



# Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



Volume 134 No. 43

Periodical Postage Paid at Clay, West Virginia 25043-0180

Thursday, October 26, 2023

\$1.<sup>00</sup> 0 51497 13936 0

## Big Otter students learn Fire Safety



For Fire Safety Week, kids got to talk to the firefighters and see fire trucks up close.

The Big Otter Volunteer Fire Department visited Big Otter Elementary School during Fire Safety Week. The firefighters talked to the students about fire safety, smoke detectors, and what to do

if your house is on fire. Students enjoyed sitting in the fire trucks and seeing them up close. Thank you to the Big Otter Volunteer Fire Department for all they do for our community!



Big Otter Elementary students were visited by the fire department.



Sawyer Dobbins earned First Team All Region Honors and qualified for the WV State XC Meet.

## Dobbins Qualifies for WV State XC Meet

The Clay County High School cross country teams traveled to Little Beaver State Park in Beaver, West Virginia on Oct. 19 to compete in the Region III AA Meet. Teams in this region include Bluefield, Clay, Herbert Hoover, Independence, Liberty Raleigh, Nicholas, PikeView, Shady Spring, Westside, and Wyoming East. With a fourth-place finish, junior Sawyer Dobbins earned First Team All-Region honors and qualified for the WV State XC Meet. To advance, a runner had to finish in the top ten in Regions II, III and IV, and the top twelve in region I, or be on one of the top two to three teams in each region. This will be Dobbins

Continued on Page 8



Cheyenne Taylor earned Second Team All Region Honors.

## Attorney General Morrissey Announces Artwork of Central and Southeastern W.Va. 'Kids Kick Opioids' Regional Winners on Display at the Capitol

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey announced artwork by students from central and southeastern West Virginia, who are regional winners of the office's seventh Kids Kick Opioids contest, were on display at the State Capitol building from Oct. 10 through Oct. 17.

The artwork designs showcasing efforts to raise awareness of opioid abuse were created by Samantha Kennedy, of Clay County Middle School in Clay County; Brookelynn Neel, Sarah Arthur and Haylee Surface, of Mountain View Elementary & Middle School in Monroe County; Autumn Hively, of Hillsboro Elementary School in Pocahontas County; Mitchell Koerber, of Marlinton Middle School in Pocahontas County; and Lailyn Yost and Emma Crawford, of Ridgeview Elementary School in Raleigh County.

Artwork created by Kiley Ford from Rivesville Elementary & Middle School in Marion County, which was selected

as this year's statewide winner, along with statewide runners-up Eeve Matheny from Lenore PK-8 School in Mingo County and Hailey Rogers also from Rivesville Elementary & Middle School, will be on display at the Capitol from Oct. 2 to Nov. 26.

"These entries demonstrate the immense creativity and talent of our students and shows the grim reality of the opioid epidemic and how opioid abuse can destroy lives," Attorney General Morrissey said. "Our hope is the work of these artistic students will bring greater awareness and change, and touch the minds and hearts of those who view them at the Capitol."

Ford's design also appeared as a public service announcement in newspapers across West Virginia. In addition, entries from Ford and the state runners-up can be viewed on the Attorney General's website.

Morrissey

Continued on Page 8

## DHHR to Distribute Overdose Equipment to West Virginia EMS Agencies

Gov. Jim Justice has announced the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) will provide equipment to EMS agencies across the state to support overdose response.

Through \$1.5 million in federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Overdose Data to Action program, OEMS has purchased syringes, atomizers, gloves, sharps containers, face shields, and other equipment to support West Virginia EMS agencies.

"First responders are working on a daily basis to save lives impacted by the substance use disorder epidemic,"

said Jody Ratliff, OEMS Director. "We believe this overdose equipment will make a difference and are happy to support the incredible efforts of EMS agencies statewide."

Supplies will be distributed to agencies in November. For more information about OEMS, visit [wvoems.org](http://wvoems.org). To view and apply for careers in the public health field, visit [dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities.aspx](http://dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities.aspx). West Virginians seeking information on EMS careers in West Virginia are encouraged to visit [emsvv.com](http://emsvv.com) to learn about Gov. Jim Justice's EMS WV: Answer the Call initiative.

## Panthers dominate Mount View



Noah Collins breaks new records. Allen Hamrick photo.

See Story on Page 8



# BOOKED



# REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

## BRAXTON COUNTY



**Kristin Nicole Booher**  
Booked 10/22/23  
Driving on revoked  
(second offense)



**Harry Junior Bosley II**  
Booked 10/22/23  
Domestic assault, do-  
mestic battery, possession  
of a controlled substance



**Darrell Leon Carpenter Jr.**  
Booked 10/21/23  
Driving revoked third



**Daniel Wesley Hall**  
Booked 10/19/23  
Driving revoked third



**Robert Alexander Hull**  
Booked 10/18/23  
Tampering with motor  
vehicle, DOP, obstructing  
an officer



**Jennifer Ellen Kemp**  
Booked 10/20/23  
Destruction of property,  
petit larceny

## BRAXTON COUNTY



**Robert Wayne Mitchell**  
Booked 10/2/23  
Domestic assault



**Braden Todd Wood**  
Booked 10/16/23  
Animal cruelty, hunt  
without license, hunting  
out of season, shooting  
firearm within 500 ft.  
of dwelling, prohibited  
person with firearm



**Leonard Edward Wyant III**  
Booked 10/22/23  
Expired MVI, no  
insurance, possession of  
controlled substance, cell  
phone use while driving

## CLAY COUNTY



**Rickey Allen Carpenter Jr.**  
Booked 10/17/23  
No insurance



**Jessica Nicole Dodd**  
Booked 10/22/23  
Possession of mari-  
juana, driving without  
registration, driving  
on revoked for DUI II,  
unsafe and improperly  
equipped vehicles



**Eric Wayne Moore**  
Booked 10/18/23  
Sexual abuse by parent/  
guardian/custodian, use  
of obscene matter with  
intent to seduce minor,  
sexual assault first degree

## ARC Awards Nearly \$54M to Advance Economic Diversification in Appalachia's Coal-Impacted Communities

Largest POWER funding package to date is expected to create an estimated 13,700 new jobs and train over 4,600 workers for new opportunities in Appalachia's coal-impacted communities.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded nearly \$54 million to 64 projects in 217 counties through its POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) Initiative, which directs federal resources to economic diversification projects in Appalachian communities affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries. This is the largest single POWER awards package to date since the initiative launched in 2015.

"From workforce training and agriculture, to downtown development and broadband expansion, the projects receiving grants in this round of POWER funding show that the future of Appalachia's coal-impacted communities is economically diverse and innovative," said ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin.

"Projects like these are resulting in life-changing transformations, which in turn, not only provides new economic opportunities, but brings a renewed sense of hope and purpose across our Appalachian Region."

ARC's \$54 million investment announced today will support workforce development, agriculture and food economies, tourism, entrepreneurship, and more to help create jobs in new or existing industries, expand skills training, and attract more than \$247 million in private investments in Appalachian communities affected by the downturn of the coal industry. A new ARC report, Coal Production and Employment in Appalachia, indicates just how much these investments are needed. Between 2011 and 2022, coal industry employment in Appalachia fell by 62 percent, compared with nearly 43 percent in the rest of the United States.

"The POWER Initiative is empowering the people and communities of Appalachia and helping us build a brighter future, full of opportunity," said ARC 2023 States' Co-Chair, Governor Andy

Beshear. "These investments will help train our workers, expand new industries and build upon the progress being made in this important region. We're grateful for ARC's partnership as we continue to bring new industry and opportunity to Appalachia."

Including today's award package, ARC has invested over \$420 million in 507 projects impacting 365 coal-impacted counties since POWER was established in 2015. These ARC's investments are projected to create or retain more than 53,000 jobs and prepare over 142,000 workers and students for new opportunities in entrepreneurship, broadband, tourism, and other growing industries.

ARC plans to release a notice of solicitations of applications (NOSA) for the POWER Initiative in early 2024. To learn more about today's awardees and their work to boost industries that create a stronger economic future for Appalachia, visit [www.arc.gov/POWER](http://www.arc.gov/POWER).

## NICHOLAS COUNTY



**Crystal Sue Cutlip**  
Booked 10/16/23  
Capias



**Warren Preston Hypes**  
Booked 10/20/23  
Fleeing, failure to  
produce operators, grand  
larceny, left of center,  
prohibited person with  
firearm



**Dustin Dale Young**  
Booked 10/16/23  
Assault during the com-  
mission of a felony, DUI  
causing death with reck-  
less disregard, attempted  
homicide (murder), grand  
larceny, burglary, fleeing  
with reckless disregard



## Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU Super Crossword

### Answer

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

Answers

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

## West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

### CAREER

**TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING!** Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 877-635-0244. The Mission, Program Information and Tuition is located at [Career-Technical.edu/consumer-information](http://Career-Technical.edu/consumer-information). (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

### HEALTH/MEDICAL

**DONT LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY!** Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-844-592-5113

**PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR** May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-274-3943

**DENTAL INSURANCE** from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-405-3412 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/press)

### INTERNET/TV

**DIRECTV OVER INTERNET** - Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 MONTHS. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-656-0296

**SWITCH TO DISH** and get up to a \$300 gift card! Plus get the Multisport pack in-

cluded for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: 1-855-736-4350

**CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET WITH EARTHLINK.** Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and da-ta plans up to 300 GB. Call 844-230-3640

**HUGHESNET SATELLITE INTERNET** - 25mbps starting at \$49.99/mo! Get More Data FREE Off-Peak Data. FAST download speeds. WiFi built in! FREE Stand-ard Installation for lease customers! Limited Time, Call 1-877-567-2866

**FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET** for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bo-nus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & han-dling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-833-317-1335

### MISCELLANEOUS

**DONATE YOUR CAR,** truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Sched-ule a FAST, FREE vehicle pick-up and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-964-4167 today!

**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Mili-tary Discounts available. Call: 844-601-2044

**UPDATE YOUR HOME** with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. FREE in-home es-timates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional installation. Top quality - Made in the USA. Call for

free consultation: 877-802-8381. Ask about our specials!

**HANDS ON THE RIVER MASSAGE,** Geraldine Gardner, LMT, 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV. Call (304) 541-9139 for an appointment.

**ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER!** LeafFilter, the most advanced de-bris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-295-2840

**BECOME A PUBLISHED AUTHOR.** We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution Call for Your Author's Guide 1-833-675-6435 or visit [dorrancein-fo.com/WV](http://dorrancein-fo.com/WV)

**PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY** with a GENERAC home stand-by generator \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-901-2301

**UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE!** No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physi-cians Life Insurance Company-888-217-5559 or visit [www.Life55plus.info/wv](http://www.Life55plus.info/wv)

**SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB.** Comprehensive lifetime war-ranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-803-1282

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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.

### HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED:** The Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's Office has a job opening for a legal secretary. This position is responsible for providing administrative and clerical support for the attorneys in the office. Candidates must have good organization, typing, and computer skills. Job duties include welcoming clients and the public, assisting attorneys prepare typed le-

gal documents, answering the telephone, filing, calendaring, and keeping confidentiality. All applicants must be drug free and submit to a background check. Applicants must submit a well written resume and cover letter in person at the Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's Office or via U.S. mail to: Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, P.O. Box 25, Clay, WV 25043.

Place YOUR statewide ad today  
Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011





**Clay County Free Press**

claycountyfreepress.com

Email:

news@claycountyfreepress.com

advertising@claycountyfreepress.com

subscriptions@claycountyfreepress.com

*Michael Showell, Publisher*

The Clay County Free Press (USPS 116-660) is published weekly at 291 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia. Subscription Rate: In County, \$31.00, Out of County, \$36.00, Out of State, \$41.00. Periodical postage paid at Clay, West Virginia. Address all mail (subscription, change of address) to: PO Box 429, Lewisburg WV 24901 or call (304) 647-5724 or Fax (304) 647-5767. POSTMASTER Please give old address and your new address.

**The Confusing Part About Getting Older***By: Joseph J. Mazella*

I turned 57 years YOUNG this year, but my body seems a little confused about the YOUNG part. My back still gives me aches and pains every day. When I stretch and pop it, it sounds like a sheet of bubble wrap or a bowl of Rice Krispies. I tend to make a lot more noise when I get out of a chair or bend over. I don't remember groaning that much when I was in my 20's. My digestive tract has also gotten a lot louder over the years. And my stomach has become quite grouchy toward certain foods. My blood pressure can no longer handle a lot of salt. And my glasses keep getting stronger as my eyes get weaker. When I look in the mirror too this stranger with age spots, wrinkles, and silver hair keeps staring back at me.

My mind also seems to be a lot more scattered and forgetful than it used to be. I think of something I need to do only to forget it for a little while then have it pop back into my head later in the day. It is like my brain has become a cluttered desk where I am always searching for that thought I misplaced somewhere. It can be truly frustrating at times.

The only part of me that still feels YOUNG is my soul. It sometimes wonders what in the world is going on with my body and mind. Even though it continues to get wiser as the years go by, it still feels energetic, vibrant, and forever young. That is why I try to let it lead the way even if it has to drag my body and mind, with their 57 years of wear and tear, along for the ride. I know that my soul is what is essential. I know that my soul is who I really am. I know that my soul, with God's help, will lead me where I need to go and have me do what I need to do.

May you always let your soul lead the way. It will bring you love. It will give you peace. It will share your joy. It will keep you YOUNG. It will help you live the life you were meant to live and be the person you were meant to be. And in the end it will lead you home to God.

**An event that's practically gift wrapped.**

Ring in the holiday season at the annual WinterFest in downtown Clarksburg on December 1st and 2nd. Enjoy crafts, concerts, and Christmas cheer amidst this heart-warming community.

WVtourism.com/ClarksburgCVB

CLARKSBURG + WEST VIRGINIA VISITORS BUREAU

*almost heaven***Connect Anywhere, Anytime.****Enjoy Free Internet Data on Your Mobile Devices with ACP**

You qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program if a household of two has an income of less than \$39,440, or if you receive:

- Medicaid
- SNAP
- SSI
- WIC
- Veterans Pension
- Survivors or Lifeline Benefits
- Tribal Assistance Program
- Housing Assistance

maxsip TELECOM

Get a subsidized 4G Android Tablet for \$20

**CALL TODAY (833) 317-1335****THE BAPTIST CLASSROOM***Pastor Doug Newell, IV***Rejoice**

Have you ever noticed how often "rejoice" is used ironically? I looked at some headlines from the last week and saw several examples:

"Carb lovers rejoice!"

"Bitcoin Bulls, rejoice!"

"Rejoice! The iconic Ponce Krisy Kreme Returns."

Interestingly, these ironic calls to joy center around money and food. Our society doesn't speak seriously about joy; when we do, it's about simple pleasures and the gifts of God in nature, but even then, with either a half-serious wink or a melancholy sigh, that joy is all too fleeting. We know it won't last, so we laugh.

I lived close to a Krispy Kreme donut shop in North Carolina and sometimes took my boys for breakfast on their birthdays. This shop had a window in the dining area to see into the kitchen, and you could watch the donuts come down the conveyor and get doused with glaze. It sure made us happy, but not lasting joy. I love the memory, but I miss those days. Donuts are a good gift from God (1 Timothy 4:1-5). So are children (Psalm 127:3-5). There is joy in the things of life (Psalm 65:11-12; 104:15; Jeremiah 33:11; Proverbs 23:24-25) because God is good, and everything was good when He created the world. But this world is cursed because sin entered, and death by sin. Joy in the natural, cursed world is often fleeting and sometimes hard to come by. That's why the secular mind doesn't take joy seriously.

How, then, can Paul tell us always to be rejoicing? Christian joy does not come from a feeling within ourselves nor our present circumstances (2 Corinthians 6:10). Instead, our joy comes from the person and work of Jesus Christ, resting in the promises of God. The kingdom of God is not freshly glazed donuts but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Spirit (cf. Romans 15:17).

The call to always be rejoicing is a command of God. So many writers stress the "command" to rejoice and do so in such a way as to rob any Christian with a conscience of any joy they might have had. "Listen here, dirtbag, you are going to rejoice and you are going to LIKE IT!" Ok, it's not that harsh, but you get the drift. They seem to be sanctified by vinegar rather than grace. You don't find joy by pursuing joy. If rejoicing seems burdensome, it's because you are looking for it in the wrong place or perhaps looking at the right things in the wrong way. Joy comes from the person and work of Jesus Christ, resting in the promises of God.

Jesus Christ came as the last Adam to make all things new, to save His people from their sins. He will come again -- there'll be a new heaven and Earth, and King Jesus will dwell with His people in a New Jerusalem. There'll be no more tears, sorrow, or hurt, all the things that sin ruined, all the things that steal our joy. Hear this good news and rejoice.

**Home Country***By: Slim Randles*

I think there must be autumnal reasons for Halloween being hued in orange and black. It's a fun time, a magic evening if you're a kid, and if you're a grandpa-type guy, like me, who gets to hand out the goodies.

But the colors of this sweet evening celebration are orange and black, and so is October. In another week or so, our deciduous trees will stand like skeletons against the gray skies of winter, but now we have the orange and black of fall.

It happens right about sunset each day. The sky turns that eternal burnt-umber orange and the remaining leaves and the baring branches of our trees fill the evening with a holy filigree of contrast.

Oh, it's not something we need to do anything about. There's no need for picture taking or anything. But it's just something that we can step outside for ... look toward the west through the lacy pattern of black branches and for a moment, just a short moment, say to ourselves, "Isn't that pretty?"

If the paint store could sell me something that looked even close to that for the walls of the little cabin I have, I'd buy a gallon. Maybe two.

-----

**For the best in outdoor and Western art, check out artvincent@comcast.net.**

**I Then Thought of Chocolate***By: Dr. James Snyder*

Everybody has their own comfort food. I have a long list of comfort food, and Apple Fritter is at the top. Nothing comforts me quite like a fresh Apple Fritter.

The other day I needed some comfort food. After all, life can be rather stressful, and you either deal with the stress or let it deal with you.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage planned to spend the day thrift store shopping with one of our daughters. Thus, I had a whole day to deal with my stress.

The first thing I did was go where I usually get my Apple Fritter. I was quite excited on my way there, knowing I would have all day to enjoy my favorite comfort food. Even thinking about it caused me to lose a lot of my stress.

Then the unthinkable happened. I got to the place to purchase my Apple Fritter and was shocked to find they had no Apple Fritters in stock. They were out and did not know when any would be available.

If I had stress at the beginning of the day, it was nothing compared to the stress I was now experiencing. How can any store run out of the most important food item in the world?

Staring at the cashier, I said, "Could you check your inventory to see if maybe there's one you missed?"

She did, and much to my chagrin, there was none to be found. I staggered outside, as stressed as I've ever been in my life. What in the world am I going to do without an Apple Fritter? Especially at a time when I can sneak one behind the back of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

As I drove home, I didn't know what to do. I spent the whole day trying to figure this out, and if my luck is as it usually is, I will discover a solution three minutes before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walks in the door.

As I walked into the house thinking about this, I got a fresh cup of coffee, went to my easy chair, and tried to think through this problem.

No comfort food qualifies for my stress situation at this time. I did not want to sit with my stress all day. It's usually bad company. I had to come up with a solution. My wife is the one who always comes up with solutions, but I'm sure she would not volunteer any solution on this subject.

Sitting in my chair sipping coffee, trying to figure out what to do, I then thought of chocolate. Next to an Apple Fritter, a piece of chocolate is on my list of comfort foods. We are not allowed to have chocolate in our house because, according to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, chocolate gives her headaches.

I must say I'm a little bit jealous. I thought I was the only one giving her headaches, and now she's cheating on me

with chocolate headaches. They give her headaches instead of me? How dare they?

I knew we had none in the house, so I had to go out somewhere and get some delicious chocolate before she got home.

It didn't take long to get to the store, where I knew they had some nice chocolate candy. I went in, bought some, and headed for my vehicle to go home. I was so happy that my stress was almost gone before I took a bite of that chocolate.

I got home, got another fresh cup of coffee, sat in my easy chair and slowly opened this delicious chocolate candy bar. I looked at it very deliciously and reverently bowed to take my first bite.

I barely started to chew when all of the stress in my life ran for cover. I slowly chewed and chewed and chewed, and before I knew it, that chocolate bar disappeared. But so did my stress. Isn't it wonderful when you can deal with a problem so quickly?

Later that day, I heard The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage pull into the driveway. Soon, she was at the door and walked in. As usual, she came over to kiss me, and I welcomed her back home.

Then she stopped, turned around, and looked at me with one of her looks. That kind of look told me I was in some trouble. I could not figure out the trouble, but there it was.

"Oh my," she groaned as she stared at me. "I'm starting to get a headache. You did not have any chocolate candy today, did you?"

"What makes you say that?" I said as nicely as possible.

"When I kissed you I tasted chocolate. Did you have a chocolate bar while I was gone?"

All the stress I got rid of with my chocolate bar is now back because of that chocolate bar. For the life of me, I certainly cannot sort this out.

I then thought of one of my favorite scriptures. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Comfort food is temporary, but "the peace of God" endures forever. When I give my stress to God, He is dependable and will watch over my heart and mind.

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

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Looking for someone to plow snow from the lot and shovel snow from the sidewalk for the Clay County Department of Health and Human Resources office in Clay, WV.

If interested, please contact  
Patty Martin at 304-872-0810

**DENTAL Insurance**

Get your **FREE** Information Kit  
from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.

**1-855-405-3412**  
Dental50Plus.com/Press

Product not available in all states. Contact us to see the coverage and offer available in your state. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation including costs and limitations. This specific offer is not available in CO. Call 1-800-369-4781 or respond for a similar offer. In WV To find a provider in the network visit us at <https://www.physiciansmutual.com/web/dental/first-visit>. Certificate C250A (ID: C250C). Insurance Policy P550; Rider Kinds B438/B439. In CA, CO, IL, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MO, NY, NJ, NC, ND, VA. Includes Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Certificate C254/B465 (PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P54/B469 (GA: P54GA; OK: P54OK; TN: P54TN).

6323



# THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to *www.wvencyclopedia.org*.

**Oct. 25, 1918:** Athlete Marshall "Biggie" Goldberg was born in Elkins. He led the Chicago Cardinals to the NFL championship in 1947 and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1958.



**Oct. 25, 1951:** Writer Denise Giardina was born in Bluefield and raised in neighboring McDowell County. She is best known as a novelist and

also has a long history of community activism, including a run for governor.

**Oct. 26, 1801:** Jefferson County was established from a portion of Berkeley County by the Virginia General Assembly and named for Thomas Jefferson.

**Oct. 26, 1934:** Athlete Rodney Clark "Hot Rod" Hundley was born in Charleston. Hundley earned first team All-American recognition his senior year at West Virginia University. He averaged 24.5 points per game and scored 2,180 points over his college career, ranking second in WVU history.

**Oct. 27, 1879:** Howard B. Lee was born in Wirt County. He was elected state attorney general in 1924, and served for eight challenging years. His term saw the impeachment of a state auditor, the lawlessness of Prohibition, and labor troubles in the coalfields.

**Oct. 28, 1972:** Brad Paisley was born in Glen Dale. Paisley has received the Entertainer of the Year award from the Country Music Association and 14 Academy of Country Music Awards.

**Oct. 29, 1861:** Confederate commander Robert E. Lee ended his ill-fated western Virginia campaign. His three months in the region were

marked by rain, mud, inexperienced officers, diseases among the troops, and rampant criticism of his leadership.

**Oct. 29-30, 2012:** Following Hurricane Sandy, heavy wet snow fell across West Virginia. With accumulations approaching 40 inches, it surpassed all previously known October snowstorms.

**Oct. 30, 1825:** Randolph McCoy was born in Logan County. In 1878, McCoy's accusation against a cousin of Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield for stealing a hog set off a deadly series of events in the Hatfield-McCoy Feud.

**Oct. 31, 1877:** Herman Guy Kump was born in Capon Springs, Hampshire County. He was the 19th governor of West Virginia, serving from 1933 to 1937.

**Oct. 31, 1940:** Gale Catlett, West Virginia University basketball player and coach, was born in Hedgesville. Catlett coached WVU to 13 20-win seasons before he retired in 2002.

**Oct. 31, 1946:** Labor leader Cecil Edward Roberts Jr. was born in Cabin Creek, Kanawha County. A sixth-generation coal miner and a fiery orator, Roberts has served as president of the United Mine Workers of America since 1995.

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

What unique method did John Sebastian use to fill the instrumental breaks on the Lovin' Spoonful's hit "Day-dream"?

**Answer to last week's Trivia:** The hit song of Jim Lowe in which he describes mysterious going-ons in a private club like: a happy crowd, piano playing, smoking, and a lot of laughing but in which he can't gain attendance to because of a barrier. The barrier was a green door. (The Green Door, #3, Nov., 1956)



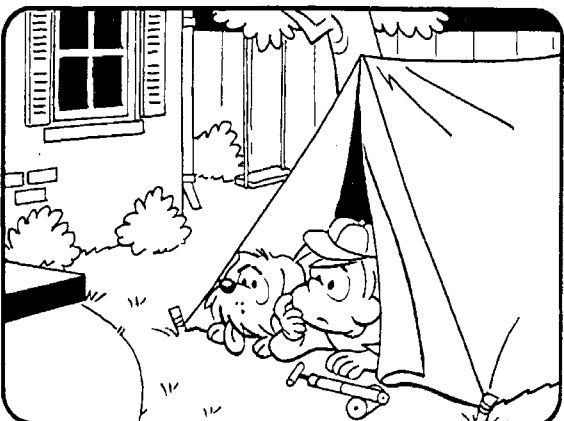
**A fall tour is a golden opportunity.**  
Find autumn adventure along the Cranberry Corridor Mountain Ride, starting at West Virginia's newest state park, Summersville Lake State Park. Breathtaking views and scenic vistas will make for an unforgettable leaf-peeping excursion.

WVtourism.com/Summersville

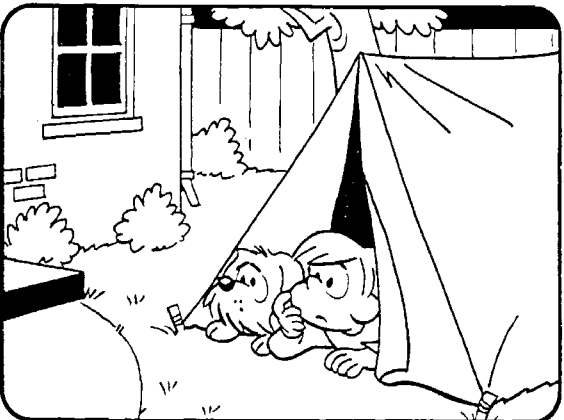
**VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.CLAYCOUNTYFREEPRESS.COM**

**HOCUS-FOCUS**

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Shirts are missing, 2. Swing is missing, 3. Bug sprayer is missing, 4. Cap is missing, 5. Dog's tongue is hidden, 6. Flag is smaller.

**Super Crossword**

**FOLLOWING CONCEPTION**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>  | <b>DOWN</b>                                  | <b>80</b> Yemeni capital                |
| <b>1</b> Vocalist Vaughan                                  | <b>1</b> Tanning lotion stat                 | <b>81</b> Poppa                         |
| <b>6</b> Falsely present as genuine                        | <b>2</b> Aids for walking tours              | <b>82</b> — Magnon                      |
| <b>12</b> Wizards-Magic matchups, e.g.                     | <b>3</b> Scarlet tanager                     | <b>83</b> Unit of corn                  |
| <b>20</b> Brand of spaghetti sauce                         | <b>4</b> Old film critic James               | <b>84</b> Source of a purple fruit      |
| <b>21</b> Illicit moneylender                              | <b>5</b> Biblical peak identified with Sinai | <b>85</b> Augmenting                    |
| <b>22</b> Legendary lost city of gold                      | <b>6</b> Ending for eye or mouth             | <b>86</b> Start to get tiresome         |
| <b>23</b> Carjacking or kidnapping                         | <b>7</b> Fancy word for "kiss"               | <b>87</b> Witty                         |
| <b>25</b> Guys playing in central positions in team sports | <b>8</b> Little donkey                       | <b>88</b> Bombeck                       |
| <b>26</b> Whirling, old-style                              | <b>9</b> Round rubber gasket                 | <b>89</b> Nation within a nation        |
| <b>27</b> Vase variety                                     | <b>10</b> Masc. opposite                     | <b>90</b> Gaffer                        |
| <b>28</b> Disgrace   | <b>11</b> Plastering                         | <b>91</b> Michelle                      |
| <b>30</b> Major Dutch banking corp.                        | <b>12</b> Kathmandu native                   | <b>92</b> Hip-hop "Dr."                 |
| <b>31</b> "I believe," on the internet                     | <b>13</b> Zeppelin, e.g.                     | <b>93</b> See                           |
| <b>32</b> Metabolism or reproduction                       | <b>14</b> Not favorable                      | <b>94</b> 51-Across                     |
| <b>37</b> Places for petri dishes                          | <b>15</b> Gunky stuff                        | <b>95</b> Nation within a nation        |
| <b>39</b> Old Delta rival                                  | <b>16</b> Still lifes, e.g.                  | <b>96</b> Counterparts                  |
| <b>40</b> Actress Anderson                                 | <b>17</b> Ike's first lady                   | <b>97</b> Wood cutter                   |
| <b>41</b> Haul to court                                    | <b>18</b> Utopias                            | <b>98</b> Software revision, e.g.       |
|  | <b>19</b> Jukebox selections                 | <b>99</b> Pack away                     |
|  | <b>20</b> Supreme Court's Samuel             | <b>100</b> Violin cousin                |
|  | <b>21</b> Solo of "Solo"                     | <b>101</b> Get frosty                   |
|  | <b>22</b> "Casablanca" heroine               | <b>102</b> Facilitates                  |
|  | <b>23</b> Embrace fully                      | <b>103</b> Proportion                   |
|  | <b>24</b> Not healthy                        | <b>104</b> Lacking skill                |
|  | <b>25</b> Surpass in firepower               | <b>105</b> Thees and —                  |
|  | <b>26</b> Tabloid VIPs                       | <b>106</b> Em, to Dorothy               |
|  |  | <b>107</b> Hurdle for some college srs. |
|  |  | <b>108</b> "2 funny!!!"                 |
|  |  | <b>109</b> Relatives, casually          |
|  |  | <b>110</b> "— a pity!"                  |
|  |  | <b>111</b> Casual shirt                 |

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19					
20						21							22												
23					24								25												
		26						27				28	29						30						
31					32		33			34					35	36									
37			38			39				40					41										
42					43				44	45					46				47	48	49				
50									51				52	53	54				55						
					56		57	58		59			60				61								
62	63	64							65				66				67								
68							69			70	71				72					73					
74					75	76				77					78			79	80						
81									82				83	84			85								
86									87				88		89			90		91	92	93			
94								95							96			97	98						
					99				100	101	102				103					104					
105	106	107							108					109	110				111		112				
113									114									115		116		117			
118							119	120										121	122		123		124		
125																						126			127
128																									128



# THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike should vote alike.

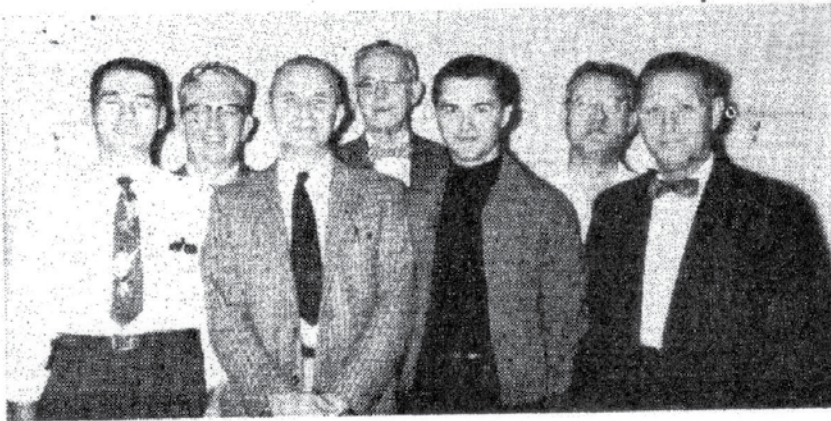
"DUNDON" RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.

September, 1957



## More Men Teachers Than Ever Before



For the first time in the last two decades, (check me if I'm wrong) Widen boasts more men on the teaching staff than in any recent years. In the front row are the newcomers; Messrs J. V. Pinney, physical education and geography, and head coach; Carl Simmons, band director; James Boggs, commercial studies; and Ira Jackson, fifth grade. Back row: A. R. Matheny, mathematics; Calvin Reynolds, science, biology and chemistry; and Harry E. Baer, principal.



F/A GORDON BUTCHER USN

The picture on the right was taken of the more than 100 boys and girls who attended the annual Baptist Church Daily Vacation Bible School, of which Mrs. Vannie Talbert was the superintendent, but not present on playground when the picture was taken.

Shown from right to left, the teachers are: Maxine Donohue, Doralee Truman, Anna Belle King, Ruth Butcher, Wanda Mullins and Betty Rapp.

William Ralph Ashley received fatal injuries in a haulage accident in the Rich Run Mine of Elk River Coal and Lumber Company at 8:30 A.M. Monday, September 23, 1957, when he apparently fell between cars.



Ashley, who would have been 28 years old on October 9, had been employed at Widen since April 10, 1948, and worked both in the mine and in the repair shop. He is survived by his wife, Sarah M. Ashley, their three children, Kathy, 7, Veronica, 5, and William, Jr., 4. Also surviving are his mother, Mrs. Alice Ashley of Dille; and four brothers.

This was the first fatal accident at the Widen mine since June 23, 1953, a period of four years and three months, during which time 3,728,597 tons of coal were produced.

## Miss Hazel Baughman Speaks At Convention

Miss Hazel Baughman, president of the Widen Woman's Club, will speak to the delegates of the Capitol District Clubs at their district convention October 19th, on her impressions of the Adult Education Institute held at West Virginia University in Morgantown August 14-15. Club officers expect to make the Institute an annual affair.

Mrs. T. B. Tompkins of St. Albans, president of the Capitol District Women's Clubs announces the 44th annual district convention will be held on Saturday, October 19 in the St. Albans Junior High School auditorium members of the St. Albans Woman's Club as hostesses.

Registration begins at 9 A. M. with a "Coffee," continues until the Convention opens at 10 A. M. New District officers will be elected and a reception honoring the new officers will be held at 3 P. M. immediately following the closing of the convention. The reception will be held at the St. Albans Woman's Club House.

Mrs. Phares E. Reeder of Dunbar, president of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs will speak at the convention on the theme "Together We Build."

All members of Woman's Clubs are invited to attend.

Fireman Apprentice Gordon Butcher, F-A Karl Butcher, and Apprentice Eddie Parsons are enjoying a fourteen day leave, having completed their work at the Bainbridge, Maryland Boot Training Center, where the trio has been striking for an Electrician's Mate appointment. They expect to enter electronics school for advanced studies at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois, on the completion of their leaves.

## LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON A PROPOSAL TO CLOSE AND CONSOLIDATE H. E. WHITE ELEMENTARY AND/OR LIZEMORE ELEMENTARY INTO EXISTING CLAY ELEMENTARY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF CLAY WV 18-4-13a

WV Board of Education Policy 6204

The Clay County Board of Education will hold three public hearings, as follows, on the Superintendent's recommendation to close H. E. White Elementary and/or Lizemore Elementary and consolidate them into existing Clay Elementary to take effect at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

- H. E. White Elementary School Public Hearing LOCATION: H. E. White Elementary School DATE AND TIME: November 2, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. Sign in between 5:00 P.M. and 5:55 P.M. to speak.
- Lizemore Elementary School Public Hearing LOCATION: Lizemore Elementary School DATE AND TIME: November 6, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. Sign in between 5:00 P.M. and 5:55 P.M. to speak.
- Clay Elementary School Public Hearing LOCATION: Clay Elementary School DATE AND TIME: November 7, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. Sign in between 5:00 P.M. and 5:55 P.M. to speak.

### ALTERNATIVE DATES AND TIME:

Should the hearing be unable to be held on the scheduled date due to inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the county, the hearing(s) will be held on the following dates at the same location and time as the originally scheduled hearing:

- H. E. White Elementary November 3, 2023, beginning at 6:00 P.M.
- Lizemore Elementary November 8, 2023, beginning at 6:00 P.M.
- Clay Elementary November 9, 2023, beginning at 6:00 P.M.

If for any other reason the meeting cannot be conducted on the alternative date or time, the board of education shall determine a date or time.

Should the hearing require additional time beyond 11:00 P.M., it will be recessed and will reconvene at the same location as the recessed hearing at 6:00 P.M. on the next business day on which no other hearing is scheduled.

### PLACE:

The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined there is insufficient room to accommodate all those who wish to attend. The hearing shall be recessed and moved to a new location of sufficient size to accommodate those who wish to attend. If that happens, the new meeting location shall be posted at the original meeting location.

### PROPOSED ACTION OF THE CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Closure and consolidation of H. E. White Elementary and/or Lizemore Elementary with existing Clay Elementary at the end of the 2023-2024 school year

### SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL:

Six copies of written material intended to be reviewed by the county board of education must be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent, 285 Church Street, Clay, West Virginia 25043 on or before the close of business on October 26, 2023, in order to provide the county board of education time to consider the material before the vote. Facilities will be made available to make copies up to ten pages.

### HEARING PROCEDURES:

A representative of Clay County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For a period of fifty-five minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed closure of H. E. White Elementary and/or Lizemore Elementary and consolidation into existing Clay Elementary, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to three minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the board takes any final action.

### REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION:

Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection on week days when school is in session by September 20, 2023, through November 9, 2023, between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. in the Office of the Superintendent of Clay County Schools located at 285 Church Street, Clay, West Virginia.

Philip Dobbins, Superintendent  
Clay County Board of Education  
September 13, 2023



We Serve All  
ELRICO STORES

## JOHN G. HUBBARD, DDS, PLLC

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

Honor graduates of West Virginia University School of Dentistry  
Over 60 Years Combined Clinical Experience



We love kids!  
We have over 100,000 pediatric visits (children 12 and under)

### SERVICES:

- Cosmetic Dentistry • Pediatric Dentistry • Extractions
- Oral Cancer Examinations • Porcelain Veneers/Crowns/Bridges
- Root Canal Therapy • Implants/Implant retained Dentures & Crowns
- Nitrous Oxidation • Bleaching

Preferred providers for Mountain State Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Delta Dental, MetLife, United Concordia, 4 Most, CHIPS, WV Pre-employment Program, Adults & Child Medicaid.

DISCOUNTS:  
Veterans 10% • Senior Citizens 10% • Private Pay Patients With No Dental Insurance 10%

HOURS: Monday thru Friday 8 am - 4 pm

63 Carr Street • Clay, WV 25043

304-587-4232 • johnghubbarddd@gmail.com

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



# LEGALS

## CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA STATEMENT OF NET POSITION June 30, 2023

	Primary Government		Component Units		
	Governmental Activities	Board of Health	Landmark Commission	Public Library	Business Development Authority
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,728,922	\$ 1,006,942	\$ 10,999	\$ 352,776	\$ 8,205
Receivables:					
Taxes	214,120	-	-	-	-
Accounts	440,438	491,683	-	-	-
Prepaid expenses	-	16,425	-	-	-
Capital assets:					
Nondepreciable:					
Land	199,281	-	-	-	62,160
Depreciable:					
Buildings	4,051,495	-	-	-	43,235
Structures and improvements	594,179	-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	2,087,249	258,280	-	-	-
Less: accumulated depreciation	(4,177,801)	(144,825)	-	-	(15,571)
Other debits:					
Net pension assets	-	285,224	-	-	-
Net OPEB assets	-	3,602	-	-	-
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 6,137,883</b>	<b>\$ 1,917,355</b>	<b>\$ 10,999</b>	<b>\$ 352,776</b>	<b>\$ 98,029</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS</b>					
Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB	37,633	152,668	-	-	-
Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	429,235	38,504	-	-	-
<b>Total deferred outflows of resources</b>	<b>466,868</b>	<b>191,172</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Current liabilities payable from current assets:					
Accounts payable	2,466,269	5,287	-	11	-
Payroll available	-	1,605	-	-	-
Unearned revenues:					
Federal Grants	934,110	-	-	-	-
Noncurrent liabilities:					
Notes payable - due in one year	53,103	-	-	-	-
Compensated absences payable	43,411	40,214	-	-	-
Net pension liability	150,433	-	-	-	-
Liability for closure and postclosure	-	-	-	-	-
Net OPEB liability	17,376	-	-	-	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,664,702</b>	<b>47,106</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS</b>					
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB	911,130	369,708	-	-	-
Deferred inflows of resources to pensions	46,196	140,588	-	-	-
<b>Total deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>137,326</b>	<b>510,296</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET POSITION</b>					
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,701,300	113,455	-	-	89,824
Restricted for:					
Unrestricted	101,423	1,437,670	10,999	352,765	8,205
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 2,802,723</b>	<b>\$ 1,551,125</b>	<b>\$ 10,999</b>	<b>\$ 352,765</b>	<b>\$ 98,029</b>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement

## CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Functions / Programs	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenues and Changes in Net Position				
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Primary Government Governmental Activities	Board of Health	Component Units Landmark Commission	Public Library	Business Dev. Authority
<b>Primary government:</b>								
Governmental activities:								
General government	\$ 1,676,602	\$ 1,689,245	\$ 97,715	\$ 990,722				
Public safety	2,525,284	-	49,170	(2,188,463)				
Health and Sanitation	-	-	37,306					
Culture and recreation	7,178	-	-	(12,777)				
Social services	51,651	-	-	(2,667)				
Capital projects	264,745	-	-					
<b>Total primary government</b>	<b>\$ 4,525,460</b>	<b>\$ 1,689,245</b>	<b>\$ 184,191</b>	<b>(1,213,185)</b>				
<b>Component units:</b>								
Clay County Board of Health	1,365,779	191,895	1,453,294	-	\$ 279,410	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Clay County Landmark Commission	1,669	3,112	1,611	-	-	3,054	-	-
Clay County Public Library	121,518	3,047	67,205	-	-	-	(51,266)	-
Clay Business Development Authority	3,951,197	45,441	3,883,383	-	-	-	-	(22,373)
<b>Total component units</b>	<b>\$ 5,440,163</b>	<b>\$ 243,495</b>	<b>\$ 5,405,493</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 279,410</b>	<b>3,054</b>	<b>(51,266)</b>	<b>(22,373)</b>
<b>General revenues:</b>								
Ad valorem property taxes				1,234,572	-	-	64,044	-
Alcoholic beverages tax				630	-	-	-	-
Gas and oil severance tax				68,043	-	-	-	-
Other taxes				47,680	-	-	-	-
Coal severance tax				39,732	-	-	-	-
Licenses and permits				14,814	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted investment earnings				5,999	8,115	-	2,735	102
Refunds				20,446	-	-	-	64
Miscellaneous				192,369	96	-	-	-
<b>Total general revenues</b>				<b>1,624,285</b>	<b>8,211</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,779</b>	<b>166</b>
Change in net position				(245,199)	287,621	3,054	15,513	(22,207)
Net position - beginning				2,809,094	1,263,504	7,945	337,252	120,236
<b>Net position - ending</b>				<b>\$ 2,802,723</b>	<b>\$ 1,263,504</b>	<b>\$ 10,999</b>	<b>\$ 352,765</b>	<b>\$ 98,029</b>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement

## CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS June 30, 2023

	General	Coal Severance Tax	CCEMS	E-911	American Rescue Act	Wireless Tower	Other Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
	<b>ASSETS</b>							
<b>Current:</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 168,411	\$ 10,361	\$ 348,276	\$ 797,228	\$ 934,982	\$ 383,749	\$ 85,915	\$ 2,728,922
Receivables:								
Taxes	214,120	-	-	-	-	-	-	214,120
Accounts	-	10,451	429,987	-	-	-	-	440,438
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 382,531</b>	<b>\$ 20,812</b>	<b>\$ 778,263</b>	<b>\$ 797,228</b>	<b>\$ 934,982</b>	<b>\$ 383,749</b>	<b>\$ 85,915</b>	<b>\$ 3,383,480</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS AND FUND BALANCES</b>								
<b>Liabilities:</b>								
Accounts payable	2,466,269	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,466,269
Deferred revenues:								
Federal grants	-	-	-	-	934,110	-	-	934,110
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,466,269</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>934,110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,400,379</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows:</b>								
Unavailable revenue - taxes	195,514	-	-	-	-	-	-	195,514
<b>Total deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>195,514</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>195,514</b>
<b>Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>2,661,783</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>934,110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,595,893</b>
<b>Fund balances:</b>								
Restricted	-	-	778,263	797,228	872	383,749	85,915	2,046,027
Assigned	(2,279,252)	20,812	-	-	-	-	-	(2,258,440)
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>(2,279,252)</b>	<b>20,812</b>	<b>778,263</b>	<b>797,228</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>383,749</b>	<b>85,915</b>	<b>(212,413)</b>
<b>Total liabilities, deferred inflows and fund balances</b>	<b>\$ 382,531</b>	<b>\$ 20,812</b>	<b>\$ 778,263</b>	<b>\$ 797,228</b>	<b>\$ 934,982</b>	<b>\$ 383,749</b>	<b>\$ 85,915</b>	<b>\$ 3,383,480</b>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement

## CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION FIDUCIARY FUNDS June 30, 2023

NET POSITION	
Agency Funds	Restricted for Individuals, organizations, other governments
Non-pooled cash	\$ 1,205,141
<b>Total cash</b>	<b>\$ 1,205,141</b>
Receivables:	
Taxes	356,617
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>356,617</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,561,758</b>
Total liabilities	
\$ 1,561,758	

The notes to the financial statements  
are an integral part of this statement



# LEGALS

Continued from previous page

**CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
- GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

	General	Coal Severance Tax	CCEMS	E-911	American Rescue Plan	Wireless Tower	Other Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>								
Taxes:								
Ad valorem property taxes	\$ 1,147,463	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,147,463
Alcoholic beverages tax	630	-	-	-	-	-	-	630
Gas and oil severance tax	68,043	-	-	-	-	-	-	68,043
Other taxes	44,861	-	-	-	-	-	2,819	47,680
Coal severance tax	-	39,732	-	-	-	-	-	39,732
Licenses and permits	9,714	-	-	-	-	-	5,100	14,814
Intergovernmental:								
Federal	109,869	-	32,306	24,319	564,183	-	29,202	759,879
State	68,396	-	-	-	-	128,456	-	196,852
Local	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Charges for services	98,538	-	850,919	674,097	-	-	4,665	1,628,219
Fines and forfeits	-	-	-	-	-	-	61,026	61,026
Interest and investment earnings	891	26	1,134	2,393	872	595	88	5,999
Refunds	20,446	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,446
Contributions and donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	52,991	52,991
Miscellaneous	79,134	-	7,849	46,875	-	-	5,520	139,378
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,657,985</b>	<b>39,758</b>	<b>892,208</b>	<b>747,684</b>	<b>565,055</b>	<b>129,051</b>	<b>161,411</b>	<b>4,193,152</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>								
Current:								
General government	1,605,951	-	-	-	564,183	-	52,322	2,222,456
Public safety	1,032,514	29,153	888,909	496,799	-	-	55,707	2,503,082
Social services	49,601	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,601
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-	-	264,745	-	264,745
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>2,688,066</b>	<b>29,153</b>	<b>888,909</b>	<b>496,799</b>	<b>564,183</b>	<b>264,745</b>	<b>108,029</b>	<b>5,039,884</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(1,030,081)	10,605	3,299	250,885	872	(135,694)	53,382	(846,732)
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>								
Transfers in	532,909	-	-	-	-	-	-	532,909
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	(471,419)	-	-	(61,490)	(532,909)
<b>Total other financing sources (uses)</b>	<b>532,909</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(471,419)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(61,490)</b>	<b>-</b>
Net change in fund balances	(497,172)	10,605	3,299	(220,534)	872	(135,694)	(8,108)	(846,732)
Fund balances - beginning	(1,782,080)	10,207	774,964	1,017,762	-	519,443	94,023	634,319
Fund balances - ending	\$ (2,279,252)	\$ 20,812	\$ 778,263	\$ 797,228	\$ 872	\$ 383,749	\$ 85,915	\$ (212,413)

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement

**CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Modified Accrual Basis	Adjustments Budget Basis	Actual Amounts Budget Basis	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final				
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Taxes:						
Ad valorem property taxes	\$ 1,192,977	\$ 1,214,116	\$ 1,147,463	\$ (11,586)	\$ 1,135,877	\$ (78,239)
Alcoholic beverages tax	300	300	630	-	630	330
Gas and oil severance tax	20,000	68,042	68,043	-	68,043	1
Other taxes	25,000	25,000	44,861	-	44,861	19,861
Licenses and permits	800	8,997	9,714	-	9,714	717
Intergovernmental:						
Federal	-	89,901	109,869	-	109,869	19,968
State	-	68,396	68,396	-	68,396	-
Local	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	-
Charges for services	94,550	94,550	98,538	-	98,538	3,988
Interest and investment earnings	1,200	1,200	891	-	891	(309)
Refunds	-	46,500	20,446	4,115	24,561	(21,939)
Miscellaneous	64,300	81,300	79,134	-	79,134	(2,166)
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,399,127</b>	<b>1,708,302</b>	<b>1,657,985</b>	<b>(7,471)</b>	<b>1,650,514</b>	<b>(57,788)</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
Current:						
General government	1,460,405	1,724,970	1,605,951	-	1,605,951	119,019
Public safety	214,857	807,199	1,032,514	(329,488)	703,026	104,173
Social services	3,200	52,801	49,601	-	49,601	3,200
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>1,678,462</b>	<b>2,584,970</b>	<b>2,688,066</b>	<b>(329,488)</b>	<b>2,358,578</b>	<b>226,392</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(279,335)	(876,668)	(1,030,081)	322,017	(708,064)	168,604
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>						
Transfers in	22,267	528,984	532,909	(4,115)	528,794	(190)
<b>Total other financing sources (uses)</b>	<b>22,267</b>	<b>528,984</b>	<b>532,909</b>	<b>(4,115)</b>	<b>528,794</b>	<b>(190)</b>
Net change in fund balance	(257,068)	(347,684)	(497,172)	317,902	(179,270)	168,414
Fund balance - beginning	257,068	347,684	(1,782,080)	2,129,761	347,681	(3)
Fund balance - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,279,252)	\$ 2,447,663	\$ 168,411	\$ 168,411

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement

**CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - COAL SEVERANCE TAX FUND  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

	Budget Amounts		Actual Modified Accrual Basis	Adjustments Budget Basis	Actual Amounts Budget Basis	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final				
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Taxes:						
Coal severance tax	\$ 15,000	\$ 39,263	\$ 39,732	\$ (348)	\$ 39,384	\$ 121
Interest and investment earnings	20	16	26	-	26	10
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>15,020</b>	<b>39,279</b>	<b>39,758</b>	<b>(348)</b>	<b>39,410</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
Current:						
Public safety	15,120	39,383	29,153	-	29,153	10,230
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>15,120</b>	<b>39,383</b>	<b>29,153</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,153</b>	<b>10,230</b>
Net change in fund balance	(100)	(104)	10,605	(348)	10,257	10,361
Fund balance - beginning	100	104	10,207	(10,103)	104	-
Fund balance - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,812	\$ (10,451)	\$ 10,361	\$ 10,361

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement

(2)

# LEGALS

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE**

The undersigned Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in it by that certain Deed of Trust dated July 3, 2008, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 119, at Page 802, Billy J. Duffield did convey unto Richard A. Pill, Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Trustee having been instructed by the secured party to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Clay County Courthouse, in Clay, West Virginia, on

November 7, 2023, at 10:00 AM

The following described real estate, with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the Union District, Clay County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

The surface only, with its appurtenances thereunto belonging, of those two certain tracts or parcels of real estate, together with any building or improvements thereon, situate on the waters of Elk River, In Union District, Clay County, West Virginia, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

TRACT NO. 1: Beginning at a water birch on the bank of said Elk River and corner to Herbert Samples Lot, and running with said Samples line across the bottom 305 feet to a stake at the edge of the right of way of County (State) Road; thence down the river and with right of way line of said road 420 feet to a stake at the lower edge of said right of way; thence across bottom 402 feet to a large water birch on the bank of said river; thence up and with said river about 402 feet to the place of beginning, estimated to contain about 5 acres, (in reality 4 acres), more or less, but this conveyance in gross and not by the acre; TRACT NO. 2: Beginning at a stake at the corner of property heretofore sold to Mae Markle by Winfield S. Pierson, and running with the Grishaver line 80 feet to a stake at the said county road; thence down the river with the meanders of said road 412 feet to corner of J. M. Salack's line and lot; and thence down the hill 56 feet to a stake and corner of the said Mae Markle lot, and thence to the beginning, containing 1/2 acre, more or less.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 5082 Elk River Road, Procius, WV 25164.

AND BEING the same real estate which was conveyed to Billy J. Duffield, by Deed dated July 3, 2008, from Bonnie Duffield, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 202, at Page 698.

The above-described property will be sold subject to any covenants, restrictions, easements, leases and conditions of record, and subject to any unpaid real estate taxes.

The subject property will be sold in "AS IS" condition. The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price as a deposit with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

Richard A. Pill, Trustee

P. O. Box 440, 85 Aikens Center, Martinsburg, WV 25404

Phone (304) 263-4971, Fax (304) 267-5840, e-mail: foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com

# LEGALS

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF WEST VIRGINIA  
CHARLESTON**

CASE NO. 23-0735-E-ENEC  
MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and  
THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

Petition and General Investigation to determine reasonable rates and charges on and after January 1, 2024.

**NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING**

On August 31, 2023, Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company (collectively, Companies) requested that the Commission initiate its annual review of Expanded Net Energy Costs (ENEC), including a review of actual costs and recoveries for the review period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, and to establish new rates to go into effect on January 1, 2024. The Companies request that the Commission approve rates that will result in a projected total annual revenue of \$167,465,330. This requested increase is less than the calculated increase of \$243,032,313 which includes a deferred ENEC under-recovery balance of \$267,004,039 as of June 30, 2023, and a projected \$19,913,811 over-recovery for the 2024 forecasted effective rate period. The Companies derived the requested \$167.47 million by taking the actual under-recovery balance of \$267,465,330 and subtracting \$91,898,347, the amount deferred from the last ENEC filing, Case No. 22-0793-E-ENEC and dividing the balance by half. In other words, the Companies propose to recover the \$91.9 million deferred from the last ENEC case and half of the present under-recovery. The Companies request a four percent carrying charge for the remaining \$75,566,983.

The proposed ENEC rates represent a 9.9% increase in total rates with an impact to the average residential customer using 1,000 kWhs per month being an increase in monthly bills from \$120.20 to \$129.39 or 7.8%.

This matter is scheduled for an evidentiary hearing on Thursday November 30, 2023. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at the Public Service Commission, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. The Commission may cancel the evidentiary hearing for good cause shown. Interested persons intending to attend the hearing should monitor the Commission web docket.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene not later than November 9, 2023. All petitions 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 petitions 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/onlinecomments/default.cfm> by clicking the "Formal Case" link.

MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and  
THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY



# Panthers win streak stretched to 6 with Friday's win

By Allen Hamrick

The CCHS Panthers continue to light a fire on the football field with another landslide victory over Mount View this past week. Mount View travelled all the way from Welch to go head to head in a match up that should be called the tsunami bowl. From the first whistle, the rain came and the field turned into a slippery mess. However, if you love old style football from the 70's with rain soaked fields and snow, Bradley Field was the place to be Friday evening. Normally, when the field becomes a water bowl, both teams have the same difficulty playing the game it was not to be on this night though. The Panthers offense and special teams were relentless as was their defense. The water and mud only seemed to make the Panthers play better. Panther offense overwhelmed the defense of Mount View in every way - it was like watching chickens chewing ants. Defensively, the Panthers looked like hummingbirds to sugar water; they repeatedly trespassed on the real estate of Mount View and completely upset the push of the Mount View offense. Not enough can be said about Panther offense as they seem to score at will.

Noah Collins tossed for five TD's and had yards totaling 190. In this game, he also broke the most yards and TD's in a single season. In the last six games, he has passed for three or more TD's in a game. BJ Williams had a big game with 94 yards on the receiving with three TD's. Micah Osborne had 45 yards receiving and two TD's for the team. With record breaking Noah Collins at the helm and a host of boys that can get the job done in the running



Defense closes the gap.

and receiving department, the Panthers look to be on a roll. The final score of the game was Panthers 73, Mount View 0. With this win, the Panthers moved to 6-2 on the season with six wins in a row, and Mount View dropped to 1-6 on the season.

The Panthers will play at Summers County on Friday night. It will be a tough game to win on the road as Summers County is pretty evenly matched with Clay in the win to loss ratio. This should be a good game with neither team having the upper hand. Summers County has been doing the same thing as the Panthers have been doing and that is knocking the poo pang out of their opponent's ham hocks. The Panthers have been enjoying some crazy one sided wins, so

this should be a good test of their skills as Summers County is also coming off a big win.

Clay's final matchup of the season will be against Braxton who is having a tough season, and the Eagles getting into the winner's circle will be paramount. Getting their second win of the season against a rival like the Panthers would be like winning the state championship, but to beat these Panthers they may as well strap a bottle rocket to their backs and hope they get to the moon because it won't be easy. The Panthers take no prisoners and leave no trace of hope for the other team. When they hit the field they do so with purpose and intent. Get out and catch a game before the season is over. Go Panthers!



Ayden Brown finds the gap.



BJ Williams grabs the interception.



Katie Price was named honorary captain.

## Morrissey

The Attorney General received a total of 2,347 entries from 2,450 students at 66 middle and elementary schools across West Virginia. The submissions included a mix of drawings, poems and other designs aimed at

promoting awareness. Kids Kick Opioids represents one of many initiatives through which the Attorney General has sought to combat West Virginia's drug overdose death rate, including a lawsuit against

the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration that achieved sweeping reforms to the nation's drug quota system.

The Attorney General also has fought the opioid crisis with civil litigation, multistate initia-

tives, funding to target opioid abuse, criminal prosecutions, new technology, engagement with the faith-based commu-

nity and education. The West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, West Virginia Association of School Nurses and the

Capitol Police assisted the Attorney General in judging the public service announcement contest.

## Dobbins

bins' second appearance at the State Meet. Also, for the Panthers at regionals, Kane Nida, Kaden Fitzwater, Patrick Boggs, Daymian Stricker, Trent Hinkle and Evan Bass all put forth great effort. In fact, the group finished fourth overall, only eleven points behind third. A third-place finish would have secured a team spot at the State Meet. For the Panther girls'

team, freshman Cheyanne Taylor earned a medal and Second Team All-Region honors with her thirteenth-place finish. Additionally, with her times this year, Taylor moved into twelfth on the all-time leaderboard at CCHS. At the regional meet, seniors Olivia Witt and Jaylyn Belt ran great races to wrap up their high school XC careers. Shyenne Quinn, Jaylyn Holcomb, Ashley

Continued from Front

Roberts, and Christina Belt also worked hard all year and ended the season on a positive note. The team placed fifth overall.

Congratulations to the Panthers on a very successful season, and best wishes to Sawyer Dobbins as he travels to Cabell Midland High School on October 28 to compete against some of the best runners in the State.



## Thanks-For-Giving...

### A Subscription To The Clay Free Press!

Makes A Wonderful Gift 52 Times Per Year!

Call Us For More Information!

304-647-5724

Continued from Front