



# Clay County Free Press

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## Here's why West Virginia has struggled to increase labor force participation for decades

*West Virginia has the lowest labor force participation rate in the country. While nonprofits are trying to bring more workers into the labor force, deeper solutions remain necessary.*

**By P.R. Lockhart for Mountain State Spotlight**

For months, West Virginia officials have been touting record-low unemployment numbers. That continued in June, as officials announced that only 3.3% of West Virginians were unemployed and actively looking for work.

But there's less to cheer about when it comes to the state's fairly stagnant labor force participation rate. That figure, which essentially measures the percentage of working-age adults who are either employed or actively looking for work, isn't the most well-known economic indicator. But it's one that economists say matters just as much, if not more, than unemployment numbers.

"Unemployment is not the problem," said John Deskins, the director of West Virginia University's Bureau of Business and Economic Research. "Our problem is we have a relatively small percentage of the adult population that is engaged in the labor force in the first place."

The labor force participation rate tracks the percentage of working age people who are either actively working or seeking employment. It's currently 54.6%, the lowest in the nation and well below the national participation rate of 62.6%. And it has been in that last place position or extremely close to it for about five decades.

To come closer to the national rate, the state would need to increase its workforce by roughly 100,000 people.

But understanding the *why* behind the low rate is more difficult. In several interviews, economists told Mountain State Spotlight that a number of factors could contribute to West Virginia's persistent labor force problem, including population

SEE "Employment" ————— CONT. ON PAGE 8

## Community park and splash pad opens



The WVU Clay County Extension Office has announced that the community park in Clay is fully functional and will be open for daily use. We are beyond excited to see these pieces of our project come to completion. The splash pad will be in operation daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. starting Sunday, July 2.

## Clay County Students Graduate from Glenville State University

Six Clay County students have received their degrees from Glenville State University as part of the University's May 2023 Commencement.

Andrew G. Belt of Nebo earned an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies as part of GSU's Milestone Initiative.

Jared L. Evans of Bomont earned an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies as part of GSU's Milestone Initiative.

Lori K. Ray of Wallback graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree with majors in Elementary Education (K-6) and Multi-Categorical Special Education (K-6).

Kathlene M. Rose of Duck graduated Cum Laude with an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies as part of GSU's Milestone Initiative.

Heather B. Sears of Duck graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree with majors in Elementary Education (K-6) and Multi-Categorical Special Education (K-6). Sears was also a Hidden Promise Scholar.

Adison S. Woods of Duck graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree with majors in Early Education (PreK-K) and Elementary Education (K-6).

The Milestone Initiative signifies the important academic accomplishment of students who are working toward a bachelor's degree.

Founded in 1872, Glenville State University is a public liberal arts institution located in Glenville, West Virginia. The University offers a variety of traditional and online degree programs and several NCAA Division II athletic teams.

## Mason Taylor named to Ohio University's Spring Dean's List

Ohio University a GPA between 3.5 and Scripps College of Communication student Mason Taylor of Indore has been named to Ohio University's Spring 2023 Dean's List.

The Dean's List recognizes undergraduate students who complete a particular semester with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

In spring semester 2023, 4,953 Ohio University undergraduate students qualified for the Dean's List.

## School Clothing Allowance Application Period Opens

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Family Assistance will begin accepting school clothing allowance applications on July 1, 2023, for eligible children enrolled in West Virginia schools and will close applications on July 31, 2023. Each eligible child will receive a \$200 benefit that may be used toward the purchase of appropriate school clothing or piece goods for families who sew clothing for their children.

The following will automatically receive school clothing allowance benefits for each school-age child in the home by the end of June 2023:

Families with school-age children who currently receive WV WORKS cash assistance.

Parents or guardians of children in foster care.

Children ages 4-18 who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, are enrolled in school and whose household income is under 130% of the Federal Pov-

erty Level.

Families who received school clothing allowance in 2022 and currently have Medicaid coverage should receive a school clothing allowance program application by mail in late June 2023.

Others may be eligible for school clothing allowance benefits, but the monthly income for a family of four may not exceed \$3,007. Verification of income for July 2023 must be submitted with applications for school clothing allowance.

"In 2022, 81,029 West Virginia children were assisted by the school clothing allowance program," said Janie Cole, Commissioner of DHHR's Bureau for Family Assistance. "This program fills an important need for children and families with back to school preparations."

School clothing allowance program recipients will receive an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card. The EBT card will operate like a debit card and can be used at any retailer who accepts EBT cash transactions. Parents or guardians of children in foster care will receive the school clothing allowance benefit as a check.

Families, caretakers, and guardians may apply online at [www.wvpath.wv.gov](http://www.wvpath.wv.gov) or request a paper application be mailed to them by contacting their local DHHR office or by calling 1-877-716-1212. Applications must be received by July 31, 2023.

Those needing to update their address may do so at [www.wvpath.wv.gov](http://www.wvpath.wv.gov) or by calling DHHR's Customer Service Center at 1-877-716-1212.

## More West Virginia Parents Not Working due to Childcare Issues

**By Nadia Ramlagan for WVNS**

Thirteen percent of young children in West Virginia lived in families in which someone quit their job or refused a job because of responsibilities with child care, and the number is likely higher among Black and Latino parents, according to the latest Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count Data Book.

Women are five to eight times more likely than men to experience negative employment consequences due to lack of child care.

Bobbie Spry, community engagement specialist, West Virginia Kids Count, said advocates in the state continue to push for enrollment-based subsidies for child care centers. She explained basing reimbursements on enrollment instead of attendance would increase financial stability for providers and help shrink yearlong waitlists.

"West Virginia's average cost of center-based child care for a toddler was \$7,955," Spry reported. "That's 9% of the median income of a married couple and 35% of a single mother's income."

Last year, West Virginia Kids Count reported 21% of West Virginia's children are living in households with a high housing cost burden. Spry noted ongoing unaffordable child care costs will likely mean more housing uncertainty for families living paycheck to paycheck.

More than 60% of child care workers nationwide recently reported having difficulty paying their own food and utility bills. Spry pointed out the child care issue is pushing more Mountain State families into poverty.

"Our overall ranking remains at 42 which is what it was last year," Spry emphasized. "I don't feel like we're doing enough to push that needle."

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the failings of the child care system cost the U.S. economy around \$122 billion a year in lost worker earnings, productivity, and tax revenue.

## A time to remember the American Revolution



A country forged by its people. By Allen Hamrick

SEE "AMERICA" ON PAGE 8







# Clay County Free Press

claycountyfreepress.com

Email:

news@claycountyfreepress.com

advertising@claycountyfreepress.com

subscriptions@claycountyfreepress.com

Michael Showell, Publisher

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## We Weren't Expecting That

By: Dr. James Snyder

Sometimes things happen that you never expected. When those unexpected things happen, if they are good, that is a blessing, if they are bad, that's a different story.

I learned this expectation of good from my good old Uncle Ted. He was a truck driver, and boy, did he have the stories to tell.

The one story I never believed was about him having lunch at a restaurant. According to his story, he would order a nice lunch, and when almost done, he would take out a hair he had brought along, put it on his plate, and called the waitress.

"Look at this hair on my plate," he said to the waitress.

Of course, she was surprised because that doesn't happen much in a restaurant. She was so frustrated that she called the manager and introduced him to my uncle. He didn't know what he was in for.

"There's a hair on my plate, which disgusts me."

The manager looked at it and did not know what to say, but finally, he said to my uncle, "I'm so sorry for this and to compensate your lunch is on the house today."

He had somewhat of a scow on his face. He looked at the manager and then looked back at the waitress and finally said, "Okay, I'll let it go this time, and I thank you for taking care of this for me. I appreciate that very much."

For many years I thought this was just one of his stories, but he, my father, and I went to a restaurant together once. I'm not sure of the occasion, but it was always fun to get together for lunch.

When Uncle Ted was just about done with his lunch, I saw him pull from his inside pocket an envelope, and when he opened it, there was a variety of hairs inside. He pulled a rather large one out and laid it on his dish. He didn't say anything but just called for the waitress.

"Look at this hair on my plate! Can you explain it?"

Of course, she couldn't, so she called for the manager to come to our table. When he arrived, he said, "Is there anything I can do to help you men?"

"There sure is," my uncle said. "Look at this hair on my plate. Can you explain it?"

The manager was stunned when he saw the hair and, at first, did not know what to say. "I'm so sorry for this. Please accept my apology and lunch is on the house today."

With his familiar scow, my uncle looked at the manager, then looked back at the waitress, and then back at the manager and said, "Okay, I accept your apology and thank you for your understanding."

As my dad and I sat at that table, we did not know what to do. Was this a joke or what? The waitress returned and told us that everything was taken care of and we didn't have to worry, and she apologized again.

When we got into our car to go home, my uncle gave a little snicker and said, "You know, that works all the time." And then he laughed.

I had forgotten about that until last week. Some of our family had gotten together to celebrate Father's Day at a very nice pizza restaurant. There were five of us plus the Princess of the Family, our six-month-old great-granddaughter. Of course, she was the center of our lunchtime, even though it was a Father's Day lunch.

We had a wonderful time, and the pizza was just delicious. It's one of our favorite pizza restaurants in town.

As we finished, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sighed deeply and said, "Oh no. It can't be?"

We did not know what she was talking about, and then she called the waiter over and showed him that in the crust of her pizza was a human hair. It was baked into the crust, and only The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would ever be able to see that.

The waiter came, and she showed him the hair, and he was rather stunned and said, "I'll go get the manager."

The manager came out, and we could tell the hair did not belong to him because he was bald. Not even facial hair.

He looked at the hair to ensure it was what she said it was. She turned out to be right, as usual.

"I don't know how that happened, and I'm very sorry. Could I bring you a free pizza?" We told him we were full and could not eat any more pizza. Then he surprised us.

"I'm so sorry for this, and let me say right now that your lunch is on me today. This will not cost you anything."

He wouldn't take no for an answer, so we accepted his generosity.

I know The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can do anything and everything, but I never realized that she also could clone my uncle.

On the way home I couldn't help but think of Ecclesiastes 2:15, "Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity."

Instead of judging other people for what they do, I need to pay close attention to what I'm doing daily.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

# OBITUARIES

## Diann Marie Legg

On June 24, 2023, Diann Marie Legg passed away peacefully at CAMC General Hospital due to injuries she suffered in an accident.

Diann was born in Cannelton, West Virginia to Clinton Ray and Margaret Brown on September 27, 1954.

She met the love of her life, Russell Brooks Legg, Jr. "R.B.," at church where her father was the pastor. On January 19, 1974 they enjoyed their first date and on April 20th of that year he proposed marriage to her on a beautiful sunny spring evening on a stroll on the carriage trail at Sunrise mansion. His love letters to her were always addressed "To The Most Beautiful Woman in the World, c/o Diann Brown" (which embarrassed her greatly!)

They married on July 20, 1974 (on a shoestring budget!) and were off to

Morgantown, West Virginia for R.B.'s last year at West Virginia University School of Dentistry. She worked in the lab at Monongalia General Hospital as a Phlebotomy Specialist while he completed his requirements for his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree.

Diann will always be remembered as an early riser and a hard working individual, often volunteering for weekend duty and working holidays since she was their sole provider of income that year.

After graduation, she and her husband established their dental practice in Clay, West Virginia where she was his personal assistant and eventually office manager, retiring in 2011.

Diann was an avid reader, and enjoyed cooking, decorating, traveling (especially to the Rocky Mountains and Hawaii), working with her husband

in their beautiful flower gardens and attending church services. She is a member of the Buffalo Valley Baptist Church in Clay, West Virginia. She always stressed academics, persistence and determination to her three children who hold degrees from five different educational institutions. One daughter, Lydia, is currently an attending physician at Harvard University Medical Center and Massachusetts General Brigham.

Besides her husband of 49 years she is survived by her three children, Jeanne Carson (Eric), Dr. Lydia Legg, James Brooks Legg, and two grandchildren, Sierra Lowther and Tyler Carson. Also two sisters, Donna Clonch (George), Linda King, and a brother, Ray Dewayne Brown.

The family would especially like to thank Dr. Paul Paik and his nurse Rizalita Santillan of Memorial Sloan

Kettering Cancer Center in New York City for the extraordinary care provided for our beloved wife and mother and for the special relationship we developed.

A graveside service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday June 29, 2023, at Clay Memorial Gardens, Clay, WV, with Ministers, Douglas Newell IV and John Pruitt.

In lieu of flowers the family request contributions in Diann's memory to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, P.O. Box 5028, Hagerstown, MD 21741-9901 or online @matchgrant.mskcc.org where special arrangements have been made to multiply gifts five items.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.carlwilsonfuneral-home.com

Wilson Smith Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Legg Family.

## The Most Beautiful Woman

By: Joseph J. Mazella

I saw the most beautiful woman the other day. She wasn't that tall. She was 5 feet at the most. Her spine was curved down too. Her skin was thin and covered in age spots from a lifetime of walking in the sun. Her hair was a thin, wispy white. Her smile had as many false teeth as new ones. She was at least 80 years old and may have been over 90. She moved slowly and with great care. Still, when she looked you in the eye and spoke to you, you could see her true beauty shining through.

Her forehead was wrinkled from a long life of hard work and care. But it was the lines around her eyes that caught my attention. These "wrinkles" were deep and permanent canyons that had been formed by a million smiles and a lifetime of laughter. Her eyes were deep set, blood-shot and hidden behind thick, heavy glasses. But you could still see a lovely light shining out of them. When she talked to you they sparkled with a divine radiance that told you she was in touch with faith and love and hope

and goodness and joy. I only spoke to her for a minute or two, yet I left feeling better, happier, and closer to God myself. I only hope that one day my own face will show the signs that hers did, of a blessed life well-lived and well-loved.

It is so strange how people these days are almost obsessed with doing away with those signs. We want to look twenty years old forever. People dye their hair, put cream on their skin, apply makeup to their faces, stick needles full of Botox into themselves, and even have plastic surgery all in an effort to hide the evidence of a life filled with kindness, laughter, and love.

The next time I look in the mirror, though, I am going to thank God for my wrinkles, gray hair, and the sparkle in my eyes. I am going to appreciate the evidence of a million smiles and pray to God to let them get deeper as I live longer and love better each day of my life.

# Home Country

By Slim Randles

## Home Country Slim Randles

Doc smiled and felt really good inside when he heard the familiar bird song.

"Hey there, Wheezer," he said, "happy nesting!"

For some reason, this mourning dove with the speech impediment comes around to Doc's back yard every spring, and Doc thinks that's just all right. If ol' Wheez didn't have that distinctive voice, Doc would never know if this bird favored his yard or was just another bird looking for a home. Let's face it, Wheezer looks just like every other dove in town.

But he was back and flirting with a good-looking lady dove up on the branches of the locust tree. Doc always wondered whether doves mate for life, and this was the same Mrs. Wheez he sees every year, or if Wheezer had to court a new lassie each spring.

"I'll have to look it up," Doc said, knowing that he wouldn't.


But he did go over to the concrete block wall and clean out the crud from the hollow in the top block by the gate. Doc had put dirt in it years ago, and each spring, the Wheezer family hauled in twigs and grass and made a place to raise their family.

And each spring, as Mrs. W. sat on her eggs, it would take Doc a few days before she would tolerate him coming and going through the gate. This was the dove family he was close to. They let him get right up to maybe a foot from the ugly little baby birds each spring, and he was careful never to move quickly or make a noise. That was his contribution, you see, to the putting together of the "Doves in the Concrete Block" family.

Wonder how long doves live? Doc thought. Wonder how long old Wheezer will last? I'll have to look it up.

No he won't.

Brought to you by Wild Birds Unlimited. They have lots of things to keep those birds happy and healthy. For your local store: webmaster@wbu.com.



In what Supremes hit does Diana Ross actually mention the other two members of the group by name?

Answer to last week's Trivia: Johnny Mathis' most successful and highest charted single was "Chances Are" (#4 Oct. 1957).



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almost heaven



# 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).

**July 5, 1896:** Cartoonist Kendall Vintroux was born at Fraziers Bottom. He began his career with the *Charleston Gazette* when he submitted a cartoon about the town of Poca's first paved road. Many of his drawings are now in the collection of the University of Charleston.

**July 5, 1950:** Army Private Kenneth Shadrack of Wyoming County was one of the first U.S. servicemen killed in action in the Korean War.

**July 6, 1806:** Statesman Charles James Faulkner was born in Martinsburg. Faulkner

served in the West Virginia legislature, U.S. Congress (1851-59, 1875-77), and as U.S. minister to France.

**July 6, 1848:** Historian Virgil A. Lewis was born in Mason County. In 1905, Governor Dawson appointed Lewis as the first director of the Bureau of Archives and History.

**July 6, 1883:** Judge "R. D." Bailey was born at Baileysville, Wyoming County. Bailey came into wide prominence as the judge of the Matewan Massacre trial in 1921.



**July 7, 1928:** The Madonna of the Trail monument was dedicated in Wheeling. It is

one of 12 such statues erected along the National Road to honor America's pioneering women.

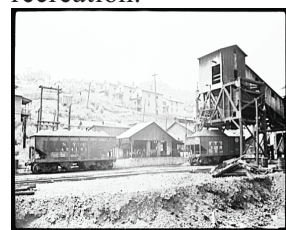
**July 8, 1894:** Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photographer, Aegerter built both a studio and darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement. The glass plate negatives survive today in several archived collections.



**July 8, 1924:** Rock 'n' roll pioneer Johnnie Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as "Roll Over,

Beethoven." Berry's hit "Johnny B. Goode" was supposedly written as a tribute to Johnson.

**July 8, 1961:** Sutton Dam was dedicated by Governor Wally Barron. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam for purposes of flood control, low-flow augmentation and recreation.



**July 9, 1942:** An explosion at the Purs-glove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in an eight-month period.

**July 9, 1989:** Treasurer A. James Manchin resigned after being impeached. With a stock market downturn

in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly \$300 million in investments for which he was responsible.

**July 10, 1769:** Physician Jesse Bennet was born. He performed the first successful caesarian section in America in 1794, on his own wife and without proper equipment and with no antiseptics. He later established a large practice in Mason County and served as an Army surgeon in the War of 1812.

**July 10, 1936:** The temperature in Martinsburg reached 112 degrees. It tied the record for the state's hottest recorded temperature, which had been set August 4, 1930, at Moorefield.



**July 11, 1861:** The Battle of Rich Mountain was fought in Randolph County. Union troops under the command of General George McClellan defeated Confederate forces.

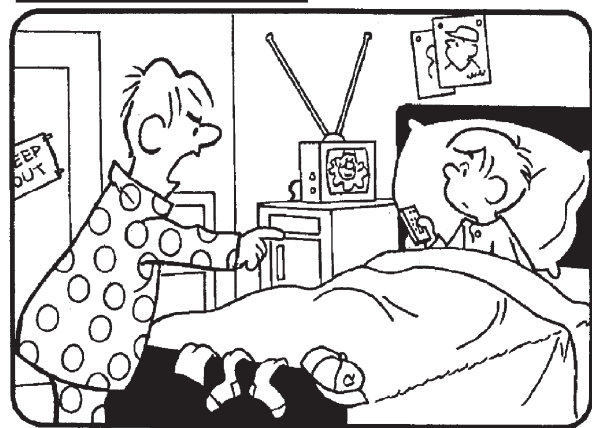
**July 11, 1867:** John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County. He served as the 15th governor of West Virginia.



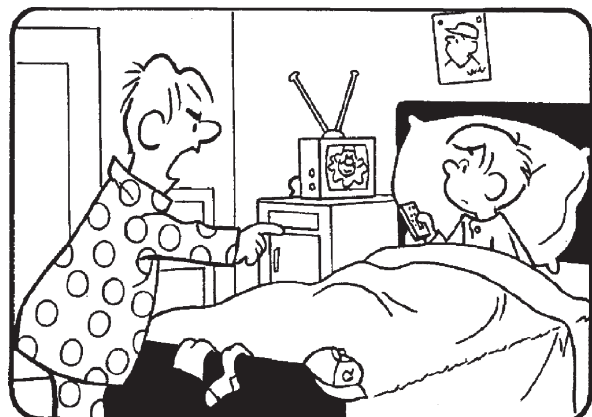
**July 11, 1976:** Gov. Arch Moore dedicated the West Virginia Culture Center. The facility was built to showcase the Mountain State's artistic, cultural and historic heritage.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Antenna is different. 3. Handle is smaller. 4. Sock is missing. 5. Cap is missing. 6. Picture is missing.

## Super Crossword IT'S MEANINGLESS

### ACROSS

- 1 Carter-era FBI sting
- 7 "It costs — and a leg"
- 12 "Likely story!"
- 16 Learning inst.
- 19 Spanning structure
- 20 Gorme with Grammys
- 21 Mag online
- 22 Boxer Clay, renamed
- 23 Withstanding decay
- 25 Dak., in the 1800s
- 26 Sawmill item
- 27 Org. for drs.
- 28 Haughty type
- 29 Reggae singer with the Wailers
- 31 Pureed fruit product since the mid-1800s
- 36 Top-drawer
- 37 Is storming
- 38 Antonym: Abbr.
- 39 Maker of Tater Tots
- 41 It induces an immune response
- 44 Trash collection service
- 48 "Our Gang" girl

- 49 Evict
- 50 Raw resource
- 51 Racing units
- 52 Furniture with four sleeping units
- 55 Trachea-to-lung tubes
- 58 TV trophy
- 59 Partake of
- 60 French for "good"
- 61 Winfrey of "Selma"
- 65 Small inlet
- 66 Medieval stronghold near Cork, Ireland
- 71 "— had it!"
- 72 With 6-Down, relay some information
- 74 Rustic hotels
- 75 Eighth mo.
- 76 Like both-sex dorms
- 77 Experienced again
- 80 Seepage in a boat's bottom
- 83 Exhaust conduit, e.g.
- 86 Cavity-fighting org.
- 87 Golf great Ballesteros
- 88 Actress Graff
- 89 Chef who was a judge on ABC's "The Taste"

- 93 Novelist Sidney
- 95 "Good Times" actor Walker
- 96 12, on some clocks
- 97 Speedskater Ohno
- 98 Celine of pop
- 99 Part of many a kid's lunchbox meal
- 106 Cow stomach, on a menu
- 108 Fix, as a knot
- 109 Xbox competitor
- 110 AOL competitor
- 111 Yoo- (chocolate drinks)
- 112 10 answers in this puzzle have one
- 116 Tenth mo.
- 117 Guitar relative
- 118 Prickly shrub
- 119 State of hypnosis
- 120 Co. top dog
- 121 Pro votes
- 122 Pungent salad green
- 123 Gossipy meddlers

### DOWN

- 1 James A. Garfield's "A"
- 2 — -Seltzer
- 3 Occupy, as a desk
- 4 USN VIP
- 5 Become older
- 6 See
- 7 — Fables
- 8 Sominex competitor
- 9 Have — with destiny
- 10 — Tin Tin
- 11 Got together
- 12 Old Mexican
- 13 Seven, in Seville
- 14 As to
- 15 Luxury Italian car
- 16 Second-largest city in Greece
- 17 Shut entirely
- 18 Tall
- 24 With an inky implement
- 29 Stage after larva
- 30 Bicycle pedal attachment
- 32 Soft felt hat
- 33 Actress Katey
- 34 Categorize
- 35 PD alert
- 39 Big oil gp.

- 40 College-level H.S. courses
- 41 Some vipers
- 42 "Skyfall"
- 43 actress Harris
- 43 Writer Capote
- 44 Holster item
- 45 Invite (to)
- 46 Get reduced in price
- 47 Suffix with north
- 49 Surpass in competition
- 53 Wriggly fish
- 54 Sheep's cry
- 55 Razor brand
- 56 Stephen of films
- 57 Weeding aid
- 60 Fly- (pilots' stunts)
- 62 Ran amok
- 63 Brand of bath additives
- 64 Actress Tippi
- 66 Slangy "sweetie"
- 67 Denver-to-Bismarck dir.
- 68 Call a halt to
- 69 Pull sharply than med.
- 73 Imagine
- 76 Young and in-experienced
- 78 Really weak
- 79 First lady McKinley

- 80 Stinging flier
- 81 Wall creeper
- 82 Hold and use
- 83 Part of many a kid's lunchbox meal, for short
- 84 Shimmer, as an opal
- 85 It's stuffed into an olive
- 87 Potato cover
- 90 After point number eight
- 91 Bar on a car
- 92 2016 Summer Olympics locale
- 93 1992 Summer Olympics locale
- 94 Frankness
- 97 Fall flowers
- 99 Regional life
- 100 Church parts
- 101 Bert's bestie
- 102 Some RSVPs
- 103 Defiant kid's declaration
- 104 About, timewise
- 105 Masks
- 106 College VIP
- 107 Rakish guy
- 112 "SNL" ailer
- 113 NHL's Bobby
- 114 'Fore
- 115 Pale-looking

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		5	1		9			6	
4			7						3
	3			4		2			
2					4				5
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9	6		8			1			
	1				5	9			
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		9		8		3	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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1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15		16	17	18	
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110																					
116																					
120																					





# 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

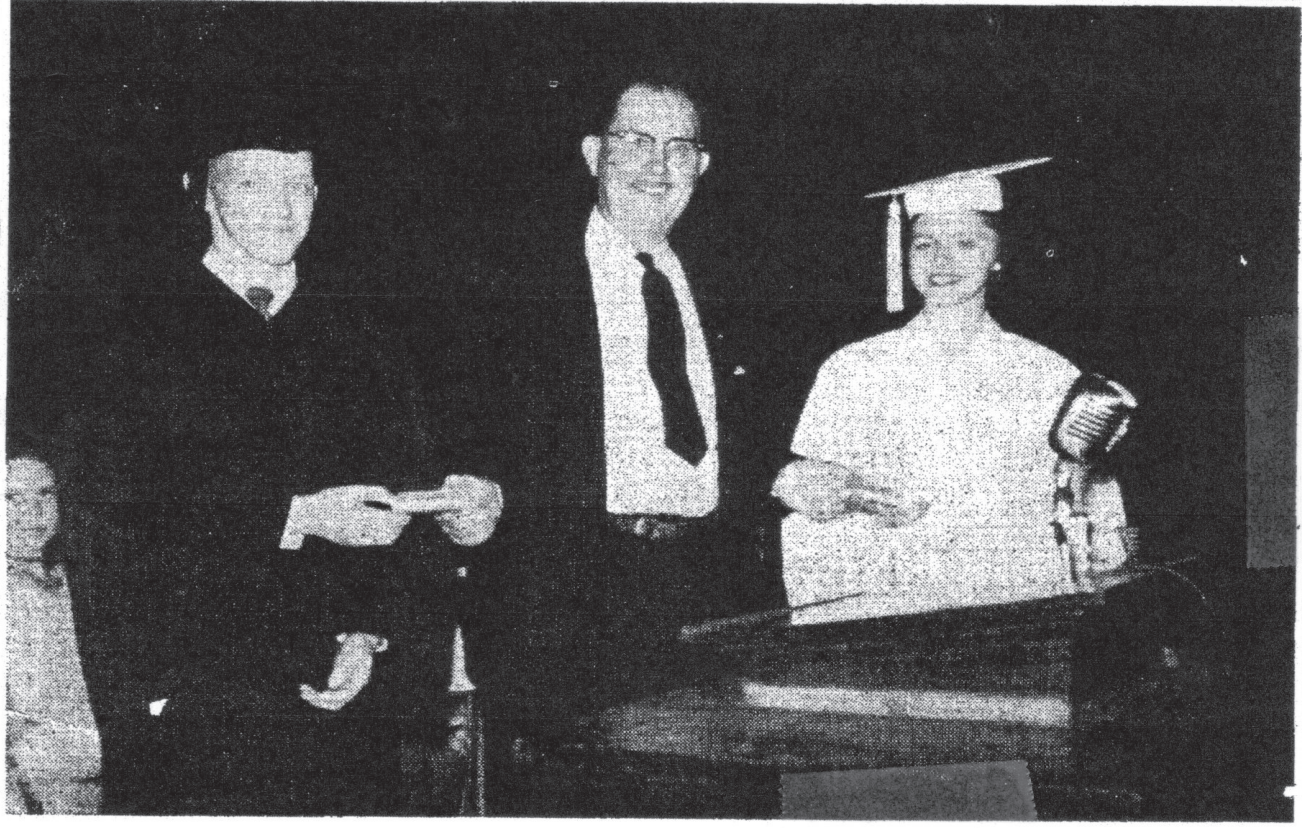
### Ashley And Given Win Rotary Awards

The presentation of the awards is being made by Rotary Club President, John L. Henley to Miss Dorothy Ann Ashley of Dillé; and James William Given of Strange Creek. (Photo right)

For the 10th consecutive year Widen Rotary Club has presented gold engraved medals as an all-around student award to a senior boy and girl who have been considered the most outstanding from the 9th through the 12th grades inclusive in the Widen High School. In 1948, which was an all girl class, Joyce Marple was the sole winner. Other winners have been: Joan Zickafoose and Louis Bragg, 1949; June Johnson and Ronald Nottingham, 1950; Dorothy Eagle and Charles Houghton, 1951; Claudia Ashley and David Patton, 1952; Janet Ramsey and John Strickland, 1953; Betty Butler and Keith Young, 1954; Anita Butcher and Jerry Samples, 1955; Ruth Lykins and Kennith Young, 1956; Dorothy Ashley and James Given, 1957.

The applicants are rated in the following manner by all of the high school teachers who have had them at some time during the 4 years:

Rating Of Applicant	
A. Scholastic Standing	50 points
B. Extra-Curricular Activities	30 points
1. Athletics	15 points
2. Class fund raising	5 points
3. Dramatics	5 points
4. Journalism	5 points
C. Adaptability	20 points
1. Boy Scouts	4 points
2. Church Attendance	4 points
3. Sunday School Attendance	4 points
4. Student Council	4 points
5. Integrity and Leadership	4 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>



Ninth Grade - - - Mrs. Osborne	
"A"	
Lillie Nash	3.89
James Phares	3.89
Karen Donahue	3.50
"B"	
Abe Holmes	3.06
Tenth Grade - - - Mrs. Griffith	
"A"	None
"B"	
David Hamrick	3.35
Judy LaCorte	3.50
Ruby Holcomb	3.15
Eleventh Grade - - - Miss Woods	
"A"	
Lillian Dodrill	3.75
"B"	
Helen Ellis	3.48
Alice Hamrick	3.15
Twelfth Grade - - - Miss Bailes	
"A"	
Dorothy Ashley	3.94
Mary Helen Mullins	3.75
Karl Wayne Butcher	3.69
Lois Rapp	3.67
Gayle Butcher	3.65
Betty Chapman	3.55
Relda Jean Nettles	
James Given	3.50
Jewell Ramsey	3.50
"B"	
Charlotte Smith	3.44
Patsy Gibson	3.38
Lois Ann Sigman	3.34
Helen Mae Sigman	3.30

**Dr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Combs**  
Dr and Mrs. Combs, (Charlotte Richardson) came home from Norman, Oklahoma, just prior to surgery for Mrs. Combs' father, A. S. Richardson and have returned to their respective positions at the University of Oklahoma and the Tinker Air Force Base.

### Widen Boys Predominate In Baseball's Little League

There are more boys from Widen than any other community in the county taking part in the Clay County Little League Baseball games at Bradley Field in Clay. Widen playground director Jerome V. Pinney says that "some forty boys in both Little and Pony Leagues are now participating in the schedule."

The Little Leaguers play every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 o'clock; and the Pony League every Wednesday and Friday at the same hour, both DST. Messrs Hubert Moore and Herbert Shimer of the Clay High School staff are in charge.

The League is financed by the County Board of Education paying for supervision, and donations from business men and organiza-

tions take care of uniforms and equipment. The directors say that the treasurer is in need of reimbursements to their operating fund, and interested friends and parents should send in contributions to Mr. Moore immediately.

Widen boys are severely handicapped by the problem of transportation, which at times breaks down, and not enough motorists are going their way in time for them to hitch-hike rides to the playing field. Others who are fortunate enough to obtain rides in time for the six o'clock games are left stranded afterwards, sometimes not reaching home until nearly midnight.

If some Widen organization would like to provide the money for gas and oil needed to make the round trip, playground director Pinney will be happy to try to find cars for the project in advance of starting time.

### Thirty-Two Make High School Honor Roll

Second Semester, 1956-57	
Seventh Grade - - - Mrs. Sizemore	
"A"	None
"B"	
Kathleen Miles	3.31
Gary Graham	3.25
Ronald Holmes	3.06
Eighth Grade - - - Mr. Matheny	
"A"	
Virginia Nettles	3.74
Robert Baughman	3.56
Eugene George, Jr.	3.56
Terry Shaffer	3.50
"B"	
Karen Mick	3.06

## THOMAS, FIELD & COMPANY

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

DISTRIBUTORS OF DRY GOODS, NOTIONS AND FLOOR COVERINGS

AT ALL

# ELRICO STORES

### LEGAL NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

To maintain necessary clearances for safe and reliable electric service, Appalachian Power Company plans to manage vegetation along the Hartland - Clay portion of its 12-kilovolt distribution system in Clay County, WV. On or about June 26, 2023, contract crews will begin to trim and remove trees and brush and apply herbicides along our rights-of-way. Work will be done in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines and consider factors such as tree species, growth characteristics, line voltage, etc. In unmaintained or undeveloped areas cuttings will remain on site to minimize soil disturbance and to promote biodegradation.

Rights-of-way in this area involved in the program are: Hartland Rd., State Rt. 16, Lick Branch Rd., Harmony Ln., Little Blue Knob Rd., Nicholas Rd., Clay-Maysel Rd., Pisgah Ridge Rd., Elk River Rd., Beechy Ridge Rd., Little Beechy Ridge Rd., Sycamore Creek Rd., Blue Knob Rd., and State Rt. 4.

Representatives will attempt to personally contact resident property owners at least seven business days prior to working on their property. Specifics regarding your property may be discussed at that time. If you are a nonresident property owner and have questions regarding our right-of-way maintenance, they may be directed to:

Appalachian Power Company  
Forestry Department  
404 29th St. West  
Charleston, WV 25387  
(304) 746-2791

### LEGAL NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

To maintain necessary clearances for safe and reliable electric service, Appalachian Power Company plans to manage vegetation along the Belva - Swiss portion of its 34-kilovolt distribution system in Nicholas, Fayette and Clay counties, WV. On or about June 26, 2023, contract crews will begin to trim and remove trees and brush and apply herbicides along our rights-of-way. Work will be done in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines and consider factors such as tree species, growth characteristics, line voltage, etc. In unmaintained or undeveloped areas cuttings will remain on site to minimize soil disturbance and to promote biodegradation.

Rights-of-way in this area involved in the program are: 20 Mile Creek Rd., Backus Br. Rd., State Rt. 39, Bell Creek Rd., Rock Camp Rd., Riverfront Dr., Rich Creek Rd., Jodie Rd., S. Swiss Rd., and State Rt. 16.

Representatives will attempt to personally contact resident property owners at least seven business days prior to working on their property. Specifics regarding your property may be discussed at that time. If you are a nonresident property owner and have questions regarding our right-of-way maintenance, they may be directed to:

Appalachian Power Company  
Forestry Department  
404 29th St. West  
Charleston, WV 25387  
(304) 746-2791

### LEGAL IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

TO: ZIAIAH MATTHEW BLACKWELL  
3038 LIVERPOOL RD  
LEROY, WV 25252  
DOB: 2/17/2000

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION PROTECTIVE ORDER

- The object of this suit is to obtain protection from the Respondent.
- The object of this Publication by Class I legal advertisement is to notify Respondent of the PROTECTIVE ORDER prohibiting the above-named Respondent from having contact with certain individuals. This Order may affect property and other rights of the Respondent. Violating this Order may subject the Respondent to criminal sanctions. The Respondent is strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of this Protective Order from the Circuit Clerk of the County listed above.

#### 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. This PROTECTIVE ORDER will remain in effect until SEPTEMBER 27, 2023.

The Respondent may appeal this Protective Order pursuant to WV Code §48-27-510, within 10 days of the date the Order was entered. Issued this 29th day of June 23, 2023 at 10:21 a.m.

*Clarissa Henshaw*  
Clerk of the Court

**Caring.com**

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(855) 935-2903

### 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.

*Clarissa Henshaw*  
Circuit Clerk

### 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.

*Clarissa Henshaw*  
Circuit Clerk



**LEGAL**

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF WEST VIRGINIA  
CHARLESTON  
TARIFF FORM NO. 10  
**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO CHANGE RATES**  
(Tariff Rule 19-A)  
CASE NO. 23-0254-PWD-19A  
CLAY-ROANE PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

On 24, 2023, Clay-Roane Public Service District filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia as Application requesting increased rates and charges for furnishing water service to approximately 855 customers in Clay and Roane Counties, West Virginia.

The staff of the Public Service Commission have reviewed the Application and recommended increased rates and charges designed to produce annual revenue of approximately \$127,621, which is an overall increase of 18.98% over current rates. The current and recommended rates are as follows:

	Current	Recommended
First 10,000 gallons used per month	\$ 21.14	\$ 25.16
Over 10,000 gallons used per month	\$ 13.87	\$ 16.51
<b>Minimum Charge</b> (per month)		
5/8 inch meter	\$ 42.28	\$ 50.32
3/4 inch meter	\$ 63.42	\$ 75.48
1 inch meter	\$ 105.70	\$ 125.80
1-1/2 inch meter	\$ 211.40	\$ 251.60
2 inch meter	\$ 338.24	\$ 402.56
3 inch meter	\$ 676.48	\$ 805.12
4 inch meter	\$ 1,057.00	\$ 1,258.00
6 inch meter	\$ 2,114.00	\$ 2,516.00
8 inch meter	\$ 3,382.40	\$ 4,025.60
<b>Leak Adjustment</b>	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.13

Anyone desiring to review the Staff recommendation report may do so on the Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us). Anyone desiring to protest the changed rates and charges must do so, in writing, within ten (10) days of the date of publication of this notice. All protests may be filed on line through the Commission website using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, West Virginia 25323, or hand-delivered to the Public Service Commission. To help the Commission determine the justification for additional review and investigation, protests must be specific as to reasons that the changed rates and charges should be modified.

The Commission may adopt rates and charges which are the same as, greater than or less than the Staff-recommended rates and charges.

CLAY-ROANE PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

**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.

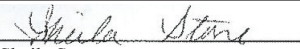
An interested person(s) objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this state must file a statement with the Clay County Commission through the County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after 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, July 6, 2023

ESTATE NAME: John J. Worthington, 2534 Dartmouth Woods Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810  
ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR: Anna Wise, Community Minerals, 2925 Richmond Ave., Suite 1200, Houston, TX 77098

Subscribed and sworn to before me on July 28, 2023.

  
Sheila Stone  
Clerk of the Clay County Commission

**LEGAL**

**Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees**

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Clay County Clerk's Office at P.O. Box 190, 246 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043-0190. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Clay County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 or 44-3A.

Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.

Publication Date Thursday, July 6, 2023

Claim Deadline Monday, September 4, 2023

APPOINTMENT DATE 06/02/2023  
ESTATE NAME: **DAVID L BRANNON**  
EXECUTOR DANIEL THOMAS HIGGS  
2437 LARKIN RD  
LEXINGTON KY 40503-2621

APPOINTMENT DATE 05/19/2023  
ESTATE NAME: **EUGENE BRADY BROWN**  
EXECUTRIX RETTA LOIS BROWN  
811 FOLA RD  
BICKMORE WV 25019

APPOINTMENT DATE 05/12/2023  
ESTATE NAME: **GARY H BUTCHER SR**  
ADMINISTRATOR CTA GARY BUTCHER JR  
223 IVYDALE RIDGE RD  
IVYDALE WV 25113

ADMINISTRATOR CTA LISA BUTCHER MURPHY  
96 SHOP HOLLOW RD  
CLAY WV 25043

APPOINTMENT DATE 06/14/2023  
ESTATE NAME: **BONNIE DUFFIELD**  
CO EXECUTRIX DEBRA RAPP  
4319 MOORE FORK RD  
DUCK WV 25063-8321

CO EXECUTRIX CATHERINE NICHOLS  
2919 MOORE FORK RD  
DUCK WV 25063-8373

APPOINTMENT DATE 05/26/2023  
ESTATE NAME: **DIMPLE LEAH LEGG**  
ADMINISTRATRIX RACHEL MASSEY  
PO BOX 252  
PINCH WV 25153

APPOINTMENT DATE 04/26/2023  
ESTATE NAME: **BARBARA E TAYLOR**  
EXECUTRIX PAULA J. TAYLOR GROSE  
PO BOX 333  
NITRO WV 25143

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 06/28/2023

Connie Workman  
County Clerk  
Clay County  
P.O. Box 190  
246 Main Street  
Clay WV 25043-0190

**LEGAL**

TO: **RAYMOND BROWN**  
**904 PROCIOS MAYSSEL RD**  
**CLAY, WV 25043**  
**RAYMOND BROWN**  
**C/O JULIA CALLAGHAN, GAL**  
**600 MAIN STREET**  
**SUMMERSVILLE, WV 26651**  
**RAYMOND BROWN**  
**C/O HUTTONSVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER**  
**PO BOX 1**  
**HUTTONSVILLE, WV 26273**  
**BRANDY BROWN**  
**904 PROCIOS MAYSSEL RD**  
**CLAY, WV 25043**

**NOTICE OF SALE**

Under authority of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 15, 2019, from Raymond Brown and Brandy Brown to J. Gregory Gency and Raymond G. Dodson, Trustees, securing Clay County Bank, Inc., a West Virginia corporation, in the amount of \$9,036.48, of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 144, at page 836, default having been made in the payment of the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust, and sale having been requested in writing by the holder of the indebtedness secured, the undersigned, Andrew C. Shaffer, Substitute Trustee, by virtue of Appointment of Successor Trustee dated March 13, 2023 and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Miscellaneous Book 36, at page 584, will offer for sale at the front door of the Clay County Courthouse in Clay, West Virginia, on August 23, 2023, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., the certain real estate conveyed in said Deed of Trust, bounded and described as follows:

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of real estate, together with any and all improvements and buildings thereon, rights of way incidental thereto, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate on Butler's Two Run Creek, in Henry District, Clay County, West Virginia, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point in the edge of State Route 4, said point being at the base of a rock cliff and approximately 150 feet below a fire hydrant, across from Ellis' Garage and turning thence northeast 33 degrees and traveling in said direction 1200 feet to a stake; thence in a northeasterly direction 80 degrees and traveling approximately 1250 feet to the outside boundary of the original tract and also a point in line common with Butcher property; thence with the outside lines of the original tract of land and adjoining property owners running toward State Route 4, to the place of beginning, containing twenty-five acres, more or less, but this is a sale by boundary and not by acre and shall contain no more than one-fourth of the original tract of land from which this conveyance is a part and shall be the southeasterly one-fourth of said original tract of land.

Being the same property conveyed unto Raymond Brown and Brandy Brown by that certain deed dated February 14, 2014 from Rita Williams, of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 212, at page 573.

This conveyance will also be made subject to any and all reservations, exceptions, restrictions, rights of way and easements contained in prior deeds affecting said property of record in said Clerk's office or visible on the ground.

This property will be conveyed by Trustee together with the hereditaments thereof and all building, structures and improvements now or hereafter situate thereon and all fixtures, materials, supplies, equipment, machinery and other property as is now or may hereafter be an accession thereto, be a fixture thereto or be otherwise treated or deemed as a part of the land described herein, all of which is included in the term "property" as used herein. By way of example and not by way of limitation, such fixtures and accessions shall include heating, cooling and air-conditioning units, plumbing and electrical fixtures and equipment, built-in appliances of every kind, boilers, machinery, motors, wall-to-wall carpeting, storm doors and windows, awnings and all furnishings attached to the property.

The above-described real estate will be conveyed by the undersigned Trustee to the purchaser by deed containing a Covenant of Special Warranty and subject to all liens, reservations and exceptions appearing in the record of title, and to the lien of all unpaid taxes, if any, which are entitled to priority over the lien of the aforesaid deed of trust. Purchaser must pay all transfer taxes, delinquent or current real estate taxes, title search and any costs related to recording of any Deed from the Trustee herein.

**TERMS OF SALE**

Any successful bidder shall pay 10% of the sales price as a deposit in Certified Funds or Cash at the time of sale with the balance to be paid within 30 days from date of sale. The above-described real estate will be sold by the undersigned Trustee by auction to the highest bidder subject to the right of the Trustee to reject all bids if in his opinion they are inadequate. The owner of the indebtedness secured by the above-described deeds of trust and the owner of any other interest in the properties to be sold shall have the right to bid.

**CONTINUANCE OR ADJOURNMENT OF SALE**

The Trustee reserves the right to continue the sale, or adjourn the sale for a time, or from time to time, and the place of sale, as hereinabove set forth, or any continuance or adjournment thereof.

Dated: June 29, 2023

  
Andrew C. Shaffer, Trustee

**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 Dolores 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.

CLAYCOUNTYFREEPRESS.COM



**SMOKEY SAYS—**  
**Care will prevent**  
**9 out of 10 woods fires!**





# CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CLAY COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Night Service 7:00 PM  
 Wednesday Night Service 7:00 PM.  
 Everyone welcome.

**CLAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Worship 11:00 AM.  
 Everyone is Welcome!  
**Pastor: Wilma Dobbins**

**CLENDENIN UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
 10:00 AM – Sunday School  
 11:00 AM – Preaching  
 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday 7:30 PM  
**Pastor: Fred Walker**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GROVES CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 Sunday Service 10:00 AM  
 Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
 Friday Service 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Dean Rogers**

**H**  
**HALLBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Sunday Sunday 10:30 AM  
 Sunday Night Preaching 6:00 PM  
**Pastor: Michael Jackson**

**HARTLAND COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Wednesday Night Service 7:00 PM  
 Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM  
**Pastor: Jeremy Holcomb**

**HORNERS FORK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM  
 Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Joe Dawson**

**HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
 Hansford Fork Rd, Maysel, WV (off Rt. 36)  
 Pentecostal/Full Gospel  
 Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday evening 7:00 PM  
 Pastor: (304) 587-2996 (home), (304) 587-2703 (church)  
**Pastor: James R. Paxton**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LEATHERWOOD FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Service 7:00 PM  
 Wednesday Services 7:00 PM

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

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

**LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
 Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Mark Dudley**  
 Phone 304-286-5909

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

**LIVING GOD WORSHIP CENTER**  
 We invite you to come and worship with us.  
 Thursday Evening 7:00 PM  
 Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
**Pastor: Cecil Lee**

**LIZEMORE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
 Sunday School 10-11:00 AM  
 Church Service 11-12 Noon  
 Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Robert Thomas**

**M**  
**MAYSEL COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 Sunday School 10:00  
 Sunday Night 6:00 PM  
 Monday Night Service 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00 PM  
 Everyone welcome!

**MAYSEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Worship Service 11:00 AM  
 Everyone Welcome  
**Pastor: Jim Hamrick**

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

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

Everyone welcome!  
**MUD FORK CHURCH**  
 Sunday & Jr. Worship Service 10:00 AM  
 Sunday School 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Night 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Night & Jr.

Church Service 7:00 PM  
 Everyone Welcome!  
**Pastor: Christopher Stout**

**N**  
**NEBO BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Preaching every Sunday Morning at 10:00 AM

Sunday School 11:00 AM  
 Preaching, Prayer Meeting  
 Wednesday at 7:30 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# Strong will and determination: a peoples' story



Fireworks were on display at the levee in Charleston. Allen Hamrick Photo

By Allen Hamrick

Here it is July 4<sup>th</sup> and the biggest things on peoples' minds are fireworks, camping, boating and hanging out with family while chomping down on some 4<sup>th</sup> of July chow off the grill. Rightly so, too. We have reason to enjoy the freedom to put pancake syrup on a hot dog, don't we? Of course we do, but let's not forget what those rockets' red glare is all about. Our national anthem proclaims, "*And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.*" There is no way that this article, along with twenty more volumes, could portray the history in detail of this United States even though the land is very young compared to other countries. The history of this country started long before 1776 and continues to evolve everyday, sometimes good and sometimes not so good depending on your politics.

Change is inevitable and remembering history takes a backseat to everything else, especially in the classroom. For instance, go and ask someone who Daniel Boone was or George Washington was. Most youth will tell you exactly who he is...he wore a coonskin cap or he's the guy on the quarter. What was the Stamp Act? They will tell you it was a scene in a play they saw in New York. How about the Boston Massacre? Wasn't that when that blonde headed man got killed by the Indians? Daughters of Liberty? Of course, they're a group of women from Texas who stand behind people who don't get a fair shake in life. All these events and groups were part of the beginning of this country before 1776. It was a time when people got tired of the status quo of bowing to established orders; it was a time that people took control of their own lives. So from 1775 to 1781, the American people fought against a powerful British Empire that was determined to control their fate as well as that of every newborn from that time forward. However, those early people, with a minimum of fire power, pitchforks and wooden canoes, overcame the armies and navies of that great country.

These determined people called themselves Patriots which infuriated the British and

## Employment



Members of Generation West Virginia's 2023 fellowship program listen to a presentation about career opportunities in tourism. Photo courtesy Generation West Virginia

decline and limited opportunities for economic mobility. There are also lower numbers of college graduates and the continued decline of once-prominent state industries to consider.

It all combines to create a situation where the state struggles on two different sides: on one end there is an issue with retaining the current and future workers already living here. And on the other end, there is an issue with attracting out-of-state workers and their families who might move into the state if its workforce was doing better. As issues mount, a growing group of nonprofits, academics, and local governments see addressing the former as the most immediate concern.

### How nonprofits are bringing new energy to addressing West Virginia's workforce woes

After wrapping up a stint in the Army and returning to his hometown, Huntington native Trey Chambers was working in a restaurant and considering going back to school. But he was in his mid-twenties and wasn't sure college was the best option, particularly once the pandemic hit.

That's when a boss told him about NewForce, a technical skills program that provides a free six-month training in software development. Chambers was accepted last year, and after a busy few months juggling his restaurant job with front and back-end development training, he finished the program in January.

Since then, he's put his skills to use as a new web developer for Bulldog Creative, a Huntington advertising agency. In his current role he primarily helps create websites, using skills that he had struggled to build on his own before entering NewForce.

"The only thing I had to risk was my time, and without this [opportunity] I would still be in the restaurant industry," he said.

In some ways, the start of Chambers' story is common among young people in West Virginia, many of whom face difficulty finding meaningful employment and gaining the skills vital to land better paying jobs. And to help address the problem, nonprofits like Generation West Virginia, which runs NewForce, have stepped in to help with job training as a way to slow the brain drain.

"I think that in West Virginia we have grown up with the understanding that to be successful you have to leave," said Alex Weld, the executive director of Generation West Virginia. "We've got to be better about celebrating the opportunities here and making those opportunities clear for West Virginians."

Besides NewForce, Generation West Virginia is also trying to keep more young people in West Virginia through a nine-month fellowship program and its Career Connector, which connects job seekers and employers.

The resource was useful for Jessica Stidham, who moved to West Virginia with her husband in 2015. The Career Connector helped her land a new job as an assistant director of First Ascent, a new program aimed at developing and retaining other young workers in the state.

For her, addressing the state's workforce crisis is crucial, not only to improve economic conditions, but also to give workers something that she has found for herself here: a sense of fulfillment.

"It is one thing to have a job with a steady income, that's definitely important," she said. "But being able to work and travel and have a good quality of life and ability to enjoy natural resources has [also] been a big draw."

But job training and networks are only part of the solution.

"A lot of the barriers to the workforce are human," said

caused them to make mistakes that cost Britain the war - all because of a word. It was a great political victory from the standpoint of a people who organized into colonies and declared their independence. The war was a victory for people who could now find their place in a society governed by their own neighbors. However, like most good things, this utopia came to an end. America has enjoyed freedoms, as well as endured difficult times of war, not only across the seas but also on our own turf. In times of political upheaval, the fallout has shaken the very foundation of this country and the principles it was founded on. Unfortunately, that still happens to this day. Will we ever get it right? Who knows? We still don't have it set in stone and may never get it perfect.

The Revolutionary War took care of a lot of problems yet at the same time created just as many. The desire for freedom and autonomy started the process of the thirteen original colonies becoming the United States of America. People have poured into the county over the years, and America has become a melting pot of a multitude of opinions and dissensions. We seem to have become a people who have lost the ideas of what got this country started. Perhaps we need to reflect on the desires of our forefathers and not focus solely on our own.

Many of the working class families of that time endured some of the worst of conditions, but because of those hard working generations who were inventors, story tellers, wood wrights, blacksmiths, loggers, pioneers, mountain men, trappers, farmers, and such, all of them built and rebuilt when all seemed lost and struggled to keep food on the table. It has been said that a ship doesn't sink because of the water around it but due to the water that gets in it. Those previous generations made it because they worked together to make life bearable and better for future generations and all the while kept the water at bay. Today, it seems as if the water is getting in the ship from every direction, and America is in danger of sinking.

Those generations of people of our past looked at tragedy as giving them a greater purpose and a chance to see life as being more than just about themselves; they became transcendental in their thoughts and in their actions. Their lives, struggles and accomplishments should be taught in schools, not so much the political aspect but the people aspect, the resilience. Government would not exist if not for the working people who keep the money train moving. Government would not exist if not for people who had vision and created opportunity for those that had none. Look into your own family tree and somewhere you will find individuals who made a difference, who were among those helped build this country we call the United States of America.

So, when you see the fireworks, remember what they are about - a time when our ancestors fought and died to blaze the way for us to be free. Freedom costs and not in any form of money can one pay for it. The only way to get freedom is through sacrifice of not only effort and time but also of lives. Francis Scott Key, and no, he wasn't a locksmith, was inspired to pen *The Defense of Fort McHenry*, otherwise known as *The Star Spangled Banner*; when the British navy fleet attempted to bomb Fort McHenry in an attempt to take over the town. The people and the fort stood strong, and the British were defeated. The actions of the Patriots when this county was formed were a thing of beauty. It is never over, though; hope is the last thing that dies within its people. Let's not let it die in our country. "*Oh, say does that star spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*" Let not the last legacy of we the people be a bitter taste to the future of this county. We all are Americans, like it or not, and there is a standard that we the people set long ago; let's not lose sight of it. Happy 4<sup>th</sup>.

(cont. from Front)

Coalfield Development founder Brandon Dennison. The organization aims to reimagine Southern West Virginia's economy, taking an area once dominated by coal and transforming it to handle new industries.

Part of doing that, Dennison says, means working with people who face bigger challenges than skill gaps: people in recovery, people who have struggled to gain employment, and others who have faced significant barriers in a job search.

"We see ourselves modeling a different and better way to do workforce development," he said. "We know we can't re-employ everyone that needs to be re-employed but we do create paid jobs for people who face severe barriers to employment."

Coalfield Development also plays a leading role in the Appalachian Climate Technology, or ACT Now Coalition. The group includes several nonprofits, state universities, municipalities and local governments, unions, and other groups, all focused on improving both economic and environmental conditions in the state. Last fall, the coalition was awarded a Build Back Better grant from the federal government, receiving \$62.8 million and another \$30 million in philanthropic funds to support its efforts.

Even so, nonprofit leaders like Dennison and Weld do face difficulties, especially with scale. Efforts to expand the workforce require a lot of money, and nonprofits aren't guaranteed to reach every person in need of help. This means that even with the progress independent groups have accomplished, deeper solutions, *statewide solutions*, remain necessary.

### Increasing West Virginia's workforce requires a wide-ranging list of solutions — many of them people-oriented

While the sorts of jobs and skills training offered by these nonprofit organizations, government offices like Workforce WV, and local community and technical colleges are in demand, closing a skills gap is only one aspect of what needs to be done to help West Virginia's workforce.

There also needs to be a focus on what Deskens referred to as "human capital": improving the conditions that affect a person's interest in and ability to work. That can include issues with transportation access, health, substance abuse, discrimination, and previous interactions with the justice system.

Another factor that economists identified as a particularly pressing — and potentially more easily solvable — issue is increasing access to child care. The latter is an especially significant factor for women, who have entered the workforce in significant numbers in recent decades, but who are often the first to leave due to child care reasons. West Virginia currently has the lowest female workforce participation rate in the country.

"I think child care access is sort of an understudied thing in West Virginia, in terms of its contribution to labor force participation," said Heather Stephens, the director of WVU's Regional Research Institute. "We don't have good child care access and that makes it very difficult for parents of young children."

The endgame goal then, is for a number of changes to happen that all contribute to better situations for workers.

"I wish the problem was tax policy, because that is a problem that we could fix easily," Deskens said. "But if you have a bad drug abuse problem, a bad health problem, it takes a long time, years, to fix those."

This story was originally published by Mountain State Spotlight. For more stories from Mountain State Spotlight, visit [www.mountainstatespotlight.org](http://www.mountainstatespotlight.org).



Coalfield Development crew members and trainees work on a number of projects to help boost the workforce and revitalize the economy of Southern WV. Photo courtesy Coalfield Development

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