



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple

Volume 134 No. 21

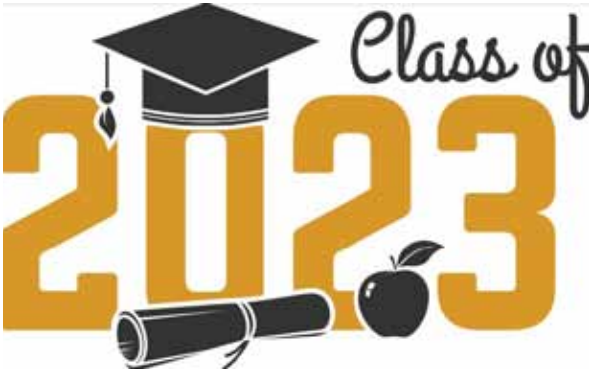
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CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE CLAY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



Graduation is Thursday, May 25
The Clay County Free Press is
proud of all of our local graduates!



The Trail Kitchen Ready for Summer Riding Season



By: Betty Holcomb

Warm weather, summer vacation upon us, and long summer nights mean it's time to break out the ATV and SXS's and explore the great state of West Virginia. Traveling backroads in Clay and surrounding counties is staple for many. On any given day you can pass bunches of ATV's enjoying the country life.

The Trail Kitchen welcomes riders out in Cold Springs. This jewel in the woods is perfect to stop by for lunch or dinner and take a nice break on those long ridding days. The Trail Kitchen has opened for their 2023 season with hours of operation Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. They offer deli subs on fresh baked bread, deep fried tacos, desserts, and more.

The Trail Kitchen is founded on "old fashioned" American



values; faith in God, hard work, quality product, service to others, and strong community. The hospitality and country charm is unmatched when visiting the Trail Kitchen, as well as their unique pricing method. You won't see menu listed prices, their motto is Pay What You Can Afford, Pay What The Food Is Worth To You, and Pay It Forward. You will get handed an envelope that you slip your payment into and discreetly slide it into the mail slot. This is country hospitality at its finest, ensuring everyone who is hungry gets a meal and anyone that has a few extra dollars can help the next person out.

Stop by the Trail Kitchen and check out this dining experience for yourself, and make sure to follow them on Facebook for updates in menu items and hours. Happy Riding!

Focus is to reach those who don't have broadband, not just improve service to existing customers

By Autumn Shelton, WV Press Association



State government's plan to provide every West Virginia household with access to high-speed internet continues to move forward.

On Sunday of last week, members of the legislative interim Joint Committee on Government and Finance heard from Mitch Carmichael, secretary of the Department of Economic Development, and Kelly Workman, director of

the state's Office of Broadband, about broadband deployment and expansion progress made to date, and future plans.

According to Carmichael, their focus is to "go to those who don't have [broadband]," rather than increasing speeds or lowering prices for those who do, which has been a common complaint throughout the state.

"That's the entire focus of our programs," Carmichael said, adding that once the infrastructure is built, companies may then compete against each other for faster speeds and competitive prices for their customers.

He explained that funding for infrastructure goes to those "in the middle."

Through awards from the West Virginia American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Broadband Investment Plan, 24 projects with over 3,000 miles of infrastructure were funded in 2022, Carmichael continued. Funding included \$33 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, \$70 million in capital project funds, and \$44 million in private investment.

At least 38,000 targeted locations will have the infrastructure that allows them to be connected to high-speed internet within 10 days of calling their local service provider, Carmichael added, noting that 350 connections have been completed in 2023 with about 120,000 new fiber-optic connections made in the last two years.

Additionally, Carmichael stated that the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program, which will provide certain low-income households with internet service discounts, is going to be promoted by his department, especially since many households that do have access to high-speed internet cannot afford the service.

"It's a great program," Carmichael stated.

Although work is being completed as quickly as possible, Carmichael did note that there have been some issues.

"Getting this stuff - connecting it to the existing pole infrastructure - is an impediment in the northern part of the state," Carmichael said. "Those people that own those poles are not being forthcoming, and [our providers] are having difficulty connecting."

He explained that the Public Service Commission recently held a hearing regarding this matter.

Workman added that this case, "Frontier West Virginia Inc., Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company," number 22-0885-T-E-SC, as well as permitting, supply chain issues, access to matching funds and access to capital funds are factors that impact broadband deployment.

Another factor that must be considered when being considered for federal funding is FCC Broadband mapping, Workman explained.

"Funding is sdependent on this data," she said. However, the FCC Broadband map has not always been exact when determining the number of locations in the state that do not have access to

high-speed internet.

In the second version of the FCC Broadband map, Workman said they noted only 900,408 locations needed service, while the state noted that 1,094,284 did.

As a result, Workman said the state had to rely on a different mapping plan.

"Our office has gone through a painstaking exercise of mapping every location in West Virginia," Workman said. "We are utilizing the state's E911 address data."

Yet, even with these hurdles, she stated that many projects should go to construction this year, especially considering that ARPA funds must be used by Dec. 2026.

Workman noted that funding for round two of the state's LEAD (Line Extension Advancement and Development) Program, which provides for "extensions of existing last-mile cable modem and fiber-to-the-premise broadband networks," includes 10 applicants, 40 projects, 27 counties, 144 communities, 26,204 addresses passed and 2,704 miles of new infrastructure.

The total project cost is \$173 million with roughly \$60 million in matching funds. The average cost of plant (infrastructure) per mile is \$69,965, she said.

The second round of funding for the MBPS Program includes seven applicants, eight projects, 13,969 addresses passed and 910 miles of new infrastructure, Workman said, adding that the total cost of this project is \$77 million with \$27.5 in matching funds.

The average cost of plant per mile in this program is \$84,464, she stated, noting that cost for new plant goes up in more rural areas

She also noted that GIGReady 2 has also completed its final round application process for funding, and that the five-year action plan for the Internet for All initiative, with funding provided through the federal bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), is currently in development and must be completed by August.

The act created two programs, the BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment) Program and the Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, to provide high-speed internet to all Americans.

"We want to be ready for everything that's coming under the infrastructure act," Workman said.

In response to a question from Committee Chairman and Senate President Craig Blair, R-Berkeley, about 5G cellular networks, both Carmichael and Workman noted that the broadband cellular technology is dependent on fiber connections, but they do not monitor 5G networks.

However, "it's coming," Carmichael noted.

Workman concluded that they are monitoring service providers to ensure that all timetables for high-speed internet deployment are being met, and that "every penny" of ARPA funding will be utilized.

"We understand how West Virginians feel about previous federal funding utilized for broadband, and so we have done everything we can to ensure that that doesn't happen again," she concluded.

More information about the West Virginia Broadband Plan, and the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program, can be found

WV Legislative Interims: Fire, EMS discuss suicide prevention, more funding for first responders

By Matt Young, WV Press Association

"I need to drive this home - Suicide rates aren't just outnumbering line-of-duty deaths - they're doing so even with suicides being under-reported by as much as 60%."

That's what Kari Mika-Lude told the Joint Committee on Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Huntington on Sunday, during the first day of the State Legislature's May Interim Session.

Mika-Lude is the director of the W.Va. Behavioral Health Workforce and Health Equity Training Center at Marshall University. Mika-Lude is also the founder and CEO of Aspire to Inspire Behavioral Health and Addiction Services, as well as the co-founder of Code Grey, a stress-management training course. Mika-Lude delivered a presentation to the committee called "Supporting First Responder Wellness."

"In 2017, in response to what my husband had experienced as a first responder, and what I had noticed throughout my career, we decided to develop a workshop called 'Code Grey,'" Mika-Lude noted, before explaining that the name was inspired by the calling of a "code grey" in hospitals during an "urgent and potentially dangerous situation."

"That describes our mission," Mika-Lude said. "We believe that first responder-wellness has become a critical issue, and our objective is to assist with managing job-related stress, increasing mental wellness, and preventing suicide."

"We need to attend to the needs of the helpers, but we

need to do so proactively, rather than just reactively," Mika-Lude added. We need to create a culture that destigmatizes stress and trauma responses, denormalizes overworking and the superhero mindset, and builds in healthy and trauma-sensitive workplace practices and sources of support."

According to Mika-Lude, the Code Grey workshop has been held in numerous locations across West Virginia since its inception. Mika-Lude further added that, "While it can and has been presented to the workforce at large, we strongly recommend it for organizational leadership to ensure that the decision makers are part of the conversation. This has to be tackled systemically."

At the conclusion of Mika-Lude's remarks, W.Va. State Fire Marshal Kenneth Tyree briefly discussed how improvements of the Insurance Services Office (ISO) impacts community fire departments.

Tyree began by saying, "I am not an ISO expert, but I'll share the things that I do know."

"[ISO does] a fire-suppression rating schedule where they rate fire departments and how they are protecting our communities," Tyree said.

Tyree explained that the ISO evaluates fire departments based upon four categories: emergency communications within the community; personnel operating procedures, equipment and training; flush (water) supply for the community; and community risk-reduction.

"It's a 100-point scale, but they have as much as

BOOKED CENTRAL REGIONAL JAIL

BRAXTON COUNTY



Cynthia Dawn Ellis
Booked 5/8/23
Possession with intent,
conspiracy

Roger Thomas Mullens
Booked 5/8/23
Domestic battery (second
offense)

Mavin Timothy Campbell
Booked 5/13/23
Possession of a controlled
substance, obstructing

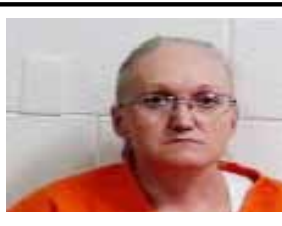
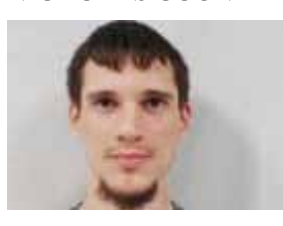
Christopher Lynn Duffey
Booked 5/8/23
Assault on police of-
ficer, fleeing in vehicle,
fugitive from justice,
obstructing an officer

Kaylie Shay Hamilton
Booked 5/12/23
Grand larceny

Victor Allen Jarvis
Booked 5/9/23
No insurance

CLAY COUNTY

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Louis Richard Koch
Booked 5/13/23
Prohibited person with
firearm, no registration,
no seat belt

Tyler Scott Anderson
Booked 5/10/23
Bailpiece

Haley Christina Barnett
Booked 5/12/23
Domestic battery second
offenses

David Eugene Bennett
Booked 5/10/23
Capias

Heather Dawn Bowling
Booked 5/8/23
Worthless checks

Anna Mae Buckner
Booked 5/12/23
Shoplifting third offense

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Ryan Wayne Reckell
Booked 5/11/23
Capias

Jerrod M. White
Booked 5/13/23
DOR/DUI, possession
with intent, reckless
driving

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

4	9	7	1	8	5	2	6	3
2	5	3	7	6	9	1	8	4
6	8	1	2	4	3	7	9	5
3	4	8	9	7	6	5	1	2
1	6	5	8	2	4	3	7	9
9	7	2	3	5	1	8	4	6
8	2	4	5	9	7	6	3	1
7	1	6	4	3	2	9	5	8
5	3	9	6	1	8	4	2	7

Super Crossword

Answers:

ESAU	ALIT	COONA	OW	MILL	L
XTRA	NAIROBI	TOE	AREA		
WARR	ENGINE	HARDING	LONG		
LIDE	VEERS	BOIT	BANDS		
EISHER	CANTS	SACHA			
EATEN	SUSAN	BIEBER	ANTHONY		
LICH	RANT	NOSTREE			
SHEREE	JAY	WILSON	SAW		
HELL	BELIE	AKA	ZONERS		
ARMOTRE	EMIT	ERA			
BOOKER	TEAWASH	INGTON			
MEW	AMIE	DISHPAN			
BALSAS	DID	VALET	AUTO		
ADE	TARAJI	PEAHENSON			
BOTTLED	ISEE	SRI			
ARTHUR	SEAC	LARKE	SECTS		
KEENE	LULLIS	SBALOAN			
BAIRRE	HEDY	DETAT	MIA		
ABBA	DAVID	OWESEL	ZNICK		
SLOP	ARE	EVICTEE	ACHE		
SEXY	YEN	SALIA	AMS	PSIS	

Interim

(cont. from page 1)

105.5 points that they can achieve because of that community risk-reduction evaluation process,” Tyree said. “When we look at how it impacts a community, the first thing everyone has knowledge about is insurance premiums. It (the ISO rating) impacts insurance premiums. About 75% of the major insurance companies do take the ISO rating into consideration when it comes to lowering insurance premiums.”

According to Tyree, the ISO rating is a 10-point scale, with one being the highest possible score.

“When it comes to personnel operating procedures, equipment, and training - that’s 50 points of the 100-point scale,”

Tyree noted. “Water supply is 40 points, but it’s probably the most impactful. If the water supply is not there, there is no leverage or consideration, or really anything that can be done to improve (the fire department) above 65 points.”

Lastly, the committee picked up where it left off during its April meeting by discussing the revised version of HB 3153 - a bill which seeks to redistribute certain taxes and surcharges for the benefit of first responders.

As explained by Committee Counsel Phillip Childs, “This bill creates consistency throughout the code where the Fire Protection Fund administered by the State Treasurer’s Office was administered inconsistently.”

“The other thing that the bill does is - it does not affect in any in any increasable way the Municipal Pensions Oversight Board, or Municipal Pensions, or Firefighter Pensions,” Childs added. “It increases a surcharge on counties with insurance premiums from 0.55% up to one-percent. That 0.45% will be split equally between the EMS Fund and the Fire Protection Fund, so it increases money to the Fire Protection Fund and also for the EMS Fund.”

At the conclusion of Childs’ explanation, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to both House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, and Senate President Craig Blair, R-Berkeley, that Gov. Jim Justice be encouraged to add HB 3153 to the agenda of any potential future Special Legislative Session that may be ordered.

The next meeting of the Joint Committee on Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services is scheduled to occur during the Legislature’s August Interim Session.

Clay County High School

Picnic In The Parking Lot

Thursday, June 15th

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Community-Wide Picnic
Clay County High School Parking Lot

Everyone is invited to attend!

Enjoy delicious food, live music, inflatables & give-aways!

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Clay County Schools

Summer Learning Programs

A Taste of Kindergarten

Enjoy a day in the life of a Kindergartener!

One-day Kindergarten orientation program for parents and their children.

Free Resources and Materials!

June 22nd – Big Otter & Clay Elementary

July 7th – Lizemore Elementary

July 13th – H.E. White Elementary

Elementary Program

Open to students entering Grades 1 – 6 in Fall 2023.

Reading, Math, STEM, Physical Activity

Weekly Field Trips for Students & Weekly Parent Workshops

Monday – Thursday, 8:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Location: Clay Elementary

CTE/Enrichment Camps

Open to students in Grades 6-9 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Weekly camps focused on Art, Basketball, Veterinary Science, Ag Science, Baking, Electrical, and Carpentry

Monday – Thursday, 8:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

June 26th – July 27th

Location: Clay County High School

Credit Recovery

Open to Middle and High School students

Earn credits for failed courses

Graduate on time

Monday – Thursday, 8:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

June 21st – July 27th

Location: Clay County High School

*All students attend the first day and must attend two days per week thereafter.

Camp Mustang

Open to students entering 6th grade in Fall 2023

Middle School Orientation Program

July 11th – 12th

8:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Location: Clay Middle

For More Information

Visit claycountyschools.org and click on the Summer Program Information link for Enrollment Forms & Activity Bus schedules

or

contact Dr. Michelle Samples, Program Director, at (304) 587-2809 or emsample@k12.wv.us

Clay County Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Clay County Health Department
452 Main Street, Clay WV
June 7, 2023
3:30pm-6pm

At the request of the Clay County Health Department, Dr. Edith Johnson with the Central West Virginia Animal Hospital will be conducting a cat and dog vaccination clinic at the Clay County Health Department.

- Rabies Vaccinations will be \$15 per cat or dog.
- Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvo Virus, Lepto, and Lyme Vaccinations for dogs and Distemper and Upper Respiratory Vaccinations will be available.

NEXGARD-FRONTLINE-REVOLUTION and worm medications along with other pet supplies will be available for purchase for pets receiving vaccinations. Note: Please have all dogs tied on leash. Please have all cats in a cat carrier or box to prevent escape. For more information, please call 304-364-5252.

WV LAW REQUIRES THAT EVERY DOG AND CAT BE VACCINATED FOR RABIES AND MORE IMPORTANTLY THIS VACCINATION PROVIDES PROTECTION FOR BOTH OWNERS AND PETS AGAINST DEADLY DISEASE

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These Old Bones of Mine

By: Dr. James L. Snyder

I had a frightening experience the other day. I know I must be getting old because things that never frightened me before frighten me. I also see things I never saw before.

Going into the bathroom one morning, I looked in the mirror, and my grandfather looked back at me. I almost passed out. With great haste, I left the bathroom, rushed to the living room, and sat down to think a little bit. What just happened?

I hadn't thought of my grandfather for a long time, and now here I am, looking at myself in the mirror and seeing my grandfather. Oh boy. How did he get in my mirror?

I knew my grandfather was old, at least from my perspective when I knew him. One thing I remember about him was how much he complained about his bones. You could hear his knees crack whenever he would get up from a chair. I never could understand that.

At the time, I thought he was putting on a show. I never had my bones crack, nor did they ever hurt. So, I thought my dear old grandfather was trying to get pity from us, so I lavished it on as much as possible. I tried to come to the end of his joke, but he died before it ended.

The last two years that I knew him, he walked around with a cane. I thought he was just doing that for dressing. I thought he was acting like Bat Masterson; "He wore a cane and derby hat."

Several times, I asked him where his "derby hat" was. He just looked at me as though he had no idea what I was saying. So, being the grandson that I was, I went on with his ploy.

Not until recently did I discover that this was not a ploy; rather, he had aching and creaking bones.

It seems that I have inherited his creaking bones. Now I know what he was going through back then, and it wasn't a ploy.

It seems every day, I find a new bone to creak. I will never know how my grandfather handled those creaking bones at his age, but I'm starting to find out. I guess I should've taken him more seriously back then.

I have no idea how many bones I have in my body, but I am discovering new bones that are starting to creak daily. I didn't know I had so many bones.

After thinking about my grandfather and his creaking bones, I went back into the bathroom to chat with him, but instead of him being in the mirror, there I was. I am my grandfather!

My grandfather was 69 years old when he passed, and I am, let's say, a little past that age.

Instead of inheriting creaking bones from my grandfather, I would rather have inherited \$1 million. But life is as it is. I don't know how long I have yet before my old bag of bones exhausts itself. Till then, I will creak and crack my bones every day, just like my grandfather.

That may be why people have rather short memories when they get older. Boy, would I like to forget these creaking bones of mine. When I think I have it all worked out, another bone pops and then starts creaking.

I don't know how close I am to getting a cane, but it just might be in the near future.

Of course, having a cane would be more helpful when walking down the street to protect me from some idiot who wants to rob me. So I've been thinking about that.

If it were just creaking bones, I wouldn't be too concerned. But looking in the mirror this morning caused me to see that old age is really ugly. I have more wrinkles than I can count on my face. Where do those wrinkles come from? What are they there, and how do I get rid of them?

I should start counting my wrinkles every morning to ensure I have the same amount from the day before. Of course, there must be some good to these wrinkles, or I wouldn't have so many.

I think I have become the standard for old age with my musical bones and flourishing wrinkles. I sure could use some advice from my grandfather about this situation.

With that in mind, I went to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and told her I thought I needed to go to a body shop to see if I could get a new body. "Do you have any recommendations?"

She looked at me up and down and then said, "Just remember, it'll cost you an arm and a leg." And then she laughed as though it was funny.

I wasn't laughing on the inside.

Later that day, I checked my Bible for verses dealing with bones, but I had never thought of these verses before.

Psalms 51:8, "Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."

Psalms 34:20, "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."

I am a proponent of joy, but I never thought of bones being associated with joy. As I get older, I am discovering just how important my bones are. From now on, whenever one of my bones creaks, I will rejoice to know that God keeps all my bones.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jameessnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jameessnyderministries.com.

THE BAPTIST CLASSROOM

Pastor Doug Newell, IV

Hope in Sorrow

At the close of the fourth chapter of First Thessalonians (4:13-18), Paul provides comfort to believers whose loved ones have died in the Lord. He starts with a desire for them to know certain truths concerning the believers who have died. Ignorance about Biblical truth is not bliss but the road to multiplied sorrows. Comfort for God's people is through faith in the promises of God in Christ. Knowing what the Bible tells us about death and the state of believers safe in Christ is the ground of comfort in unspeakable sadness. Even the way Paul describes the dead orients us to what has happened. Their bodies are laid to rest, but their souls are with Jesus. Death separates body and soul; our loved ones are "absent from the body."

It is tremendous grief to see a loved one's body but to know they are no longer there. But we are called to sorrow like Christians. If you don't know Christ, you'll mourn as a person with no hope. But in Christ, there is hope, even at the funeral home. This is a powerful statement that we need to reckon with. To stand over the grave of your dearest's body and have hope? The doctor may give you hope for a cure when someone is sick. When someone is living astray, you may have hope they'll repent and the prodigal will come home. But to have hope in death? Where can you go for hope at the graveside? To the one

who rose from the dead.

Jesus died on the cross and was buried. But the grave could not hold him, and after three days, he rose from the dead. Not a vision. Not a spirit, but the Lord Jesus Christ bodily rose from the dead. Believers in Christ Jesus are united to Him. We have the forgiveness of sins, we have His perfect righteousness, we are justified by faith, and there is no condemnation. But we also have the promise that where He is now, we will also be. We have the promise of the resurrection of our mortal bodies. We sorrow in the hope that the dead body will one day be raised from the dead. One day, we will see those who have died in Christ again, with a glorified, resurrected body where, like our Lord, death will have no power. Corruption will be a thing of the past. Sickness, pain, and suffering will be no more.

Just as Jesus ascended from this earth to the right hand of the Father, he will come back again. Yes, Christians have great sorrow when our brothers and sisters leave this world. But more for ourselves. We sorrow because we miss them, and we may sorrow with regret. But we don't mourn without hope because we believe in the promises of our Lord Jesus. I know Jesus died for me. I know He rose for me. I know He now sits as my mediator. And I know he's coming back for me.

Loving Arms

By: Joseph J. Mazella

When I was in my early twenties my wife, kids, and I lived in a tiny one bedroom apartment above what used to be a drug store. We moved the dining table out of the room next to the kitchen and put it in the living room. Then we put two small beds there for our children. My son was only four and my daughter two. My wife was pregnant with our 3rd child, as well.

One day I was letting my wife rest in the bedroom while my little ones played in the living room. I was folding a few clothes on their beds while I heard them laughing and chasing each other around the chairs and couch. I smiled and continued to put their clothes away until all of the sudden it got very quiet. Concerned, I walked into the living room and saw that they had both fallen asleep in the middle of their game. I laughed when I looked down at them. Then I lovingly picked up my son, walked to his bed and tucked him into it. I went back for my daughter and picked her up as well.

She stirred a bit in my arms so I rubbed her back and kissed her head while she wrapped her tiny arms around my neck. Then I placed her gently under her covers and watched her drift back to sleep. I stood there quietly for a long time just watching them both sleep. My heart felt warm and full of love for them. I felt so blessed to have them in my life and I thanked God for giving them to me. I wondered too if this is the way our Heavenly Father feels when He watches over us.

I know that one day I will leave this world and return to His Loving Arms. When I do, however, I want to do it like my children did that day. I want to live each day with all the love, laughter, and joy I possibly can. And when I finally drop I want to do it with a smile on my face and a song in my heart. May all of your days be full of such laughter and joy. And may your heart be forever full of love until you return to the Loving Arms that made you.

Home Country

By Slim Randles

Steve looked out from the turret of his cabin and watched the sun set behind the mountain. Branding is over for the spring, and he was able to get away from the ranch for a few days, so here he was, in his private castle, sipping private coffee, looking down at his private horse eating hay in his private corral.

For a man who has spent most of his life in someone else's bunkhouse, a suite at the Ritz couldn't be more wonderful than this little hole-up spot in the mountains.

He slid open one of the turret windows and let the warm breeze of early summer caress his magnificent mustache. "That does it!" he said.

He closed the window, climbed down the ladder and went out to saddle Ol' Snort. In a few minutes the two of them were heading along a little trail near Thompson Ridge, feeling the warm breeze, wondering how many more of these evenings they would share. Steve and Snort were both getting years on them, but they have this evening. They have this ride. They are together now.

And it was like taking a dry bath in paradise.

Steve reached down and patted Snort on the neck. "You know, O.S.," Steve said, "can you think of a luckier man/horse combination than us? I can't. Not right at the moment, anyway."

Snort was used to listening to Steve, but blissfully he wasn't required to do anything but walk along this mountain trail enjoying the evening.

"What do you think, old boy?"

Ol' Snort reached his head out and blew his nose.

"I knew you felt the same way," said Steve, smiling.

Sometimes heaven comes in small doses.

Brought to you by books written by Edward Abbey. Ed may be gone, but his published legacy is always amazing.

THE FREEPRESS
'50's and '60's

ROCK
'N'ROLL
TRIVIA

True or False: The Kinks adopted their name from the word "Kinkiness" (meaning something newsy and naughty but on the borderline of acceptability.)

Answer to last week's Trivia: False: "My Girl" (March '65) wasn't the only #1 hit for the Temptations in the 60's. "I Can't Get Next To You" reached #1 in Oct. 1968).

Clay County High School

Picnic In The Parking Lot

Thursday, June 15th
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Community-Wide Picnic
Clay County High School Parking Lot

Everyone is invited to attend!

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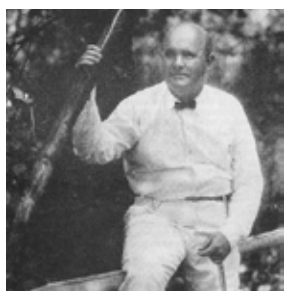
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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

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

May 24, 1896: Confederate General John Echols died in Staunton, Virginia. Echols served in the Kanawha Valley in 1862 and commanded Confederate forces at their defeat at the Battle of Droop Mountain in November 1863.

May 25, 1903: Industrialist and philanthropist Bernard Patrick McDonough Jr. was born in Texas. Starting with a Parkersburg construction business in the 1930s, McDonough built a Fortune 500 company with operations in hand tools, building materials and barge building. The Bernard McDonough Foundation remains one of the largest private foundations in West Virginia.



May 25, 1937: William H. "Teepi" Kendrick died in Morgantown. Kendrick was a pioneer in West Virginia's 4-H program. He broadened the program to emphasize more than just agriculture, and he was primarily responsible for establishing the state 4-H camp at Jackson's Mill.



May 26, 1895: Athlete Ira Errett "Rat" Rodgers was born in Bethany. He was WVU's first football All-American, lettering in 1915-17 and 1919.

May 27, 1912: Legendary golfer Sam Snead was born at Ashwood, Virginia. When The Greenbrier reopened as a resort after World War II, Snead returned as the golf pro.

May 27, 1922: Labor leader Bill Blizzard was acquitted of treason charges following the 1921 Battle of Blair Mountain. The trial was held in the Jefferson County Courthouse, where John Brown had been convicted of treason against Virginia in 1859.

May 28, 1863: Arthur Boreman was elected as the first governor of the new state of West Virginia.

May 28, 1920: Elmer Bird—"The Banjo Man from Turkey Creek"—was born in Putnam County. He was named best old-time banjo player in the country four times in his 60s.

May 28, 1938: Basketball player Jerry West was born on Cabin Creek, Kanawha County. West

led East Bank High School to the state basketball championship in 1956 and then rewrote the record book at West Virginia University.

May 28, 1998: The Robert C. Byrd United States Courthouse in downtown Charleston was dedicated. The 440,000-square-foot building incorporated Neoclassic, Egyptian and Art Deco designs.

May 29, 1778: Dick Pointer, an enslaved person in Greenbrier County, helped save about 60 settlers who were attacked by Indians at Fort Donnally near Lewisburg during the Revolutionary War.

May 29, 1949: Singer-songwriter, labor activist, educator, and radio host Elaine Purkey was born in West Hamlin.

May 29, 1961: Alderson and Chloe Muncy in McDowell County received the first food stamps in the nation. After observing malnutrition and poverty during his campaign, President John Kennedy directed the government to establish a pilot food stamp program.



May 30, 1940: Smoke Hole Caverns in Grant County opened for tours. The cave is beautifully decorated with stalactites hanging in rows along the ceiling; the main room is called the "Room of a Million Stalactites."

Dora Elizabeth (Happeny) Markle

Our beloved Mom and family matriarch, Dora Elizabeth (Happeny) Markle, passed away quietly at home on May 12, 2023, at the age of 95. She was born in Lizemores, WV on January 14, 1928.

She was an independent strong-willed woman, maybe borderline stubborn, who loved her family and home. She was an avid gardener and loved to can her vegetables. She enjoyed planting flowering shrubs and flowers. Spring was her favorite season and pink was her favorite color. She also enjoyed quilting, sewing, and embroidery.

Mom was raised in Clay County, living in several homes during her childhood. As the eldest daughter a lot of responsibilities fell to her, and her childhood memories were told with fondness; her love for all her sisters and brothers ran deep. At 17 years old she and a friend went to Indian Head, Maryland to work in a munitions plant during WW2, a brave move for girls who rarely traveled outside of the county, much less the state.

She met her future husband when he returned from overseas. They married in December 1947. Together they lived in N.C., Maryland, WV, and after 19 years in California they returned to Maysel, WV in 1974, to open a small grocery store, Markle's Market, which they would run for several years. They were happy to be back in their home state

enjoying the beauty of WV and their family.

When both daughters moved to WV in the mid 90's they were overjoyed. Mom was caring and giving, the four years she cared for her husband until his death in 2007 was inspiring. Her remaining years she stayed busy, still growing a small garden up until two years ago. She was notorious for moving furniture when she cleaned or just felt like a change. How she managed it we do not know; her determination had no bounds. Since her fall in January, she had been bedridden and under Hospice care, but with her mind still quite lucid she would often tell us to move something from here to there! Mom was very much loved and will be missed.

Dora was preceded in death by her parents, David Anderson Happeny (Halfpenny) and Clara Charlotte (Rodgers) Happeny; her husband of 59 years, William C. Markle Jr.; her son Dale E. Markle; her son-in-law, Randy Koch; her great grandson Dylan R. Cleaves; brothers, Cecil, Manuel, Kellis; sisters, Bobbie Jean Davis and Eula Happeny; and brothers-in-law Bert Davis and Clarence Davis.

Dora is survived by her daughters, Janet Koch of Maysel, WV and Joyce Izat (Alastair) of Newton, WV; her granddaughters, Charlotte Cleaves (Dennis) of West Plains, MO, Christina Gibson (Terry) of Clay, WV, Charlene Koch of Charleston, WV, Samantha Tilton (Jon) of Denver, CO; and her only, and as she said, her favor-

ite grandson, Scott Izat (Carly) of Lakewood, CO. She is also survived by her great grandchildren, Ashley Calvert, Cody Cleaves (Lindsay), Amber Koch (David Albert), Shanay Rogers, Joshua Rogers (Jayde), Sierra Koch, Lily Izat and Logan Izat; great-great-grandchildren, Landon and Liam Roberts, Keegan, Konnor and Dylan Kayden and their mother, Katie Cleaves, Dylan's widow, Anzlee and Jeb Cleaves, Haylee Price and Rylee Albert, Lennox, Truett, Archer, Korbyn and Haynes Rogers.

Dora is survived by her sisters, Irene Davis of Parkersburg, WV, Maxine Lane (Ralph) of Ovapa, WV, her brother, Mark Happeny (Jean) of Ravenswood, WV, her sisters-in-law Charlene Happeny of Clinton, TN and Susan Wolfe of Ripley, WV. She is survived by many nieces and nephews who also held a special place in her heart.

A big thank you to Hospice for the care and support during this time, special thanks to Amy, Becky, and Katie, you were wonderful; also, Angie, Amber and Laurel, you all do amazing work. We also want to thank Christina Gibson for her extended help, we could not have done it without you.

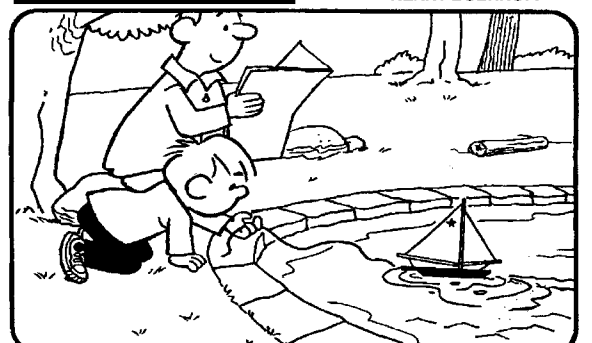
Visitation and Graveside service will begin at 12:00 pm Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Blue Knob Community Cemetery, Clay Maysel Road, Maysel, WV.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Hospice or your favorite

CONT. ON PAGE 6

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sneaker is different. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Paper is smaller. 4. String is missing. 5. Sail is different. 6. Log is missing.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4	7		5			3		
	5		6	1				
6		2				9		
3		9		5		2		
	6			4		7		
		2	5	8				
8				7	6			
	1		4	3				8
		9		1		2		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

INITIAL WORDS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Jacob bought his birthright
 - 5 City in Pennsylvania
 - 12 Hooting avian
 - 15 Factory type
 - 19 Pibb — (soda brand)
 - 20 Kenya's capital
 - 21 Foot digit
 - 22 Vicinity
 - 23 U.S. president ordering steeds to turn right?
 - 26 Have a strong desire
 - 27 Ending for cyan-
 - 28 Turns sharply
 - 29 Winter footwear item
 - 30 Styx and The Stones
 - 31 More suspicious
 - 33 Inclined positions
 - 35 "Da Ali G Show" star — Baron Cohen
 - 36 Taken in food
 - 37 Women's suffragist keeping an apiary?
 - 42 I, to Freud
 - 44 Speak wildly
 - 45 "Absolutely not!"
 - 46 "Dallas" actress fancying blue birds?
 - 53 Lumber tool
 - 54 Underworld
 - 55 Disprove
 - 56 Otherwise called, in brief
 - 57 Some city planners
 - 60 Big, ornate cupboard
 - 62 Send off
 - 63 Historic time
 - 64 Tuskegee University founder
 - 71 Kitten's call
 - 72 Gal pal, in Paris
 - 73 Receptacle in a kitchen sink
 - 75 Trees with very light wood
 - 78 Performed
 - 79 Car parker
 - 82 Road runner
 - 83 Fruit drink
 - 84 "Hidden Figures" actress growing podded vegetables?
 - 87 Placed in a cafe
 - 91 "Point taken"
 - 92 — Lanka
 - 93 Sci-fi writer going on cruises?
 - 98 Split-off religions
 - 102 New Hampshire city
 - 103 Quiet spells
 - 104 Govt. aid for a start-up
 - 106 Ballet dancer's rail
 - 107 Lamarr of old films
 - 108 Coup — (overthrow)
 - 110 Rosemary player
 - 111 "SOS" quartet
 - 112 "Gone With the Wind" producer piling up debt?
 - 116 Hog's food
 - 117 "Is" pluralized
 - 118 One ousted
 - 119 Have a strong desire
 - 120 Voluptuous
 - 121 Have a strong desire
 - 122 Deep bows of respect
 - 123 They precede omegas
- DOWN**
- 1 Many an alimony recipient
 - 2 Sports domes
 - 3 Haul in
 - 4 Old Egypt-Syr. alliance
 - 5 Year, in Paris
 - 6 Pilsners, e.g.
 - 7 Arena section
 - 8 Mined metals
 - 9 "Ni-i-i-ice!"
 - 10 Spurs' gp.
 - 11 Website for finding homestays
 - 12 Lazy or useless
 - 13 Refuses to support
 - 14 Table
 - 15 Old Testament prophet
 - 16 Steam locomotive, in old lingo
 - 17 Listen supportively
 - 18 Dawdles
 - 24 Show clearly
 - 25 Heap affection (on)
 - 30 Swung sticks
 - 32 Generational treasures
 - 33 "— talk?" (Joan Rivers catchphrase)
 - 34 Prefix with discrimination
 - 35 — -cone
 - 38 Europe-Asia border river
 - 39 "Don't — didn't warn you!"
 - 40 Runner or writer Packer
 - 41 Conifers with red arils
 - 43 Israelites
 - 46 Old TV's "— Na Na"
 - 47 Basil or sage
 - 48 Sailor's saint
 - 49 Razz
 - 50 Tibetan monk
 - 51 Pair for the slopes
 - 52 Sacred vow
 - 57 Summits
 - 58 Assns.
 - 59 Novelist Hawthorne
 - 61 Big furniture retailer
 - 62 She baas
 - 65 "And there you have it!"
 - 66 Muslim ruler
 - 67 Verdi opera
 - 68 It's a thought
 - 69 Musical work
 - 70 Post-WWII alliance
 - 74 Prefix with discrimination
 - 75 "Ali — and the Forty Thieves"
 - 76 Cutely nerdy, in slang
 - 77 Format for presenting films in video form
 - 79 Stamps on passports
 - 80 Copycat
 - 81 Onion relative
 - 84 NFL goals
 - 85 Jack's hill-climbing partner
 - 86 Counterfeit
 - 88 Remedial regimen
 - 89 Debussy's "Clair de —"
 - 90 Before, to Browning
 - 94 High dice roll
 - 95 Quattro carmaker
 - 96 Astronomer Tombaugh and aviator Cessna
 - 97 Value highly
 - 99 Funnies
 - 100 Meditative Chinese martial art
 - 101 Some reptiles
 - 105 Cubes of hay
 - 106 Perch's kin
 - 107 Rabbit's kin
 - 108 Ten: Prefix
 - 109 This, in Spain
 - 112 24-hour span
 - 113 Lab eggs
 - 114 Actor Wheaton
 - 115 Short snooze



THE WIDEN NEWS



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