



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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Spotlight on Julie Greenlee

By Gary Lee Stuber

Mrs. Greenlee is a rare gem at the Clay County High School, CTE school (Career Technical Education School). Technically, she teaches Business Management and Marketing. And through one aspect, one: two-period class, she does this quite unusually.

Earlier this year she "inherited" the old home economics room with the aging kitchen, and she put together a winning idea. She renovated the kitchen and 'opened for business' her own kitchen/catering service. Her students now have hands-on experience in operating a business. But there's more: this year she got a grant to do a Pastries and Baking class. It has come in very handy. She operated the Clay County High School "Tiskelwdah Treats" food trailer at the Clay County Apple Festival, utilizing

GREENLEE cont. on page 8



CTE Teacher Julie Greenlee



The Beast

Five all-electric busses to roll in the first quarter of 2025

By Gary Lee Stuber

All Clay County School Board members were present at the latest Board of Education meeting when Jared Fitzwater gave the Director's Report on the status of electric busses in Clay County. Right now Clay is operating one all electric bus, a Nano-Beast, built in South Charleston by the Green Power Motor Company. It is a California-based company opened in West Virginia to meet the electric bus needs of the West Virginia school system. It has a seating capacity of 24 passengers and can go 140 miles before recharging, which Jared said is accomplished between runs.

The State of West Virginia is picking up the cost of one new vehicle and the federal government is paying for three more. They will be regular Beast busses. They will transport up to 90 passengers and a bus driver each.

Jared assured the board this was a good deal as it costs the school system nothing. Well, not nothing, as Board Member Susan Bodkins noted that they would cost the county in a higher electric bill. There is not adequate data to know if the cost would be any more than gasoline, and

the busses would have to be pretty much run on roads with fewer curves than typically found on secondary roads, because they are longer and require a larger turn radius. But these would mostly be used on Clay County's main highways and be charged between runs. They have a 195 mile range. It would require an additional charging station which is in the works. Considering that many of Clay's present busses are aging, Fitzwater suggested this is a good time to get electric vehicles presently paid in full by the government.

The night's longest presentation was by Superintendent Philip Dobbins, who presented to the board his new proposed Organizational Chart for next school year. The old chart had five directors and he eliminated two of these, proposing a new director to bring it to a total of four directors. This means that the duties of one position eliminated would have to be absorbed by the other remaining four. Moreover, the organization of each was rearranged so it was largely different than this year. He asked for the Board's consideration. This was Susan Bodkins' night as she introduced a number of questions and concerns. The biggest being that Special Education was under one director, who seemed to her to have

BUSSES cont. on page 8



Julie (left) and husband Brian (right) bookend four of their five children. Left to right are Jacy, Jaylin, Ian, and Joel, and not pictured is their oldest girl, Brianna.

Clay and Calhoun counties are represented by one of West Virginia's most powerful lawmakers. They're still struggling



John Bigger, of unincorporated Chloe, is frustrated by the lack of things to do in his area. Photo by Erin Beck.

By Erin Beck, Mountain State Spotlight
This story was originally published by Mountain State Spotlight. Get stories like this delivered to your email inbox once a week; sign up for the free newsletter at mountainstatespotlight.org/newsletter

John Bigger, of Chloe, said there's one major attraction in Calhoun County – the park that draws stargazers from all over.

But Bigger, who works on pipelines, has to leave the county to go to surrounding states for work.

"We have one of the best stargazing places in the country because there's no outside light sources around here," he said. "Because there's nothing here."

Their area may be a tourist destination. But residents in Calhoun County and neighboring Clay frequently have to leave for work. Others can't get to addiction treatment or homeless shelters in surrounding counties because they lack transportation.

Bigger is in awe of all the entertainment and activities for younger people in the lit-

up areas he travels to for work. But in his area, he sees people getting caught up in petty crime instead.

"We're a product of our environment," he said. "People do stuff around here because it's just about all there is to do – get in trouble."

Residents in Calhoun and Clay counties, which are part of the West Virginia Legislature's House District 62, said their communities lack major employers and good-paying jobs. Representatives of agencies that help people in poverty also said they have trouble meeting the area's needs.

There are a good number of small businesses in both counties, places like florists and repair shops, and there are also chain stores like pharmacies and gas stations that advertise that they're hiring. But these are mainly in county seats, and some closed after flooding last August that rose over three feet high and damaged homes and businesses..

Some small business owners said Del.

LAWMAKERS cont. on page 3



Jared Fitzwater



Eric Legg

Mustang season ends at CWVAC tournament



L-R CWVAC champions- Marissa Atha and the shuttle hurdle team - Natalie Tanner, Laney McKinney, Ali Montville and Hayden Rogers.

See story on Page 10

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON CLAY COUNTY



Booked 5-8-24
Christian Isaac Armentrout
Grand Larceny, Conspiracy



Booked 5-6-24
Sandra Jo Bishop
1st Possession of Marijuana
<15 grams, possession of
controlled substance



Booked 5-8-24
Ian Matthew Dobbins
Probation Violation



Booked 5-12-24
Terri Lee Marling
Domestic Battery



Booked 5-12-24
Nicholas Brian Partain
Domestic Battery, Domestic
Violence



Booked 5-11-24
Carlos Lee Gray Jr.
No seat belt, open container,
defective equipment, driv-
ing revoked for DUI, DUI,
no insurance, no proof of
registration

NICHOLAS COUNTY



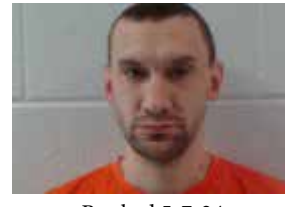
Booked 5-7-24
Joshua Lee Baker
Domestic Assault



Booked 5-10-24
Shannon Lee Bennett
Capias (family court), Capias
(family court), POSS C/S



Booked 5-8-24
Jayson Conner Grose
Bond Revocation



Booked 5-7-24
Derick Mitchell Robinson
Capias



Booked 5-8-24
Mark Anthony Vance
Violation of Protective
Order, Prohibited person w/
firearm

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OBITUARIES



**Jewel Jeanetta
Tanner**

Jewel Jeanetta Tanner, 67, of Bickmore, passed away on May 4, 2024, following an extended illness.

She grew up in Leatherwood with a big, loving family before meeting her beloved husband, Jerry. She raised her two daughters, Tisha and Misty, in Bickmore, where she was a dedicated and loving homemaker.

Her legacy of love extended to her beloved grandchildren, whom she adored beyond measure.

With arms open wide and a heart full of adoration, she supported her family through the good and bad times while spoiling them all rotten.

Jewel spent many won-

derful days enjoying her beautiful flowers and scratching lottery tickets before meeting God and reuniting with her daughter in Heaven.

Her infectious laughter and radiant spirit illuminated the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry, daughter Tisha, grandchildren Sierra, Ethan, Alayna, and Oliver, and great-grandchildren Gavin and Amelia.

She is also survived by her sisters Peggy, Bonnie, Judy, Patty, and Effie, and brothers Mark, Ronald, Bus, and Pete.

She is preceded in death by her beloved daughter, Misty, and sisters Betty Lou and Hazel.

Funeral Service will be at 11:00 am Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Wilson Smith Funeral Home, Clay, WV. A visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the funeral home with Rocky Osborne officiating the service. Burial will follow in the Tanner Cemetery, Beechy Ridge Road, Bickmore, WV.

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

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

Dale Arthur Mullins

Dale Arthur Mullins, 65, moved on to his heavenly home May 1, 2024, surrounded by family at home. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly of Clay; three children, Sabrina (Trey) Corwell, Justin (Maria) Mullins, and Heather (Arthur) Smith; and eight grandchildren-Kenzie Corwell, Summer Corwell, Brayden Mullins, Ridge Smith, Lilly Mullins, Ayrison Smith,

Silas Corwell, and Amelia Smith. Dale is also survived by his brothers; Bo (Darlene) Mullins, Jimmy (Stephanie) Mullins, Ernie Mullins, and sisters; Linda (Steve) Boggess and Nancy (Brian) Adkins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilford and Hattie Mullins of Clay. Dale retired from Kanawha Stone last year after 13 years of service with the company. A graveside service was held Monday, May 6, 2024, at 4 p.m. at the Belt Family Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Clay Roane Public Service District: Per motion passed on Feb. 15, 2024, the Board Meeting dates and times have changed to the following: Regular Board meetings shall be held each third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. via the online Zoom website. Except for the months of June, September, and December which will be held in person at the office of Clay Roane PSD, same date and time.

The Clay County Middle School afterschool program is still seeking donated sewing machines. If you have a working portable sewing machine that you no longer need and would like to donate to a beginning sewist, please drop it off at the Clay County Library earmarked for the CCMS sewing class. The manual would be great to have with the machine. Please, include your contact information. In the case that the class is too small for the number of machines that may be donated, leave a note saying what you want done with it. Thank you in advance for your support!

The Clay County WIC office located at 452 Main Street in Clay is open to serve the public every Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April PAX winners named at Big Otter



Students at Big Otter Elementary are following the PAX Good Behavior Game and becoming role models for other students. These students show a positive attitude towards their classmates and teachers. PAX Stars are rewarded with a certificate and a special lunch with their family. Congratulations to the following students for being selected as the April 2024 PAX Leaders at Big Otter Elementary School!

Mr. Vaughan 5th Grade - Jacob Jackson
Mrs. Burns - 4th Grade - Heavenly Montville
Mrs. Pierson - 3rd Grade - Katie McCourt
Mr. Vaughan - 3rd Grade - Ellayna Brown
Ms. Jarvis - 2nd Grade - Kynlie Persinger
Ms. Paxton - 2nd Grade - Samuel Duffield
Ms. Douglas - 1st Grade - Rebecca Hanshaw
Mrs. Collins - Kindergarten - Lincoln Gross
Mrs. Holcomb - Kindergarten - Noah Runion
Ms. Sears - PreK - Tucker Lockhart

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

NOTICE TO MON POWER CUSTOMERS WITH RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY

Mon Power has contracted to maintain portions of its rights-of-way with an aerial saw consisting of approximately ten 24-inch rotary blades powered by a motor and suspended on a vertical boom beneath a helicopter. This maintenance method allows for the quick, safe, and efficient trimming of trees along our transmission lines. The aerial saw will be operating January through September 2024 in the following counties in West Virginia:

Calhoun, Clay, Nicholas and Roane Counties (TMU-306 Goff Run-Linden Road 138kV Line, Linden Road-Powell Mountain 138kV Line)

Beginning at the Goff Run Substation off of US Rt's 33 and 119 east of Spencer West Virginia in Roane County. The line runs in a southeasterly direction crossing near CR 5/14 Daniels Run, CR 40 Slate Rd, CR 36/1, CR 48/3 Kaufman Rd, CR 48 Otto Rd, CR 48/2 Chambers Fork, CR 50/5 Clover Rd, CR 50 Keffer Hill, and CR 2/5 Linden Rd where the line taps into the Linden Road Substation. The line continues in a southeast direction crossing CR 27 Linden Bright Rd, and continues into Calhoun County near CR 20/8 Sang Run Rd, crossing CR 20/9 Big Run Rd, CR 1/5, Beech Fork, White Oak Rd, CR 17/2, and CR 28 Mud Fork Rd. The line then enters into Clay County crossing CR 38/1 W Fork Rd, CR 38 Clinic Dr, SR 16, Interstate 79 and Big Otter Creek, CR 19 Ossia Rd, Deadfall Run Rd, CR 16/2 Otterlick Rd, James Dunfield Rd, SR 4 Duck Rd, the Elk River, CR 11 Widen Ridge Rd, CR 11/4 Lantz Rd, Rock Camp Rd, CR 15/2 Swandale Rd, CR 52 Rush Camp, Buffalo Creek, and CR 15/4 Taylor Fork Rd. The line then enters Nicholas County and runs along Turkey Creek, crossing CR 19/26 Spruce Run Rd and US Rt 19, terminating at the Powell Mountain Substation off CR 19/41 Hookersville Rd north of Muddlety West Virginia.

For more information about Mon Power's Transmission Aerial Saw Program, call 1-800-686-0022. When contacting, please alert our Representatives that your call is pertaining to our Transmission Aerial Saw Program.

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claycountyfreepress.com

Email:

news@claycountyfreepress.com

advertising@claycountyfreepress.com

subscriptions@claycountyfreepress.com

Michael Showell, Publisher

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Seasoning Your Life

By Joe Mazzella

I posted something about our Italian style Sunday dinners on Facebook recently and got several requests for my Nana's recipe for her spaghetti sauce. I gladly sent it out to them, but kind of felt bad about it. It wasn't that I didn't think my Nana would mind. She loved sharing her sauce with everyone. It was just that I didn't think people would get it right.

You see, I still have memories of wandering into my Nana's kitchen when I was a boy. There she would be sweating over the stove, her apron covered in flour from hand rolling loaves of Italian bread. She would be slowly stirring the huge pot of sauce that had been simmering on the stove for hours. Then she would take off the lid, dip her wooden spoon in, pull it out, and taste the sauce. More often than not she would shake her head, take a pinch of salt and throw it in, or sprinkle a little more garlic powder into it, or add just a touch more parsley. Then she would put the lid back on to let it cook a little longer until she got it just the way she wanted it. In truth, no recipe could capture her sauce. Every pot of sauce she made was a little different. Yet they were all perfect. She always seasoned to taste. She always seasoned with love.

My dear Nana taught me a lot about cooking and she also taught me a lot about life. She taught me to take each day as it comes with all of its difficulties, problems, and challenges and season it with my love, my kindness, my smile, my laughter, and my joy until I got it just right. Each day would be a little different, of course, but each one would be perfect in its own way.

I know Nana is with God now smiling down on me from Heaven with each meal I cook and each day I live. And I know that God wants us to season all our days here with Love. He wants us to pour in a lot of kindness and add a generous helping of smiles, laughter, and joy. He wants us to make each day here a feast and invite everyone we can to our table. May we always do so.

Back in the Saddle Again

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Finally, those five sick weeks of being are over, and my life is getting back to normal. Whatever normal is.

Five weeks is a long time to be sick, spend time in bed, and not know if it's morning or evening. There was a period when I was about ready to set up camp in the bathroom. That would've been a lot easier for me and less stressful.

But getting back to normal is a great delight. I'm unsure what I lost during those five weeks, but you can be sure I won't try to find out. What is behind me is behind me for good!

My first morning, I was in my office trying to figure out where I was and what project I was working on. Being at my desk behind my computer and working was a good feeling. I really didn't know how much I enjoyed it until it wasn't there anymore.

I guess being sick can have a positive aspect. While I was sick, I wasn't able to do the work that I wanted to do. That's always a terrible place to be. But now that I'm over that, I'm sitting at my desk, looking around in my office, and looking at all the books I have on my shelves. Oh, it's a wonderful feeling.

Have my books missed me as much as I missed them?

But that's behind me; now, I need to press forward.

Another aspect of getting back in the saddle again are the meals that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage prepares. I'm not sure what she prepared while I was sick; I have very little recollection of what they were. At my first breakfast, I took a deep breath and realized how delicious my breakfasts actually were. I'm looking forward to lunch with a great deal of anticipation.

I was starting to get back into my production routine, which took me a little while. After a little time, I was back into my routine. There is so much to do, and so much joy in doing it.

One afternoon I was sitting at my desk working on a project and a thought kept coming to mind. This thought just would not go away.

I got up and got a cup of fresh coffee, hoping that would solve my little problem. I sat down at my desk and got back to work, and wouldn't you know it, that thought was still bouncing back and forth in my mind.

I had enough to do to occupy my entire mind for the day, but for some reason, this little thought kept working its way into whatever I was doing at the time.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy thoughts that come to me whenever they come. I want something fresh and new to invade my mind. But this thought was a little bit of a rascal.

Finally, I had enough, so I sat back in my chair and focused on this thought: "Wouldn't an Apple Fritter be a nice reward for getting back in my saddle?"

I will never know where that thought came from, but instead of rejecting it, like I should've, I embraced it. All I could think of for the rest of the afternoon was that Apple Fritter.

I couldn't remember the last time I had an Apple Fritter, but I believe when I did have one, I got into trouble. According to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, Apple Fritters are not on my diet. According to her, I'm on a very strict diet.

I kept telling this thought, "You better not let The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage hear what you're saying to me." I don't think that thought was listening to me; he was only listening to himself.

The idea of munching on a fresh, warm Apple Fritter was marinating in my mind. Nothing in the world can match that kind of deliciousness.

In a couple of hours, that thought bought me hook, line, and sinker. All I could think about was a fresh, warm Apple Fritter with a nice hot cup of coffee. That picture just glowed in my mind as I thought about it.

My problem was, how do I get an Apple Fritter? I'm sure The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would not be part of this kind of thing. She would rather I had a stalk of broccoli (yuck) than a nice Apple Fritter.

The more I thought about this Apple Fritter, the more I yearned for it. After all, I spent almost five weeks with some kind of sickness, I should have something to reward me for getting through it all.

My project is, how do I present this to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage? How do I present it in such a way that she will bite into it and let me have an Apple Fritter?

I hope this thought has friends who can help me think through this project.

That afternoon a Bible verse came to mind. Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Some thoughts just aren't worth the time or energy. I need to control my thinking and think thoughts worthy of God.

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

LAWMAKERS

Roger Hanshaw, who represents the area, is a regular patron.

As the Speaker of the House of Delegates, Hanshaw holds a powerful position he can use to help his neighbors. "It's about JOBS," his campaign Facebook proclaims.

But Clay County remains one of 11 counties in the state where about one in five people have lived in poverty for three decades or longer.

A spokesperson for Hanshaw said he was not available for an interview or to respond to written questions because of work travel. On a campaign website, he lists his focus areas as gun rights, fighting for unborn children, preserving extraction industry jobs and economic growth and diversification.

His goals include providing "an environment for infrastructure, broadband and transportation."

"As a conservative Republican, I know that West Virginia's future is best served with strong conservative policies," the website states. "In the legislature, I work every day to make sure my children's future is in good hands."

Laura McGinnis, who is running against Hanshaw in the Republican primary after an unsuccessful run against him in 2022, said she and her husband have to share a vehicle. Like many in their community, he travels to Charleston for work. She sells greeting cards and cares for their horse, pony and donkey.

In an interview, McGinnis said she would work to reduce government overreach – citing COVID-19 regulations as an example – to bring more jobs and business to the area.

"I'm not a knight in shining armor with fancy plans," she said. "I'm just a girl, who wants to be the difference that my neighbors, family, and I want to see."

Another Republican running to represent the district, Justin Bordas, was charged with fleeing and assaulting a police officer in March. He didn't respond to requests for comment. A circuit court clerk said he had not yet pleaded guilty or not guilty and the case has not yet gone before a circuit judge.

At a recent community drug take-back day in Grantsville, the county seat of Calhoun County, people brought unused prescription medications, such as painkillers, that are sometimes used by people with substance use disorder.

In front of the courthouse and along the town's main drag, health care providers and representatives of social service agencies set up booths.

About one in five people in Calhoun County live in poverty, defined as a family of four making less than about \$30,000, according to the U.S. Census. Social service agency leaders at drug take-back day see first-hand that many of their neighbors are financially struggling, and that much of the problem is related to the addiction epidemic.

There is some help. Calhoun County's Family Support Center offers addiction recovery support groups. Four HUD rentals are located above the main office, but other low-income apartments in the area have long waiting lists.

Tina Persinger, the center's director, said they provide

food to people who lack enough money to purchase their own. They offer an on-site food pantry, and they also deliver for people who aren't within walking distance.

She said many of her clients have lost hope. They self-medicate by turning to drugs.

Persinger said addiction treatment and recovery services are also lacking in the area.

On Thursdays, St. Joseph's Hospital in Parkersburg sends a bus to set up behind the courthouse, where a recovery specialist offers mental health visits via telehealth and provides naloxone, a drug that reverses the effects of opioid overdoses.

But there are no long-term recovery programs where people with substance use disorder learn to live sober lives.

An advocate for victims of domestic violence, Lori Fleagle, was there too. But her agency's main office is an hour away in Parkersburg

Most of the help for the low-income that does exist is in Grantsville, the county seat. There is some public transportation, but not to the far reaches of the county or outside the county.

Persinger said that when people are ready to enter a recovery residence, they need that help now. If they can't get a ride, they might change their mind.

About an hour south of Grantsville, but still another 45 minutes from Charleston, Kathy Taylor owns a used furniture store in Clay. After the 2016 flood, people lost much of their furniture. She opened the used furniture store to help.

She said many of her customers rely on about \$900 per month in disability benefits.

As she worked last week, selling furniture, as well as knick-knacks, used clothes and floral wall-hangings, an older woman with dementia stopped to socialize with Taylor. She said older, lonely people stop in to chat frequently.

She also co-owns a business that provides in-home help to seniors. But she's having trouble finding the 25 more in-home workers she wants to hire. About one in five people over 65 in Clay County have disabilities that make it harder to live independently.

Many times, workers confide to her that they're better off using state benefits like Medicaid and food stamps than working.

That's even though she offers gas money, raises and bonuses.

Often, that's because they are single and they can't pay for child care. And as a former single mom herself, she doesn't fault them for that.

Hanshaw said at the beginning of the recent legislative session that alleviating child care costs would be a priority, but lawmakers didn't pass any bills to make child care more affordable. Hanshaw recently said through a spokesperson that he is "not prepared yet to commit to how much and how the state will allocate child care funding in the future."

As a lifelong resident of Clay County who has worked in various industries over 50 years, Taylor said it's hard to find reliable workers.

Part of that is due to addiction. She said sometimes employees' boyfriends are addicted to drugs and don't help with the kids.

She said that like in Grantsville, there is little help for addiction in Clay, and no public transportation to recovery residences and treatment centers in other counties.

"This town is so affected with drugs, just like everybody else's town," she said. "And it's just the only hope that we have is by believing it will get better."

Reach reporter Erin Beck at erin@mountainstatespotlight.org.

FASTER WV Presents: Build Your Business Workshop in the Heart of Elk River Trail Region

Advantage Valley, Inc. proudly announces its upcoming FASTER WV Build Your Business Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 at 6 p.m. The workshop will take place at the Town Hall Community Building, located on the 2nd Floor of 416 Elk Street in Gassaway, WV. Business coaches from the FASTER WV Entrepreneurship Program will be present to discuss free business coaching, business basics classes, and access to capital for the start-up or growth of small businesses in the region. They will provide information to anyone wanting to open or expand a business and learn about the many services of the FASTER WV Entrepreneurship Program. Businesses are encouraged to register here: <https://airtable.com/appVpr2yTQMIGq6Xf/shrOBZ7z052FQCMFn> or by contacting Bryan Shaw at 304-352-1165 or at Bryan@advantagevalley.com.

Advantage Valley is offering this workshop to build upon the recreation and tourism investments that have centered around the establishment of the Elk River Trail System, which runs through portions of Kanawha, Clay, and Braxton Counties. Paralleling the Elk River, the Elk River Trail System provides recreation opportunities for anglers, boaters, cyclists, hikers, and equestrians living in or visiting the state. The Trail System is a potential game changer for the communities of Sutton, Gassaway, Clay, and Clendenin.

Advantage Valley's FASTER WV Program, designed to identify, encourage, and support small business start-up growth, offers coaching, entrepreneurship classes, and access to capital through mini grants and loans. Since its inception, the FASTER WV program has positively impacted over 700 clients, providing more than 6,360 hours of coaching. Notably, it has contributed to the creation of 149 new businesses and 200 jobs, and improved over 100 existing businesses. Learn more at <https://advantagevalley.com/entrepreneurship/>.

Advantage Valley, Inc. is a regional economic development organization with a mission to grow economic opportunity in the Charleston-Huntington Metro Area by increasing investment in the region, leveraging resources, and building collaboration among community stakeholders.

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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

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

May 15, 1880: The state's first telephone exchange was placed in service in Wheeling with about 25 subscribers.

May 15, 1886: Minnie Buckingham Harper was born in Winfield. She was the first Black woman to serve as a member of a state legislative body in the United States. She was appointed by Governor Howard Gore on January 10, 1928, to fill the unexpired term of her husband, E. Howard Harper.

May 15, 1893: Albert Sidney "Sid" Hatfield, controversial police chief of Matewan and martyred hero to union coal miners, was

born near Matewan, on the Kentucky side of Tug Fork.



May 15, 1953: George Brett, the Hall of Fame third baseman for the Kansas City Royals, was born in Glen Dale in Marshall County. Along with Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Stan Musial,



and Miguel Cabrera, he is one of only five players in Major League history to accumulate 3,000 hits, 300 home runs and a .300 career batting average.

May 16, 1778: About 300 Wyan-dot and Mingo In-dians attacked Fort Randolph at Point Pleasant. Unable to take the fort, they proceeded up the Kanawha River toward other settle-ments.



May 16, 1815: Politician Alexander Boteler was born in Shepherdstown. He served in both the U.S. and Confederate congresses, was a key adviser to "Stonewall" Jack-

son, and co-founded what is now Shep-herd University.

May 16, 1928: Minister Robert Graetz Jr. was born in Clarksburg. He helped organize the Montgomery bus boycott and was the only White minister in the highly segregated Alabama city to support the boy-cottpublicly.



May 17, 1854: A violent windstorm swept up the Ohio River and severely damaged the Wheeling Suspension Bridge.

May 17, 1862: The Battle of Pigeon Roost took place in Princeton during the Civil War. Union soldiers were noisily approaching Princeton from the southeast, unaware that the Confeder-

ates were lying in ambush. The attack left an estimated 18 federal troops killed and 38 wounded.

May 18, 1955: While pitching for the Chicago Cubs, Monongah native Sam Jones became the first Black pitcher in Major League Baseball history to toss a no-hitter.



May 18, 2012: Ice Mountain in Hampshire County was named a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior at a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the program.

May 19, 1920: Ten people were killed

in a shootout some-times referred to as the Matewan Mas-sacre. Baldwin-Felts detectives came to Matewan to evict striking miners and their families, but Police Chief Sid Hatfield tried to stop the evictions as being unauthorized by law.

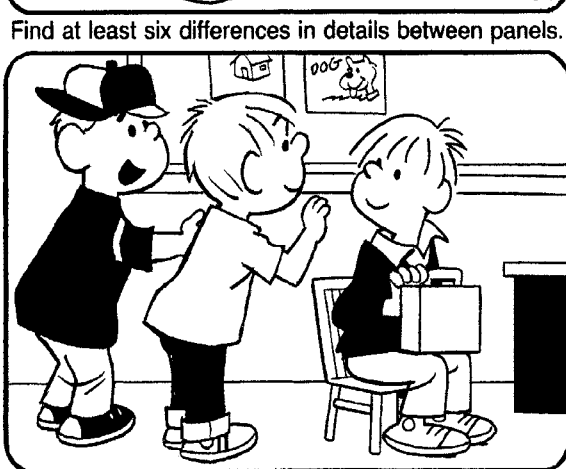
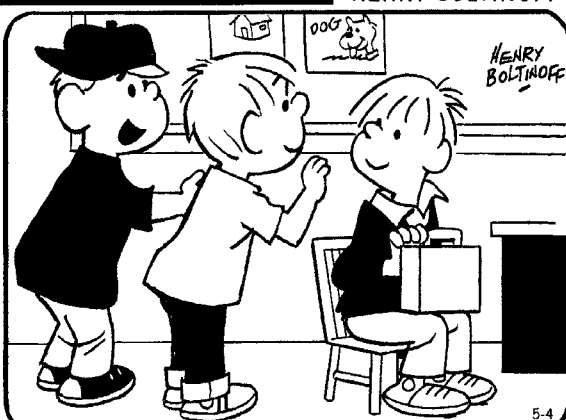


May 20, 1949: Nick Joe Rahall II was born in Beckley. When Rahall first entered Congress in 1977, he was its youngest member.

May 21, 1853: William M. O. Dawson was born in Bloomington, Mary-land, just across the Potomac River from what is now the Eastern Panhandle. In 1905, he became West Virginia's 12th governor.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Weekly SUDOKU grid by Linda Thistle. A 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

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

INITIAL CONDITIONS

- ACROSS 1 Nineveh's empire 8 Its capital is Kampala 14 12-step affiliate group 20 New Guinea natives 21 Renovates 22 Ketchup ingredient 23 It's used for outlining designs in embroidery 25 Internet newsgroup troublemaker 26 Alloy that's mostly tin 27 1990s Toyota model 28 Grills in stoves 30 Take a stroll 32 Cheerful disposition 34 Carrying of a boat 38 View anew 39 Nonsense song syllable 40 American bird with all-white plumage 42 "So there!" 44 Feels unwell 48 Lawyers: Abbr. 49 Dental floss coating 50 Difficult matter to deal with 54 Saw or sickle 55 Implore 56 Olympic skater Midori 57 Enumerating 58 Oman locale 60 One trapping 62 Shrink back 63 They may have jingles 66 Passionate love affair 69 Hairstyling goop 70 "C'mon, help me out" 72 "Finally finished!" 73 St. Louis' — Bridge 75 Artifacts of Angola, e.g. 77 Ares or Eros 78 Greyhound vehicle 79 Misfortunes 83 The U.S. State Department, informally 85 Sultry 86 Pilfer 87 Casual tops 88 Fancy playing marble 89 Even break 91 "... — do say so myself" 93 "In all probability ..."
- DOWN 1 Per unit 2 Rescue 3 Spurt out 4 Circular tent 5 Speeding cars' ovals 6 Boiling mad 7 Equine beast 8 Celestial bear 9 Gears up 10 Farewells 11 Zero 12 Yuletide mo. 13 "Harold and Maude" director Hal 14 When it's 1600 hours 15 "Blaze" actress Davidovich 16 "Scenes From ..." (Bette Midler film) 17 "And Bingo was his ..." 18 New Mexico county 19 From Oslo's country, to its natives 24 Toll rd. 29 "Number 10" painter Mark 31 Stockings, say 33 Classic soda 34 Jr.-year exam 35 Savvy about 36 — -Rooter 37 Tharp of choreography 38 Dinosaur in "Toy Story" 41 Dusting cloth 43 Capital of Ghana 44 Fizzy wine, in brief 45 Walt Whitman's "— the Body Electric" 46 Fencer's attack 47 Jason of "Bad Teacher" 50 Celebrity status 51 Doughnut or bagel's shape 52 New Mexican succulents 53 Common way to mark losses 55 Place to dissect a frog 56 Blue shade 59 Actor Keach of "Mike Hammer" 60 Caesar of old comedy 61 CPR pro 63 Toward a ship's stern 64 Crusoe creator Daniel 65 Platoon VIP 67 Rodeo lasso 68 Idling position 71 Oinkers 74 Indian lute 76 Gratuity-prohibiting policy 78 Young guy, in hip-hop 80 Pre-Easter time 81 Shoe securer 82 Yukon vehicle 84 Tease in fun 85 Head cover 86 Mark of TV's "Supernatural" 89 Certain penpoint feature 90 Seal, as a house-buying deal 91 Hinder 92 Novelist Dostoyevsky 94 Deadpan humor 95 "The Office" character Pam 97 Wood shoe 98 Treasure pile 99 "— vincit amor" 100 Winona of "Black Swan" 101 Once-popular anesthetic 102 Rival 105 You, of yore 107 "Stop staring —!" 108 Ostrich kin 109 Ky. neighbor 110 Part of B.A. 113 Kipling's "Follow Me —" 114 Org. founded by Billie Jean King

Crossword grid with numbered squares for 1-119.

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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.

December 1957



This is the "100% attendance record" of the B. Byrne Wilson family gathering which took place October 20th when Mr. and Mrs. Chilton Wilson were host and hostesses to all the members of their pioneer family, at their home on the Paddy Creek Road.

"It is also unusual," said Mr. Chilton Wilson, "in that there has not been a death in the big family since mother and father went to housekeeping nearly half century ago". This celebration commemorated their 49th wedding anniversary.

The host is standing in the rear, center next to the porch post, with his son Robert a US Air Force radar student, near the other post. That is his mother directly in front of Robert, standing beside their first son-in-law, Mr. Debert Eugene Potter of Washington, D. C. who holds their first born, Eugene, Jr., only six weeks old. The baby's mother holds a protective hand on her sleeping infant. Those two boys

in the background are Chilton's sons John and William. Their daddy is a repairman on the engine tippie crew at Widen, and Buffalo District constable. Their other two children are in the second row and are Jane and Joe, twins.

Mr. Clarence Wilson stands on Mrs. Potter's left and is the next eldest son, a machinist in the Widen electric shop crew, who is unmarried.

Next to him stands his brother Carl, funeral director of the Clay Mortuary, Clay, holding his daughter Janet, while his wife is directly opposite holding their other twin, Joyce. That is their son, Carl, Junior kneeling in front of his grandfather, with his cousin Ruth by his side. The little lady directly behind her is the Carl Wilson's eldest daughter Kay. Grandmother and Grandfather Wilson, who started these fine families many years ago are seated on your left and right in the foreground.

Dear Santa

We, the students of Widen School, after considering all that we have to put up with, come to the conclusion that we have been very good this year. Our grades have been good and our conduct is the best. Right Jerome?

7th grade would like less homework.

8th grade would like soft seats in detention hall since they spend so much time there.

9th grade would like bigger classrooms for our 32 pupils.

10th grade would like temporary driver's licenses until their 16th birthday.

11th grade would like "Mutes" to tone down voices.

12th grade would like a full time referee.

11th and 12th grades would like a Peace Pipe to smoke away their arguments.

National Honor Society would like boy honor students.

Chemistry Class would like a first-aid kit.

World History Class Rest-Rest-REST.

Patricia Young would like a large box of Kleenex. The cold weather is bad for her health.

Drema Dodrill just bring me Slick.

Phyllis Rogers would like a leash and collar to hold Ronald.

Barbara Eagle I want Johnny to come back to school.

Jimmy Manning wants the same thing he wanted last year and didn't get. A steady girl.

Desta White I'll be satisfied with Howard.

Nedra Frame would like a one-way traffic sign for her driveway.

Betty Craft wants a ride to the ballgames.

Father And Son Team Makes An Eighteen Point Buck Kill.



ESTIMATED TO BE LARGEST BUCK KILLED

Conservation Commission officials estimate that this 18 point, 185 lb. buck is the largest kill in the current season, and "possibly" the largest number of points in the state. The kill was made at Water's Defeat, near Ivydale by Ranson L. James of Widen, and his son, Ronald. The father and son team had been out only a short time when the big fellow was routed from a hiding place in a thicket, and got only a few jumps away before a shot from Mr. James' 30-30 deer rifle broke his leg at 150 yards and a second shot behind the shoulder finished the job as he was ascending on three good legs. Anyor having a larger kill, pounds points, please let us know so v can publicize your achievement.

COLOR GUARD AND MARCHING Unit

A "Color Guard," marching unit with distinctive uniforms is now in process of organization according to Mr. Simmons. This group will be further developed after the Christmas vacation and soon make its appearance with the band. One of the early programs to be given is that of a public concert at the Dille school or place to be announced.

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LEGAL

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY WEST VIRGINIA

THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY

IN RE: State v G.Y., Case Nos. 24-JA-5-8
In the matter of G.Y., and the unknown whereabouts of Richard Blankenship, Adult Respondent Father of said Infant,

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
And
NOTICE OF ANSWER

To: **Richard Blankenship**
(The object of this action is to notify the Adult Respondent Father of an abuse and neglect petition herein filed so that said Adult Respondent Father may answer the same to protect their interest).

You are hereby notified that an abuse and neglect and/or abandonment petition has been filed with the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, on the 19th day of April 2024, and assigned Case Numbers 24-JA-5-8, wherein it is alleged that the adult Respondent Father of the Infant Respondent G.Y. (DOB: 10/02/17), is Richard Blankenship, and that said Infant Respondent be placed in the custody of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, with said Infant Respondent remaining in the care, custody and control of the said Department since that time in accordance with WV Code §49-6-3. You are hereby notified that you have the right to answer said petition and you have the right to have counsel present at all stages of these proceedings and ALL PROCEEDINGS CAN RESULT IN THE PERMANENT TERMINATION OF CUSTODIAL AND PARENTAL RIGHTS TO SAID INFANT CHILD.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Adult Respondent, Richard Blankenship, shall appear before the Honorable Jack Alsop on the 20th day of May 2024, at 2:30 p.m., at the Clay County Courthouse, 246 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against them at any time thereafter, and termination of your custodial and parental rights may be ordered by the Court.

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

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

BY: Jim E. Samples, Prosecuting Attorney Clay County, West Virginia Entered by the Clerk of said Court on the 3rd day of May 2024.

Clarissa D. Hanshaw, Clerk of Court

LEGAL

The Clay County Board of Education will hold a public hearing at Clay County High School on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. regarding the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The proposed budget will be available for public review May 17 through May 28 at the Central Office during normal business hours.

LEGAL

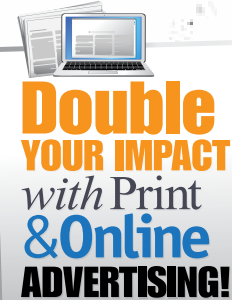
NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

To maintain necessary clearances for safe and reliable electric service, Appalachian Power Company plans to manage vegetation along the Clendenin - Amma portion of its 34 kilovolt distribution system in Kanawha, Clay and Roane County, WV. Around May 8th, 2024, contract crews will begin to trim and remove trees and brush and apply herbicides where applicable along our rights-of-way. Work will be done in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines and take into account factors such as tree species, growth characteristics, line voltage, etc. In unmaintained or undeveloped areas cuttings will remain on site so as to minimize soil disturbance and to promote biodegradation.

Rights-of-way in this area involved in the program are: Gabe Rd., Amma Rd., Cottontree Rd., Thorofare Rd., St. Rt. 119., Clio Rd., Big Sandy Creek Rd., Left Hand and Little Left Hand Rd., 2 Run Rd., Grannies Creek, Big and Little Pigeon, Little Blue Creek, Glory Road, Reed Fork, Doctors Creek, Bufflick Rd., and many immediately adjacent or connecting roads in the area.

Representatives will attempt to personally contact resident property owners at least seven business days prior to working on their property. Specifics regarding your property may be discussed at that time. If you are a nonresident property owner and have questions regarding your right-of-way maintenance they may be directed to:

Appalachian Power Company
Forestry Department
P.O. Box 1986
Charleston, WV 25327
304-746-2663



LEGALS

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 Clay County Courthouse beginning at 9:00 AM in the morning, on the 29th day of May, 2024.

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.

| CERT NO. | YEAR SOLD | NAME 1 | NAME 2 | DESCRIPTION | DISTRICT |
|----------|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 082310 | 2020 | BRIGHT LANDS LLC | | 5 AC FRAMES RUN COAL 1/3 INT | BUFFALO |
| 082311 | 2020 | MAGOUN BESSIE MAE | | PT LOT VILLA NOVA 1/6 INT FEE | BUFFALO |
| 082312 | 2020 | MAGOUN BESSIE MAE | | 19 AC S S ELK 1/6 INTEREST COAL | BUFFALO |
| 082313 | 2020 | VAUGHAN IRMA JEAN GOAD | | PT LOT VILLA NOVA 1/6 INT FEE | BUFFALO |
| 082314 | 2020 | VAUGHAN IRMA JEAN GOAD | | 19 AC S S ELK 1/6 INT COAL | BUFFALO |
| 082315 | 2020 | WILLIS PAGE | BIRD ANNA JEAN (2021) | 4 AC DILLE RUN MIN COAL OUT | BUFFALO |
| 082316 | 2020 | GEARY DOLLIE EST | | PT LOT LOCUST STREET SUR 1/3 INT | CLAY CORP |
| 082317 | 2020 | BRIGHT LANDS LLC | | 50 AC RUSH FORK MIN 1/9 INT | HENRY |
| 082318 | 2020 | BRIGHT MOUNTAIN ESTATES LLC | | 37 AC ELK & BUFFALO COAL | HENRY |
| 082319 | 2020 | BRIGHT MOUNTAIN ESTATES LLC | | 72 AC GRANNIES CREEK COAL | HENRY |
| 082320 | 2020 | BRIGHT MOUNTAIN ESTATES LLC | | 105 AC WTS TWO RUN COAL | HENRY |
| 082321 | 2020 | GEIGER THOMAS SR | | .12 AC WTS LAUREL SUR | HENRY |
| 082322 | 2020 | STAPLES ROBERT W ETAL | | 41 AC N S ELK MIN 1/3 OF 1/8 INTEREST | HENRY |
| | | REVOCABLE TRUST | | | |
| 082323 | 2020 | BRIGHT LANDS LLC | | 43 AC NS ELK COAL 1/18 INT | OTTER |
| 082324 | 2020 | BRIGHT LANDS LLC | | 10 AC WTS WEST FORK COAL | OTTER |
| 082325 | 2020 | BRIGHT LANDS LLC | | 66 AC WTS STINSON COAL | OTTER |
| 082326 | 2020 | BRIGHT MOUNTAIN ESTATES LLC | | 160 AC WTS O'BRIEN COAL | OTTER |
| 082327 | 2020 | BRUNER LAND COMPANY INC | | .5 AC WTS OTTER & BARBER SUR | OTTER |
| 082328 | 2020 | HAMRICK MICHELLE (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 20 AC WTS ELK MIN COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 OF 2/9 INT | OTTER |
| 082329 | 2020 | HAMRICK MICHELLE (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 76 AC N S ELK MIN 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 OF 2/9 INT | OTTER |
| 082330 | 2020 | HAMRICK MICHELLE (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 71.25 AC TWISTING CHUTE O&G 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 OF 2/9 INT | OTTER |
| 082331 | 2020 | HAMRICK MICHELLE | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 77.32 AC WTS O'BRIEN MIN 1/2 COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 INT | OTTER |
| 082332 | 2020 | HAMRICK MICHELLE (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 32.5 AC CROOKED RUN MIN 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 2/7 OF 1/2 INT | OTTER |
| 082333 | 2020 | HAMRICK MICHELLE (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 41 AC BUTLER FORK COAL 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 INT | OTTER |
| 082334 | 2020 | LORI JANET MARLENE (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 66.5 AC OTTER MIN COAL OUT 1/2 OF 1/3 OF 1/2INT | OTTER |
| 082335 | 2020 | LORI JANET MARLENE | | 99.5 AC OTTER MIN COAL OUT 1/2 OF 1/3 OF 1/2 INT | OTTER |
| 082336 | 2020 | MOORE MISTY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 133.5 AC LOG SHOALS MIN COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 INT | OTTER |
| 082337 | 2020 | MOORE MISTY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 137 AC WTS OTTER MIN COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/15 OF 1/11 INT | OTTER |
| 082338 | 2020 | MOORE MISTY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 20 AC WTS ELK MIN COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 OF 2/9 INT | OTTER |
| 082339 | 2020 | MOORE MISTY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 76 AC N S ELK MIN 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 OF 2/9 INT | OTTER |
| 082340 | 2020 | MOORE MISTY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 71.25 AC TWISTING CHUTE O&G 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 OF 2/9 INT | OTTER |
| 082341 | 2020 | MOORE MISTY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 77.32 AC WTS O'BRIEN MIN 1/2 COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 INT | OTTER |
| 082342 | 2020 | MOORE MISTY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 32.5 AC CROOKED RUN MIN 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 2/7 OF 1/2 INT | OTTER |
| 082343 | 2020 | MOORE MISTY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 41 AC BUTLER FORK COAL 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 INT | OTTER |
| 082344 | 2020 | SAMPLES WARREN N ETAL | | 24.6 AC WTS OTTER MIN (O&G OUT) | OTTER |
| 082345 | 2020 | SAMPLES WARREN N SR | | 12 AC GOULD MIN 1/2 INT | OTTER |
| 082346 | 2020 | SAMPLES WARREN N SR ETAL | | 100 AC WTS STINSON MIN 1/8 INT (O&G OUT) | OTTER |
| 082347 | 2020 | SAMPLES WARREN N SR ETAL | | 84.5 AC N S ELK MIN 1/6 INT (LESS O&G) | OTTER |
| 082348 | 2020 | STRADER MANDY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 133.5 AC LOG SHOALS MIN COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 INT | OTTER |
| 082349 | 2020 | STRADER MANDY | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 137 AC WTS OTTER MIN COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/15 OF 1/11 INT | OTTER |
| 082350 | 2020 | STRADER MANDY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 20 AC WTS ELK MIN COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 OF 2/9 INT | OTTER |
| 082351 | 2020 | STRADER MANDY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 71.25 AC TWISTING CHUTE O&G 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 OF 2/9 INT | OTTER |
| 082352 | 2020 | STRADER MANDY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 77.32 AC WTS O'BRIEN MIN 1/2 COAL OUT 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 INT | OTTER |
| 082353 | 2020 | STRADER MANDY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 32.5 AC CROOKED RUN MIN 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 2/7 OF 1/2 INT | OTTER |
| 082354 | 2020 | STRADER MANDY (2020) | DAWSON, KAREN ARELENE MOORE (2021) | 41 AC BUTLER FORK COAL 1/5 OF 1/3 OF 1/16 INT | OTTER |
| 082355 | 2020 | TANNER NOLAN | | 18.124 AC WEST FORK MIN 1/32 INT | OTTER |
| 082356 | 2020 | HILL MELISSA | | 1 AC WTS BIG SYC SUR 1/5 INT | PLEASANT |
| 082357 | 2020 | HILL MELISSA | | LOT WTS SYCAMORE FEE 1/5 INT | PLEASANT |
| 082358 | 2020 | MCCLASKEY T L ETAL (2020) | EASY STREET (2021) | 8 AC WTS SYC SUR 1/3 OF 1/16 INT | PLEASANT |
| 082359 | 2020 | BRIGHT LANDS LLC | | 6 ACS N S ELK MIN 1/13 INT (LESS 3/4 O&G) | UNION |
| 082360 | 2020 | DUNN S JILL ZEGER | | 81 AC QUEEN SHOALS COAL 1/3 OF 3/16 INT (PIERSON) | UNION |
| 082361 | 2020 | MICHAU MARGARET W | | 81 AC QUEEN SHOALS COAL 1/3 OF 3/16 INT (PIERSON) | UNION |
| 082362 | 2020 | SMYTH MARK A ETUX | | LOT PORTER FEE | UNION |

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 the date of redemption. Lands listed above as escheated or waste and unappropriated lands may not be redeemed. Given under my hands this 5th day of April 2024.

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

LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that WV RECLAIM CO, LLC, 2122 LEATHERWOOD ROAD, BICKMORE, WV 25019 has a permit on file with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the surface mining of approximately 350.99 acres and has submitted an application to the DEP, 47 School Street, Suite 301, Philippi, WV 26416-1600, for renewal of Article 3 Permit Number S200798 to operate a surface mine and highwall miner in the Middle and Lower Kittanning seam of coal.

The operation is discharging into Bullpen Fork of Right Fork of Leatherwood Creek of Leatherwood Creek of Elk River of Kanawha River and is located 3.0 miles east of Bickmore, in Henry/Pleasant District of Clay County, Longitude 81° 4' 17" and Latitude 38° 22' 45" (Coordinates from USGS Topographic Map).

Surface of the area associated herewith is owned by:

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|--------------------------|---|
| EL2, LLC | 11 Speltz Land, Oley, PA 19547 |
| AppleAtcha Land, LLC | 200 Park Ave., Ste 400, Orange Village, OH 44122 |
| Osborne Properties, Inc. | P.O. Box 4769, Charleston, WV 25304 |
| Dale Exline | 1 Lowell Drive, Elkview, WV 25071 |
| Lyle and Mary Exline | 144 Edgewood Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 |
| Lemoyne Land Co., Inc. | Kenneth D Ward, 6889 Vic Ar Rd, Atlanta, GA 30360 |

*and the mineral associated herewith is owned by:

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|--------------------------|---|
| AppleAtcha Land, LLC | 200 Park Ave., Ste 400, Orange Village, OH 44122 |
| Osborne Properties, Inc. | P.O. Box 4769, Charleston, WV 25304 |
| Lemoyne Land Co., Inc. | Kenneth D Ward, 6889 Vic Ar Rd, Atlanta, GA 30360 |

*and the mineral within 100 feet of the permit area is owned by:

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|--------------------------|--|
| AppleAtcha Land, LLC | 200 Park Ave., Ste 400, Orange Village, OH 44122 |
| Osborne Properties, Inc. | P.O. Box 4769, Charleston, WV 25304 |

Surface of the area within 100 feet of the permit area is owned by:

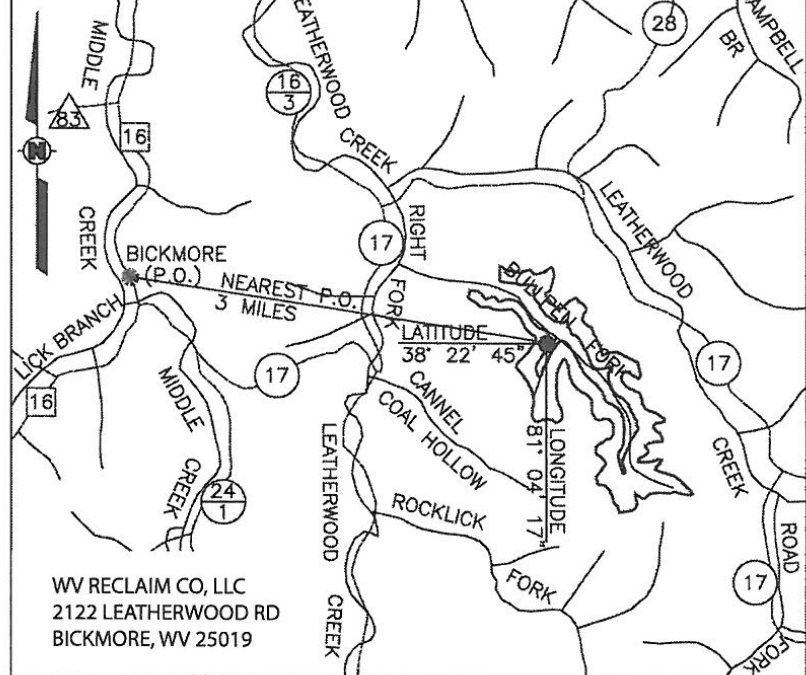
| NAME | ADDRESS |
|--------------------------|--|
| EL2, LLC | 11 Speltz Land, Oley, PA 19547 |
| AppleAtcha Land, LLC | 200 Park Ave., Ste 400, Orange Village, OH 44122 |
| Osborne Properties, Inc. | P.O. Box 4769, Charleston, WV 25304 |
| Dale Exline | 1 Lowell Drive, Elkview, WV 25071 |
| Lyle and Mary Exline | 144 Edgewood Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 |
| James A. Exline, Jr. | 314 Weatherstone Lane, Marietta, GA 30068 |

Written comments and/or requests for an informal conference of the permit renewal application shall identify the applicant and application number and will be received by the Permit Supervisor at the DEP address above until 7/8/24, or thirty (30) days from the date of final publication. A copy of the application will be available for review until 7/8/24, or thirty (30) days from the date of final publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is available at:

http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/_dep/Search/ePermitting/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm
The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries.

DEP Telephone Number: 304-457-3219
Permit Number: S200798

*These items are to be completed only for operations involving mineral removal.



LOCATION MAP - WV1017934 / S-2007-98
WV DEPT. OF HIGHWAYS
HENRY/PLEASANT DISTRICT OF CLAY COUNTY, WV
LOCKWOOD (NO. 441) AND CLAY (NO. 298)
QUADRANGLES SCALE : 1" = 1 MILE

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ADVERTISEMENT MR-34-BR

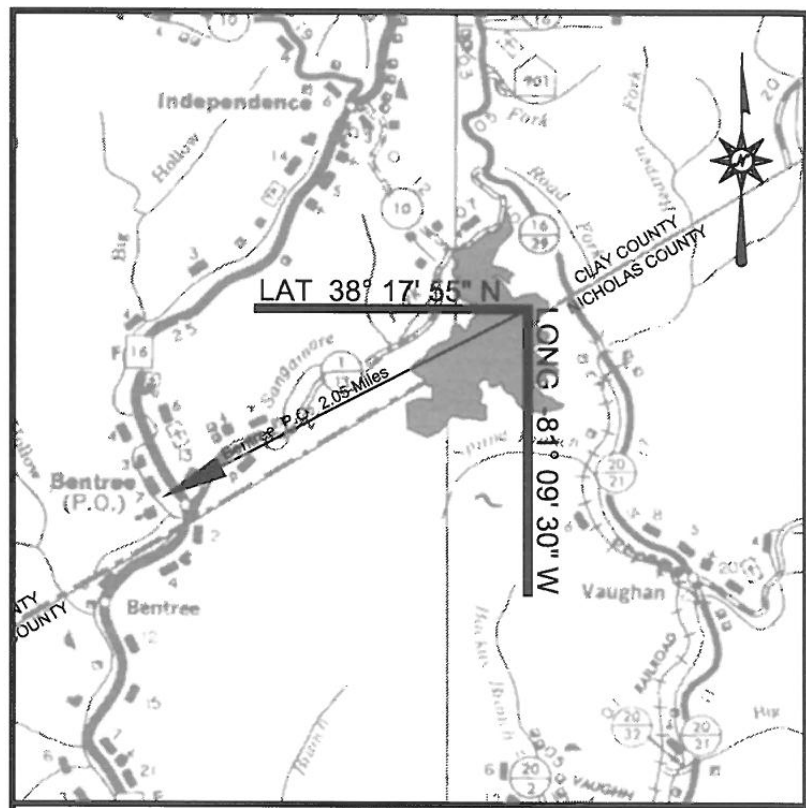
Notice is hereby given that WVDEP OFFICE OF SPECIAL RECLAMATION, 601 57th SE, CHARLESTON, WV 25304, has submitted an application for the reissuance of Article 11/WVNPDES Permit No. WV1027301 to the Department of Environmental Protection, 1101 George Kostas Drive, Logan, WV 25601 in order to operate a treatment facility in the N/A seam/mineral bed.

The operation will discharge treated stormwater into unnamed tributary of Rockcamp Fork, unnamed tributary of Spring Branch of Rockcamp Fork, unnamed tributaries of Sangmore Fork of Open Fork of Bells Creek all of Twentymile Creek of Gauley River and is located 2.05 miles, northeast of Bentree, in Pleasant/Jefferson Districts of Clay County, Longitude 81° 09' 30" and Latitude 38° 17' 55" (Coordinates from USGS Topographic Map).

The Department of Environmental Protection is seeking information on private surface water intakes for human consumption located in the above listed receiving streams and located down stream of this operation. Please provide your name, phone number, mailing address, the name of the stream being with the intake, and the physical location of the intake. This information needs to be submitted to the address above.

An anti-degradation review has been conducted. Tier 1 protection is afforded because effluent limitations ensure compliance with water quality criteria for all designated uses. Where applicable, a full Tier 2 anti-degradation review has been conducted.

Comments on the Article 11 WV/NPDES application or requests for a public hearing regarding the Article 11/NPDES application shall be in writing and if a public hearing is requested shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. Such written comments or requests should be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the address above, and must also reference the Article 11/NPDES permit number shown above. Comments received by 6/15/2024, or thirty (30) days from date of publication, will be considered. A copy of the Article 11/WVNPDES application, draft permit, rational page, and fact sheet (if required) will be available for inspection and obtaining copies during normal business hours at the DEP Regional Office located at the address above.
DEP Telephone No. 304-792-7250 Article 11/NPDES Permit No. WV1027301



LOCATION MAP
Clay/Nicholas County Highway Map - Scale: 1"=1 Mile
Pleasant District, Clay County WV
Jefferson District, Nicholas County WV
WVDEP Revoked Permit No. S-75-83
NPDES No. WV1027301
Bentree 7.5' USGS Quadrangle
Nearest P.O.: Bentree

LEGAL

COUNTY ASSESSOR STAFF TO BEGIN FIELD REVIEW

The Clay County Assessor's staff is mandated by the WV State Tax Department to make door to door visitation in a three-year cycle. This year 2024 properties include Buffalo and Otter Districts.

Visitation to these areas will start in May and will continue through summer. We will be driving by and taking pictures from the county vehicle. Our vehicle is a white Jeep, clearly marked on both side doors and with county plates.

Property will be reviewed by Teresa Davis, Assessor and McKenzie Smith, Chief Deputy Assessor. Kari Scott, Transfer Clerk, Carole Pierson, and Stephanie Wayne, Deputy Assessors within the office.

Owners with new construction permits will be checked later in the fall. Contact our office if you have had any changes or improvements to your property, such as anything new built or any removal of buildings.

If you have questions or like to contact us, please call 304-587-4258 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Teresa Davis, Clay County Assessor

Fourth Class of Purple Star Award Recipients Announced

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and Common Ground Partnership announced its fourth class of West Virginia schools receiving the Purple Star Award.

Purple Star Award recipients are schools and districts that have committed to providing dedicated support and services to students of military families. The Purple Star Award recognizes schools making a focused commitment to meet the needs of military-connected children by identifying a trained military family point of contact, linking to resources on their homepage, completing a minimum of two military support activities and submitting a localized plan of action. Their commitment provides a foundation for students of military families to develop productive, academic lives and to be a part of a supportive community.

This year, 27 schools have received the Purple Star Award bringing the total to 297 in West Virginia. Clay and Lincoln counties have also earned 100% participation this year. Cur-

rently, 16 total districts are Purple Star Districts. The WVDE provides all Purple Star Award schools and districts with certificates and banners to recognize their commitment.

“Purple Star recipients recognize the needs of our students and have valiantly worked to address them. They know how vital it is to provide our children with the support they need to find success,” said State Superintendent of Schools Michele L. Blatt. “The Common Ground Partnership offers numerous opportunities and resources for all students to achieve.”

The Common Ground Partnership consists of military, government and community-based organizations focused on the success of all students and promoting assistance for military-connected families in public schools. Students with family members in the military may experience unique circumstances and stressors due to the unpredictable nature of military deployments. Schools with caring staff members

make a difference for those students during times when soldiers are called to relocate. Proactive communication between schools and families can also help avoid social-emotional problems and negative behaviors. The Common Ground Partnership recognizes the importance of schools supporting students and ensuring that they are aware of the exceptional resources available to receive a high-quality education.

To learn more about the Common Ground Partnership or to view a full list of Purple Star Award recipients, please visit the Common Ground website.

For media inquiries, contact Christy Day, West Virginia Department of Education Office of Communications, at 304-558-2699 or Christy.Day@k12.wv.us

Follow the WVDE online on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Mon Power Selected by U.S. Department of Energy for Reliability Project Grant-Project would enhance reliability for more than 3,000 customers in four counties

FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE) subsidiary Mon Power has been selected by the Department of Energy to begin award negotiations for up to \$5 million in federal funding for a project that will boost electric reliability for customers in parts of rural West Virginia. The funding is part of the Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) program established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The funding would be applied to help rebuild more than 23 miles of power lines in Pocahontas, Braxton and Clay counties and connect a two-mile tie line with a substation in Petersburg, Grant County, resulting in enhanced reliability for more than 3,000 customers. The work would enable Mon Power and FirstEnergy subsidiary Potomac Edison, which also serves West Virginia, to restore service to customers faster by connecting them to adjacent circuits, providing those customers with a backup power feed

while repairs are made during an outage. Submitted in 2023, Mon Power’s proposal was selected as one of 19 community-led projects across 12 states and 13 tribal nations and communities to receive more than \$78 million to develop and deploy sustainable clean energy solutions or expand access to reliable and affordable energy in rural and remote communities across the country. Jim Myers, President of FirstEnergy’s West Virginia Operations: “We’re grateful for the opportunity provided by the Department of Energy to apply for funding under the Bipartisan 2 Infrastructure Law. Their commitment to bolstering our nation’s infrastructure is evident, and through initiatives like the Energy Improvements and Rural Areas Program, we’re excited to translate that support into tangible benefits for our customers. This program will not only modernize our infrastructure but also strengthen the

backbone of our nation’s energy system, ensuring reliability and resilience for years to come.” If the funding is approved, Mon Power would expect to start construction on the project in 2025. Company representatives have engaged with more than 560 city, county, state and nonprofit agencies about the proposal over the past year, providing updates and incorporating community feedback into Mon Power’s plans. Mon Power also plans to partner with community-based organizations, labor unions and educational institutions in the affected counties to address workforce disparity gaps for historically under-resourced communities. Mon Power serves about 395,000 customers in 34 West Virginia counties. Follow Mon Power at mon-power.com, on X, formally known as Twitter @MonPowerWV, and on Facebook at facebook.com/MonPowerWV. Potomac Edison serves about

285,000 customers in seven counties in Maryland and 155,000 customers in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Follow Potomac Edison at potomacedison.com, on X @PotomacEdison, and on Facebook at facebook.com/PotomacEdison. FirstEnergy is dedi-

cated to integrity, safety, reliability and operational excellence. Its electric distribution companies form one of the nation’s largest investor-owned electric systems, serving more than six million customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland

and New York. The company’s transmission subsidiaries operate approximately 24,000 miles of transmission lines that connect the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions. Follow FirstEnergy online at www.firstenergycorp.com and on X @FirstEnergyCorp.

Marshall names National Society of ACTA Scholars

Marshall University’s John Deaver Drinko Academy for American Political Institutions and Civic Culture has announced its August 2023, December 2023, and Spring 2024 classes of National Society of ACTA Scholars.

The Marshall University Chapter of the National Society of ACTA Scholars saw a total of 56 students graduate in the 2023-2024 academic years. These students come from 23 different counties in West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Caitlin Belt of Ivydale, WV graduated as an ACTA Scholar in December 2023 with a BA in Humanities with a concentration in Classical Studies, Magna Cum Laude.

“ACTA Scholars complete a set of course requirements providing advanced preparation for the responsibilities of informed and engaged citizenship, for effective communication and competition within the global marketplace, and for skilled and creative problem solving to address our present and future challenges,” said Drinko Academy Executive Director Dr. Montserrat Miller. “Three of the seven courses needed for National Society of ACTA Scholars eligibility are already built into Marshall’s core curriculum, and two more are included in College of Liberal Arts requirements. But only a few majors require students to study U.S. government, U.S. history, or economics. The National Society of ACTA Scholars chapter at Marshall encourages more students to take such courses, along with literature and foreign language classes.”

The National Society of ACTA Scholars was founded in 2020 by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a Washington, D.C. based nonprofit that promotes rigorous studies in the arts and sciences, and advocates for the study of civics at the college level. Marshall University was one of the first institutions of higher education in the country to establish a chapter of this new academic honorary society.

Students qualifying as 2023/2024 Marshall University ACTA Scholars completed their degrees with majors and minors in the College of Education and Professional Development, the College of Health Professions, the Lewis College of Business, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Science.

The National Society of ACTA Scholars is supported by ACTA’s Fund for Academic Renewal and by supporters of Marshall’s John Deaver Drinko Academy.

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GREENLEE

Continued from Page 1

the growing cooking and baking skills of her students, who not only prepared the food, but also sold it. They prepared a breakfast for teachers before opening day of school. They have even opened the food trailer at special school events and games. And now, a week away from the Clay County High School Graduation, her students will prepare over 1,000 snacks for the event.

She doesn't just teach business, management, baking, and cooking, she is also teaching something far more necessary. She is teaching old school work values. Hard work, including attention tending to tedious tasks like dishes, laundry and general cleaning. They do team building and students have to produce so much and so quickly depending on each other. She is proud of her first year of baking students who seem to be eager to do what is necessary to make the enterprise work. They learn that shortcuts only lead to failure, and that following directions is both a necessity and a joy for the delicious results they produce. And, like a real business, they self-sustain that business with the fruit their work. Products must be safely created, attractive and delicious. Food sales generate money to acquire more ingredients.

She is just passing down lessons that she learned in life. "With three young children in Big Otter School I said, I can't sit here at home. What am I going to do now?" She says, "I joined AmeriCorps and with each completed year you get money you can apply toward education. I chose to go into teaching. Specifically I got my degree to teach Marketing and Business Management." It is not hard to know why. Her father Randy Cantrell was one of the first CTE teachers at Clay County High School. At one point he was even director there. He has long since retired. But during her AmeriCorps days she worked for her father in his office.

Julie was born Julie Cantrell to Mahalia Schoolcraft Cantrell and Randy Cantrell. She is the oldest of three. She has a brother Jeremy and a sister Amanda Chapman. She is the only one to go into teaching. Her three children were from a former marriage. When she and Brian Greenlee married and moved into the home her uncle built on her parents farm in Duck, they became a family of five children: Brianna Greenlee, Joel Walker, Jacy Walker, Jaylin Walker, and Ian Greenlee. All are adult children living now on their own.

Julie started out working AmeriCorps at Big Otter School and ended up working at Clay County High School with her father. At night she took classes in Braxton County in partnership with Glenville State College using the money AmeriCorps gave her for her education. Not only did she complete her degree in teaching from Glenville State College spending her third year on campus, she graduated with a Business Marketing Degree in Education. It has become very useful in her career at Clay County High School. She has many certifications and a Masters in Business Administration.

"As a part of CTE they want us to run a simulated workplace. But as it turns out we are not a simulated workplace; we ARE a workplace." She says, pointing to racks and racks of pots, pans, and cooking paraphernalia, "So this week we are doing inventory on our business. I have Excel spreadsheets of everything I have, and these labeled racks show where it is stored."

She is very well organized. "I applied for and got a \$5,000 grant to turn this kitchen into less of a residential kitchen to an actual commercial kitchen. All stainless



Randy Cantrell and daughter Julie in his office before his retirement. "We are getting ready to tear all this down and by the time school opens in the fall we will have our commercial kitchen."

Speaking of her first year of students, she says, "I don't know if I got lucky or what. I mean you take for granted they can read and follow a recipe but beyond that I have discovered that all of them perform well under pressure." She talks examples, "Classes have deadlines, ovens can overheat and overrun, you need time to pivot and clean up messes and still deliver. I have a very large group of girls, and boys, and with a class of that size I cannot be everywhere at the same time and so I give them the power to make some decisions."

That is indeed how management works. You delegate and depend upon your best workers to get the job done. "Sometimes we will have time later to reflect and say 'how could we have done this better,' and everyone contributes."

She lets her class give her input when it comes to a school catered event. "I let them come up with the ideas and then claim ownership in their own company." She admits, "I had never made a pumpkin roll until this year, and we had a very successful event, our students and I made some perfect pumpkin rolls." Her class partnered with the 'big kitchen' this year to bring the entire school a one-time event Mexican dinner for the High School lunch. Everybody benefited.

She has a big screen at the head of the classroom portion of the room around which students sit. She demonstrates pulling up some recipes from Pinterest and TikTok.

"One of the greatest things about this class is that I will be sitting at home and my students will text me, 'look at this,' or 'found something you should see.' My students are very invested too. Sometimes, I just want them to be aware of their surroundings. I teach marketing and I ask, 'what is on the billboard down the road?' and most can't tell me. I tell them, to be creative, you must be aware of the world around you."

"When I stopped treating this as a classroom and started treating this as a business it really changed my way of thinking. We still have days we need to learn a little bit of stuff, we can call those 'training days.' We have done so many things this year. We have made breads, pretzels,



Savannah George, left, and Gracie Johnson stand in front of their second place winning wedding cake decorating in the State Skills USA competition. All competition is done on-site under a high pressure deadline, with 18 state high schools competing. Second place in the state for Mrs. Greenlee's first year baking class.

pies, puff pastries, custards, made cheese, made butter, made jelly, we made so many things. We have a mobile food trailer but we are trying to get this trailer established as a permanent food truck. So we can take this truck anywhere at random." She adds, "This year was a learning curve."

You can see she has big plans for the future. Including perhaps opening a fresh food student operated grocery store somewhere in the county as other states have done so successfully. This would be a way to get fresh fruit and vegetables into the county on a day to day basis.

"This group of students. My first year doing this as a business, has renewed my faith in this generation." She says proudly, "They are diligent and work hard, work well with other personalities. And if I am a small part of that then I have successfully done my best. I don't know if I can ever have a class that can rise above this one."

Clay County businesses please take note: Julie is creating for you the perfect employees for your business with talent, integrity and a hard-work whatever-is-necessary-to-succeed attitude. They would make great summertime interns too.

BUSSES

Continued from Page 1



The Nano Beast

too many other responsibilities. She gave a short history of dealing with parents who had special needs children, and was concerned that if anything was not met adequately they would be open to lawsuits. The question and answer period on this section took well over an hour. Twice, outgoing Special Education Director Eric Legg was brought to the podium to explain what his present duties were and if having a secretary dedicated to helping was enough. In the end, Superintendent Dobbins assured the board and Susan in particular that the board had asked him to do this reorganization, that they had job requests out looking for the proper person to fill this job, who would be the only director to have his

own full time secretary assigned to him. Then said, "I wouldn't have made this recommendation if I didn't feel confident I could find the proper person to fill this job. You trusted me to create this, trust me to complete it." In the end all board members including Susan trusted him enough to vote yes on the proposed chart. Following this, they also voted yes to terminate the two old director positions and create a new one just as the chart will fulfill."

The board voted to accept the resignation of McKenzie Osborne as Assistant Cheer Coach at Clay County Middle School. They approved the employment of Amanda R. Price as Health Nurse Education/Teacher at Clay County High School; Becky Barss as Special Education Transportation Aide - Extracurricular Contract; Rikki Taylor as Extra-Mile Grant - Food Box Delivery; and Andrew Belt as Substitute Teacher.

The next regular meeting for the Board of Education is scheduled for May 28, 2024 at 6 p.m. at Clay County High School. High School Graduation will be held on May 18 at 10 a.m., and there will be a special board meeting, likely on May 15, following the closing of the Primary polls on May 14 to check on the status of the School and Library Levy's and what direction to proceed.




School Board members


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Mustang track team boasts two CWWAC Champions

By Allen Hamrick

The CCMS track team finished their regular season at the 2024 CWWAC Championship held at Roane County High School this past Saturday. The Mustangs are not a bottle fed team; they came to crush some egos, got down to business and did just that. As a matter of fact, the Mustangs sent some of the other teams home dragging their jaws and wondering what just happened.

These track boys and girls just went out like you would expect them to and gave one hundred and ten percent to win every time they ran, jumped or threw. Did they win it all? Nope, but they sure gave it what they had in pursuit of gold. Under the leadership of coaches Matt Stricker, Scott Bass, Bo Roat and Ron Starcher, the team made great advances this season and set the bar high for next year's team to reach. When the day was over and the track shoes hung up until next season, the Mustang track team placed 3rd in the girls division and 6th in the boys division. Don't let the rank sway you, though. This Mustang team went up against some tough competition, and all the events were close.

A championship was what they were looking for, but it was not to be for this year. However, individually, they left that field with one CWWAC champion and one team of champions. Marissa Atha was champion in the 3200 meter run, and the girl's shuttle hurdle crew also dropped some jaws while running the legs off the other teams to take 1st place and become CWWAC champi-

ons. The Lady Mustangs did well as evidenced by their accomplishments. Brooke Cliver took 3rd in the shot and 5th in discus. Natalie Tanner was 2nd in the 100 meter hurdles, 3rd in the 200 meter hurdles and was one leg of the champion shuttle hurdle team. Hayden Rogers was 4th in the 200 meter dash, the 4x200 team placed 3rd, the 4x800 team placed 3rd and the 4x400 team placed 4th. For the boys, it was Bret Smith placing 5th in the 400 meter run, Andrew Tanner placed 5th in the 800 meter run and Cole Boggs placed 4th in the 100 meter hurdles and 4th in the high jump. Tilyr Bird placed 5th in the 200 meter hurdles and 5th in the high jump. The 4x200 team placed 4th, 4x400 team placed 3rd and the shuttle hurdle team placed 2nd. The team did a great job this season keeping the Mustang name high on the food chain. Many of the team will be moving up to the high school, and if they continue to compete, they will make the CCHS track team great. Congratulations to the whole team and their coaches for giving the track fans that showed up their money's worth and setting the Mustang name in stone as a team to beat.



Cole Boggs makes the high jump.



Bret Smith runs the 400 meter.



Brooke Cliver competes in the shot put.

CCHS baseball season ends

By Allen Hamrick

The 2024 baseball season ended for the Panthers at Braxton last week. After coming off a win against Braxton County in the first game of sectionals, it looked as though the Panthers would have some momentum. The first game against Braxton was an easy one; the Panthers jumped on the pitching in the third inning and scored two quick points to break the ice. Braxton started lighting the bats in the top of the 4th and managed to get a run, but that was it. The pitching was outstanding by Noah Collins who allowed only three hits and a run with five strikeouts. On the offense side of the bats, it was Micah Osborne with the heavy hitting driving in six runs to lead the Panthers at the bat. All of that came in the bottom of the 4th inning when the bats erupted for the Panthers, and they scored 13 runs in the inning. Braxton, with one last chance in the top of the 5th, couldn't score so the game ended with a Panther win. The final score was Panthers 15, Braxton Eagles 1.

Next up was Lewis County, and this would prove to be the Panthers' Waterloo. The Panthers played directly opposite of their previous game and were down by eight runs by the end of the 4th period. They needed some hits bad, but they didn't come. The Minutemen closed the game with two more runs. The final score was Panthers 0, Minutemen 10. All in all, it was a good season with many great games won and lost. With that game, baseball and softball closes out for the 2024 year for the Panthers. When one looks back, there were some highs and lows as there are for most schools. The athletes gave a hundred percent and that is all the fans of this county expect.

Panther track team sends 3 to compete at the state competition



The 2024 CCHS Shuttle team L-R- Takota Quinn, Justin Nida, Daymian Stricker and Evan Bass. Pic5- Evan Bass will compete in the 110 meter hurdles.

By Allen Hamrick

It was Regional time for the CCHS track team. Here they would run, jump, and throw their way into CCHS track history. Here they would also have to place in the top three of any event to move on to state level competition. There were some high hopes for the Panther team to get into the state competition. For the Lady Panthers, Jayda Stricker just missed the cut placing 4th in the 300 meter hurdles. The Lady Panther 4x102.5 team placed 5th in the event, missing the cut by just seconds. For the Panther boys, Evan Bass placed 2nd in the 110 meter hurdles and is part of the 2nd place shuttle hurdle team. Daymian Stricker qualified in the high jump placing 3rd and 4th in the pole vault as well as being a part of the shuttle hurdle team. Takota Quinn just missed the cut in the 300 meter hurdles placing 4th in the event. All in all, the team did well - not as good as they had wished but next season they will once again be stacked with talent. Who knows? Maybe they will send a bus full to the states. However, this year we have some good athletes who will represent the Panthers well at the state competition. Congratulations to all the boys who are on their way to Laidley field. The state competition will be held on the 17th and 18th of May.



Daymian Stricker will compete in the pole vault and high jump.

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