



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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AEF Interns learns rope safety and rescues



AEF Summer interns spent last week learning about rope safety and rescues in Clay County. Under the guidance of experienced instructors Adam Landers, Eric Thomas, and Jeremy Higginbotham, the interns learned how to use basic rope systems safely in the wilderness. On Thursday, July 11, the interns utilized practical application in a real-world setting for ascending and descending and basic patience rescue, allowing student interns to apply their knowledge throughout the wilderness of the Adaptive Experimentation Facility at Fort Andrew. Photo credits: CMI2 Communications

AEF cont. on page 3

Pool party held by local groups



Last week, the Clay Family Support Center and Clay FRN put on a community pool party complete with hot dogs and prizes. The Clay County Health Department and Clay County Prevention Coalition, Aetna, The Health Plan, and Unicare all had tables set up for visitors.

2024 Clay County Golden Delicious Belle Nominations open

The Clay County Golden Delicious Festival Committee is accepting nominations for the 2024 Golden Delicious Belle. The nominee must be a resident of Clay County, who is at least 65 years in age. Your nomination letter should tell why you think the person should be named the 2024 Belle and must include a non-returnable photo to use for printing. All entries should include a contact person's name, and phone number for the person providing the entry, as well as the name and phone number of the person nominated. All entries must be received by Friday, July 31, 2024. Entries may be mailed to: CCGDF Apple Belle Nomination, Attn: Laura Scott P. O. Box 416, Clay WV 25043, or can be dropped off at the Clay County Assessor's office to Teresa Davis, or emailed with a photo attachment to clayapplefestival@gmail.com. The festival Board of Directors will vote for a winner during the August 2024 board meeting.

Mountain State Spotlight

A decade ago, West Virginia unveiled a plan to end homelessness in the state. A new study shows the numbers are climbing.

A report, released last week by the Department of Human Services, found that homeless West Virginians include nurses, construction workers and mechanics, and children.

by La Shawn Pagán

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 <https://mountainstatespotlight.org/newsletter>.

The number of West Virginians experiencing homelessness continues to increase. But state officials seem no closer to implementing new efforts to more comprehensively address the problem.

Over 1,400 people were reportedly homeless last year, a 3% increase from 2022 and a 24% increase since 2021.

The increase was outlined in a new report from the state Department of Human Services to the Legislature.

The report, mandated by lawmakers, proposes no new initiatives but does repeatedly outline the need for additional funding to help West Virginia's unsheltered population.

A decade ago, the state published a 54-page plan to end homelessness in West Virginia by 2020. The plan included housing placement and providing resources to those already experiencing homelessness. But officials didn't focus on the plan, and it was largely forgotten as the problem got worse.



A nativity scene set up in protest near an encampment in Wheeling in 2022. Photo by Emily Allen

Then last year, lawmakers passed SB239, a bill that required a new report on the issue.

One of the goals was to find out how many homeless people have moved to West Virginia from another state. The report said that many of those interviewed said they were either native to West Virginia or had lived in the state for years.

The report also found that many homeless West Virginians were working. Among those were nurses, construction workers and mechanics.

The report also noted that the problem may be worse than shown by the frequently cited "point in time" count. A different count, based on numbers enrolled for various service programs, showed that the over 3,600 West Virginians were all experiencing homelessness annually from 2018 to 2023. Even that figure could be under-reporting the total, because multiple enrollments in different

SPOTLIGHT cont. on page 3

The war on Yellow Jackets



Our next door neighbors - summer of 2024. Allen Hamrick photo.

See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Brad Lee Adkins
Booked 7/22/24
Domestic battery, Capias



Addison Ray Hughes
Booked 7/15/24
Capias



Rodney Lee Hypes Jr.
Booked 7/16/24
Possession of controlled substance, escape



William Corey Marshall
Booked 7/20/24
Breaking and entering, shoplifting (third offense)



Jeffrey Dean Persinger
Booked 7/16/24
Breaking and entering, shoplifting, theft, conspiracy, grand larceny



Abel Mathias Simms
Booked 7/17/24
Conspiracy, organized retail theft, grand larceny, breaking and entering, conspiracy

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Brandon Ray Simpson
Booked 7/17/24
Battery, brandishing



James Clifford Sparks
Booked 7/21/24
Possession with intent, conspiracy



Caylen Devonta Swann
Booked 7/20/24
Possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance, conspiracy



Homer Eugene Jones
Booked 7/15/24
Receiving or transferring stolen vehicles, expired operators, expired registration, driving on revoked license, no operators, fraudulent MVI, no insurance, improper registration



Vincent Seth Ruggieri
Booked 7/19/24
Domestic battery third offense



Izzy Mai Youtzy
Booked 7/18/24
ATV in road, driving revoked for DUI, bond revocation, possess of a concealed weapon without permit, no insurance, prohibited person with firearm

BRAXTON COUNTY



Clarence Everett Jones
Booked 7/17/24
Fleeing on foot



John Camden Rhodes
Booked 7/15/24
Home confinement violation



David Charles Rossler
Booked 7/21/24
Assault on officer, DUI, improper registration, obstructing an officer



Robert Vaughn Williams
Booked 7/16/24
Disorderly conduct, domestic assault

OBITUARY



Mary "Freda" (Mollohan) See

After a brief illness, on Saturday, July 13, 2024, Mary Freda See, age 91, passed away at Hospice House in Poland, OH. She was born in West Virginia on January 26, 1933, to Donnie Edward and Dona Catherine (Tanner) Mollohan.

Freda is survived by her loving daughter, Robin See of Boardman; grandsons, David McLaugh-

lin, Steven McLaughlin; brother, Milton (Arlene) Mollohan of Akron and great-grandchildren.

Besides her parents, Freda was preceded in death by her husband of fifty-three years, Aaron Eugene See on November 6, 2015; daughter, Reda Mollohan Jarvis; siblings, Hatti Mollohan, Maggie Mollohan, Amy Mollohan, Nelson Mollohan, and Ira Mollohan.

Freda was Christian, not in just word but in the way she lived life. She was also a longtime member of the Hallsburg Baptist Church in Hallsburg, WV until she moved to Boardman in 2021 when she took up residence with her daughter, Robin.

Arrangements by Cremation & Funeral Service by Gary S Silvat Inc, Share memories, and send condolences by visiting cremateohio.com.

Puzzle Answers

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Buffalo Creek

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*With select plan purchase. Restrictions apply.

Clay County Free Press

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Never Stop Dancing

By Joe Mazzella

I realized something this morning: I don’t dance as much as I used to. When I was a boy I used to dance in the living room while I listened to the radio or my Mom’s old records. I would even sing songs to myself and dance a bit when I went for walks outside. As I got older I went to all the school dances and was never afraid to get out on the dance floor and dance. And after I grew up and had kids of my own, I had to fight the urge to dance when I chaperoned the dances my daughter went to. I didn’t want the poor girl to die of embarrassment.

Well, this morning I was doing some light exercises trying to get my energy up for the day ahead. I was also listening to one of the music channels on my television. Suddenly, one of my favorite songs from the 1980’s started to play. The beat was fantastic and I felt a surge of delight in my heart. I stopped exercising and started dancing for the pure joy of it. I laughed and danced and spun around to see my three dogs looking at me and then each other. I could read their thoughts from the expressions on their faces: “What is wrong with dad?” I laughed even louder and said: “Don’t worry guys. I am just dancing!”

I am not sure when I stopped dancing but it must have been quite a while to have shocked my dogs the way I did. One thing I did know, however, was I felt so good when I danced. And I wondered why I had ever stopped. I vowed in that moment to keep dancing every chance I got.

Never stop dancing. No matter how old you get, no matter how feeble you feel, keep dancing. If you can’t dance with your body then dance with your heart and soul and mind. Few things will give you greater joy. God gave us life. God gave us Love. God gave us music. And God gave us dancing. Make your entire life a dance then. Make it a dance of loving, giving, and sharing. Make it a dance of joy that carries you all the way to Heaven.



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The festival Board of Directors will vote for a winner during the August 2024 board meeting.

Ding-A-Ling There Goes Spring

Dr. James L. Snyder

In my life, time has a way of getting out of control. If I could control time, I would be a very happy dude. My one question in life is, where does time go? And, can I retrieve it?

The other night, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I sat in the living room watching a little TV.

I then heard a deep sigh from the other resident in the room. Looking over I said, “Is anything wrong?”

Looking back at me with one of “her looks,” she said, “Why is it so hot?”

At first, I thought she was talking about me as a hot dude. But after thinking more about it, I concluded that I was not the hot dude she was talking about. She was talking about the weather.

Sighing very deeply she said, “I just can’t stand all of this hot weather anymore.”

She was born and raised in New York, and when the weather gets over her age, she can hardly handle it. The weather was not too much over her age, but it was over her age.

I waved my hand at her and said, “Oh, my dear, we are in Florida.”

Scowling at me, she said, “I know that, but it wasn’t this hot the other week.”

Chuckling on the inside, I responded, “Well, my dear, Spring is over and Summer is here. It’s the climate change, silly.”

I thought about that, and it’s pretty interesting that things go as quickly as they do. Why can’t Spring stay with us just a little bit longer? Why can’t Summer be shortened a month or two?

Time does have a way of flying by quickly; if you don’t pay attention, it will be gone before you know it.

Looking at me, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage replied, “I know Spring is gone, I know Summer is here, but why does it have to be so hot?”

Knowing her as well as I know her, I realized that was a rhetorical question. She wasn’t asking me for any information and so, I wasn’t going to volunteer any information whatsoever. That’s what usually gets me into trouble.

But I couldn’t help but think about that myself. Lately, we’ve been having some very hot and humid days. It’s been 100° or more almost every day. Some meteorologists are saying these are record hot days.

I don’t know if the record exists, but I would rather not play those records very long.

One thing about a hot day is that you can’t do very much activity, especially outside. I was outside one day doing some things, and pretty soon, I could hardly breathe, and my energy had all but disappeared. I think it went inside.

I came in after that, got a nice glass of iced tea, and sat

in my easy chair.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, “So, why are you in the house?”

Without thinking, which is my usual MO, I replied, “It’s just too hot outside for me.”

“Oh,” she said sarcastically, “so Spring has disappeared?” And then she said, “Do you think it just might be Summer.”

I hate it when what I say comes back to haunt me.

On the other hand, these hot days do have a cool element.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came the other day and said, “I’m going shopping, would you like to come with me?”

Usually, I have no way of getting out of going shopping with her. But the heat spell has given me a good excuse. “Oh my dear,” I said rather sadly, “I would love to but it’s just too hot out there for me and I cannot handle all that heat. I’m so sorry.”

Looking at me with one of her smiles, I knew what she was thinking. That was, I was using the heat spell to get out of going somewhere shopping with her. Although she loves shopping, it is certainly not one of my favorite activities.

As she went out the door, I said rather quickly, “Don’t forget to get me some Klondike bars. I’m getting low on them.”

Looking back at me as she walked through the door, she said, “Well, if you were with me I probably would remember.”

When she left, I got a cup of coffee and went to my easy chair to sit and think about the morning. Sometimes, the most important thing in life is having a good excuse for not doing something.

When I think about the seasons of the year, everyone has something good to say about it. And, everyone has something bad about it. I’m trying to learn to focus on the good aspects of a season. If I focus on the bad aspects, it just gets me down.

Every bad aspect has a good slant to it. My challenge is finding that good slant and using it for pleasure.

I thought of a verse in the bible that addresses this. Psalm 31:14-15 - “But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.”

No matter my circumstances, I can trust God for my time today, tomorrow and forever. Spring comes, Spring goes but nothing changes as far as God is concerned. I’m in His hands.

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

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from Page 1

years are counted differently.

The report said that West Virginia ranks lower in terms of the rate of homelessness than neighboring states. But, it also said that West Virginia’s public school students rank higher than the national average in homelessness.

Many of these students were reported to live in shelters or in transitional housing or temporary housing, such as motels or hotels, or doubled-up with family members, according to the assessment. Some reported not having a home at all.

While the report broke down key numbers, meanings and suggested some ideas to help one of the state’s most vulnerable communities, it did not propose a concrete plan to address homelessness.

Department of Human Services spokesperson Whitney Wetzel said in an email that, “it will take some time for state and community leaders to read and understand

the report before making policy recommendations based on this study.”

The report does suggest improving access to resources, such as financial support, for those at risk of homelessness.

“Access to benefits prior to becoming homeless may help some individuals stay in housing,” the report said. “West Virginia could explore how to support this as one potential avenue to increase housing stability.”

The study also found that mental health, addiction, chronic illnesses, domestic violence, abusive childhoods or traumatic events often lead to homelessness.

“Individuals described traumatic life events that upended their lives as the precursors to homelessness,” the report said. “Physical health conditions – chronic and acute – were often identified as the catalyst that resulted in homelessness.”

AEF

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.

July 24, 1823: Arthur Boreman, West Virginia's first governor, was born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. His family moved to Middlebourne, Tyler County, when he was still an infant.



July 24, 1919: Sam Taylor of Mercer County became the first West Virginia State Police trooper. During his tenure, Taylor

tracked moonshiners and bootleggers, and helped set up new state police detachments.



July 24, 1929: Cornelius Charlton was born in East Gulf, Raleigh County. Charlton was killed in battle during the Korean War, and he was honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor.

July 24, 1942: Actor Chris Sarandon was born in Beckley. A film, stage and television performer, some of his credits include *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *The Princess Bride* and an Oscar nomination for *Dog Day*

Afternoon.

July 24, 1983: Kansas City Royals player and Glen Dale native George Brett was involved in the "Pine-Tar Bat Incident." After hitting a game-winning home run against the New York Yankees, the umpires ruled that Brett's bat contained too much pine tar and called him out. The ensuing melee at home plate is classic baseball lore.

July 25, 1864: A colony of eight Catholic nuns set out from Washington, D.C., and Frederick, Maryland, for Parkersburg. The sisters, who created a monastery there and named it DeSales Heights, ran a boarding school for young women for 75 years.

July 26, 1942: Camp Washington-Carver was dedicated and opened to the public. The camp, located at Clifftop, Fayette County, was the first statewide 4-H camp for

African Americans in the country. The camp's Great Chestnut Lodge is West Virginia's largest log structure.



July 27, 1896: Clark Kessinger was born near Charleston. He was among the most prolific and influential fiddlers of the 20th century, and one of West Virginia's most important traditional musicians.

July 27, 1909: Coach

"Dyke" Raese was born in Davis, Tucker County. He directed West Virginia University to its first major sports national championship, winning the



1942 National Invitation Tournament in basketball.

July 28, 1915: Frankie Yankovic was born in Davis, Tucker County. Yankovic did more to popularize polka music

than any other performer.

July 29, 1873: Malcolm Malachi "Mack" Day was born. As sheriff of McDowell County, he claimed that God had called him to enforce Prohibition, even arresting an uncle and his own son.

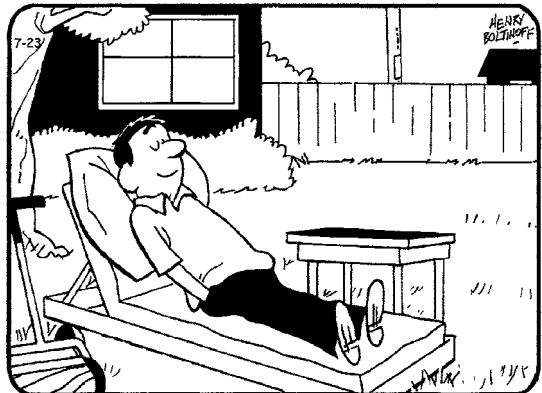
July 29-31, 1915: Camp Good Luck, believed to be the world's first 4-H club encampment, was held at Elkwater in southern Randolph County.

July 29, 1918: Novelist Mary Lee Settle was born in Charleston. Her literary reputation rests on the "*Beulah Quintet*," a sequence of five historical novels spanning four centuries.

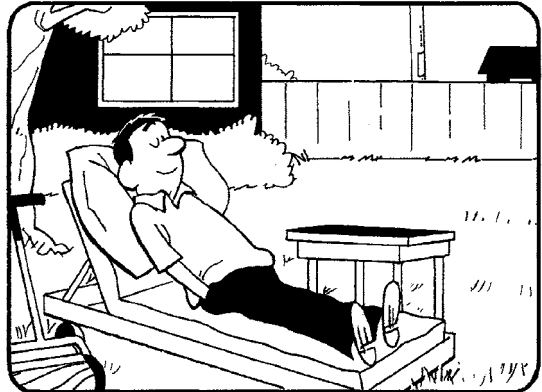
July 30, 1973: The Frederick Hotel in downtown Huntington closed to transient trade. After it was built in 1905, it was touted as the most elegant hotel between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Table leg is moved. 2. Pillow is larger. 3. Telephone pole is moved. 4. Bush is smaller. 5. Fence boards are wider. 6. Man's legs are longer.

Super Crossword

SHADY NUMBERS

ACROSS

- 1 Abolished
10 Helical shape
16 — Tzu (toy dog)
20 "General Hospital," for one
21 Pre-euro Spanish currency
22 Joking Jay
23 Marcell hit sung by members of an old German kingdom?
25 "Frozen" heroine
26 NBC hit since '75
27 — Vegas Raiders
28 Gallery stuff
29 Further down
31 Bing Crosby hit sung by a skeleton?
37 "One L" novelist Scott
40 Munch on
41 Lift up
42 Enzyme suffix
43 And the like: Abbr.
44 Sharif of film
46 R.E.M. frontman Michael
48 — Martin (British auto)

- 50 Prince hit sung by kings and queens?
53 Many TikTok users
54 Rotation stat
55 Cash cache, for short
56 Spanish article
57 Mother bird
58 Garlicky sauce
60 Cafe offerings
63 "— careful out there"
66 Ancient Roman poet
70 Beatles hit sung by small finches?
74 Cuts short
75 Puts a question to
76 Artifact
77 Hunger may cause them
78 Syrup base
80 Penpoint
81 Penpoint, e.g.
83 Before, to Byron
84 Oasis animal
87 Rolling Stones hit sung by coffee lovers?
93 Novelist Mario Vargas —
94 Everything considered

- 95 Bazillions
96 — accompli
97 Mo. #4
98 Scornful look
100 Old JFK flier
101 Podiatric problems
102 John Cougar Mellencamp hit sung by electric eels?
108 Old Turkish bigwigs
109 "Where — begin?"
110 Sewer rodent
111 Overwhelm
114 Luxury Swiss watch brand
115 Alannah Myles hit sung by roofers?
122 Move, in Realtor-speak
123 From above, as a photo
124 Most upbeat
125 Eye affliction
126 In an amiable way
127 Chose by ballot

DOWN

- 1 Viper types
2 Brought into the world
3 Cuban leader Castro
4 CIA missions, e.g.

- 5 Drive at 10 mph, say
6 Concerning bees
7 Toy with
8 Suffix with south
9 Light pat
10 Brief burst
11 Former NFL quarterback Rodney
12 Suffix with 104-Down
13 Rock's — Speedwagon
14 — -Z (total)
15 "Trading Places" director John
16 Icy precipitation
17 Beneficial companion, as a spouse
18 Ripe for the market
19 Turns laryngitic
24 Café au —
30 Lordly home
31 Weapon swung by a gauch
32 Be dressed in
33 Lyre's cousin
34 — Pet (1980s fad)
35 Pueblo people
36 Nothing, in France
37 Stone patio

- 38 Like a perfect world
39 "Perry Mason" star Burr
44 Decide (to)
45 "The — Curse" (1944 horror film)
46 Related to sight, touch, etc.
47 — la la
49 Mexican wife
51 Forest abode
52 Quiet period
57 Stitched edge
59 Scottish girls
61 "Eww, a mouse!"
62 Gore and Roker
63 Fast internet svc.
64 Yes, in Dijon
65 Second flagship U.K. TV network
67 It may be balsamic
68 Implant firmly
69 Arid areas
71 Shriek bark
72 "Dragnet" star Jack
73 Galaxy and iPhone buys
79 Nome's home
80 Ducks' and Devils' org.

- 82 Motel relative
84 People in an embrace, e.g.
85 Language's letters
86 In a sullen way
87 Appearance
88 Blood type, informally
89 Nitpick
90 Overhasty
91 Painter Dix
92 ETs' ships
99 Altima maker
100 Brand of power tools
101 "Glory of Love" singer Peter
103 Sevigny of "Big Love"
104 Perfect
105 In a majestic manner
106 Nerd on "Family Matters"
107 Preserved
111 2004 Chevy debut
112 Part of NNW
113 Suffix with major
116 Maui garland
117 Bit of a circle
118 Connect (to)
119 German cry
120 — Guevara
121 Actress Tyler

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19	
20										21							22				
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108										109					110				111	112	113
114						115	116	117	118				119	120				121			
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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.

January 1958

PAST AND PRESENT CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICERS W. VA. FED. WOMEN'S CLUBS



Pictured above is Mrs. Phares E. Reeder, of St. Albans, W. Va., President of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, seated left. Seated at right is Miss Hazel Baughman, President of the Widen Woman's Club. Other members of the Widen Woman's Club shown in the picture have served in some capacity of the Capitol District of West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs. From left to right, Mrs. Harold L. Beattie, now First Vice President; Mrs. Herbert C. Johnson, a past president of

the Capitol District; Mrs. John L. Henley, a past secretary of the Capitol District; and Mrs. D. L. McMillion, served one term as treasurer of Capitol District.

Mrs. Reeder who was guest speaker for the evening, is wearing a money corsage containing \$50.00, which was presented to her by the Widen Woman's Club as a contribution to her Camp Galahad project. Camp Galahad is a camp for crippled and handicapped children.

The Woman's Club wishes to thank everyone who participated in this project.

A check for \$15.00 was presented to Mrs. Freeman Nottingham, who was first place winner. Mrs. Bill Joe Sizemore received a check for \$10.00, second place winner and a check for \$5.00 was presented to Mrs. Harry Manning, third place winner.

The judges were Mr. and Mrs. DeForrest McMillion and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Butcher, all of Dille, West Virginia.

The following people received honorable mention for their efforts: Norman DeMoss, Averal Rapp, Lakey Starcher, Leonard Acree, John Bragg, Robert Manning, Joe LaCorte, Bernell Baughman, Onas Bailes, Clyde McClain, Ray Tinney, Ransom James, Ronald Butcher and R. H. Mullins.

LARGE CROWD ATTENDS SPORTSMEN' S MEETING

One of the best-attended meetings of the members of the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Club was held at the Legion Hall in Widen on Saturday, January 18. Approximately seventy men were in attendance. The members of the Ivydale and Clay clubs had been invited to attend, but perilous road conditions following the heavy snowfall kept them at home.

Fielding Kyer, Clay County conservation officer, was present with two of his co-workers from Upshur and Randolph Counties. They presented a rather lengthy and highly interesting color film on the cotton tail rabbit, showing in quite a bit of detail the vital part the bunny plays in our lives and in the lives of predatory animals and birds. Some of the hunting scenes, both with and without dogs, brought fond remembrances to many of the audience, particularly on the near (and some not-so-near) misses by the hunters. The film, made by the Missouri Conservation Commission, contained much remarkable photography and was over two years in the making.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss recommendations to be made by the local sportsmen to the Conservation Commission regarding seasons and bag limits. Club President H. L. Beattie appointed a committee consisting of Scott Williams, Corley Frame, Harold Stump, James Miller, and Doyle Waggoner to make the club's recommendations and to accompany Officer Kyer to the regional meeting at Charleston in the near future.

News Briefs About Local People

Mr. and Mrs. Max Long, of Buckhannon, W. Va., announce the arrival of their first child, a son, Hunter Ray, weighing 8½ pounds, born January 11, 1958. Mrs. Long is the former Joyce Barnette, sister of Mrs. Ira Lane.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Samples announce the arrival of their son, Michael Anthony, born January 6, 1958, at Charleston General Hospital, weighing 8 pounds four ounces. Eugene is employed here as motorman in the mine. Mrs. Samples is the former Miss Anna Vickers.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Butcher announce the arrival of a son, Samuel Roy, born January 8, 1958, at Gasaway Hospital, weighing 8 pounds 2 ounces. Roy is employed here as a car man at the tippie.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lane announce the arrival of a daughter, Carolyn Sue, born January 10, 1958, at the Gasaway Hospital, weighing 7 pounds 8 ounces. Jack is employed here as a motorman in the mine. Mrs. Lane is the former Miss Anne Wilson.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dawson a daughter, Barbara Elaine, December 22, 1957, at the Charleston General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Osborn (Widen Store Manager) have moved to Widen. They are now living on Kanawha Street in the house formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Gandy.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Shingler have moved to their new home in Dille.

There were no lost time accidents in Elk River Coal and Lumber Company's Mine during the month of December.

Mr. Theodore Johnson, Master Electrician, has returned home from the Charleston General Hospital where he is recuperating following a short illness.

WINNERS IN CHRISTMAS LIGHTING ANNOUNCED

The Widen Woman's Club again sponsored a Community Christmas Decoration contest. Many of the homes in Widen had beautiful outside decorations, which shows that community interest in this project is increasing.

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Now in Its Second Year, 988 Lifeline Continues to Help Millions of People

Since the launch of 988 counselors answered more than 10 million calls, texts, and chats; HHS has invested almost \$1.5 billion into 988 as part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s comprehensive strategy to address the nation’s mental health and substance use crises

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline has expanded services and continued to answer millions of calls, texts, and chats from people experiencing mental health or substance use crises since its launch on July 16, 2022, the agency heads for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today. HHS has invested nearly \$1.5 billion into 988 as part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s comprehensive strategy to address the nation’s mental health and substance use crises.

“Thanks to unprecedented federal funding provided by the Biden-Harris Administration, we’re connecting more people to help than ever before,” said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. “We’re connecting them faster and with more personalized services, which are critical for helping people in crisis. We know that 988 is saving lives and helping millions of people. I hope anyone who feels alone, or that they are without options, knows that 988 is there to help.”

“The Biden-Harris Administration remains committed to transforming our behavioral health system and reducing rates of suicide across the country. At the heart of our strategy is 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline,” said HHS Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm. “We have worked to champion a “no wrong door” strategy for accessing help for mental health, but it’s clear there are still a lot of people who feel they have run out of options. My message to those who are struggling: you are not alone, we hear you, and we are here to help. 988 is an important resource and anyone who needs help should reach out.”

Since 988’s launch in July 2022, counselors answered more than 10 million calls, texts, and chats from people looking for help with suicidal thoughts and mental health and substance use-related crises. Of the 10 million contacts answered in the past two years, 1.7 million were texts – with 988 answering 51% more texts in the past 12 months than the year before.

Since 988’s launch in July 2022, counselors answered more than 10 million calls, texts, and chats from people looking for help with suicidal thoughts and mental health and substance use-related crises. Of the 10 million contacts answered in the past two years, 1.7 million were texts – with 988 answering 51% more texts in the past 12 months than the year before.

“Our Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans to caring, qualified responders 24/7 – and two years ago, we made it even easier for veterans in crisis and their loved ones to reach out for help by launching 988 then Press 1,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “One veteran lost to suicide is too many. We’re supporting more veterans than ever through the 988 initiative and will not rest in our continued efforts to spread the word that this resource is available and saves lives.”

On July 16, 2022, the U.S. transitioned to 988 as a new, easy-to-remember way for anyone needing sup-

port to reach a trained crisis counselor at any time, day or night. More than 200 contact centers across the country provide support through 988. Significant investments in 988 at all levels have helped states, territories, and tribes to hire crisis counselors for improved local response, ensure national backup, and expand services.

In 2023, 988 added Spanish text and chat, specialized services for LGBTQI+ youth and young adults, and videophone for American Sign Language (ASL) users. Individuals who speak Spanish can connect directly to Spanish-speaking crisis counselors by calling 988 and pressing option 2, texting “Ayuda” to 988, or chatting online at 988lineadevida.org. LGBTQI+ youth and young adults who want to connect with a counselor specifically focused on meeting their needs can text “Pride” to 988, call 988 and select option 3, or access the service via chat on 988lifeline.org.

Since these expansions of services, 988 counselors have answered about 20,000 Spanish-language chats and texts; more than 475,000 LGBTQI+ youth and young adult texts, calls, and chats; and about 20,000 videophone contacts in ASL.

Later this year, georouting technology is expected to help improve cell phone users’ connectivity to local services, by routing 988 callers and texters based on their approximate physical location versus area code. HHS has been working with the major U.S. wireless carriers to launch georouting this year, so that callers can be connected to centers that are better equipped to provide nearby resources and services. Georouting allows callers to maintain additional privacy because, unlike geolocation, it does not provide a precise location. Earlier this year, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to require 988 georouting - PDF to be implemented for all wireless calls to the 988 Lifeline. Georouting refers to technical solutions that enable calls to be routed based on the location of the caller without transmitting the caller’s precise location information.

“This milestone shines a light on the need for vital behavioral health services across the country. From implementing the easy-to-remember 3-digit code, to requiring text-to-988, to reporting outages, the FCC’s efforts have advanced 988 as a valuable place to seek help, no matter who you are or where you live,” said FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. “That’s why our continued efforts to improve 988 are so important. Next up is a georouting solution that will make it possible for callers in crisis to get help near where they are, instead of just based on the area code of their device. This will protect privacy while also ensuring that those who reach out to 988 can get connected to a local crisis center when and where they need it. This is critical for students away from family and friends, those who have recently relocated, and anyone who has a number that does not correlate with where they are when they need assistance in crisis.”

“Two years ago, we successfully transitioned to the

988 Lifeline with a message of hope: that no matter where you live in this country, whenever you’re experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress, you can reach a trained, compassionate crisis counselor for help 24 hours a day, seven days a week by phone, text, or chat,” said HHS Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and leader of SAMHSA Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D. “Many people are thriving and leading fulfilling lives today because they reached out and got the help that 988 provides.”

HHS’s \$1.5 billion investment into 988 includes funding from President Biden’s American Rescue Plan and Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and supports the President’s Unity Agenda to address the mental health crisis. Much of that investment has gone directly to states, territories, and tribes to hire crisis counselors and improve local response, totaling nearly \$370 million in grants that were awarded in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. More than \$200 million in additional grants will be awarded in fiscal year 2024 to support states, territories, and tribes as they continue to build out local capacity for crisis services and connect with more people in need.

Federal funding has also been used to bolster the national backup system so that anyone, no matter where they live, can reach a caring, trained counselor for help. The national backup network ensures that all contacts to 988 are able to be answered, regardless of a state’s local capacity, as long as the person stays on the line.

Studies have shown that after speaking with a trained crisis counselor, most callers feel more hopeful and less depressed, suicidal and overwhelmed.

988 is a critical part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s work to transform the mental health crisis continuum as part of the President’s Unity Agenda. In addition to dramatically expanding 988, the Administration has also advanced comprehensive 24/7 crisis care, including mobile crisis support, in the Medicare and Medicaid programs and has led the development of the most robust National Strategy for Suicide Prevention in history, issuing a federal action plan with more than 200 concrete steps the government will take over the next three years to reduce suicide rates.

SAMHSA’s 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health - PDF reported that 13.2 million adults and 3.4 million adolescents aged 12 to 17 had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year, and 48.7 million people aged 12 or older had a substance use disorder in the past year. Almost 50,000 people in the United States died by suicide in 2022.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org. To learn how to get support for mental health, drug or alcohol issues, visit FindSupport.gov. If you are ready to locate a treatment facility or provider, you can go directly to FindTreatment.gov or call 800-662-HELP (4357).

Department of Arts, Culture and History Accepting Applications for 2024 West Virginia Emerging Artists Juried Exhibition

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) is currently accepting submissions for the 2024 West Virginia Emerging Artists Juried Exhibition through Sept. 6, 2024. The exhibit will open Nov. 3 at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, in Charleston.

Eligible artists may submit two pieces for the exhibit jurying in painting, print/drawing, mixed media, craft/wall hangings, photography, digital art and sculpture. The pieces that are entered must have been created between 2022 and 2024. Digital images, not

original pieces, are submitted for the jurying process.

To be eligible to enter the exhibition, artists must be 18 years of age or older and maintain a permanent domicile in West Virginia. Exceptions to this requirement are made for students and military personnel who have West Virginia resident status and a home address in the state. Entrants must be listed on the West Virginia Artists’ Registry or must submit information for the registry along with the submissions for this exhibition. To register, submit a CD/DVD or USB memory stick with six examples of

current work to the department by the exhibition’s entry date.

The Department will present three awards for the exhibition. The Best of Show/Purchase Award will receive \$1,000. Second place will receive \$500, and third place will receive \$250.

For more information and to print out an entry form, go to <https://bit.ly/24EmergingArtist>. To request an Artists’ Register form, contact Sidney Duncan, WVDACH exhibits coordinator, at (304) 558-0220 or Sidney.L.Duncan@wv.gov.

Property For Sale: This is a notice offering four (4) property lots for sale, approximately 2.5 miles down the Hartland access road to Elkhurst, WV. All lots are adjacent to one another and located within the proposed Elk river State Park. These lots include (1) 39.12 ac. riverfront property-1,035 ft. included, (2) 5 ac. riverfront property-1,020 ft. included, (3) 1 ac. riverfront included, (4) 50ac. of 61 ac. tract, riverfront included. Only those seriously interested need to contact email address beechy48@yahoo.com.



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LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: Appearing on the ballot for the 2024 General Election scheduled for November 5, 2024, is a proposed amendment to the West Virginia Constitution as authorized by HJR 28 (2024 Regular Session). The title of the proposed amendment is “Protection of persons against medically assisted suicide” and its summary purpose is “to protect West Virginians against medically assisted suicide.”

LEGAL

**NOTICE OF CHANGE
CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
PRECINCT POLLING PLACE CHANGES**

Notice is hereby given to the registered voters of Clay County that the Clay County Commission did permanently move the following precincts. **PRECINCT-1 HARRISON** will now be located at Walnut Grove Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 2028 Wilson Ridge Road, Strange Creek, WV 25063. **PRECINCT-25 IVYDALE** will now be located at Big Otter Volunteer Fire Department, 5462 Big Otter Highway, Ivydale WV 25113. **PRECINCT-36 BOMONT** will now be located at Horner’s Fork Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 5815 Precious Maysel Road, Precious, WV 25164. If you need directions to the new voting place or have any questions, please call the Clay County Clerk at 304-587-4259.

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The war on Yellow Jackets

By Allen Hamrick

What is one common activity that binds most people together in the summer? It isn't the great outdoors as we hike our favorite trails; it isn't the boats we board and head to our favorite fishing spots. It's not that new bike we just bought to ride all the miles of trails or the side by side trails that cover this state. If you are living in West Virginia, it seems that the yellow jackets have taken over this year. No matter where you go, the ground is covered with them and hornets. They have been playing havoc on those unfortunate beings that have uncovered their hideouts. From high in the mountains to the low lands, there are yellow jackets aplenty. These small yet mighty winged creatures can scare the hair off the head of the toughest individual. I have seen people who have been swarmed with the insect run wildly, flailing their arms and screaming as if they were being torn apart. Their very low sounding hum is enough to be background effects on a horror movie. People are getting surrounded in their homes, fearful to go outside due to the possibility of stumbling upon one of the many nests they build. Nests are in the ground, on porch overhangs, inside kayaks, under porch swings, and remember that tarp you folded and laid up for future use? Make sure you check it first. For the most part, the buzzing yellow jackets are staying close to the ground, on flowers and dog waste.

There is a lot of speculation as to why the swarms of yellow jackets have seemed to double or triple from last year. I have heard people say that they have never seen yellow jackets as bad as they are and attempt to try and justify the reason to today's political climate. Honestly, the yellow jackets are worse this season; you don't dare go without shoes or you will get a pedicure yellow jacket style. If and when they get up your pants leg, look out. Saint Vitus dance takes on a new meaning and all reasoning leaves your mind as they sting where you can't reach. You run and twitch, wildly screaming in a language known only to your ancestors all the while attempting to

get your pants off while looking for the nearest hole of water or water hose. It happens every year, but this year it seems different. Some believe it is the heralding of a winter of biblical proportions that we won't be able to dig out of as the yellow jackets get prepared as they are for the winter of 2024. They have been thick enough in the yard to walk on and can fly circles around your head while dodging your cat like reflexes. People are arming themselves with the latest can of Hot Shot or some other wasp and hornet spray just to get to their vehicles or to keep from being chased back into the house. One poor fellow built a new outhouse complete with fan, lights, mosquito netting and wall to wall carpeting but forgot to check under the lid. By the time he realized raising the lid was a bad idea, the yellow jackets relieved him of his reason for being there. Anytime you see as many yellow jackets covering the yard as they are now, you better be watchful they can turn on you like a starving wolf.

So, here is the scuttlebutt on why there is so many this season. Mild winters allow the yellow jackets to survive and due to the heat this summer, the yellow jackets have flourished with more nests and more bees. The nests have grown in size and the numbers of worker bees have tripled. As the summer wears on, the bees are looking for protein to feed the young - whether it's meat from food scraps or insects. When that is over, they become aggressive to humans because their habits and tastes change. They are now after anything sweet they can get to feed their own bellies. If they know where they can get easy food, that's where they stay and continue to build nests. The nest they build will hold the next spring's queen bee. It is really a necessity to get rid of the nests. Most worker bees will die during the first cold snap, and the males and females spend the winter in their hideout and emerge around your house the next spring. Sometimes, if you're a brave sort, you can track a yellow jacket to its nest and then destroy the nest. However, most that live in West Virginia have had to kill out a nest, so we know if we don't



A good DIY yellow jacket trap

do it right, we may become part of the swarm.

Basically, the hotter it is, the more there are and the more aggressive they are. Winters are not like they used to be, so unless we get a few rough winters, the bees will become our nearest neighbor. If you can't find the nest, there is a good option for controlling the bees and getting them away from the barbecue. Take a 2 liter bottle, cut the top off and turn the top upside down back into the bottle body

forming a funnel of sorts. Take either dog food or cat food and place half a can in the bottom of the bottle. Spread a little bit on the entrance of the funnel hole and place the bottle in a nuisance area. They can't resist it; they fly in, eat and then can't get out - works like a charm. It will last a couple of days, until either full or too pungent. Like it or not, they are here to stay, and it is the one thing that binds all people together - our summer war for independence against the yellow jacket.

Clay County “Squatch”



Somewhere, they're watching

By Allen Hamrick

Bigfoot is a name recognized by the world and yet believed by few. Reported evidence suggests that the Bigfoot or Sasquatch does truly exist in this country. Many have said they have seen him or her lurking through the woods and have measured footprints from 20 to 30 inches long. Campers have heard screams in dark woods that curled their blood and would drive fear into the hearts of anybody. For most people who are not believers, they wonder what others were smoking at the time. So does Bigfoot truly exist? Could he perhaps exist in the darker hollers of Clay County along dark streams or perhaps come to the river's edge to catch a glimpse of us? Some believe so. Bigfoot

comes in many shapes and sizes, and each country has their own version of the beast. I guess the question that would beg an answer is if it was not true, why are there so many books written about him. Why are there so many museums and monuments erected in his honor? They say just because you don't see something doesn't mean it doesn't exist...which is true. No matter what, the idea of Bigfoot is a part of our culture and is a household name. So, the summer enrichment woodworking class is honoring the beast by carving a ten and a half foot tall Clay County Bigfoot that will weigh in at nearly a ton. It isn't complete yet, but will be soon and will be out there for all to see who dare enter the domain of Bigfoot.

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