



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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Sawyer Dobbins led the CCHS boys' team with his 6th place finish at Braxton.



Marissa Atha led the CCMS girls' team finishing 5th at the Braxton Invitational.

CCHS Boys' XC team takes third at Braxton Invitational

Cross country season is well underway at Clay County Middle School and Clay County High School. The teams opened the season at the Beckley Chick-Fil-A Invitational on August 24. For CCMS, in a field of 110 runners, Marissa Atha and McKinley Mahan medaled, placing 5th and 20th respectively. Tara Conley and Danae Stricker also put forth strong efforts. Jackson Stricker ran a solid race for the boys' team. For the CCHS girls, Cheyanne Taylor was the highest finisher, followed by Abigail Grandon, Ashley Roberts and Jaylyn Holcomb. Finally, for the high school boys' team, Sawyer Dobbins medaled placing 7th in a field of 115 runners. The team also placed 7th overall with strong contributions from Kane Nida, Kaden Fitzwater, Trent Hinkle, Andrew Tanner, Isiah Woods and Evan Bass.

On August 31, the teams traveled to Cabell Midland High School to compete in the Midland XC Festival under the lights. This night race is consistently one of the most competitive meets on the schedule. Marissa Atha was the highest finisher for the CCMS girls placing 17th in a field of 173 athletes. Jackson Stricker ran for the middle school boys. For CCHS, top fin-

ishers were Sawyer Dobbins and Cheyanne Taylor.

This past Saturday, the teams competed at the Braxton County No Excuses Invitational at Holly Gray State Park in Sutton. This course is a challenging one, with the longest climb dubbed "kill hill." For CCMS, Atha and Mahan again each earned medals placing 5th and 12th respectively. Cheyanne Taylor was top finisher for the high school girls. In the high school boys' race, athletes from fifteen schools competed. CCHS earned third place overall, impressively placing three runners in the top 15 - Dobbins placed 6th, Nida came in 8th, and Fitzwater finished 14th. Hinkle, Tanner and Woods also substantially contributed to the team's success.

Several meets are scheduled in the coming weeks. The teams travel to Doddridge County High School on September 17 and Little Beaver State Park on September 21. The following week they go to Lincoln County High School on September 25 and Pikeview High School on September 28. Based on their continued improvement and success so far, the coaches expect great results.

XC cont. on page 2

Capito Speaks at WV Broadband Summit, Tours CMI2 Facility



U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) visits the Civil-Military Innovation Institute's (CMI2) Adaptive Experimentation Facility (AEF) in Lizemores, WV on Tuesday, Oct 22.

Last week, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), traveled to Kanawha and Clay counties where she participated in two events focused on broadband, military readiness, and economic development.

First, Senator Capito delivered remarks at the 2024 West Virginia Broadband Summit in Charleston, W.Va. Senator Capito has long been a leader in expanding West Virginia broadband access through her Capito Connect plan.

"Broadband is key to a modern economy. It impacts students and schools, patients and hospitals, employers and businesses looking to expand, and many more," Senator Capito said. "I've always said that connecting our state will require an all-hands-on-deck approach, with collaboration from the federal, state, and local levels, and that's what we are accomplishing together at this summit."

Later, Senator Capito, a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense (SAC-D), traveled to Lizemores to tour the Civil-Military Innovation Institute's (CMI2) Adaptive Experimentation Facility (AEF). The AEF in Clay County offers a challenging and combat-realistic facility for military units seeking a multi-

domain environment for research and development of innovative military technology.

"It was great to meet with leaders at CMI2 and tour the progress they have made at their Adaptive Experimentation Facility, which has the potential to support innovation and readiness for our military. This facility will make our state a key destination for military experimentation and development, and I look forward to continue supporting them in their mission through my leadership on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense," Senator Capito said.

"Senator Capito has had a significant role in making this one-of-a-kind technology experimentation facility in West Virginia become a reality," said Dr. Zenovy Wowczuk, founder of CMI2. "Ultimately, this facility will benefit Soldiers, small businesses, and individuals developing national security and commercial technologies that will have a direct impact on our military readiness and protecting our domestic borders. The AEF will also be a major economic engine for Clay/Nicholas Counties and the entire State of West Virginia."

FFA students go to National Convention in Indianapolis



The Clay County FFA group.

By Gary Lee Stuber

Clay County FFA students had a very good year. Local, regional and state competitions saw many Clay County High School FFA participants place in top ten awards. The Clay County Board of Education funded their trip to nationals this year for five days in Indianapolis, a fine reward for hard work. Spearheaded by Kelsey McFarland and Robert Morris with the support of County Ag. Agent Michael Shamblin, 19 students were rewarded with this honor. For some of them, this may be the first time past the western border of West Virginia.

Students participating and the teams they represent are:

Agricultural Sales: Evan Bass, Adi Belt, Jeffery Lowery and Elijah Paxton.

Dairy Cattle: Hailey Rogers, Lillian

Tucker, Natalie Caldwell and Skyler Lane.

Environmental Science: Parker Taylor, Kaylah Kennedy, Madison Morton and Hollie Conley.

Food Science: Akira Stuber, Juliana Metheny and Skylar Adkins.

Entomology: Tomothy Rhodes, Savannah Rhodes, Lydia Shamblin and Eric Keiffer.

Chaperones include: Kelsey McFarland, Michael Shamblin, Robert Morris, Anatlia Williams and Paisley Hawk.

Paisley would meet them at the Cedar Lakes location where all of them would take Charter Busses to Indianapolis with other state students. Bob Morris teased Kelsey that he didn't have midwife training, as Kelsey is eight months pregnant. She laughed. All the students present for the 6:30 AM bus ride from the Clay

FFA cont. on page 3



Clay County FFA students in Indianapolis.

Mustangs are headed to championship play against Braxton



Robinson's rib busting hit sends ball to #4 Tyler Bird. Allen Hamrick photo.

See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON COUNTY



Ashley Nicole Alexander
Booked 10/21/24
Home confinement violation



Jason Wayne Fox
Booked 10/25/24
Domestic battery, domestic assault



Chasity Elaine Garrett
Booked 10/27/24
Conspiracy, false information



Sonya Leigh Hawkins
Booked 10/23/24
Assault



Roger Lee Hudnall Jr.
Booked 10/22/24
Child neglect with risk of injury, domestic assault, domestic battery



Bonnie Mae Mason
Booked 10/27/24
False information, conspiracy

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Brandy Marie Chapman
Booked 10/26/24
Driving revoked for DUI, possession of controlled substance



Sonya Lynn Hice
Booked 10/26/24
Possession of controlled substance



Dona Yvonne Jarvis
Booked 10/26/24
Possession of controlled substance



James Michael Lester
Booked 10/21/24
Home confinement violation



Brandon Ray Simpson
Booked 10/21/24
Destruction of property, home confinement violation, petit larceny, brandishing, trespassing asked to leave, obstruction, assault on officer



Andrea Renee Chennault
Booked 10/24/24
Gross neglect of child creating risk of injury or death

CLAY COUNTY

CLAY COUNTY



Homer Eugene Jones
Booked 10/24/24
Child neglect with risk of serious injury



James Luther McCune
Booked 10/28/24
Driving suspended, expired MVI, unsafe motor vehicle, possess of controlled substance, improper registration, no insurance

XC

Continued from Page 1



Kane Nida earned a medal finishing 8th at the Braxton Invitational.



McKinley Mahan medaled for CCMS with a 12th place finish at Braxton.



Kaden Fitzwater medaled with his 14th place finish.

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Birch River PSD will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 12, at 9:00 am, at the PSD office in Birch River.

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 month of 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.

Puzzle Answers
Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

Tamarack Foundation for the Arts Awarded \$1.1 Million POWER Grant to Expand Creative Network in West Virginia

The Tamarack Foundation for the Arts is excited to announce that it has been awarded \$1,105,041 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) POWER Initiative. The funding will support a transformative three-year project titled “Establishing the Creative Network WV Arts Entrepreneur Ecosystem”, designed to bolster the creative community in West Virginia by expanding resources and opportunities for artists across the state.

This project, which represents a significant evolution in the Tamarack Foundation for the Arts’ mission to support West Virginia’s creatives, will enable artists to connect with essential resources, foster collaboration, and reach new audiences. The project will provide artists with greater access to tools and services tailored to their career stage and needs through enhancements to the existing Creative Network. Upgrades to the website will also introduce advanced search functionality, allowing artists to be found based on their medium, location, and projects. The project will establish a multi-vendor platform, expanding the reach of West Virginia artists statewide and opening new avenues for creative expression and entrepreneurship.

“We are extremely grateful to the Appalachian Regional Commission for recognizing the importance of this work and supporting our vision for a thriving creative economy in West Virginia,” said Renee Margocee, Executive Director of Tamarack Foundation for the Arts. “This funding will allow us to embrace innovation, empower our artists, and foster a more interconnected and sustainable creative community.”

The award is part of ARC’s \$68.2 million package

to support economic diversification projects in coal-impacted communities. As part of its POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) Initiative, the ARC is investing in 65 projects across 188 counties, aimed at stimulating entrepreneurship, creating jobs, and developing infrastructure in regions affected by the decline of coal industries.

“ARC’s POWER initiative supports coal-impacted communities’ preparation for the next phase of Appalachia’s economy, while ensuring that residents have a say in the course of their own futures,” said ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin. “The investments announced in this round of POWER will help train workers, advance new industries, and build upon the progress already being made toward a brighter future full of economic opportunity for our region.”

Since the POWER Initiative’s inception in 2015, ARC has invested over \$484.7 million in 564 projects impacting 365 coal-impacted counties, helping create or retain nearly 54,000 jobs and preparing approximately 170,000 workers and students for opportunities in growing industries such as entrepreneurship, tourism, and broadband infrastructure.

About the Appalachian Regional Commission:

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federal and state government partnership that works to strengthen economic growth across 423 counties in the Appalachian Region. ARC’s mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and foster socio-economic parity with the rest of the nation. Learn more at www.arc.gov.

OBITUARY



Norma Alyce Johnson

December 13, 1926-October 14, 2024

Norma Alyce Johnson of Bessemer, AL, passed away on Oct. 14, 2024, at the age of 97.

Norma was born on Dec. 13, 1926 in Prociuous, WV to parents Grover

and Eva Crouse Samples.

After graduating from Clay County High School in 1942 she was employed at the Clay County Board of Education for 10 years. Following her relocation to Columbia, SC, she attended Palmer College receiving certifications in Speed Writing and Medical Terminology, while working for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. Norma continued in her career in Charlotte, NC eventually retiring from the Federal Comptroller of the Currency, OCC Agency.

She is a former member of the National Association of Retired Federal

Workers.

While living in Charlotte, Norma as a charter member of Idlewild ARP Church where she served as church treasurer, Deacon, President/Treasurer/Historian of the Women of the Church, and served on the Grief Support group; following the passing of her husband James Burnell Johnson. She also served in the giving ministries, sorting and distributing clothing to various church charities, prior to relocating to Bessemer, AL.

Norma was preceded in death by sisters Virginia Boggs of Prociuous, WV and Lenore Hardman of

Charleston WV. She is survived by her sister Dixie Hill of Rockwall, TX; son Brent Johnson (wife Susan) Hoover, AL; (3) grandchildren; Jessica Oles (husband Thomas) of Cleveland, NC, Jeremy Johnson (wife Charlie Raye) of Oak Ridge, NC, Neely Baker of Spring Hill, TN; (8) great grandchildren Damon Oles, Nixon Oles, Ayden Sisk, Nolan Oles; Amelia Johnson, Callan Johnson, George Baker and Mary Elizabeth Baker.

Norma will be honored in a graveside service and laid to rest at Sharon Memorial Park, Charlotte NC Nov 10, 2024.

Clay County Free Press

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Algebra, Life, And Love

By Joe Mazzella

When I was a boy I was great at math. I learned to add and subtract playing cards around the kitchen table with my family. In grade school I went over the multiplication tables again and again until I had them memorized. Then when I got to high school I had to take algebra. Suddenly, the numbers were letters, there were equations, and everything was so abstract I couldn't make sense of it. Learning it felt like banging my head against the wall. I felt like I would never understand it, never use it, and never need it in my life.

That last part was proven false, though, several years later. I was working at a minimum wage job, struggling to support my young family. One day I found myself with just 10 dollars in my wallet until the next payday. The gas tank on my old clunker car was empty too, so I pulled up to a convenience store and put 5 dollars worth of gas in the tank. As I was waiting in line to pay, I saw the woman in front of me frantically searching through her purse to find enough cash to pay for 2 gallons of milk. For a second selfishness held back my heart, but then I walked forward and put down my last 5 dollars to help her get the milk for her children. As I left the store I felt strange. My wallet was empty but my heart felt full. I was flat broke but still felt like the richest man in the world. It didn't make sense to me mathematically. But then I remembered that Algebra didn't either. Maybe I didn't have to understand it. Maybe I just had to enjoy it.

Life and Love are a lot like Algebra. They can be a mystery that we never fully understand. The truth is the more Love we give, the more Love we have. The more we share it, the more it grows inside of us. The more we help others, the more we help ourselves. Love is endless because God is endless. Life is eternal because God is eternal. It is impossible to understand, yet it makes perfect sense. Embrace the mystery then. And enjoy all the riches of Love.

FFA

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An FFA display



More displays from the convention.



The Indianapolis Convention Center

County High School on Tuesday, October 22, gathered for a photo. Bob and Kelsey pretty much framed them on either end. There were others not present who were being picked up on the way.

Bob suggested it would be sometime late Tuesday when they would get to Indianapolis and would be delayed a little as students would be treated to supper at Cracker Barrel on the way.

Also among those on this excursion was Trenton Bradley, his wife Sarah, and their baby Jaylin Rose. Trenton was this year's American Degree Recipient.

Activities at the National FFA Convention were scheduled from 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday through Friday. The students would return to Clay County High School on Saturday October 26.

Students will make many memories and perhaps return with more honors and awards.

Nothing Is More Satisfying Than Doing Nothing

By Dr. James Snyder

We were facing a very severe hurricane, and everything was being shut down. The hurricane was to hit us on a Wednesday night. Because we were in the center of where that hurricane was supposed to come, we were not allowed to get out and drive on the streets.

I knew that I had to finish all my work by Tuesday. I had radio programs to record and write my syndicated newspaper column.

With due diligence, I got everything done by Tuesday afternoon. We still had electricity, so I was able to email my radio programs, and newspaper column. I was afraid that if I had waited for my normal routine, we would have lost electricity at the least, and I would not have been able to get it all done.

I've never done something like this before, but I did all my week's work on Monday and Tuesday. When I woke up Wednesday morning, I realized that I had nothing to do. All of the work for the week had already been finished, and I had nothing more to do.

Nothing like this has ever happened to me before. I'm the kind of person that likes to work every day. I go to my office every day and work and work and work. That's my MO. I like nothing better than working.

Now, I had the rest of the week with nothing to do. I suppose I could've continued working on one of my writing projects or read some books I was working on, but I had a little butterfly thought floating in my head.

What would it be like if I had nothing to do?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage worked in her craft room, and was busy with her projects. Even if the electricity went out, she had something to do in her room.

I could've gone to my office, sat before my computer, and done some work.

Being the old geezer I am, I don't have the energy I had 10 years ago. It takes me longer to do things that I once could do with a snap of my finger.

What if I just spent the next three days doing nothing?

At one time, that would've been a terrible thought for me. But now I'm beginning to like that thought.

At the time, doing nothing seemed to be an excellent idea.

Having never done nothing before, I couldn't figure out how to do it or how to plan my day. I'm pretty good at planning my day, but then I realized that if I'm going to do nothing, there is nothing to plan.

I did think about asking The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage how I should plan my nothing days. As I thought about that, I realized she would tell me what to do, and then I would have something to do rather than nothing. She is the great architect of doing things.

As I was planning my "Nothing Days," I realized that I couldn't think because that would be something. Oh boy, it is hard work to do nothing.

When I got up Wednesday morning, it started to rain, and there was a wind outside, so I decided to wear my pajamas all day. If I had changed into my daily pants and shirt, that would have been doing something, and I didn't want to do anything.

I walked out to the kitchen where The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was doing something. She was making breakfast.

She asked me, "Are you going to wear your pajamas all day?"

I looked back at her and said, "I have nothing to say."

Thus began my first day of doing nothing. Without even thinking about it, I ate my breakfast and wobbled my way to my easy chair to sit down and continue doing nothing.

"Do you have any plans for today?" My wife asked. "I have nothing to say."

She looked at me rather strangely and then walked back to her craft room to begin her projects for the day whatever it was.

I just sat on my easy chair, leaned back, and enjoyed the moment.

One thing I've learned about these "Doing Nothing Days" is that they're very easy to start. Nothing demands that I do nothing, and I am unanimous in that.

I didn't even look at my watch because that would be doing something. And if I'm doing nothing, why must I know what time it is?

I enjoyed three splendid days of doing nothing.

By Friday, the hurricane was out of our area, but there were still driving restrictions because of some damage. But the hurricane was over; therefore, my days of doing nothing were ending, and I would soon be back doing something.

When I was in my easy chair, I tried hard not to think because that was doing something. But Friday morning, I could think a little and look back over those days with great appreciation.

I've learned that there comes a time when I should set aside a day to do nothing. Maybe we should have a national Do-Nothing Day. I would recommend one restriction: everybody would be able to pick the day they would do nothing. I think that would go a long way in benefiting our country today.

I reflected on Colossians 3:23, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

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

Medicare open enrollment: Tips to help older West Virginians select plans

By Nadia Ramlagan

Medicare open enrollment began earlier this month, and for West Virginians over 65, this season is a time to reconsider their health care needs.

More than 450,000 West Virginia residents rely on Medicare for health care according to the health research organization KFF.

Dr. Rhonda Randall, chief medical officer and executive vice president of UnitedHealthcare Employer and Individual, said Medicare plans can be complex, so it is best to start comparing them now, adding the deadline to enroll is Dec. 7.

"A lot can change in a year," Randall, pointed out. "You want to consider, are your current benefit plans still meeting your health care needs and your budget needs, and has anything changed with your plan?"

Randall also recommended checking plans for mental health coverage. According to America's Health Rankings, more than 10% of adults age 65 and older said their mental health was not good 14 or more days in the past month. Websites such as JustPlainClear.com and Medi-

careMadeClear.com offer plan explanations for members and caregivers.

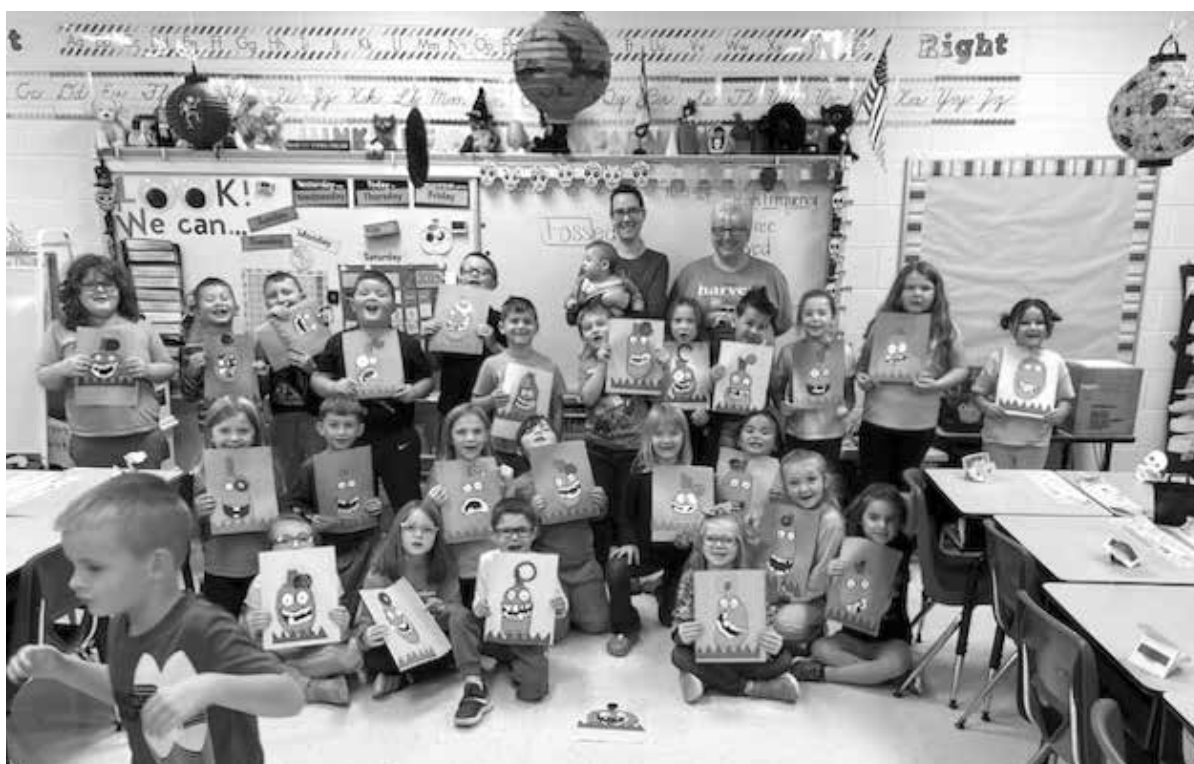
Ellen Allen, executive director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, said programs like Medicare and Medicaid are critical for keeping communities healthy. She added for older adults needing long-term care, Medicaid in particular is a lifeline.

"Seventy-two percent of West Virginians who are in skilled nursing care, long-term care, their care is paid for by Medicaid," Allen emphasized. "You're talking thousands of dollars a month to live in a residential skilled nursing care."

More than 9,200 West Virginians live in residential care facilities, according to 2023 data from KFF.

Meanwhile, open enrollment dates vary for other types of health plans. People with employer-sponsored coverage typically select a plan between September and December. And open enrollment for plans on the Health Insurance Marketplace runs from November 1 to January 15. More information is available at www.UHCOpenEnrollment.com.

First graders make Crazy Pumpkins



First graders at Big Otter Elementary created Crazy Pumpkins in Miss Douglas' class. With help from volunteers Tayma Legg and Cindy Legg, students followed directions and created amazing crazy pumpkins with awesome art supplies. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

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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 *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

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



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

1933 to 1937.

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



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

Oct. 31, 1951: Football coach Nick Saban

was born in Fairmont. As a quarterback, he led Monongah High School to a 1968 state championship. He went on to coach Louisiana State University and the University of Alabama to seven national championships (six with Alabama), the most of any coach in history.



Nov. 1, 1688: Morgan Morgan was born in Wales. Traditionally, Morgan was considered the first White settler of West Virginia, but others were likely here first. He settled in the Bunker Hill area in 1731, building a log house that still remains.

Nov. 1, 1848: Israel Charles White was born in Monongalia County. White was West Virginia's first state geologist, appointed in 1897 and serving until his death in 1927, working without pay for all but two of those years.

Nov. 1, 1961: The first non-commercial radio station in West Virginia, WMUL-FM at Marshall University, began broadcasting.

Nov. 2, 1859: John Brown was convicted of murder, treason and insurrection in the Jefferson County Courthouse at Charles Town. Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry galvanized the nation, further alienating North and South and drastically reducing any possible middle ground for compromise to avert the Civil War.

Nov. 2, 1952: Tri-State Airport in Wayne County was dedicated, with the first official landing made at 11 a.m. by Piedmont Airlines.

Nov. 2, 1996: Baseball player Toni Stone died. Born in Bluefield, she joined the Negro American League in 1953, becoming the first woman to play pro baseball in a previously all-male major league.

Nov. 3, 1947: Kanawha Airport (now Yeager International Airport) was dedicated. World War I ace Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker was among the dignitaries present.

Nov. 4-5, 1985: Heavy rains led to devastating floods in parts of West Virginia. Forty-seven people were killed, and several towns were severely damaged.



Nov. 5, 1891: Alfred Earle "Greasy" Neale was born in Parkersburg. He was one of West Virginia's greatest all-around

athletes.



Nov. 5, 1922: Cecil Underwood was born at Josephs Mills in Tyler County. Underwood, West Virginia's 25th and 32nd governor, served as the state's youngest and oldest chief executive.

Nov. 5, 1927: Musician "Ellie" Mannette was born in Trinidad and helped popularize steel drum music worldwide. In 1992, he became an artist-in-residence at WVU, coordinating the school's steel drum program. In 1999, he was named a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow, the nation's highest arts honor.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Spoon is longer. 2. Handle on pot is lower. 3. Neckline is different. 4. Hair bun is smaller. 5. Window in door is lower. 6. Outlet is added.

ACROSS

- 1 Conga cousin
6 "Ho-hum" feeling
13 Old Toyota coupes
20 "Tosca" tunes, e.g.
21 Dodgy
22 Hat with the brim turned up on three sides
23 The choosing of cosmonaut Gagarin?
25 Its capital is Tallinn
26 Border of Utah and Idaho, e.g.
27 Primo pitcher
29 Of higher rank
30 Cooks in fat
31 Sign that an egg may have gone bad?
35 Listed from memory
38 Felt sorry for
39 King-size tub
40 Santa — (hot desert winds)
41 Distributed, with "out"
42 Pamper

- 46 That guy over there with the famous signature?
50 Indian dress
51 Round figure
52 High trains
53 Real stunner
54 Writer known for twist endings
57 Chimney duct
58 Possible result of a computer crash
60 Key with no sharps or flats
61 Side street
62 Given "four years at a New Haven university" as punishment for a crime?
65 Painter Max
68 Frigid epoch
69 University near Fort Worth
73 Water, in Cuba
74 "Ars — artis" (MGM motto)
75 "I'll do it," in radiospeak
76 '16 Olympics city
77 Major conflict

- 78 Dirt in a 57-Across
79 Lemon-hued growth on old bread?
81 Suspend, as a meeting
83 Certain British noble's domain
86 Kind of sword
87 "Notorious" Supreme Court inits.
88 Vintage Ford
89 People using swearwords
92 A typical casual greeting?
96 Bagel centers
97 Lena of song
98 Angry feeling
99 Food-packing plants
103 "Tail cone," for "Lance Ito"
105 Shaggy ox that's a baseball mascot?
109 Floral decoration
110 Satan, with "the"
111 Philosopher Kierkegaard
112 Printing machines
113 Loathes
114 Telling signs

DOWN

- 1 Articulates
2 In — (mired)
3 Hollywood's Sorvino
4 Angler's chum
5 Put forward
6 Proved false
7 Kilns, e.g.
8 Go really fast
9 Winter hrs. in Fla.
10 Twice CCLI
11 Lacto- — diet
12 Threatened hostilely
13 Sword metal
14 Surgery sites, in brief
15 Scholarly group
16 Devoted attendant
17 Many a sonata finale
18 Disney mermaid
19 Sarcasm, informally
24 Writer Wiesel
28 North Atlantic catch
31 Pig's grunt
32 Bouquets-to-order co.
33 "Pshaw!"
34 Egg producer
35 Having light beams

- 36 — Gay (WWII plane)
37 Have the capacity to, to Shakespeare
38 Treaty
41 Indoor tabby
42 Tote bag
43 See 93-Down
44 Correct
45 Comply with
47 More skilled
48 Gas in lights
49 Strong alloy
50 In a snobbish way
54 Psi follower
55 Camouflage
56 Doc treating apnea
57 Hightail it away
59 Perplexed
60 Certain palm berry
61 Give the OK
63 Take-home
64 Former BP gas brand
65 H₂O, to a tot
66 "Yipes!"
67 — Khalifa (Dubai skyscraper)
70 Overused theme
71 OPEC ship
72 Center points
74 Big ravine

WHY A JAY?

- 75 Traveled
78 Undermines the power of
79 "Seize the day" acronym
80 Ship dining place
82 "Navel" fruits
83 Just missed parring
84 Suffix with fruit names
85 California's Marina del —
88 Do injury to
89 Rabbits
90 Elbow-to-wrist bone
91 Appear to be the case
92 Twyla of choreography
93 With 43-Down, list of superb students
94 Expunge
95 Singer LeAnn
96 "In case you — noticed ..."
99 Corp. money honchos
100 As to
101 Idyllic garden
102 IRS form IDs
104 Enjoyed food
106 St. crosser
107 First-aid —
108 Bullring cry

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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112									113											



THE WIDEN NEWS



The people who think alike
should vote alike.

"DUNDON" RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.

March 1958

The Red and White Review

WIDEN SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL TERM — 1957-58

STAFF

WIDEN SCHOOL NEWS	
RONALD COTTRELL	Editor
JOANNE CONNER	Assistant Editor
WILLY LAXTON	Class Editor
HOWARD WILSON	
DELANO FACEMIRE	Club Editors
RUSSELL BUTCHER	
PAUL DeMOSS	Sports Editors
REBA EAGLE	Circulation Manager

WIDEN HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM STAFF

Correspondence . . .

Dear Sally,

Life's a worry sometimes, isn't it? Here I am snowed under with more work to do than I can possibly get done before this school year ends. I guess I'll keep plugging away.

Play try-outs are over. I got a small part and was tickled to death to get even a little role. Most of us were happy with the parts assigned us. Rehearsals start next week—I guess we'll be busy every noon for several weeks, and then every night until the play is presented April 24th.

Having a mild flu, I've been trying to get some money for new clothes—to take on our senior trip. Dad says I have clothes enough now; but you know I can't wear my old things on the biggest event of my life! I think I can persuade him if I try. He's an old sweetheart.

Now—if I can only persuade him to buy new luggage too! I saw some white pieces that I love! I guess, if I can't have these things that I'll have to make the trip without much spending money. But oh well, the trip's the thing!

Class Basketball tournaments start Monday, March 17—and excitement is already rising—who'll be this year's Champion? I hope I get to be one of our class cheerleaders—we'll vote soon. I guess it's only natural for everyone to want to do everything and take part in everything that comes along. Sometimes we allow our desires to drown out our natural good sense. None of us can help realizing that we can't always win. But we hate to admit it and sometimes

we're quite foolish in our resentment at those in charge when we lose in a fair race. Of course, I hate to lose as much as anyone else, but I know it would be ridiculous to win everything! I'm certainly not going to let it spoil the rest of my days!

Yes, J—and I have made up and we hope to stay that way. He swears not to be jealous and I swear to be more circumspect in my conduct—I'm keeping my fingers crossed!

Easter is too close. I'm wearing last year's clothes—since the senior trip is so close, J—and I plan to attend Sun Rise Service at Church. I love early morning services and it makes Easter the special day it really is.

Love,
Coed

COUPLE WALKS STREETS

We may not "know your State Government" but we "know your City Streets" said Carol Neal and Jimmy Manning, when they got back from Charleston on March 3.

These two young people in one of those unaccountable freaks of nature, missed contacting their sponsor, who was to meet them in front of the Capitol. After waiting around for several hours they took the grand tour of the building, unaccompanied.

Carol had left her coat in the car, so she drew many curious eyes, as she strolled the streets in the cold, misty rain and snow, wearing a brown sheath dress, Jimmy shivered along side in his grey sport jacket.

Dinner at the convention had been previously paid for, but the young couple munched on hamburgers and R.C.'s in a corner restaurant, listening to the strains of Pat Boone's "Too Soon To Know" on the juke box.

Having satisfied young healthy appetites, sharpened by a long hike, they proceeded on their way to the car where Carol shed her high heeled shoes, rubbed her weary toes and relaxed with a sigh, as Jimmy started up the car motor, turned on the heater, tuned in the radio, and collapsed with laughter at their predicament.

Said Jimmy "everything was fine except for two things. Carol complained all the time that she was tired and—the day was too short.

Said Carol—"I'd like to do it again sometime—with flats and a coat."

FIFTH GRADE WINS

The fifth grade won the Attendance Banner for the 6th month with a percentage of 96.40.

The eighth grade won for the High School with a percentage of 97.65.

Congratulations 5th and 8th graders.

Percentage Of Attendance

Mr. Boggs	Grade 8	97.65
Mr. Pinney	Grade 10	97.62
Mr. Jackson	Grade 5	96.40
Mrs. Griffith	Grade 11	96.30
Mrs. Reynolds	Grade 6	96.29
Mr. Reynolds	Grade 7	95.93
Miss Graham	Grade 2	94.77
Mr. Matheny	Grade 9	94.22
Miss Ashley	Grade 3	94.14
Mrs. Bragg	Grade 4	93.94
Mrs. Butcher	Grade 1	93.61
Mrs. Elliott	Grade 2	92.63
Miss Woods	Grade 12	91.16

MUSIC TELLS TALES

1. Congratulations To Someone — Lois Frame.
2. You Win Again—Jimmy Manning.
3. So Long — Since we won a ball game.
4. Teenage Queen — Helen Ellis.
5. Tear Drops — Joanne Conner (March 3).
6. Everyday — Home Room
7. Hey School Girl — April Manning.
8. Destiny—Lora to Carl.
9. Short Shorts—Betty Sizemore.
10. La De Da — Betty Craft.
11. Sail Along Silvery Moon — State Government Day.
12. I'm Available—Nedra Frame.
13. Going Steady — Russell and Dawne.
14. Boney Marony — Rosa Gibson.

15. Don't — All broken hearted Seniors.
16. In Love — Albert and Doris.
17. My Man Is A Tall Man — Mitzie Bailes.
18. Oh! Lonesome Me — Willy Laxton.
19. Tequila — Reba Eagle.
20. Are You Sincere — Carol Neal.

STUDENT-OF-THE-MONTH



JOAN TRUMAN

Joan Truman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Truman of Widen, has been selected as the Student of the Month for March. She is a member of the Senior Class and the reporter for Student Council. This is her fourth year in Student Council. She is the vice-president of National Honor Society and has been a member since her Sophomore year. She attended the annual meeting of the State Association of Student Councils at Jackson's Mill last year and went to Camp Horseshoe the summer before. She won the Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow award. She was President of her Junior Class. She has the leading part in the Senior Class play. She has an "A" average.

TEACHER WINS QUILT

Mrs. Leona Griffith, English teacher in Widen High School, won the quilt which the seniors raffled off during assembly on March 6th. The winning number, 120, was pulled from a box by Junior Hardway, a seventh grade student.

The star quilt is predominating green and white in color, and was made and donated to the senior class by Mrs. Grace Starcher.

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

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JOBS

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MISCELLANEOUS

WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-249-3126

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purchase. Call 1-844-901-2301 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST, you want Omaha Steaks! 100% guaranteed and delivered to your door! Our Butcher's Deluxe Package makes a great gift and comes with 8 FREE Burgers ONLY \$99.99. Call 1-877-460-6356 and mention code 77318CKG or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe9637

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

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

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West Virginia Archives and History celebrates veterans in November

West Virginia Archives and History will host a “Celebration of West Virginia Veterans” in the Archives and History Library at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, in Charleston on Friday, Nov. 8. The program will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The program will be divided into two segments, the first covering World War I to the Korean War, and the second segment addressing the Korean War and subsequent

conflicts. Each segment will be followed by a panel-style question and answer session. The program will feature a diverse group of 10 guest speakers, including veterans, historians, authors, and representatives from museums and memorials. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided during a break between the two sessions.

For more information, contact Ella Preece at ella.s.preece@wv.gov or (304) 558-0230.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON A PROPOSAL TO CLOSE AND CONSOLIDATE CLAY COUNTY, MIDDLE SCHOOL INTO EXISTING CLAY ELEMENTARY, BIG OTTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND CLAY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF CLAY

WV 18-4-13a

WV Board of Education Policy 6204

The Clay County Board of Education will hold four public hearings, as follow, on the Superintendent’s recommendation to close Clay County Middle School and consolidate it into existing Clay Elementary School, existing Big Otter Elementary School, and existing Clay County High School to take effect at the end of the 2026-2027 school year contingent upon SBA funding.

- Clay County Middle School Public Hearing
LOCATION: Clay County Middle School
DATE AND TIME: November 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Sign in between 5:00 p.m. and 5:55 p.m. to speak.

- Clay County High School Public Hearing
LOCATION: Clay County High School
DATE AND TIME: November 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Sign in between 5:00 p.m. and 5:55 p.m. to speak.

- Big Otter Elementary School Public Hearing
LOCATION: Big Otter Elementary School
DATE AND TIME: November 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Sign in between 5:00 p.m. and 5:55 p.m. to speak.

- Clay Elementary School Public Hearing
LOCATION: Clay Elementary School
DATE AND TIME: November 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Sign in between 5:00 p.m. and 5:55 p.m. to speak.

ALTERNATIVE DATES AND TIME:

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

- Clay County Middle School November 14, 2024, beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- Clay County High School November 14, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Big Otter Elementary School November 18, 2024, beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- Clay Elementary School November 18, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

PLACE:

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

PROPOSED ACTION OF THE CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Closure and consolidation of Clay County Middle School with existing Clay Elementary School, existing Big Otter Elementary School, and existing Clay County High School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year contingent upon SBA funding

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL:

Six copies of written material intended to be reviewed by the county board of education must be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent, 285 Church Street, Clay, West Virginia 25043 on or before the close of business on October 31, 2024, in order to provide the county board of education time to consider the material before the vote. Facilities will be made available to make copies up to ten pages.

HEARING PROCEDURES:

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

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION:

Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection on week days when school is in session by October 2, 2024, through date of last hearing between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. in the Office of the Superintendent of Clay County Schools located at 285 Church Street, Clay, West Virginia.

Philip Dobbins,
Superintendent
Clay County Board of Education
October 2, 2024

HIGH STREET APARTMENTS

136 HIGH STREET, CLAY, WEST VIRGINIA 25043

304-587-2011

WEST VIRGINIA TTY/TDD 711

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LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 24-0671-E-P

MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and

THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

Application for Review, Reconciliation and Establishment of new ELG Surcharge Rates Effective January 1, 2025.

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

On August 2, 2024, Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company filed an application for review and approval of new Effluent Limitation Guideline (ELG) Surcharge reconciliation and true-up to establish a new surcharge rate for the Companies effective January 1, 2025. The review period for this proceeding is through June 30, 2024, and the new rate period is calendar year 2025.

The total proposed ELG rates represent an approximate one-tenth of one percent increase in total rates. The impact to a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatts per month is a \$0.12 increase in the monthly bill raising it from \$137.58 to \$137.70.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing at 9:30 a.m. on December 5, 2024, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, WV. Interested persons should monitor the Commission’s web docket and website because the evidentiary hearing may be cancelled for good cause.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene by October 30, 2024. Failure to intervene timely can affect your right to participate in the proceeding. Requests to intervene and public comments should include the case name and number and be addressed to: The Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323. Public comments may also filed online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/onlinecomments/default.cfm> by clicking the “Formal Case” link.

MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and
THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

LEGAL

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Clay County, WV

General Election

November 5, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER
To vote you must darken the oval (●) completely next to the candidate or issue of your choice.

STATE TICKET

STATE TICKET

NATIONAL TICKET

FOR PRESIDENT
(Vote for ONE)

○ DONALD J. TRUMP REP
Palm Beach, FL

○ JD VANCE DEM
Cincinnati, OH

○ KAMALA D. HARRIS DEM
Los Angeles, CA

○ TIM WALZ DEM
Saint Paul, MN

○ CHASE OLIVER LBN
Atlanta, GA

○ MIKE HER MAAT KAN
Knoxville, VA

○ JILL STEIN MTN
Leopold, MA

○ RUDOLPH WARE MTN
Galesburg, CA

○ ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR. IND
Katonah, NY

○ NICHOLE SHANAHAN IND
Portola Valley, CA

○ Write, if any

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FOR GOVERNOR
(Vote for ONE)

○ PATRICK MORRISSEY REP
Harpers Ferry

○ STEVE WILLIAMS DEM
Huntington

○ ERIKA KLIE KOLENICH LBN
Buckhannon

○ CHASE LINKO-LOOPER MTN
Charleston

○ S. MARSHALL WILSON CST
Hedgesville

○ Write, if any

○ Write, if any

○ Write, if any

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FOR COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
(Vote for ONE)

○ KENT LEONHARDT REP
Fairview

○ DEBORAH STILES DEM
Parsons

○ NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED LBN

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FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
(Vote for ONE)

○ KRIS WARNER REP
Charleston

○ THORNTON COOPER DEM
South Charleston

○ NO CANDIDATE(S) NOMINATED LBN

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FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for ONE)
Not more than one resident of any
magisterial district may be elected

○ DUANE LEGG REP
Indian

○ CONNIE KINDER DEM
Proctor

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Season ends for Lady Mustangs at CWWAC tournament



L-R Autumn Rapp - All Conference, Roxy Schoolcraft - All Conference and Gracie Cottrell - All Tournament. Photo Ashley Rapp

By Allen Hamrick

The Lady Mustangs competed in the CWWAC Championship at South Harrison Middle/ High on Saturday, October 28. It has been a while since the trophy has been in the great halls of CCMS, and the Lady Mustangs had a chance to make it happen once again. All season, they have been the team that has silently, methodically and without a lot of fanfare taken apart any team that has opposed them. They did it with kills, some of which had enough zip to knock a small building down. They also did it with finesse on the net and by never letting a ball touch the ground without hitting the floor digging for it. Serving the ball looked more like bullets finding dead center, some of which were so fast there was no reaction time for the other team. It was the perfect season, seemingly, as they went 17-4



Laney Sears gets the kill against Sought Harrison. Photo Isaiah Deems

in regular season play. It was like watching a clock work flawlessly with each girl playing their part at a hundred percent.

Coach Abbie Boggs and assistant Anissa Collins both did an outstanding job and should be commended for getting these ladies prepared, physically and mentally, to excel in their endeavors. The Lady Mustangs faced some tough teams in the regular season and once again at the championship tournament. The championship was separated into four pools. The Lady Mustangs faced and took down Spencer, Braxton and Spencer again before moving into the “Lose and you’re gone” round. South Harrison was up next, and it was a must win to get to the championship game. The Lady Mustangs had defeated the Lady Hawks in regular season play; it was a barn burner then and it was hopefully



Vanessa Cleavenger gets the kill shot against Spencer. Photo Allen Hamrick

going to be another one. However, the Lady Mustangs looked as though the wheels came completely as they just couldn’t seem to get the rhythm going as they had all day previously. Call it intimidated, tired, or whatever; it was a different team on the court. They lost the match to the Lady Hawks and were out of the tournament.

All season long, the Lady Mustangs have given the fans their money’s worth every time they hit the court and can hold their heads up as a result. If these girls can stay together as a team, they could take CCHS back to the state championships. Congratulations to the Lady Mustangs on a great season. Receiving All Conference awards for outstanding play was Autumn Rapp and Roxy Schoolcraft. The All Tournament award went to Gracie Cottrell.

Mustangs are headed to championship play against Braxton

By Allen Hamrick

On Thursday night, the Mustangs came into their last regular season football game with a can Whip Butt. They were up against George Washington Middle to determine which team would go to the championship game against Braxton. The evening started with a pre-game meet the 8th grader players and their parents before getting down to the business of pig skin. At the end of this year, these students will move on to the high school and have an all new set of challenges they will face.

With that being said, it was time to start the plays and get the job done. GW looked as though they were ready to give the Mustangs a game. The Mustangs jumped on the boards quick, and by the second quarter were ahead in the game 12-6. The GW Devils had a good drive, threw the Mustang defense off just a little and scored another TD and were able to get the two extra points, making the score 12- 14. The Mustangs had to punt the ball, the Devils got it back and were marching to the end zone. The Mustang defense was holding their ground at the end zone stopping the passes and runs short. Then Caleb Robinson gave such a bone crushing hit against a receiver that the ball bounced out into the waiting arms of Tyler Bird. Bird took the pig 90 plus yards for a TD making the score 20-14 after the two point conversion. This seemed to take the fire out of the furnace for the Devils. The Mustangs were high stepping out of their barns and getting their game to a new

level for the opportunity to get back to the championship.

After half time, the Mustangs came out focused and were not intimidated by the air game of the Devils. The Devils never gained much on the field after the half. As a matter of fact, the Mustang defense was so good that it looked as though the Devils were on our side. Plainly put, in all the games, whether they are college or pro, there isn’t a better display of good, raw defense.

On the flip side of the coin, the offensive line of the Mustangs was equally dominant opening holes that looked like portals straight to the end zone with superb blocking on the line and down field which allowed Mustang running backs Collin Elliot and Caleb Robinson plenty of looks down field toward the end zone. The only trouble for the Devils was that the Mustangs turned up the dial on their game and dominated every inch of the field. When the smoke cleared, it was the Mustangs beating the Devils.

The Mustangs will now head to the CWWAC Championship against Braxton on Thursday night at 6:30 PM. These two teams met early in the year, and the Mustangs were handed their pink slips. Perhaps this time they will have what it takes to win. Braxton will bring whatever they got to the table Thursday night and lay it all out at the snap of the ball. Otherwise, it will get ugly for them real quick. So, if you have a thirst for football at its finest, make your plans to head to the game. Go Mustangs!



#75 Adam Canfield and #73 Holden Winebrenner were giving the QB some pressure.



Tyler Bird heads to the end zone.



Collin Elliot nearly gets in for the TD with no time left on board.