



# Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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## WVDOH accepts bids on multiple paving and bridge projects

A project to repave a nearly seven-mile stretch of four-lane Corridor G (US 119) in Mingo County is among 19 paving projects and several bridge projects included in a bid letting conducted by the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

The project will repave all four lanes of Corridor G from Myrtle to the Logan County line, a distance of 6.85 miles. In all, the WVDOH accepted bids for 33 projects

Several projects on the November 14 letting include:

- WV 16 paving, Nicholas County line to Lizemores. (Clay County)
- District 3 guardrail replacement. (Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood counties)
- Corridor G (US 119) lighting fixtures, Jefferson Road to Oakhurst Drive. (Kanawha County)

Several factors are considered before awarding a bid, including whether a bid falls above or below the WVDOH Engineer's Estimate and by what percentage. In cases where a bid is above the Engineer's Estimate, WVDOH must consider the project need, repercussions of not awarding the project, additional funding sources, and whether sufficient reasons exist for the differences in estimates. Most projects are reviewed, analyzed, and awarded within a week of the bid letting, but the process can take longer.

When the Division of Highways has a project that is determined to be best constructed by a contractor, it is processed through the bid letting system. A letting is a scheduled opportunity for contractors to review and bid on several construction projects at one time. Lettings are held either once or twice per month and conducted through the Bid Express System online at [www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com) and handled through the Contract Administration Division. Contractors need to subscribe to Bid Express before bids can be accepted on any project.

## Big Otters places first in spelling bee



Congratulations to these Big Otter Braves for their hard work: Aliya Brannon - 1st place, Silas Starcher - 3rd place, Rachel Shamblin - 9th Place, Sophia Boggs - 17th place, Jamie Nicholas - 20th place, and David Ferrell - alternate.

Big Otter Elementary School placed first place in the 2023 Clay County Elementary Spelling Bee! They were also able to bring the county's Traveling Trophy back to their school for the year.

## Thanksgiving holiday travel forecast announced for West Virginia Turnpike



The West Virginia Parkways Authority is expecting the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Sunday after the holiday to be the busiest two travel days on the West Virginia Turnpike during the Thanksgiving holiday period from Tuesday, Nov. 21, to Sunday, Nov. 26.

An estimated 715,000 total transactions are expected to take place at the turnpike's

three toll booths in that six-day period.

"Wednesday and Sunday of Thanksgiving week are typically two of the busiest travel days we experience on the West Virginia Turnpike during the entire year" said Jeff Miller, executive director of the Parkways Authority.

On Wednesday, Nov. 22, 155,000 transactions are expected to take place on the

West Virginia Turnpike with 160,000 transactions expected on Sunday, Nov. 26.

130,000 transactions are expected on Tuesday, Nov. 21; 65,000 transactions estimated on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23; and 80,000 transactions estimated on Friday, Nov. 24. On Saturday, Nov. 25, the West Virginia Parkways Authority estimates 125,000 transactions at Turnpike toll booths.

"As always, the West Virginia Parkways Authority will be fully prepared for high volumes of travel during Thanksgiv-

ing week," Miller said. "In addition to Toll Operations and Maintenance being fully prepared, we will have additional traffic flaggers staged at each toll plaza, as well as additional troopers from West Virginia State Police Troop 7 and Courtesy Patrol members for motorist assistance."

Miller urges motorists to plan and organize their trip through the West Virginia Turnpike to minimize time at the toll booths.

The tolls for passenger vehicles are \$4.25 per plaza.

## West Virginia Juried Exhibit 2023 Winners Announced

Artists from Fairmont, Marion County; Augusta, Hampshire County; and Richwood, Nicholas County, won the top prizes in the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History's (WVDACH) 23rd biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition, which opened Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex in Charleston.

The exhibit, featuring 89 paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs, mixed media and crafts created by 66 West Virginia artists, is cosponsored by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. The exhibit will remain on display through Feb. 10, 2024. A list of all exhibitors can be found at <https://wvculture.org/2023-west-virginia-juried-exhibition-artists-announced/>.

Ten pieces in the exhibit will be purchased and become part of the West Virginia State Museum's permanent collection. Jurors Stephen Wicks and Jennifer Kaplan, both of Knoxville, Tenn., selected three artists as this year's \$5,000 Governor's Award winners, with one receiving the D. Gene Jordon Memorial Award, which is named for a former chairman of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts who died in 1989; seven pieces were awarded \$2,000 Awards of Excellence; and an additional eight Merit Awards of \$500 were chosen that are not purchase awards and do not become part of the museum's collection.

The WVDACH proudly presents this

biennial event in partnership with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and with support from the West Virginia Legislature, which appropriates funding for the exhibition's awards. The \$33,000 in award money constitutes one of the largest endowments for a single exhibition in the country.

Many of the works on display are for sale and may be purchased through the closing of the exhibition. Photos of the 18 award-winning pieces can be found at: <https://wvculture.zenfolio.com/p672359606>.

For more information, contact Rachel Keeney, exhibits coordinator for the department, at (304) 558-0220, ext. 175.

### Area 2023 West Virginia Juried Exhibition Winners include:

#### AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE — \$2,000

Brian Reed  
Ivydale, Clay County  
*Here Come the Crows #3*  
watercolor on paper

#### MERIT AWARDS — \$500

Patrick Facemire  
Gassaway, Braxton County  
*Starbuck!*  
oil on canvas

Brian Reed  
Ivydale, Clay County  
*Frog Portal*  
watercolor on paper

## Winter sports are just around the corner



Basketball scrimmages begin soon. By Allen Hamrick

# BOOKED



# REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

## BRAXTON COUNTY



**Kathleen Desire Dobbs**  
Booked 11/19/23  
Disorder conduct, obstructing an officer, shoplifting, public intoxication, trespassing

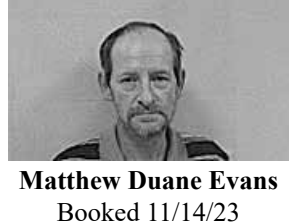


**Amber Sue Mollitor**  
Booked 11/13/23  
Conspiracy

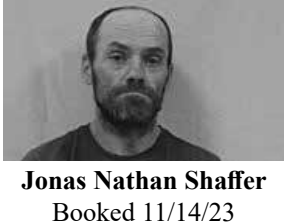


**Andrew Jason Summers**  
Booked 11/14/23  
Possession of counterfeit substance, prohibited person with firearm

## CLAY COUNTY



**Matthew Duane Evans**  
Booked 11/14/23  
Fleeing with reckless indifference



**Jonas Nathan Shaffer**  
Booked 11/14/23  
Capias



**Kevin Wayne Tanner**  
Booked 11/17/23  
Wrongful inj to timber

## WVEMD and FEMA Collaborate to Promote Hazard Mitigation Assistance

The West Virginia Emergency Management Division, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is proud to announce the launch of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) aimed at encouraging West Virginians to apply for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants are designed to reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters in our state by providing funding for eligible projects that enhance resilience and mitigate potential hazards. These projects can include home elevation or rebuilding a more resilient home. By actively participating in hazard mitigation, residents, local governments, and organizations in West Virginia can take proactive steps to protect their communities and help build a safer, more resilient state.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants play a vital role in strengthening our state's ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, ultimately saving lives and reducing property damage.

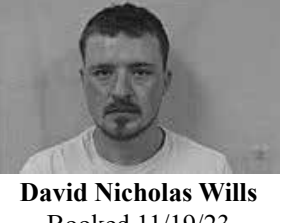
West Virginians who wish to apply to Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants must do so by contacting their County Com-

FEMA cont. on page 5

## NICHOLAS COUNTY



**Jacob Casey Jones**  
Booked 11/14/23  
Day report violation



**David Nicholas Wills**  
Booked 11/19/23  
Possession with intent, driving suspended, DOR/DUI



## 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

## OBITUARIES

### David Harold Morton (Stump)



David Harold Morton (Stump), 66, of Maysel, WV went home to be the Lord on November 14, 2023 at Thomas Memorial Hospital after a short battle with cancer. He was born December 23, 1956 to Norval and Mary Magdalene Morton.

David was a graduate of Clay County High School and he worked for Skaggs Enterprise, Gauley Sales, and several coal companies.

In addition to his parents, Norval and Mary (Mag), he was preceded in death by his grandsons, Bobby Darius Morton and Jonzy McCoy Morton; maternal grandparents Samuel and Alma Sizemore Moore; and paternal grandparents George and Laura Holcomb Morton.

He is survived by his sons, Brandon (Sabrina) Morton of Clay, WV, Shane (Ashley) Morton of Indore, WV, Jonathan Morton (Ashley Naylor) of Montgomery, WV, and Lucas Morton of Belle, WV; grandchildren, Haidyn (Ryan Shamblyn), Elijah Morton, Gabriella Morton, Colton, Devon, Caydion and Aidion Rhodes, and Zayne Morton; great-grandchild Cayson Shamblyn; siblings, Brenda (Bernard) Sharp of Beckwith, WV, Norville (Catherine) Morton of Hico, WV, Roger (Nina) Morton of Bentree, WV, Judy (Bill) Morris of Bentree, WV, Sue Jones of Lizemores, WV, Debbie (Nathan) Johnston of Lizemores, Vicky (Curtis) Morris of Finksburg, Maryland; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 12 noon. Friends called an hour before the funeral until services begin. Visitation and services were held at the Laurel Fork Missionary Baptist Church at Adonijah, with Rev. Naaman Moore and Rev. Earl Elliott officiating. Burial followed the service at the Sizemore Family Cemetery.

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

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

### Vernal Bair Taylor



Vernal Bair Taylor, 89, of Bickmore, born September 30, 1934, went to be with the Lord on November 14, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gearold Leon "Brud" Taylor; parents, Morgan and Mary Ursula Fitzwater; siblings Ceril, Edsel, Creed, Carmel, Ermel; and step-grandson Seth Kirk.

Surviving children are Gearold (Debbie) Taylor, Timmy (Stephanie) Taylor, Toby Taylor, Bunny Taylor, and Jo (Woody) Carver; and her pride and joys, her grandchildren Elizabeth (Rick) Clay, Juston (Shawna) Taylor, Ashley (Shane) Morton, Kacie (Micheal) Minger, Tiffany (Jesse) Norton, Andrew (Carol) Taylor, Sierra (Philip) Backus, Storm (Emily) Carver; step-grandchildren Sara Williams and Rachel Whelling; great-grandchildren Haidyn Morton (Ryan Shamblyn), Aiden Taylor, Ivy Taylor, Ava Taylor, Elijah Morton, Zane Minger, Garrett Taylor, Xander Bernardo, Zaijah Minger, Raylee Backus, and Kallie Backus; and great-great-grandson Cayson Shamblyn; and ex daughter-in-laws Teresa Carper and Patricia Blackwell.

Vernal was an active member of Fola Missionary Baptist Church, she was an amazing Christian example to her family and friends. She had a desire to see everyone saved, she was a prayer warrior with strong faith. Often telling her kids and grandkids there is power in prayer. Family gatherings and singing were some of her many joys in life. Vernal retired from Clay County Schools as Head Cook in 1998 and being named Cook of the Year was one of her many achievements. Vernal was well known for her macaroni salad, syrup, and biscuits. Her grandkids favorites! You never left Vernal's house hungry or without a snack to go.

Visitation was held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Wilson Smith Funeral Home where we celebrated her life. Funeral services were held at Fola Missionary Baptist on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 1 p.m. Burial followed on the family farm Bickmore.

## Puzzle Answers

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

### Super Crossword

#### Answers

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

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*Michael Showell, Publisher*

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**A Reflection of Light***By: Joseph J. Mazella*

Happy, happy sweetie pie.

It was November. Most of the leaves had fallen off the trees leaving only skinny, gray skeletons in the surrounding mountains. The sky was gray too with overcast clouds dumping down a cold, bone chilling rain. My mood matched the day. I knew that Thanksgiving was coming up soon and then Christmas but after that a long, dark, cold winter would arrive and I wasn't looking forward to it.

The older I got the less it seemed I liked the winter months. When I was a boy they meant playing in the snow, making snowmen and snow angels, having snowball fights, and then curling up with my dog by the wood stove and reading my favorite books. Now they just meant watching the days get shorter, shoveling snow, driving on dark, slick roads, and feeling the cold wind bite my face every time I went outside.

I sighed and lay down on my bed. A gloom settled over my spirit and I wished I could get under

the covers and sleep until spring. Just then my little dog jumped up on my bed and looked at me with her big, wet eyes. She looked so sad and miserable that I laughed and petted her. "Is that how I look right now?" I said knowing that she often mirrored my moods. I smiled and continued to pet her head until she too broke into a happy, panting grin. I snuggled up with her, looked up to heaven, and thanked God for this loving, little dog and the reminder she gave me.

She reminded me that in this life the whole world around us is our mirror. We can either be a reflection of light or a shadow of darkness. We can either be a beacon of love or a grayness of gloom. We can either give the world our kindness and joy or our fear and anger. God in His wonderful Love sent my little pup to show me once again that life truly is what we make it and that we can reflect our warmth, love, and light even in winter's darkest days.



One ornery puppy.

**THE BAPTIST CLASSROOM***Pastor Doug Newell, IV***Law and Gospel**

Do you know the difference between the law and the gospel? Martin Luther said, "...whoever knows well this art of distinguishing between Law and Gospel, him place at the head and call him a doctor of Holy Scripture." The law is a deep subject. How you view the law will depend on your theological approach. For example, an old-school dispensationalist will look at the law differently than someone who holds to covenant theology. There are differences in beliefs concerning how much continuity there should be between the Old Testament law and the New Testament and when and how to draw the lines. But one thing we shouldn't confuse is what the law is and what it can do for you.

William Blackstone said that law "is that rule of action which is prescribed by some superior and which the inferior is bound to obey." When God gives a law to a people, it's a command they are obligated to obey. It doesn't matter why the law

exists, if you like it, or even if you understand it. You must obey it, or else face the consequences. The law convicts, commands, and condemns, and guides.

The gospel comes from a Greek word that means "good news" about who Jesus is and what Jesus did. The news about the Son of God, the prophesied Messiah, who came to this world to save His people from their sins through his sacrificial death and resurrection. The gospel is the story of Jesus's ministry, work, and the fulfillment of those promises. The gospel is the good news of grace and forgiveness.

You know the difference, but do you know the difference? Reading the commandments is not good news to a sinner. Telling someone to go to church and worship the Lord is not good news. That's the law. Pressing people to greater service, greater giving, and greater love is not the gospel. It's the law. Telling people to have daily quiet time is

not good news. That's the law.

The law is good, but it's not good news for sinners who have broken it. The law condemns and has no power to save or sanctify us. Which laws? All of them. The law tells me what is right and wrong. The law shows me how bad I am. The law shows me my need for Christ. The law shows me I'm without hope, and need a Savior. The call to repent and believe is to turn from ourselves unto Jesus. Change our mind about our righteousness, works, and ability to keep the law, and cling to Christ as our righteousness and our all-sufficient, only savior.

In the classic book, *The Marrow of Modern Divinity*, Edward Fisher distinguishes between the law and the gospel when he wrote, "The Law says thou art a sinner, and therefore thou shall be damned, but the gospel says, no. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners and therefore believe on Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved."

**I Don't Eat Crow on Holidays***By: Dr. James Snyder*

I enjoy the holiday season because of the food I get to eat. From Halloween to New Year's Day, the focus is food. Some of the best food of the whole year is during this time.

In true confession, throughout the rest of the year, I eat Crow almost every day. It is a diet developed by The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. It has taken some time for her to create such a diet for me, and she's done a marvelous job.

It took me quite a while to understand this diet of eating crow. But if I understand it correctly, it means admitting you're wrong and were not right about what you thought or a statement you made to others. That's quite a definition, and I'm not sure I understand it even today.

I must admit that throughout the year, I vehemently made statements that were not true. It's not how many true statements I make throughout the year but the false statements I make that matter.

How many times I've been wrong is beyond my calculation.

Oh, if I only was 16 again when I knew everything.

Sometimes, we will be with a group of friends, and I'll be telling a story that happened recently, and then in the middle of that story, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will jump in and say, "No, it didn't happen that way." Then she will correct my story, and I'm standing there eating crow.

One of these days, I'm going to figure out a way so that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can find out what it means to eat Crow. So far, I have yet to come to any conclusion here. But I am working very hard to find something along this line.

She was telling about our wedding one time, and I interrupted her and said, "No, my dear, the wedding was on August 14."

Looking at me with a confused look, she said, "That's what I just said. Our wedding was August 14."

"I'm sorry; I thought you said our wedding was August 14."

Do you know what a pleasure it is to see so many people confused, especially The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage? Sometimes, it does pay to catch people off their guard, and you end up eating crow.

Sometimes, eating crow is worth the situation you find yourself in. I don't always create chaos in my life, but I try to make the best of it when it does happen.

I'm looking for the opportunity when I catch my wife on something that will cause her to eat crow. I will not give up on this adventure.

But there is so much more to eat during the holiday season than crow. I could spend the rest of my time naming all the ingredients of our holiday meals.

During this holiday season, I don't have time to eat Crow. All of the beautiful meals that are set before us have my attention all the way through.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I are a fantastic team. She loves to cook, and I love to eat. What better partnership can you have? All the crow I eat during the rest of the year is worth all the holiday meals at this time.

I must confess that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very careful how I eat Crow. She rarely lets me do it in front of people. I may be telling some story, but she doesn't correct me when people are around.

On our way home from that gathering, she will begin the conversation by saying, "Soooo, is that really how that situation happened?"

Usually, I'm not sure what she's talking about, and I respond by saying, "What situation?"

Then begins the crow-eating marathon. I always get things wrong, and she loves correcting me, but usually when we are alone.

I would probably get my name wrong if she weren't there to correct me. It's not that I don't like her correcting me because I do. It's agitating at the time, but in the long run, eating crow does have its advantages.

If the truth were known, she has a way of preparing my crow, so I, to some degree, enjoy eating it. How she does it, I don't know; maybe I should begin taking notes.

My problem is when she is talking about a situation in front of a group of people with me there, I really don't know if it's true or not. I assume what she is saying is true.

Driving home from one of those meetings, she was quiet for a moment and then said something to the effect, "Well, did you get all the mistakes I made in that story I told?"

She told the story and twisted it so much that nothing was true, and I never recognized it. That made me think she could get away with anything as far as I was concerned. Now, that's a different piece of crow to eat that I've never had before.

Thinking about that a verse of scripture came to mind. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

Probably the hardest thing I can do is to confess my sin and ask for forgiveness. However, it is the best thing to do. Eating crow sometimes is worth it.

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.

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

The secret to training any animal is simply timing, says the former cowboy who was unable to teach his horse to jump a two-by-four. But that was long ago, of course, and today, the wisdom age gives us makes these training secrets available to those who will accept them.

Just take our beagle, Minnie. To be fair, she lives in a one-dog house. But she also lives with three cats. It's not that Minnie is intimidated. When she is approached by a cat who isn't sufficiently awed by her wonderfulness, what she's doing isn't cringing, she's merely practicing her third-grade atomic attack position in the middle of the living room.

And we recently went through

yet another of our famous Albuquerque hot air balloon fiestas. I'm sure you know about our fiesta, where hundreds of migratory birds are frightened out of their minds, the locals make millions selling champagne and propane, and the restaurants try to see who can kill the most tourists with their special mix of green chile.

Now Minnie, who can view millions of miles of sky from our yard, has a very simple solution to the balloon problem: shoot them down and kill them all. Why? Because these aren't balloons that are fun, or kind to dogs. If you listen closely, the translation is clear ... "I SEE YOU, YOU BLOATED FIRE BREATHING DOG EATER! Come down here and show

me your permit to fly over our house! Or come down and fight like a dog!"

Multiply that by 840 balloons, and the message makes it all the way up to the invading pilots.

Grandchildren deserve to be impressed by an ancestor's animal training abilities as well. Just ask mine about Fluffy. Fluffy is my well-trained lizard in the backyard.

In summer, I'll often look at him on the concrete block wall and order him to do push-ups for the kids. He's good at it, too.

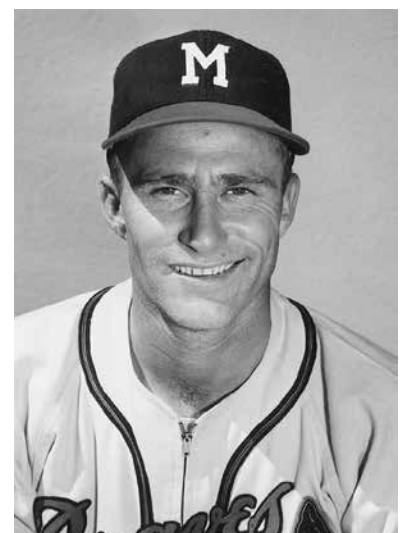
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**Brought to you by a novel of the Southwest, Sun Dog Days, by Slim Randles. www.betterworldbooks.com/go/mission.**

# THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

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

**Nov. 22, 1910:** Fire destroyed the academic building at Concord College. By the next morning, community leaders had arranged to teach the 300 students in rooms throughout the town of Athens.



**Nov. 22, 1926:** Selva Lewis "Lew" Burdette Jr. was born in Nitro. Burdette was an outstanding major league baseball player who spent most of his career with the Milwaukee Braves.

**Nov. 23, 1962:** Roman Catholic Bishop John Joseph Swint died. He was a great builder of religious institutions in the Diocese of Wheeling.

**Nov. 24, 2008:** Former Governor Cecil Underwood died in Charles-

ton. Underwood, West Virginia's 25th and 32nd governor, had the distinction of being the state's youngest and oldest chief executive.

**Nov. 24, 2015:** For her accomplishments in the field of mathematics and science, Katherine Johnson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama. Johnson worked for NASA calculating trajectories for manned space flights.

**Nov. 25, 1896:** Athlete Clinton Cyrus Thomas was born in Greenup, Kentucky. He starred in the Negro Leagues in the days when major league baseball was segregated. Thomas settled in Charleston after his playing days and made a long career in West Virginia state government.

**Nov. 26, 1952:** A fire on the evening before Thanksgiving at the Huntington State Hospital killed 14 patients, with three more patients later dying from their injuries. Huntington State Hospital is known today as the Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital.

**Nov. 26, 1861:** The Constitutional Convention of 1861-63 was convened in Wheeling. The convention provided the foundation for state government in preparation for statehood.

**Nov. 27, 1848:** African-American educator William H. Davis was born. As a teacher for Black children in Malden, his most famous student was Booker T. Washington. In 1888,

Davis was nominated as an independent candidate for the gubernatorial election - to date, the only Black person so honored in West Virginia history.



**Nov. 27, 1933:** Daniel Boardman Purinton, a faculty member and president of West Virginia University, died. He was an early and strong supporter of co-education.

**Nov. 28, 1864:** In a local skirmish north of Moorefield, Rosser's Confederate cavalry and McNeill's Rangers rebuffed a raid by Union Col. R. E. Fleming and spared the South Branch Valley from destruction. The battlefields are part of the Middle South Branch Valley rural historic district.

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

How did Gladys Knight find out about her baby's plan to make her blue, with some other girl he knew before?

**Answer to last week's Trivia: The things Charlie Brown is gonna get caught doing are: Smoking in the auditorium, throwin' dice in the boy's gym, writing on the walls, goofin' in the hall, throwin' spit balls, calling the English teacher "Daddy-o" (Charlie Brown, Coasters, #2 March, 1959.)**

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**LOG HOME KITS selling for BALANCE OWED with FREE DELIVERY**

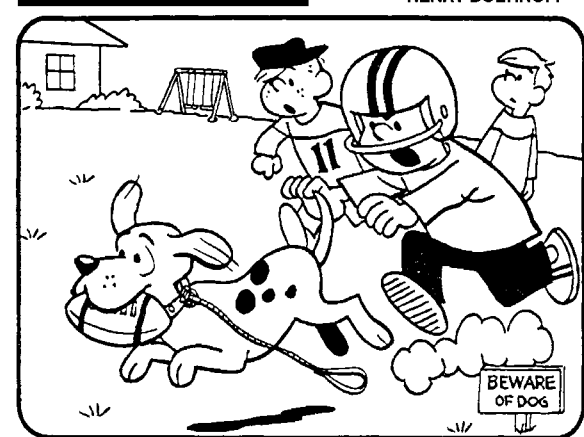
Model #101, Carolina, \$40,840	<b>BALANCE OWED \$17,000</b>
Model #203, Georgia, \$49,500	<b>BALANCE OWED \$19,950</b>
Model #305, Biloxi, \$36,825	<b>BALANCE OWED \$14,500</b>
Model #403, Augusta, \$42,450	<b>BALANCE OWED \$16,500</b>

**NEW HOMES:** Serious Inquiries only Call: 704 368-4528

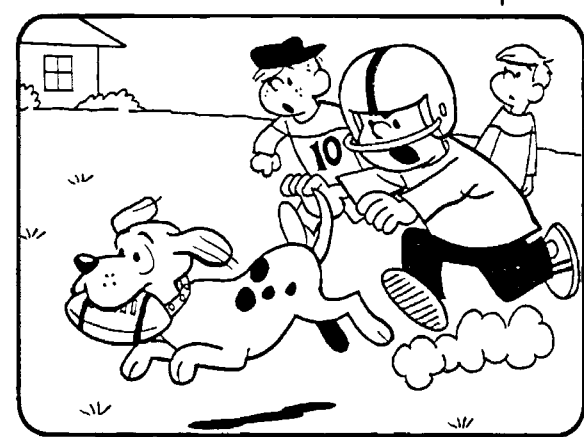
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- NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY
- Comes with complete building blueprints and Construction Manual
- \* Windows, Doors and Roofing not included

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**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Swing set is missing. 2. Dog's ear is different. 3. Number is different. 4. Leash is missing. 5. Helmet stripe is missing. 6. Sign is missing.

**Weekly SUDOKU** by Linda Thistle

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

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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**Super Crossword** SHADES OF HISTORY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Holds inside
  - 9 Scrams
  - 16 Many millennia
  - 20 Chart of the Pacific, e.g.
  - 21 Eeyore's creator
  - 22 "Blue Jasmine" Oscar winner Blanchett
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 25 Cawing bird
  - 26 Collate, e.g.
  - 27 Couch potatoes stare at them
  - 28 Maple stuff
  - 29 Thin coins
  - 30 Prayerful plea starter
  - 34 Designer Saarinen
  - 37 Sparks' state
  - 39 Riddle, part 2
  - 45 Subject for Dr. Ruth
  - 46 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
  - 47 "... Mac — PC?"
  - 48 Hostess snack cake
  - 49 Onetime senator Trent
  - 51 Hiccup or charley horse
  - 54 Convents and abbeys
  - 56 Colored rings of irises
  - 58 About 4.2 millimeters, in typography
  - 61 Footed vase
  - 62 Agnus — (Mass prayer)
  - 63 Riddle, part 3
  - 66 "This is SO frustrating!"
  - 69 Beelzebub
  - 70 Tools used in fixing flats
  - 72 Huge fad
  - 76 To date
  - 78 Riddle, part 4
  - 80 Ship's swerve
  - 83 Brow's curve
  - 85 Bygone Russ. states
  - 86 Most speedy
  - 87 She won eight Oscars for Best Costume Design
  - 91 "Oops, I messed up"
  - 93 Comic-strip light bulb
  - 94 Sliding-open car option
  - 95 Like below-zero nos.
  - 98 "... — it just me?"
  - 100 Highway goo
  - 101 End of the riddle
  - 106 "Perhaps ... ask me about it later"
  - 107 Band with the hit "Whip It"
  - 108 — date (plan for marriage)
  - 109 Exuding testosterone
  - 111 Catch sight of
  - 113 Hobbit hunter
  - 115 Tide type
  - 119 Exhort
  - 120 Riddle's answer
  - 126 Aspersion
  - 127 Carry in the uterus
  - 128 They could use a welcome sight
  - 129 Quick flights
  - 130 Most bohemian
  - 131 Tilting
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Milked beasts
  - 2 Dos cubed
  - 3 Close by
  - 4 Body image?
  - 5 Moreover
  - 6 Texting shorthand for "I think"
  - 7 Anti's call
  - 8 Catch sight of
  - 9 "Goldfinger" singer Shirley
  - 10 French thirst quencher
  - 11 Electric guitar connection
  - 12 Pointers
  - 13 Actor Everett
  - 14 Customs worker
  - 15 Golf bag item
  - 16 Fender bender, e.g.
  - 17 Tagged for a particular use
  - 18 Plains tribe
  - 19 Bulletin fodder
  - 24 Iris' layer
  - 29 Miles of jazz
  - 31 Student transcript no.
  - 32 Long-used adage
  - 33 Least shallow
  - 35 P-shaped Greek letter
  - 36 Sculler's tool
  - 38 Promising solemnly
  - 39 Illinois city
  - 40 Size
  - 41 "— culpa"
  - 42 Oreck product, for short
  - 43 St. Pat's land
  - 44 Lucy's Arnaz
  - 45 BBQ sides
  - 50 In present times
  - 52 Church topper
  - 53 Bishops' toppers
  - 55 Greg Evans' long-running comic strip
  - 57 Isolated
  - 59 Poker IOUs
  - 60 Fliers' military branch
  - 64 Neopagan practice
  - 65 Full of racket
  - 67 Autos such as Ramblers and Pacers
  - 68 Half of Hispaniola
  - 71 Tanzanian tourist treks
  - 73 Must
  - 74 Pant-length measure
  - 75 Perfume from petals
  - 77 Chevy SUVs
  - 79 Chuck Berry title woman
  - 80 Rural assent to a woman
  - 81 Together, in music scores
  - 82 Bringing to a conclusion
  - 84 Bracing drink
  - 88 Singers executing quavers
  - 89 With vehemence
  - 90 Genetic ID
  - 92 — choy
  - 96 Conclusion
  - 97 "Goodness!"
  - 99 Mil. officer
  - 102 Share, as a blog entry
  - 103 Web-footed wading bird
  - 104 "Me neither"
  - 105 Pioneer Boone
  - 109 Maudlin sentimentality
  - 110 Guthrie of folk singing
  - 112 Legendary snow beast
  - 114 Hacienda house
  - 116 "Orinoco Flow" singer
  - 117 Yemeri port
  - 118 "Hey, over here ..."
  - 120 Org. for club swingers
  - 121 No, in Paisley
  - 122 Part of TGIF
  - 123 "Just joking!"
  - 124 Lingerie item
  - 125 The, in Arles

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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.



October, 1957

### New Arrivals

Ed Note: We present to our readers the first of a series of actual photographs of: "A Mother and Her First-born," posed for Widen News this month by Mrs. D. J. McLaughlin of the Dundon office staff with their brand new son, properly introduced in the column below. Each month, if the forthcoming "Blessed Events" are not kept too close a secret, we hope to present a different new mother and baby, members of the extensive family of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company. Please let us know as soon as possible so that we can arrange for the photograph.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parrish (the former Shirley Gibson of Charleston) announce the arrival of a son, Gary Eugene, born October 4th at Charleston General Hospital, weighing six pounds and thirteen ounces. Mrs. Parrish is a Widen High School graduate, class of 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Hughes of Dille announce the arrival of their new daughter, Luann, born at the Gassaway Hospital on September ninth, weighing eight pounds and twelve ounces. Mr. Hughes is a graduate of Widen High School also, class of 1956. Mrs. Hughes is the former Miss Estelle King of Gassaway.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shaffer, (the former Miss Carolyn Samples) both of Widen, announce the birth of their first-born, a son, Charles Edward, born September 18th at Charleston General Hospital. He weighed six pounds and eleven ounces. Mr. Shaffer is a Widen High School graduate, class of 1956, and is the movie projectionist at the YMCA theatre.

Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Nettles announce the birth of a son, Sterling Lynn, born at the Gassaway Hospital September 22, and weighed six pounds and eight and a half ounces. Mr. Nettles is a Widen High School graduate, 1955, class. His wife is the former "Tootsie" Persinger.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brown of Dille, a son, born Charleston General Hospital, October 14th.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson of Dille, a son, born Charleston General Hospital October 15th.

### AUGUST-SEPTEMBER WINNERS YARD-OF-MONTH-CLUB TOLD

Custer Dawson of 32 Kanawha St., was announced Thursday as the winner of the Yard-of-the-Month for August, while Mrs. Jesse Hamrick of Nicholas St., was declared winner for September, said Miss Hazel Baughman, president of the Widen Women's Club.

### Gibson Family Suffers Loss

The untimely and unexpected death on October 4th of Mrs. Robert Muhlbach of Winter Park, Fla., in the Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D. C., brings bereavement to the family of Mrs. Stanley Gibson of 33 Kanawha St., Widen. Mrs. Muhlbach is the former Miss Irene Gibson. She entered the hospital for a correction of a heart condition and was making rapid and expected recovery after a successful operation which has already cured many patients suffering from the same kind of heart trouble, according to members of the family who were at her bedside throughout the ordeal, but suddenly developed an unexplained obstruction in the blood stream which it was not possible to remove, and passed away in peace.

She was buried in Lower Salem Memorial Park, Ohio, and is survived by her husband, Robert; a daughter, Priscilla; her mother, Mrs. Bertha Gibson of Widen; three sisters, Mrs. Mildred Richardson and Miss Helen Gibson, both of Widen, and Mrs. Virgie Hogue of Orlando, Fla., and three brothers, Lovell, of Dille, and Sam and Calvin, both of Widen.

### Club News

The art club under the guidance of Miss Tressie Bailes was shown a movie on October 5, 1957. The title of the movie was "Grandma Moses." It told the story of her life and how she began to paint at the age of seventy-eight. She was born in New York state. After she was married she and her husband made their home in the Shenandoah Valley. She was the mother of ten children. Years after she left the valley she painted beautiful pictures from her memories.

### Anniversary

When Mr. and Mrs. W. Byrne Wilson of Paddy Creek Road celebrated their 49th Wedding Anniversary on September 3rd, it was impossible to gather their far-flung family together on that date.

However, October 20th was the magic date when every member of the family, including a brand new great-grandson whom neither of them had yet seen, could be together. They assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chilton Wilson, for an afternoon of enjoyment and good music furnished by the Barnette Trio of Widen on electric guitar, accordion and bass viol.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Eugene Potter from Washington, D. C., with their six-weeks-old Eugene, Jr., and U. S. Air Force radar student Robert were the far-from-home grandchildren who made it a 100 per cent command appearance of son Clarence; son Carl and Mrs. Wilson of Clay; their twin daughters Janet and Joyce and Carl, Jr.; and the host son, Chilton and his wife and children, Robert and Mrs. Potter; William, John, Twins Jane and Joe, Kay and Ruth. Widen Young Men's Christian Association Secretary H. C. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson also were guests of the Wilson's.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Byrne Wilson are in good health and do their own work on the farm they carved out of the wilderness of Clay County half a century ago, when as a young man, Mr. Wilson found work in the mine then opened at Dundon by the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company for whom he worked until his retirement a few years ago. He will soon celebrate his 75th birthday.

Note: With two of the four 1956 Golden Horseshoe winners, second and third, coming from families in the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company set-up; Eugene C. George, Jr. in second place with only one point separating him in a tie with the winner; and John Litton Wilson, son of the Chilton Wilson's; it would seem that the Widen Rotary Club and the Clay Rotary Club could well sponsor a county-wide project such as Mr. Benson outlines in his weekly editorial below. Particularly since both Edward Allen Ward and Randy Brooks Smith, first and fourth winners, are from the Clay Elementary school.



TEACH YOUR BOYS to love something with all their hearts while they are young. Wild-life, pets, people! When they grow older, they will then know how to follow Jesus' teaching of "Love thy neighbor as thyself." — Above, Chuckie Dean Kyle of Enoch and his pets.

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### FEMA

mission, local emergency management agency, or county Floodplain Manager before December 31, 2023.

WVEMD Director GE McCabe highlights the crucial role played by Gov. Justice's administration as well as West

Virginia's FEMA partners. "Preparedness and mitigation are essential in safeguarding our communities from the impact of disasters. We're pleased to collaborate with Gov. Justice and FEMA in encouraging West Virginians to take advantage of the

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants. By doing so, we are investing in a safer and more resilient future for our state."

FEMA Region 3 Administrator MaryAnn Tierney echoed McCabe's sentiments. "Flooding is the No. 1 disaster that

Continued from Page 2

hits West Virginia nearly every year. Participating in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program can enable residents to make their homes less vulnerable to flood damage or help whole communities reduce the path of destruction caused by high water. We're pleased and proud to support West Virginia Emergency Management in their efforts to help West Virginians write their own mitigation success stories."

To learn more about the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants and how to apply, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation>.

For further information, please contact the West Virginia Emergency Management Division at 304-558-5380 or email [WVHMGP@wv.gov](mailto:WVHMGP@wv.gov), or the Federal Emergency Management Agency at 215-931-5597 or email [FEMAR3NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMAR3NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov).

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

# LEGALS

(2022-C-000001 - Clay County - ELEMENTAL RESOURCES)  
 To: CARRIE FAULKNER, BEATRICE WILSON, BEATRICE WILSON TINNELL, LEWIS EDWARD TINNELL, GAYLORD CORNELL, PHYLLIS TINNELL MOLLOHAN, CHARLES MOLLOHAN, LENORA ROBINSON, RITA TINNELL, MICHAEL TINNELL, STEVEN TINNELL, ELIZABETH TINNELL, SUSAN L SIMPKINS, RALPH CORNELL, CARRIE PERKINS, VERLIN PERKINS, CARRIE FAULKNER, DAVID CORNELL, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT BUFFALO MAP 14 PARCEL 0009 0000 0000**  
 You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000001**, located in BUFFALO District, 35 AC WTS GROVES FEE (COAL OUT), which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of TINNELL BEATRICE HRS, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. ELEMENTAL RESOURCES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after April 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 31, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 2003.	\$ 289.74
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 1971.	\$ 174.48
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 211.60
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 757.69
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.</b>	<b>\$ 1,433.51</b>

**You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
 Given under my hand November 2, 2023  
**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
 G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
 Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia  
**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGALS

(2022-C-000005 - Clay County - ELEMENTAL RESOURCES)  
 To: WILLIAM E. MOHLER II, WILLIAM E. MOHLER, WILLIAM E. MOHLER II, DANIEL N. MOHLER III, MARIAN MOHLER SCOTT, MARGARET MOHLER CROMELIN, MIMI MOHLER HUNT, AUDREY P. MESMER, STEPHEN AUSTIN MESMER, MATTHEW J. MESMER, MICHAEL A. MESMER, BETHANY V. VANGOTUM, MRS. MARSHALL V. BROWN, W.E.R. BYRNE IV, AMY M. O'SHAUGHNESSY, COREY TODD BYRNE, JEREMY AUSTIN BYRNE, BARBARA M. WRIGHT, HOUSTON ELLIS BYRNE, CHARLES ETHAN BYRNE, MARY BYRNE, CINDY WILSON, PAMELA GETZ, RANDOLPH GETZ, RICHARD GETZ, RACHEL BYRNE HECTOR, MARIAN M. SCOTT, RANDOLPH GETZ, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT BUFFALO MAP 9999 PARCEL 0000 0123 0000**  
 You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000005**, located in BUFFALO District, 100 AC S S ELK & BIG RUN (BYRNE) MIN, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of MOHLER WILLIAM E II, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. ELEMENTAL RESOURCES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 25, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 24, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 1336.	\$ 106.27
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022- 1367.	\$ 38.47
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 107.46
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 783.86
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.</b>	<b>\$ 1,036.06</b>

**You may redeem at any time before March 24, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
 Given under my hand October 26, 2023  
**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
 G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
 Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia  
**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGALS

(2022-C-000006 - Clay County - ELEMENTAL RESOURCES)  
 To: JAMES ROYCE GRAHAM, W. H. GRAHAM, WILLIAM H. GRAHAM, ELIZABETH GRAHAM, JANE ELIZABETH MORRIS, JAMES ROYCE GRAHAM, WILLIAM H. MORRIS, JAMES G. MORRIS, HAROLD W. MORRIS, SUSAN V. GRAHAM, HAZEL E. GRAHAM, ARTHUR L. GRAHAM, LARUE GRAHAM, WILLIAM E. GRAHAM, WREN A. GRAHAM, ARON A. GRAHAM, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT BUFFALO MAP 9999 PARCEL 0000 0210 0000**  
 You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000006**, located in BUFFALO District, 2300 AC SAND FORK O&G 1/5 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of GRAHAM W H, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. ELEMENTAL RESOURCES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 25, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 24, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 860.	\$ 196.86
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 900.	\$ 104.35
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 166.60
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 760.38
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.</b>	<b>\$ 1,228.19</b>

**You may redeem at any time before March 24, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
 Given under my hand October 26, 2023  
**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
 G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
 Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia  
**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

(2022-C-000346 - Clay County - CKH LLC)  
 To: CHARLES JARVIS, LOVE TRAIN INC, OCCUPANT, OCCUPANT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT UNION MAP 14 PARCEL 0034 0000 0000**  
 You will take notice that CKH LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000346**, located in UNION District, 1.071 AC N S ELK SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of JARVIS CHARLES W ETUX, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. CKH LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 25, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 24, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 17812.	\$ 226.21
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 17813.	\$ 151.05
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 196.60
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 824.30
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.</b>	<b>\$ 1,398.16</b>

**You may redeem at any time before March 24, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
 Given under my hand October 26, 2023  
**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
 G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
 Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia  
**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGALS

(2022-C-000336 - Clay County - CKH LLC)  
 To: TERRY EPLING, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT UNION MAP 5 PARCEL 0027 0000 0000**  
 You will take notice that CKH LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000336**, located in UNION District, .75 AC S S ELK SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of EPLING TERRY E, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. CKH LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 25, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 24, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 17407.	\$ 213.08
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 17401.	\$ 138.30
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 122.69
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 765.24
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.</b>	<b>\$ 1,239.31</b>

**You may redeem at any time before March 24, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
 Given under my hand October 26, 2023  
**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
 G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
 Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia  
**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**



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# LEGALS

(2022-C-000063 - Clay County - ELEMENTAL RESOURCES)

To: ANNE ERSKINE, JOSIE L ERSKINE, JOSEPHINE LORENTZ ERSKINE, LORIE ERSKINE, ANNE LORENTZ ERSKINE, MEGAN ERSKINE, STUART ERSKINE, JUSTIN ROGERS, SHARLENE ROGERS, BRITTANY ERSKINE, TAYLOR ERSKINE, THOMAS ERSKINE, SHARON L ERSKINE, BENTON ERSKINE, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT HENRY MAP 19 PARCEL 0038 0000 3002**

You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000063**, located in HENRY District, 24.5 AC N S ELK 1/2 INTEREST SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of ERSKINE JOSIE L, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. ELEMENTAL RESOURCES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after April 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 31, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 4209.	\$ 154.37
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 4219.	\$ 72.29
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 196.60
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 757.69
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	<b>\$ 1,180.95</b>

**You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand November 2, 2023

**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the  
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections  
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Building 1, Room W-114  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.  
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

(2022-C-000141 - Clay County - ELEMENTAL RESOURCES)

To: JOSIE L ERSKINE, JOSEPHINE LORENTZ ERSKINE, LORIE ERSKINE, ANNE LORENTZ ERSKINE, MEGAN ERSKINE, STUART ERSKINE, JUSTIN ROGERS, SHARLENE ROGERS, BRITTANY ERSKINE, TAYLOR ERSKINE, THOMAS ERSKINE, SHARON L ERSKINE, BENTON ERSKINE, ANNE ERSKINE, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT HENRY MAP 9999 PARCEL 0000 0619 3002**

You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000141**, located in HENRY District, 100 AC N S ELK MIN (C OUT) 1/2 OF 4/9 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of ERSKINE JOSIE L, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. ELEMENTAL RESOURCES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after April 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 31, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 4209.	\$ 88.16
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 4219.	\$ 22.27
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 104.94
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 757.69
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	<b>\$ 973.06</b>

**You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand November 2, 2023

**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the  
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections  
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Building 1, Room W-114  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.  
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGALS

(2022-C-000184 - Clay County - GARNET GAS CORPORATION)

To: ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS & ASSIGNS OF EMMA ELIZABETH GRAHAM, W.A. GRAHAM, MARIE GRAHAM, W.E. GRAHAM, WILLENA GRAHAM, A.L. GRAHAM, LARUE MORRIS, H.W. MORRIS, HAZEL LANDIS, G.R. LANDIS, SUSAN STANDIFER, JASPER STANDIFER & JAMES R. JIM GRAHAM, JAMES R. JIM GRAHAM, JAMES R. JIM GRAHAM, C/O PAUL MORGAN, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT OTTER MAP 9999 PARCEL 0000 0574 0000**

You will take notice that GARNET GAS CORPORATION, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000184**, located in OTTER District, 331 AC WEST FORK O&G 1/16 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of GRAHAM ELIZABETH HRS, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. GARNET GAS CORPORATION requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after May 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before April 30, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 9903.	\$ 88.91
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 9893.	\$ 22.46
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 105.49
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 789.05
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	<b>\$ 1,005.91</b>

**You may redeem at any time before April 30, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand November 3, 2023

**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the  
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections  
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Building 1, Room W-114  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.  
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGALS

(2022-C-000281 - Clay County - ELEMENTAL RESOURCES)

To: GARY J TANNER, JANET FITZWATER, WV STATE TAX DEPT. COMPLIANCE DIV. AMU, RE: JUDGMNT 20/200 LIEN# 1557027, WV STATE TAX DEPT. COMPLIANCE DIV. AMU, RE: JUDGMNT 19/567 LIEN# 1454995, KATHLEEN TANNER, O. J. TANNER JR., JANET LYNN FITZWATER, KARL FITZWATER, GARY JAMES TANNER, MARTHA TANNER, WANDA JEAN BARTLEY, STEPHEN BARTLEY, JERRY LEE TANNER, JEWEL TANNER, JOSEPH PAUL TANNER, JULIE ANN TANNER, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT PLEASANT MAP 14 PARCEL 0004 0000 0000**

You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000281**, located in PLEASANT District, 102.55 AC BIG SYCAMORE SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of TANNER KATHLEEN EST, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. ELEMENTAL RESOURCES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after April 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 31, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 15804.	\$ 364.90
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 15776.	\$ 231.25
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 211.60
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 791.54
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	<b>\$ 1,599.29</b>

**You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand November 2, 2023

**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the  
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections  
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Building 1, Room W-114  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.  
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGALS

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA

**TO: Steven W Dunlap Respondent Cannelton, WV 25036 DOB: 1/2/1967**  
**Magistrate Court Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Family Court Civil Action No. 23-DV-18**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

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

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:**

If appearing by evidence duly taken in this action that you could not be found in or that you have left the State of West Virginia, you are hereby notified of the ORDER referenced above, a copy of which may be obtained at the Clay County, Circuit Clerk's office. This PROTECTIVE ORDER will remain in effect until February 19, 2024.

The Respondent may appeal this Protective Order pursuant to W.Va. Code § 48-27-510, within 10 days of the date the Order was entered. Issued this November 13, 2023

*Clarissa Hunsbaw*  
Clerk of the Court

# LEGALS

(2022-C-000017 - Clay County - ELEMENTAL RESOURCES)

To: TERRY ALLEN HANSHAW, TRACY A HANSHAW, ELLA E HANSHAW, ELLA SAMPLES HANSHAW, PAM KERNEY, DANNY KERNEY, TERRY ALLEN HANSHAW, SANDY WARNER, WALTER WARNER, THERESA PLEVNY, DAN PLEVNY, LARRY BROOKS HANSHAW, SHEILA HANSHAW, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT BUFFALO MAP 9999 PARCEL 0000 0231 0000**

You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000017**, located in BUFFALO District, 98.75 AC S S ELK MIN COAL OUT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HANSHAW TRACY A, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the May 4, 2023. ELEMENTAL RESOURCES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after April 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 31, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 945.	\$ 107.93
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 983.	\$ 37.20
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 107.49
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 757.69
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	<b>\$ 1,010.31</b>

**You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand November 2, 2023

**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the  
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections  
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Building 1, Room W-114  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.  
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# 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: Wednesday, November 22, 2023

ESTATE NAME: Carroll Lee Fitzwater

ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR: Marie F. Fitzwater, 103 Jane Creek Dr., Geneva, FL 32732

Subscribed and sworn to before me on November 14, 2023.

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



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# Thanksgiving: A Time to Reflect

By Allen Hamrick

Thanksgiving is traditionally the day we give thanks for the things we have and for bloated stomachs when the last taste of turkey and ham are gone for another year. Many stories have been handed down through generations as to just how this day got started. One thing is certain, Thanksgiving is a day that, even if you have nothing but a cup of steaming coffee and a bowl of soup, a person ponders, daydreams and reflects on what their life was, is and where it's going.

As one takes that next spoonful of meatloaf soup emotions run high at the prospects of a better bowl the next time while others have a king's ransom of food with all the turkey, ham, and potato salad one can stuff in their gut. Afterwards, pies, cakes, and whatever other sugar raising recipe the apron wielding cooks prepare are offered. Most of the time, once the meal has been prepared, eaten and all the return trips to the smorgasbord are over, the first horizontal place you can lay your head and the new stomach you formed is priority. The TV is turned on by the one closest one to the remote, and channel 13, where the Bears and the Packers are fighting it out on a snow packed field, is chosen. The cooks who slaved over the stove for three days in preparation for the feast are now in clean up mode all the while complaining to those who have no ears to hear because the home is filled with the snores of content men with content bellies before the first quarter was over. In whatever situation you are in, the utmost main concern is to give thanks for what you have and not wish for what everybody else has. Keep this in mind as you belly up to that plate that looks like a hubcap heaped with the blessings you have been given, and it's not always about the food.

The story of Thanksgiving has been handed down through the generations of families and has changed to suit the times. Each November, the story of the original "Thanksgiving" is heralded in schools as told by costumed children around the country; well, at least it used to be. Has the turkey always been the go to meat for tables? When exactly was the first Thanksgiving or does anybody even care anymore? The original day of thanksgiving was in 1621 - a big event with food, dancing and the idea that Native people and pilgrims could come together as one, if for just a little while.

To the Native peoples, giving thanks was a way of life much as it was to the Englander. Winters of the early 1600's dealt out some of the worst storms where snow was measured in feet, not inches, by the new settlers. The ships they travelled on became their homes and soon were overcrowded due to a lack of housing, many folks died before they ever realized their dreams of a new land. The Native people were avid hunters and farmers and knew to store up meat and vegetables, a daily chore in order to survive the harsh winters. After a treaty was signed, the Wampanoag taught the settlers to fish and hunt. The Grand Sachem's Council Feast was held due to an abundance of food, and the chief known as Massasoit came with 90 Wampanoag men. They brought five deer, fish, all the food and the cooks.

It was a great time, but as it has been said, all good things come to an end. When a simple life becomes complicated and the signed treaty did not last long, the story of the first Thanksgiving became only legend of a time when peace was enjoyed by all.

In 1637, the official "day of Thanksgiving" was proclaimed by Governor John Winthrop. He announced it because the English colonists had just returned

from massacring and burning an entire Pequot village where between 400 and 700 women, children and elderly men brutally died. The rest is history from that point on. The Native peoples were removed from the lives they lived year after year until life has become what we know today.

This is not to throw a damper on Thanksgiving as we sit around the table with our families but to also remember what Thanksgiving was all about in the original story. There should be no respecter of persons, no matter if they are widows, orphans, elderly - all should be taken care of equally. In those days, no matter how scarce the food was, as long as there was food all enjoyed a part of it. Buffalo Bill once said, "The American Indian was some of the most generous of mortals. At all their dances and feasts, the

widow and the orphan are the first to be remembered. They never broke a treaty, and we never kept one."

Remember the ways of our ancestors; it may just shed some light on the things we should really be thankful for. As our times get crazier every day, we need to remember it isn't what we have but what we can do that allows life as we know and love to go on whether we have a lot or a little. One of Jerry Reed's songs said it best, and I love the quote because of the truth it holds. "Gold can't buy the things we really need, so just look my friend. There's happiness in living, somewhere between broke and being free." It is the things we can't buy that we forget about so easy, and those are the things we truly need to be thankful for. Now, where is that black Friday advertisement?



Muse often, and be thankful for what you have.

## Winter sports are just around the corner

By Allen Hamrick

CCHS and CCMS basketball teams are up and running and wrestling is hitting the mats. Early practices show the teams are looking like they could take a run at a good season. The CCHS Panthers will have some new faces that will give some speed and beef under the hoops. With the freshman team from last year moving up into varsity ranks, the team should be stacked with talent. The Panther basketball season last year was a tough one and will follow a fast paced schedule again this season. The Lady Panthers will return to the courts with some new speed and strength under the glass. With the new blood coming from CCMS, they should have a great team that can get the ball in the hoop.

The CCMS teams look like they have plenty of players to choose from and will also be a force on the hardwood. They will be tough to beat and hopefully return to the championship circle again this year. The Lady Mustangs will return with a strong team; last season their JV team was fast paced and dropping jaws with their talent so they may just take a shot at the title. They will also have some good talent returning from last year's varsity team. The girls have some big spots to be filled after some of last year's team moved up to the Lady Panthers, but they have a deep bench. The CCMS Mustangs, under head coach Dean Rogers, look as though they will have the speed and the shooters to be a threat to any team. They're due a championship; it's time. It is still too early to tell how this season will play out for

any of the teams as only time will tell.

The CCHS and CCMS wrestling teams are also gearing up for what could be their glory year; they will be stacked with some good wrestlers that could win it all. If they have a

full team on the mats, they may take their place at the top of the food chain in the tournaments. but again, only time will tell. So, Clay County sports fans, get set, it looks to be gearing up for a great season.



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