



# Clay County Free Press

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## Big Otter Elementary Celebrates Fifth Grade Class



**Mr. Dustin Vaughan, fifth grade teacher, recognized students for their achievements.**

Big Otter Elementary School held its fifth grade ceremony and reception on May 24. The students reflected on the year with a video slide show of all they have accomplished. Clay Middle School principal Leslie Goe spoke to the group about "Looking to the Future." Sixth grade student Natalie Tanner explained to the fifth graders what they can expect upon coming to CCMS in her speech, "From One Student to Another." Finally, Dustin Vaughan, fifth grade teacher, spoke eloquently about each student. He discussed their strengths, progress throughout the year, and contributions to the classroom. His genuine-

ness and sincerity were evident. The students were each awarded a medallion and a certificate noting their promotion to sixth grade.

Wrapping up the ceremony, Principal Anthony Boggs presented two awards. The first, the Brave Award, is given to a student who is viewed by his classmates as friendly and outgoing, one who displays good character, and is a positive influence on his peers. It is voted on by the students. The Brave Award winner was Jace Covarrubias. Finally, Mr. Boggs presented the Principal's Award. It is given to a student based on outstanding academics, citizenship, leadership and charac-

ter. This includes having a good work ethic, positive attitude, and good attendance. This year's winner was Gunner Dobbins. Gunner earned straight A's throughout the year, was in the top five (GPA) of his class, placed fourth in the county spelling bee, exceeded standards on the WV Summative Assessment (ELA), was inducted into the James G. Dawson Hall of Fame, met the school's Accelerated Reader fifth grade goal, and served as class ambassador.

Following the ceremony, the students and their families were

invited to a reception in the cafeteria where they were treated to sandwiches, drinks and dessert. Best wishes to the fifth-grade class as they move on to middle school.



**Jace Covarrubias won the Best Brave Award.**



**Gunner Dobbins won the Principal's Award, presented by Big Otter Principal Anthony Boggs.**

## 2023 Vandalia Gathering Contest Winners Announced

West Virginia's champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin players competed for top honors on Saturday, May 27, during the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History's 46th annual Vandalia Gathering. On Sunday, May 28, old-time banjo, lap dulcimer, flatpick guitar musicians and liars vied for awards.

Categories with area winners include:

**Senior Old-Time Banjo (age 60 and over)**

- 1st place – Jim Mullins, St. Albans
- 2nd place – Gerry Milnes, Elkins
- 3rd place – Paul Gartner, Yawkey
- 4th place – Kim Johnson, Dunbar
- 5th place – John Morris, Ivydale

**Flatpick Guitar (all ages)**

- 1st place – Jake Eddy, Parkersburg
- 2nd place – Jakob Thomas, Clendenin
- 3rd place – Robin Kessinger, St. Albans
- 4th place – Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 5th place – Isaac Butcher, Ripley

**Liars (all ages)**

**Biggest Liar** (1st place and *Goldenseal* magazine's Golden Shovel award) – James Froemel, Maudsville

**Bigger Liar** (2nd place) – David Long, Keyser

**Big Liar** (3rd place) – Peyton Levi, Barboursville

**Youth** (age 15 and under, and *Goldenseal* magazine's Golden Shovel award) – Zane Wilkinson, Ovapa

Other competition categories were Youth Old-Time Fiddle (age 15 and under), Old-Time Fiddle (age 59 and under), Senior Old-Time Fiddle (age 60 and over), Mandolin (all ages), Bluegrass Banjo (all ages), Lap Dulcimer (all ages), Old-Time Banjo (59 and under), and Youth Flatpick Guitar (age 15 and under).

The annual Vandalia Gathering is a free celebration of the traditional arts, music, dance, stories, crafts and foods of West Virginia. The Culture Center and State Capitol Complex grounds host this expanding family-style gathering each year on Memorial Day weekend. The unique blending of ethnic and cultural heritage combines an atmosphere as comfortable as a family reunion with the excitement of a state fair. The statewide folk festival, named for the proposed 14th colony, pays tribute to the state's ethnic heritage through a variety of exhibitions and programs.

Vandalia Gathering is a program of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History. For more information, contact Andrea Nelson, public information specialist for the department, at (304) 558-0220 or [Andrea.E.Nelson@wv.gov](mailto:Andrea.E.Nelson@wv.gov).

## Clay County Students Named to Glenville State University Honor Roll

Madison Jurkovich, Tempest Loyd, and Chloe Richardson, all of Duck, and Andrew Belt of Nebo have been named to the Glenville State University Provost's Honor Roll for the Spring 2023 semester. To be named to the Provost's Honor Roll, students must have grade point averages between 3.5 and 3.9 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

## Annual Quilt and Wall Hanging Exhibition on Display at the Culture Center

*Awards presented at Vandalia Gathering Concert, May 26*

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) unveiled the annual exhibition, *Quilts and Wall Hangings 2023*, in the Great Hall of the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, and announced the winners of the juried exhibition at the opening concert of the annual Vandalia Gathering.

This year, the popular juried exhibition features 67 creative quilts and wall hangings representing the talents of West Virginians from 21 counties. There are 43 quilts and 24 wall hangings in the exhibition, which will remain on display through Sept. 20, 2023.

"Quilt making is one of West Virginia's oldest and most treasured art forms," said Charles Morris, museums director. "This annual display is a favorite for many West Virginians and for quilters and quilt lovers

from around the country. It is one of our most popular displays."

The exhibition features the work of 54 quilters. Winners were selected by Karen Kendo, a quilter since 1995, longarm quilting business owner and NQA Certified Judge from Charleston, S.C. Kendo selected winners in four categories: pieced quilts, applique quilts, mixed/other quilts and wall hangings. Quilt awards are \$750 for first place, \$400 for second place and \$300 for third place. The wall hanging awards are \$400 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place. The department made one purchase, and the juror designated a Best of Show prize of \$100. In addition, four nonmonetary honorable mention distinctions were made.

First place winners in this year's exhibition include Carol Miller of

## Clay County Landmarks Commission and Historical Society Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Clay County Landmarks Commission and Historical Society was held at the Clay County Library on Thursday, Jun. 8, at 6 p.m. The meeting was attended by Jerry Stover, Sandy Claybrook, Jannette Douglas, Janet Koch, Kaitlyn Hall, Oscar and Carol Hutchinson, Marlene Potasnik, Jim Miller, and Danny Dawson.

The president Jerry Stover called the meeting to order. The minutes were read, a motion was made to accept the minutes as read and seconded. The motion carried. The treasurer's report was read. A motion was made and seconded, the motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Kaitlyn Hall, who is in charge of copying the original "Hickory and Lady Slippers," said she is having a problem getting a clear copy of the pages. A new scanner and printer are needed to solve the problem. An anonymous source volunteered the money to purchase the equipment. Thank you so much for the donation.

Our editor of the newsletter "Now and Then," Kaitlyn Hall, is doing a great job. Thank you Kaitlyn!

A motion was made and seconded to display a sign to post on the old courthouse doors, indicating if someone wants to visit and view our materials to call one of the members and make an appointment. No digital cameras are allowed without written permission from Jerry Stover. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

A motion was made and seconded to give approval to the

State Auditor's office a list of Board Members, a copy of the minutes of this meeting, and the turn over financial documents from 2013-2020. Motion carried.

A list of board members will be written up and taken to the new courthouse. The members are: Oscar Hutchinson, Jerry Stover, Jim Miller, Ashleigh Reedy, and Kaitlyn Hall. A motion was made and carried on this matter. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to set aside a room at the old courthouse as a Memorial for Eloise Boggs as the editor of the "Now and Then" for more than 30 years. We will also purchase a plaque for this purpose. Karen Burdette and the late Neva Walling will also have a plaque made honor them for their devoted service to the Historical Society. Motion carried.

The only property in Clay County that is on the Historical Registry now is the old courthouse. We would like people of our county to let us know if there is any other places, still existing or not, with pictures and proof of its existence and anything else you may have concerning the place. Please let us know, and we will try to get it on the registry for Clay County.

The librarian has information available for getting grants to purchase equipment for preserving materials, etc.

A motion was made and seconded to update our website to be used free of charge. Kaitlyn Hall will check on this for us. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 6, at 6 p.m. at the Clay County Library. A motion was made and seconded to adjoint the meeting.

## Panthers compete in 7 on 7 matchup at Richwood



**Panther offence is in action. Allen Hamrick photo**



# BOOKED

## CENTRAL REGIONAL JAIL

**BRAXTON COUNTY**

**CLAY COUNTY**



Justin Ray Chapman I  
Booked 6/21/23  
Home confinement violation

Amy Beth Dorsey  
Booked 6/21/23  
Conspiracy, grand larceny

William Dale Freeman  
Booked 6/24/23  
Domestic assault, domestic assault third, domestic battery

Travis Steven Jordan  
Booked 6/20/23  
Poss. of controlled substance, impersonate law enforcement

Andrew Clayton Slaughter  
Booked 6/17/23  
Malicious assault

Gallard Donald Fugate  
Booked 6/22/23  
Child abuse

**NICHOLAS COUNTY**



Jeffrey Carl Hotchkiss  
Booked 6/23/23  
Capias

Alan Russel Rhodes  
Booked 6/22/23  
Simple poss., driving revoked for DUI

Dallas Lee Stutler  
Booked 6/22/23  
Capias

Thomas Anthony Baker  
Booked 6/17/23  
Capias

Earnest Lee Brooks  
Booked 6/25/23  
Simple possession, possession with intent, conspiracy

Mackenzie Breanna Hardwick  
Booked 6/25/23  
Poss. w/ intent to deliver imitation controlled substance, simple possession



Douglas Gene Hayhurst  
Booked 6/24/23  
Poss. of an explosive device, no ins., no proof of reg., driving suspended

Paul Leroy Radcliff  
Booked 6/22/23  
Capias

Richard Lee Skinner  
Booked 6/24/23  
Obstructing, battery

## Public Notices

• The CCHS Alumni Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, July 12 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at Harding's Family Restaurant in Mink Shoals. All who attended Clay County High School are invited to attend. For more information or to RSVP, call or text Quincy Potasnik at 304-549-8203.

• The Clay County Middle School afterschool program is still seeking donated sewing machines. If you have a working portable sewing machine that you no longer need and would like to donate to a beginning sewist, please drop it off at the Clay County Library earmarked for the CCMS sewing class. The manual would be great to have with the machine. Please, include your contact information. In the case that the class is too small for the number of machines that may be donated, leave a note saying what you want done with it. Thank you in advance for your support!

• The Clay County WIC office located at 452 Main Street in Clay is open to serve the public every Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

## Puzzle Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**

**Super Crossword**

**Answer**

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

**Answers**

W	A	S	H	E	R	L	I	M	B	O	S	O	N	P	O	I	N	T
I	M	P	E	D	E	A	T	E	A	S	E	P	E	R	U	S	E	R
N	O	R	R	I	S	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	W	E	R	E	W	E
G	R	A	B	B	E	D	H	O	L	D	O	R	B	S	R	E	Y	
S	E	T	L	A	N	A	S	I	S	S	I	R	E	B	E	L	S	
R	E	M	I	S	S	D	A	Y	S	L	I	K	E	T	H	E	S	E
A	V	E	R	F	E	A	R	S	I	R	E	D	L	I	L			
H	A	R	D	T	R	U	T	H	S	I	C	K	S	T	O	L	I	
S	M	A	R	T	I	E	J	A	M	S	O	M	E	A	S	U	R	E
S	M	A	R	T	I	E	A	A	R	S	U	G	G	E	S	T		
I	T	C	O	U	L	D	N	T	B	E	M	E	E	S	E			
T	I	L	E	S														
A	D	A																
T	A	M	P	E	R	E	V	I	D	E	N	T	B	E	M	I	N	O
A	S	H	M	E	N													
C	O	E																
O	F	I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E	E	Q	U	A	L
M	A	R	C	E	A	U												
A	S	S	O	R	T	S												

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*Michael Showell, Publisher*

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**I'm Too Smart to Be Stupid***By: Dr. James Snyder*

After being married for over 50 years, my wife, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, knows more about me than I know about myself. At least, that's the perception I get from her actions.

It must be true when she says something about me, and I won't challenge her with anything she says. I have a Ph.D. (Pretty Hard Dude) in the husbandology field. I can take anything she throws at me.

Recently we were watching TV, and the news had an outlandish story. Looking at my wife, I said, "I sure hope I'm not that stupid."

Of all the times to be stupid, I chose the right time.

Looking at me, she said, "Well, my dear, my opinion is that you are too smart to be that stupid."

I did not think I heard what I heard, so I asked her to repeat it.

"You heard me. You just want to hear it again," she said laughingly.

It was just the beginning of a new chapter, and I wasn't sure where it was going.

One day this past week, we drove across town, and the traffic was rather crazy. Cars were weaving in and out and racing down the street. Then a motorcycle passed, weaving in and out of the traffic.

Looking at me, my wife smiled and said, "At least you're too smart to be that stupid."

With a nod of agreement, I smiled as we continued our journey. I'm not sure what's happening, but that phrase is ringing in my head like no other phrase I've heard before. The fact that my wife of 50 years thinks I'm too smart to be stupid has to have some credibility.

I've been thinking of ways to use this to my advantage. I've never had such an advantage, so I need to be very careful about how to use it. For example, I need to be able to use it in such a way that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage doesn't recognize my advantage.

I was smiling as I thought about this because I would have a great victory if I could pull this one over on my wife. The problem is, if I do have this victory, how can I celebrate it without giving myself away? After all, she said I was too smart to be stupid.

To process my plan, I needed to have her repeat what she said, so as we were driving, I pointed to one driver and said, "I hope I'm not that stupid."

"Remember what I said," she chuckled, "you're too smart to be that stupid."

Smilingly I thanked her, and we continued driving while I looked for something stupid to call her attention. By the time we got to our destination, I had found about three incidences of stupidity, and for all three, I got her to tell me that she thought I was too smart to be that stupid.

I can't relay how wonderful it was to hear that phrase. I need to be able to develop more ways in which to hear her say that without showing my hand. I don't often get compliments like this, so I will try to plan it out carefully.

Just before we got home, we saw someone doing something more crazy than I had ever seen. Not thinking too much, I said, "I hope I'm not that crazy."

Smiling at me, she said, "My dear, I said you were too smart to be stupid but not crazy."

At the time, I didn't quite understand what she was saying, but as I thought about it, I was concerned about what she thought I was doing that was crazy. Now if I was in my right mind, and believe me, I have no mind left, I would ask her what she meant by being crazy.

If I asked that, I was sure she would tell me, and when she told me, I was sure I would not be a happy camper. It's very obvious through time that her idea of crazy and my idea of crazy are certainly not twins.

I think crazy is something people do that makes them look foolish. That's what I would think, but then if that's what she thinks, then she doesn't think I'm not smart enough to be crazy. As I was thinking about that, my brain went into an ultra-crazy mode. I had to be careful in case some of that crazy seeped out, and my wife saw it.

I thought maybe I could trick her into describing it to me, so I asked, "When have you seen me acting crazy?"

She laughed like I'd never heard her laugh in a long time. At the time, I didn't understand what she was laughing about, and then she told it.

"Oh my dear," she said, taking a deep breath, "when you are acting crazy, believe me, you are not acting."

I had to think about that for a long time. So if I had to choose between "crazy" and "stupid," my best choice would be crazy.

Later as I reflected on this I remembered what Solomon said. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame" (Proverbs 12:15-16).

I'm going to commit myself to hearken unto some wise thinking to cover my shame.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamestryder51@gmail.com, website www.jamestryderministries.com.*

**THE BAPTIST CLASSROOM***Pastor Doug Newell, IV***Precision in Explanation**

"Rightly dividing" the Bible requires a lot of hard work. Anytime you explain or describe something, you need to use specific words to avoid confusion or misrepresenting the truth. A doctor needs to be precise when diagnosing an issue. He also needs to be clear when explaining what's wrong with their loved one to the family. We often need to use words not found in the Biblical text to explain the meaning. Heretics can take a Bible verse and use it from its immediate context but apply different definitions to Bible words or ignore the context of the totality of Scripture to redefine the meaning of one passage. For example, when Jesus Christ, in the cry of dereliction, says, "My God my God why hast thou forsaken me," The ancient Arians explained that passage and its immediate context by saying Jesus must not be truly God. Arianism, which denies Christ's deity, came to that conclusion from the Bible, wrongly divided. They did not consider what the Bible teaches about the Trinity to guide their interpretation of a passage.

In our theological reflection, we must take the passage in its immediate context while, at the same time, not separating it from the entirety of Scripture and the context of God's revealed Word. Theology is crucial because the "Scriptures cannot be broken." By defining our words carefully, we can explain what the Scripture means and avoid mishandling God's Word. Historically, men use words, coin phrases, and apply terms with precise theological meanings to explain what God says about Himself in the Bible. Using extra-biblical words like Trinity or Greek and Latin phrases with their theological definitions (subsistence and essence) to define what we mean is nothing more than being exact with Scripture. Those who deny the ability to define the Words of Scripture take a high and loose view of it. It also gets you into trouble because any man can take a Bible verse and develop crazy ideas.

As Peter Bolt wrote, "...there are some things that should never be illustrated. As with the Trinity, given the unique nature of the cross, analogies simply do not exist. We understand the cross, not by finding some contemporary illustration that clinches the deal, but by listening carefully to the biblical context in which it makes sense. This may leave us with some unexplained mysteries, but, even so, we shall be closer to the truth when we live with the rough edges of God's Word than when we try to impose the smooth lines of our own fancy illustrations."

The historical, Scriptural truth is there is one God in three persons, and all three persons of the Godhead are uncreated and co-eternal and of the same substance. That explains what the totality of Scripture teaches about the Trinity. So, if your interpretation of a passage can confound the persons or divide the essence of the one God, then you've gone outside the bounds of historical, scriptural, orthodox, trinitarianism. Like I said, it's hard work.

**Giving to Those in Need***By: Joseph J. Mazella*

My son, daughter, and I all needed new glasses this year, so after searching for an optometrist with an opening we scheduled an appointment. The exams went well and we all ordered our new glasses. The cost was enough to make my wallet weep, though.

When the new frames arrived we all tried them on and enjoyed seeing clearly again. Like I always do I put the used ones in an old shoe box in my closet. Only this time the box was full to overflowing with years of used glasses in it. I felt bad about all of them just sitting there gathering dust. My daughter, however, soon found a company called ReSpectacle that accepts used glasses and then gives them to those who need but can't afford new ones.

As we packed all the pairs to mail out my mind went back to a time when I was the one in need. I can still remember gluing my broken, plastic glasses' frames for the twelfth time because we were struggling financially and there was no way I could af-

ford new ones. I remember the tears in my eyes from the glue fumes and the tears in my heart from the pain of never having enough. I didn't know why God was allowing us to struggle so much when my young family didn't do anything wrong. It was one of those questions I asked God in prayer but never expected to get an answer to.

I think now I finally do know what that answer is. Perhaps God let me suffer then so I'd have more compassion for those suffering now. Perhaps God let me go without new glasses then so I would donate my old glasses now. Perhaps God let me feel what it was like to be in need so I'd give to those in need. The truth is we all go through pain, struggles, and suffering in this life. We can use them to grow selfish and bitter or we can use them to grow loving and kind. May you always choose kind. May you always choose Love. May you always choose God.

**Home Country***By Slim Randles*

"Just about a week now, boys, and Happy Birthday America!"

"Got that right, Herb. You finished with that hot sauce?"

"Here you go," said Steve.

There'll be the annual parade, of course, and each bonafide member of the world dilemma think tank, masquerading in public as the supreme court of dang near everything, would be down there on the street to judge.

Oh, not officially. No one takes notes. This Fourth of July parade isn't big enough to pass out trophies or anything. If they did, it'd say on the trophies something like "best brushed horse in the parade" or "the band that showed up."

But it is a solemn occasion for us. This is our chance to look at the kids walking with their dogs and speculating on what might have happened to last year's dog. Or maybe what combination of back fence romance created this breed.

But there's the flag. We'd come just to see the flag. That flag means different things to different people, thought Doc, but to me it means we've been given a country so big and so blessed that we can live here happily and care for each other without having to agree on whose campaign sign we stick in the front yard.

Do we, as a nation, have problems? Sure. Always have. Undoubtedly always will. But we also know there are fixes to these problems as well, and now if everyone would just agree with me on those, what a smart country we'd have!

Happy Birthday America! We love you.

**Sponsored by "A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right" by Slim Randles. <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=A+Cowboys+Guide+to+Growing+Up+Right>**

**THE FREEPRESS**  
**'50's and '60's**  
**ROCK**  
**'N'ROLL**  
**TRIVIA**

What was Johnny Mathis' most successful and highest charted single?

Answer to last Trivia question: Contributions made to rock & roll in the 50's & 60's by the following: Hunter Hancock, Alan Freed, Melvin X Melvin, Dick Bi-onde, Johnny Holiday, Russ "The Weird Beard" Knight, Arnie Ginsburg, and Dr. Don Rose were all DJ's for AM radio in that period. "From the racks and stacks, it's the best on Wax. They were the guys with the swinging shows"

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is proud to publish  
obituaries free of charge.

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# THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to *WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).



**June 28, 1936:** Athlete Chuck Howley was born in Wheeling. Howley played linebacker for 12 seasons for the Dallas Cowboys. He was an All-Pro six times and named to six Pro Bowls.

**June 28, 2010:** Robert C. Byrd died at the age of 92. He was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1958, and he served until his death.

**June 29, 1845:** George W. Atkinson was born in Charleston. In 1896, Atkinson was elected governor in an upset victory over Cornelius C. Watts of Charleston, ending 26 years of Democratic rule.

**June 29, 1952:** Writer Breece D'J Pancake was

born in South Charleston and grew up in Milton, Cabell County. Many of Pancake's stories are set in Milton, fictionalized as "Rock Camp."

**June 29, 2012:** A violent storm called a derecho raced across West Virginia, leaving downed trees and damaged homes in its wake. About 688,000 homes and businesses lost power for a week during a widespread heat wave.

**June 30, 1914:** Statewide prohibition of alcohol sales became law years before it was enacted for the whole nation.

**June 30, 1929:** The Wheeling Symphony Orchestra gave its first concert at Oglebay Park.

**June 30, 1944:** Harpers Ferry National Historical Park was authorized as a national monument, the first in West Virginia.

**July 1, 1861:** Francis Pickens, governor of the Reorganized Government of Virginia, called the legislature into session. The general assembly re-established governmental functions, provided for the raising of military units, and elected new U.S. senators and representatives.



**July 1, 1937:** Watoga State Park was opened to the public. The Pocahontas County park is the largest of the state parks and among the oldest.

**July 1, 1971:** Southern West Virginia Community College was formed by joining the Marshall University branch campuses at Logan and Williamson. In 1995, the name changed to Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

**July 2, 1829:** Potter and businessman Alexander Polk Donaghho was born. He began a pottery operation in Parkersburg, creating hand-thrown, salt-glazed crocks, jars and other pottery that are avidly collected today.

**July 3, 1863:** At Gettysburg, Union troops in the 1st West Virginia Cavalry took part in a fruitless charge against Confederate infantrymen during the waning moments of that historic battle.

**July 4, 1882:** The steamboats *Scioto* and *John Lomas* collided on the Ohio River as they were returning from holiday excursions. The *Scioto* sank almost instantly, and 70 people drowned.

**July 4, 1918:** Poet Muriel Miller Dressler was born in Kanawha County. Her poem "Appalachia," published in 1970, was her signature piece.



**July 4, 1928:** West Virginia dedicated Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park. Droop Mountain was one of the most important Civil War battles fought on West Virginia soil.

**July 4, 1938:** Musician Bill Withers Jr. was born into a miner's family of 13 children in Slab Fork, Raleigh County. In 1971, he released his first album, *Just As I Am*, including his first Grammy-winning song, "Ain't No Sunshine." In 2015 he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

## OBITUARIES



**Byrl D. Nelson**, 93, of Medina Township, Ohio passed away at his home Thursday, June 22, 2023.

Byrl was born April 15, 1930 in Adair, West Virginia to the late Herman and Chessie (Mullins) Nelson. Byrl had resided in Valley City for many years prior to moving to Medina Township.

He was an Army veteran serving during the Korean Conflict and received a bronze star. Byrl was a retired machinist from General Motors, Brook Park. After retiring, he served as the bee inspector for Medina County. He was an avid beekeeper and enjoyed selling his honey at the local Farmer's Market.

He was a true outdoorsman and loved working in his garden.

He will be greatly missed by his wife of 69 years, Luthera (Rhodes); his daughters Cyndi (Ron) Oney and Norma (Dave) Jesse; grandchildren Jonathan (Andrea) and Michael Oney, Zachary Jesse and Erin (Alex) Curran; great-grandchildren Evelyn Marcin, Ellington Oney; and a great granddaughter, Curran, arriving in October. He is also survived by sisters Myrl Bailey and Nancy Lambey, *SEE "OBITUARIES"*

and a brother, Jerry Nelson (Verneda), and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by an infant daughter, Susie, and his siblings Madeline Boggs, Reva Snodgrass, Virgil Nelson, Dorothy Keener, Catherine Bargar, and Glada Lanham.

A graveside service was held at the Nelson Family Farm Cemetery in Clay, on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, where visitation was from 12 noon to 1:00 pm with service immediately following.

### Cheryl Lynn Holcomb



Cheryl Lynn Holcomb, 67, of Newton, passed away Thursday, June 15, 2023, at her home.

She was born March 10, 1956, at Charleston the daughter of the late Kermit A. and Betty L. Bird Rogers.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Kathy Holcomb.

Survivors include daughters and son-in-law, Jennifer D. Holcomb of Charlotte, NC and Leah M. and Jeremy Quinn of Indore; grandsons, Garrett M. Quinn and Jackson H. Quinn; sister and brother-in-law, Dawn and Rick Wilkinson of Charleston, AR; a niece, who was like another daughter, Kacie (Scott) Holcomb of Newton; nephew, Luke Wilkinson of Charleston, AR; additional nieces, Carissa

*CONT. ON PAGE 7*

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pocket is smaller. 2. Neckline is different. 3. Sign is missing. 4. Glasses are different. 5. Number is missing. 6. Bat is shorter.

## Super Crossword

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dryer's partner
  - 7 Neither-here-nor-there states
  - 13 Not straying off topic
  - 20 Get in the way of
  - 21 "You may relax, soldier"
  - 22 One looking something over
  - 23 "The Delta Force" actor Chuck
  - 24 Question after a chat interruption
  - 26 Latched on firmly
  - 28 Space balls
  - 29 San Luis —, California
  - 30 Mount, as a jewel
  - 31 "Diane" star Turner
  - 32 "Carrie" star Spacek
  - 35 Mutineers
  - 37 2012 Robert Pattinson film based on a Maupassant novel
  - 39 Chou En —
  - 40 Fictional "Warrior Princess"
  - 41 Lax in duty
  - 44 British remake of "That '70s Show"
  - 50 Say for sure
  - 51 Trepidation
  - 53 Fathered, as a horse
  - 54 Start of many rapper names
  - 55 Realities that are tough to face
  - 58 "E-e-ew!"
  - 59 Vodka brand, informally
  - 61 Reply to "You are not!"
  - 62 Fulfill, as standards
  - 65 Wiseacre
  - 69 River to the Rhine
  - 70 Hint at
  - 71 "That's impossible!"
  - 74 Reagan adviser Edwin
  - 76 Flooring units
  - 77 "... bug — feature?"
  - 78 Identity before turning over a new leaf
  - 83 City in Oklahoma
  - 84 Trig function
  - 86 Away from the wind, nautically
  - 87 Non-iron club
  - 88 Revealing interference with the contents, as a package
  - 92 Key related to D major
  - 94 Saharan
  - 95 Oct.-Dec. link
  - 96 Creek, e.g.
  - 99 Garbage collectors
  - 102 Very easy thing
  - 104 "Back in Black" band
  - 105 Italian monk's title
  - 108 Runner Sebastian
  - 109 Really eager
  - 111 With
  - 114 Across, source of the phrase formed by the ends of eight answers in this puzzle
  - 118 Is identical to
  - 119 Famed French mime
  - 120 Interfere
  - 121 Nuanced
  - 122 Places in categories
  - 123 Flip one's lid
  - 124 Plant with prickly leaves
  - 37 Avian creature
  - 38 Boise's home
  - 40 1960s Jaguar model
  - 41 Team booster
  - 42 Actress Longoria
  - 43 Sea, to Gigi
  - 45 "— longa ..."
  - 46 Vexes Jack
  - 47 Flee to wed
  - 48 Sediments
  - 49 Writer T.S.
  - 51 Showed rage again
  - 52 UFO fliers
  - 56 "— Andronicus" (Shakespeare play)
  - 57 Locomotive supporter
  - 59 Singer Bob
  - 60 Yank
  - 62 Actress West
  - 63 "I'm here to help"
  - 64 Bit of artifice
  - 65 Join, as a table
  - 66 Peak in W. Turkey
  - 67 Happy as —
  - 68 Fish eggs
  - 69 Run out on
  - 72 Tube lover's punishment
  - 73 57-Down vehicles
  - 74 De-feathers
  - 75 Prior to, poetically
  - 78 Team booster
  - 79 Exercise in a pool
  - 80 Long time
  - 81 Leicester lav
  - 82 WWII prez
  - 84 Recoil from
  - 85 Multivolume Brit. lexicon
  - 89 Dawber of "Mork & Mindy"
  - 90 Amazon Kindle, e.g.
  - 91 Dodgers
  - 92 Recuperation by lying down
  - 93 Asian monkey
  - 97 Natural gift
  - 98 Rival of Sony
  - 99 In — (not just sleeping)
  - 100 Big couches
  - 101 Many future kings
  - 102 Long time
  - 103 Tubular pasta
  - 105 Edicts
  - 106 Esther of "Good Times"
  - 107 Photographer Adams
  - 110 Creative work
  - 112 Cl doubled
  - 113 Big brass instrument
  - 115 Sarge, e.g.
  - 116 Sports org. with skaters
  - 117 Scooby- —

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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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9				2		4		
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	8	9						1

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!





# THE WIDEN NEWS



The people who think alike should vote alike.

**"DUNDON" RED ASH COAL**

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.

June, 1957

## Distinguished Visitor Here For Commencement Address



### Some Best Writers Not Named In Time For May

Too late for the May issue of *Widen News*, the following youngsters were reported to have made the grade in the important art of writing, and you should know that they belong with the list of 67 other talented grade school pupils who qualified. Listed by grades, they are:

**Miss Graham's First Grade** — Bari Bailey, Roy Compton, Gerold Wyatt, Nathan Hickman, Gene Morris, Gary Douglas and Kenneth Jones.

**Mrs. Butcher's First Grade** — Jimmy Baughman, Carol Woods and Anita Woods.

**Second Grade** — Johnny Houghton and Benny Conner.

**Fourth Grade** — Sandra Tinney.

**Fifth Grade** — Ronald Conner and Keith Jones.

**Sixth Grade** — Sandra Henderson.

This brings the grades to a total of 83 pupils who have earned the title of "Best Writer" sometime during the second half. Now if some of you bright eyed youngsters discover that you have been named twice, it doesn't mean that you're twice as good or that I like you twice as much!

Among the distinguished persons who visited Widen during the final exercises of the 1956-57 graduating class was Dr. Sara Ann Brown, professor of home economics of West Virginia University, shown here with a group of the grads surrounding her enroute from school to the Y.M.C.A. auditorium where the exercises were held. Miss Brown's address, "Our Faith In The Future—You," was well received, in which she stressed the importance of religion in the home and business areas the class was headed.

Appearing in the photo with Dr. Brown are: front row, L. to R., April Manning, (usher); Leonard Eagle, Charlotte Smith, Dr. Brown, Lois Rapp, Mary Mullins, Betty Chapman, Helen Ellis (usher); Bud Craft, Manue Bego, Lois Sigman, Gayle Butcher, Relda Nettles, Jewell Ramsey, Dorothy Ashley, Larry Sigman, James Given, Johnny Henley, Emil Ashley, Gordon Butcher, and co-sponsor Calvin Reynolds.

Stepping aside for a "coke break" (or something) and not in the picture were Principal Harry Baer, Sponsor Miss Tressie Bailes, Karl Butcher, Helen Sigman, Patsy Gibson and Joe Hutchinson.

### Sixty-Four Make Grade School Honor Roll

Second Semester 1956-57

**First Grade** - - - Miss Graham

**"A"**  
Julia Acree  
Kathy Ashley  
Nathan Hickman

**"B"**  
Yvonne Hamilton  
Anna Faye Sizemore  
Bonita King  
Rodney Conner  
Gene Morris  
Gary Douglas

**First Grade** - - - Mrs. Butcher

**"A"**  
Danny Keen

**"B"**  
Jimmy Baughman  
Donna Gill  
Teddy Hoover  
Mike Triplett

**Second Grade** - - - Mrs. Elliott

**"A"**  
Connie Henderson  
Judith Gibson  
Lois Gill  
Herlman Gibson  
Benny Connor  
Steven Taylor  
Bethel Frame

**"B"**  
John Houghton  
Naomi Hamrick  
Linda Hamrick  
Jack Holcomb  
Teresa Potasnik  
Teddy Rapp

Sonja Eagle  
David Wood  
Steve Truman  
Third Grade - - - Miss Parsons

**"A"**  
Lynn Mullins  
Sharon Phares  
Linda Baughman

**"B"**  
Robert Dorsey  
Walter George  
Sharon Manning

**"B"**  
Ruth Frame  
Patty Conner  
Roscoe Wilson  
Nancy Butcher  
Warren Donahue  
Lois Keen

**Fourth Grade** - - - Mrs. Bragg

**"A"**  
Shirley Connor  
Ronald Dodrill  
Janet Eagle  
Garry Marple

**"B"**  
Pamela Brown  
Lois Casto  
Roger Mick  
Carolyn Salisbury

**Fifth Grade** - - - Mrs. Austin

**"A"**  
Sharon Baughman

Sandra Williams  
Brenda King

**"B"**  
Diane Adkins  
Ronald Conner  
Jeanne Dodrill  
Janice Triplett  
Shirley McClain

**Sixth Grade** - - - Mrs. Reynolds

**"A"**  
Patricia Manning  
Sandra Henderson

**"B"**  
Roger Baughman  
James Connor  
Joseph Potasnik

### Smoke Eater!

The Widen volunteer fire ladders are busy building a new "fire jeep" equipped with a pump and about 800 ft. of hose which can be run right into the creek and put in operation quickly until the regular equipment arrives. Sort of getting there "fustest with the mostest" idea. See it in the Fourth of July parade—they hope.

### Navy Foursome Here

AB/2 Franklin Carter and Mrs. Carter, with children Doneita and Linda, from Bermuda, have been recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Carter's sister, Mrs. Calvin Gibson in Widen. She is the former Miss Edra Lou Vaughan. Mr. Carter expects to return to Charleston, S. C., for future assignment after a three-year anchorage in Bermuda.

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VENETIAN BLINDS

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**HELP WANTED:**

**PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST**  
**Office And Field Position Available Immediately**

Opportunity to work in conservation and agriculture in Elk Conservation District area (Braxton, Clay, Nicholas & Webster counties). Full time temporary thru May 2024, with potential to extend based on grant funding. Responsibilities include grant writing (experience preferred). Benefits include paid holidays. No health or medical insurance provided. This is an at will position. Mail resume to Elk CD, 738 Airport Road, Sutton, WV 26601, or drop off in box at office, or submit by email ecd@wvca.us. Deadline for application June 30, 2023.



**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

Notice is hereby given that Wayne King, Attorney, residing in Clay County, West Virginia, as Successor Trustee, in accordance with the terms and provisions of that certain Deed of Trust signed and acknowledged on the 1st day of September, 2020 by **Musa Rafiq Branham, borrower** recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 147, at page 735, said Deed of Trust executed securing a promissory note payable to **James McArthur Jones, lender** will offer for public sale the property described therein and hereinafter, said sale ordered by the secured party therein as a result of default by the said Musa Rafiq Branham, the borrower.

The property to be offered for public sale is those certain tracts or parcels of land, together with the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in **UNION DISTRICT**, Clay County, West Virginia, described as follows:

Please See **Exhibit "A"** attached to this Notice of Sale and made a part hereof for description of property/properties offered for sale and the property currently has an address of Near Mouth Porter North of Route 2, Clendenin, WV 25045

Being the property, subject to any out-conveyances of record in said Clerk's Office, described in that certain Deed of Trust of record in said Clerk's Office in Trust Deed Book 147, at page 735, and also described in a deed of record in said Clerk's Office in Deed Book 228, at page 807.

This sale and conveyance to purchaser is made subject to all reservations, exceptions, out-conveyances and other easements and rights of way of record in said Clerk's Office.

This real estate will be offered for public sale to the highest bidder at public auction on the 18th day of July, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the front door of the Clay County Courthouse, Main Street, Clay, West Virginia 25043.

The sale may be cancelled or continued at the option of the Trustee.  
**TERMS OF SALE: CASH** (MINIMUM OF 10% SALE PRICE on date of sale, balance within ten (10) days or upon delivery of the deed).

Title will be conveyed by Trustees Deed upon payment of balance of purchase price.

Dated this the 19th day of June, 2023.

Wayne King, Successor Trustee

**Exhibit "A"**

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of real estate, together with any building or improvements thereon, rights and rights of way incidental thereto, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate on the south side of Elk River, at the mouth of Porter's Creek, in Union District, Clay County, West Virginia, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the mouth of Porter's Creek, on the south side of Elk River: thence up said river and binding thereon, N. 6 E. 100 poles to a stake; thence N. 29 E. 16 poles to a stake; thence N. 48 E. 26 poles to a stake; thence leaving the river, S. 86-1/2 E. 108 poles to a large chestnut on top of a ridge; thence S. 51 E. 75 poles to a small hickory and some other brush marked as pointers; thence S. 10 W. 24 poles to a stake on a bench on a hill side; thence S. 40 1/2 W. 33 poles to a poplar in a branch; thence S. 28 W. 50 poles to a chestnut oak on a rock cleft; thence S. 56 W. 40 poles to a chestnut oak on a rock cleft; thence S. 56 W. 40 poles to a corner of a survey of land by Pease; thence with the Pease line, N. 78 W. 76 poles to a stake on the south side of Porter's Creek; thence N. 61 W. 24 poles to a large beech near a coal bank; thence N. 75 W. 32 poles to the mouth of Porter's Creek, the place of beginning, containing 154 acres, more or less.

There is excepted and reserved from the above-described real estate, and not conveyed hereby, the following out-conveyances of record, to wit:

1. A tract of land containing 1.77 acres (Lot #7), with right-of-way or easement, as conveyed by Michael A. Fry, single and Michael L. McCoy and Amy L. McCoy, his wife, to William Grimpe and Joanna Grimpe, his wife, by deed dated June 2, 2006, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 198 at Page 348.
2. A tract of land containing 1.88 acres (Lot #6), with right-of-way or easement, as conveyed by Michael A. Fry, single and Michael L. McCoy and Amy L. McCoy, his wife, to William Crimpe and Joanna Grimpe, his wife, by deed dated June 2, 2006, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 198 at Page 343.
3. A tract of land containing 1.40 acres (Lot #8), with right-of-way or easement, as conveyed by Michael A. Fry, single and Michael L. McCoy and Amy L. McCoy, his wife, to Craig Hollandsworth and Tammy Hollandsworth, his wife, by deed dated July 5, 2006, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 198 at Page 462.
4. A tract of land containing 1.38 acres (Lot #3), with right-of-way or easement, as conveyed by Michael A. Fry, single and Michael L. McCoy and Amy L. McCoy, his wife, to Ronald Houck and Tania Houck, his wife, by deed dated February 12, 2007, of record in the aforesaid Clerks Office in Deed Book 199 at Page 931.
5. A tract of land containing 1.90 acres (Lot #5), with right-of-way or easement, as conveyed by Michael A. Fry, single and Michael L. McCoy and Amy L. McCoy, his wife, to Joseph Collins and Marie Collins, his wife, by deed dated October 12, 2007, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 201 at Page 212.
6. A tract of land containing 1.92 acres (Lot #4), With right-of-way or easement, as conveyed by Michael A. Fry, single and Michael L. McCoy and Amy L. McCoy, his wife, to Delores Hughes, widow, by deed dated November 15, 2007, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 201 at Page 481.

It is understood and agreed by and between the parties that the residue of the above-described tract parcel of real estate originally containing 154 acres, more or less, includes Lot 2, containing 0.86 acres, more or less, and Lot 1, containing 0.34 acres, more or less, as shown and depicted on the plat attached hereto and made a part hereof.

And, for the consideration aforesaid, the Grantors do hereby further grant unto the Grantee, his heirs, successors and assigns, the non-exclusive right to use, jointly all who have or may hereafter be granted alike right, that certain access road indicated in purple and further designated as "Access Road" on the print [map/plat] of record in the Clay County Clerk's Office in Deed Book 100 at page 262, reference to which is here made and had for a more particular description thereof. Said right is granted for the purpose of providing Grantee, Grantee's heirs, successors and assigns, with a means of ingress and egress, and is partially shown on the plat attached hereto and is identified as "ACCESS ROAD AS SHOWN ON MAP D.B. 100 Pg. 262 TO SECONDARY 2."

The Grantors grant and convey unto the said Grantee, his heirs, successors and assigns the non-exclusive right to use in common with the others who have or may hereafter be granted a like right, that certain 20' right of way along the eastern boundary line of the aforesaid Lots 1 & 2, being part of the property herein conveyed, which is the common boundary with the Elk River Railroad, Inc., all as more particularly shown and depicted on the plat which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The Grantors further grant and convey unto the said his heirs, successors and assigns, all their right, title and interest in and to that certain Right-of-Way and Easement Agreement, dated February 20, 2007, by and between Randall Krise, et ux, and Michael Fry & Michael McCoy, Grantors herein, and all the rights, privileges, right-of-way, easement and use of roadway, as more specifically therein contained, which Right-of-Way and Easement is recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 200 at page 28, and which is incorporated herein by reference for a more particular disclosure of its terms and conditions.

This conveyance is further made subject to that certain Boundary Line Collection Agreement, dated December 20, 2007, by and between Michael A. Fry and Michael McCoy, first parties, and Homer S. Carmean, III, and Regina A. Carmean, husband and wife, second parties, which Boundary Line Correction Agreement is to be recorded in the Clay County Clerk's Office simultaneously herewith.

Being the same real estate conveyed to James McArthur Jones from Michael A. Fry, Michael L. McCoy, and Amy L. McCoy, by Deed dated December 11, 2007, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission, Clay County, West Virginia in Deed Book 201, Page 851.

**LEGAL**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

**In The Matter of Petition of Name Change of**

**J.D. Civil Action No.: 23-P-13**  
**Current Name J.D. Judge Jack Alsop**  
**To**  
**New Name J.N.**

**Legal Notice of Publication Change of Name**

**Order of Publication**

**Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia**

Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of July, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Savannah Nottingham will apply by Petition to the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said court, changing name of J.D. to J.N. at which time any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at his office.

**ENTERED** by the Clerk of said Court this 23rd day of June, 2023.

*Christina Henshaw*  
 Circuit Clerk

**LEGAL**

**IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

**IO: Family Court**  
**Logan Sigman Civil Action No.: 23-DV-25**  
**DOB: 3/1/2003**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

1. The object of this suit is to obtain a Domestic Violence Protection Order
2. The object of this Publication by Class I legal advertisement is to notify the above-named individual of the action pending before the Court specified below:  
 Clay County Family Court

**To the Above-Named Respondent:**

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that you could not be found in or you have left the State of West Virginia, you are hereby notified of the above-referenced action, a copy of which may be obtained at the Clay County, Circuit Clerk's office.

A Final Hearing is scheduled for the 6th day of July 2023, at 10:00 a.m. before the Clay County Family Court.

Issued June 23, 2023

*Christina Henshaw*  
 Clerk of the Court

**LEGAL**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

**In The Matter of Petition of Name Change of**

**A.D. Civil Action No.: 23-P-14**  
**Current Name A.D. Judge Jack Alsop**  
**To**  
**New Name A.N.**

**Legal Notice of Publication Change of Name**

**Order of Publication**

**Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia**

Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of July, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Savannah Nottingham will apply by Petition to the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said court, changing name of A.D. to A.N. at which time any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at his office.

**ENTERED** by the Clerk of said Court this 23rd day of June, 2023.

*Christina Henshaw*  
 Circuit Clerk

**LEGAL**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON**

CASE NO. 23-0298-E-P  
 APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and  
 WHEELING POWER COMPANY

Petition to Update the MBRC Rates Currently in Effect

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES UPON APPLICATION**

NOTICE is hereby given that Appalachian Power Company and Wheeling Power Company (the Companies), public utilities, have, on March 15, 2023, filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia a Petition to update the Modified Rate Base Cost (MRBC) surcharge revenues. The Public Service Commission's June 30, 2021, Order in Case No. 20-1012-E-P required the Companies to file an annual MBRC update in March 2022, 2023, and 2024. If approved, the increased rates will apply to electric service to approximately 462,328 customers in the counties of Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Ohio, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Summers, Wayne, and Wyoming.

The Companies propose to recover total incremental revenue requirements for certain rate base increases added between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022. The proposed increased rates and charges will produce approximately \$10.05 million annually in additional revenue, and increase of 0.58%. The average monthly bill for the various class of customers will be changed as follows:

	\$ INCREASE	% INCREASE
Residential	\$1.23	0.76%
Commercial	\$2.31	0.55%
Industrial	\$1,161.04	0.47%
Special Contract	\$2,664.57	0.53%
Other	\$0.09	0.45%

The increases requested vary by customer class and customer usage level. Individual customers may receive an increase that is greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this Petition. Any increase in rates will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing at 9:30 a.m., August 30, 2023, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission Building, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene by 4:00 p.m. May 31, 2023. Failure to intervene timely can affect your right to participate in the proceeding. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written or electronic protest at any time up to the start of the evidentiary hearing. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. All protests and interventions should be addressed to: The Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. A complete copy of this tariff, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the following office of the Companies: 200 Association Drive, Charleston, WV 25311. A copy of this tariff is also available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents on the website of the Companies: [www.appalachianpower.com/account/bills/rates/APCORatesTariffsWV.aspx](http://www.appalachianpower.com/account/bills/rates/APCORatesTariffsWV.aspx)

Any customer wishing to receive a reduced-size copy of the tariff can telephone toll-free at 800-982-4237, request such a copy, and provide the necessary mailing information, and a copy will be mailed to the customer. A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

**APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY And WHEELING POWER COMPANY**

**LEGAL**

**Notice of Ancillary Filing without any Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees**

Notice is hereby given that the following foreign will or affidavit of heirs has been filed in the Clay County Clerk's Office at P.O. Box 190, 246 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043, and no appointment or administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code 44-1-14b.

An interested person(s) objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this state must file a statement with the Clay County Commission through the County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of first publication or 30 days of service of the

Commission upon receiving any timely objection thereto shall schedule a hearing or hearings thereon and order relief, if any. It considers proper including, but not limited to, an order directing that full and complete ancillary administration of the estate of the nonresident decedent be made in this state.

First Publication Date: **Thursday, June 22, 2023**

ESTATE NAME: Alease Haymaker Pedigo, 6641 Bryant Circle, Roanoke, VA 24019  
 ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR: James L. Pedigo, 6641 Bryant Circle, Roanoke, VA 24019

Subscribed and sworn to before me on June 15, 2023.

*Sheila Stone*  
 Sheila Stone  
 Clerk of the Clay County Commission

**LEGAL**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

June 16, 2023

The West Virginia Health Care Authority announced that it has received a Letter of Intent from Village Caregiving, LLC, to provide In-Home Personal Care Services in Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming counties in West Virginia. From Village Caregiving, LLC, CON File #23-12-12717-PC. The capital expenditure is \$1,500.

Further information regarding the Letter of Intent, including the Certificate of Need application when submitted, is on the Authority's website at [www.hca.wv.gov](http://www.hca.wv.gov).

**LEGAL**

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PUBLIC NOTICE**

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, 601 57TH STREET SE, CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25304-2345 TELEPHONE: (304) 926-0440, 926-0493, and VOICE-TO-TDD RELAY: 1-800-422-5700 APPLICATION FOR A CLASS 5 UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT Public Notice No.: JKL-26-23 Public Notice Date: June 22, 2023**

**Paper:** Clay County Free Press

The following has applied for a Class 5 Underground Injection Control Permit for this facility or activity:

Application No.: 0587-03-015  
 Applicant: Par Mar Oil Company  
 114-A Westview Avenue  
 Marietta, OH 45750

**Facility:** Par Mar store # 172, 1794 Precious Maysel Rd., Maysel, WV 25133  
**Latitude** 38:29:02 **Longitude** 81:06:41

**Business conducted:** Gas Station and Convenience Store

**Activity:** Discharge solely sanitary waste to an existing subsurface distribution system.

The State of West Virginia will act on the above application in accordance with the West Virginia Legislative Rules, Title 47, Series 13, Section 14.24 issued pursuant to Chapter 22, Article 11 and Article 12.

Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and may request a public hearing in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of this public notice. Comments or requests should be addressed to:

Director, Division of Water and Waste Management, DEP  
 601 57th Street SE  
 Charleston, WV 25304-2345  
 ATTN: Judy Lupson, Permitting

The public comment period begins June 29, 2023 and ends July 29, 2023

Comments received within this period will be considered prior to issuance of the permit. Correspondence should include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues raised. A public hearing may be held if the Director determines there is significant public interest in one or more issues relevant to the draft permit. Interested persons may contact the public information office to obtain further information.

The application, draft permit or factsheet may be inspected by appointment at the Division of Water and Waste Management, 601 57th St SE, Charleston, WV 25304 between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on business days. Copies of documents may be obtained upon request. Individuals requiring Telecommunication Device (TDD) may contact our agency by calling 800-422-5700 between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For further information contact the person identified above at (304) 926-0495, or [judy.k.lupson@wv.gov](mailto:judy.k.lupson@wv.gov).



**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July from all of us at The Clay County Freepress**

**Amendment I, Constitution of the United States of America**  
 Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances

**CLAY COUNTY FREE PRESS.COM**



(cont. from page 4)

## Exhibition

(Cont from Page 1)

Bruceton Mills, Preston County, for *Baltimore Album* in the Applique category (Best of Show); Rhonda Braham of Independence, Preston County, for *Candied Fans*, in the Pieced Quilt category; Linda Dotson Vaughan of Caldwell, Greenbrier County, for *Gardner's Alphabet* in the Mixed/Other Quilt category; and Amy Pabst of LeRoy, Roane County, for *Sari Not Sari* in the Wall Hanging category.

The Culture Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through

Saturday.

For more information about this year's exhibition, contact Rachel Keeney, exhibits coordinator, at 304-558-0220 or Rachel.M.Keeney@wv.gov.

Local quilt and wall hanging exhibitors include:

**Claudia Covey**  
Gassaway, Braxton County

*Floral Wreaths*  
Long arm quilter:  
Karen Phillips-Swhalton

Mixed/Other  
NFS

SECOND PLACE,  
MIXED/OTHER

**Joni Hoffman**  
Duck, Braxton County

*Ohio Star and Oak Leaves*

Hand quilted  
Wall Hanging  
NFS

**Connie Workman**  
Ivydale, Clay County

*Rebecca's Sunrise*  
Pieced  
NFS

## Summer construction season sees work on West Virginia's interstates

### Summer construction season sees work on West Virginia's interstates

With the summer construction season in full swing, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) is seeing major construction projects on all of the Mountain State's interstate highways.

Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity program has allowed the WVDOH to undertake major construction projects on the state's interstates. Seven major construction projects are currently underway on Interstate 64 alone.

#### Donald M. Legg Memorial Bridge

The new Donald M. Legg Memorial Bridge on Interstate 64 is expected to be open to traffic in the spring of 2024. The \$18 million bridge construction project is part of a larger, \$224 million project funded by Gov. Justice's Roads to Prosperity program to widen Interstate 64 to six lanes from Nitro to the US 35 exit.

Contractors Brayman-Trumble are currently cutting the tops off the old bridge piers, pouring new piers and setting massive steel beams for the approximately 1,400-foot bridge. The new bridge is being built on the site of the original Donald M. Legg Memorial Bridge using the bottom portions of the existing bridge piers.

The span replaces the old Donald M. Legg Memorial Bridge, which was built in 1962. When completed, the new bridge will carry four lanes of traffic eastbound, while the Nitro WW I Memorial Bridge will carry four lanes of traffic westbound. Both bridges include a lane allowing motorists to travel between Nitro and St. Albans exits without having to enter main interstate traffic.

Opening of the new bridge will relieve a major bottleneck on I-64. About 60,000 cars a day crossed

the old span.

The new Nitro WW I Memorial Bridge opened to traffic in October 2022. The old Donald M. Legg Memorial Bridge was then cut apart and removed in sections. Brayman-Trumble is now using diamond saws to cut the tops off the old bridge piers, pouring new pier tops and setting beams.

#### I-64 widening, Nitro to US 35

Work also continues widening an approximately four-mile stretch of I-64 from four to six lanes between Nitro and the US 35 interchange. In addition to replacing the old Donald M. Legg Memorial bridge with two new spans, the project also involves the construction of nine new bridges. Work is expected to be complete in the spring of 2025.

#### Cabell County widening projects

Work should be complete in the fall of 2024 on two interstate widening projects near Huntington.

A project for approximately \$91 million is widening I-64 from four to six lanes between the 29th Street exit and the Guyandotte bridge. A concurrent, \$71 million project widens I-64 from four to eight lanes between the Merritts Creek exit and the Huntington Mall.

Both projects are funded through Gov. Justice's Roads to Prosperity program.

The WVDOH just completed a \$14.3 million project to completely replace a bridge where I-64 crosses over Miller Road near mile marker 9. The new bridge is wide enough to allow for six lanes.

#### Culloden interchange

Preliminary construction work recently began on an approximately \$32 million Roads to Prosperity project to build a new interchange linking I-64 with Culloden. The project will build a connector road about 2/3 of a mile long connecting I-64 with

US 60 just west of the Putnam/Cabell County line, and will require construction of a new, 200-foot bridge.

Both the bridge and about 3/4 of a mile of I-64 will be made six lanes wide to allow for future interstate expansion. Work is expected to be complete in the summer of 2026.

#### Kanawha County paving

In Kanawha County, work is underway completely repaving an approximately five-mile stretch of I-64 between Dunbar and the Oakwood Road exit. The \$18.6 million project is expected to be complete later this fall.

Work on the project is being done at night to minimize the impact on the traveling public.

#### Carter bridges

Work is nearly complete on a \$27.4 million project to clean and paint nine interstate bridges and six ramps where I-64 passes through downtown Charleston. Spans and ramps include Piedmont Road, Bigley Avenue, and Court Street, and ramps accessing Court Street, Leon Sullivan Way, and Brooks Street.

Work should be finished by winter.

With work continuing on I-64, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) urges motorists to slow down and pay attention in work zones.

In 2022, there were 800 crashes in West Virginia work zones, killing eight people and injuring 276. Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., has vowed to do everything possible to eliminate work zone fatalities in the Mountain State, including installation of more message boards and radar speed monitors in work zones, collecting crash data to better target work zone safety response, and asking our media partners to help spread the word about obeying speed limits and traffic laws in work zones.

## Obituaries

(Raymond) McDonald of Galt, MO, Jessie (Bryan) White also of Galt, MO, Julie (Justin) Bartlett of Chillicothe, MO, Rebecca Wilkinson of Bolivar, MO and Kerrie Smith; grandnieces and grandnephew, who she considered as additional grandchildren, Katie Young, Mahailey Nicholson, Marissa Holcomb and Gabe Holcomb; several additional grandnieces and grandnephews.

Cheryl started a career in the coal mines in the mid 1970's and retired after 30 years. She was a proud member of the U.M.W.A., Local 8843. Cheryl was an avid gardener and enjoyed floral arranging and taking care of her house plants. She was an exceptional cook and baker who took pride in teaching her daughters, Jennifer and Leah, and her niece, Kacie, all of her tips and tricks in the kitchen.

Cheryl liked playing rook and other card games with family and friends. One of her greatest joys was spending time with her family.

A graveside service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 1 at the Tawney Cemetery, Newton with Rev. Dennis Legg officiating.

Immediately following the graveside service, a Celebration of Life will be held at the home of Kacie and Scott Holcomb, 818 Blown Timber Road, Newton, WV 25266.

John H. Taylor Funeral Home, Spencer, is assisting with arrangements.

Condolences may be shared at [www.taylorfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.taylorfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Ella Kay Lakhia



September 3, 1940

June 18, 2023

A forever beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and wife, Ella Kay Lakhia, age 82, passed on June 18, 2023 in Green, Ohio after a strong and courageous battle with respiratory disease.

Ella, also known to many as Katie and Ellakay, was born and raised in Dink (Ivydale), West Virginia on September 3, 1940. Ella graduated from Clay County High School and attended Glenville State University before moving to Akron, Ohio where she began her career.

Ella worked a long, successful and tireless career as an accountant for Akron Electrotype and the law firm of Renner, Kenner, Grevie, Bobak, Taylor, & Weber until her retirement in 2014. In addition, Ella worked part-time for Macy's department store for nearly two decades where her bright personality and joy of helping others allowed her to thrive as a leading customer service employee.

Ella found relaxation through her artwork and was always ready to travel to visit new places, friends and family. Ella was known to make Christmas extra

special for everyone in her life, including generous charitable contributions. She eventually took up golf and her weekly league became one of her favorite hobbies.

Ella is preceded in death by her father, William (Bill) Douglas, her mother Myrtle Douglas, her older sisters Denia Hall and Carol Douglas, brother-in-laws George Hall and Richard Thomas, nephew Jeffrey Douglas, and her niece Linda Thomas.

Ella is survived by her three sons, Raj, Todd and Brad (Karen) Lakhia, grandchildren George, Ethan, Ava and Jane, former husband Sam (Mamata) Lakhia, sisters Marilyn Thomas, Ronnie (Harold) Batthauer and Cosby (Rich) Gutt. Ella is also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, and long-time friends, most especially Norma Taylor and Mary Hollensteener.

The family would like to extend special, sincerest thanks to those who lovingly and compassionately cared for Ella, including Dr. Atul Mehta and the entire Cleveland Clinic team, and the graceful, amazing teams at Greenview Senior Assisted Living and Compassionate Care Hospice.

Calling hours are scheduled for July 15, 2023 between 2:30 and 4:00pm immediately followed by a memorial service at Rose Hill Funeral Home, 3653 West Market Street, Akron, Ohio 44333.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Ella's name to St Jude's Children's Research Hospital: <https://raise.stjude.org/ella-kay-lakhia>.

### Jackie Lee Harvey



Jackie Lee Harvey, 79, of Raleigh, NC, went home to be with the Lord on June 15, 2023. He was born February 11, 1944, in Clay County to the late Fred Seldon and Blanche Maude Harvey.

Jack graduated from Nichols County High School and received a Bachelors in Math from the West Virginia Institute of Technology. He went on to do pioneering work in Information Technology with the Boeing Corporation for the Saturn V rocket program and later with the U.S. Army at Fort Lee, VA, during the Vietnam War. Jack continued his career in IT with several government and private organizations until his retirement in 2010.

In his personal life, Jack was active in a wide variety of interests including playing golf, coaching baseball, gardening,

and exploring the coast of North Carolina. Jack was fascinated by history, and he enjoyed it through reading, reenacting, and travel. Jack had a lifelong love of animals, adopting many pets along the way. He was an active member of Millbrook Baptist Church in Raleigh, having served as teacher, deacon and mission leader.

He will be deeply missed by his loving wife and best friend of 57 years, Christina Jean Harvey of Raleigh, NC; his son, Nick (Meredith) Harvey of Asheville, NC; and his daughter, Amanda (Doug) Bordeaux of Archer Lodge, NC. He adored his four grandchildren, Benjamin Harvey, Myra Harvey, Tyler Bordeaux, and Christian Bordeaux, and they adored him.

Jack is survived by his sister Mona Gaynell Boles, his brothers Fred Harvey (Janet) and John Harvey (Roxanne), his sister-in-law Betty Harvey, his brother-in-law Jim Nichols, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on July 8, 2023, at 2:00 pm, at Bell Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Dixie, WV. The family will receive visitors at the church following the service. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a local church or charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com).

Pennington Smith Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Harvey Family.

### Georgia Irene (Keenan) Ratliff

Georgia Irene (Keenan) Ratliff, 83, of Clay, WV entered into rest on June 18, 2023.

Born on June 19, 1939, to the late Finney and Elsie (Nottingham) Keenan. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Norman Ratliff.

Georgia is survived by her daughter, Ruth Csomos of Brunswick Hills, Ohio; sons, Kenneth of Lodi, Ohio, Thomas, Delbert, Steve and Stanley of Clay, WV; 10 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at 12:00 pm on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at Wilson Smith Funeral Home, Clay, WV, with Minister Larry Skaggs. Visitations for family and friends were one hour prior to the service. Burial followed in the Sunset Cemetery, Bickmore, WV.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com).

Wilson Smith Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Ratliff family.

## JOHN G. HUBBARD, DDS, PLLC

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2011 Chevy Cruze-Turbo-A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Red	\$ 7,999.00
2010 Chevy Equinox-V6, Auto, DWD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Silver	\$ 5,999.00
2009 Dodge Ram 1500-V8, Auto, Quad Cab, 2WD, A/C Tilt & Cruise, Black	\$ 8,999.00
2007 Hyundai Santa Fe-V6, Auto, AWD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Blue	\$ 5,999.00
2007 Ford Fusion-V6, AWD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Plum	\$ 3,999.00
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## Voter Registration Reminder Postcard Encourages Voters to Update Address or Cancel if Necessary



Official election mail in the form of a postcard will soon be sent to 15,860 West Virginia voters who may have moved without updating or canceling their voter registration. These potential movers did not notify the U.S. Postal Service of any changes of address but appear to have moved based on other available data.

When voters update their address at other agencies or move to a different state, that information does not automatically update or cancel a voter's old, abandoned registration. Nor do those changes always make it back to the Secretary of State or County Clerks. To identify those folks who may have slipped through the cracks, additional resources are used to identify voters who may have moved.

This program compares publicly available voter registration records with data from Experian's "True Trace", which includes records from all 50 states, to find potentially abandoned registrations. Voters identified through the program will receive a reminder postcard at their current voter registration address with instructions for how to update or cancel their registration record if necessary. If a voter receives a postcard at their current address, then no action is required. If a voter does not respond, no action will be taken on their voter registration status. This postcard is merely a reminder, participation is voluntary, and it will have no effect on voters' ability to participate in upcoming elections.

Prompting voters to keep their registration current between election cycles is a proactive measure to maintain clean voter rolls. Voters that receive a reminder and have moved to another address or state can update or cancel their abandoned voter registration by filling out the postcard and mailing it back to their county clerk using the return address printed on the card. Existing registrations can also be updated at any time by visiting [GoVoteWV.com](http://GoVoteWV.com) or the QR code included.

For more information regarding voter registration, voters are encouraged to contact their county clerk using the directory posted at [GoVoteWV.com](http://GoVoteWV.com).



## Food Safety is the Main Ingredient to a Successful Cookout

Food Safety is the Main Ingredient to a Successful Cookout

Whether you're a grill master or a first-time barbecue cook, food safety should always be part of your routine to ensure a healthy and happy Fourth of July.

"Recent USDA consumer behavior studies have shown that individuals don't always properly wash their hands or use a food thermometer," said USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Emilio Esteban. "Show your family and friends that you're a true grill master by cooking food to a safe temperature and washing your hands after handling raw meat and poultry."

Ensure your food is safe to eat this Fourth of July by following these food safety steps:

**Clean:** Scrub the grill clean before use. Clean utensils and plates before they touch food. No access to a faucet? Carry bottled water, soap and paper towels. Wash your hands before and after handling raw meat and poultry. Follow proper handwashing steps to stop bacteria from spreading from your hands to your meal. Make sure to wet hands, lather with soap, scrub for 20 seconds, rinse and dry.

**Separate:** Avoid cross contamination. Separate raw meat and vegetables by using different cutting boards. Place raw meat or poultry on one plate and cooked meat and poultry on another. Don't use the same utensils to place raw meat and poultry on the grill and take cooked food off.

**Cook:** Use food thermometers to ensure your grilled food is ready. Insert the thermometer through the side of the patty until the probe reaches the center. Color is never a reliable indicator of doneness. Cook food to a safe minimum internal temperature by using a food thermometer:

Cook whole cuts of meat to 145 F with a three-minute rest time.

Cook fish to 145 F.

Cook ground meats to 160 F.

Cook poultry (ground or whole) to 165 F.

Although frozen products may appear to be pre-cooked or browned, treat them as raw food and cook thoroughly. Products labeled as "Cook and Serve," "Ready to Cook" and "Oven Ready" must be cooked.

**Chill:** Bacteria multiply rapidly between 40 F and 140 F — aka the Danger Zone. Perishable food should be consumed or refrigerated within two hours (one hour if outdoor temperatures are 90 F and above).

For more food safety information, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854), email [MPHotline@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline@usda.gov) or chat live at [ask.usda.gov](http://ask.usda.gov) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Access news releases and other information at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/newsroom](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/newsroom). Follow FSIS on Twitter at [twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](https://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety) or in Spanish at: [twitter.com/usdafoodsafes](https://twitter.com/usdafoodsafes).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

## 2023 West Virginia Maple Syrup Production Totals

A warmer than normal winter in West Virginia impacted maple syrup production in 2023. Maple syrup season in West Virginia begins in late January and can run through mid-March, depending on the elevation of the trees. In some areas of the state, the daytime temperature in February reached the upper 70's several days. In the mountains, temperatures rose to the upper 60's. Peak sap flow for maple trees occurs when nights are cold and daytime temperatures reach the 40's. Many maple producers saw their season cut short due to higher temperatures during the day.

"We always hope for the best conditions possible during maple season, but sometimes Mother Nature just doesn't cooperate," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "Despite the warmer temperatures, our maple operations still managed to produce a lot of syrup. Compare it to the maple-flavored corn syrup you find in big box stores, and I guarantee you'll reach for pure West Virginia maple syrup every time."

In 2023, maple syrup production totaled 11,000 gallons, down from 13,000 gallons in 2022. Maple producers tapped 69,000 trees, down from 77,000 taps in 2022. Yield-per-tap was 0.159 gallon, down from 0.169 gallon in 2022. On average, it took 64 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup, compared to 63 gallons of sap last year.

The average price per gallon was \$44.50 in 2022,

down from \$47.70 in 2021. Retail prices in 2022 were \$58.30 per gallon, up from \$44.20 the previous year. Wholesale prices in 2022 were \$50.20 per gallon, up from \$38.30 the previous year. Bulk prices in 2022 were \$2.90 per pound, up from \$2.50 per pound in 2021, and \$31.60 per gallon, up from \$27.60 per gallon the previous year. Percent of sales by type in 2022 was 32 percent retail, down from 41 percent the previous year; 20 percent wholesale, up from 9 percent in 2021; and 48 percent bulk, down from 50 percent in 2021.

United States maple syrup production in 2023 totaled 4.18 million gallons, down 15 percent from the previous season. The number of taps totaled 13.4 million, down 4 percent from the 2022 total. Yield per tap was 0.311 gallon, down 0.042 gallon from the previous season.

Average U.S. price per gallon was \$34.70 in 2022, down from \$35.90 per gallon in 2021. Retail prices in 2022 were \$53.70 per gallon with 619,000 gallons sold. Wholesale prices in 2022 were \$40.30 per gallon with 683,000 gallons sold. Bulk prices in 2022 were \$2.70 per pound and \$30.20 per gallon with 3,543,000 gallons sold. Value of production, at \$172 million for 2022, was up 28 percent from the 2021 season.

For more information, contact WVDA Deputy Communication Director Jennifer Smith Poling at 304-558-3708 or [jensmith@wvda.us](mailto:jensmith@wvda.us).





# SPORTS

## Panthers are cracking the whip at the 7 on 7 events

By Allen Hamrick

It's early in the 2023 football season, but the Clay County Panthers are out using the little time they have through the summer to play some 7 on 7. The scene was Richwood High School, six teams took part in the 7 on 7 - Clay, Bath of Virginia, Buffalo, Richwood, Sherman and Pocahontas were all

in attendance. Offense and defense from each team went head to head to see what they might have to work on as well as to get the cob webs out of their system. There was a monsoon early in the event with the promised rain nearly washing the matches out. It is football, however, and the CCP (Clay County

Panthers) get the job done rain or shine. On this day, the Panthers outscored the other teams 140-28. They have competed in three other 7 on 7 events and their record stands at 16-2. These 7 on 7 events are an early football learning necessity, and the CCP looked pretty good on offense as well as defense.



The Panthers will have some glue hands on offense.



Grabbing this pass for another score

They caught the ball well and have a ton of speed all around the field. New faces from last season's Mustang team have added some more depth to the squad and will ultimately keep the Panthers high on the food chain.

Of course, it is way early in the season, and there will be bugs that settle in and need to be exterminated be-

fore the start of the season. The whole team did not participate so early predictions are still up in the wind, but time will tell if the Panthers will come back this season to win or be a punching bag for the other teams; my cards are on the Panthers to win. There are some shoes to fill in from last season, but from what I saw, there are some

good prospects to do just that. Football season is fast approaching, and the CCP look like they are ready to play. Get set football fans, the stadiums are warming up and the bands are ready to play. Get your schedules, it's gonna be a good one. Clay will host their 7 on 7 July 18; you don't want to miss it.

## Summer rain and lily pads are great for big bass



Lily pads are a good spot just before the rain.

By Allen Hamrick

Its summertime, and summertime means fast, furious fishing for quick bites and the constant search for old lunger bucket mouths hanging out in deep pockets in rivers and lakes. Ledges, points and brush piles become strike zones as bass tend to favor large helpings in the summer as the hard bite slows down with the rise of the thermometer. You have to adjust the way you fish for them, and knowing where they are at a certain temperature can greatly improve your chances of having a great day on the water versus just a day on the water. In the summer, bass like cover where ledges and sharp drop offs occur. They love points with cover where the current slings by the occasional dinner. However, this article will focus on the dense vegetation on lakes such as hydrilla and lily pads. These areas provide a great deal of shade for the overheated bass to shelter in while they wait for food. Lily pads are on a number of lakes in West Virginia and are a great place to catch some big bass in the summer. Most of the times if your lunger huntin', early morning or when the sun goes down are the best times to catch motivated bass. To fish lily pads on most occasions, it is best to use weed less baits such as frogs and

toads to match the food source of lily pads. If you're skill is fishing below the surface of the water, then using small lizards and crawdads may be the best bet. Although, a lot depends on what type of bait is living in that area as to what you fish. There are many ways to fish lily pads in the summer, but these are some of the tried and true methods.

Avoiding the high temperatures in the middle of the day is a good bet, but knowing that, a cloudy and rainy day is one of those times to not stick the gear in the closet but get out and do some fishing. Just before a rain, the humidity is at its highest, and at that time, the fish will be on the run instead of hanging out waiting. A science fact is that bass feed different when the barometric pressure is up or down. When it's up, they are slow and sluggish as it is in the winter time, and when it's down, and it's way down just before it rains, fish go on a feeding frenzy. So, high humid conditions and low pressure are best when it's raining, hence better fishing opportunities to catch a lot of bass. The fact is summertime bass fishing is as unpredictable as a family reunion; conditions change, sometime fast, and you have to be ready to adapt. If



No rain, no gain; pushing the limits.

something ain't working, don't go home; try something different but do it intelligently.

Rainy fishing brings its own set of rules to follow. Not everybody wants to jump in a boat or kayak when it's raining hard enough to sink a Jon boat. If you're crazy enough to do it, break out the rain suit and get to casting - it can yield a lot of fish. Top water baits are often the best during the rain, and you just have to play with the retrieves to get the speed right. Buzz baits, spinner baits, spoons - anything that will make a noisy presentation - will often draw a lot of attention from bass in predator mode. Hit the openings in the lily pads, the bass wait for something to come off the top and into the zone. Summit Lake in nearby Pocahontas County is a great place to put in your kayak or small boat. With a kayak, you can get up and into places boats can't get to, and the lily pads are abundant as well as the bass. Rainy days are as good on the river as they are on the lake, so before you just sit back and wait for pretty days and low humidity, get that rain suit on and challenge yourself to go out of your comfort zone and to embrace those rainy days and lily pads.



The Elk River is a bass hot spot.



A slow retrieved lizard hooks this small jaw.