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Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple

Thursday, February 13, 2025

### West Virginia Symphony Orchestra announces 2025 Vaughan Fellows

Three high school students have been selected to serve as the 2025 Student Symphonic Fellows for the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra's (WVSO) Andrew and Amy Vaughan Fellowship Program.

Kaleigh Basham, a senior at Woodrow Wilson High School, Simeon Jett, a homeschool freshman from Elkview, and Julian Finn Smith, a sophomore that is homeschooled from Princeton were chosen as the 2025 Vaughan Fellows following an interview and audition process on January 17. These students will build upon their knowledge and mastery of music by sitting on stage alongside WVSO musicians during rehearsals and will conduct personal research about the music the WVSO performs. They will also meet Music Director Maurice Cohn, guest conductors, and renowned guest artists during the second half of the Elliot Foundation Symphonic Series.

To be an eligible finalist, applicants completed an application that included a personal essay explaining their interest in the program as well as their professional and academic goals and submitted at least two letters of recommendation.

Kayleigh Basham, flute, performs with the marching and concert band at Woodrow Wilson High School. She is the principal flutist for The New River Symphony, the president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and was accepted in the Great American Marching band where she performed at the 2024 Macy's Day Parade. Kayleigh also plays saxophone for the school jazz band and participates in the back up band for the choir. Most recently she received the honor of making second chair flute for the WV All-State Band. Kaleigh also holds other leadership positions in her school and community with plans to study music education and performance,

Simeon Jett, piano, a freshman from Elkview, is a member of the WV Youth Symphony Orchestra and has studied for ten years. Simeon shares his gifts of music with the local community by performing in church, nursing and retirement homes. In addition to piano, Simeon also studies violin. His goal is to further his musical education and learn more about the music business through this fellow-

Julian Finn Smith, violin, a sophomore from Princeton, is a member of the WV Youth Symphony Orchestra. He served as concertmaster for the High School All State Orchestra as a freshman. Finn's local schools do not have a strings program, so in order to further his string education he is homeschooled to allow him



Simeon Jett, a homeschooled freshman from Elkview, is one of three students selected for as a Student Symphonic Fellow for the WV Symphony Orchestra's Andrew and Amy Vaughan Fellowship Program.

to travel for educational purposes and to have time dedicated to his musical education. He created a string quartet with other home school musicians and earned a superior rating for Solo and Ensemble Festival of WVMEA. Finn was also the winner of the American String Teacher's Association solo competition in 2023. His future goals are to continue to study music and to become a member of the WV Symphony Orchestra.

Other finalists were Jacob Groves, a freshman at Nicolas County High School and Bella Basham, a sophomore from Cabell Midland High School.

Sponsored by Dr. Andrew and Amy Vaughan of Charleston, this fellowship program began in 2002 to develop and encourage West Virginia high-school students to pursue careers as professional musicians, educators, composers or conductors.

This monitored and time-intensive training program for serious music students remains a unique program among orchestras throughout North America.

The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra is West Virginia's premier performing arts organization, presenting classical and pops concerts annually throughout the Mountain State. Currently in its 86th season, the WVSO is a proud member of the community and enriches the region by providing affordable, high-quality concerts, collaborations with West Virginia arts organizations and a nationally award-winning education program.

# WV's free community college helps more residents attain degrees

By Nadia Ramlagan

West Virginia's innovative programs and a boost in state financial aid have made it possible for more people to earn a college degree or get a credential that shows they've achieved competency in a specific field.

The latest data from Lumina Foundation show more than 44% of adults in the Mountain State have attained some level of education after high school.

West Virginia Invest, the state's free community college program, and Level Up, which offers dual enrollment for high schoolers, are driving the increase, said Sarah Tucker, chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. She said dual enrollment can help keep young students on the right track "by enrolling them in dual-enrollment courses in high school that are tailored to the major that they are interested in when they go on to college."

According to the report, in 2023, nearly 10% of West Virginians held an associate degree and around 13% held a bachelor's

Tucker said the state has also worked

to increase FAFSA participation - the form families fill out to get financial aid for college. She noted that last year, the commission staff completed more than 200 FAFSA workshops at high schools, even when the program temporarily shut

"We doubled our needs-based aid program," she said, "so that our neediest students would be able to go to college and wouldn't be left sitting home, which was my biggest fear.'

Affordability is another factor. In West Virginia, Tucker said, 60% of community college students graduate with no student debt to repay.

"What we have seen in the past several years, through keeping our tuition low and this investment by the state," she said, "is that we have really increased the number of our students who don't have any loans."

Nationwide, nearly 55% of people have a postsecondary degree or credential, and around 47% hold a bachelor's

Support for this reporting was provided by Lumina Foundation.



Mr. Krajeski's students and aides are pictured with Superintendent Dobbins.



Pictured are Ms. Vaillancourt's students, Principal Leslie Goe, and Superintendent Dob-

### Attendance numbers released at **Clay County High School**

Attendance is something we never stop working to improve. It is a specific indicator of success in the classroom and later in college and the workplace. We have found that good attendance brings about success in every part of a school day.

Our county goal for the 2024-25 school year is 93% average daily attendance. Several classrooms have achieved monthly averages in the high 90's, but no one, until now, has reached perfection.

Shawn Krajeski has 15 students in his classroom at Clay County High School. During the fourth month, each of his 15 students had perfect attendance. That calculates to a perfect score of 100% for the 4th school month. We have been keeping attendance records each month for the past 6 years.

Until now, perfect attendance for an entire

school month was deemed impossible.

Congratulation to Mr. Krajeski and his 15 high school students!

Closely following Mr. Krajeski's students are Catherine Vaillancourt's students at Clay Middle with a monthly average of 98.90%. Big Otter finished 3rd with Amanda Douglas first graders at 97.65%. And finally, Allison Vaughan's students at Clay Elementary had a monthly average of 97.06%.

Honorable mention goes to Jamie Paxton and Brandi Pierson's 3rd grade students at Big Otter with a 96.90%, JoAnn Metheney's preschool students at Clay Elementary with a 95.28%, Kacie Minger's business and broadcasting students at Clay County High at 94.97% and Kimberly Carroll's Discover Your Future students at Clay Middle with a 92.57%.

### **Cleavenger crowned 2025 CCMS Basketball Homecoming Queen**



Leslie Goe crowns the new queen. Allen Hamrick photo.

See story on Page 8

# BOOKED



### REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

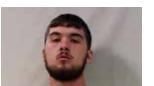
#### BRAXTON CTY.



Jimmy Lee Sandy I Booked 2/9/25 Domestic battery

# CLAY COUNTY —

Eric James Dobbins
Booked 2/7/25
Receiving/transferring stolen
vehicle



Noah Chase Pringle Booked 2/4/25 Domestic battery



Todd Jeffrey Ullum Jr. Booked 2/8/25 Obstructing an officer

#### NICHOLAS COUNTY



Ralph Robert Kimlin IV Booked 2/6/25 Capias



Michael Joseph Neal Booked 2/5/25 Domestic battery third of-

#### NICHOLAS COUNTY



Frederick Wilbert Scott Booked 2/4/25 Family court Capias



Terrance Lee Webster Booked 2/4/25 Family court capias

# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

### Puzzle Answers

### Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

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

### **Super** Crossword -

#### Answers

D	0	G	Τ	R	E	Α	Τ	S		Z	0	R	R	0		1	M	U	S	Τ
Е	Α	R	N	Ε	D	R	J	N		0	R	E	Α	D		Н	Α	S	Т	0
W	Н	Α	Т	١	S	Α	G	0	0	D	N	Α	M	Ε		Ε	L	٧	Е	S
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С	Α	R	Ε	D		F	0	R	Α	С	0	М	Р	Α	N	Υ	T	Н	Α	Τ
0	D	Ι	N		N	Α	Ρ	Α		S	Ρ	Α	R		D	Α	R	Ε	Т	0
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U	N	T	Α	М	Ε			Ε	Ε	L		0	Ε	R		R	Е	Ε	С	Ε
T	Ε	Τ		Р	R	0	М		D	U	D		R	Α	J	Α		D	0	R
Ε	R	0	D	Ε		D	0	М		G	Α	Р			0	Τ	T	Α	W	Α
			R	I	D	Ε	S	0	N	S	М	Α	L	L	Н	0	R	S	Е	S
Α	L	Т	Α		1	R	Α	N	1		S	Р	0	0	N		_	N	R	Ε
C	0	R	N	Ε	Α		1	T	S	Α		Ε	R	Α	S		Р	Ε	Е	R
Т	0	Υ	0	U	N	G	С	Н	1	L	D	R	Ε	N		С	U	R	D	S
S	K	1		T	Ε	Α	S			L	0	S			С	0	Р			
F	1	N	L	Ε	S	S		S	L	0	Т		Τ	Н	0	U		L	0	U
Α	N	G	Ε	R		Ρ	0	N	Υ	F	0	R	Υ	0	U	R	Ţ	0	Т	S
S	Т	0	0	Ρ		Α	L	Α	R	М		0	Р	Ε	N	S	Ε	Α	Т	S
Т	0	N	N	Ε		Τ	Ε	Р	Ε	Ε		Τ	Ε	S	Т	Ε	D	F	0	R

# USPS and U.S. Postal Inspection Service Warn Public About Romance Scams Ahead of Valentine's Day

Fraudsters looking to exploit vulnerable people – here is how to protect yourself

With Valentine's Day approaching, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) want consumers to be aware they may be targeted for romance scams, a deceptive form of fraud that preys on individuals seeking companionship. These scams often start online but frequently escalate to requests for money or valuables sent through the mail, leading to devastating financial and emotional losses for victims.

"Protecting the sanctity and integrity of the mail is our top priority," said USPIS Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale. "This includes protecting customers from mail-related crimes, including fraudulent schemes like romance scams. Public awareness is critical in stopping these criminals before they cause harm."

How romance scams work:

-Scammers create fake identities, often using stolen photos and fictitious personal details.

-They cultivate online relationships over weeks or months, building trust through social media, dating apps, or email, and pledge their love early on.

-Once trust is established, they fabricate urgent financial needs – such as medical emergencies, travel expenses, or business problems – to solicit money.

-Victims are pressured into sending cash, checks, wire transfers, or gift cards, making recovery difficult once the fraud is detected.

How to protect yourself:

-Be cautious of online relationships that escalate quickly, especially if the individual avoids in-person meetings or video calls.

-Look for inconsistencies in the person's profile and the information they share. Keep your personal information private.

-Never send money, checks, gift cards, or personal finance information to someone you haven't met in per-

-Be suspicious of requests for secrecy or urgent finanial help.

-If you think it's a scam, cut off communication immediately and report it.

For more information on romance scams visit Ro-

For more information on romance scams visit Romance Scam – United States Postal Inspection Service. How USPS and USPIS are fighting fraud:

USPS and USPIS are ramping up public outreach efforts to help Americans recognize and avoid mail fraud. In addition to proactive law enforcement measures, the Postal Service is spreading awareness through multiple channels to raise awareness, including:

Social media platforms – USPIS regularly shares public service announcements and prevention messaging on several social media platforms.

Mail fraud prevention resources – Providing updated scam alerts, prevention tips, and reporting tools on Tips & Prevention – United States Postal Inspection Service.

Mailin' It! podcast – Postal inspectors share true crime stories of real cases on the official USPS podcast, Mailin' It! These episodes highlight real cases where fraudsters have used the mail to target victims, reinforcing the importance of staying informed and vigilant.

Wanted Wednesdays – USPIS has a social media campaign spotlighting wanted criminals involved in postal-related crimes.

Fraud prevention webinars and public events – Postal Inspection Service personnel engage with communities through live and virtual events to educate the public on emerging scam tactics.

How to report mail fraud

If you are someone you know has been targeted by a romance scam involving the mail, report it to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at www.uspis.gov/report. Victims should also notify their local law enforcement agency and the Federal Trade Commission at report-fraud.ftc.gov.

### New Educational Video Explains Abuse and Neglect Procedure

The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia has released a new educational video designed to outline and explain the process followed in child abuse and neglect cases.

Like the process itself, the video emphasizes the need to protect children and provide them with a safe environment while also providing parents information about how to work toward a potential goal of reunifying their families if possible.

"Child abuse and neglect cases are the most critical and important cases we deal with in the legal system," said Chief Justice Bill Wooton. "They can also be the most complex and emotionally fraught cases as well, so it is important to clearly explain and educate people about this important process and the goals it is designed to achieve."

The video explains step-by-step what happens when a parent is charged with child abuse and neglect. It emphasizes the need to protect children and provide them with a safe environment, while also explaining the processes in place that can allow a parent to regain custody of their child, provided they demonstrate they are no longer a risk and accomplish the benchmarks that are set for them.

The video was produced over the past year using grant funds provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Protecting children is the highest priority of our court system," said Supreme Court Justice Tim Armstead, who was serving as the Court's chief justice during much of the video's production.

"We know that – if they are safe – children are happiest growing up in their own homes," Justice Arm-

stead said. "Unfortunately, there are many cases, such as those involving physical or sexual abuse, where that is not possible. But for those cases in which it may be possible to reunify families, this video will serve as a tool to help educate people about this process and emphasize the importance of every step involved in it."

The video is available online here: https://www.

youtube.com/watch?v=w6sQov7rF1U.

"This video will provide an excellent resource for parents in assisting them to navigate the abuse and neglect process, and it will ultimately support more positive outcomes for our state's children, which is the primary goal of the Court Improvement Program," said former Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit (Hampshire, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties) Circuit Judge C. Carter Williams, who was chairman of the Court Improvement Program (CIP) during the video's

production.

The CIP oversees federal grants to improve the safety, timely permanency, and well-being of children and to protect due process for families in child abuse/neglect and juvenile cases. The grants are from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families.

There were 5,286 child abuse and neglect cases filed in circuit courts in 2023, about 13 percent of the total case filings that year. At the Supreme Court, there were 251 abuse and neglect appeals filed in 2023, slightly over 43 percent of the total filings.

As the number of abuse and neglect cases has risen, so has the need for foster homes. West Virginia had 6,080 children in foster care as of Dec. 31, 2024, according to the state Department of Human Services. If families can be safely reunited, there is less need for foster homes.

The video was produced by the Supreme Court Public Information Office. It is 100 percent funded through Grant Award No. 2301WVSCIP from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. The content of this video represents the collective professional judgment of the scriptwriters and should not be considered authoritative statements or interpretations of the law by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.



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### An Innocent Love And A Spontaneous Joy

#### By Joe Mazzella

When first one and then both of my sons were diagnosed with autism and mental handicaps I didn't know the journey I was in for. It has been one that has had pain, frustration, worry, fear, anger, sadness, and despair. Yet, it has also been one that has had laughter, peace, learning, love, joy, and growth. I didn't know then that my two sons were to become my greatest teachers in how to live and how to love.

My oldest son, JJ, has an innocent love that seems frozen in an eternal childhood. He smiles and greets everyone he meets. He makes beaded key chains and homemade Christmas cards to hand out to everyone he knows. He lives a life of such sweet, unconditional love that I am always amazed by it. His younger brother, Casey, has a more severe form of autism. He doesn't speak much and is lost in his own world most of the time. Yet, he also has a spontaneous joy that erupts at times. His laughter and smile can uplift my spirits and warm my heart on even the coldest and saddest day. I feel so blessed having both of my boys in my life. And I thank God everyday for them.

Mitch Albom wrote: "A child is both an anchor and a set of wings." This is true for both of my sons. They anchor me in my daily work and responsibilities caring for them and they also give my soul a set of wings that connects me to love, to joy, to Heaven, and to God. It isn't always easy having two sons over 30 trapped mentally in an eternal childhood. But spiritually they help me each day to love more deeply, to give more freely, and to share more joyously.

When you see a child or adult with special needs always remember that they are also special souls. They are a gift from God and we can learn so much from them. May we all one day love as freely, as happily, and as joyously as they do.

### **Home Country**

#### Slim Randles

They are getting ready now, wondering if the race will bring prize money, glory to their dogs, or just some quiet laughter from the other mushers.

The Iditarod Trail.

It has come to mean "The Trail" to dog mushers and kennel owners all over the state of Alaska and in a lot of other places.

There are other long distance dogsled races now. We know that. But the Iditarod started all that "long, cold camping trip" stuff. And I was lucky to be a part of that very first Iditarod in March of 1973.

Strangely enough, each musher has a list of lifesaving equipment and food on that sled. Unfortunately, when they check a musher's lungs and heart, they forget to test the brain. The race would probably be run quicker and more efficiently, but it undoubtedly wouldn't be as much fun.

In my closet, hanging on a hook where it's been for more than half a century, is a handmade down parka covered with gold-colored heavy cloth. I wear it every year on the first Saturday in March to remind me of the race and of a woman named Pam who made it for me. We lost Pam this last year, but she was the eyes and ears and ambulance dispatcher of the first few races. And she was my wife, then, too.

I was injured about 300 miles into this thousand-mile race and was rescued by military helicopter. I started the race with seven dogs, as that was the minimum and then the minimum was changed to nine dogs.

nine dogs.

So if you find yourself somewhere between Anchorage and Nome and you see tired people and cold dogs with icicles hanging on them. Smile and say you send greetings from Seven-Dog Slim. Will you? Thanks.

Brought to you by Slim's book "Dogsled: A True Tale of the North" available on the internet and in bookstores everywhere.

### A Needle Named Miss Ouch

#### By Dr. James L. Snyder

My father has been gone for 15 years. It hardly seems that long, but time goes by, and you can't stop it.

One of my father's "jokes" was, "Son, I'm so sick and tired of being sick and tired." Then he would laugh, and I would, of course, join in with his laughter. Although I was laughing, I did not get the punch line.

I may be getting a little closer to understanding that joke, but believe me, I'm not laughing.

In the hospital recently, I thought about my dad's "joke." And believe me, I was sick and tired of being sick and tired of the hospital. I think I was there for four days and four nights, but I can't be too sure.

One thing I learned during my time in the hospital was how important nurses and the nursing staff are. Everything I needed was at their disposal, and all I had to do was ask—and sometimes, I didn't even have to ask.

I had about six nurses in my room daily, including nursing staff and technical nurses. They were cheerful and encouraging, and I enjoyed getting to know them. I was, however, very anxious to leave the hospital and

go home. I didn't have anything against the hospital staff; I just wanted to go home. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired in the hospital.

Every morning, I would ask one of the staff if I was go-

ing home today. It was the first thing on my mind when I woke up. Is today the day?

The staff always applied "No. I den't believe you'll be

The staff always replied, "No, I don't believe you'll be going home today. Maybe tomorrow."

Well, everybody knows that tomorrow never comes.

And I was sorry to hang around in this atmosphere much longer.

Every day, I had nurses coming in with their favorite

instrument, the needle, to give me my shots for the day. I'm not sure I counted right, but I think I had at least 10 shots daily. Even now, my stomach is still black from all of the needles poked in my stomach. I'm not sure what the needles in the stomach were for, but they were there. Pain is something that is not one of my friends. I don't

like pain. Those needles in the hands of those nurses created pain in this body of mine.

On the first day, when one of the nurses came in to give

me my first needle shot, she said, "There's no need to worry. This will not hurt in any way." Then she smiled at me, a smile I'll never forget until I'm in my coffin.

To this day, I do not know what she understood pain

to be. But that very first needle shot in my stomach was painful, according to my definition of pain.

After I gasped most hurtful, the nurse said, "See, that

didn't hurt, did it?"

Since this nurse with the needle in hand was female, I responded to her as I would to my wife. I smiled and said, "I didn't feel a thing." She smiled back at me most wonderfully.

That was just the beginning.

Every time the nurse came into my room, I froze in expectation of pain. I tried to hide behind a pseudo-smile so the nurse would think I wasn't in pain.

After the third day of being stuck with needle after needle after needle, I leaned back in my bed and thought a lot about those needles. Then, a thought came to my mind. What that nurse held in her hand as she entered my room was "A Needle Named Miss Ouch."

Every time I looked at Miss Ouch, my body froze in expectation of pain.

Those needles were causing me a lot of pain, and I wanted to do something to get rid of every needle in the hospital. It was those needles causing me pain.

Every time I got a needle shot in my stomach, the nurse always looked at me, smiled, and said, "This isn't going to hurt."

Of course, it's not going to hurt her. Doesn't she understand that the hurt is on my side of the needle, not hers?

As I was recovering from the last shot from Miss

Ouch, I began to rethink this whole matter. Was it really that needle causing me pain? I thought about that for a while.

Then, my thinking went in the direction of the purse.

Then, my thinking went in the direction of the nurse. Would the needle pierce my stomach if it was not for the nurse? The pain is not a result of the needle but rather a result of the nurse. She is the source of my pain.

That caused me to think a little bit. Because the nurse

was in control of the needle, it could be more or less painful, and I tried to make sure that it was going to be less painful. I tried to smile cheerfully at my nurse and not let her know I was in pain. I did not want to upset her because an upset nurse can cause more pain through the needle.

Pasting in my had a verse of scripture come to mind.

Resting in my bed a verse of scripture came to mind. James 1:2-3, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

With the needle came pain, but also, the medicine I need. Through pain comes my medical solution.

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

# Treasurer Pack celebrates 7th anniversary of WVABLE Savings Program

State Treasurer Larry Pack today celebrated the 7th anniversary of WVABLE – a savings program offered by the State Treasurer's Office that provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to save and invest without jeopardizing needs-based public benefits.

"Over the last seven years, my Office's WVABLE Savings Program has helped empower hundreds of West Virginians with disabilities to become more financially independent," Treasurer Pack said. "I'm proud West Virginia was one of the first states to launch this program that has removed barriers for individuals with disabilities and their families to save for their future."

In 2014, Congress passed a piece of legislation called The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience Act – the ABLE Act. This legislation enabled state-run savings plans, which are modeled after 529 savings plans, to allow eligible individuals to save and invest money without harming their ability to receive public benefits.

Prior to the passage of the ABLE Act, individuals with a disability were not permitted to save more than \$2,000 without being at risk of losing federal needsbased benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

On February 9, 2018, the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office launched WVABLE by partnering with the Ohio Treasurer's Office STABLE savings program, a national ABLE plan, to make STABLE accounts available to residents of West Virginia.

According to the National Association of State Treasurers, there are currently 46 states and DC that have launched ABLE programs.

Since the program's inception, WVABLE account-holders and their families have saved over \$9.7 million. The average WVABLE account balance is more than \$9,500, which is nearly five times the amount individuals with a disability were permitted to save before the program was established.

"WVABLE is honored to provide a pathway for West Virginians with a disability to finally be able to plan and

save for a brighter financial future and a life of greater independence," WVABLE Program Director Roxanne Clay said. "The beauty of WVABLE accounts is their flexibility in how individuals with a disability and their families use the accounts as well as the savings potential for every accountholder. Bottom line, every accountholder's circumstances and goals differ, and WVABLE accounts enable each individual and their family to finally be able to set and achieve their savings and investments goals without the fear of losing public benefits that are critical to their health and wellbeing."

During 2024, WVABLE's assets under management increased by nearly 34 percent.

Treasurer Pack is excited to support the ABLE Age Adjustment Act when it takes effect in 2026. The new law will raise the age limit for the onset of a disability from before 26 to before 46. It is estimated this will increase the number of those eligible for an ABLE account by 6.5 million nationwide, including one million

"Tens of thousands of West Virginians will benefit from this move, including our state's veterans who developed a disability later in life," Treasurer Pack said. "The ABLE Age Adjustment Act will allow them to start saving with a WVABLE account."

If you are a resident of West Virginia who developed a disability or blindness before the age of 26 and are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, or have a signed Diagnosis Form from a licensed physician, you can open a STABLE account through WVABLE.

To learn more about eligibility, take WVABLE's eligibility quiz at: www.wvable.com/eligibility.

The WVABLE program conducts monthly webinars, presented by Program Director Roxanne Clay, that are open to the public for West Virginians to learn about the critical benefits of opening a WVABLE savings account.

For more information about WVABLE, or to sign up for an account, visit www.wvtreasury.gov/WVABLE.



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



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### This Week in

# West Virginia History

Feb. 12, 1867: Barboursville was incorporated by an act of the state Originally legislature. the county seat of Cabell County, it lost that honor after the C&O Railway was completed to Huntington.

Feb. 12, 1899: Karl Dewey Myers was born in Tucker County with severe disabilities. He never attended school but educated himself through persistent self-study. He was named the state's first poet laureate in 1927.

Feb. 13, 1800: Gen. John Jay Jackson was born near Parkersburg. He served in the Seminole Wars as a member of Gen. Andrew Jackson's staff.



Feb. 13, 1913. Labor leader Mother Jones was arrested in Charleston after supporting union miners on Paint Creek and Cabin Creek.



Feb. 13, 1923: Chuck Yeager was born at Myra, about seven miles from Hamlin. In 1947, in a Bell X-1 rocket airplane dropped from a B-29 bomber, Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier by flying 700 miles per hour.



Feb. 13, 1977: Foot-

ball wide receiver Randy Moss was born in Rand, Kanawha County. After two All-American seasons at Marshall University, he went on to a hall of fame career in the National Football League.

Feb. 14, 1866: Grant County was created and named for Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, who later became the nation's 18th president.



Feb. 15, 1898: Musician John Homer "Uncle Homer" Walker was born in Mercer County. Among the last in a tradition of Black Appalachian banjo players, he played the five-string banjo in the clawhammer style.

Feb. 15, 1930: Sara Jane Moore was born in Charleston. On Sept. 22, 1975, Moore attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford in San Francisco.



Feb. 15, 1975: Elizabeth Kee, the state's first female member of Congress, died in Bluefield. Kee was elected to Congress in 1951 after the death of her husband, John. She retired in 1965 and was succeeded by her son, James.

Feb. 16, 1821: Morris Harvey was born near Prosperity in Raleigh County. Harvey's gifts to the Barboursville Seminary led to its name being changed to Morris Harvey College in 1901. The institution is now known as the University of Charles-

Feb. 16, 1917: The legislature established the West Virginia State Colored Tuberculosis Sanitarium for the care of Black TB patients. It was built at Denmar in Pocahontas



Feb. 16, 1951: Second Lieutenant Darwin Keith Kyle of Boone County died during an intense exchange against Chinese forces in Korea. He was awarded the Medal of

Feb. 17, 1735: Morgan Morgan of present-day Berkeley County was commissioned a captain of militia in the 201st Field Artillery, which is considered the oldest military unit in the United States.

Feb. 17, 1930: Tunney Hunsaker was born

4 Blasting stuff

5 Kept in check

6 1950s Ford

-cone

10 Astrological

diagrams

11 Writer Sarah

12 Scan or skim

13 Aries animal

14 Ukraine port

about it!"

17 Generalized

situation

(cosmetics

ingredient)

tortilla chips

30 Competitor of

McDonald's

and Burger

31 Big Swiss city

**15** "Tell me

16 Ale grain

rivalry

19 Brand of

24 Gymnast

Korbut

18 Zinc

Jewett

7 "I smell

8 Yanks

in Kentucky and later became Fayetteville's longtime chief of police. He was also a boxer and, in 1960, lost to a young Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) in Ali's first professional bout.



Feb. 18, 1843: Ritchie County was created from portions of Wood, Lewis, and Harrison counties. The county was named Virginia journalist politician Thomas and Ritchie.

Feb. 18, 1890: Ellison Mounts, a cousin to the Hatfield family, was hanged for murder, ending the Hatfield-McCoy Feud.

Feb. 18, 1969: Hundreds of miners in Raleigh County went on strike over the issue of black lung. Within days, the walkout spread throughout southern West Virginia.

TYKES IN THE

SADDLE

82 Keaton and

Sawyer

in law

84 Folk stories

86 Gets on it

87 Investigate

the fit of

93 One of the

95 1984 comedy starring Steve

Martin and

Lily Tomlin

with a quick

Muses

99 React to

breath

100 Inflict upon

Spinks

94-Across

instrument

**105** Tally up

109 Apollo's

110 Variety

107 Boxer

**108** See

101 Meal division

88 Checking

85 Bank offering

right away

83 Not yet final,

### HOCUS-FOCUS HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Spatula is wider. 2. Tie is different. 3. Sleeve is

#### **Super** Crossword 3 Protein unit 38 Lot in life

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Milk-Bone products
- 10 Legendary masked swordsman
- 15 "Getting out of it is not
- possible for me"
- 20 Stat for a baseball
- pitcher 21 Mountain
- nymph of Greek myth
- 22 Can't get out of it
- 23 Start of a
- riddle
- 25 Santa's little helpers
- 26 "Delicious!" 27 Insect
- snares 28 Told fibs
- 29 Attempts to hit, as a fly
- 31 Hair fixative
- 32 Ryder Cup
- 33 Manipulator 34 Prefix with
- angle
- 35 Felt concern
- 38 Riddle, part 2 43 Supreme
- Norse deity
- 44 California vineyard valley

20

115

120

123

#### New Year 65 Grad's gala 68 Flop 70 Indian royal 72 Caméra -(Cannes

45 Joust

verbally

46 Words before

"dream" or

47 Jazz pianist

52 City in Iowa

57 Not docile

58 Serpentine

in poetry

60 Gabrielle of

vollevball

64 Vietnamese

fish

59 Above.

53 Riddle, part 3

Allison

50 In a very

**48** Loft

"be different"

uncordial way

- award) 73 Wear down 75 Actor
- DeLuise 77 Space 79 Big city in
- Ontario 81 Riddle, part 4 86 Utah winter
- vacation spot 89 From Tehran
- or Tabriz **90** Ladle, e.g. 91 Concerning **92** Iris coverer

### Down, "Piece

- 94 With 108-
- of cake!" 96 Memorable
- periods
- 97 Squint 98 End of the
- riddle
- 101 Cottage cheese bits 102 Hit the slopes
- 103 Alternatives to coffees
- 104 Part of LAPD 105 Perp catcher
- 106 Like fishes without
- appendages 108 Casino fixture
- 110 Holier-
- than-112 Rock's Reed
- 115 Make irate
- 116 Riddle's answer
- 120 Crouch down
- 121 Fill with panic 122 Vacant
- elected positions
- 123 1.000-kilo
- metric unit
- 124 Conical tent
- 125 Analyzed to detect the

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Like a wet

#### lawn at dawn 2 Waikiki locale

#### 32 Extol 33 Toward a

stream's source

King

- presence of
  - 35 Calculate

  - hanger, e.g. 37 Italian rice

  - 36 Ornament

- 69 Blocks up
- University

assignments

39 Makes the

decision

40 Sheriff Andv

**41** PC shortcut

44 Consumer

Ralph

49 Signaled,

51 Pre-euro

54 Bank of

55 Power

advocate

as an actor

Italian money

China Tower

architect

56 One of the

Muses

61 He played

**62** Recoiled

in fear

63 Blackboard

clearers

66 Baltic Sea

feeder

connectors

Santa in "Elf"

code

42 Barter

Taylor's boy

- 74 Clog-clearing brand
- 76 Year division **78** Writing

80 Cause to

111 Gardening 67 Tile designs tools 112 Bread unit — Hopkins

119

- 113 Film director Preminger
- 114 Khrushchev's fed.
- 117 Corrida cheer 118 Decay
- 119 Actor Danson 18

#### 23 Weekly **SUDOKU** 32 3 6 4 36 35 38 8 1 43 3 6 9 4 48 52 5 3 6 53 54 9 5 6 58 2 3 8 64 5 1 6 73 3 5 7 9 82 9 1 5 91 87 92 93 Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 98 small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. 105 102 103 104 106 107 108 | 109 110 | 111 112 | 113 | 114

#### **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆ ◀ ♦ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY! © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc

122

125

116 117

121

124



# THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike should vote alike.

### "DUNDON" RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.



**April 1958** 

### Twenty-Sixth Annual Commencement

WIDEN HIGH SCHOOL Y. M. C. A. AUDITORIUM THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 15, 1958 Eight O'Clock

PROCESSIONAL W.H.S. Band
INVOCATION H. C. Johnson
HYMN—"America The Beautiful" Audience
"OURS IS THE WORLD" Heller & Morgan
(Girls' Chorus)
"WELCOME ADDRESS" Joan Truman Dawson
"YOUR PAST vs YOUR FUTURE" Harry M. Brawley
(Morris Harvey College, WCHS-TV)
"FIRST PSALM" Choral Reading
(Girls' Chorus)
"FAREWELL" Lillian Dodrill
AWARD OF ROTARY MEDALS Harold Dawson
"PASSING BY" E. Purchell
(Girls' Chorus)
PRESENTATION OF CLASS OF 1958 H. E. Baer, Prin.
PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS John R. Pell
(President Clay County Board of Education)
RECESSIONAL W.H.S. Band
DIRECTORS OF MUSIC Gerald Simmons
Mrs. B. E. Taylor
ACCOMPANIST Dawne Backus
(The audience will please remain seated until the class

#### Baccalaureate Service

has marched out)

Y. M. C. A. AUDITORIUM SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 11, 1958 Eight O'Clock

WY C Dand
PROCESSIONAL W.H.S. Band
INVOCATION Dr. T. W. Potter
(Christ Church Methodist, Charleston)
"BLESSED JESUS" C. A. Scholin
(Girls' Chorus)
SCRIPTURE READING Helen Ellis
"TREES" Oscar Rasbach
(Girls' Chorus)
SERMON-"Chain Reaction" Dr. T. W. Potter
HYMN-"Abide With Me" Audience
BENEDICTION Dr. T. W. Potter
(Everybody please stand)
"DEEP RIVER" John Verrall
(Girls' Chorus)
RECESSIONAL W.H.S. Band
DIRECTORS OF MUSIC Gerald Simmons
Mrs. B. E. Taylor
ACCOMPANIST Dawne Backus
(The audience will please remain seated until the class
THE SHRIENCE AND DIEGOE LEMMIN SCHOOL STORE STOR

### Little Things With Big Thoughts

has marched out)

The blizzard was over. The sun was shining. The gales subsided to a soft wind. On the breeze, in the midst of winter, I smelled Spring. As the sun shone on the bare trees, I caught for an instant, the faint pinkness of swollen buds..

I knew it was still winter. Snow would come again; but I now had that certain hope, Spring was near. Just so, I have felt, and who has not, in the, midst of worry or discouragement, a single moment of uplift of hope.

To hold onto the knowledge that Spring is coming, is easy. We know it must. To hold onto the ray of hope is harder. There are no facts to uphold us. But we do have, that which is greater than knowledge, Faith.

#### NOBILITY

True worth is in being, not seeming-

In doing each day that goes by Some little good-not in the dreaming

Of great things to do by and by. For whatever men say in blindness, And spite of the fancies of youth.

There's nothing so kingly as kindness, And nothing so royal as truth.

We get back our mete as we measure.

We cannot do wrong and feel right,

Nor can we give pain and gain pleasure, For justice avenges each slight.

The air for the wing of the sparrow, The bush for the robin and

wren, But always the path that is narrow And straight, for the children of men.

The not in the pages of story The heart of its fils to beguile. Though he who makes courtship to glory

Gives all that he hath for her smile. For when from her heights he has

won her, Alas! It is only to prove

That nothing's so sacred as honor, And nothing so loyal as love!

We cannot make bargains for blisses,

Nor eatch them like fishes in And sometimes the thing our life

misses. Helps more than the thing which it gets.

For good lieth not in pursuing. Nor gaining of great nor of small,

But just in the doing, and doing As we would be done by, is all. Through envy, through malice through hating.

Against the world early and

No jot of our courage abating-Our part is to work and to wait. And sligt is the sting of his trouble.

Whose winnings are less than his worth: For he who is honest is noble

Whatever his fortunes or birth. Alice Cary

#### RELIEF COMMITTEE APPROYES BENEFITS FOR MONTH OF MARCH

The Widen Relief Committee at its reular monthly meeting, held at the Widen office on March 22, approved benefits for 179 active and retired employees, as well as payments to survivors of deceased employees.

Payments of \$100 each for the month of April were made to twenty-seven retired men. There has been no change in that list since last July.

Twenty-four employees drew disability benefits, nine for a portion of the month and fifteen for the entire month of March. Twenly employees, Richard Kelly, Herbert Thorne, Robert Perkins, Clarence Miller, J. A. McKinney, Wade Dodrill J. B. Holcomb. Ophie Hall, Clarence Wilson, Martin Dodrill, Ira Houghton, Theodore Johnson, Perry Houghton, Clyde McClain! Howard Brage. Gilbert Frame, J. H. Cook, Leo King, Earl Napler and Hamon Adkins were still off work at the end of the month.

The only change in the list of turvivors receiving benefits was the addition of Lucy Facemire, widow of Lanty Facemire, and her dependent grandchild. That makes a total of thirty widows and fiftyone surviving minor children who are receiving Widen Relief benefits now.

In addition to the regular list account at Charleston General Hospital, medical and hospital medical and hospital bills were paid for 147 active and retired employees at Buckhannon, Charleston, Clay, Clendenin, Cowen, Gassaway, Glenville, Grantsville, Marmet, Montgomery, Richwood, South Charleston, Summersville, and Sutton, W. Va. and Massilon, Ohlo.

If you could kick the person responsible for most of your troubles, you wouldn't be able to sit down for six months.

One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men; but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

DAFFVNITIONS Maternity Hos pital: "Heirport."

Smile: "Something that adds to your face value." .

A safety lesson from nature: Take the woodpecker. When he works he uses his head.

### **West Virginia Statewide Classified Network**

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2002 Jeep Wrangle



2018 Ford F-150



2018 Ford F-150

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- Oil 1 Qt \$5.99- \$8.99 Up to A \$1 off with cash!
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#### **IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR CAREGIVERS**

#### PERSONAL ATTENDANTS (CAREGIVERS) **NEEDED IMMEDIATELY IN CLAY COUNTY**

Newly revised salary schedule based on experience and certifications, weekend differential of \$2.00 more per hour; 32 hours of paid holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas), \$2.00 more per hour on other minor holidays worked (July 4th and New Year's Day); sub bonuses of \$300.00 per quarter, paid training, and free CPR. Pre-employment Drug Screening and CIB required.

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#### .EGAL

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

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

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

Publication Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 Claim Deadline: Monday, April 7, 2025 APPOINTMENT DATE 11/13/2024

ESTATE NAME:

ANNA MARLENE POTASNIK **EXECUTRIX** REBECCA ANN PROCTOR

3606 BELLE VISTA DRIVE EAST ST. PETE BEACH FL 33706-2625

VERNAL B TAYLOR

7348 CLAY HIGHWAY

LAVERN URSULA TAYLOR 315 JESSE REEDY RD

BICKMORE WV 25019-9669

BICKMORE WV 25019-9652

APPOINTMENT DATE 01/17/2025 ESTATE NAME:

RANDY ALLEN RAMSEY CO EXECUTRIX BETTY JO RAMSEY 7102 IVYDALE RD CLAY WV 25043-7064

APPOINTMENT DATE

ESTATE NAME: CO EXECUTRIX

CO EXECUTRIX JO ANNETTE CARVER

Clay County

P.O. Box 190

246 Main Street

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 01/31/2025

Clay, WV 25043-0190

### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 24-0895-PWD-30B GAULEY RIVER PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

Rule 30B application to pass through increased costs of purchased water from Kanawha Falls Public Service District to Gauley River Public Service District's customers

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that Gauley River Public Service District (District), a public utility, filed a request to pass through increased purchased water costs from the Kanawha Falls Public Service District (Kanawha Falls) to the District's customers. The Commission approved a rate increase for Kanawha Falls for all service rendered on and after December 24, 2024 in Case No. 24-0566-PWD-19A. Kanawha Falls has an approved resale rate of \$5.33 per thousand gallons, reflecting an increase of \$0.50 per thousand gallons, or 10.35% from the prior resale rate of \$4.83 per thousand gallons.

Commission Staff reviewed the District's application and recommended that the Commission approve Staff Recommended Rates effective on an interim basis for all service rendered on and after February 5, 2025. By Order issued February 5, 2025, the Commission approved the Staff Recommended Rates on an interim basis, that increased rates by \$0.48 per thousand gallons metered water usage. The Commission also approved the Staff proposed leak adjustment rate of \$9.70 per thousand gallons of metered water usage.

The average monthly bill increase will be changed as follows over

% Increase

	ψ Increase	70 Increase
Residential	\$1.34	2.18%
Commercial	\$0.91	1.48%
Industrial	\$7.92	2.55%
Public authorities	\$135.70	2.91%
Wilderness PSD	\$169.58	7.16%
T 20D 1 1	. 14 .1 6	1

The 30B procedure is designed to provide for a change in rates and charges in order to produce additional revenue sufficient, but no more than sufficient, to offset the increased cost for water purchased by the utility. Consequently, protest should be limited to the reasonableness of the cost offset and the method by which it is calculated. Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or notice of intervention within twenty (20) days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases and to participate in future proceedings. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. All protests and interventions should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Com-

#### mission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323. GAULEY RIVER PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

### WVDA secures legal victory in beekeeping case

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has achieved a major legal victory for farmers and beekeepers across the state. In November 2024, the WVDA intervened in the Kanawha County Circuit Court case Alex Urban v. City of South Charleston to defend the rights of West Virginians to engage in agricultural practices, including beekeeping. This effort was part of the department's commitment to protecting the right to farm and upholding the West Virginia Apiary Act.

Mr. Urban had previously petitioned the City of South Charleston for a permit to keep honeybees on his property, a request that was denied. Following his petition, the city enacted an ordinance prohibiting residents from keeping domesticated animals, including bees. In response, Mr. Urban filed suit against the city, and the WVDA intervened to protect its regulatory authority over honeybees.

The WVDA argued that the City of South Charleston exceeded its legal authority by attempting to regulate honeybees, a responsibility designated exclusively to the state under the West Virginia Apiary Act (§19-13-1

et seq.). Furthermore, the ordinance directly challenged the agency's jurisdiction under the West Virginia Right to Farm Law (§19-19-1 et seq.), which safeguards the rights of farmers and beekeepers statewide. The Court ultimately ruled in favor of the WVDA, affirming that regulatory authority over beekeeping rests solely with

"This decision reaffirms the WVDA's role in regulating honeybees and ensures that West Virginians retain their right to farm," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "Beekeeping is a crucial component of agriculture and environmental sustainability, and we are committed to protecting those who contribute to our state's food systems."

As a result of the case, beekeepers statewide can have reassurance they can continue to operate and contribute to local agriculture.

"The WVDA's legal team and staff worked tirelessly on this case," said Commissioner Leonhardt. "We worked diligently to ensure that the law remains clear and fair for all West Virginia farmers and beekeepers."

### **Secretary Warner announces the 2025 Legislative Initiatives for the WV Secretary** of State's Office

While meeting with members of the West Virginia Press Association (WVPA) at their annual "Legislative Look-Ahead Conference" held in Charleston, Secretary of State Kris Warner announced the 2025 legislative initiatives for the Secretary of State's Office (WVSOS).

Secretary Warner took office as West Virginia's 31st Secretary of State on January 13 after serving four years as the Executive Director of the WV Economic Development Authority (WVEDA). Prior to his time at the WVEDA, he was appointed by President Donald Trump to serve as the West Virginia State Director for USDA Rural Development.

The WVPA's conference was held at the WV Culture Center at the State Capitol. Secretary Warner participated in a panel discussion with other statewide elected officials, using the opportunity to outline his priorities for the 2025 legislative session that begins on February 12. Those priorities include:

-Keeping voter rolls clean and as up-to-date as pos-

non-photo documents, such as utility bills and bank statements, as acceptable forms of identification;

-Increasing transparency in "dark money" campaign finance activities;

-Enhancing penalties for failure to file campaign finance reports on time;

-Streamlining the election complaint process; -Clarifying voter registration eligibility for individuals

-Strengthening Voter ID requirements by removing

with a diminished mental capacity;

-Prohibiting ranked-choice voting in all elections;

-Clarifying who is allowed in polling places during the voting period; and

-Allowing the WVSOS to purchase critical election infrastructure without the red tape.

"It is an honor for me to serve as the state's chief elections officer in a state that has prioritized election integrity in every county," Secretary Warner said. "I will continue working with our county clerks and with the West Virginia legislature to ensure that every eligible citizen has the right to register to vote and to cast a ballot."

Warner, a successful entrepreneur and small business owner for more than 30 years, also emphasized his commitment to improving West Virginia's business climate to support entrepreneurs and startups throughout the state.

"I will work with the Legislature to expand access to information, resources, and opportunities for entrepreneurs and small business owners looking to start a business in West Virginia," Warner said. "My goal is to expand the services available through the WV One Stop Business Center to support small business success and encourage entrepreneurship in every local community.'

The WVPA, founded in 1869, is a nonprofit organization representing 79 newspapers across the state. The WVPA hosts its annual "Legislative Look-Ahead Conference" before the start of the legislative session to hear from lawmakers, statewide elected officials, and the gov-

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#### WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION **Division of Highways** NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until February 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call Contract **State Project** Federal Project 003 2022810004 S381-REC/AL-25 00 STBG-2025(002)D PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Description D-1 RECALL STRIPING 2025

DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: BOONE, CLAY, KANAWHA, MASON, PUTNAM

**DBE GOAL:** 8 % OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

**REMARKS:** Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on

Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' licence is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater. The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay

or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. All bidders holding valid bidding proposals will be notified of such deferment, delay or postponement and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened. The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it

will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be dis-

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### Cleavenger crowned 2025 CCMS Basketball Homecoming Queen



John Paxton hits for two points.



Jaxon Blankenship gets the block on the Highlanders.



Briar Dorsey gets two points the hard way.



Canaan Payton with the two point jumper.

### By Allen Hamrick It was smack down time at CCMS as

the Webster County Highlanders came to the Mustangs' home turf wanting to clean house. From the beginning, it looked as though the Highlanders would run the courts and walk off winners running up a 12-7 lead in the 1st period. The Mustangs, however, had their own plans. They came out firing, kicked the game into turbo in the 2nd period and went on a 17 point spree. They got back in the game with some great defense on the perimeter and in the paint. It was scopes on, and at the end of the first half the score stood at 23-20 Mustangs. After pep talks at the half, both teams come out gunning but were missing their marks with the Highlanders keeping a spitting distance from taking the lead. The 4th quarter was just about the same way - full of action and the lead went back and forth. In the end, it was the Mustangs over the Highlanders by two points. The final score was Mus-

tangs 41, Highlanders 39. The boys of CCMS will be back in action soon as the CWVAC tournament plays out February 17-21.

It was also Homecoming night for the

Mustangs, the time to crown the CCMS 2025 Basketball Homecoming Queen. All the princesses and their escorts lined up and were introduced to the cheering fans. Then it was time for the coronation of the queen. Vanessa Cleavenger, along with escort Jackson Stricker, strode in to the

cheers of family and friends to be crowned 2025 Basketball Homecoming Queen by Principal Leslie Goe. She gracefully accepted her crown and will no doubt be a queen that represents the school well. Sixth grade princess was Denae Stricker with escort was Teagan Boggs. Seventh grade princess was Aubree Keenan with escort Gunner Dobbins. Eighth grade princess was Kennedy Adkins with escort Canaan Payton. Congratulations to Queen Cleavenger and her court.

### Mustang wrestling places 7 in the top 5 at CWVAC tournament

#### By Allen Hamrick

Saturday was the final hoorah for the Mustang wrestling program this season as they participated in the Mona Lisa of wrestling tournaments, the CWVAC Championship, held at Spencer Middle School. The Mustangs have been in the hunt all season at tournaments held throughout the area and have only gotten better and better. This tournament would pit all the finest middle school programs in the region and all those at the top of the food chain. The Mustangs came in strong and were handing out tissues early as it was neither a place to ask for quarter nor a place to give it.

It was a drama from start to finish, to say the least; the Mustangs held their own but were wrestlers down in the lineup so scoring team points would be a tough road to haul. There was a race at the end for individual placement as three Mustangs wrestlers headed to the championship round. The time for listening to coaches and fans was over; it was time to step into the circle to prove your grit - you either win or you don't, it's that simple. The Mustang team has always given the fans their money's worth, and this tournament was no different. In the end, the Mustangs placed seven wrestlers in the top 5: Gabby Belt 3rd, Jason Belt 4th, Jacob Vance 4th, Cade Hamrick 2nd, Kaleb Keen 2nd, Levi Hamrick 4th and Gabe Metheney 2nd.

This has been a great season for the Mustangs. With all the rough weather, they didn't get in as much wrestling as normal but did themselves proud. They are a powerhouse and always will be the ones to beat at wrestling meets. History proves there have been more state champions produced on the wrestling mats than any other sport in Clay County, and many have went through the CCMS wrestling program. Congratulations to the coaches and the wrestlers on a great season.



Cade Hamrick getting the pin.



Gabe Metheney with the pin.



Kaleb Keen setting up the pin.



Gabby Belt with brutal cross face.

# Lady Mustangs fall to the Lady Knights



Autumn Rapp hits 3 of her 20 points.



Marissa Atha looking for an opening.

#### By Allen Hamrick

To catch up on the Lady Mustangs' season, they met their Waterloo once again as they battled the Lady Knights of Braxton for the second time this season. In their first meeting this season, the Lady Knights took it to the Lady Mustangs and defeated them on Lady Mustang turf. Call it voodoo, call it what you will, but every time these two

teams meet, it promises to be a barn burner. This being their second meeting of regular season it promised to be a tough one. The Lady Mustangs were playing catch-up most of the game, and at the end of the 2nd period, the lead was within five as the Lady Knights held a 14-19 lead.

held a 14-19 lead.

In the second half, the Lady Mustangs fought hard, but the wicked witch put a hex

on the net and points were as hard to get as a thousand dollar bill in the 3rd period. The Lady Knights took a 10 point lead going into the fourth. The Lady Mustangs turned up the heat in the 4th putting 13 more points on the board, but it was too late as the Lady Knights once again beat the Lady Mustangs 38-31. The Lady Mustangs kept it close with some great shooting from Autumn Rapp who

dropped twenty points in the game and led the Mustangs in scoring. These two teams will meet again on Monday night in the start of the CWVAC tournament. Whoever wins here will continue in the tournament while a loss means the season is over. So, if you get the opportunity to catch the game Monday night, you will see if the Lady Mustangs can pull off the win.