



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple

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Missing, Dead or Alive - Clay County Roots



Clay County's Natural Park and Splash Pad sets Grand Opening

By: Betty Holcomb

The WVU Extension office, Be Healthy team members Ami Cook and Mike Shamblin, and local project managers and volunteers have completed Clay County's natural playground and splash pad located at the old Telford's lot on Main Street.

This playground was designed to incorporate flowers, trees, grass, and soil to encourage kids to explore and get more comfortable with their environment. The design, which was done by Peter Butler, features multiple obstacles, a climbing wall, slide, and an above ground tunnel decorated with natural flowers and other natural elements.

Felicia Woods, Daniel Coleman, Angela Brown, and Melanie Sangle volunteered to assist in the wall's assembly. Shane Morton, owner of Morton

Excavating, generously donated his time and skills to help excavate the playground and splash pad area. Many other Clay County residents came out to support the efforts to make Clay fun for the little ones. Thank you to all who donated time and efforts in this project.

The soft opening was held in time for the July 4 weekend, but their Grand Opening is set for July 21 from 12 to 2 p.m. with free snacks and fun. The grand opening is sponsored by the WVU Clay County Extension Office, a Be Healthy grant, the Clay FRN, Clay Health Department, the Town of Clay, and the Clay Senior Center.

Hours of regular operation are every day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

By: Betty Holcomb

The popular Netflix series *Missing, Dead or Alive* investigates cases of people who have disappeared under troubling circumstances. This documentary is based on true events and follows law enforcement as they search for clues about these unsolved cases.

Vicki Lynn Rains, sister of Clay County resident Pam McKinney, is one of those officers that can be seen in this documentary. Rains has been in law enforcement for 23 years for the Richmond County

Sheriff's Department in South Carolina.

You can see Rains in four of the episodes first airing in March of this year as the Richmond County Sheriff's Office works tirelessly to find these missing individuals and bring them home.

"I am very proud of my sister," said McKinney about her younger sister appearing in the new series, which has ranked #1 on Netflix in the US as well as ranking in the top two most viewed shows in 180 countries.

Clay County Pool to host Grandparent Appreciation Day

Grandparent Appreciation Day will be held at the Clay County Pool on Wednesday, July 19, from noon to 4 p.m. There is free admission all day, with door prizes at 1 p.m. This free pool day is sponsored by the WVU Clay County Extension Ser-

vice, Clay FRN through their Healthy Grandfamilies program and gambling prevention from First Choice. Free admission to the Clay County Pool, free healthy snacks, and door prizes including gift cards will be given out around 1 p.m.

Tax cuts, low-balled estimates and volatile revenues: Inside West Virginia's \$1.8 billion budget surplus

By P.R. Lockhart for Mountain State Spotlight

As he sat in a car, speaking to a camera shortly after gallbladder surgery, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice wanted to make it clear that the past few days have been tough. But there was one thing that was keeping him in good spirits: an official \$1.8 billion budget surplus.

"We've shattered all kinds of records for a surplus beyond belief in West Virginia," Justice said on Friday as the fiscal year ended. "\$1.85 billion, it's just mind boggling."

Alongside tax cuts passed earlier this year, Justice has argued that the state surplus is proof of his strong fiscal management skills. And as he mounts a campaign for the U.S. Senate, supporters like Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., argue that Justice is a candidate who "will protect your guns and he's good with your wallet."

But the state's budget surplus, to the extent that it exists, does present some problems.

For one thing, the surplus is caused by a number of factors converging in a way that is unlikely to happen again in the coming years. And Justice has focused on paying for expensive tax cuts over addressing urgent needs in the state, leaving several important state services underfunded - despite having money that could help.

Much of the surplus comes from incredibly volatile severance tax collections

To start, the single biggest contributor to this year's budget surplus is severance tax collections: taxes applied to the extraction, production and sale of natural resources like coal and natural gas. This year, West Virginia collected nearly a billion dollars in severance taxes, more than double what it collected in 2020.

But there are problems with severance taxes making up so much of the budget surplus. As Mountain State Spotlight explained earlier this year, severance tax collections are highly dependent on the price of resources like coal and natural gas.

When those prices go up or go down, severance tax collec-

Attorney General Files Suit Against Cemetery Monument/Gravestone Seller for Allegedly Deceiving Consumers

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey has filed suit against a Clendenin monument/memorial seller for allegedly taking money from consumers and not delivering what they paid for.

Glenn A. Naylor II, who does business as Naylor Monument Sales and Naylor Monument Company LLC, sells gravestones, headstones and other monuments. He is charged with violating the state's Consumer Credit and Protection Act.

The lawsuit is seeking "to enjoin and restrain the Defendant from engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in connection with the sale of memorials and monuments and related activities."

"It's really simple: you must follow the law if you want to do business in West Virginia, and be honest about your work," Attorney General Morrisey said. "Those who defraud consumers must be held accountable to the full extent of the law. The allegations in this case are serious as it in-

volves consumers who are at their most vulnerable state after the death of a loved one."

The state began investigating Naylor's business practices in 2022 after receiving numerous complaints from consumers—that the business took their money but did not deliver or install the cemetery monuments.

The defendant also allegedly dodged calls from consumers seeking answers.

In one instance, a consumer in Cross Lanes placed an order in October 2021 to engrave the date of her mother's death on her headstone, paying in full. Naylor has not done the job—he has not responded to the consumer's calls and text and has not returned the money.

"Most businesses that operate in the state do the right thing but if you cross the line, we're going to make sure there's enforcement. Plain and simple," Attorney General Morrisey said.

Read a copy of the complaint at: <https://bit.ly/3Nw5C2Z>.

Clay County Little League All-Stars win District 8 Runner-Up; Earn Berth to State Tournament

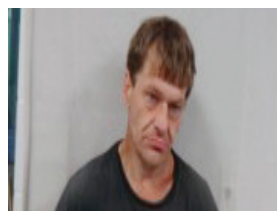


Back row—Coach James Adkins, League President & Coach Michael Parker, Manager Trinity Dorsey; Middle row—standing—Raymond Eggleton, Briar Dorsey, John Paxton, Trenton Parker, Sawyer Deems, Trenton Legg; Front row kneeling - Asher Dorsey, Palmer Adkins, Braze Dorsey, Collin Elliott, Hinton Caldwell. Photo by Jennifer Paxton.

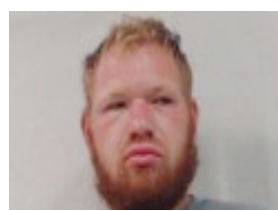
BOOKED

CENTRAL REGIONAL JAIL

BRAXTON COUNTY



Paul Allen Jenkins
Booked 7/7/23
Breaking and entering vehicle, attempting to commit a felony



Nicholas Andrew Kittle
Booked 7/3/23
Solicit minor via computer, see hard copy

CLAY COUNTY

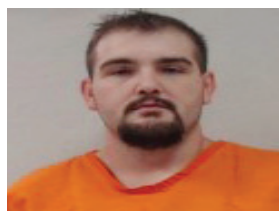


Joseph Daniel Drake
Booked 7/6/23
Destruction of property, harassment, Capias

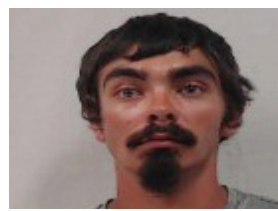


Christopher James Hall
Booked 7/7/23
Warrant (multiple)

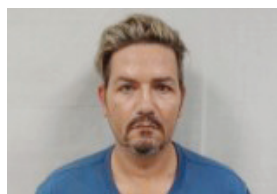
NICHOLAS COUNTY



Dillon Ray Carte
Booked 7/5/23
Capias



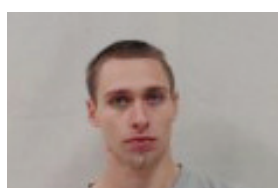
Charlie Michael Price
Booked 7/7/23
Contempt



Kevin Shane Rose
Booked 7/4/23
Probation violation



Daniel Allen Wolfe
Booked 7/6/23
Capias



Justin Steven Young
Booked 7/8/23
Concealment or removal of minor child from custodian

Public Notices

- The CCHS Alumni Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, July 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Harding's Family Restaurant in Mink Shoals. All who attended Clay County High School are invited to attend. A special lunch menu will be available for our group. 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.

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

Answers

V	I	A	G	R	A	B	S	S	E	C	T	M	A	M	B	O	S				
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Have Giggle, Will Laugh

By: Dr. James Snyder

I have many problems in my life. I have yet to recognize all of my problems, but I'm sure I will soon.

That's why it's so great to be married to someone like The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. There is no problem she cannot fix, and I have many examples to prove it.

There is one problem she hasn't been able to fix. That is, I laugh too much. At least, according to her.

If something happens or someone says something, I will start to giggle, and I know that in a short time, I will be laughing. I know how to laugh better than anybody I know. Just ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Through the years, I have tried to moderate it. I don't want to laugh at everything even though there is a giggle inside of me. Most people don't think everything is funny, while I, on the other side, can't think of anything that isn't funny.

Someone may tell me something or say something unwittingly, and I begin to giggle. I know when that starts I have no control over my giggle-itis. The only cure I have found for giggle-itis is laughter.

Someone may be telling a very serious story about their life, and I hear it wrong and think they are saying something altogether different, and it kicks in my giggle-itis.

It wouldn't be so bad if I could control it when it happens, but as history has proven, I cannot.

I do try to keep some things serious. I must confess, however, that changes from day to day. What is serious today may not be serious tomorrow, and I am the last one to know how to control that.

I've often discussed this with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and she has tried to counsel me in this area on how to control my laughter.

I try to explain to her that it is not so much the laughter as it is the giggle. If I could control my giggles, I wouldn't have any problem with laughter. She doesn't get it and laughs at me.

You must agree, there are many things in this world that are funny. And I do not believe we should overlook or ignore those situations.

Last week I was standing in line at the post office, and at the counter was a very nice older lady. She was paying for some postage and gave the cashier a \$50 bill. Then the cashier, preparing to give her money back, said something strange. He said, "Mam, what denomination would you like?"

I hadn't heard that in a long time and was anxious to hear how the lady would respond.

She looked at the cashier with a very serious look and said, "Sir, I'm a Baptist, so give it to me in Baptist denomination."

Little did I know she was not joking, but I laughed at her, trying to conceal it.

The cashier stared at her, not knowing what to do. I'm not sure what money he gave her because I was laughing too much on the inside.

It's so hard for me to laugh on the inside and keep it from getting on the outside. What is inside eventually comes outside. I was laughing about that for the rest of the day. And still, when I think of it, I chuckle on the inside.

Just the other day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came and informed me that she would be gone for the day, thrift store shopping with her daughters. Looking at me, she seriously said, "Can you get your own lunch today while I'm gone?"

That tripped the giggle button inside for some reason, and my giggle-itis had kicked in.

Looking at her while giggling, I said, "Don't worry. I'll clean the refrigerator out by the time you get home."

Then I started laughing almost uncontrollably. She, on the other hand, looked at me with her infamous scowl and said, without laughing, "I don't think so."

I could not stop laughing as she walked out the front door. Several hours later, I was still laughing, and went and looked in the refrigerator to see how much work I had on hand.

When I opened the refrigerator door, I immediately stopped laughing. There at the front was a bowl of broccoli. I know she did that on purpose, and it cured my giggle-itis for a moment. I had to devise a plan for that broccoli to make me laugh and her scowl. Now the giggle-itis is beginning to turn on.

I think a bowl of Apple Fritters would be an excellent replacement. This is one of the few items that will make the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage scowl. To see that scowl will be worth all I can offer at this time.

Just the thought of that began a giggle inside of me. Thinking more of this it developed into laughter. I just can't wait to get even.

While I was laughing, I thought of one my favorite Bible verses. "All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast" (Proverbs 15:15).

When I think of broccoli I have evil feelings, but the Apple Fritter thought brings a lot of merriment to me.

Then I remembered Proverbs 17:22. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

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

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Pastor Doug Newell, IV



Appropriate to Praise

Psalms 147:1-20 Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely. The Scripture here tells us to praise the Lord, and Psalm 147 recommends this duty. A song of praise that both tells us to praise and gives us reasons that the Lord is worthy of all our worship and honor. If anyone is worthy to be commended, it's the Lord.

It's good to praise our God, the Lord Jehovah. It's a good thing to sing praises. It's good in and of itself. God commands praise, so it's a moral good to lift up the voice in song. It's good for us because it blesses the soul. It's good for our minds because we are taught and learn about God through singing songs. It's good for the church to sing.

It is pleasant to sing praises to God. I love listening to music; hearing live music is one of my favorite pastimes. I had the privilege of hearing Handel's Messiah (if you have never been, I highly recommend it). How wonderful it was to hear the Scripture set to beautiful music and sung by a talented choir! It was, in every way, agreeable and pleasing to the ears, the mind, and the soul. But it's also pleasant to praise the Lord in the house of God with my fellow saints. Some of my favorite times have been playing music and singing hymns with my friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

It's appropriate to sing praises to God. Starting in the second verse, Psalm 147 provides many reasons to praise God. He heals the brokenhearted. He is great power and unlimited knowledge. He created and sustains this universe. He provides for man and beast. The LORD himself takes pleasure in His people who hope in His mercy. The Lord treats us better than we deserve. The wages of sin is death, even eternal death, and that's what we rightly have coming to us. But God, who is rich in mercy, sent His only begotten Son into the sin-cursed world, that all who come to Him and rest in Christ will have everlasting life. Jesus lived for us, and He died for us. The guilty sinner can be forgiven; the vilest offender can be made clean. The sinful wretch justified, and the broken sinner glorified. Indeed, it is fitting to sing praises to our God.

Even though God commands us to praise Him, and obedience has benefits, it's still a law. You won't find salvation by keeping it or gain acceptance by doing it. Even though it is good, there is no good news here. Going to Sunday morning meeting won't save you. The good news is there is forgiveness of sins and eternal life in the person of Jesus Christ and that we are saved by grace, not the works of the law. Praise the LORD! It's fitting for someone who has received it to praise God for such salvation.

Better Angels

By: Joseph J. Mazella

A few weeks ago I stopped at a light by an intersection on my way home. I glanced to the side and saw a little, old man on the grass by the road. His face was full of weariness and sadness and he was holding a sign that said: "Please help! Need money for food and dog food." I pulled to the side of the road and talked to him a bit. His wife was ill and on dialysis. And the power and water company had sent them shut off notices unless they were paid in full immediately. They had paid out of fear but now had no money left for food for themselves and their 4 dogs. I drove the guy to a local dollar store and bought him the biggest bag of dog food they had. Then I drove him back to the intersection and headed home.

Instead of feeling glad, though, I could hear the "better angels of my nature" whispering in my ear. "You bought food for their dogs but not food for them." As I listened my heart hurt and tears came to my eyes. I asked God to please forgive me. Later in the day I drove back to the

intersection hoping to get some food for that poor man and his sick wife but he was already gone. All I could do was pray for God to send better angels than me to help this hurting family.

Looking back on this now I can see that my heart and soul still have a long way to go if I want to become the person I was meant to be. I am still selfish at times. I still judge others. I still don't give my love as freely and joyfully as Our Heavenly Father would want me too. I can only hope that I will continue to learn, to grow, and to become the Child of God I am called to be. And I pray that God will use me to do His will, spread His truth, and share His Love.

I pray too that one day everyone in this world will have enough. I pray that one day we will all listen to the "better angels of our own nature." And I pray that one day we will all love each other as purely and unconditionally as God Loves us.

Home Country

By Slim Randles

It was Windy Wilson's turn, unofficially, of course, to pick a coffee counter topic of learned truth and everlasting beauty. We sorta took turns without keeping score.

"Ya know," said the old camp cook, "Been thinkin'."

We gave him a second or two. Didn't work.

"About what, Windy?" said Doc.

"'bout leisuractuvely activities. You know, what to do when you ain'tdoin' nothin' else."

We grinned and sipped. Good topic, Windy. This works.

"I like to read catalogs," said Herb. "You can get all kinds of ideas in them. Don't much care, really, what kind of catalogs, either. So what if I don't know a thing about wrist watches? I can always learn."

"With me," said Doc, "it's fly fishing. When I've had a hard day with lots of patients, I just want to go down to Lewis Creek and whip the surface film into a froth. Doesn't even matter if I catch anything or not."

"I hear ya," said Dud. "It's a little different with me. Working on writing that mystery ("Murder in the Soggy Bottoms") takes it outa me, you know? So I like to spend my leisure time reading things other guys wrote. After about an hour of reading what some other poor soul suffered through, I'm ready to go fishing with Doc."

Doc looked over at Windy, who had initiated this topic, but strangely seemed content to sit there and listen to the leisurely ideas of others.

"What about you, Windy? How do you unwind?"

"Well, Doc, glad you asked. Them kids was on their way home from school jest t'other day and I come crost 'em when they wasn'tpayin' too much tension. And I could see they hadn't figured out anythin' leisure, you know? So I told 'em 'bout my sure-fire way to relax. What I do is set down on the front porch and think about fun stuff while I pick scabs off the neighbor's dog."

Brought to you by Farmland News in Archbold, OH, where the proof readers are smarter than the contributors on a daily basis. farmlandnews.com.

THE FREEPRESS
'50's and '60's

ROCK
'N'ROLL
TRIVIA

How many #1 singles did Dean Martin have in the rock era? (none, one, two, or three).

Answer to last week's Trivia: The Supremes' hit in which Diana Ross mentions the other two members of the group by name is: "Back In My Arms Again", (June '65) ("How can Mary know" [Mary Wilson] and "Flo she don't know" [Florance Ballard]).

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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

OBITUARIES

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.

July 12, 2003: The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston opened to the public. It combines a modern performing arts center with a visual arts museum and an interactive science center.



July 13, 1861: The Battle of Corrick's Ford took place in Tucker County. Confederate Gen. Robert S. Garnett was killed. He was the first Confederate general killed in the Civil War.

July 14, 1861: Union troops under Gen. Jacob Cox drove Confederate militia and cavalry out of town during the Battle of Barbooursville. Union forces remained in control of Barbooursville for the remainder of the war.

July 15, 1886: Con-

gressman Cleveland Monroe "Cleve" Bailey was born on a farm in Pleasants County. He represented West Virginia's third congressional district for eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1945-47 and 1949-63.

July 15, 1988: Interstate 64 was completed when the final section between Sam Black Church and the West Virginia Turnpike was opened to traffic.



July 16, 1869: Philanthropist Michael Late Benedum was born in Bridgeport. He made a fortune in the oil and gas business but is best remembered for establishing the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

July 17, 1861: The Battle of Scary Creek took place in Putnam County. It was one of the earliest battles of the war and one of the first Confederate vic-

tories.

July 17, 1914: Singer Eleanor Steber was born in Wheeling. She made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1940.

July 17, 1922: The Cliftonville Mine Battle took place east of Wellsburg, Brooke County. The gun battle between striking miners and sheriff's forces left at least nine people dead.

July 18, 1776: Methodist bishop Francis Asbury first set foot in present West Virginia outside of Berkeley Springs. He worked extensively in what is now the Eastern Panhandle, preaching and lecturing almost every day, before continuing farther into western Virginia.



July 18, 1893: Spencer State Hospital opened. With its connected brick buildings, a quarter-mile in length, the hospital was sometimes referred to as the longest continuous brick building in America. It remained in operation until June 1989.

Luigina Paola "Gina" Harold



Luigina Paola "Gina" Harold, 79, of Wallback, went to heaven Monday, June 26, 2023, at HospiceCare at CAMC Memorial Hospital, Charleston.

She was born September 20, 1943, in Vicenza, Italy, the daughter of the late Luigi and Antonia De Lorenzi Miotello. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, H. Lowell Harold, as well as three brothers and one sister.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Christine and Kevin Gray of Elkview and Patricia and Michael Wade of Surgoinville, TN; sister, Maria Pia Miotello of Italy; brothers-in-law, Robert Harold of Newton and David Harold of Lynchburg, VA; sister-in-law, Karen Harold Harmison of Ocala, FL; and many nieces and nephews.

She was a co-owner and operator of Harold's Grocery, Newton. She spent many years as a cook, having worked at the former Newton Grade School, Geary Middle School and Spencer Elementary School. Gina was also a cook for Laurel Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Ivydale for

22 years. Her pastimes included tending to her flowers, cooking and working puzzles.

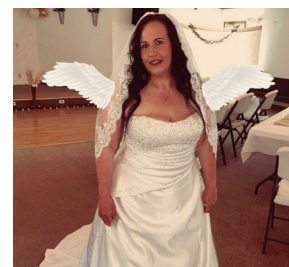
Gina was a loving wife and mother. She was a Christian and was proud to have become a United States citizen in 2002.

A Celebration of Life service is being planned which will be announced at a later date. Her cremated remains along with her husband's remains will be buried at the Smith Cemetery, Uler.

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

Condolences may be shared at www.taylorfuneralhomeinc.com.

Katherine Louise Duffield Spradling



Katherine Louise Duffield Spradling, 47, of Clay, WV went home to be with the Lord on June 29th, 2023.

She is preceded in death by Okla Gordon Duffield and Matilda Ruth Duffield.

She is survived by her husband, James Travis Spradling; two sons, Chase and Colton Cutlip; one daughter, Kashayla Walker; three brothers, Lee, Wayne, and Dwayne Duffield; and one sister, Hope Duffield.

Visitation Service was held from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, July 8, 2023, at Wilson Smith Funeral Home,

Clay, WV, with Minister, Jimmy Adkins officiating. Burial followed in the Duffield Cemetery, Duck, WV.

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

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

Nathaniel Lane "Cheese" Kinter

Nathaniel Lane "Cheese" Kinter, 40, of New Martinsville, WV passed away on Wednesday July 5, 2023 at his mother and sister's home while recuperating from a long illness.

Nathan is preceded in death by his dad, Harry Summers; his brother, Daniel Summers; and both maternal grandparents, Camilien "Frenchy" and Arlene Cloutier all of Wallback, WV.

He is survived by his mother, Brenda Kinter Lyons of Clay; sisters, Natasha Kinter of Clay and Tiffany Kinter of Chloe; two stepsons, Sabastian and Shiloh Rush of New Martinsville; daughter, Shaelyn Kinter, and son, Spencer Kinter, both of New Martinsville; step dad, Thomas Lyons Jr. of Big Otter, WV; several special nieces, nephews, and cousins; his "Ride or Die" cousin Floyd (Megan) Cunningham of Gassaway, WV; aunts Marieanna Cloutier Bourne of Wallback, Kimberly Amino of Indiana, PA; and Uncle Joe Cloutier of Arnoldsburg, WV; and scores of friends.

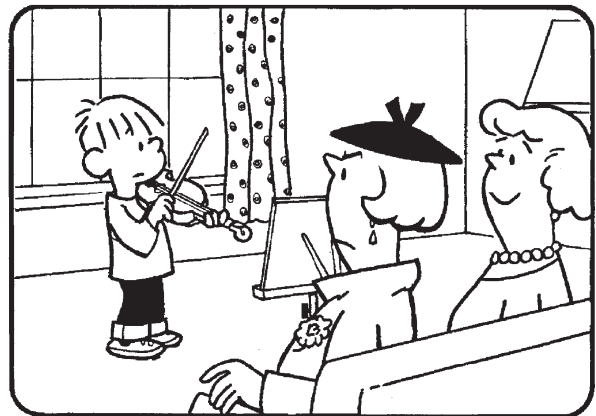
Nathan worked as a shipping manager for several years and really enjoyed his job. He was a jack of all

SEE "OBITUARIES"

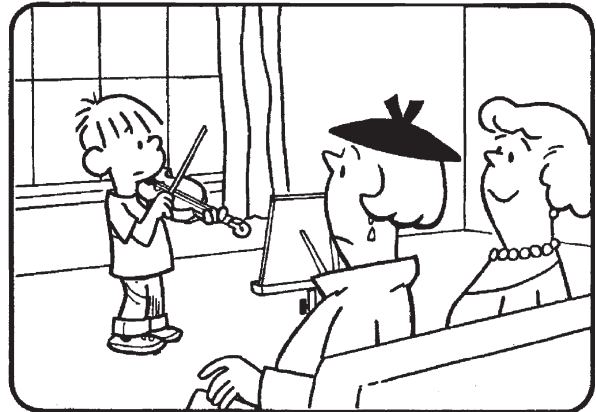
CONT. ON PAGE 8

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sleeve is shorter. 2. Pants are different. 3. Drapes are different. 4. Flower is missing. 5. Lamp is missing. 6. Neckline is lower.

Super Crossword

NINE FLEET

ACROSS

- 1 By means of
- 4 Seizes suddenly
- 9 Niche religion
- 13 Cousins of rumbas
- 19 Noah's craft
- 20 Zellweger of "Bee Movie"
- 21 Assistant of Frankenstein
- 22 Mount where the 19-Across landed
- 23 1987 comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Holly Hunter
- 26 Set fire to
- 27 Streisand musical film
- 28 Diner relative
- 29 Portion (out)
- 31 Part of "GWTW"
- 32 Mosque God
- 35 Black-and-yellow stinging insect
- 39 1993-2004 Chrysler sedan
- 43 Thing to fly in the wind
- 44 Pertaining to
- 45 Seat in a bar
- 46 Seat in a church
- 48 Things
- 52 Give new weapons to
- 54 Fluctuate wildly
- 56 Cole — (shoe brand)
- 59 Curious pet
- 60 Gift label
- 61 Pro — (some tourneys)
- 64 Sport fish also known as "little tuna"
- 68 "Them's the breaks!"
- 71 Title word before "Inferno" or "Peak"
- 72 Came to rest
- 73 Atlanta daily since 2001
- 77 "Game of Thrones" actress
- 78 Charlotte — (Virgin Islands capital)
- 79 Turning out
- 80 Windy City airport
- 84 Adobe Acrobat file
- 85 "— believer!"
- 88 Almond-hued
- 89 Actress Olin
- 90 Plaintiff
- 92 Turns toward
- 94 Darling child
- 96 Perceive
- 99 Imitated a sheep
- 102 — -pedi
- 103 "It's My Turn" singer Diana
- 106 Small, floating cephalopod
- 109 Device used in cardiology
- 113 Actress Eve
- 114 Everything as "little tuna"
- 115 Venus de —
- 116 9-to-5er's shout
- 118 Of a junction point
- 122 Gazed angrily
- 124 Principle of capitalism
- 129 Showing on TV
- 130 Work to make
- 131 Second-largest city of India
- 132 — out a win (just prevail)
- 133 Distant
- 134 California, par exemple
- 135 Stellar hunter
- 136 Abbr. that can precede nine key words in this puzzle

DOWN

- 1 Fluctuate
- 2 "Dies —" (Mass hymn)
- 3 Similar
- 4 Car radiator covering
- 5 Toon pal of Stimp
- 6 "The Ice Storm" director Lee
- 7 Plastic pail or shovel, say
- 8 Toxin fighters
- 9 Form a rough judgment of
- 10 Vanity
- 11 With 15-Down, filmflaming guy
- 12 "Lady and the —"
- 13 Rum cocktail
- 14 Evita's land
- 15 See 11-Down
- 16 Big name in faucet filters
- 17 Solemn vows
- 18 Expensive
- 24 Veteran
- 25 Casual statement of sympathy
- 30 Comic shriek
- 33 Fleur-de — (iris)
- 34 Kitchen pest
- 36 Fabric flaw
- 37 Bardic verse
- 38 Rainy
- 39 Juicy gossip
- 40 Draft-eligible
- 41 Coercing
- 42 Edifice topper
- 47 "Let's suppose ..."
- 49 Like the study of habitats
- 50 County in the Bay Area
- 51 "Undo" mark
- 53 Bryn —, Pennsylvania
- 55 Info that's not up to date
- 57 Pub spigot
- 58 Preposterous
- 62 Domestic household
- 63 Hit hard, as the brakes
- 65 Airline to Copenhagen
- 66 Apnea-treating doc
- 67 Abel's brother
- 69 Blacklisting org. of the 1940s-'50s
- 70 Petting zoo animals
- 73 2008-12 Mets pitcher
- 74 Roman 151
- 75 Suffix with planet
- 76 Petty quarrel
- 77 Eight: Prefix
- 81 Doled-out share
- 82 French inn
- 83 2021 is one
- 86 Diner list
- 87 Sale rack caveat
- 91 Pursued speedily
- 93 Key related to C major
- 95 Bungle
- 97 Lead-in to center or dermis
- 98 Do lunch
- 100 Gift for music
- 101 Clunker
- 104 Wee bit
- 105 Note above fa
- 107 Very strong
- 108 One of a bowler's targets
- 109 "Horrible" cartoon
- 110 Actress Kemper
- 111 Fire alert
- 112 Credit card lure
- 117 — -Chinese
- 119 God, to Gigi
- 120 Inquires
- 121 Some blue jeans
- 123 Brazilian city, in brief
- 125 Hamelin pest
- 126 Slice of time
- 127 Yale attendee
- 128 Pi-sigma link

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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



WILSON



LEGG



REED



MULLINS



STOVER



GROGG

Baseball Takes Spotlight Here For Summer As Fans Follow Team

These players have won 12 games and lost only 3 so far this season, and the Fourth of July exhibition game gives them a chance to redeem one of the losses suffered at the hands of what an unkind reporter was pleased to call the "Henley Hurricanes." Would it be revealing a secret if that reporter reported that a Buffalo unkindly said "on the Fourth we'll show them up for a Big Blow?"

JUNIOR WILSON

Junior Wilson is the son of an illustrious baseball player and fan, Coach Emmett Wilson. He is playing his first season with the Buffaloes, as a utility player.

HAROLD LEGG

Harold holds down the 3rd place spot and pegs a neat ball to first in time to retire the runner. He's a driller in coal.

JOE REED

Joe Reed of Clay, probably the youngest member of the team is a newcomer, doing a good job on the mound or behind the bat.

BUDDY BOY MULLINS

Buddy-Boy is a catcher who enjoys his game, and keeps things lively with his familiar falsetto patter and pep talks. He has been with the team for this season. Picks slate at the tipple.

BOB STOVER

Bob Stover is another outfielder, at home in any one of the three positions, and is enjoying his first year with the Buffaloes.

KENNETH GROGG

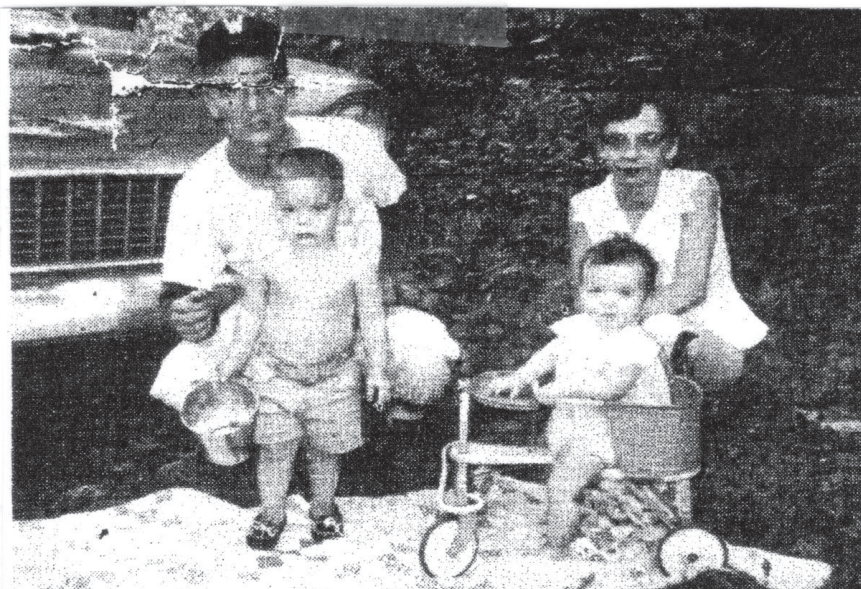
Ken is an electrician, and gives the batter a chill when he gathers in those long hits infrequently batted his way to retire the batter. Ken is another hold-over.

SPECTATORS ENJOY GAME

Pictured here are two scenes, typical of those enacted every time a baseball game is played in Widen. Finding the shady spots on the hillside overlooking the ball diamond, friends, relatives and fans of the Widen Buffaloes, have always turned out to watch the play.

In the top photo, third baseman, Harold Legg paused long enough to join his wife (the former Nancy Jo Reedy) and their two adorable youngsters, Tim and Joyce, who brought husband and daddy to the game—plus eats, playthings, etc.

The bottom photo, seen dimly in the background are Leo Capalba, Vaughan Given and Karl (Red) Butcher. Seated front are Mrs. Tom Miller, whose son Gary is starting with the Buffaloes; Miss Margie Johnson of Little Birch whose "boy friend" was on one of the teams; and Miss Carolyn Waggoner of Widen.



LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 23-0461-G-390P HOPE GAS, INC.

Annual Pipeline Replacement and Expansion Program

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

On May 31, 2023, Hope Gas, Inc. (Hope) filed its Annual Pipeline Replacement and Expansion Program (PREP) Filing with revised PREP Rates, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 24-2-1k, which authorizes the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (Commission) to approve cost recovery of projects to replace, upgrade, and expand natural gas utility infrastructure that are deemed to be just and reasonable and in the public interest.

In its PREP Filing, Hope projects PREP capital investment for calendar year 2024 of \$66.5 million as part of its General Program (core distribution system) and Gathering Program (gathering facilities) under multi-year plans. The PREP Filing also contains a true-up for actual versus projected 2022 calendar year PREP capital investment activity for both the General Program and the Gathering Program. The PREP covers several categories of plant asset replacements and improvements, including mains, service lines, regulator stations and other plant equipment. These plant investments are proposed to be made in Hope service territories throughout the State. These projects are identified in the PREP Filing, which is on file and available for public inspection at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

Hope proposes to recover costs associated with these investments through an increment within the fixed or volumetric, base rate component of its rates depending on the applicable rate schedule under which service is rendered, to be effective on November 1, 2023. Hope projects that if the program and rate increments are approved as requested, the average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed on November 1, 2023, as follows:

HOPE GAS, INC. - PROPOSED

TYPE OF CUSTOMER	\$ INCREASE	% INCREASE
Residential Sales (Rate Class RS)	\$6.45	5.84%
Small Commercial Sales (Rate Class SGS)	\$18.45	4.69%
Small Commercial Transport (Rate Class SGS)	\$164.47	11.91%
Large Commercial Sales (Rate Class LCS)	\$345.08	1.94%
Large Commercial Transport (Rate Class LCS)	\$330.28	3.89%
Large Commercial-Industrial - Distribution Sales (Rate Class LCI-D)	\$1,413.77	4.64%
Large Commercial-Industrial - Distribution Transport (Rate Class LCI-D)	\$1,353.15	5.88%
Large Commercial-Industrial - Direct Service Transport (Rate Class LCI-DS)	\$247.01	11.63%
Resale Sales (Rate Class WS)	\$890.02	2.35%
Gathering (Rate Class PGAS)	\$745.81	2.00%

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated classes. Each class may receive an increase greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increase or decrease) by the Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Commission.

The Commission set a procedural schedule, including a hearing on the PREP Filing, if necessary, that will begin at 9:30 a.m. on September 1, 2023, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. If the Commission receives no opposition to the PREP Filing within one week of the hearing date, the hearing may be waived, and the Commission may issue a final Order within 150 days of the PREP Filing date.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene within twenty (20) days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission Order. All requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the request to intervene and comply with the rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission will receive public comments until the beginning of the hearing. All written comments and requests to intervene should state the case name and number and be addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Public Comments may also be filed online at http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/online_comments/default.cfm by clicking the "Formal Case" link.

HOPE GAS, INC.



We Serve All ELRICO STORES

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John G. Hubbard, DDS • R. Brooks Legg, Jr., DDS

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304-587-4232 • johnghubbarddd@gmail.com

"We Treat Others As We Like To Be Treated Ourselves." - Matthew 7:12

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
 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

ORDER OF PUBLICATION THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONONGALIA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, DIVISION 2

IN THE INTEREST OF: H.G., DOB: 5/28/2007,
 CIVIL ACTION NO: 22-JA-86

Adult Respondent: Lucas Gallagher, biological father of H.G.

Interested Party(s): Karen Barker, biological mother of H.G

Rebecca Adkins: custodian of H.G.

NOTICE OF PETITION AND HEARING

To the above named Interested Party, Karen Barker.

Please take notice that a PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR CHILD H.G. was filed by Rebecca Adkins at the Circuit Clerk's Office of Monongalia County.

Please take further notice that a hearing on this Petition is scheduled for August 22, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at the Monongalia County Justice Center, 75 High Street, Morgantown, West Virginia, 26505 before the Honorable Judge Cindy S. Scott, at which time and place you may appear and make any objection known or otherwise protect your interest. Attorney for the Petitioner, Rebecca Adkins, is Elizabeth B. Warnick, Esq., whose address is PO Box 146, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525.

A copy of the Petition for Guardianship of Minor Child H.G. can be obtained from the Monongalia County Circuit Clerk's office.

Donna Hidock, Circuit Clerk

Monongalia County Justice Center

75 High Street, Suite 12

Morgantown, WV 26505

304-291-7240

LEGAL

"NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING"

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has scheduled a public meeting on July 27, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plan for the Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund Program (DWTRF). A part of the Intended Use Plan is the Fiscal Year 2024 Comprehensive Project Priority List. The meeting will take place in person at the WV DEP's Headquarters in Charleston, WV. An option to attend remotely or call-in is below. A copy of the draft Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plan is available, and may be requested by calling, writing, or sending an email request to the address below. The plan can also be viewed on DEP's web site.

Contact

Katheryn Emery

WV Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Water & Waste Management

601 57th street, SE

Charleston, WV 25304

(304) 926-0499 Ext. 43830

Katheryn.D.Emery@wv.gov

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/tjy-fznu-gwr>

Or dial: (US) + 1 419-945-6029

PIN: 803 176 620#



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

LEGAL

TO: RAYMOND BROWN
904 PROCIOS MAYSEL 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 MAYSEL 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
 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 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. Carnean, III, and Regina A. Carnean, 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.

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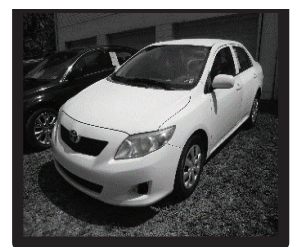
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SPORTS

Clay County Little League All-Stars win District 8 Runner-Up; Earn Berth to State Tournament

By James Adkins

For the first time in around a decade, Clay County Little League will represent District 8 at the upcoming WV State Little League Tournament in Bridgeport, starting July 14th.

After a long five-day tournament, the Clay County Little League 10-12-Year-Old All-Stars earned Runner-Up in the WV District 8 Tournament hosted by Tygart Valley Little League, in Huttonsville.

"The core of the team has been playing together since they were seven and eight years old," Manager Trinity Dorsey said. "The kids have been working hard since March when we started practice for the regular season. Our message has not changed in several years, and we expect effort and sportsmanship on and off the field. Everyone knows they have a job to do, whether it is get-on-base, bunt

runners over, hit runners in, or get ahead in pitch counts, and to always supporting each other."

Clay County Little League joined seven other teams, which included: Elkins, Braxton, Tygart Valley, Belington, Craigsville, Pocahontas, and Summersville. On June 24, the Double Elimination Tournament began with all teams competing. Clay unfortunately started the tournament off with a loss. Their first game against Elkins ended 3-1, sending Clay to the Loser's Bracket. However, this loss didn't stop the team from bringing the heat in their next games.

Clay's next game, on June 25, brought them their first victory, defeating Braxton 13-5. Clay proceeded to score a second win, beating Pocahontas 10-5 on June 30.

After these two games,

Clay again faced Elkins in the consolation semi-finals on July 1.

Starting pitcher, Trenton Parker, threw for nearly three innings with one earned run and two strikeouts. Clay's took an early lead in the 2nd inning from back-to-back RBI singles by Hinton Caldwell and Braze Dorsey. Pitcher Palmer Adkins closed out the game, recording the last 10 outs, while striking out 9. This secured the team a 6-2 win, moving Clay into the Runner-Up Championship on July 2.

During the Runner-up Championship vs. Craigsville, Clay jumped out to an early lead in the first inning. Asher Dorsey led off the game with a double, followed by Collin Elliot drawing a walk. Palmer Adkins doubled on a 1-2 count, giving Clay a 2-0 lead. Starting pitcher, Collin Elliot,

threw nearly a complete game, allowing five hits and two runs over five and a third innings. Craigsville tied the game 2-2 in the bottom of the 5th inning, with a solo homerun. Clay took the lead 3-2 in the top of the 6th, with back-to-back singles by Palmer Adkins and Briar Dorsey. Pitcher John Paxton threw two-thirds of an inning in relief, recording the last two outs to earn the save for Clay.

Clay had an exciting run and landed themselves second place in the WV District 8 Tournament.

"Each player was a part of the team's success," Coach James Adkins said. "Whether it was fielding, pitching, or hitting, each player helped contribute."

Clay's offense was led by Palmer Adkins, who had 9 hits, batted .692 with four doubles

and 9 RBIs. Starting pitchers, Collin Elliot and Palmer Adkins, had a combined 44 strikeouts and a combined 1.30 ERA.

"We are all excited about what is to come with this team in the years ahead and appreciate all the support in the Clay community. It was great seeing all the support from friends and family that came out to the

games," League President and Coach Michael Parker said.

The Clay County Little League 10-12 Year Old All-Stars play on Friday, July 14, at 3:30 PM at the Bridge Complex in Bridgeport. If you get a chance, head on up to Bridgeport and support these young lads as they play hard to bring it home.



Team huddles up before batting.

Adventure Living



Exploration is the key to open opportunity.

By Allen Hamrick

Today, we live in a world of uncertainty, and trying to keep a sound mind through all of the chaos of everything from politics to interest rates is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week hassle. Whether it's jobs, homes or investments, our lives depend on the need for money and lots of it these days. The idea of an adventure, a reconnection to what we truly need, goes away with the evening's dinner table budget meeting.

However, a sense of wonderlust still lives in the heart of everybody; our heritage demands it. We began this country with simple people who searched for new and greater places and things. They invented, and they were seekers. Our ancestors expanded beyond a caged in existence and tested the limits of their will and physical stamina. It seems as though those years were the best as now the lands and the mountains have all been explored and no new path for the nomadic heart exists.

While that may be so, in some respect, the opportunity to blaze new trails, whether in an urban lifestyle or wilderness life, still has merit. Unfamiliar lands that our ancestors braved all the elements to cross no longer exist, of course: somebody will have a deed I can guarantee. Since the 1890's, this country has made sure that huge expanses of land remain in the condition that it was for centuries. From the Appalachian Trail to the great national parks, from Maine to Alaska, opportunities exist for the enjoyment of those that still live in need of a connection to the wild.

Many of the soul gripping books we read today are based

on an out of the box journey going head to head with nature or some other notable venture. Our environment in this present day is set for us - sure we have weekend fun on side by sides, camping in mobile homes, fishing trips, and the occasional five mile hike. The quote ricocheting around in the work place most of the year is, "Man wasn't meant to live like this," and those who throw their hands in the air and say enough is enough listen to no one but that inner spirit that needs to roam. Adventure is described in Webster's Dictionary as this, "an unusual and exciting hazardous experience or activity often in strange and unknown territory." So, it is possible to design an adventure for yourself or your family that can fulfill the very definition of nomadic culture.

These days with the right amount of money we can have the time of our lives handed to us on a silver platter. We can sail down the New River in a raft of white capped waves, ski from the top of vertical mountains, be dropped off in the wilds with nothing but a knife, rope and a bicycle, grit it out in a triathlon or get dropped from a perfectly good plane, just to name a few. There is nothing however, that can match the primeval fresh scent of forest air and getting your boots on the ground and experiencing it. It is wild, untamed, often ferocious yet calming at the same time, where fear becomes maddening or will give way to something new. There is no reason that the time of exploration should be over, not even now because we haven't seen it all. We need to get out and feel the sense of the unknown just so we can cope with the everyday goings on. Not only is it great exercise, but you never know what you may encounter.

Forget the "indoors man" mentality and get out there, the earth is constantly changing as things die and are reborn. Change is inevitable - the land changes, people change, age doesn't pause in the years of our youth. One of the first things to do is get in good enough shape to tame mountains, ride the waves and sleep under the stars. Stop asking for directions; get a map and find the fishing spots and have a fish fry on the banks of a flowing stream. There is nothing like it. Going into the wilds and surviving, whether by choice or necessity, requires a different mindset and a different set of skills.

A nomadic life isn't for everybody because it takes you way

out of your comfort zone. Most people will not ever be in a situation that they would need the skills required for adventures in the wilderness but can survive weekend excursions. The best thing we can do is to learn these skills because it is never too late to get out into the wilds and start challenging yourself. Start small in your back yard and then hit the mountains. It's a ton of fun and a lot of work all at the same time. Learn and practice the skills; you never know when you will need to use them, and you will be a better prepared person just for doing it.

Life is a single journey for all of us, and our ability to adapt and overcome has become a daily ritual that drags us down into a rut. We will prosper as long as there is neediness and destitution barking at our heels. Let's not grow older and have no more sense than a goat; we have to get out of a box and look for the sun to rise. Age creeps up on us all too quickly, and the earth will swallow us up in time. However, it doesn't have to be just yet.

We need to get back to believing that we are part of nature and the natural world and not its enemy. Let's walk with a positive impact and welcome the opportunities. We are all nomads deep down who have been stuck behind a wall for too long. It's time to get over it and get in touch with what we really are - wanderers, seekers and searchers. So, get out there as they say, and plant your boots on the ground, you don't know what you're missing. If you do, send in your story we would be glad to share it.



Fear is just an excuse.

"BUDGET"

tions rise and fall as well. This makes the severance tax highly volatile and not something the state can count on to be a consistent revenue source.

There are signs that natural gas prices, which have surged in recent years, are already beginning to drop considerably, meaning that the state may not collect as much in the future.

The surplus relies on artificially low revenue estimates – and temporary federal aid

While severance taxes are outside of Justice's control, he has used his control over state revenue projections and the annual budget to help create the surplus.

The governor creates a revenue estimate that projects how much money the state is expected to bring in from taxes during a particular year. Anything over the estimate becomes surplus. The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy argues that Justice has intentionally kept these revenue estimates low in recent years by projecting that the state will bring in fairly small amounts of money and then touting a "surplus" when the state brings in more than those low-balled figures.

These projections also affect the state budget. When lawmakers create their own proposed budget, they cannot exceed the state's revenue estimate as set by the governor, unless they also pass a tax increase.

Justice has maintained flat budgets – where state agencies receive about the same amount of money each year. While he argues that this has strengthened the financial position of the state, critics note that flat budgets effectively leave agencies with less money than they had in previous years because of inflation and increased needs.

"The governor has essentially gamed the process by not using economic forecasting, or realistic estimates of the revenues that are expected, but what they ideologically want the budget to be," said Kelly Allen, executive director of the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy.

The state has also used one-time federal pandemic relief money to temporarily patch some problems, like childcare subsidies, instead of putting more money into the budget.

And as Justice trumpets the surplus, state agencies are struggling financially, from difficulties getting more teachers in classrooms, to a serious budget shortfall at West Virginia University that is leading to program cuts and faculty layoffs.

New tax cuts will reduce the state's surplus revenue mov-

CONT. FROM FRONT

ing forward. Further cuts could be on the way.

But for some local organizations and national policy groups, the biggest problem with West Virginia's surplus is that Justice and legislative leaders used the temporary gains to justify a large, and permanent, income tax cut. And West Virginia is far from the only state doing this.

"States nationwide have been on a tax-cutting spree over the past three years coming out of the pandemic and subsequent recovery," said Wesley Tharpe, the senior advisor for state tax policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. "Many of these cuts are extremely costly and benefit houses at the top of the income scale, and West Virginia is really a cornerstone example of this trend."

During the legislative session, Justice and several lawmakers argued that the state's extra revenue should be returned to taxpayers, and that this would attract businesses. The tax cut package that passed will reduce state revenue by roughly \$750 million a year. In the coming years, a trigger mechanism in the law could cut the income tax rate even further, potentially all the way down to zero. If that happens, the state could lose as much as \$2 billion in annual revenue.

While several states are enjoying revenue surpluses currently, things could change very soon.

"State revenue trends are reversing," said Aidan Davis, the state policy director at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. "It's clear that state budgets are not going to be flush in the way that they have been because lawmakers will have to get back to weighing tradeoffs in a serious way."

In West Virginia, lawmakers will have to decide what to pay for as the state collects less in income taxes, the largest and most stable source of tax revenue, and also one of the most equitable.

State revenue officials hope that West Virginia will collect significantly more in sales tax as people spend the money now staying in their paychecks, but the average West Virginian isn't actually getting that much money from the tax cuts. And tax cuts in West Virginia haven't historically led to a flood of new business activity.

Experts caution that using so much money on tax cuts will likely leave the state with less to work with in the future.

"Most people move to states for jobs, or for good schools, or for safe communities," said Allen. "And we're undermining all of those things if we're slashing the revenues that pay for them.

"OBITUARIES"

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trades on the job site. He had done everything from driving the forklift to delivering goods and scheduling shipments. He enjoyed his coworkers and everyone he was required to connect with on a daily basis.

Nathan lived his life for his children. He was happiest when he got to spend time with them and everything he did was with his children in mind.

Graveside services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday July 10, 2023 at Smith Cemetery at 104 Hallsburg Rd, Duck WV 25063

Donations are greatly appreciated and there is a GoFundMe account to help with Nathan's burial services.

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

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

Beulah Marie Dillon

Beulah Marie Dillion, 86, of Clay, passed away Wednes-

day, July 5, 2023, at the Clay Healthcare Center.

She was the daughter and last living descendant of Otis and Zella Gill. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, David; brothers: Cecil, Virgil, Wilbur, Richard, Jobe, Frank, and James Gill; sisters: Goldie Dillion, Bertha Butcher, Eleanor Smith, and Mamie Smith.

Beulah leaves behind her sister-in-law, Betty Gill, which was more of a sister than a sister-in-law, several nieces, and nephews.

Beulah retired from State Farm Insurance Company.

Many thanks go to the Clay Healthcare Center and the girls caring for her there.

Graveside service were held at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at the Walnut Grove Cemetery with Wayne Litton officiating.

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