

Hartland Road Now Part of New **State Park Access into Elkhurst -Granted Dual Access Status**



Dave Ramsey

By Gary Lee Stuber

Elkhurst residents across the Elkhurst Bridge from the end of Blue Knob Road have had an access problem since the old wood-decked suspension bridge was closed on March 5, 2005. This closure forced residents either up across Beechy Road and down into Indore at Osborne Fork, or to drive down the railroad access to Hartland. The track had been pulled up but many railroad ties were still embedded in the right-of-way and a brave driver was as liable to get a flat from a railroad

spike as he was a rusty nail or stone. In the summer of 2008, in a lease deal between the DOH and Bright of America, the DOH obtained a two-year lease while they built a new bridge. They paved that road all the way into Elkhurst, put up guard rail, and ditched the banks. But after the new bridge was not built, the DOH gave up the lease and residents were

pretty much on their own after that. No maintenance meant the road developed potholes pretty quickly but the flood of 2106 got FEMA involved in making repairs to area slips. But with Governor Jim Justice's State Park plan in 2019 to turn the Elk River Railroad right-ofway from Burnsville to near Charleston into a state park, all bets were off. Some residents including Chris Cash and Mike Schoonover in 2022 and 2023 tried to fill in all the emerging pot holes with gravel, two rough winters turned the surface of the 3.2 miles of road into the surface of the moon.

This changed this year when Rocky Boggs, a resident of Beechy Road who often uses Hartland Road to get out of the holler, wrote a letter to the editor of this newspaper. It asked residents to call on the governor to encourage him to fix the access road in to Elkhurst. This precipitated a meeting between the Governor, the heads of the DOH, and Frank Jorgensen who represented Bright of America, to sit down in a meeting and work out a deal. One that would benefit the emerging state park, residents of Elkhurst, the DOH and

residents of this county. Jake Bumgarner, P.E., Chief Engineer of Special Programs, provided the fol-lowing statement, "WVDOH reclaimed Hartland Road near Elkhurst. The road previously had broken and rough asphalt. District I crews used an asphalt zipper that grinded the asphalt and made it into a workable, gravel road type surface. The work was allowed to occur following WVDOH and Elk River Railroad agreeing to give the right of way of the rail bed from where Clay County Route 16/25 ends within the rail bed to where Clay County Route 22 crosses the rail bed. That allowed WVDOH to extend Clay County Route 16/25 approximately two miles, allowing for shared use of the right of way for public travel by vehicle and use by those utilizing the rest of the trail system on the old rail bed.

Chad Boggs, a Clay County resident and District One DOH loader operator on the site as the work was being done, said, "I was called into a meeting and the next thing I knew we were moving equipment to this location."

Dave Ramsey operated the "grinder" that lifts, and grinds one lane at a time. And Jack Shafstall used a heavy roller to mash it back down. An unidentified DOH dump truck operator brought loads of gravel, smoothed down by Chad and rolled down by Jack, and within three days the road was like new again. After finishing this road, they started at the end of the railroad bridge at Amandaland Lane and completed the grinding on the original state road portion of the road, another mile out to Route 16.

When he understood that photos of him might be printed in the Free Press, Jack pulled off his glove and showed me a hand with three finger tips that had been cut off some years earlier. "Years ago I worked at the Free Press on a small printer. I saw the ink building up on my roller and thought I could keep it from rolling over on the paper and I made a mistake." He is from Clay County too. Small world.

The action places the section of old railroad right-of-way clearly in the pos-session of the state of West Virginia. "It can NEVER go back to being a railroad,' Frank Jorgenson confirmed. As part of the State Department of Highways property, they have the legal right to use it for dual access, allowing hikers, bikers, horses and residents all to share the road. There will have to be speed limit signs put up, for travel no faster than 20 MPH, for the safety of bikers, hikers and horses sharing space with vehicles. There are no blind spots in the roadway, no hard and fast curves that people and animals cannot be seen from a good distance allowing for speeds no greater than 20 MPH.

Now, if we could just make a deal to spare the historic Elkhurst Bridge before it is too late.



Completed Road

Spotlight on Donna Salsbury



Donna Salsbury

By Gary Lee Stuber

By Gary Lee Stuber Donna Salsbury is living the dream. "I've always wanted to do this," she says of the Clay Family Support Center she recently opened on Main Street in Clay across from the New Judicial Annex in the old NAPA Parts building. The build-ing was also previously operated as the Clay Small Market, selling fresh produce and meats before opening the kitchen for and meats before opening the kitchen for daily diners. Donna and her assistant Cindy Mullins are using the building to help strengthen Clay County Families. They have a number of programs going on at

"Our recent Clay County Baby Shower was a success we gave at least 50 families one big item like a car seat or bassinette. Then they got a laundry basket of neces-sary baby item, bottles, formula, diapers.

Things like that." She shines when de-scribing the helpful status of the organization she orchestrated from a \$250,000 federal grant. "We held an extravaganza, carnival style, up at Maysel Park and got more than 250 families to engage. Instead of an egg hunt the children did carnival style games and got prizes in plastic eggs. We got some sponsors like Smith Funeral Home to furnish hot dogs and we covered the rest.

It's a little ironic that Donna is operating out of the old NAPA Building. Donna probably knows more about car parts than any employee that ever worked in this building. You see, Donna and husband Jerry built the Salsberry Salvage business out on Tripplet Ridge 27 years ago.

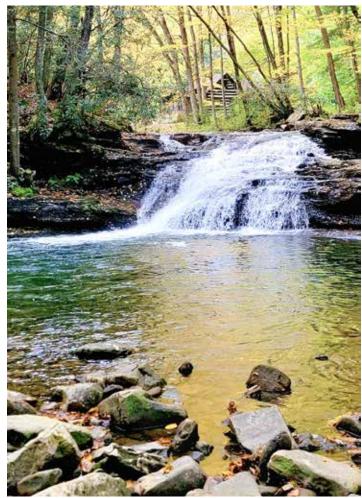
"Jerry said he didn't want to work the rest of his life as a coal miner. I asked,

rest of his life as a coal miner. I asked, what do you want to do? He said car parts, and I asked, 'You want to open a NAPA?' He laughed and said no. Used parts. Sal-vage. I said you mean a junk yard. He said, don't call it junk." She agreed to the dream if she could do it though computer access. It cost them \$10,000 to do it that way, back when such systems were new. "We were the first to have parts reference by computer in West Virginia." She said she would do that 25 years, she's over the limit now, "I opened the salvage parts in in my dining opened the salvage parts in in my dining room." She still operates that business nights and weekends. Jerry, after his heart bypass, was forced to retire.

Donna comes from good stock out at Bird Hollow in Lizemores. Her mother was Doris Price Bird and her father was Charles E. Bird, and Donna was one of four surviving children. She graduated Clay County High School in 1982 and worked briefly in Charleston before mar-rying Jerry. "I guess I wanted to help out young Clay County families because I know what it was to struggle. In the 1970's ragging inflation, economy in re-cession. You couldn't even buy a coal mining job.'

SPOTLIGHT cont. on page 3

In search of West Virginia Gold... Gold Rush 2024



The search for twenty four karat West Virginia gold. Allen Hamrick photo.

See story on Page 10



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

NICHOLAS COUNTY-



Jeremy C Babers Booked 4/3/24 Invasion of privacy, extortion, domestic battery, harassment



Delana Dawn Brantley Booked 4/1/24 Assault, battery, burglary, grand larceny



Trampis Lee Canfield Booked 4/5/24 Capias



Jacob Casey Jones Booked 4/4/24 Attempt to defeat drug test, Capias



Daniel Jordan Lane Booked 4/6/24 Possession of controlled substance



Stephanie Dunbar Maze Booked 4/1/24 Domestic battery, possession of controlled substance

CLAY COUNTY



Steven Michael Adkins II Booked 4/4/24 Driving revoked for DUI 3rd

BRAXTON COUNTY



Richard David Cooke Booked 4/5/24 Burglary



Stephanie Jo Bird

Booked 4/6/24

Conspiracy, forgery

Robert Wayne Klotz Jr. Booked 4/5/24 Driving suspended



Tammy Ann Bird Booked 4/6/24 Forgery, burglary, conspiracy

Noah Keith Kushak

Booked 4/3/24

Possession of controlled sub-

stance with intent to deliver.

conspiracy to commit drugrelated charge



Teresa Dawn Copen Booked 4/7/24 Grand larceny





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12 DAYS: MAY-SEPT 2024 DEPARTURES Starting at \$2149 \$1899

Rugged, remote, and utterly beautiful, the wilds of Alaska come alive on this guided tour of the Frontier State. Experience the best of Alaska, from the wilderness of Denali National Park to the drama of calving glaciers along the Inside Passage.



Big Otter students enjoy Easter festivities







Puzzle Answers Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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Super Crossword -

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Students at Big Otter Elementary School recently enjoyed Easter and spring activities. All grades participated in Easter egg hunts, class parties, and even had a visit from the Easter bunny! Egg tosses, egg drops, and jellybean STEM activities were also enjoyed by students. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made all the Easter and spring activities a huge success.

Understand Your West Virginia-American Water Bill

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

Today, I would like to assist you in reading your water bill.

Your West Virginia-American Water bill includes lots of useful information apart from – but included with – your billing statement. So, when you open a bill from this company, it may contain several pages.

But let's just look at page two, which is what I want to discuss with you. Halfway down the left-side of the second page is a section listed as "account detail." This explains your entire bill in detail. I'm going to help you navigate the language.

Look at the very bottom left of your bill. That tells you in blue writing with a large blue arrow the amount of money you owe for service rendered in the last usage period. This number should fluctuate each month, depending upon the amount of water you use.

Now look up in that same section until you find – also in blue lettering – the term "account detail."This gives you everything you need to know. It should first of all show your 16-digit account number and the address for which the bill is prepared. Below that is a blue water icon and the words "water service." This section includes charges for services related to water, and in some cases wastewater or fire service.

Below that is a section with dollar signs inside gray circles and is listed "other charges."This charge is known as the Distribution System Improvement Charge or DSIC. It reflects a fixed percentage of your monthly bill that the Commission allows the company to charge for maintain-



ing, upgrading, and replacing pipelines and other basic company transmission features. This is commonly called infrastructure. This DSIC rate will change from month to month.

Below that is "total service related charges." That is what the company is billing you for its service for the previous billing period. After that is a section with two green balloons with dollar signs in them. This lists taxes levied against your bill by local government.

At the end are the total current charges, which shows the amount you owe for that billing period.

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claycountyfreepress.com

Email:

news@claycountyfreepress.com

advertising@claycountyfreepress.com

subscriptions@claycountyfreepress.com

Michael Showell, Publisher

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It Was A Fool's Game And I Lost

Dr. James L. Snyder

When it comes to games, I am not a good player. I lose more times than I win, and I can't remember the last time I won.

My paternal grandfather's favorite holiday of the year was April Fools' Day. He often would spend the whole year developing a prank for family and friends.

He had a construction company, and I'm not sure how many employees he had, but every one of them was the subject of some prank during their time with him. Some pranks were so bad I can't mention them today.

Some pranks were so bad I can't mention them today. Through the years, I have tried unsuccessfully to prank The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. One of these days, cross my fingers, I will come up with a prank that works.

A week before April Fools' Day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked me a rather silly question. "When was the last time you had an Apple Fritter?"

I was very suspicious of this question because I'm not allowed to bring them into our house, at least if she knows about it.

I was thinking that when she asked me this question, she was suspicious that I had been eating an Apple Fritter behind her back.

Being old has a great deal of benefits to it so I told her, "Oh, my dear. I can't remember eating an Apple Fritter lately."

Looking at me rather strangely and with some air of unbelief, she said, "I was just thinking that maybe this April Fools' Day would be a good time for you to have an Apple Fritter."

I smiled at her, thinking she was trying to set me up for something.

"Well, it would be very nice."

With a twinkle in her eye that I couldn't explain, she said, "How would you feel if I got you an Apple Fritter for April Fools' Day?"

She has tricked me so many times that I'm not quite sure if this was a trick on her part or if she was having some "buyer's remorse" about not allowing me to eat an Apple Fritter in the house.

With a pleasant smile, I replied, "I would feel very good about an Apple Fritter on April Fools' Day." At the time, I did not know she was setting me up. I didn't think she could do that to me and I would not notice it. After all, I'm the one who tries to prank her every chance I get.

Thursday, April 11, 2024 The Clay County Free Press - 3 You Get The Face You Deserve

By Joseph J. Mazzella

I walked into the bathroom this morning to shave. A part of me wished that I could do it with my eyes closed. I hadn't enjoyed looking at my reflection in the mirror lately. It just looked too OLD for my 57 years. The thinning hair on my balding head was almost all silver gray now. There were way too many age spots from being out in the sun so much in the last 50 years. There were also deep lines in my forehead from a half century of grimaces because of my daily back pain. The skin looked thin and sunken in on my cheeks from my having lost weight recently. And there were bags under my eyes from not being able to sleep as long and deeply as I used to. Even the stubble on my chin was getting white in spots.

After I finished shaving I looked in the mirror again. My face looked a little sad so I decided to try a smile instead. Suddenly, something miraculous occurred. Fresh wrinkles appeared but they actually looked pretty good. Deep laugh lines curved up from my eyes and around my smile. The forehead wrinkles eased and eyes below them seemed so full of kindness, joy, and love. Even my teeth seemed to sparkle and I looked far younger and happier than I had only a few moments ago. I walked out of the bathroom with that smile on my face and also in my heart. Grace Paley once said: "You get the face you deserve."

Grace Paley once said: "You get the face you deserve." That has certainly been true for me. Age, sun damage, and back pain are all there in it. But a life lived with kindness, love, and joy are there as well. And the deeper those wrinkles around my eyes and mouth get the more I thank God for them. They are evidence of a million smiles. They are evidence of His Love.

And the good news is no matter how old you get it is never too late to deepen an old laugh line or create a new one. It is never too late to let God's Love live through your heart, shine through your life, and show up in your smile.

The Red Cross is Assisting Storm Impacted Communities

Volunteers are conducting damage assessment and providing assistance

The severe storm system that affected our area on Tuesday, April 2, has caused widespread damage across the Central Appalachia Region of the American Red Cross including parts of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. The Red Cross in coordination with County Emergency Managers are providing disaster relief services. So far, the Red Cross has assisted nearly 50 families impacted by this severe weather. If you experienced severe damage to your home, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

During a disaster, the American Red Cross provides safe shelter, food, emergency relief supplies, emotional support, health services and recovery assistance to those in need. The Red Cross works closely with local partners to create plans and coordinate recovery services to ensure people get the help they need to get back on their feet. Our local Red Cross volunteer caseworkers are meeting one-on-one with families whose homes were severely damaged to help crate recovery plans and, in some cases, provide financial assistance. Health service volunteers, who are licensed health care professionals, help replace medications, supplies and equipment that may have been lost or destroyed during the disaster.

"The American Red Cross is responding to a large number of emergency requests in the Kanawha Valley and throughout the tri-state communities," said CEO Erica Mani. "Sadly, disasters often have an outsized impact on our most vulnerable populations – including seniors and families living below the poverty line. Red Cross caseworkers are currently providing emergency financial assistance that is critical for these individuals and families."

You can help by donating to the Red Cross. Your gift is a commitment to helping people affected by disasters big and small. Every single donation will make a difference in someone's life. You can help people affected by disasters like the severe storms and flooding and countless other crises by donating to support Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. Visit redcross.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

Manchin statement on USPS decision to downgrade Charleston Postal Facility to Local Processing Center

Last week, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, released the following statement on the United States Postal Service's (USPS) decision to convert the Charleston Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) into a Local Processing Center (LPC).

"Let me be perfectly clear: yesterday's decision to downgrade the Charleston Processing & Distribution Center to a Local Processing Center is a slap in the face of every West Virginian that spent their Valentine's Day at a public meeting to make their voices heard. Not only is this transition an injustice to the West Virginians who work at the facility and the families and businesses who rely upon timely mail service, it is also economically irresponsible. Every piece of our mail will now have to travel hundreds of miles from Charleston to Pittsburgh, where both the cost of living and operating a facility are significantly higher, and then back to West Virginia. Simply put, the assertion by the Postal Service that their decision will improve service for West Virginians is completely false.

"Just two years ago, Congress had to bail out the Postal Service because it was hundreds of billions of dollars in debt. We did so because of the essential services it provides to communities, especially rural ones, but that historic investment of taxpayer dollars came with an obligation to address the concerns of American taxpayers when making major decisions. This is clearly not the case, as this downgrade comes after months of strong opposition from thousands of West Virginians through the public comment period, as well as from our bipartisan Congressional delegation. Yesterday's decision directly defies the Postal Service's self-proclaimed mission of reliably serving every community, and I will be asking for a complete audit of the services being given in exchange for the money taken."

With a smile like I've never seen before, she replied, "Maybe I'll do that for you for April Fools' Day." With a laugh, she turned around and walked away.

I didn't know if I should be happy or suspicious at the time.

I went on with my week as normal and was busy with a few projects. I forgot about the Apple Fritter because I assumed she was just pranking me. I did not expect an Apple Fritter on April Fools' Day. I did, however, think about going out and getting one for myself behind her back.

It was a busy week because we were preparing for Easter Sunday. Usually, our family gets together for dinner on Easter, so there was a lot of work in preparation for the family gathering.

During dinner, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said something rather strange. I pretended not to hear, but she said something to our oldest daughter, "What do you think about having an Apple Fritter on April Fools' Day?"

I had no idea why she asked that question. She was pretending to say it behind my back but did it in such a way that I could hear it without knowing that she knew I was listening.

Like a good husband, I pretended not to hear and just looked the other way.

Several times during our family get-together, she mentioned the word "Apple Fritter." There was no substance to what she was talking about; she just mentioned the word. I knew there was no chance of her getting me an Apple Fritter for April Fools' Day. I knew she was trying to play with my expectations.

All that day I couldn't help but think of Apple Fritters and how much I would really like one but I knew it was a prank, so I had no expectations.

The more I thought about it, the more I began to think that maybe, just maybe, she wanted me not to believe she was going to give me an Apple Fritter and then, at the last moment, surprise me and give me an Apple Fritter.

That breakfast on April Fools' Day, she brought me a little box, and on the top of the box, it said, "This is your Apple Fritter for April Fools' Day."

I must say I was a little surprised when she handed me that little box. I smiled, opened the lid, and saw written at the bottom of the box was, "April Fool." Sometimes what you do to others comes back on you.

Sometimes what you do to others comes back on you. I was reading my bible and came across this verse. "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise" (Luke 6:31).

That got me thinking about some of my actions. Would I want others to do to me what I sometimes do to them? Maybe I should begin doing good to people and see how that works. I think I'll start with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamessnyder51@gmail.com, website www. jamessnyderministries.com.

SPOTLIGHT

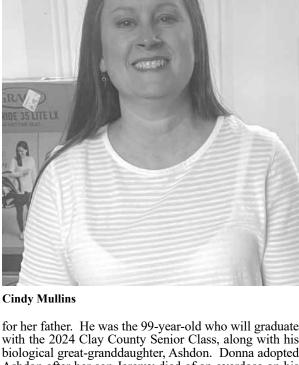
Diapers and personal care items

The memory of her struggles would leave her with a desire to help others in a very vulnerable stage in life. "Young families today are different than when I was young. People are perpetually moving. When I was growing up, people rarely moved. They were surrounded by resources: parents, grandparents, family, and friends. Now, there are families in Clay that have come from other places and they don't even know a soul here. They are cut off from family resources."

That is where Donna excels. She has programs or even ambitious ideas for almost everything family. They operate a food pantry, will soon offer cooking classes. They have Zumba and yoga to get young parents out of the homes for a little break from kids. They have play areas and even afterschool tutoring for children. But the proudest thing she is accomplishing is that she is becoming a "hub."

She says, "There are lots of organizations out there doing a lot of stuff. And I try to get involved so that we can pool resources, people, experiences, and items to make every organizations efforts: double." She has been effective at being a hub. As it makes all the other organizations shine too.

Donna has been in the news recently, not just for opening the Family Support Center, but because what she did



Ashdon after her son Jeremy died of an overdose on his brother Justin's birthday, and she has done a great job raising her. Ashdon will turn 17 a week before she graduates. She was double promoted because of her grades and knowledge. She wants to work in medicine, but nothing involving needles, so she decided that she wants to learn how to administer sonograms. She has a very great future ahead of her and an early start at that. Donna's other son, Justin, works for the federal gov-

ernment in Philadelphia and has given her two more grandsons, Ivan and Alex, who are still in grade school and don't get to visit Mamaw as often as she would like.

In the meantime, Donna is helping to strengthen other Clay County families and perhaps inspiring young mothers to one day carry on a legacy she is creating. The location is new, and Donna and Cindy are doing what they can to use the available design and space to create a family-oriented facility. And while shelves are still being built and old freezers and stoves from the last tenant are yet to be removed, the facility work continues as they can. And Clay County families have a new resource that they can count on.

Continued from Page 1

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.



April 10, 1848: John Kenna was born in Kanawha County. In 1883, the state legislature elected him to the U.S. Senate, unseating the powerful Henry G. Davis. Kenna is one of two West Virginians memorialized by a statue in the U.S. Capitol.

April 10, 1932: Entertainer Blaze Starr was born as Fanny Belle Fleming in Wayne County. The owner of a burlesque club rechristened her "Blaze Starr." Her story was the



basis of the movie Blaze.

April 11, 1821: Congressman Jacob Beeson Blair was born in Parkersburg. Blair was the first West Virginian to be told by President Abraham Lincoln of Lincoln's support for making West Virginia a state.



April 11, 1847: Diarist Sirene Bunten was born in French Creek, Upshur County. As a teenager, she kept a diary about her daily ing e

life on the West Virginia home front during the Civil War.

April 11, 1909: Writer Hubert Skidmore was born at Laurel Mountain in Webster County. In his novels, Skidmore depicted stoic endurance by mountain people in the face of misfortune and economic exploitation by outside interests.



April 12, 1865: The 36th Virginia Infantry, known as the Logan Wildcats, disbanded. The Confederate company was created at Logan Courthouse on June 3, 1861, and consisted of about 85 men. The company saw its first action in the Battle of Scary Creek in Putnam County.

April 12, 1885: Pho-

opening his Wheeling studio in 1909, he achieved broad fame for his photos of the city and insightful portraits of world celebrities, including Richard Strauss, Jascha Heifetz, Leopold Stokowski, Clarence Darrow and Richard Nixon.



April 13, 1873: Lawyer, diplomat and 1924 Democratic candidate for president John William Davis was born in Clarksburg.Davis argued 141 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. His last case was one of the most controversial, when he argued in 1952 to continue racial segregation in South Carolina.

The Sutton artist's works appear in government buildings, museums, churches, and hospitals around West Virginia, across the nation, and abroad.



April 14, 1774: Surveyors met at the mouth of the Kanawha River to establish military bounty claims in Kentucky. They became involved in several skirmishes with Indians in the region. This was the start of Dunmore's War, the name given to the conflict in the Ohio Valley in the spring of 1774.

April 15, 1872: Peter Godwin Van Winkle died in Parkersburg. Van Winkle was a member of the Governor's Council of the **Reorganized Government** of Virginia, 1861-63, under Gov. Francis Pierpont. On August 4, 1863,

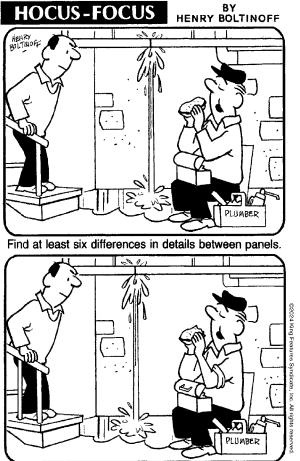
first two U.S. senators.

April 16, 1829: Jacob Beeson Jackson was born in Parkersburg. In 1881, he became West Virginia's sixth governor.

April 16, 1894: Leonard Riggleman was born in a Randolph County cabin. As president of Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston), he moved the school to Charleston in 1935 and led the college to accreditation in 1958.



April 16, 1923: Arch Moore was born in-Moundsville. He was the first governor in 100 years to serve a second term, and he returned later for a third. He also was the sec-



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Weekly SUI by Linda Thi

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UDIMPUB

Thursday, April 11, 2024 The Clay County Free Press - 5

Where all think alike, no one

thinks very much.



THE WIDEN NEWS "DUNDON" The people who think alike **RED ASH COAL**

December 1957

Ihe Red and White Review WIDEN SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL TERM - 1957-58

should vote alike.

Staff staff
EDITOR
ASSISTANT EDITOR
CLASS EDITOR Joanne Conner
CLUB EDITORS Howard Wilson and Delano Facemire
SPORTS EDITORS Russell Butcher and Paul DeMosa
CIRCULATION

SAFE DECORATIONS

Let's prevent a tragic Christmas. Since all of us students in school will be decorating at home and at school let us be conscious of the danger lurking in these decorations. Decorating is loads of fun if done in the right way.

We want to live for years to come not die while we are still young. Don't be careless. Fire is a deadly decoration.

WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO YOU?

Just what does Christmas mean to you?

To many of us, and I dare say to all of us, it means a day of happiness, a time when all members of a family gather home for the holidays; when gifts are exchanged and everyone is truly happy whether his gift is large or small.

Christmas is also a day, fragrant with the aroma of delicious food. Oh! what a welcome sight it is to see Grandma stacking all the food on the table! One thing about it, Grandma is a sweet, little oldfashioned woman and cares not if the little one's spill their food, for she is thankful that once again God has blessed her by bringing her children and the schildren home to her again. But to lay aside the gift-giving and receiving, and the delicious eating, let's rememher how 2000 years ago the Baby Jesus was laid in Bethelem manager to become the Savior of the world. To me this remembrance is the sweetest meaning of Christmas

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Prevention, a short movie on the ways to prevent fires in the homes, was pesented to the high school students in an assembly on December 11, by Mr. Harry E. Baer, Principal.

Following the movie, the cheerleaders led the group in a brief pep

Student-Of-The-Month



Miss Judy LaCorte, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe LaCorte of 26 Kanawha Street, and member of the juntor class, was selected for student of the month for December.

Judy is Vice President of Student Council, of which she has been member three years, a member а of the National Honor Society, Head Majorette, President of the Band, first chair trombone, Honorary member of Dramatic Club. and treasurer of the Junior Class.

Ever since Judy entered high school, she has been on the honor roll

She is a member of Widen Baptist Church, and she attended Baptist Camp at Cowen, last summer. In October she attended the Student Council Convention at Jackson's Mill and plans to attend one in Morgantown in March.

She was a member of the Girl Scouts for four years and was president when the troop become inactive.

Judy is an attractive blue-eyed blonde; who is 5' 7 1-2" tall. She loves swimming and dancing and is proficient at both.

Her favorite color is black; car, Ford; food, Hamburger with French Fries. Her favorite record is "At the Hop" by Danny and his Juniors.

Student Council

' The Widen High School Student Council announces the following rules to govern all social functions in the high school. These rules go into effect immediately.

1 Request slips must be handed to the social committee by Monday noon.

2. Invitation requests must be handed to social committee at least a day before the function.

3. There must be two spousors at all functions.

4. No smoking is allowed in the building.

MOVIE PLEASES CROWD

"She's Working Her Way Through College." a comedy about glorified college days, starring Ronald Regan and Virginia Mayo was presented by the Student Council on November 20, at 1:15 P.M. in the "Y" auditorium.

The movie was shown to a packed house of grade and high school students. Laughter filled the theater throughout the entire show. -

The proceeds from the movie will be used by the Student Council for the betterment of the school.

BAND NEWS

Four new band members were

voted into band on December 9,

by the band officers. They were:

Carol Hamrick and Erie Bell Gib-

We wish to thank Mrs. Pearl Wil-

liams and Victor Shingler for

bringing a bass and snare drum

from Dundon. We also wish to

thank the people who gave it to

on some new music that they re-

ceived this month. They are: Melo-

dy in F. Tammy, and Bolero Non.

We like to thank the band boosters

club for working hard to get the

The Student Council is making

program plans for the coming

meeting. The pennants are on sale

You can get them from any Stu-

money for our new music.

now. They are 75c a piece,

dent Council member.

Widen band has been practicing

80n.

Journalism Students

Enjoy Break In Routine

COALSIU

BEPENBASI. DUNDO

Journalism class took a break from the confining task of getting out the school paper, on Monday, November 9.

Students crowded to the windows and door to watch a wrecker and it's crew at work.

In the middle of Buffalo Creek stood a stranded, blue Oldsmobile. A crew of workers, sidewalk engineers, and spectators clustered around the bank, offering free advice.

Everyone watched with interest, as the car was slowly raised, swung onto the bank, and finally safely lowered to the ground.

Journalism class enjoyed the little break it got from the regular newspaper routine.

STUDENT MAKES HAUL

Jimmy Manning, a member of the Junior Class, was the winner of a 16 gauge singleshot gun, a turkey and \$15 dollars at the shooting match, which was held on November 23, and sponsored by the -Buifaloe Sportsmen's Club.

lem to the same people, by simply taking time to drop in for a quiet chat and a sincere "thank you."

Sixth Grade News

The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classes are having a Christmas program together on December 16, Ronald Conner, Mary Jo Morris, 1957. The name of their play is "The Message of the Angels."

We are going to have a puppet show. The name of it is "Mother Goose's Health Children", the characters are: Mother Goose-J:anne Dodrill; Jack Nimblé-T. G. Griffith; Little Girl-Brenda King; Tommy Tucker-Charles Mullens; Little Jack Horner-Robert Miller: Boy on a Stick Horse-Mack Ellis; Jack and Jill-Keith Jones and Joyce Dorsey; Little Miss Muffet - Carol Hamrick; Little Lady - Janice Triplett; Handy Spandy-Cleveland Brook; Dr. Foster-Franklin Davis; Mary Quite Contrary-Linda Keen; Old Woman Who lived in a Shoe-Corless Miles.

The fifth and sixth grade are struggling to have a grade-school band and be ready to play for the Christmas program.

In English we were studying poetry, and each of us wrote a poem, and there were about eight best.

meeting.

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HOURS: Monday thru Friday 8 am - 4 pm 63 Carr Street • Clay, WV 25043 304-587-4232 • johnghubbarddds@gmail.com "We Treat Others As We Like To Be Treated Ourselves." - Matthew 7:12

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Notice is hereby given that the following described tracts or lots of land in the County of CLAY have been certified by the Auditor of the State of West Virginia to G. Russell Rollyson, Jr., Deputy Commissioner of **Delinquent and Nonentered Lands** of said County, for sale at public auction. The lands will be offered for sale by the undersigned Deputy Commissioner at public auction in the Big Courtroom on the 7th day of May, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

Each tract or lot as described below, will be sold to the highest bidder. The payment for any tract or lot purchased at a sale shall be made by check or money order payable to the sheriff of the county and delivered before the close of business on the day of the sale. If any of said tracts or lots remain unsold after the auction, they will be subject to sale by the Deputy Commissioner without additional advertising or public auction. The deputy commissioner sale may include tracts or lots remaining unsold from a previous auction not required by law to be readvertised and described for this subsequent auction of those same tracts and lots. All sales are subject to the approval of the Auditor of the State of West Virginia.

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2023-C-000003	2022	1104	JARVIS LESA S	0.37 AC STRANGE CRK SUR	BUFFALO	\$510.24
2023-C-000004	2022	1105	JARVIS LESA S	0.126 AC STRANGE CREEK SUR	BUFFALO	\$183.71
2023-C-000005	2022	1106	JARVIS LESA S	.662 AC STRANGE CREEK SUR	BUFFALO	\$505.83
2023-C-000006	2022	1107	JARVIS LESA S	4.542 AC STRANGE CREEK SUR	BUFFALO	\$187.64
2023-C-000007	2022	1108	JARVIS LESA SUE	.29 AC WTS OF DILLE RUN SUR	BUFFALO	\$188.61
2023-C-000010	2022	1110	JEFFREY ARTHUR DALE	LT 38 IVYDALE FEE 1/4 INT	BUFFALO	\$177.19
2023-C-000011	2022	1112	JEFFREY GARY A	LT 38 IVYDALE FEE 1/4 INT	BUFFALO	\$177.19
2023-C-000012	2022	1055	HOLMES DARRELL JR	LOT 5 TOWN OF WIDEN SUR	BUFFALO	\$186.67
2023-C-000013	2022	1056	HOLMES DARRELL JR	LOT 3 TOWN OF WIDEN SUR	BUFFALO	\$197.37
2023-C-000014	2022	1592	RAMSEY SHAWN	LOT 70 TOWN OF WIDEN SUR	BUFFALO	\$176.86
2023-C-000015	2022	2020	TURNER SARAH E HRS	45 AC WTS GROVES 1/2 INT O&G	BUFFALO	\$176.86
2023-C-000016	2022	2121	WILLIAMS LARRY ARNOLD	10 AC WTS BUFFALO MIN 1/2 OF 1/3 INT	BUFFALO	\$176.86
2023-C-000018	2022	4005	DAVIS JEFFERY A	16.25 AC WTS SANDY SUR & ROW	HENRY	\$514.62
2023-C-000019	2022	4006	DAVIS JEFFERY A	2 AC PT OF 16.25 AC WTS SANDY SUR (MH PARK)	HENRY	\$1,345.40
2023-C-000020	2022	4516	GILL MICHAEL A	2.15 AC WTS SANDY SUR	HENRY	\$421.75
2023-C-000021	2022	7515	WHITE PATRICIA	.559 AC WTS LAUREL SUR	HENRY	\$962.07
2023-C-000024	2022	4586	GRANT CARY J	1 AC WTS SANDY SUR	HENRY	\$204.29
2023-C-000025	2022	4587	GRANT CARY J	2 AC WTS SANDY SUR	HENRY	\$523.49
2023-C-000028	2022	6525	ROGERS J C HRS	20.5 AC WTS LAUREL SUR 2/6 INT	HENRY	\$229.12
2023-C-000029	2022	6538	ROGERS WILLIAM L	20.5 AC WTS LAUREL SUR 1/6 INT	HENRY	\$198.07
2023-C-000030	2022	6526	ROGERS J C HRS	20.75 AC WTS LAUREL SUR 2/6 INT	HENRY	\$231.06
2023-C-000031	2022	6539	ROGERS WILLIAM L	20.75 AC WTS LAUREL SUR 1/6 INT	HENRY	\$199.06
2023-C-000032	2022	5098	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	2 AC REED FORK SUR 2/8 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000034	2022	7571	WILLIS MELISSA	1/8 AC HORNERS FORK SUR 1/2 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000035	2022	3718	COLE LARRY W ETUX	.20 AC BIG LAUREL SUR	HENRY	\$534.12
2023-C-000036	2022	7572	WILLIS MELISSA	9 AC HORNERS FORK SUR 1/2 INT	HENRY	\$802.02
2023-C-000037	2022	3719	COLE LARRY W ETUX	4 RDS BIG LAUREL SUR	HENRY	\$182.65
2023-C-000038	2022	6222	PRITT DEBORAH & BOBBY R STONE	LOT LOWER TWO RUN SUR	HENRY	\$194.48
2023-C-000039	2022	4828	HARDMAN ZELMA KING	57.02 AC LOWER TWO RUN SUR 1/3 INT	HENRY	\$221.29
2023-C-000040	2022	4829	HARDMAN ZELMA KING	4.98 AC LOWER TWO RUN SUR 1/3 INT	HENRY	\$199.39
2023-C-000041	2022	3568	CARPENTER REGINA-DI-ANNA	LOT LOWER BUTLER TWO RUN SUR	HENRY	\$243.36
2023-C-000043	2022	6480	RHODES LISA R ETAL	LTS 121-122 E HARTLAND SUR	HENRY	\$366.50
2023-C-000044	2022 2022 2022	5099 5100	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	130 AC REED FORK MIN 9/32 INT	HENRY HENRY	\$182.75 \$234.21
2023-C-000045 2023-C-000046	2022	5101	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	210 AC REED FORK MIN 9/32 INT 30 AC REED FORK MIN 9/64 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000047	2022	5102	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	51 AC REED FORK MIN 9/32 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000048	2022	5103	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	50 AC REED FORK MIN 45/384 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000049	2022	5104	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	110 AC REED FORK MIN 9/65 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000050	2022	5105	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	26 AC REED FORK MIN 9/384 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000051 2023-C-000052	2022 2022 2022	5106 5107	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	100 AC REED FORK MIN 9/64 INT 35 AC REED FORK MIN 45/385 INT	HENRY HENRY	\$176.86 \$176.86
2023-C-000053	2022	5108	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	127 AC WTS LAUREL MIN 9/128 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000054	2022	5109	JONES SHARON L FAMILY TRUST	49 AC REED FORK MIN 45/384 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000055	2022	4893	HICKS WALTER	75 AC WTS BIG LAUREL MIN 1/6 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000057	2022	6931	STAPLES ROBERT W ETAL REVOCABLE TRUST	11 1/3 AC WTS WHETSTONE O&G 1/3 OF 1/2 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000058	2022	7636	YOUNG DONLEY S JR ETAL	78.75 AC WTS LAUREL O&G DONOHUE TR 1/10 OF 1/2 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000061 2023-C-000062	2022 2022	7503	WHEELER JEFFREY SMITH	140 AC WTS SANDY O&G 1/2 OF 3.64% INT	HENRY HENRY	\$176.86 \$176.86
2023-C-000063	2022	7629	YOUNG DONLEY S	31.5 LILLY FORK O&G 1/10 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000064	2022	7630		13 AC WTS LAUREL MIN 1/10 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000065	2022	7631	YOUNG DONLEY S	250 AC GRANNIES CRK MIN 1/10 OF 21/512 INT	HENRY	\$179.85
2023-C-000066	2022	7632	YOUNG DONLEY S	62.5 JOE SPRUCE KNOB O&G 1/10 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000067	2022	7633	YOUNG DONLEY S	12.5 AC TWO RUN O&G 1/10 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000068	2022	7634	YOUNG DONLEY S	50 AC WTS LAUREL O&G 1/10 OF 1/5 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000069	2022	7635	YOUNG DONLEY S	111 AC WTS LAUREL O&G 1/10 OF 2/12 INT	HENRY	\$176.86
2023-C-000070	2022	11456	ROBINSON CECILIA	28.21 AC WTS WEST FORK 1/2 INTEREST	OTTER	\$228.78
2023-C-000071	2022	11457	ROBINSON CECILIA	9.36 AC WTS WEST FORK 1/2 INTEREST	OTTER	\$489.08
2023-C-000072	2022	12433	YOUNG ROBERT F	.51 AC OTTER SUR	OTTER	\$216.68
2023-C-000074	2022	10287	JENAB LORITA	0.73 ACS N S ELK SUR (TR 1)	OTTER	\$464.85
2023-C-000075	2022	11045	MORRIS JOHN AMOS	11 AC LOG SHOALS SUR 1/3 INT	OTTER	\$198.75
2023-C-000077	2022	8404		LOT N.S. FLK SUR	OTTER	\$177.85
2023-C-000078	2022	11272	PERDUE GARY A	.08 AC N S ELK LOT 43 SUR	OTTER	\$182.75
2023-C-000079	2022	8824	BURGESS RAYMOND L ETUX	LOT 36 .04 AC N S ELK SUR (FRAME TRACT)	OTTER	\$227.79
2023-C-000080	2022	8825	BURGESS RAYMOND L ETUX	LOT 35 .03 AC N S ELK SUR (FRAME TRACT)	OTTER	\$176.86
2023-C-000081	2022	8405	BARNES JAMES H	52.5 AC WTS WEST FORK MIN 1/24 INTEREST	OTTER	\$176.86
2023-C-000082	2022	8481	BOGGS BRENT ETAL	100 AC RUSH FORK O&G 1/4 OF 1/4 INT	OTTER	\$176.86
2023-C-000083 2023-C-000084	2022 2022	11829 11830	YOUNG DONLEY S YOUNG DONLEY S ROBINSON CECILIA ROBINSON CECILIA YOUNG ROBERT F JENAB LORITA MORRIS JOHN AMOS BARKER MARTY ETUX PERDUE GARY A BURGESS RAYMOND L ETUX BURGESS RAYMOND L ETUX BURGESS RAYMOND L ETUX BURGESS RAYMOND L ETUX BARNES JAMES H BOGGS BRENT ETAL STARCHER ROSCOE STARCHER ROSCOE SCHOONOVER W A BOWEN KATHLEEN SCHOONOVER YOUNG GARNET M ERVE VERNON MITCHELL ETUX	54 AC WEST FORK O&G 1/32 INT 18.124 AC WEST FORK MIN 1/32 INT	OTTER OTTER	\$176.86 \$176.86
2023-C-000085	2022	15506	SCHOONOVER W A	18 AC WTS BEECHY SUR 5/12 & 1/2 OF 1/12 INT	PLEASANT	\$273.84
2023-C-000086	2022	13072	BOWEN KATHLEEN SCHOONOVER	18 AC WTS BEECHY SUR 3/12 INT	PLEASANT	\$225.50
2023-C-000087	2022	16126	YOUNG GARNET M	2 AC BIG SYC SUR 1/10 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000088	2022	13801	FRYE VERNON MITCHELL ETUX	79.85 AC MIDDLE CREEK SUR	PLEASANT	\$857.56
2023-C-000089 2023-C-000091	2022 2022 2022	13058	HEPLIC	18 AC WTS BEECHY SUR 3/12 INT 2 AC BIG SYC SUR 1/10 INT 79.85 AC MIDDLE CREEK SUR 119.35 AC S ELK SUR LOT MID CRK SUR 13.59 AC BIG SYC SUR 4 AC BIG SYC SUR 1/3 INT 4 AC BIG SYC SUR 2/3 INT .5 AC BIG SYC SUR 7.68 AC MIDDLE CREEK SUR 1/4 INT	PLEASANT PLEASANT	\$1,657.02 \$952.75
2023-C-000093	2022	13473	MOORE FRANKLIN D JR ETAL	13.59 AC BIG SYC SUR	PLEASANT	\$724.44
2023-C-000094	2022	14694	MOORE JO ANN	4 AC BIG SYC SUR 1/3 INT	PLEASANT	\$179.46
2023-C-000095	2022	14674	MOORE ANGELA ETAL	4 AC BIG SYC SUR 2/3 INT	PLEASANT	\$191.88
2023-C-000096	2022	14650	MILLER ANGELA MOORE ETVIR	.5 AC BIG SYC SUR	PLEASANT	\$272.34
2023-C-000097	2022	15283	RAMSEY JAMES ROSCOE	7.68 AC MIDDLE CREEK SUR 1/4 INT	PLEASANT	\$184.71
2023-C-000098	2022	13341	COLEMAN CAROL	4.100 AC WTS BIG SYC FEE (C OUT) 1/3 OF 1/7 OF 1/3 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000099	2022	14706	MOORE TRELLIS ETUX	.25 AC BIG SYCAMORE FEE	PLEASANT	\$185.02
2023-C-000100 2023-C-000101	2022 2022 2022	14543 15507	MAYO JENNIFER ETAL	LOT 10 & PT 9 ELKHURST SUR LOT 7 ELKHURST 4/5 INT SUR	PLEASANT PLEASANT	\$681.12 \$171.95
2023-C-000102	2022	13528	DEITZ ROBERT L	4.36 AC WTS SYC SUR	PLEASANT	\$208.20
2023-C-000103	2022	15014	WALKER LINDA	5 AC WTS SYCAMORE SUR	PLEASANT	\$264.06
2023-C-000104	2022	15960		1 AC WTS BIG SYC SUR 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$171.95
2023-C-000105	2022	15405	RICHARDSON CATHY	1 AC WTS BIG SYC SUR 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$171.95
2023-C-000106	2022	14431	LEMON BRENDA	1 AC WTS BIG SYC SUR 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$171.95
2023-C-000107	2022	15961	WALKER LINDA	LOT WTS SYCAMORE FEE 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$171.95
2023-C-000108	2022	14432	LEMON BRENDA	LOT WTS SYCAMORE FEE 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$171.95
2023-C-000109	2022	12890	BAKER GARRY KENT	5.84 AC WTS SYC SUR 2/3 INT	PLEASANT	\$193.00
2023-C-000110 2023-C-000113 2022 C 000120	2022 2022 2022	12891 14382	In The SAMUELS WILLIAM E MOORE FRANKLIN D JR ETAL MOORE JO ANN MOORE ANGELA ETAL MILLER ANGELA MOORE ETVIR RAMSEY JAMES ROSCOE COLEMAN CAROL MOORE TRELLIS ETUX MAYO JENNIFER ETAL SCHOONOVER W A DEITZ ROBERT L NICHOLS JAMES B ETUX WALKER LINDA RICHARDSON CATHY LEMON BRENDA BAKER GARRY KENT BAKER GARRY KENT LANHAM GLADA WAYNE CRYSTAL MUCK CHADWICK WILLIAMS RUSSELL BAKER GARRY KENT CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	3.5 AC WTS SYC SUR 2/3 INT 2.6 AC WTS SYC SUR 10.5 AC SYC ANOPE SUB 1/2 INT	PLEASANT PLEASANT PLEASANT	\$193.00 \$186.67 \$228.70
2023-C-000120	2022	16009	WALNE CRISTAL	10.5 AC SYCAMORE SUR 1/2 INT	PLEASANT	\$328.70
2023-C-000121	2022	14874	MUCK CHADWICK	.50 AC SYC SUR 1/2 INT	PLEASANT	\$186.67
2023-C-000122	2022	16067	WILLIAMS RUSSELL	LOT 7-8 BD WTS BIG SYC SUR	PLEASANT	\$188.61
2023-C-000123	2022	12893	BAKER GARRY KENT	LOT 4 WTS BELL CREEK SUR LESS 14 FT STRIP	PLEASANT	\$530.30
2023-C-000124 2023-C-000125	2022	15221	CALD WEEE EDITIT WITHO	50 AC WTS SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT 3 AC WTS SYC O&G 1/5 INT	PLEASANT PLEASANT	\$176.86 \$176.86
2023-C-000126	2022	13222	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	10 AC WTS SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000127	2022	13223	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	9.65 AC WTS SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000128	2022	13224	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	3.85 AC WTS SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000129	2022	13225	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	2 AC WTS SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000129 2023-C-000130 2023-C-000131	2022 2022 2022	13226 13227	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	5 AC WTS BIG SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT 10 AC WTS BIG SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT PLEASANT PLEASANT	\$176.86 \$176.86
2023-C-000132	2022	13228	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	40 AC WTS BIG SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000133	2022	13229	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	.25 AC WTS BIG SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000134	2022	13230	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	5 AC WTS BIG SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000135	2022	13231	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	LOT SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000136	2022	13232	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	17.50 AC SYC CRK MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000137	2022	13233	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	20 AC WTS SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000138	2022	13234	CALDWELL EDITH M HRS	46 AC WTS SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/5 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000139	2022	13342	COLEMAN CAROL	30.159 AC WTS BIG SYC MIN 1/3 OF 1/7 OF 1/3 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000140	2022	13343	COLEMAN CAROL	1.67 AC WTS BIG SYC MIN (C OUT) 1/3 OF 1/7 OF 1/3 INT	PLEASANT	\$176.86
2023-C-000140 2023-C-000141 2023-C-000148	2022 2022 2022	13344 13317	COLEMAN CAROL CLEMMONS PAUL	2.9 AC WTS BIG SYC MIN 1/3 OF 1/7 OF 1/3 INT 1804 AC SYC & BELL CRK O&G 1/2 OF 1/4 OF 1/2 INT	PLEASANT PLEASANT	\$176.86 \$211.46
2023-C-000151	2022	16774	BURDETTE C ARTHUR	4 AC WTS ELK FEE 1/4 OF 1/2 INT	UNION	\$176.86
2023-C-000152 2023-C-000153 2022 C 000155	2022 2022	18855 18856	SKILES KIMBERLY C/O KIMBERLY GOODWIN SKILES KIMBERLY C/O KIMBERLY GOODWIN	LOT 4 VAUGHAN LAND SUR LOT 5 VAUGHAN LAND SUR	UNION UNION	\$609.68 \$755.53
2023-C-000155	2022	18712	SAMPLES ROMIE R	35.67 AC N S ELK SUR	UNION	\$509.92
2023-C-000156	2022	17688	HANSON FREDA L	1.238 AC QUEEN SHOALS SUR	UNION	\$211.59
2023-C-000157	2022	19222	YOUNG ROBERT D	45 AC WTS PORTER SUR 1/5 INT	UNION	\$258.49
2023-C-000158	2022	19223	YOUNG ROBERT D	130 AC WTS PORTER SUR 1/5 INT	UNION	\$401.50
2023-C-000159	2022	19224	YOUNG ROBERT D	43 AC WTS PORTER SUR 1/5 INT	UNION	\$243.81
2023-C-000160	2022	19225	YOUNG ROBERT D	5.60 AC WTS PORTER SUR 1/5 INT	UNION	\$200.03
2023-C-000163 2023-C-000163 2023-C-000164	2022 2022 2022	16780 18368	BURDETTE DAVID C NOTTINGHAM KENNETH	58 AC BIRCH RUN SUR LOT 18,652 SQ FT NS ELK SUR	UNION UNION UNION	\$200.03 \$678.43 \$563.19
2023-C-000165	2022	18008	LIPSCOMB DONNA M	.068 AC N S ELK SUR	UNION	\$200.30
2023-C-000166 2023-C-000168 2022 C 000160	2022 2022	18009 19226	LIPSCOMB DONNA M YOUNG ROBERT D	11,840 SQ FT N S ELK SUR 45 AC PORTER CREEK MIN (COAL OUT) 1/10 INT	UNION UNION	\$488.12 \$176.86
2023-C-000169	2022	19227	YOUNG ROBERT D	165 AC PORTERS CREEK MIN 1/10 OF 1/2 INT	UNION	\$176.86
2023-C-000170	2022	19228	YOUNG ROBERT D	130 AC PORTER CREEK MIN (COAL OUT) 1/10 INT	UNION	\$176.86
2023-C-000171	2022	19229	YOUNG ROBERT D	43 AC PORTERS CREEK MIN (COAL OUT) 1/10 INT	UNION	\$176.86
2023-C-000172	2022	19230	YOUNG ROBERT D	239 AC PORTERS CREEK MIN 1/10 OF 1/24 INT	UNION	\$176.86
2023-C-000173	2022	16845	CAMPBELL WILLA MAE TR	800 AC FALLING ROCK O&G 2/6 INT	UNION	\$271.55

Any of the aforesaid tracts or lots may be redeemed by any person entitled to pay the taxes thereon at any time prior to the sale by payment to the Deputy Commissioner of the total amount of taxes, interest, and charges thereon up to date of redemption. Lands listed above as escheated or waste and unappropriated lands may not be redeemed. Payments must be received prior to the close of business the day prior to the land sale.

Given under my hands this 3rd of April, 2024.

G. Russel Rayor &

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr. Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered lands of CLAY County

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Civil Action No. 23-D-55 **NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR DIVORCE** To: BARRETT JOHN PAUL DAVIS, Respondent,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the provisions of W.Va. Code §48-1-304, that a Petition for Allocation of Custody Responsibility has been filed before the Family Court of Clay County, West Virginia, which seeks the attention of the Respondent, BARRETT JOHN PAUL DAVIS. A more particular description of this suit is contained in the Petition for Allocation of Custody Responsibility on file in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Clay County, West Virginia

You are hereby notified that on the 2nd day of May 2024 at 11:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, in the Family Court of Clay County, West Virginia, a hearing will be held on the petition. You are ORDERED to appear and defend on or before May 2, 2024, or a judgment adverse to your interest maybe entered by the Court.

A copy of the Petition can be obtained by the Clay County Family Clerk.

Erica Brannon Gunn 402 Market Street Spencer WV 25276 Phone: 304-927-6161 **Counsel for Petitioner**

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

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

Publication Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024 Claim Deadline: Monday, June 3, 2024 APPOINTMENT DATE 03/12/2024 ESTATE NAME: GEORGE W BROWN KIM LEA BROWN ADMINISTRATRIX 3803 PROCIOUS MAYSEL RD MAYSEL WV 25133 APPOINTMENT DATE 02/22/2024 **RONDELL ELWOOD LOVE** ESTATE NAME: EXECUTRIX SHIRLEY YOUNG 29 APPLE VALLEY DR BOMONT WV 25030-9669 APPOINTMENT DATE 01/29/2024 ESTATE NAME: HUBERT R MOLLOHAN EXECUTRIX MICHELLE MOLLOHAN SENCY 779 STONELEIGH DR FRANKFORT KY 40601 APPOINTMENT DATE 02/13/2024 ESTATE NAME: SILAS WHITNEY STARCHER ADMINISTRATRIX MARY ETTA STARCHER 188 SLATE LN IVYDALE WV 25113-9622 APPOINTMENT DATE 02/16/2024 CHARLES D STRICKLAND II ESTATE NAME: **EXECUTRIX** NICOLE E HAWLEY 2302 W 39TH CASPER WY 82604-5054 Subscribed and sworn to before me on 3/27/2024 Sheila Stone County Clerk Clav County P.O. Box 190 246 Main Street Clay WV 25043-0190 C

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY

In The Matter of Petition of Name Change of Evelyn F. Petry Current Name Evelyn F. Petry

Civil Action No. 24-P-11 Judge Alsop

New Name Evelyn Kayde Petry Legal Notice of Publication Change of Name

Order of Publication **Circuit Court of Clay County** West Virginia

To

Thursday, April 11, 2024 The Clay County Free Press - 7

CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

MOWING & WEED EATING CONTRACTS

Clay County Board of Education is accepting bids for grass mowing and weed eating at various school and facility sites. Mowing shall be done while students and staff are not present on playgrounds to prevent injuries. Bidders will provide all labor, equipment, and materials. Mowing equipment must be suitable for the job. Bidders will have:

- Business License
 Workers' Compensation Coverage
- 3. \$1,000,000 Liability Insurance

After mowing and weed eating, sidewalks and walkways must be cleaned by Bidder. Bidder will have a checklist for the Principal to sign after mowing is done for quality control. Mowing will be done on two (2) schedules as follows:

Schedule A - Mow and weed eat every two (2) weeks

- Schedule B Weed eat every month
- A total of three (3) contracts consists of the following:

Bid forms may be obtained online at claycountyschools.org. Bidders are encouraged to visit the school sites and meet with the school officials to determine the

areas to be mowed.

Qualified contractors contact Jared Fitzwater, Director of Student Services, at (304) 587-4266 or jfitzwat@k12.wv.us to obtain information. Bids must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. local prevailing time on April 25, 2024, at the Administrative Office of Clay County Schools, PO Box 120, Clay, WV 25043.

MOWING CONTRACT #1

Clay County High School -

- Area around school, includes road bank
- Area around green house, includes road bank and river bank at football field, but not the football field itself
- Schedule A
- Pool Area around the pool and fence
- Schedule A
- Bus Garage Area behind bus garage and road bank
- Schedule B

MOWING CONTRACT #2

Clay County Middle School -Area around school, front and rear

- Schedule A
- Clay Elementary School -
- Area around school
 - Area in the middle of school Three playground areas, including fences and banks
- Schedule A
- Board Office -Area around main office, including banks
 - Area around new gym
 - Area around Maintenance Building
 - Area around dumpsters
 - Schedule A

MOWING CONTRACT #3

- Big Otter Elementary School -
 - Area around school, including playground and fence, guardrail posts along driveway, softball field at end of parking lot

 - 6' area around sewer plant, including 6' on each side of sewer plant driveway Schedule B



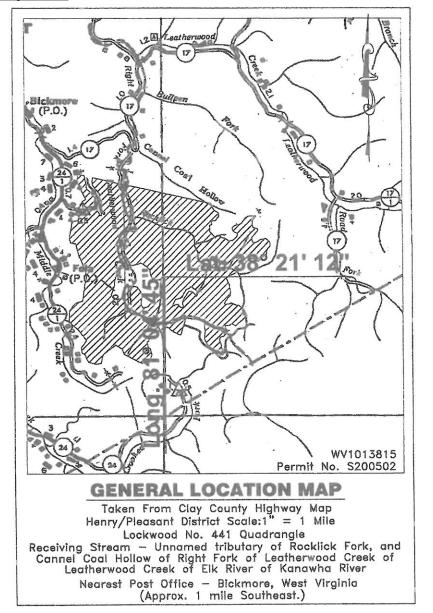
ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that WV RECLAIM CO, LLC, 2122 LEATHERWOOD ROAD, BICKMORE, WV 25019 has submitted an application with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), 47 School Street, Suit 301, Philippi, WV 26416-1600 for a Phase 1 release on Permit Number S200502 Increment Number 1 issued for 1507.94 acres.

The permit is located in Henry/Pleasant District of Clay County, 1.0 miles southeast of Bickmore on unnamed tributary of Rocklick Fork, Rocklick Fork and Cannel Coal Hollow of Right Fork of Leatherwood Creek of Elk River.

WV RECLAIM CO, LLC completed backfilling and regrading on 6/1/2016 and is requesting release of 60 percent of the reclamation performance bond currently in the amount of \$825,920.00.

Written comments will be received at the DEP address above until 6/3/24, or thirty (30) days from date of final publication.



Schedule A

Notice is hereby that on the 20th day of May 2024, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Evelyn F. Petry has applied by Petition to the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said Court, Changing name of Evelyn F. Petry to Evelyn Kayde Petry, at which time any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at his office.

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this 1st day of April 2024.

lariosa Hanshaw



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY

In The Matter of Petition of Name Change of Civil Action No. 24-P-10 J.M. Current Name J.M. Judge Alsop To New Name J.M.P.

Legal Notice of Publication Change of Name

Order of Publication Circuit Court of Clay County West Virginia

Notice is hereby that on the 20th day of May 2024, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Evelyn Petry has applied by Petition to the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said Court, Changing name of J.M. to J.M.P., at which time any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at his office

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this 1st day of April 2024.

Variosa Hanshaw



IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA Civil Action No.: 24-D-16

PETITIONER,

RESPONDENT, TABITHA LUCAS JONATHAN LUCAS ORDER OF PUBLICATION THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS TO OBTAIN A PETITION FOR DIVORCE:

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that JONATHAN LU-CAS may or may not be a resident of the State of West Virginia or had an unknown address. It is hereby ordered that JONATHAN LUCAS appear for a PETITION FOR DIVORCE hearing on MAY 9, 2024 at 11:30 a.m., including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to the Petition for DIVORCE filed in this action. If you fail to appear, a judgement may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk's Office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court on April 1, 2024.

Jarissa Hanshaw

(2022-C-000040 - Clay County - GATEWOOD MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS)

To: AQUAYLA FUGATE, 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 CLAY CORP MAP 3 PARCEL 0048 0000 0000

You will take notice that GATEWOOD MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert. No. 2022-C-000040, located in CLAY CORP District, LT 86-88 CARR ADD SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of FUGATE AQUAYLA, 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. GATEWOOD MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after September 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before August 31, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with	\$ 268.69
interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 2589.	
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for	\$ 0.00
ticket number	
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022-2563.	\$ 163.27
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 139.35
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service,	
Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 789.52
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order,	\$ 1,360.83
certified or personal check.	
You may redeem at any time before August 31, 2024, by paying the above total less	
any unearned interest.	
Given under my hand March 15, 2024	
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

PROPOSED LEVY ORDER AND RATES **Clay COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025 The following is a true copy from the record of orders entered by CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDU-

CATION on the 16th day of A	April 2024.			
-	Column E	Current I	Expens	<u>se Levy</u>
	Certificate of Valuation	Levy	-	Taxes
	Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Rate/\$100		Levied
Class I	-			
Personal Property	\$ -	19.40	\$	-
Public Utilities	<u>-</u>			_
Total Class I	<u> </u>			
Class II				
Real Estate	104,738,960	38.80		406,387
Personal Property	3,683,884			14,293
Total Class II	108,422,884			420,680
Class Ill				
Real Estate	59,705,760	77.60		463,317
Personal Property	55,943,126			434,119
Public Utilities	46,913,072			364,045
Total Class Ill	162,561,958			1,261,481
Class IV				
Real Estate	6,567,590	77.60		50,964
Personal Property	2,753,902			21,370
Public Utilities	2,617,744			20,314
Total Class IV	11,939,236			92,648
Total Assessed Valuation	and Projected			
Gross Tax Collections	<u>\$ 282,924,038</u>		<u>\$</u>	1,774,809
Less uncollectibles, exoner	rations and delinquencies	8.00%		(141,985)
Less tax discounts		1.00%		(16,328)
Less Allowance for Tax In	crement Financing - see worksheet			
(Subtracted from regular cr	urrent expense tax levy only)			-
Net Projected Tax Collection	ons, before allowance for Assessor's			
Valuation Fund				1,616,496
Less - Assessor's Valuation		2.00%		(32,330)
(Subtracted from regular c	urrent expense tax levy only)			
Danstandard Mad Tanan da ba			¢	1 504 1//

Projected Net Taxes to be Collected

1,584,166 Note: Copies of all approved excess and/or bond levy orders and certified copies of the canvass of votes must be on file with the State Auditor's Office and the State Department of Education before excess or bond levy rates can be approved.

SIGNED THIS 19th DAY OF March, 2024 by Philip R. Dobbins SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED LEVY ORDER AND RATES **Clay COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION** For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Excess Levy Levy	Taxes	Improvement Levy	Taxes	Bond Levy Levy	Taxes
Class I	Rates/\$100	Levied	Rate/\$100	Levied	Rate/\$100	Levied
Personal Property Public Utilities	0.94 \$	-	- \$	-	- \$	-
Total Class I		-		-		-
Class II						
Real Estate	1.88	19,691		-	-	-
Personal Property		693				
Fotal Class II		20,384		-		
Class III	2.76	22.440				
Real Estate Personal Property	3.76	22,449 21,035	-	-	-	-
Public Utilities		17,639		-		-
Total Class III		61,123				
Class IV		01,125				
Real Estate	3.76	2,469		_		
Personal Property	5.70	1,035		_		-
Public Utilities		984		-		-
Total Class IV		4,488		-		
fotal Assessed Valua	ation	,				
and Projected Gross	s Tax					
Collections	\$	85,995	\$	-	<u>\$</u>	-
less uncollectibles,						
xonerations and						
lelinquencies	8.0		5.00%			_
Less tax discounts	1.0			-		
Less Allowance for T						
Subtracted from reg						
Net Projected Tax Co		e allowance fo				
Assessor's Valuation			0			
less-Assessor's Valu			-			
Subtracted from reg		ense tax levy	only)			
Projected Net Taxes		70 224	Ø			
Collected	T <u>\$</u>	78,324	<u>></u>			
Fotal Projected Net		1 662 400				
Regular and Excess		<u>1,662,490</u> IS 10th day o	f March, 2024 1	by		
	SIGNED III		R. Dobbins		CRETARY OF	THE
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Manchin announces \$3M to bolster public health infrastructure across WV

Last week, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$3,025,950 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). The funding will support statewide efforts to strengthen public health infrastructure.

"I'm pleased HHS is investing more than \$3 million in upgrading public health infrastructure across our great state," said Senator Manchin. "The funding announced today will support the public health workforce and strengthen our public health infrastructure for years to come. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocating for resources to ensure every West Virginian across the Mountain State has access to the quality, affordable health services they deserve.

One fatality in Kanawha County fire

A Sissonvile woman has died after a fire at her home on Tuesday night. The victim was a 52 year old female. The fire occurred at a home located in the

100 block of Tahoe Road just after 9:00 P.M. last night. One adult male was also injured in the fire and transported to a local hospital

for treatment. The cause of the fire has not been determined at this time but is still under in-

vestigation by the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office.

The victim has been sent to the West Virginia State Medical Examiner's Office for positive identification and autopsy.

Charleston Area Medical Center Celebrates National Donate Life Month

CAMC kicked off National Donate Life Month, April 4, with the Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) by raising "Donate Life" flags at its hospitals to raise awareness about organ, tissue and cornea donation.

The statistics are staggering:

Nationally, more than 100,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant, including nearly 500 people in West Virginia.

At least 17 people die each day without receiving the transplant they so desperately need.

Someone is added to the transplant waiting list every 10 minutes.

National Donate Life Month also is a time to honor the generous donors and donor families whose decision to give the gift of life has provided hope and healing to many in our community.

Some important facts about organ, tissue and cornea donation:

Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race or medical history.

With more than 90,000 people across the nation awaiting a kidney, it is the organ in greatest demand, followed by liver, heart and lungs.

Because conditions such as diabetes and hypertension are often more prevalent in the multicultural community, these individuals make up more than 50 percent of those on the national organ transplant list.

Individuals are encouraged to talk with family members and friends about registering as a donor. One organ donor can save up to eight lives and a tissue donor can improve the lives of more than 100 others. To sign up, visit core.org/register.

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

HEALTH/MEDICAL

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MISCELLANEOUS

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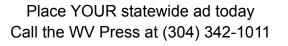
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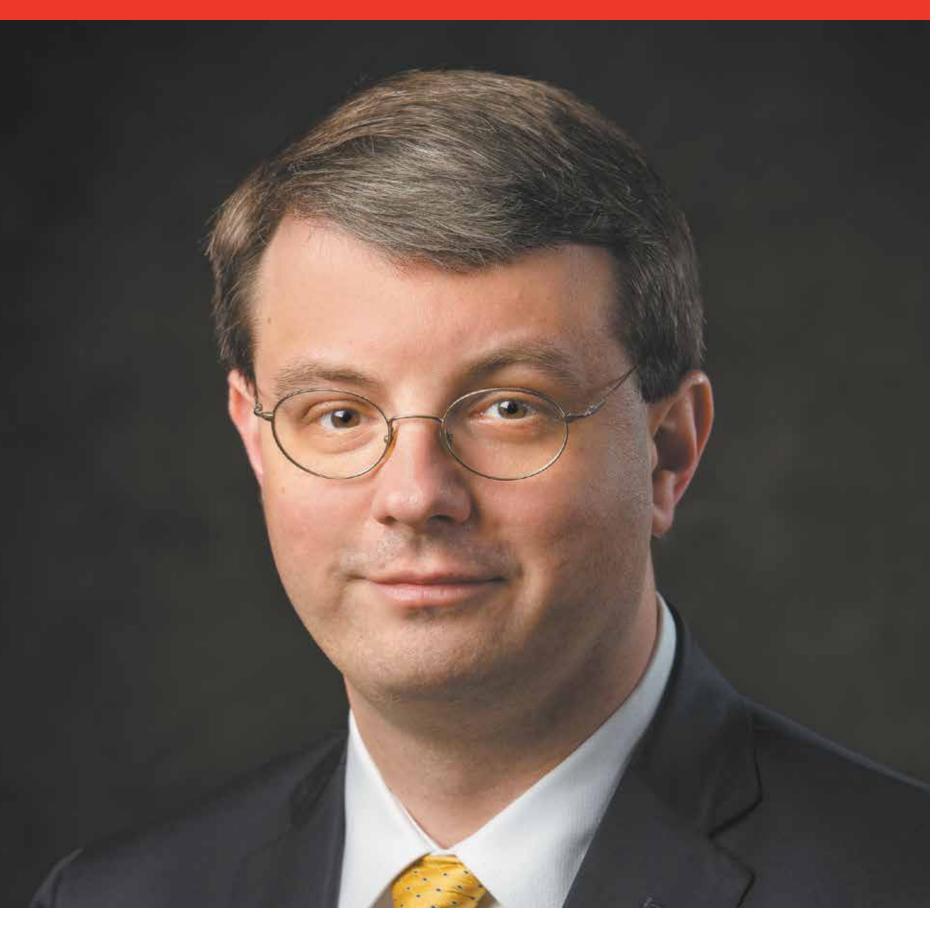




Medical, Dental, Vison benefits available after waiting period. Drug Screen required. Call 304-587-2804 for more details.







House Speaker Hanshaw, thanks for eliminating state Social Security taxes to help WV retirees.

Older West Virginians worked hard to earn the Social Security income they count on in retirement. But state taxes have taken too much of that money out of their pockets.

Thanks to House Speaker Hanshaw and our state legislature, that's about to change. They've passed an AARP-backed bill to eliminate state taxes on Social Security income. It's a big win that will save older West Virginians up to \$37 million over the next three years.

Thousands of AARP members spoke up to ask lawmakers to help retirees keep more of the income they earned, and our lawmakers listened. Now retirees in our state will be better off financially.

Join us in thanking House Speaker Hanshaw for leading the charge to bring Social Security tax relief to West Virginia! Visit **action.aarp.org/WVSocialSecurity**



Gold Rush 2024 ends on Saturday

By Allen Hamrick

Ever since January 24, 1848, people have flocked to streams in search of gold. Hundreds of thousands went to California to get rich. Most of them did not succeed, and for good reason; gold was tough to find, required a strong back and a ton of luck. Here in the great state of West Virginia, we have our own gold rush that happened many years ago during the West Virginia Centennial of 1963. Back in 1955, Vince Evans was the first West Virginian to spot a small nugget in the Petersburg Trout hatchery. A nugget in a fish hatchery? Yep, you guessed it - West Virginia's first gold nugget, and those ever since - trout. The little bug eyed fingerling was the grandma to all golden rainbow trout currently in this state.

Little Camouflage was her name, and she was given a place all her own in a pond all for her. A special eye was put on Little C, and she soon grew to a whopping 14 inches. West Virginia biologists decided that the opportunity to bring the cauldron out of the closet and whip up a new breed of fish was just too tempting. Little C birthed 900 eggs in 1956 and had quite the family. The lucky male fish to help with the process was a run of the mill rainbow trout. The hatcheries were a little bummed when they noticed that none of Little C's fingerlings were the same color as their mama. However, like most individuals, trout never show their true colors until they get older. It took a few months, but around 300 of Little C's fingerlings started to turn yellow and then gold, sparkling in the water like a half pound nugget.

The biologists continued their Frankenstein work in 1957 with spawning experiments to get the golden rainbow trout we know and love today. With Little C now probably in the great pond above, her many "grandtrout" were now fully popping out a beautiful golden color. West Virginia biologists of that day knew they had something special that was exclusive to this state. Within a few years and a few more Frankenstein experiments, the West Virginia Golden Rainbow trout grew to be just as big and just as wild as the regular rainbows.

In 1963, West Virginia's Centennial, it was time to show the people of our state and beyond the new fish spawned only in the hatcheries of the mountain state. The biologists were as proud as a mama bear and her new brood of cubs as they introduced the "new" fish to the stocking schedule. In honor of the Centennial, some of the fish were given yellow tags and some orange which could land you a prize. In 2024, fish hatcheries now produce around 80,000 eggs every year, and no other state is given the opportunity to produce the fish. So, for West Virginia people, the Golden Rainbow Trout is our fish. What the biologists didn't do was give anybody who slings a line at trout, the secret to catching them. Hence, the search for gold began and continues today as anglers line the banks and gear up boats and kayaks. Sixty eight lakes and streams in West Virginia were stocked with 50,000 of Little C's generations this year, and on April 1, 2024, lines began to be cast. Five hundred of the fish are tagged, so if you are one of the lucky 500, you will have the chance to win prizes. The event is big and brings in people from all over the country to come and take the golden challenge. The event ends on April 13, 2024, but don't worry, they are still out there.

Fishing brings into perspective the things that matter most - all of the sounds, the peace, the chance to get away from it all is luring enough without the gold, but a gold dancing at the end of your line... trust me, nothing else will matter at that time. Catching the golden is a battle of wills, patience, and skill. As one old fisherman said, "Sure, it takes skill, sure, it takes patience, sure, those fish are hard headed and a thorn in my side, but here's the secret to catching them... tie you on a good #18 hook real tight, put a tin split shot 'bout 12 inches up your line, reach into your tackle box and pull out a 100 percent luck; you'll catch 'em then."

A few tips on catching the golds will help but are in no way a guarantee. One trick is to small everything down, from line to hooks to bait; golds are an edgy, easily spooked fish. It does not take much for them to bolt away from a situation. They are also easily agitated; if they want to spend time in an area, they will often strike bait that is continually shook in their face. They are more apt to bite early in the day or late evening, and don't leave to go after golden trout wearing the latest in highly visible fashion. Instead, don your camouflage or dark clothing and blend in with the riverside as much as you can. You might already have a favorite style of rigging, but if not, some of my favorite is to set the bait up as a floating presentation with a two or three foot leader and an egg sinker. This works well in deeper pools of water. Most of the time, baits are presented with round bobbers or slip float bobbers. Slip float bobbers are the preferred for trout, especially the unweighted ones. They have little to no splash in the water, will ride the current better and you can adjust your bait to the depth you want with little motion in still water.

There are many tried and true methods for catching trout. The main thing is to get out and give it a whirl; West Virginia waters are just waiting to be fished. The 2024 West Virginia Gold Rush will go on through Saturday, so don't miss out on the chance to become a West Virginia prospector. Go for the gold and set your place in history. Above all, don't forget to thank Little C; without her none of this would happen. Keep a tight line!



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