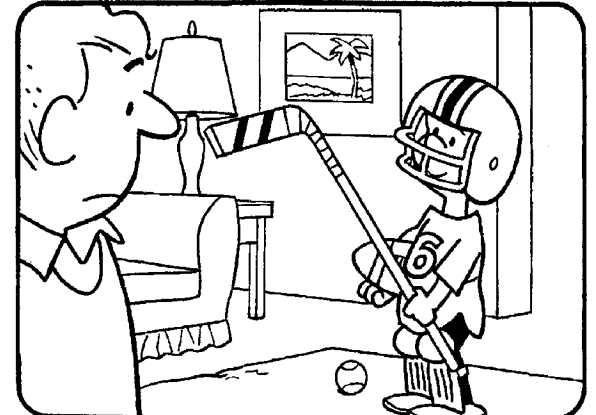
To place your ADS Call us at (304)-647-5724

Super Crossword WAX SHADES

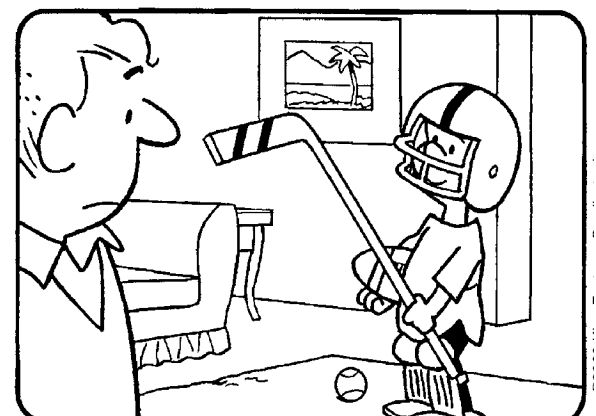
- ACROSS**
- 1 Played golf on the green
 - 7 Baseball card company
 - 12 Indy sponsor
 - 15 Andy's pal
 - 19 Ryan and Tatum
 - 20 Little Mermaid's name
 - 21 Superman's love interest
 - 23 Kitschy lawn adornment (1997)
 - 25 Rotating part in a water pump
 - 26 Chicago-to-Atlanta dir.
 - 27 Fraternal org. with lodges
 - 28 Canine with gray brindled fur (1993)
 - 30 Carnival treat on a stick (1998)
 - 35 Loch monster, informally
 - 36 Shoe parts
 - 37 Piccolo's kin
 - 39 Skin art
 - 43 Retail store's beginning?
 - 44 Rice — (food brand)
 - 46 Iowa college
 - 48 Woman on “Frasier”
 - 49 Plant also called bachelor's button (1958)
 - 53 Glitzy display (1993)
 - 57 Verse tribute
 - 58 Counterpart of masc.
 - 59 Test versions
 - 60 Old- — (quaint)
 - 61 Sky, to the U.S. Air Force (2003)
 - 66 Tax-deferred svgs. plan
 - 67 Nestlé movie theater treats
 - 68 Zadora of “Butterfly”
 - 69 “That’s a big yes from me!”
 - 73 “Criminal Minds” ailer
 - 74 Grassland on the slope of a peak (1998)
 - 78 Pond growth
 - 81 Curt
 - 82 P.O. arrival
 - 83 Hip-hop “Dr.”
 - 84 Plant rolled about by the wind (1993)
 - 86 Makeup of many dunes (1998)
 - 90 Deg. for a future exec
 - 91 Large tank
 - 92 Novelist Jong
 - 94 Often-refined resource
 - 95 Capitol group
 - 98 Life story: Abbr.
 - 99 Gets by
 - 103 Lose all feeling
 - 106 Both pleasant and sad (1958)
 - 109 “The final frontier” (1998)
 - 113 See 54-Down
 - 114 Caustic alkali
 - 115 Muscle rotating the forearm to a palm-down position
 - 116 What each of this puzzle’s featured answers is (with the year it was introduced)
 - 121 Lily Tomlin’s little girl persona
 - 122 Confine
 - 123 Spelunking chamber
 - 124 Pecans, e.g.
 - 125 “Norma —”
 - 126 Hops-drying ovens
 - 127 Sports deals
 - 41 Leak slowly
 - 42 Rocker Osbourne
 - 44 — bit (just slightly)
 - 45 — Martin (cognac)
 - 46 Energy mogul
 - 47 Pound divs.
 - 49 Dairy animals
 - 50 Norse god
 - 51 Move, in Realtor lingo
 - 52 “Just the Two —” (1981 hit)
 - 54 With 113-Across, had some humble pie
 - 55 Based on — story
 - 56 Fancy crown
 - 59 Square in the first bingo-card column
 - 62 Mr. T movie setting
 - 63 Biblical tower
 - 64 Old hi-fi buys
 - 65 “The Da Vinci Code” group
 - 66 Suffix with hero
 - 69 Apropos of
 - 70 Old Icelandic saga
 - 71 Michael who played Worf
 - 72 Had liabilities
 - 74 Confront
 - 75 Often-refined resource
 - 76 Sir Guinness
 - 77 “— boy!”
 - 78 S&L devices
 - 79 Garage job
 - 80 Certain Fed
 - 81 Pan Am rival
 - 85 Planet seen at sunset, old-style
 - 86 Canon or Sony products, for short
 - 87 Wave sound
 - 88 Baking pans
 - 89 Deli dish
 - 93 Steal from
 - 96 Go-betweens
 - 97 Yeshiva text
 - 98 Telly network
 - 99 Cry feebly
 - 100 Solidified
 - 101 Pal of Pooh
 - 102 Ships’ backs
 - 104 “Once — midnight dreary ...”
 - 105 Seine feeder
 - 107 “Taste this”
 - 108 Cel figures
 - 109 Not closed
 - 110 Language of Pakistan
 - 111 “Snap —!”
 - 112 Canyon effect
 - 117 Actor Stephen
 - 118 Be a thespian
 - 119 Road vehicle
 - 120 Eggs

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	18
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115										116	117				118	119	120			
121										122					123					
124							125				126				127					

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Neckline is different. 2. Lamp is missing. 3. Table leg is different. 4. Tape is missing. 5. Stripes are missing. 6. Number is missing.



CHURCH DIRECTORY



A
ALTA CHURCH OF GOD
 Sunday Night Services
 6:00 PM
 Wednesday 7:00 PM
 Everyone is welcome!
Pastor: Paul E. Young

B
BELL CREEK COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
 NO Scheduled Services
 At This Time

BELL CREEK PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
 Dixie
 Thursday Night 7:00 PM
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 with Services After
 Sunday Night 7:00 PM
Pastor: Lee Holiday
 (304) 632-1135

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH of Adonijah.
 Preaching from K.J.V. Bible
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Morning 11:00 AM
 Sunday Evening 7:00 PM
 Thursday Evening 7:00 PM

BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH, Porter Creek Road, Bomont, WV
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Night Service 7:30 PM
 Thursday Night Service 7:30 PM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Junior Davis

BICKMORE BAPTIST CHURCH located at Bickmore on Fola Road
 Sunday School 9:45 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
 Wednesday evening services 7:00 PM
Pastor: Ralph D. Lane

BIG OTTER BAPTIST CHURCH OF IVYDALE
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Wednesday prayer service and Bible Study 6:30 PM
Pastor: Danny Richardson

BIG UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:15 AM
 Worship Service 11:00 AM
 Sunday Evening Service 1st, 3rd and 4th
 Sundays Preaching 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 PM
 2nd Sunday Communion Service 6:00 PM
Pastor: Pete Shaffer

BLUE KNOB CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Everyone is Welcome!

BUFFALO VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Worship Service 11:00 AM
 Sunday Evening Service 6:00 PM
 Radio Broadcast, Sunday Morning 9:00 AM. WCWV Summersville
 Everyone Welcome **Pastor: John Pruitt**

BURKE MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH in Prociuous. Across Camp Creek Bridge on the left. Preaching Every Sunday 9:00 AM
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Bible Study every Wednesday 7:00 PM **Pastor: Jerry Chandler**

C
CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF LIZEMORE
 Prayer Service and Bible Study, Tuesday 7:00 PM
 Regular Service Sunday Nights at 7:00 PM
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
Pastor: Thurman Sizemore

CHURCH OF GOD BENTREE
 Sangamore Rd.,Bentree, WV
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Evening Service 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
 Come and worship the Lord with us.
 Everyone Welcome!
Pastor: Michael L. Holcomb, Sr.
CLAY COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Night Service 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Service 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome.

CLAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Worship 11:00 AM.
 Everyone is Welcome!
Pastor: Wilma Dobbins
CLENENIN UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
 10:00 AM – Sunday School
 11:00 AM – Preaching
 6:00 PM
 Wednesday 7:30 PM
Pastor: Fred Walker

CLIO COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Night Preaching 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Worship 7:00 PM
 Everyone welcome.
Pastor: George Stickland

COLD SPRINGS GOSPEL TABERNACLE, Upper Fall-ing Rock, Clay County
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM
 Sunday School 11:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Service 7:30 PM
 Tuesday Evenings 7:30 PM
 Teachings from the King James Bible
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Darris Barker

CORNERSTONE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, Rt. 3, Newton
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday Night Service 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Prayer Service/Discovery Clubs 7:00 PM
Pastor: Roy Huffman

E
ELK RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
 Saturday Night 7:00 PM
Pastor: Brace Cook

F
FAIRVIEW BAPTIST TEMPLE
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
 Wednesday 7:00 PM
Pastor: Bret Wiley

FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Dutch Ridge Laurel Road
 Sunday Service 6:00 PM
 Tuesday Service 6:00 PM
 Everyone Welcome!
Pastor: Brother B. J. Evans
Associate Pastor: Lee Roy Anderson

FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Bomont, WV
 Sunday Service 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
Pastor: Nick Bird
 Phone 304-548-6665

FLAT FORK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 6:00 PM
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Worship 11:30 AM
Pastor: Chris Johnson

FOLA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Sunday Night Service 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Adults Bible Study & Kids for Christ 7:00 PM
Pastor: Daniel Tanner

G
GAULEY BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 9:45 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Junior BYF/Senior BYF 6:00 PM
 Sunday Evening Worship 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Kids/Children/Youth 7:00 PM
GOSPEL LIGHT COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Located on Rt. 119 at the mouth of Gabe. All Sunday night services begin at 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome.
Pastor: Rev. David Smith
GROVES CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sunday Service 10:00 AM
 Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
 Friday Service 7:00 PM
Pastor: Dean Rogers

H
HALLBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday Sunday 10:30 AM
 Sunday Night Preaching 6:00 PM
Pastor: Michael Jackson
HARTLAND COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Wednesday Night Service 7:00 PM
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM
Pastor: Jeremy Holcomb

HORNERS FORK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 PM
Pastor: Joe Dawson
HOUSE OF PRAYER
 Hansford Fork Rd, Maysel, WV (off Rt. 36)
 Pentecostal/Full Gospel
 Sunday Morning 10:00 AM
 Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
 Wednesday evening 7:00 PM
 Pastor: (304) 587-2996 (home), (304) 587-2703 (church)
Pastor: James R. Paxton

I
IDA BAPTIST CHURCH
 Bentree
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Wednesday Prayer Service & Bible Study 7:00 PM
 Wednesday BYF 7:00 PM.
 All ages welcome. Also have crafts, etc., all children welcome.
Pastor: Larry Skaggs

INDORE BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
 Sunday Class 11:00-12:30
 Preaching Lunch 12:30-1:30 PM
 Wednesday Service 6:30-7:30 PM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Paul Stepp

IVYDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Worship Service 11:00
 Everyone Welcome!
 304-395-9990
Pastor: Freddie Elliott

J
JODIE BAPTIST CHURCH
 Come Worship with Us!
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Evening Service 7:00 PM
 Wednesday (BYF) 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Night 7:00 PM

JOHNSON CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
 Vineyard Ridge
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Night Service 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Night 7:00 PM

JUBILEE MOUNTAIN CHURCH
 103 Main Street, Clay
 Sunday 11:00 AM & 6 PM
 Tuesday 7:00 PM
 For more info call 304-632-1378
Pastor: Ann Huddleston

L
LAUREL FORK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Adonijah
 Sunday Morning 10:00 AM
 Sunday Night 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
 Youth Meeting 7:00 PM

LEATHERWOOD FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Service 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Services 7:00 PM
LIBERTY ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Wednesday Night: Bible Study/Prayer Meeting and Youth Group 7:00 PM
Pastor: John Barnhouse

LICKFORK BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 10:00 every
 Sunday Morning
 Sunday Night Services 7:00 PM
 Wednesday 7:00 PM
 Come worship with us!
Pastor: Herb Vance

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Tim Butcher
 Phone 304-286-2499

LITTLE LAUREL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM
 Everyone Welcome!
Pastor: David McLaughlin

LIVING GOD WORSHIP CENTER
 We invite you to come and worship with us.
 Thursday Evening 7:00 PM
 Sunday Morning 10:00 AM
Pastor: Cecil Lee
LIZEMORE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 Sunday School 10-11:00 AM
 Church Service 11-12 Noon
 Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
Pastor: Robert Thomas

M
MAYSEL COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00
 Sunday Night 6:00 PM
 Monday Night Service 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00 PM
 Everyone welcome!
MAYSEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Worship Service 11:00 AM
 Everyone Welcome
Pastor: Blaine Paige Jr.

MIDDLE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday Night 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Night 7:00 PM
Pastor: John Osborne
Assoc. Pastor:

MT. OLIVE COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Preaching 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM
 Everyone welcome!

MUD FORK CHURCH
 Sunday & Jr. Worship Service 10:00 AM
 Sunday School 11:00 AM
 Sunday Night 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Night & Jr. Church Service 7:00 PM
 Everyone Welcome!
Pastor: Christopher Stout

N
NEBO BAPTIST CHURCH
 Preaching every Sunday
 Morning at 10:00 AM
 Sunday School 11:00 AM
 Preaching, Prayer Meeting
 Wednesday at 7:30 PM

NEW ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Service 11:00 AM
 Sunday Night 7:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM
 Please join us in Praise!
Pastor: Gary Walker

NEWTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching every Sunday 11:00 AM
Pastor: Kenneth Boggs

NEWTON BAPTIST CHURCH
 Adult Choir Practice Sun. 9 AM
 Sunday School 9:45 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 PM
Pastor: Darius Walker
Pastor Emeritus: Ron Fisher

NOAH'S ARK FULL GOSPEL CHURCH
 Thursday 7:00 PM
 Sunday 7:00 PM
Pastor: R.J. Mullins, Sr.

O
O'BRIEN ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching after Sunday School. Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM
Pastor: James L. Balsler

OVAPA METHODIST CHURCH
 Preaching every Sunday at 9:45 PM
 Sunday School 10:30 AM
 Sunday School on the 2nd Sunday is at 10:00 AM
 Wednesday 7:00 PM
 Phone 304-587-2955
Pastors: Cindy & Roger Dunlap

OTTERLICK COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM
 Bible Study Thursday 6:00 PM
Pastor: Gene Copen

OTTERVALE ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching every Sunday, except 5th, 11:00 AM
 Prayer Meeting Tuesday Evening
Pastor: Rev. Rick Sams

P
PEOPLES COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Wednesday Night 7:00 PM
 Saturday Night Service 7:00 PM
 Take time out for Jesus, he took time out for you.
Pastor: Freddie Schoolcraft

PISGAH FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Evening Bible Study & preaching 6:00 PM
Pastor: Dennis Vance

PLEASANT DALE BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching Sunday 11:00 AM
 Wednesday night Bible Study 7:00 PM
 Saturday Night Preaching
Pastor: Wayne Litton

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
 Wednesday Night 6:30 PM
 Everyone welcome.
Pastor: Wayne Smith

PROCIIOUS COMMUNITY CHURCH
Welcomes You!
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:15 AM
 Bible Study 2nd, 4th, 5th
 Wednesday Night 6:30 PM
Pastor: David Walker

Q
QUEEN SHOALS E.G.C. CHURCH
 Sunday Morning 10:00 AM
 Sunday Night 7:00 PM
 Thursday Night 7:00 PM
 Everyone Welcome!
Pastor: Scott Means

R
RISEN LORD CATHOLIC CHURCH at Maysel
 Sunday Liturgy 8:30 AM followed by Religious Education 9:30 AM
 Wednesday Liturgy 6:00 PM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Father Matheus Ro SVD
Pastoral Associates: Father Dominijus Boak SVD

ROGERS FORK BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Saturday Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM
 Sunday Worship 7:00 PM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Delbert McKenzie

RUSH FORK COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 2nd & 4th Sunday 11:00 AM
 Every 1st and 3rd Sunday Singing or Preaching 11:00 AM
 Wednesday Prayer Service & Bible Study 7:00 PM
 Come see us in church.
Pastor: Harry Dobbins

S
STRANGE CREEK CHURCH
 Sunday Morning 10:00 AM
 Preaching 10:30 AM
 Sunday School 11:00 AM
 Thursday Service 7:00 PM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Jason Belt

T
THE AMERICAN CHAPEL AT ELKHURST
 Saturday Services 7:00 PM
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
Pastor: Hiram Lewis

TRINITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Sunday Worship 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Service 7:00 PM.
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Clifford Samples

U
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LIZEMORES
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Service 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
 Everyone welcome
Pastor: Don Dobbins

UNITY GOSPEL TABERNACLE
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Sunday Night 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 PM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Geoff Hamrick

V
VALLEY RIDGE CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Bible Study Wednesday Night 7:00 PM
 Everyone is welcome to attend.

W
WALLBACK METHODIST CHURCH
 Preaching 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays 9:45 AM
 Bible Study Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM
 Everyone welcome.
Pastor: Rev. Stewart Cottrell

WALNUT GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Preaching 1st & 3rd Sundays 11:00 AM
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Pastor: (304) 332-5503
Pastor: Jimmy Adkins

WALNUT MEMORIAL CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 10:00 AM
 Thursday Evening Service 7:30 PM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Lester Tanner

WHITE PILGRIM METHODIST CHURCH
 Preaching Sunday 9:45 AM
 Sunday School 11:00 AM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Paul Coon

WHITESTAR TABERNACLE CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Sunday Night 6:30 PM
 Wednesday Night 6:30 PM
Pastor: Rev. Mike Hall

WIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Preaching 11:00 AM
 Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Service 6:00 PM
 Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Randy Tinney

WINGS OF DELIVERANCE APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
 Rt. 4, 1/4 miles below Maysel on the left
 Sunday Morning 10:00 AM
 Sunday Night 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Night 7:00 PM
 Come worship the Lord with us!
 Phone: (304) 587-7410
Pastor: Jerry Hanshaw



THANK YOU FOR READING
 THE FREEPRESS

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Nov. 30, 1796: Brooke County was established under an act of the General Assembly of Virginia. The county was formed from part of Ohio County and named in honor of Robert Brooke, governor of Virginia.

Dec. 1, 1797: Journalist and politician John S. Gallaher was born in Martinsburg. He owned or managed several Whig newspapers and was instrumental in establishing the free school system in Virginia. He played a prominent role in having early railroads routed through the Eastern Panhandle.



Dec. 2, 1859: John Brown was hanged at Charles Town in Jefferson County. Maj. Thomas J. Jackson, later nicknamed "Stonewall," was among those commanding the Virginia forces standing guard at the execution of the abolitionist who led the raid at Harpers Ferry.



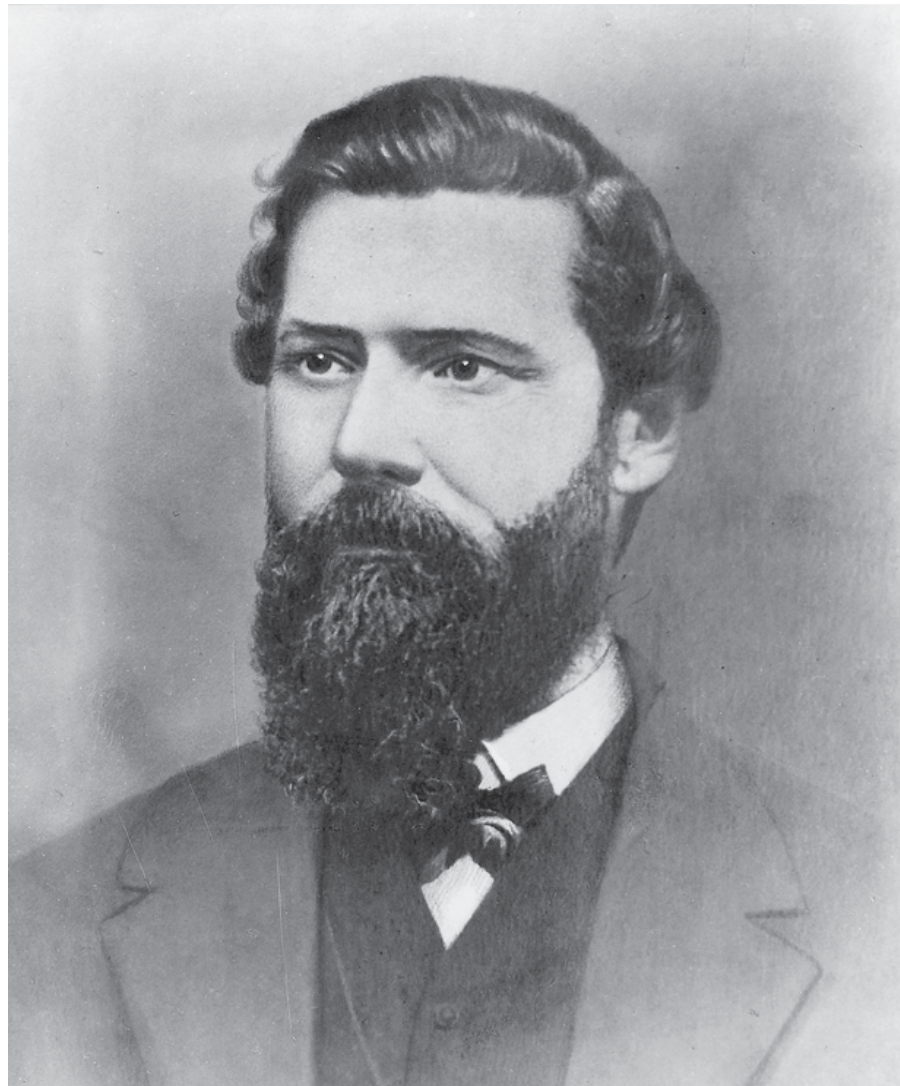
Dec. 3, 1871: Statesman Newton Diehl Baker was born in Martinsburg. Appointed by President Woodrow Wilson, Baker served as secretary of war from 1916 to 1921. Baker oversaw U.S. involvement in World War I.



Dec. 3, 1921: Operatic soprano Phyllis (Smith) Curtin was born in Clarksburg. She made her debut with the New York City Opera in 1953, where she sang both classical and modern repertoire.

Dec. 3, 1949: WSAZ-TV provided the first telecast of a Marshall College (now University) basketball game. The television station, the 72nd in the nation and the first in West Virginia, was an affiliate of WSAZ radio station.

Dec. 4, 1883: Social reformer Stella Fuller was born Stella Lawrence Cremeans in Point Pleasant. In the 1940s, Fuller opened a relief operation on Huntington's Washington Avenue. Eventually, the Stella Fuller Settlement expanded into the area's largest haven for the disadvantaged and homeless.



Dec. 5, 1892: Daniel D. T. Farnsworth died at the age of 73 in Buckhannon. As state senate president, Farnsworth succeeded Governor Boreman, who resigned in the last days of his term after being elected as a U.S. senator by the state legislature.

Dec. 6, 1865: Artist Annie Virginia Latham Bartlett was born in Grafton. Her clay sculptures included conventional busts as well as figurines interpreting West Virginia's historic and cultural past, with such titles as 'The Moonshiner.'

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. For more information, contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit *e-WV* at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

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HOURS: Monday thru Friday 8 am - 4 pm
63 Carr Street • Clay, WV 25043
304-587-4232 • johnghubbarddd@gmail.com
"We Treat Others As We Like To Be Treated Ourselves." – Matthew 7:12

Mountain state Spotlight

WV lawmakers target troubled DHHR, but have repeatedly struggled to pass legislation addressing state's many issues

Some lawmakers say the department must change to address the state's record-low health outcomes. But historically, lawmakers have been unable to agree on solutions to fix the agency.

By Ian Karbal for Mountain State Spotlight

This story was originally published by Mountain State Spotlight. For more stories from Mountain State Spotlight, visit www.mountainstatespotlight.org

BERKELEY SPRINGS - Inside a conference room in the rustic lodge at Cacapon State Park, Department of Health and Human Resources Secretary Bill Crouch sat with two cookies in one hand and a pepperoni roll in the other. He was in his last meeting of the legislative interim session, watching lawmakers grill his staff about data they had collected and, some felt, failed to properly compile and present.

It was a continuation of another contentious meeting, where lawmakers lambasted Crouch and his agency for failing to address issues in the department that are harming some of the most vulnerable West Virginians. Also included in lawmakers' ire was a team of consultants, who had concluded splitting DHHR would not substantially improve the department's issues or help the people who need the agency the most, including senior citizens, foster kids and people in recovery. Dividing the agency was the only solution lawmakers could agree on during the last legislative session, and now, after a \$1 million report commissioned by Gov. Jim Justice rejected the idea, they were incensed by what they saw as an insufficient proposal to fix the department's mounting problems.

"We've gotten the same results over and over by doing exactly the same thing," said Senate President Craig Blair, R-Berkeley. "From what I can interpret here, you're saying throw more money, throw more time, but keep doing the same thing. That's what I've gotten from your report. Frankly, it looks like this is a million dollar waste of our taxpayer dollars."

But none of these problems are new, and neither Crouch nor lawmakers came to the meeting with any concrete ideas of how to address them. Now, while lawmakers say legislation either reorganizing DHHR or targeting specific health issues will be a priority during the upcoming legislative session, it's unclear how lawmakers in a supermajority with a history of disagreement over health policies will move forward with either part of the two-pronged approach.

Fixing a problematic health department During the last legislative session, lawmakers considered bills to address some of the Department of Health and Human Resources' most glaring problems, including accountability in the foster care system and low wages for state-employed social workers. But despite bipartisan support, none made it over the finish line. The only bill that did — the measure to cleave the agency into two — was vetoed by Justice.

Meanwhile, West Virginia remains one of the most unhealthy states in the country, and lawmakers hear report after report alleging the abuse of some of the most vulnerable people in the agency's care.

Also, in that time, disabled adults in the care of DHHR have died in state-run facilities, and the department has been unresponsive to lawmakers' probing questions about how that happened and how to fix it.

While nearly all lawmakers agree that West Virginia's numerous health issues need to be tackled, some in the majority caucus contend that in order to address these issues, problems in DHHR must be sorted first.

Sen. Jack Woodrum, R-Summers, said that the department is necessary to help legislators make decisions about health policy, but that required reports sometimes go incomplete. The issue hits close to home for him, as five children have died either in foster care or as a result of abuse or neglect in his district in the last few years. Last year, a bipartisan bill that aimed to improve reporting of child abuse in the foster care system was stalled by Sen. Eric Tarr, R-Putnam, the chair of the Senate finance committee, and ultimately didn't pass.

The poor information from the department, Woodrum said, "puts you in a position that you can't make any informed decisions about what you need to be doing. That's one of the things that's bogging us down and, unfortunately, we have people that are dying because we don't have information."

Woodrum's point was underscored in a Monday afternoon meeting about maternal mortality rates

in West Virginia, which are higher than in most of the country, particular for non-white residents.

Woodrum raised concerns that required reports on the issue were not made available to lawmakers ahead of the meeting. A representative from DHHR said the agency had the data, but had not compiled it into a report yet.

Addressing health issues head-on

Fixing DHHR alone is not enough to reverse problems with social services and poor health trends in West Virginia. To be sure, a more responsive agency could provide better data illuminating potential solutions, and could keep some of the most vulnerable West Virginians in the care of the state out of danger. But it falls to lawmakers to create new policies to increase access to affordable and quality health care, and so far they've failed to get many meaningful measures across the finish line.

"Unfortunately, we see a lot of studies and we get a lot of recommendations, and often the Legislature fails to act or to address the root causes of our poor public health outcomes," said Del. Mike Pushkin, D-Kanawha, who recently won reelection and is the chair of the state Democratic Party. "Many efforts never make it onto the agenda, or many bills that do pass don't get funded."

Last session alone, lawmakers failed to pass a bill aimed at holding accountable and improving the state's foster care system, which a Mountain State Spotlight investigation found has sent kids in the state's care to out-of-state homes with documented cases of abuse and neglect. The bill had bipartisan support, but

was gutted in the Senate Finance Committee, and then died at the end of the session. Similarly, bills to decrease the cost of insulin and to provide raises for state-employed social workers, who DHHR has struggled to hire and retain, also failed in spite of bipartisan support.

Ultimately, state social workers got raises from Justice who unilaterally allocated funds dedicated to unfilled positions.

And even while West Virginia's overdose and substance abuse rates remain high, lawmakers didn't pass any substantive legislation to address the problem. Instead, in spite of years of state-commissioned reports indicating that harsher criminal sentences for drug offenders were not helping the state's high rate of sub-

stance abuse disorders, lawmakers passed bills increasing penalties for people arrested for possession of fentanyl in multiple circumstances.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, including leaders of the Republican supermajority, agree that changes need to be made and will likely be a priority this coming session. But so far, no concrete plan has been made public.

"I've only heard about legislation addressing DHHR," said Del. Kayla Young, D-Kanawha, who noted that there are still nearly two months before the regular session. "Our foster care bill got gutted last year and we never really got anything substantive passed. Substance abuse is another problem

we haven't touched much the past few years. I'm hopeful those things happen, but I haven't heard anyone talk about any of that yet."

At this point in the year, lawmakers' list of priorities is long and diverse, from taking up a stalled bill to increase access to contraceptives and help adoptive parents, to tackling substance abuse disorders to addressing maternal mortality rates.

Over the next months, Republican legislative leaders will speak with their caucuses and identify priority policy proposals that have the potential to pass with a majority. And in January, they'll present that to the public.

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LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SEWER RATES BY THE TOWN OF CLAY

Notice is hereby given that the TOWN OF CLAY (the "Town") on November 17, 2022, has enacted an ordinance containing increased rate and charges for furnishing sewer service to its 265 customers in Clay County.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective upon substantial completion of its wastewater treatment plant and lift station improvement project, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission (the "Commission") and will produce approximately \$42,830 annually in additional revenue over the rate increase approved on August 9, 2022, and increase of 25%.

The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

TYPE OF CUSTOMER		INCREASE (\$)	INCREASE (%)
Residential	(3,000 gallons)	\$12.12	25%
Commercial	(6,800 gallons)	\$27.47	25%
Public Authority	(9,900 gallons)	\$40.00	25%

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Commission in its review of this filing. The Commission shall review and approve or modify the increased rates only upon the filing of a petition within thirty (30) days of the adoption of the ordinance changing said rates and charges by:

- (1) Any customer aggrieved by the changes rates or charges who presents to the Commission a petition signed by not less than 25% of the customers served by the Town's sewer system.

All petitions should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of the utility to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the Recorder's Office at 956 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia 25043.

A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

LEGALS

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Clay County Clerk's Office at P.O. Box 190, 246 Main Street Clay, WV 25043-0190. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Clay County Clerk's Office at the address listed above 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 must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 or 44-3A.

Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed 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.

Publication Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022

Claim Deadline: Monday, January 30, 2023

APPOINTMENT DATE 11/17/2022
ESTATE NAME: **WALTER HALL**
ADMINISTRATRIX NADINE SUE LANE
208 LANEHILL RD
CLENDENIN WV 25045

APPOINTMENT DATE 10/27/2022
ESTATE NAME: **CHILTON E HOLCOMB**
EXECUTRIX KATHRYN ODELL
747 ROARING CREEK RD
QUINWOOD WV 25981

APPOINTMENT DATE 10/03/2022
ESTATE NAME: **ADDIE RAMONA SAMPLES**
EXECUTRIX NANCY ANN SAMPLES
243 SCENIC RIVER RD
PROCIUS WV 25164

APPOINTMENT DATE 11/15/2022
ESTATE NAME: **DONALD WAYNE SUMMERS**
EXECUTRIX GARNET ANN DAVIS
81 DAVIS LN
WALLBACK WV 25285

APPOINTMENT DATE 11/14/2022
ESTATE NAME: **EARL G TRIPLETT**
ADMINISTRATOR CTA RANDY TRIPLETT
506 TWISTABOUT RD
PROCIUS WV 25164

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 11/23/2022
Connie Workman
County Clerk
Clay County
P.O. Box 190
246 Main Street
Clay WV 25043-0190

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SPORTS

Holidays - Here They Come

By Allen Hamrick

With Thanksgiving over, people are trying to figure out how they are going to get those pounds off before the next big dinner as Christmas and New Years get set to take the stage. Black Friday has come and went without a hitch. This annual "event" has mellowed out tremendously since the glory days of fights over parking spaces and nearly all out wars at the front of stores as greedy shoppers got into position to get at the cheap TV sets. People will now try to wrangle their wallets and lasso some green backs to make Christmas a happy one (for at least a week) for kids from the age of 3 to 58.

It is a time for decorations, presents, food and good memories; a time when lists circle through families of the "you better

get me" gifts they would like to see under the tree... no pressure. This is also a time that we remember the year that has just passed and whether we pick up the pieces or just move on hoping that the promises spoken under raised sparkling glasses will actually come true.

Next year will be better for sure they say on the evening news as the stories of death and destruction fill the air time. What happens though? Quick as a cat, the good times are here then gone. Christmas comes and goes and you realize that you spent way beyond what you should have and the lines at the return desk are nearly as long as they were at an Elvis concert. New Year's Day comes and goes, and on January 2, 2023, you realize the promises made would

take way too much effort, so you save them again for next year's toast.

Some of the most epic quotes I remember are, "By the end of summer I will run a marathon," said the guy who just polished off half a cheesecake. "I will get outside, get back in shape, enjoy the fresh air again and save my health," says the one who never leaves the city. I'm sure you, the reader, have heard some doozies as the years have passed. Many stories of good family times during the holidays have been passed down through generations and told around sparkling lights and flickering candle light. The smell of food cooking, the taste of fresh made cookies, songs sung in earnest and kids shaking wrapped presents trying to guess what was in the box are all experiences that bind families together. A time when trees gleamed with an array of lights, candy canes and pop corn strings- those were good times, and some of us are fortunate enough to still have those opportunities.

One story, in particular, that is fond to me is that of a family who had to put all their resources into paying their bills and having food on the table. They had nothing in the way of presents to offer each other, so they cut out pictures of items in a catalog and gave those with the promise that if they ever did get rich, things would be different. The sky was the limit, no holding back on "shopping," and the family had one of the best Christmases they ever had. There was no pressure, no trying to keep up with the Joneses or

breaking the bank. It was a time when you could spend a fortune without ever taking a buck out of your wallet.

Catalogs were a big part of peoples' lives. Sears, Montgomery Ward, J.C. Penney, Spiegel and flyers that came in the mail from stores like Hecks, K-Mart, the five and dime store and Reed's Department Store, just to name a few, made eyes wide open and mouths water. Those were the days when going to the post office was fun and a much anticipated event. Catalogs served not as just something to make your mouth water over what you couldn't have, but as wall coverings, bathroom necessities, outhouse insulation, covering plants, fire starters, paper airplanes, research material, math education, inspiration to inventors and future clothing makers and, on special occasions, as a quick smoke when you were out of tobacco paper, using only the index section where there wasn't any color or slick paper. So, what can Amazon and Google do to compete with that? A lot apparently as the days of mailing a check along with an order form to a company are long gone, at least for most.

Most families in the early pioneer years started way early in the month with preparations and plans. Families would get together and offer to help each other, and it was everybody's duty to make sure that the less fortunate were taken care of. Generally, gifts were hand-made, from pipes to rocking chairs, from toys to food; these were the best gifts of all. Nothing was store bought, but home-made straight out of Mama's kitchen.

However, in today's society, a homemade gift is usually found by the side of

the road in a yard sale selling for a fraction of the cost that was put into it. So, if you do make something, make something you want and get it back in the spring. Continue this season, no matter what the chaos in the world looks like, to stimulate our communities through stories and song, give the gift of knowledge that is a necessity to our mental survival. Survival takes away fear and instills the family ideal that will live on no matter the foe.

Many of those that lived when the holiday season was overtaken by labor and

inventions have already went on. Those that have give gifts that cost nothing often have more than the richest. Those gifts can only be learned and with action, might possibly save us from ourselves. As the holiday season of 2022 finishes off the year, let's walk with a positive impact and welcome the opportunity to help those that are in need or perhaps rewrite your own story as one who embraces the good life. We are country people, after all, and it is in our genetics to adapt, overcome and survive.



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