



# Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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## Boggs Walking Trail Project Continues Development

### West Virginia is still figuring out exactly how it wants to improve broadband. A new report shows some early priorities

*The 90-page draft report previews how officials plan to expand internet access and affordability in the Mountain State.*

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

Accessing the internet is often a complicated issue in West Virginia, and the state historically ranks as one of the worst in the country for broadband. After years of failed internet promises, missed opportunities and funding struggles, state officials hope that a \$1.2 billion infusion of federal cash will finally help West Virginians connect.

As it prepares for that federal money, the state is starting to provide more clarity on the exact issues the cash might address. Earlier this month, the West Virginia Office of Broadband released a draft of its digital equity plan, explaining how various disadvantaged groups in the state struggle with internet access and the improvements that could make things easier. The 90-page report specifically focuses on the needs of these communities, and members of the public have been encouraged to submit feedback on the draft during a 30-day comment period that will end in late August. The state is also encouraging residents to fill out a broadband survey by the end of July, which will be used to better understand the types of issues people face with internet access and what improvements they want to see.

The digital equity plan will also likely be part of a larger five-year broadband expansion plan currently in the works. Both reports will be submitted to the federal government in the near future.

“This is a generational opportunity that comes around once in a lifetime, and we’re going to utilize this money to its fullest extent,” Mitch Carmichael, secretary of the state Department of Economic Development, told an audience at this week’s West Virginia Broadband Summit.

Here’s what you need to know about the state’s newest broadband report, and what the draft plan reveals about West Virginia’s internet priorities moving forward.

**Plans for improving broadband are still under development — but some early priorities are becoming clear**

Because the state is still very early in the planning process, much of the current draft report focuses on explaining the state’s current problems rather than highlighting specific solutions. But the draft plan does offer some insight into what are likely early priorities for state officials seeking to better understand exactly what’s wrong with West Virginia’s internet coverage.

For example, the report focuses heavily on how West

**Broadband**

*Continued on Page 7*



Suzie Legg, Marian Agostino, Mary Grandon, Beth Atkins, Dina Weiss, Tony Slabaugh, Aine Slabaugh are members of Braxton/Clay Master Gardeners maintaining the Trail gardens.



Marian and Dina are pictured maintaining the gardens.

In the last few years a special area has been developing in Clay County. Dr. Christine Jones realized the two acre level space adjacent to the Big Otter Clinic could be better utilized as a beautiful therapy area and walking trail with plants, benches, and a peaceful feeling for patients and the community. The first successful grant allowed for excavating, leveling, and graveling a path in the space.

The Braxton/Clay Master Gardener group became involved with the project and was able to successfully earn the “Outside Classroom Grant” from Elk Conservation District. Suzie Legg, Melissa Dennison, Christi Boggs, and Aine Slabaugh prepared the grant and were very excited when it was approved! The grant funds will be utilized to purchase plants, display signage to identify plants, and add American Disabilities Act signs for the walking trail.

The Braxton/Clay Master Gardener group entered the “Boggs Walking Trail Project” and won the WVU Extension Project of the Year Award, which includes grant funds for additional plants and signage. The Master Gardener group is memorializing past members for their



Flowers along the trail.

service with a beautiful set of wind chimes which will be dedicated at a future date for Jeffrey Wright and Judy Bean from Braxton, and Karen Hutchins, Bob Osborne, and Miriam Hopkins from Clay County. Pictured are several of the Braxton/Clay Master Gardeners who recently spent an evening weeding and caring for the trail. Marian Agostino, Beth Atkins, and Dina Weiss are also members of Judy’s Garden Club, Appalachian District.

Future developments would include obtaining funds to pave the quarter mile walking trail. Visitors and patients are encouraged to walk the path and enjoy the tranquility and beauty of nature surrounding them.

This trail has blossomed from Dr. Jones’ initial plan emerging from a need during the pandemic to a space where folks from Clay, Braxton, Calhoun, Roane, and Nicholas County come to visit and walk the inviting path. The true beauty of this project is evidenced by the community that has embraced the area and donated funds, plants, painted rocks and wooden benches. Many thanks to all who have invested time, talents, funds and well wishes for this special setting.

## WV Department of Education Announces 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant Recipients

*Clay County to receive Bipartisan Safer Communities Act funding*

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) is pleased to announce the 2024 Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) grant award recipients. Local educational and youth service organizations will receive grants to support high-quality, academic-focused afterschool programs across the state. Funds are renewable for up to five years, contingent upon continued U.S. Department of Education (USDE) support, and grantees implementing and sustaining programs that meet federal and state requirements.

The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant recipients are World Vision, Inc., Barbour County; The Boys and Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle, Berkeley County; Southern Educational Services Cooperative, Fayette, Summers and Webster Counties; Step By Step, Inc., Kanawha County; Marion County Schools; and Playmates Preschool and Childcare Centers, Inc., Wayne County.

These afterschool programs offer students access

**WVDEP**

*Continued on Page 6*

## Rail Explorers awarded contract for Dundon rail excursions



Soon the track will come alive once again. Photo (old bridge over Buffalo Creek at Sand Fork Creek)

**See “Rail Explorers”**

*Continued on Page 10*

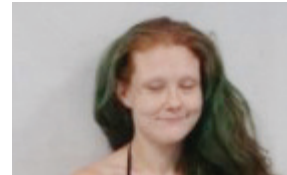


# BOOKED REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

## CENTRAL REGIONAL JAIL



### BRAXTON COUNTY



**Jillian Ruth Cain**  
Booked 8/5/23  
Possession of a controlled substance, battery



**Zachary Allen Canfield**  
Booked 8/2/23  
Child neglect resulting in injury, fel. consp., gross neglect



**Mark Anthony Moyers**  
Booked 8/5/23  
Possession of a controlled substance

### CLAY COUNTY



**Faith Rance Elswick**  
Booked 8/3/23  
Domestic battery



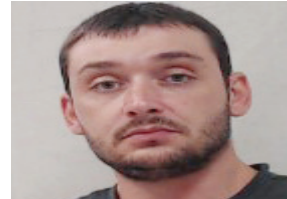
**Manuel Lee Nichols**  
Booked 8/4/23  
Attempted homicide

### NICHOLAS COUNTY



**Kaylee Marie Adkins**  
Booked 8/3/23  
Capias

### NICHOLAS COUNTY



**Derrick Ray Bever**  
Booked 8/1/23  
Probation violation



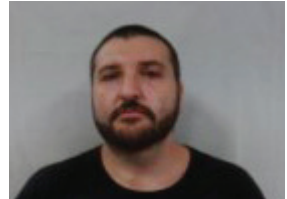
**Kaitlyn Cierra Bostic**  
Booked 8/6/23  
Obst. an officer, dest. of prop., assault L.E.O poss.marijuana



**Tina Fay Conard**  
Booked 8/2/23  
Probation violation



**Joshua Andrew Fleshman**  
Booked 8/5/23  
Sexual assault



**Matthew James Hammons**  
Booked 8/4/23  
Probation violation



**Larry Ray Hanna**  
Booked 8/7/23  
Fugitive from justice



**Ronny Lee Hinkle**  
Booked 8/4/23  
Trespassing, asked leave



**Joshua Lee Ross**  
Booked 8/4/23  
Driving suspended, obstructing an officer



**Robert David Walko Jr.**  
Booked 8/5/23  
Domestic battery

## Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU Super Crossword

Answer

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

*Answers*

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H	I	D	D	E	N						N	I	N	E	R	S						

# Courthouse News

## Wednesday, August 23, 2023 Docket Schedule for Magistrate: Rider, Charles "Jeff:"

- 09:00 AM, State v. Eric Dale Smith, Bench Trial, Driving while license revoked – DUI, Improper use of evidences of registration, Unsafe and improperly equipped vehicles, Operation of vehicles with safety belts, Registration card to be signed, carried and exhibited on demand.(Regist. Unsigned), License to be carried and exhibited on demand
- 09:30 AM, State v. Teddy Mark Taylor II, Bench Trial, Domestic Battery
- 10:00 AM, State v. Ronald Lee Payne, Bench Trial, Driving while license revoked – DUI, Operation without cert. inspection or failure to produce certificate; Expiration of registration and certificates of title
- 10:30 AM, State v. Leslie A White, Bench Trial, Obtaining money, property and services by false pretenses; penalties. (Larceny)
- 10:30 AM, State v. Leslie A White, Bench Trial, Obtaining money, property and services by false pretenses; penalties. (Larceny)
- 10:30 AM, State v. Leslie A White, Bench Trial, Obtaining money, property and services by false pretenses; penalties. (Larceny)
- 10:30 AM, State v. Leslie A White, Bench Trial, Obtaining money, property and services by false pretenses; penalties. (Larceny)
- 10:30 AM, State v. Leslie A White, Bench Trial, Obtaining money, property and services by false pretenses; penalties. (Larceny)
- 11:00 AM, State v. Angela Kathleen Stutler, Bench Trial, Batter
- 01:00 PM, State v. Christopher Scott Liveley, Bench Trial, Persons prohibited from possessing firearms
- 01:30 PM, State v. Anthony J. Hamrick, Bench Trial, Domestic Battery, Domestic Assault
- 02:00 PM, State v. Jennifer L Douglas, Bench Trial, Driving while license suspended or revoked, Operation without cert. inspection or failure to produce certificate
- 02:00 PM, State v. Jennifer L Douglas, Bench Trial, No Insurance, Improper use of evidences of registration
- 02:00 PM, State v. Jennifer Lenore Douglas, Bench Trial, Driving while license suspended or revoked; No vehicle insurance
- 02:30 PM, State v. James Ernest Ryan Jr., Bench Trial, Knowingly or intentionally possessing a controlled substance without a valid prescription,
- 03:00 PM, State v. Robert Daniel Dennis, Bench Trial, Unsafe and improperly equipped vehicles, No vehicle insurance

## PUBLIC NOTICES

- The 1966 Class of Clay County High School will have a get together on September 16, 2023 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Clay High School. Come join us! Dinner will be served at the school by the Clay High School Alumni Association.
- Attention CCHS Class of 1953: Are you interested in attending our 70th year reunion during the Golden Delicious Apple Festival on Saturday, Sept. 16 at CCHS? If so, please let Muriel Whaling Sizemore or Yvonne Hart King know soon. Muriel's address is 307 Price Street, Mineral Wells, WV 26150 and her number is 304-489-2958. Yvonne's address is 113 Center Street, Glenville, WV 26351, and her number is 304-462-7856. It's been at least 10 years since our last reunion, and we aren't getting any younger! See you in September?
- 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.

## West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

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# THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

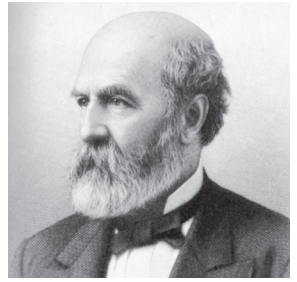
The following events happened on these dates in history. To read more, go to *WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

seventh governor of West Virginia from 1885 to 1890.

**Aug. 11, 1994:** The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge became the 500th refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge system. It is one of the largest and most diverse freshwater wetland areas in central and southern Appalachia.

**Aug. 12, 1937:** Author Walter Dean Myers was born in Martinsburg. In January 2012, Myers was named the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress. He died in 2014.

**Aug. 12, 1997:** The Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel strike ended when 79 percent of the workers approved a new contract. The 10-month walkout was the longest steel manufacturing strike on record when it concluded.



**Aug. 13, 1900:** Railroad mogul and founder of Huntington, Collis Potter Huntington, died. Raised in poverty, Huntington went west when gold was discovered in California. There he became rich,

not from mining but by selling supplies to miners.

**Aug. 13, 2018:** The House of Delegates adopted articles of impeachment against all sitting justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals.

**Aug. 14, 1894:** Entertainer Ada Beatrice Queen Victoria Louise Virginia "Bricktop" Smith was born at Alderson. She performed in Paris in the 1920s and opened her own club, called the Music Box, in 1926.



**Aug. 14, 1943:** Astronaut Jon Andrew McBride was born in Charleston. McBride became an astronaut in 1979 and piloted the space shuttle Challenger on an eight-day mission in 1984.

**Aug. 15, 1867:** The cornerstone for the first building of the Fairmont Branch Normal School was laid at the corner of Adams and Quincy streets in the heart of town. The first class of students occupied the new building in April 1869. That school became Fairmont State University.

## Charles Edward Ray



Charles Edward ("Eddie") Ray, 63, a resident of Wallback, passed away on Thursday, August 3, 2023, with his family at his side.

Born on April 21, 1960, in Sutton, WV, he was the son of Arthur "Ed" Ray and Charlotte James Ray.

Eddie graduated from Clay County High School in 1978. Soon after, he joined the United States Navy. In the Navy, he served for eight years and achieved the rank of Petty Officer 1st Class. During his time in active duty, he served aboard the USS Simon Bolivar, a naval submarine.

Eddie loved to hunt, fish, and watch West Virginia Mountaineer football and basketball. But most of all, he loved spending time

relaxing with his family and worshipping the Lord. He attended church as much as he could and regularly testified to anyone who would listen.

Survivors include his wife, Lisa Keeley Ray; his son, Darren, and daughter, Lori; his parents, Ed and Charlotte Ray; his sister, Sherri (Bill) Bennett; and several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to specifically thank Dr. Scott Mitchell from Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center, Kanawha County Hospice, and his nurse Amy.

Funeral Services were held at Wilson-Shamblin-Smith Funeral Home on Monday, August 7, 2023. Visitation opened to the public at 10 a.m., and services begin at 11 a.m. Afterwards, there was a private family burial at Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery.

Contributions in his memory can be made to Wounded Warrior Project at <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org>.

## Crystal Dawn Murphy

Crystal Dawn Murphy, 50, of Chloe passed away on July 22, 2023, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born on June 11, 1973, to Russell (Lisa) Murphy of Dog Run and Kathy Arnold Murphy of Nebo.

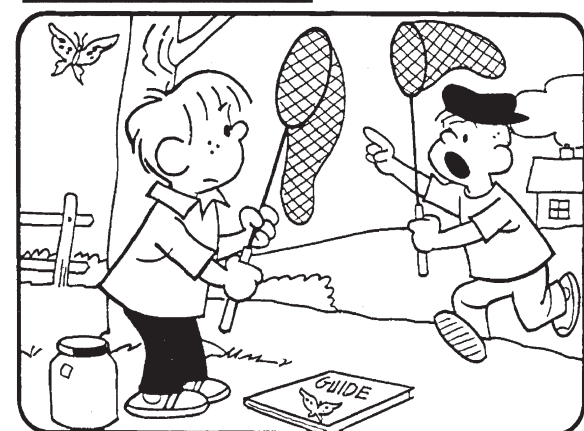
She was a 1991 graduate of Clay County High School. Crystal is survived by her children Sadie Murphy, Michael Murphy and Jesse Murphy. She had one grandson, Ezra James Turner. She is also survived by her paternal grandmother, Nancy Murphy, and by her brothers Russell "Russ" (Jennifer) Murphy III and Shawn (Amber) Murphy, both of Clay.

In honoring Crystal's wishes, she was cremated and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

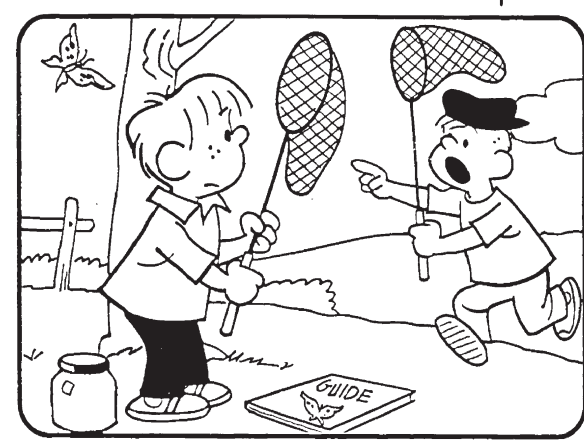
She will be remembered for her funny, outgoing and eccentric personality. Crystal will be missed by family, friends and loved ones.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Butterfly is missing. 2. Fence rail is missing. 3. Jar is smaller. 4. Net is different. 5. Arm is moved. 6. House is missing.

### ACROSS

- 1 Upside-down-sleeping mammal
- 8 Economizes to a fault
- 14 Untrustworthy sort
- 20 One way to serve apple pie
- 21 Very solitary sort
- 22 Monkey (with)
- 23 Frigid-weather readings
- 26 Military missions, in brief
- 27 Old Ford div.
- 28 Tennis great Chris
- 29 Classic Coca-Cola slogan
- 39 "Son of," in Arabic names
- 40 Thurman of "Kill Bill" films
- 41 Volcanic flow
- 42 Watershed draining dozens of U.S. states
- 53 Busy crawler
- 54 Make sport of
- 55 Cocktail party spread
- 56 School in England's East Midlands

### DOWN

- 1 Explorer John or Sebastian
- 2 Letter before beth
- 3 Triple-time dance, in France
- 4 Broody rock subgenre
- 5 Bend at a certain call
- 6 Woodworking tool
- 7 Swarms (with)
- 8 Not at all tall
- 9 Mustard alternative
- 10 Cholera
- 11 "Delicious!"
- 12 One of 11 in a Christmas song
- 13 Carell of "The Office"
- 14 Knighted Ringo
- 15 Cappuccino alternative
- 16 Ostrich relative

### ACROSS

- 17 Mo. in spring
- 18 Final letter
- 19 Hosp. triage sites
- 24 Riddle-me —
- 25 KO counter
- 30 Some sorority letters
- 31 Grab — (eat quickly)
- 32 AI who won four Indy 500s
- 33 French buddy
- 34 Driveway-topping goo
- 35 Stinging hits
- 36 Lays into
- 37 Something to RSVP to online
- 38 More stable
- 42 Longtime Twins catcher Joe
- 43 Navel type
- 44 Swizzles
- 45 Airline to Oslo
- 46 Basketball — Thomas
- 47 2014 Wimbledon winner Kvitova
- 48 Sickly
- 49 Compete (for)
- 50 "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" musical

### DOWN

- 51 Military mission, in brief
- 52 Spinner of "Star Trek" films
- 57 Neckline shape
- 58 Dinosaur in Nintendo games
- 59 Actress Kaitlin
- 60 Singer with the 2007 hit "1234"
- 65 Whac- (reflex-testing game)
- 66 Of kidneys
- 67 Slyly spiteful
- 68 Engraved stone pillar
- 69 Divining card
- 70 Old JFK jet
- 71 "Die Lorelei" poet Heinrich
- 72 Actress Massey
- 73 Window segments
- 77 Baseballer Martinez
- 78 Stayed home for a meal
- 79 Washer cycle
- 80 Gave two pills to, say
- 81 Cool, in jive talk
- 82 That, in Peru

### ACROSS

- 83 Singer Carly — Jepsen
- 84 A cow milker tugs on it
- 85 H.S. juniors' exams
- 90 Campaigning pro
- 91 Net address
- 92 Wash clothes
- 93 Untrustworthy sort
- 98 Have a spat
- 99 Pine (for)
- 100 "— Can Cook" (old culinary show)
- 101 Brain, for one
- 102 Food taste associated with MSG
- 103 Must have
- 104 Actress Joanne
- 105 Red lab dye
- 106 Divided
- 107 Drug dealer
- 108 Overly fond sort
- 112 Baby's cry
- 113 Yes, to Gigi
- 114 British "Inc."
- 115 Govt. agent
- 116 Of city govt.
- 117 Enzyme suffix
- 118 L-P center
- 119 Frequently, to poets
- 120 Suffix meaning "animals"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
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112	113	114	115							116	117				118	119	120			
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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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.

## Miss Reva Jeanine Jarvis Married To Mr. Jimmy Morris in Church Rite



Attractively attired in a ballerina frock of Chantilly lace and tulle, with iridescent sequins outlining the sabrina neckline, and wearing a tiara of seed pearls holding her illusion veil, with a cluster of red roses pinned to the white Bible she carried, Miss Reva Jeanine Jarvis of Ovapa became the bride of Mr. Jimmy D. Morris of Clay in an impressive double-ring ceremony held in the Bethel Methodist Church at Ovapa on May 25th.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Doyal Cruikshank.

The wedding party was composed of Mrs. Emille Sizemore, Mr. Carmel Morris, brother of the bridegroom, Miss Betty Ann Moore who played the traditional wedding music, and Messers Hubert Moore and Gordon Bower. A reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Graham, and the young couple left for a wedding trip in Virginia, but are now back in their respective positons.

Mrs. Morris is a clerk-typist in the Dundon office of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company and Mr. Morris is assistant cashier in the Clay County Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Jarvis, and the Reverend and Mrs. Willard H. Morris of Clay are the couple's parents.

### SWIMMING POOL OPEN

The Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Club swimming pool will be open from 1:30 P. M. to 8 P.M. every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Austin Hudson is the Life Guard and pool supervisor.

## Forestry Field Day Trip On Log Train

Clay County's County Agent, Paul Albn, chose Elrico's Swandale Log Train with Superintendent E. C. Curran acting as host, for an "Forestry Field Day" on the log train (EST) having aboard Mesley, E. V. Wickline, Earle and Linwood Young and Lewisburg; Clifton Loving and Curran of the G. J. B. Co. Mr. Allen, Herman Nelson, Newman Jones, Fred Harina, Henry Hughes and Tommy Hanna from Clay; T. T. Bragg from Harrison; Extension Forester Phil Berthy of Morgantown; and Dale Nutter, lumber contractor Elmore Starcher's foreman in the area inspected; Frank Fields of Wallback; and Curtis Duffield of Duck.

Conductor Jess Hammonds was in charge of the train, with Raymond Davis at the throttle of the "Lima-Shay," side shaft driven engine, and Hobart Hamrick in charge of the "American" log loader recently equipped with a new Diesel-powered engine replacing steam.

The crew consisted of Theodore Burdette and Dow Keene. Together these trained woodsmen and trainmen gave the visitors some thrills watching the neat, efficient manner in which they cut, skidded and loaded the virgin timber; also saw

them actually build an extension of the railroad into Lost Lick above Lilly Fork, about 17 miles from Dundon, into Nicholas County. The area abounds in virgin Hemlock, Maple and Oak timber.

One of the interesting features of the trip was the demonstration given by Extension Forester Phil Berthy on the use of a new chemical called Ammate, which, when sprayed on undesirable trees, destroys them, thus making room for healthier trees to grow.

The party experienced the observation of one particular tree from the time it was cut in the woods until it was manufactured into usable lumber at the Swandale Mill and stacked on the lumber stacks on the mill dock.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings Wood of Widen were catching up on visits to children during June, having motored to Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Wood's home in Grant Town and to daughter Readith's home (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gregg) in Alliance, Ohio; and to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hunt's (Ruth) home in Atwater, Ohio.

She is a member of the Charleston YWCA the Big Union Baptist Church at Dille, interested in piano music, swimming, reading and was a basketball enthusiast and band member in high school. Usually gets home over the weekends to forage in "Mom's" refrigerator and "bakery."

## Woman's Club Chooses Manning And Holcomb

The Widen Woman's Club chose for their outstanding citizenship candidates this year two attractive teen agers, the Misses April Manning, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Manning, and Ruby Lee Holcomb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holcomb.

Miss Manning was sent by the Club to Rhododendron Girls' State at Jackson's Mill near Weston; and Miss Holcomb to the citizenship training group at YMCA Camp Horseshoe near Parsons.

Each girl spent a week at these two outstanding youth camps and will make a personal report to the Woman's Club at a future date concerning the programs, ideals and conduct of the camps. This is an honor which the Club has been extending to ideal girls each year to further the aspirations and ambitions of those chosen as a result of their sincere interest and participation in civic affairs of the high school and community.

## Dille Girl Honored By Student Council



Miss Sue Carol Mullins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Mullins of Dille, presently residing in Charleston, was elected to serve as secretary of the Student Council of the Capital City Commercial College in that city.

Miss Mullins is majoring in secretarial work, having completed second year college accounting, in which she scored "A" average, as well as business mathematics. At present she is enrolled in College English, spelling, shorthand II, secretarial procedures and typing.

## Woman's Club Selects General Chairman

Mrs. Robert (Lib) Manning has been chosen as general chairman for the Fourth of July Woman's Club food booth, according to an announcement made by Miss Hazel Baughman, Club president. Those wishing to contribute toward this important enterprise are asked to contact Mrs. Manning. Proceeds of the day's work goes toward the continued extensive program of the Widen Woman's Club such as furnishing glasses for the needy, hospital beds and appliances for the community's free use, participation in state-wide projects of the Club, and annual awards for best yards-of-the-month and flower show.

Mrs. Richard (Hazel) Manning is chairman in charge of the preparation of the Woman's Club float, which last year won state-wide recognition in the monthly edition of the official publication of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, "The Clubwoman."

## The Kanawha Drug Company

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



to learning and development support, homework assistance, tutoring, assistance in obtaining state educational standards and enrichment activities that complement their regular academic programs during out-of-school times. Grantees are also required to engage parents and caregivers in their children's learning.

Additionally, the 2022 federal Bipartisan Safer Communities Act provided funding to organizations not included in the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant cycle. These counties provide afterschool programs for middle and/or high school students and include:

- Boone County Schools
- Cabell County Schools
- Clay County Schools
- Greenbrier County Schools
- Hardy County Schools
- Lincoln County Schools
- McDowell County Schools
- Monroe County Schools
- Raleigh County Schools
- Summers County Schools
- Wayne County Schools
- Wyoming County Schools

## LEGALS

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO CHANGE PURCHASED GAS RATES

Notice is hereby given that Peoples Gas WV LLC, a public utility, has filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, an application containing increased purchased gas rates for furnishing natural gas service to 12,700 customers in the Counties of Northwestern Barbour, Braxton, Clay, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ritchie, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel.

The proposed increased rates will become effective November 1, 2023 unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will produce approximately \$785,678 annually in increased revenue, an increase of 4.5%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$) Increase	(%) Increase
Residential	\$3.89	4.41%
Commercial	\$18.43	4.82%
Industrial	\$65.35	4.98%

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

A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at any of the following offices of the Company: 1200 Bottle Works Ave, Fairmont, WV 26554.

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

The 30-C procedure is designed to provide a procedure for changing rates charged to customers by natural gas distribution utilities based exclusively on the cost of purchased gas. Consequently, protest should be limited to the reasonableness of such costs and the method by which they are calculated. Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or notice of intervention within twenty-five (25) days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases and to participate in future proceedings. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All protests and interventions should be addressed to Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, PO Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323.



## LEGALS

### 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, August 10, 2023

ESTATE NAME: Effie Ann Carr, 287 East St., Wadsworth, Ohio 44281  
 ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR: Randall Carr c/o Steptoe & Johnson, 400 White Oaks Boulevard, Bridgeport, WV 26330

Subscribed and sworn to before me on August 2, 2023.

Sheila Stone  
 Clerk of the Clay County Commission

## LEGALS

Tariff Form No. 8-C  
 (Tariff Rule 14.2 et seq. (Historical Rule 30-C))

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES UPON APPLICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that Hope Gas, Inc. (the "Company"), a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, an application containing decreased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to all of its customers at various locations in the Counties of Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Jackson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mingo, Monongalia, Nicholas, Pleasants, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood and Wyoming.

The proposed decreased rates and charges will become effective November 1, 2023, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will decrease revenues approximately \$38.0 million annually, a decrease of 27.50%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

TYPE OF CUSTOMER	(\$) DECREASE	(%) DECREASE
Residential	\$19.60	16.93%
Small Commercial Sales	\$82.58	20.22%
Small Commercial Transport 1/	\$10.06	0.95%
Large Commercial Sales	\$4,401.82	26.10%
Large Commercial Transport 1/	\$147.70	1.69%
Industrial Sales	\$7,699.35	27.49%
Resale Sales	\$10,509.21	25.57%
Daily Balancing for Transport	\$0.00	0.00%

1/ To account for decrease in standby rate.

Resale customers of the Company include Standard Gas Co., Consumers Gas Utility Co., Cardinal Natural Gas Company - Northern Division (Lumberport), Mountaineer Gas Co., Southern Public Service Co., Cardinal Natural Gas Company - Northern Division (Blacksville), and Peoples Gas WV LLC.

The decreases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated classes. Each class may receive a decrease greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive decreases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested decreased rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increase or decrease) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase or decrease in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is conducted, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the Morgantown office of the Company, 781 Chestnut Ridge Road, Suite 100, Morgantown, West Virginia.

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

The 30-C procedure is designed to provide a procedure for changing rates charged to customers by natural gas distribution utilities based exclusively on the cost of purchased gas. Consequently, protest should be limited to the reasonableness of such costs and the method by which they are calculated. Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or notice of intervention within twenty-five (25) days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All interventions must be mailed or hand-delivered and be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, Post Office Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323, with copies to Daniel M. Taylor, Jr., Hope Gas, Inc., 781 Chestnut Ridge Road, Suite 100, Morgantown, WV 26505 and Kurt L. Krieger, Post Office Box 1588, Charleston, WV 25326-1588. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, Post Office Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

## HELP WANTED

**Help Wanted:** American in Beckley will be hiring a Case Manager to cover Clay, Fayette, Kanawha and Raleigh counties. Qualified applicants must be a LSW, RN or have a 4 year Human Service related degree. Competitive benefit package with a great flexible work schedule. For more information, please contact Lori Walker at 304-644-8303 and email a resume to [lwalker@mtstatehome-health.com](mailto:lwalker@mtstatehome-health.com)

## HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED:** Someone to paint ceilings. Call 304-286-4476 for more information.



## LEGALS

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

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

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

Publication Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023

Claim Deadline: Monday, October 2, 2023

APPOINTMENT DATE: 01/26/2023  
 ESTATE NAME: **BUFFORD LYNN BROWN**  
 ADMINISTRATRIX: DR. RESSIE LYNN PHILLIPS  
 53 BYRON RD  
 SUMMERSVILLE WV 26651  
 ATTORNEY: JOHN F HUSSELL IV  
 WOOTON, DAVIS, HUSSELL & JOHNSON, PLLC  
 PO BOX 3971  
 CHARLESTON WV 25339

APPOINTMENT DATE: 05/30/2023  
 ESTATE NAME: **BILLY JOE DORSEY**  
 EXECUTRIX: PAMELA M DORSEY  
 401 NORTH DAVIS AVE  
 NEWTON NC 28658-2224

APPOINTMENT DATE: 07/13/2023  
 ESTATE NAME: **DIANN M LEGG**  
 EXECUTOR: RUSSELL B LEGG JR  
 158 GRASSY FORK RD  
 LIZEMORES WV 25125-8102

APPOINTMENT DATE: 03/08/2023  
 ESTATE NAME: **PHYLLIS Y MORTON**  
 EXECUTOR: KENNETH SCOTT MORTON  
 533 PACK FORK RD  
 LIZEMORES WV 25125-8087

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 7/31/2023

Sheila Stone  
 County Clerk  
 Clay County  
 P.O. Box 190  
 246 Main Street  
 Clay WV 25043-0190

## NEED TO PUBLISH A PUBLIC NOTICE?

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## LEGALS

### IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

#### THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY

IN RE: State v. N.L.N. Case Nos. 23-JA-24

In the matter of N.L.N., and the unknown whereabouts of Tiffany Kinter, Adult Respondent Mother of said infant.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

And NOTICE OF ANSWER

To: **Tiffany Kinter**

(The object of this action is to notify the Adult Respondent Mother of an abuse and neglect petition herein filed so that said Adult Respondent Mother may answer the same to protect her interest.)

You are hereby notified that an abuse and neglect and/or abandonment petition has been filed with the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, on the 7th day of July 2023, and assigned Case Numbers 23-JA-24, wherein it is alleged that the Adult Respondent Mother of the Infant Respondent, N.L.N. (DOB: 07/03/23) is Tiffany Kinter, and that said Infant Respondent be placed in the custody of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, with said Infant Respondent remaining in the care, custody and control of the said Department since that time in accordance with WV Code §49-6-3. You are hereby notified that you have the right to answer said petition and you have the right to have counsel present at all stages of these proceedings and ALL PROCEEDINGS CAN RESULT IN THE PERMANENT TERMINATION OF CUSTODIAL AND PARENTAL RIGHTS TO SAID INFANT CHILD.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that Adult Respondent Mother, Tiffany Kinter, shall appear before the Honorable Jack Alsop on **30th day of August 2023, at 2:30 p.m.**, at the Clay County Courthouse, 246 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against them at any time thereafter, and termination of your custodial and parental rights may be ordered by the Court.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Clay County, West Virginia at the Clay County Courthouse, Clay West Virginia.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION  
 BY: Jim E. Samples, Prosecuting Attorney, Clay County, West Virginia  
 Entered by the Clerk of said Court on the 26th day of July, 2023.

Christina Hamshaw  
 Clerk of the Court

## LEGALS

Tariff Form No. 8-C  
 (Tariff Rule 14.2 et seq. (Historical Rule 30-C))

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES UPON APPLICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY, a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, an application containing decreased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers at various locations in the Counties of Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming.

The proposed decreased rates and charges will become effective November 1, 2023, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will decrease revenue approximately \$50,389,000 annually, a decrease of approximately 24.2%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers of MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY will be changed as follows:

	DECREASE	DECREASE
Residential	\$ 14.12	14.36 %
Commercial	\$ 66.16	16.67 %
Industrial	\$ 1,142.00	19.46 %
Resale	\$ 2,226.79	20.39 %

Resale customers of MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY include Canaan Valley Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Consumers Gas Utility Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, City of Philippi, and Southern Public Service Company.

The decreases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Each class may receive a decrease greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive decreases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested decreased rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any decrease in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. If a hearing is conducted, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.

A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the following offices of the Company:

Mountaineer Gas Company Office  
 • 501 56th Street SE, Charleston, West Virginia 25304

A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

The Rule 30-C procedure is designed to provide a procedure for changing rates charged to customers by natural gas distribution utilities based exclusively on the cost of purchased gas. Consequently, protest should be limited to the reasonableness of such costs and the method by which they are calculated. Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or notice of intervention within twenty-five (25) days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate adjustments and to participate in future proceedings. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All interventions must be mailed or hand-delivered and be addressed to Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323. Protests may be filed online 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, Charleston, WV 25323.



Virginia’s unserved areas, the parts of the state where there is little or no internet access at all, desperately need to be connected. State officials have previously noted that these communities are a priority in the broadband effort. An estimated 35% of West Virginians live in an area that is either unserved or underserved when it comes to internet access.

The report also focuses on affordability and accessibility, noting that increasing access to the internet will mean little if it’s still unattainable for a large number of people. The draft report suggests that the state sees the existing Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a federal program that allows qualified households to pay far less — and in some cases nothing at all — for internet, as one possible solution to the problem. But also crucial is improving internet skills, be that in the basic digital knowledge of West Virginians, or in their improved comfort with devices like laptops and smartphones.

**Access to the internet and internet-capable devices are a major problem**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, almost every West Virginian (97%) falls into one of eight groups, or “covered populations”, that have historically used the internet at lower rates. These groups, which include older individuals, veterans, incarcerated people, rural residents and communities of color, are being targeted by the federal effort to help disadvantaged communities. West Virginia has the highest percentage of covered groups in the country, marking it as a state that desperately needs improved internet access.

The draft plan highlights a key problem plaguing these groups and the Mountain State’s broadband more broadly: many people don’t have access to the internet, and even when people can connect, their internet is often low-quality, slow, and inconsistent.

But understanding exactly how many people are affected by these problems and where they live has been difficult. Earlier this year, West Virginia officials challenged how the federal government maps out the number of households with internet access in the state, arguing that the federal maps missed more than 100,000 people. State leaders eventually opted to create their own maps in addition to the updated federal ones.

And in a very rural state, geography is another big problem when it comes to determining how to expand broadband. “Metrics that just count the number of people in a square mile don’t work in West Virginia because of the geography,” said Joshua Meadows, the director of Data Driven WV, a group of WVU professors and students helping to analyze data about internet access and potential areas of need.

The problem, he notes, prompted his group to find new ways to determine how people in the most rural parts of the state struggle to access the internet.

Meadows’ group is part of the state’s Core Planning Team, a large group of organizations working with the West Virginia Office of Broadband to help analyze data, collect feedback from regional listening sessions and state surveys, and connect with other state agencies. Members of the group, which includes nonprofits, institutions like West Virginia University and Marshall University, private companies, and the state’s Department of Economic Development, are also looking into best practices to expand internet access.

Unfortunately, the issue isn’t just about access. Just 88% of West Virginians have internet-capable devices like laptops, smartphones, desktops and tablets. That’s lower than the U.S. as a whole, where 93% of people have a device that can access the internet.

**West Virginia already has early goals for how many people it wants to connect**

A clearer picture of exactly how the state plans to connect people will likely emerge in the coming months, but the state has already made some of its early connection goals clear. The draft report includes some targets for how many people the state wants to help, especially when it comes to internet affordability, increased access to devices, and building basic digital skills and knowledge.

One goal, for example, calls for the state to increase the number of households participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program. More than 300,000 households in West Virginia are eligible, but many people still do not know about the program. Officials want to increase the number of participating households from just above 100,000 to roughly 250,000 by 2028, the report notes that the state is working with local colleges and universities to help increase awareness of the program and is also using the new FCC maps to reach areas with coverage gaps.

State officials have also pinpointed the need to improve residents’ digital literacy skills so that more people can not only access the internet but know how to use it effectively. The report notes that the state will aim to improve the basic digital skills of West Virginians by at least 15%, adding that officials hope to partner with public libraries and community organizations to provide training to state residents. Officials have used public listening sessions, paper surveys, and other methods to help collect information about what skills West Virginians need, and plan to do more outreach in the future.

The state will release more information about its broadband effort in the future, and the first part of the broadband money could arrive next year. As things get underway, those working on the state effort say the goal is ultimately to help expand access to a crucial service.

“Broadband is the 21st century utility, it’s part of how we engage in society,” said Elizabeth Vitullo, the assistant dean of strategic initiatives at the WVU Chambers College of Business and Economics and the lead of Startup WV, another member of the state’s Core Planning Team. “I think that when we get this connectivity issue solved, we’re going to see the state be propelled forward in incredible ways.”



**DHHR Reminds Parents of West Virginia Immunization Requirements for Back-to-School**

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) reminds parents of West Virginia students of the importance of remaining up to date with vaccinations as the back-to-school season approaches. Children who are current with their vaccinations will automatically meet school immunization requirements.

All children entering school in West Virginia for the first time in grades K-12 must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and hepatitis B unless properly medically exempted. All children entering school in West Virginia in grades 7 and 12 must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and meningococcal disease unless properly medically exempted.

“As families, students, educators, and county school systems prepare for the upcoming school year, it is important to receive vaccinations in a timely manner to help prevent potentially fatal or severe illnesses, including diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis) and others,” said Dr. Matthew Christiansen, Commissioner for DHHR’s Bureau for Public Health and State Health Officer. “Parents are encouraged to discuss their child’s vaccination status with their primary care provider or local health department.”

For more information on West Virginia vaccine requirements, please visit [oeps.wv.gov/immunizations/Pages/immunization\\_Requirements.aspx](https://oeps.wv.gov/immunizations/Pages/immunization_Requirements.aspx).

To view and apply for careers in the public health field, visit [dhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities.aspx](https://dhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities.aspx).



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**CLICK IT. DON’T RISK IT.**



WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR’S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM  
5707 MacCorkle Ave. SE | PO Box 17600 | Charleston, WV 25317

[www.dmv.wv.gov/ghsp](http://www.dmv.wv.gov/ghsp) | [www.facebook.com/wvghsp](https://www.facebook.com/wvghsp) | <https://twitter.com/WVhighwaysafety>

The West Virginia Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is urging drivers on West Virginia roads to buckle up during the statewide *Click It or Ticket* high-visibility enforcement mobilization that runs from August 4-20, 2023. This mobilization is part of the GHSP’s continual efforts to increase seat belt usage in West Virginia.

“We want seat belt use to be an automatic habit for drivers and passengers alike,” said Gov. Jim Justice.

In 2021, 40 percent of all passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in West Virginia were unrestrained. To help save lives, we need to step up seat belt enforcement, day and night.

Rural drivers may believe that their crash exposure is lower, but in 2021, 62 percent of total vehicle fatalities in West Virginia occurred in rural locations, compared to 38 percent in urban locations.

“We will keep working to spread the message that seat belts save lives until every person in every vehicle is correctly buckled up. Too many people die on our roads because they were not buckled. Just one death is one too many,” said GHSP Occupant Protection Program Coordinator Amy Boggs. “A seat belt is your best protection against death or injury should you be in a vehicle crash.”

Law enforcement officers across West Virginia will be out in full force, ticketing drivers who are caught traveling without a correctly buckled seat belt or transporting unrestrained children. This statewide seat belt campaign is aimed at enforcing seat belt use to help keep all vehicle occupants safe.

Wearing your seat belt is required by law. Don’t just buckle up to avoid a ticket. The values of our families’ and friends’ lives in West

Virginia are incalculable. The \$25 violators pay if ticketed pales in comparison to the lives of the people we love most. If you are caught driving while unbuckled and you get a ticket, look at it as your wakeup call. A ticket is far less expensive than paying with your life or the lives of your family and friends.

“At our current seat belt usage rate of 92.5 percent, unbuckled drivers or passengers have a 20.10 times higher likelihood of being killed if they are in a crash. The reality is: seat belts save lives. Not buckling up is not worth the risk. Click It. Don’t Risk It,” concluded Boggs.

For more information about the West Virginia Governor’s Highway Safety Program, visit [highwaysafety.wv.gov](https://highwaysafety.wv.gov) or call 304-926-2509.

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# 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 Precious. Across Camp Creek Bridge on the left. Preaching Every Sunday 9:00 AM  
 Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Bible Study every Wednesday 7:00 PM **Pastor: Jerry Chandler**

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

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

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

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

**COLD SPRINGS GOSPEL TABERNACLE**, Upper 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**  
 Bintree  
 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**

**PROCIOUS 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  
 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**





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MON-SAT 8AM-5PM  
SUN-CLOSED  
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M-F 8:00AM-5:00 PM  
SAT-9:00 AM -2:00 PM  
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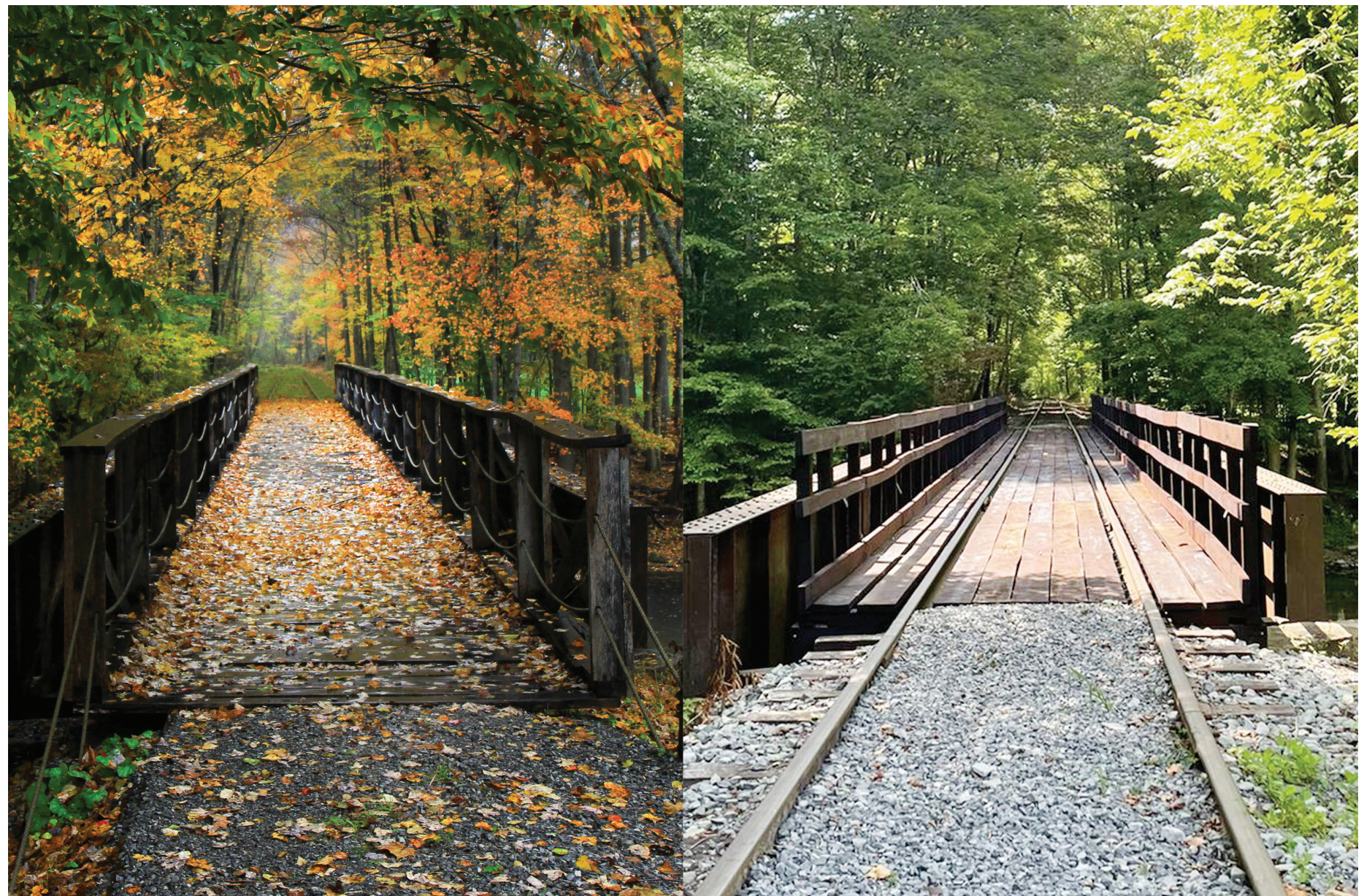
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# Rail Explorers awarded contract for Dundon rail excursions



Away with the old, in with the new

By Allen Hamrick

These days, it is time to get the walking sticks, waders or whatever you term as outing gear and get out of your comfort zone to experience the wild nature that surrounds us. West Virginia has many untamed rivers and streams, mountainous beauty, forgotten wilderness and trails to be rediscovered that are teeming with the rich history of our own Almost Heaven. There are many hiking and biking trails that will get your heart pumping right here in Clay's great outdoors. In addition, the stage is set for the old railroad along Buffalo Creek to come to life once again and be a destination spot for many across this country. If you love a challenge, this will be it.

Rail Explorers, a company that started its business in New York, has been awarded the contract to run their cars on the newly renovated BC&G railroad from Dundon to just past Swandale, 28 miles round trip. The com-

pany has expanded its operations throughout the country and will soon call Clay County one of their home spots. Their cars are easy to pedal and are perfect for family fun; some of the cars will be electric assisted so that the adventure can be fun younger and older folks alike.

There will soon be changes in Dundon, as well. The company leased the whole campground plus the lodge to give visitors a great place to stay and visit. The plans are still in the drawing room, so to speak, but are on the way. Rail Explorers will arrive at some point in September to start the makeover and hire their first people to run the rail cars. The projected opening date for the rides is April 1, 2024. Rail Explorers will also begin hiring their seasonal workers as well. So, if you're interested in a good job, keep your eyes peeled for notices. Rail Explorers has a lot of plans and will be a great benefit to the future of this county.

So, it is time to enjoy the great outdoors whether you

hunt, fish, go off-roading, read a book in the midst of nature, hike the mountains, mountain bike or kayak. There are many roads in this state that are untraveled and unexplored by many of the people who call this state home. I have traveled this state and abroad, and there is so much one can get involved with here in our county and in our state. The new rail bikes will be a ton of fun; many have experienced it first-hand prior to the rebuilding of the rails and are coming back for more. Have you ever wanted to know what you couldn't see beyond the last curve of the track? Now, you will be able to.

Mark your calendar right now for April 1, 2024, and be prepared for a ton of fun. Make it part of your bucket list and hit the rails. This ride will open your eyes to the past and rejuvenate your lungs to fresh air that can only be found in the wilderness. You owe it to yourself to take advantage of the opportunities in this county- hiking, fishing, canoeing and biking and soon the rail cars.

## Summersville Lake to become West Virginia's newest State Park

177 acres on the state's largest lake to become the 36th West Virginia State Park



Gov. Jim Justice announced this week that West Virginia will soon be opening its 36th state park, Summersville Lake State Park. The northern shore of the state's largest lake in Nicholas County will be transformed into a premiere outdoor adventure park in one of West Virginia's most iconic spots.

A bill that will officially designate the land as a state park was sent to the West Virginia Legislature by Gov. Justice. Once the bill is passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, new recreational opportunities at the park will be opened to the public. As the state's first new park added in more than 30 years, this designation is symbolic of the recent growth in West Virginia's tourism industry.

"I couldn't be more proud to announce our newest State Park," Gov. Justice said. "Summersville Lake is an iconic place in our beautiful state filled with a lot of

special memories that span generations of families. Now, all those who travel to Summersville Lake will be treated to the greatest outdoor adventure park in the country on the shores of our state's largest lake.

"The opportunity to add another State Park is a testament to the major impact that our investments in tourism and in our parks is having in West Virginia. I thank the Legislature for agreeing with me and supporting these investments, and I thank all those that work hard every day to operate our parks and market our state to the world. I can't wait to see people from far and wide enjoying Summersville Lake State Park very soon."

The 177-acre park is perched on the northern shore of the state's largest and most picturesque lakes. The lake has been a national and international destination known for its clear blue waters and unique rock formations since opening in

1966. Estimates show more than 1 million visitors enjoy watersports there each year. The new park, just off US-19, will immediately open the lake to additional recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and picnicking. The new park also includes an additional parking lot for those coming to enjoy the incredible views and world-class outdoor recreation.

The site is slated to be developed through a public-private partnership and the amenities will make it the greatest outdoor adventure park in the country. Planned amenities include additional climbing and bould-

ering opportunities, hiking and biking trails, water activities, aerial sports, camping, cabins, and more. The Division of Natural Resources will host a public meeting in the near future to receive input from the public.

This development comes on the heels of a historic investment in our state park system. State Parks are completing more than \$150 million in improvements, which include upgrades at every single state-operated lodge and every cabin across the state. Last year's state park revenue was the fourth year of record-breaking revenue, showing growth

both in in-state visitation and out-of-state visitation.

An event will be held in the near future to officially designate the park and open it to the public.

"Our state parks would not be where they are today without Governor Justice's vision. When he came into office, we had tens of millions in deferred maintenance and declining revenues" said Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Tourism Chelsea Ruby. "I'm thrilled to stand beside him today as we celebrate more than 150 million in investments, record revenue, and our first new state park in more than 30 years. We could not be more appreciative of the Legislature's continued support of our investments in expanding and improving recreation in our great state. West Virginia has truly become a national leader."

"Under the Governor's leadership, West

Virginia State Parks just finished another record year, and I'm just thrilled to see us add another 177 acres into our state parks system," said Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Brett McMillion, who oversees the State Park system. "We are looking forward to adding Summersville Lake as our 36th park and spending the next couple of months hearing from West Virginians on the amenities they'd like to see added in Nicholas County."

"Summersville Lake already has internationally-known amenities, and we are looking forward to greatly enhancing the visitor experience with this park," said Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Commerce James Bailey, who oversees the Division of Natural Resources. "With Governor Justice's vision, we're going to develop this site to make it the nation's premier outdoor adventure park."

