



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



Volume 136 No. 54

Periodical Postage Paid at Clay, West Virginia 25043-0180

Thursday, April 10, 2025

\$1.⁰⁰

Clay County man charged with double homicide following deadly shooting in Ivydale

A Clay County man has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder following a shooting that claimed the lives of a woman and man earlier this week in Ivydale, according to a criminal complaint filed in Clay County Magistrate Court.

Michael Wayne Adkins, 58, of Duck, was formally charged last Thursday in connection with the fatal shootings of Brenda Lee Dennis and Richard Bishop, who were found dead Tuesday night inside Dennis's residence on Big Otter Highway.

According to the complaint, officers were alerted to the scene by Robert Daniel Dennis, who discovered the bodies of Brenda Dennis and Richard Bishop inside the home. Responding officers found both victims with gunshot wounds. Dennis suffered a single gunshot wound to the chest, while Bishop had been shot three times—in the chest, back, and head.

Spent 9mm shell casings were recovered at the scene, and the area was secured as a crime scene investigation began. Wiseman transported Adkins to the West Virginia State Police Clay Detachment for questioning later that day.

During a recorded interview, Adkins allegedly confessed to the killings, stat-

ing that an argument with Dennis preceded the fatal encounter. Adkins told investigators that Bishop had threatened him before he opened fire with a 9mm pistol. He reportedly admitted to shooting Bishop three times and Dennis once.

Robert Dennis, in a statement made to police, said that Brenda Dennis and Richard Bishop were dating, but that Michael Adkins was also "as Ms. Dennis's residence nearly every day" and "that Mr. Bishop and Mr. Adkins did not get along, and that Mr. Adkins was obsessed with Ms. Dennis."

Adkins allegedly stated during his interview with police that he had known Brenda Dennis for approximately three years, and "he had taken her anywhere he wanted to go and did anything she asked. Mr. Adkins advised that he was tired of being used by her."

The murder weapon—a Sig Sauer P250 handgun—was later recovered buried beneath an outbuilding at another home. Investigators say Adkins led them to the location after giving consent for a search.

Adkins remains in custody without bond pending further proceedings. The case is being investigated by the West Virginia State Police.

Rail Explorers opens for 2025 season

The 2025 season for Rail Explorers – Elk River Division will begin Saturday, April 19 and will run through November 10, for their second season and a milestone tenth season for the company. Since opening June 6, 2024, Rail Explorers hosted 15,932 riders in their partial inaugural season. With more tours and additional days of operation, the nation's leading railbike company is expecting more than 25,000 guests to flock to Clay County to make their own memories on the old Buffalo Creek & Gauley rails. "Before Rail Explorers opened Clay County had three jobs in the tourism industry and I am proud to say that we will have nearly ten times that on staff this season," said Division Manager Trey Corwell. "It is an

honor to be a part of such a major push for tourism in our community and share the success and economic impact with our local businesses."

A tour with Rail Explorers – Elk River travels the 12.5-mile roundtrip alongside beautiful views of Buffalo Creek, rock formations, and countless wildlife spotting opportunities, not to mention the Devil's Sawmill waterfall, listed on the West Virginia Waterfall Trail! The tour is approximately two hours long and can be traversed on a four-seat Quad or two-seat Tandem railbike. Each railbike is equipped with their patented "REX Propulsion System" motor assist, which propels the railbikes along the rails for a thrilling family adventure. The accom-

RAIL EXPLORERS cont. on page 8

Poll: Americans concerned about bird flu effects on wallets over health

By Nadia Ramlagan

West Virginians are more concerned about bird flu's effect on grocery costs rather than health implications, and Republican voters are more likely to distrust Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information about the virus, according to a new poll from the health policy research and news organization KFF.

Nearly nine in 10 adults across parties, race and ethnicity, and household income levels are "very" or "somewhat" concerned bird flu will increase the cost of food in the U.S.

Audrey Kearney, senior survey analyst for KFF, said rising economic pressure has households more worried about paying for housing, gas, transportation and everyday expenses.

"We found that only half of the public said that they are really hearing a lot about bird flu on a day-to-day basis," Kearney reported. "It might not be resonating in the way of health but it definitely is resonating in when they go grocery shopping."

Since 2022, officials have identified

just two backyard flocks, around 260 birds, in the state affected by the virus. Earlier this year, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture issued a suspension on all poultry exhibitions and sales statewide, calling the move a precautionary measure.

Kearney added one of the biggest takeaways from the data is Americans now have different levels of trust between community experts they are interacting with on a daily basis, and major institutions.

"Messages from people's doctors are going to be the most well received and probably the most effective on that front," Kearney explained.

Currently, the CDC recommends people avoid close contact with sick animals and avoid unpasteurized milk products as precautions against bird flu, while eggs purchased from grocery stores are considered safe.

Since April 2024, 70 human cases of bird flu have been reported in the U.S. Of those, 41 cases were associated with exposure to sick dairy cows and 26 were associated with exposure to poultry.



WV Legislative Photography by Perry Bennett

This week in the House of Delegates

For the week ending April 4, 2025

Members of the House of Delegates began the process of completing a balanced state for the next state Fiscal Year, which begins July 1, 2025.

The House passed its budget bill, House Bill 2026, by a vote of 80 to 17 with three Delegates absent Friday afternoon. The total General Revenue budget in the bill is \$5,113,274,982 with an expected General Revenue surplus of \$128,750,000 reserved for what is commonly referred to as the "back of the budget."

The House Finance Committee built the budget using the Fiscal Year 2025 budget as its starting point and guide. The bill used long-standing vacancies in many agencies to effectuate a small 2% savings as well as roughly \$300,000 savings in salaries as a result of department mergers. House Bill 2026 increased the employer share to PEIA for all agencies by about \$40 million. The House budget put back the broad 10% cut made to the Department of Human Services last year, as well as an increase to the Department's line items based on its requests for a total of about \$90 million. The Department of Health's Birth to Three program sees an increase of \$7 million and the Division of Corrections receives a \$30 million increase over the previous year's budget in House Bill 2026. Another increase from the previous budget included in this year's budget bill is \$5 million going to appointed counsel as well as a new \$1.8

million to court-appointed special advocates. The measure now goes to the Senate for debate.

The House passed Senate Bill 458, the Universal Professional and Occupational Licensing Act of 2025, by unanimous vote Monday. The measure would require the board of any profession regulated under W.Va. Code Chapter 30, which includes dentists, funeral directors, practical nurses, accountants, architects, foresters and physical therapists, to issue an occupational license to a resident of the state who is licensed in at least one other state in the same discipline and who meets several requirements for good standing. The bill currently is with Gov. Morrisey for action.

House Bill 2002, Establishing the One-Stop Shop Permitting Process, also passed the full House Monday by unanimous vote. It has gone to the Senate for debate and would streamline the state's permitting processes while making them more accessible through a public dashboard. All 100 Delegates voted Tuesday to send House Bill 2152, the Prompt Payment Act of 2025, to the Senate for deliberation. It would require state agencies to pay legitimate and uncontested invoices within 45 days of receipt and late payments would be reported to the State Auditor, who would be required to publish and online list of noncompliant agencies.

The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight April 12.

Mustang track competes at Walton Tiger Invitational



Tilyr Bird wins the 100 meter hurdles. By Allen Hamrick

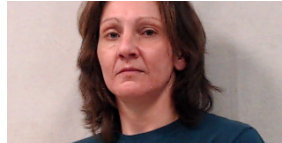
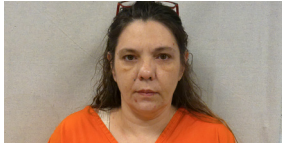
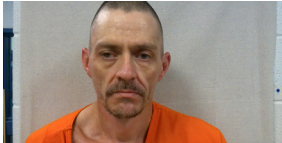
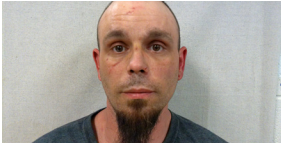
See story on Page 10

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON COUNTY



Chelsea R. Adkins
Booked 4/6/25
Unsafe and improperly equipped vehicles, driving revoked for DUI

Patrick Lee Butler II
Booked 4/1/25
Domestic assault third

James Denver Criner
Booked 4/5/25
Bailpiece

Shellie Renee Hess
Booked 4/3/25
Obstructing an officer

Paul Lee Johnson
Booked 4/4/25
Possession of controlled substance, trespassing asked to leave

Mackenzie Jo Wimer
Booked 4/1/25
Home confinement violation

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Raymond Anthony Denuzzo
Booked 4/2/25
Probation violation

Michael Allen Friend
Booked 4/6/25
Possession less than 15 grams

Jack Benny Price II
Booked 4/2/25
Overtaking a passing school bus, family court capias

Amber Dawn Rogers
Booked 4/6/25
Capias, possession of a controlled substance, trespassing asked to leave

Michael Wayne Adkins
Booked 4/4/25
First degree murder

Zaki Ivan Inthavongsay
Booked 4/3/25
Destruction of property, assault, battery, trespassing

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

CLAY COUNTY



Shadrach Christian Jorgenson Long
Booked 4/5/25
Domestic battery

Russell Swatz Schoolcraft
Booked 4/1/25
Domestic battery

Edsel Ray Westfall Jr.
Booked 4/5/25
Driving revoked for DUI, no insurance, no proof of registration



Social Security Provides Update about its Death Record

Social Security announced last week that more than three million deaths are reported to the Social Security Administration each year and explains that the agency’s records are highly accurate. Of these millions of death reports received each year, less than one-third of 1 percent are erroneously reported deaths that need to be corrected.

Deaths are reported to Social Security primarily from the States, but also from other sources, including family members, funeral homes, Federal agencies, and financial institutions. In a 2008 audit report, the IG noted that “SSA receives most death reports from funeral homes or friends/relatives of the deceased. SSA considers such first party death reports to be verified and immediately posts them to the Death Master File.”

Instances when a person is erroneously reported as de-

ceased to Social Security can be devastating to the individual, spouse, and dependent children. Benefits are stopped in the short term which can cause financial hardship until fixed and benefits restored, and the process to prove an erroneous death will always seem too long and challenging.

If a person suspects that they have been incorrectly listed as deceased on their Social Security record, they should contact their local Social Security office as soon as possible. They can locate their nearest Social Security office at www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/. They should be prepared to bring at least one piece of current (not expired) original form of identification. Social Security takes immediate action to correct its records and the agency can provide a letter that the error has been corrected that can be shared with other organizations, agencies, and employers.

A Month for Pipeline Awareness

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

With the weather getting warmer, I’m sure many of us are ready to begin spring gardening and home renovation plans. As April kicks off, Safe Digging Month begins. That’s why it’s important to recognize gas pipeline safety and reflect on the critical need for safe excavation practices.

Here at the Public Service Commission, we have our own team of safe digging experts within the Gas Pipeline Safety Division. Our dedicated people closely monitor construction sites across West Virginia to ensure safe digging practices are followed, and they diligently review records from natural gas utility companies, and other gas and hazardous liquid gathering and transmission pipelines. They play a vital role in ensuring these companies adhere to all safety rules and regulations regarding natural gas and hazardous liquids.

Our Gas Pipeline Safety Division oversees approximately 17,500 miles of pipeline throughout the state. This responsibility includes regulating all aspects of pipeline safety, from the initial design phase to operations and maintenance and ultimately abandonment. The Division's work ensures that pipeline personnel follow federal pipeline and state safety regulations and that pipelines remain safe and reliable.

The Gas Pipeline Safety staff is trained directly by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), ensuring the members are up to date with the latest federal standards. Many of the team also have hands-on field experience, giving them a unique

perspective and understanding of pipeline safety on the ground.

While you may not have your own gas pipeline safety team at home, you can still do your part by always calling 811 before you dig. This simple action is one of the most effective ways to prevent accidental damage to gas pipelines and other underground utilities such as water, sewer, or communications.

The free 811 call connects you with an operator who will contact the appropriate underground facility, who will then send a worker to locate and mark the location of any underground facilities in your area. You can also submit an 811 notification online. Remember that this notification needs to be done at least two working days prior to digging.

Gas pipelines can be difficult to detect, and even a small mistake, like striking a pipeline while digging, can lead to service outages, dangerous gas leaks, fires, or, in some cases, explosions.

Remember, calling 811 isn’t just for contractors or large construction projects; it’s free and essential for any digging task, big or small! Even simple activities like planting a tree or installing a mailbox can unintentionally damage underground pipelines if you're not careful.

Safe Digging Month is a reminder for all of us to do our part. That’s why the Public Service Commission urges you to take this important step to protect West Virginia’s underground facilities and ensure the safety of everyone in our communities.

OBITUARY



Debra "Debbie" Summers

November 9, 1965 - March 31, 2025

It is with heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our beloved and very special sister, Debra “Debbie” Summers of Roanoke, VA on March 31, 2025 at Carrington Place at Botetourt, Daleville, Va.

She was born on November 9, 1965 to the late Larry Hypes and Shirley Pritt. Debbie touched the hearts of so many who knew her; she will be deeply missed. She is survived by her step-father, Clarence Sizemore of Summersville, WV; 3 siblings: Lorna Colquhoun, married to Jeffrey Colquhoun of Roanoke, VA; Jennifer Coleman, married to Joe Coleman of Clay, WV; and Jerry Hypes, married to Carolina Hypes of Jacksonville, FL, 2 nieces: Amber Hypes of Jacksonville Florida, Krista Hypes of Celina, TX; 4 nephews: Seth Truman of Lizemores, WV, Chase Truman of Roanoke VA, Austin and Erian Hypes of Jacksonville Florida; 4 aunts- Phyllis Radar of Lizemores, WV; Bonnie Radar of Summersville, WV; Annette Foster of Bintree, WV and Tonia Wayne of Charleston, WV; 9 cousins - Rebecca Deitz of Fort Knox, KY, Phil Nichols of Dixie, WV; Mike Nichols of Las Vegas, NV; Byron McGraw of Jacksonville, SC; Stephanie McGraw of Summersville, WV; Crystal Wayne and Josh Wayne of Charleston, WV; Jonathan Forster of Bintree, WV; Melissa Young of Clay, WV.

A memorial will be held at a later date.

Clay County Free Press

EDITOR

Sarah Richardson: news@claycountyfreepress.com

ADVERTISING

Debra Smith: debra@mountainmedianews.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

subscriptions@claycountyfreepress.com

PUBLISHER

Michael Showell, Publisher

The Clay County Free Press (USPS 116-660) is published weekly at 291 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia. Subscription Rate: In County \$32.00; In-State \$42.00; Out-of-State \$45.00

Address all mail (subscription, change of address) to:
P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or
call 304-647-5724 or Fax 304-647-5767.

POSTMASTER:

Please provide old address and your new address.

Crying in the middle of the road

By Joe Mazzella

I was a young boy sitting in the middle of the road, crying. My head was hurting so bad I could hardly stand it. I felt dizzy. Blood was streaming down my face. Just ten minutes earlier I had been having the time of my life, riding my bicycle down the deserted roads of the empty 4-H camp near my home. It was only used during the summer months and during the rest of the year it was my own personal playground.

This day I had decided that instead of riding my bike on the paved roads I would try the one gravelled road the camp had. It was a bumpy ride but I was still going pretty fast when my bike’s front tire struck a rock jutting out of the road. In that second the bike flipped and I went over the handlebars head first into the gravel. This was the years before bike helmets too, so my skull took the full impact. I got up bleeding and hurting and tried to walk home. But as I was getting close I felt so tired and dizzy that I had to sit down and just cry. I am not sure how long I sat there crying but suddenly I felt an urging deep inside of me and yet outside of me as well. It was pushing me to get up and keep walking so I struggled to my feet and walked unsteadily on. I don’t remember much after that. I remember my Mom seeing me and screaming for my Dad to come outside. I remember riding in the car to the hospital. I remember returning home with a head full of stitches. I still don’t know what forced me to get up that last time, though. Was it God, an angel, my own soul? I just know someone didn’t want me to die that day.

It has been 50 years since then and I’ve done a lot of living, a lot of loving, and some good in this life. I know one day too I will leave this world for the next but I’ll leave the date up to God. Richard Bach said, “Here’s the test to find out whether your mission on Earth is finished: If you’re alive, it isn’t.” May you cherish each day here then and live them all with Love and Joy.

Home Country

By Slim Randles

There’s something so satisfying about getting out of bed when the world is still dark and quiet and resting. Making the coffee gives us time to scratch and think. Well, scratch, anyway. Most of that thinking will start after about the third cup of coffee.

But it’s a quiet time. A private time. When the world is dark, and there isn’t yet a hint of pink over the eastern mountains, it’s very good. We can relax. No one is expecting anything from us right now. Our guilt can take some time off, and we can listen to music or work a crossword puzzle or turn on the TV and watch the weather guy discuss millibars and troughs.

Soon enough, we’ll have to be out there living for others: our bosses, our customers, our animals, our fields. But right now no one needs us except the dog, and she does well on kibbles and an ear rumple.

We can look out the window at the eastern glow and wonder what will happen in the hours until our world turns dark again. People will be born and people will die. People will win honors and people will go to jail. People will create things today that live past them and people will disappear forever. Some people will write about these things and other people will read about these things.

And then the world will go dark on us again and we’ll think about what happened in our tiny portion of this huge moving amalgam and hopefully we’ll sleep easily tonight. Then, when we arise tomorrow and head for the coffee pot, we can think about what happened today, and how it has made us slightly different for taking on the next tomorrow.

Come to us, Daylight. Bring us the new day. But do it gently, please, and slowly enough for one more cup.

Brought to you by the novella Whimsy Castle. Love comes in all forms. At bookstores now.

Sir Procrastinate-A-Lot Rules My Day

Dr. James L. Snyder

I must admit that I procrastinate a lot. The biggest example is when I get up in the morning. I wait until the very last minute to get up. My goal is to get up before lunch.

This is the primary difference between me and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She couldn't procrastinate even if I gave her a thousand dollars. Of course, I would procrastinate in giving over that thousand dollars because that's how I operate.

My "to-do list" is put together with this understanding; I put things on this list that I know will be affected by my procrastination. If I want to get three things done in one day, I have to make a list of 25 things to do.

That may not make sense to some people, but if you have that procrastination virus, it does. It is not how much I can do in a day but how much I actually do.

Unfortunately, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has not learned this about me. As long as we have been together which is something like 54 years, she doesn't get the notion that I'm a procrastinator. I'm not even sure if she knows what that means, and I'm not going to be the one to tell her. At least, I won't tell her today. Maybe tomorrow.

She believes that when she gives me a list of 45 things to do, I will jump up and finish them as soon as possible. But as a high-level procrastinator, that's not how it works.

When I get a list from her, it takes me all morning to read it.

Usually, at lunchtime, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "Well, did you get the list done yet?"

I will look at her with a blank look on my face and say, "What list?"

With a bit of growling in her voice, she responds, "You know, the list I gave you this morning of things I wanted you to do."

"Oh, that list. I'm still working on it."

She doesn't understand that when I have a list of things she wants me to do, I have to meditate on that list and really get into its vibe. She doesn't realize that it takes me quite a while to get into a certain vibe when it comes to things I need to do. I must admit that I never get into some things' vibe.

The last time I did not procrastinate was August 14, 1971, when we stood before a minister who said, "Do you promise..." And with a nervous stutter, I responded immediately, "I do."

I think that was the first time I didn't procrastinate, and I believe it was the last time. I'll think about that later.

It's hard for me to jump into a project and get it done.

Sure, I like completing a project, but it takes me a long time to get to the end of it.

I learned years ago that procrastinating on certain things and actually not doing them is a blessing. If I had done what I was supposed to do, I probably would've been in trouble.

Over the years, I have earned the title, Sir Procrastinate-A-Lot.

Occasionally, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will ask, "Are you acting like a procrastinator?"

"No, my dear," I will say as calmly as possible, "I'm not acting."

Even as a procrastinator, I'm the real thing. I'm not lying; I'm just dragging my heels along the way.

I suppose that if I had cleaned up my procrastinating I could have accomplished twice as much in my life as I have. But then, where would that have gotten me?

That is the difference between The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her marvelous husband. It took me a few years to understand this difference. But once I did, I was able to use it to my advantage.

If I asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to do two things, she would jump to it and begin doing it before I finished my sentence. Within a few moments, those two things are accomplished.

If I asked her to do five things again, she would jump up and do all five as fast as she could without even taking a break.

I think she is the most anti-procrastinator I have ever known. She can never procrastinate; she always must get everything done before the time. If she has 60 minutes to do something, she will do it in 50 minutes or less.

In a marriage such as ours, we cannot both be procrastinators. That is why I stepped up to the plate and chose to be the procrastinator in our house. I've done a great job of it all these years.

Of course, there is a cost that comes with procrastination. Solomon hit it on the head when he said, “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man” (Proverbs 24:33-34).

As my father used to say, “You can’t kick a can down the road forever. At some point you need to stop and pick it up.”

My problem is I think I can do more than I can really do. Maybe I should be more realistic and concentrate on doing what I can do.

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

Fixing West Virginia’s Foster Care System: From Blame to Solutions

By Mark Drennan, Vice President of the National Youth Advocate Program

U.S. District Judge Goodwin’s recent statement about West Virginia’s foster care system—calling out years of inaction, bureaucratic indifference, shocking neglect, and temporary fixes—is painfully accurate.

There is plenty of blame to go around. Blame, however, leads nowhere. Instead, we must focus on real solutions, starting with a fundamental shift in our approach to child welfare.

A System Built on the Wrong Incentives

Currently, the system seems to prioritize quantity over quality. The more youth who enter the system and the longer they remain, the more funding is generated. We need to change the financial incentives to prioritize outcomes—stability, permanency, and family reunification—over numbers.

Since the goal should be to ensure safety and stability for children, youth, and families as quickly and effectively as possible, we must shift funding models so that positive outcomes are our measure of success. The faster a child and their family reach stability, the greater the reward should be so that our children, youth, and families get what they want most and agencies are rewarded as well.

Keeping Families Together

The best outcome for any child is to remain safely with their family whenever possible. This does not mean we should never remove a child or youth when safety demands it—sometimes we must, and we should. But the state, no matter how hard it tries, is a poor substitute for primary families. The reality is that youth need and crave connection to their communities and heritage.

We must focus on community-based care that keeps families intact while giving parents the tools and skills they need to be successful. Family preservation programs should be prioritized, ensuring parents receive parenting support, substance use treatment, mental health care, and economic assistance before a child or youth is removed.

Strengthening Foster Care for Those Who Need It

When removal is necessary, we must ensure foster parents are appropriately trained, supported, and surrounded by a team of trauma-informed, caring professionals. These teams should include educators, therapists, medical professionals, and behavioral specialists. Foster parents should not have to navigate the challenges of raising children and youth who have experienced trauma alone.

To prevent disruptions, respite care must be an integral part of the system, allowing foster families to recharge while ensuring continuity of care for children and youth.

We also need families willing to adopt youth whose parental rights have been terminated. Finding safe and stable homes for children and youth in need should be a top priority.

For children and youth with the most complex needs, higher level, community-based programming must be made available. These programs should focus on healing and preparing youth and their families for a future outside the system, whether through reunification, adoption, or independent living.

Creating a Culture of Mentorship and Kinship Support

One of the most overlooked components of a strong solution is mentorship between foster and biological parents. We should encourage experienced foster parents to mentor and support primary families. Building relationships and sharing parenting skills can increase the chances of successful reunification.

Another is kinship care—where children are placed with relatives or fictive kin, like neighbors, teachers, or coaches, rather than strangers. Kinship caregivers often receive less financial and support services than traditional foster parents, even though youth in kinship placements experience better stability and outcomes. We must continue to change this, providing better supports for kinship caregivers.

A Call to Action

West Virginia’s foster care crisis will not be solved with more bureaucracy, blame, or the same failed strategies. It will take bold action to fund outcomes over processes, invest in families before removal, and support foster parents and kin caregivers as true partners in child welfare.

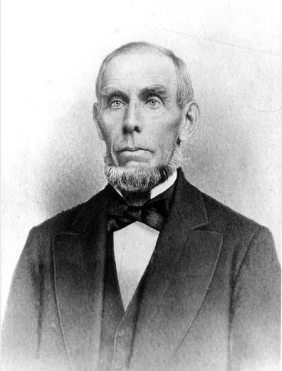
Judge Goodwin’s statement was not an exaggeration—it was a wake-up call. Now, we must commit to building a system that puts children, youth, and families first.

Mark Drennan currently serves as a vice president for the National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP). Before joining NYAP, he held the position of CEO at the West Virginia Behavioral Healthcare Providers Association (WVBHPA), where he represented and advocated for behavioral health providers.

About National Youth Advocate Program: Since 1978, National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP) has provided culturally informed community-held services to children and youth with specialized behavioral, developmental, emotional, and physical needs. NYAP is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity that supports child, youth, and family service organizations. It has a strong reputation for delivering person-centered, strengths-based, innovative services and treatment. Visit www.nyap.org to learn more.

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

April 9, 1817: John Nuttall was born in England. He was one of the first operators to ship coal on the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway in the early 1870s and founded the town of Nuttallburg in the New River Gorge.



April 9, 1900: Physician Margaret Byrnside “Dr. Maggie” Ballard was born. She actively pursued her interest in genealogy and local history and was a founder of the Monroe County Historical Society.

April 10, 1848: John Kenna was born in Kanawha County. In 1883, the state legislature elected him to the U.S. Senate, unseating the powerful Henry G. Davis.

Kenna is one of two West Virginians memorialized by a statue in the U.S. Capitol.



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

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

April 11, 1847: Diarist

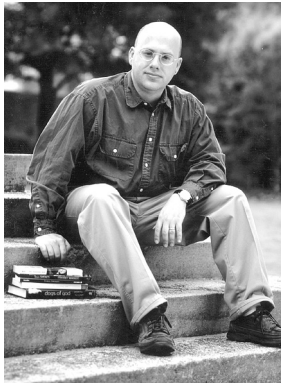
Sirene Bunten was born in French Creek, Upshur County. As a teenager, she kept a diary about her daily activities, including emotional accounts of life on the West Virginia home front during the Civil War.

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

April 11, 1940: Award-winning artist Susan Poffenbarger was born in Charleston. Her work can be found in many galleries as well as in the IRS National Computing Center in Martinsburg and the Federal Courthouse Annex in Wheeling. She died in 2025.

April 11, 1964: Writer Pinckney Benedict was born in Lewisburg. His two collections of short stories, Town Smokes and The Wrecking Yard, as well as his novel Dogs of God were named Notable

Books by the New York Times Book Review.



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

April 12, 1885: Photographer George James Kosuth was born. After opening his Wheeling studio in 1909, he achieved broad fame for his photos of the city and insightful portraits of world celebrities, including Richard Strauss, Jascha Heifetz, Leopold Stokowski, Clarence Dar-

row and Richard Nixon.



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



April 13, 1951: Sculptor Bill Hopen was born. The Sutton artist’s works ap-

pear in government buildings, museums, churches, and hospitals around West Virginia, across the nation, and abroad.

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

April 14, 1945: Twenty people were killed when a commercial airplane on its way to Morgantown flew off course and crashed into the side of Cheat Mountain.

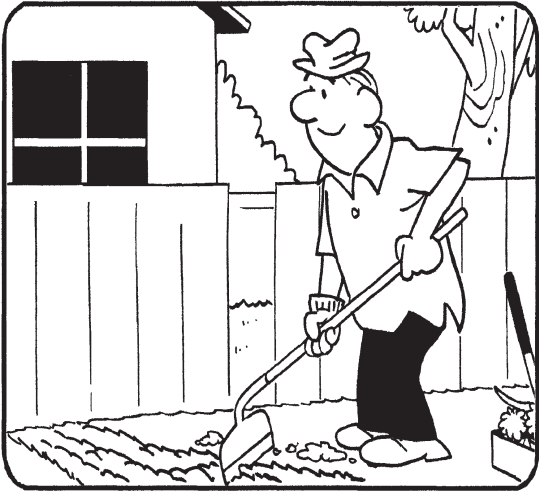
April 15, 1872: Peter Godwin Van Winkle died in Parkersburg. Van Winkle was a member of the Governor’s Council of the Reorganized Government of Virginia, 1861-63, under Gov. Francis Pierpont. On August 4, 1863, Van Winkle was elected as one of West Virginia’s first two U.S. senators.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tree is moved, thinner. 2. Tree is moved. 3. Man is thinner. 4. Glove is missing. 5. Fence is shorter. 6. Window is moved.

Super Crossword

FROM ALABAMA
TO LOUISIANA

ACROSS

- 1 Complaints to otologists
9 Foreboding
16 ESPN datum
20 Feelings
21 Alternative to chocolate
22 Rev gauge
23 Ailment suffered from being given too much leeway?
25 Bicolor whale
26 Poet Hughes
27 Tooth doctors' org.
28 Scarf down
29 Cantata's kin
30 "The Chi" airer, in brief
33 Alpo alternative
36 Things people run on racetracks in Switzerland's capital?
39 Coke and Pepsi's business?
43 Collide with
44 Robots in human form
45 "Fer cryin' out loud!"
48 Barkeeper on "The Simpsons"

- 49 Audio game from Hasbro
50 Soothsayer
52 Off-limits
54 Farrow of film
57 Storytellers' leagues?
63 The "A" of ETA: Abbr.
64 Tech sch.
65 Some raptors
66 Vinaigrette alternative
67 Team letdowns
70 Apple tablets
72 Mild
73 Actor Koteas
74 Thighbone
76 Watering tube
79 Earth's star
80 Bivalve mollusk that's neither anxious nor perturbed?
85 1040 ID
86 Sock fillers
87 Instant, in some brand names
88 "— come to save the day!"
90 Blubber
92 Suburb of Buenos Aires
95 Etched computer components

- 97 Eight-note spans
101 Monty Python member wearing no jewelry or fancy clothes?
103 Topmost point on a perfume bottle?
106 Alan of "Tower Heist"
107 Blast source
108 Lindsay of "Machete"
109 Barney Miller player Linden
110 Sue Grafton's "— for Evidence"
112 Sallie —
115 Gung-ho
116 Like a shutter so shabby there's no point in putting in a new louver?
123 Head, in Nice
124 Attacks like a bird
125 Tombs for pharaohs
126 Greek strife goddess
127 In a very similar way
128 Cliffhanger feeling

DOWN

- 1 Conger, e.g.
2 Docs' org.
3 Decompose
4 Working hard
5 Quote
6 Magician Harry
7 Call a halt to
8 Atlanta-to-Miami dir.
9 Exiled Roman poet
10 Gruesome
11 Ballpoint fluid
12 S.F. NFLer
13 City in southwest New York
14 Long, loose overcoat
15 Airline to Sweden
16 Snitching sort
17 Kilt pattern
18 Say "yes" to
19 "No kiddin'?"
24 Lip off to
29 Interoffice note
30 Wound cover
31 Academic A-lists
32 Ancient cuneiform language
34 Attaches
35 Deep thinkers
37 Retina locale

- 38 Home of Pago Pago
40 Seed case
41 Wee amount
42 TV host Banks
46 Arctic boot attachment
47 Pawn
51 Approximate
53 U.S. soldiers
54 One of the Leeward Islands
55 Contained as a part of
56 Very pale
58 "— a pity"
59 Pottery piece
60 Downcast
61 Uno + due
62 Spy novelist Fleming
63 Smart — (wise guys)
68 Actor Elliott
69 PC key abbr.
71 "Pick up the Czech," e.g.
72 "Well, I'll be!"
74 Antagonist
75 Grades K-6: Abbr.
77 Longtime bud
78 Like cut bread
81 Many times
82 Gator's kin
83 Karate blow

- 84 Blue-green
89 Has no life
90 False appearances
91 Maker of Skin So Soft
93 Apt. units
94 True-to-fact
96 Finger-pointing people
97 Recently
98 Four-leaf —
99 One of the Windward Islands
100 "Dr." of insoles
102 Diner grub
104 Sine, for one
105 Actor Cary
111 Eensy
113 "Right away!"
114 "Game of Thrones" actress
116 Packers' and Panthers' gp.
117 Sugar suffix
118 Co- — (some apartments)
119 Sch. in Manhattan
120 "Hamilton" composer — -Manuel Miranda
121 TV plugs
122 Mao — -tung

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19
20									21								22			
23									24								25			
				26					27				28				29			
30	31	32				33	34	35			36	37				38				
39				40	41					42					43					
44										45			46	47		48				
49							50		51				52		53			54	55	56
	57					58					59	60					61	62		
63						64					65						66			
67				68	69					70	71					72				
73							74	75					76	77	78			79		
80						81						82					83	84		
85						86						87					88			89
				90	91				92		93	94			95		96			
97	98	99					100				101			102						
103								104	105				106						107	
108							109					110	111				112	113	114	
115						116					117				118	119				120
123						124									125					
126						127								128						

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike
should vote alike.

"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.



May 1958

BRUSH BURNING DESTROYS HUNTING AND FISHING

"The cut and burn" season is about here, says the Governor's Forest Fire Prevention Conference Committee. With the first sunshine and wind, smoke will scent the atmosphere as burning of leaves and brush begins. And the "fishing bug" will begin to catch hold of state anglers.

Each spring it happens. Brush is cut and piled high and burned to the ground to make room for what, nobody knows for certain. Some people will be clearing land, others just burning to watch the "worthless" brush burn, and spring rains will set in to wash the hills clean.

Tradition says that brush must be burned, and mountain people are great ones for following in the footsteps of their ancestors. They burn each spring and fall as if Nature depended upon them to do so.

This tradition has cost West Virginia heavily. Because of the habit of burning fields and brush each year, the Poca, Monongahela, Little Kanawha, West Fork and Elk Rivers turn red with every rain; farmlands have lost their soil and fertility; fishing has suffer and rabbit hunting in some sections has been reduced to a spare time excursion "just to get out in the out-of-doors."

To burn a brush field or brush pile is pure waste, says the Governor's Conference Committee. No growth on our hillsides is worthless. Brush is nothing more than plant life which holds the nearest stream. Brush, cut and piled at the head of a gully, can serve to heal erosion scars; house a rabbit population in coldest winter; return in the form of organic matter some fertility to the soil. Brush which has been left to rot and disintegrate by natural processes inevitably grows a lush stand of weeds around it which produces seeds for quail and songbirds.

What is often termed "a fire which burned worthless brush" has been a source of discouragement to conservation workers. Because a fire burns only a brush field does not mean that "there was no damage." Every fire does damage which cannot be figured in dollars and cents. Brush is short for saying "forest tree seedlings", "wildlife homes", "watershed protection", "erosion control", "better fishing and hunting". Without this "brush", our small game hunting as we know it could virtually perish. Without it our future saw timber stands, deer browse, grouse food, acorns, hickory nuts and the hundreds of other wildlife foods would disappear. Brush is young trees and

shrubs, not something "unholy" which people should dislike. It is weeds that hold soil and feed birds and provide cover for rabbit nests. It is not something worthless that has to be burned. Brush is plant growth that drew its nutrition from the soil and which if left to Nature will return to the soil in the form of decaying vegetation.

It is obvious to any rabbit hunter that the brush piles are where he finds his game, especially during cold and snowy weather. There are few management improvements which can be made which lend themselves better to rabbit production than just plain brush piles.

West Virginia has enough gullies and erosion scars to absorb all the cut brush in the state with plenty of these scars left over. If one must cut brush to clear land, it seems logical that the effort should be put to good use. It seems a shame to burn such a valuable tool as a brush pile when a million acres of land have been made idle by similar practices.

Don't burn that brush this fall! Put it near the woodland, or better still in an eroding gully and watch the land begin to heal itself. Watch the birdlife and rabbits which make it their home. And you'll be glad you did!

WIDEN WOMAN'S CLUB

Tested Recipe

Submitted by

Mrs. Ruth Butcher, President

GRAHAM CRACKER MUFFINS

1-2 Cup Shortening (creamed)

1 Cup Granulated Sugar

2 Eggs (separated)

1 Cup Milk

32 Graham Crackers

2 Teaspoons Baking Powder

1 Teaspoon Vanilla

Cream shortening, sugar and egg yolks together. All crushed graham crackers, baking powder and milk. Mix thoroughly then add egg whites and vanilla. Bake for fifteen minutes at 400 degrees oven temperature.

Topping For Muffins

1 Cup Brown Sugar

1 Cup Pineapple (crushed)

Boil for ten minutes, put on muffins along with 1-2 Marichigo cherry or 1-2 pecan to each muffin.

WIDEN RELIEF COMMITTEE

With Billy Facemire, Joe Truman, James Triplett, and Carl Young representing the employees, and G. D. Craft, Scott Williams, Darrell Wood, and E. R. Keichka representing Elk River Coal and Lumber Company the Widen Relief Committee met at the company offices at 9:30 A. M. on Thursday, April 24, to act on matters accumulated during the past month.

There was no change in the list of retired employees and \$100 each for May was approved for the same twenty-seven men who have been receiving pensions during the past several months.

Eighteen employees received disability benefits for the entire month of April and eight others were paid for a portion of the month. Ira Houghton, Clyde McClain, Brenford Butcher, and Wilbert Salisbury returned to work during April, and Ted Potasnik, Leonard Acree, Ardie Cox, Max Legg, Charles Asbury, and Rennie Young were new additions to the disabled list.

There was one addition to the list of survivors receiving benefits, that being Lorene McCoy, widow of Don A. McCoy, who was killed in an automobile accident at Birch River on April 11. Their six-week-old child also survived. In all, 31 widows and 53 children are now receiving relief benefits.

Hospital and doctor bills, other than the regular list account at Charleston General Hospital, were paid for 188 employees and their families, at Cabin Creek, Charleston, Clay, Clendenin, Cowen, Gassaway, Grantsville, Marmet, Philippi, Richwood, Spencer, Summersville, Sutton and Weston, W. Va.; Kingman, Arizona; Salem, Indiana; and Lodi, Ohio.

One drug bill was not approved because it was for a medication that can be purchased without a doctor's prescription, and one surgical bill was deferred for later determination pending information as to whether the surgery was a medical necessity or merely a matter of patient preference. In another case, the committee decided that it has no responsibility for medical costs incurred for children of a divorced employee where the wife has been given exclusive custody of the children and the employee has been ordered by the court to make payments for the support of the children.

Altogether, 211 employees, active or retired, received direct benefits for themselves and their families during April, in addition to the 84 survivors mentioned above.

REVIVAL AT WIDEN

A revival began at Widen Monday evening at 7:30 P. M. Rev. Arnett Hughes is the evangelist and co-workers are Mrs. Betty Hess and Mrs. Rex Epperson. All churches are invited to help in this revival.

Dr. C. E. Campbell

OPTOMETRIST

EXAMINE EYES FOR

GLASSES

Y.M.C.A. BEAUTY SHOP

Widen, West Virginia

EAST TUESDAY OF

EACH MONTH

OFFICE HOURS

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

BRIGHT
SPARKLING
PICTURE WITH
2 Great New
Developments
NEW 1958
ZENITH TV

**SLIMMER,
TRIMMER
CABINET
STYLING**

**THE FAIRFIELD
MODEL A2223**
21" diag. meas. 252 sq. in. rectangular picture area. Available in choice of 4 colors. Base extra.

**1. NEW SUPER
HORIZONTAL CHASSIS**

with Extended Band Video Amplifier—allows up to 350,000 more cycles of picture information to reach the TV screen for greater picture detail, depth, realism than ordinary narrow band TV receivers. Has 18,000 volts of picture power.

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

HEALTH/MEDICAL

DONT LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-844-592-5113

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-274-3943

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-405-3412 www.dental50plus.com/press #6258

INTERNET/TV

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-736-4350

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET WITH EARTHLINK. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 844-230-3640

MISCELLANEOUS

SUNSETTER. AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE AWNING! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-888-485-5756

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

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-964-4167 today!

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-615-6411

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-295-2840

WE BUY 8,000 CARS A WEEK. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-844-640-0583

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Stand-by Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-901-2301 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company - 888-217-5559 or visit www.Life55plus.info/wv

SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-803-1282

GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-368-9004 today!

Place YOUR statewide ad today
Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011



Clay County
Free Press
Home of the Clay County Delicious Apple

**Read your
newspaper online**



Visit

claycountyfreepress.com

**and receive
much more!**

State & National News

*14 additional
newspapers
in WV & VA*

*Over 40 editors,
reporters & writers*





SAVE \$350 when you transform
your patio into an outdoor oasis.



- Instant shade—at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

Call 1-888-485-5756 now to
SAVE \$350 TODAY!

America's #1 Awning!

To place
your
legals, call
us at
(304) 647-
5724



LEGAL

PUBLIC MEETING

The Clay County Commission will hold a public meeting on April 28, 2025 at 10:00 AM, at Clay County Courthouse, 246 Main Street, Clay, WV, to receive public comments on adopting a Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee.

LEGAL

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY

IN RE: State v. Z.K., E.Y., and Z.Y. Case Nos. 24-JA-44-46
In the matter of Z.K., E.Y., and Z.Y., and the unknown whereabouts of Zach O'Neill and Mikey Stapler, the Unknown Adult Respondent Father of Z.K.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
And
NOTICE OF ANSWER

To: **Zach O'Neill and Mikey Stapler.**

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

You are hereby notified that an abuse and neglect and/or abandonment petition has been filed with the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, on the 9th day of December 2024, and assigned Case Numbers 24-JA-44-46, wherein it is alleged that the Adult Respondent Mother of the Infant Respondents Z.K. (DOB: 2/7/19), E.Y. (DOB: 4/1/21), and Z.Y. (DOB: 12/3/24), is Brianna Keener, and that said Infant Respondents be placed in the custody of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, with said Infant Respondent remaining in the care, custody and control of the said Department since that time in accordance with WV Code §49-6-3. You are hereby notified that you have the right to answer said petition and you have the right to have counsel present at all stages of these proceedings and ALL PROCEEDINGS CAN RESULT IN THE PERMANENT TERMINATION OF CUSTODIAL AND PARENTAL RIGHTS TO SAID INFANT CHILD.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the Adult Respondents, Zach O'Neill and Mikey Stapler, shall appear before the Honorable Judge Morton on the **11th day of April 2025, at 2:30 p.m.**, at the Clay County Courthouse, 246 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against them at any time thereafter, and termination of your custodial and parental rights may be ordered by the Court.

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

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

BY: Wayne King, Prosecuting Attorney Clay County, West Virginia
Entered by the Clerk of said Court on the 31st day of March, 2025.

Clerk of the Court

ANDERSON HEIGHTS APARTMENTS

2626 PROCIOS • MAYSEL ROAD • MAYSEL, WV 25133
304-587-2011 • TTY/TDD 771

ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

DESIGNED FOR THOSE AGE 62 OR OLDER
Handicap / Disabled Regardless Of Age

Electric • Air • Refrigerator • Range
Water, Sewer & Trash Included
Handicap Units Available
On-Site Management / Maintenance
Laundry Facilities

Income Limits Do Apply Rent Based On Income

Monday – Thursday 8 AM – 4:40 PM

Gateway Management Services, LLC
Rental Office 304-587-2011

Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



HIGH STREET APARTMENTS

136 HIGH STREET, CLAY, WEST VIRGINIA 25043

304-587-2011

WEST VIRGINIA TTY/TDD 711

RENTAL OFFICE LOCATED AT
ANDERSON HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
2626 PROCIOS MAYSEL ROAD, MAYSEL, WV 25133

**TWELVE (12) ONE AND TWO BEDROOM
APARTMENTS AVAILABLE**
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED AND QUIET.

AMENITIES INCLUDE:

ALL ELECTRIC
REFRIGERATOR AND RANGE
WATER, SEWER & TRASH INCLUDED
LAUNDRY FACILITIES ON SITE

INCOME LIMITS DO APPLY

RENT BASED ON INCOME
PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED BY:
GATEWAY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 8AM – 4:30PM

FOR AN APPLICATION OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT THE RENTAL OFFICE AT (304)-587-2011



We Buy Houses!

Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers
with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide!
No Repairs. No Fuss.

- Fair Cash Offer
- Quick Closing
- No Realtor Fees
- No House Repairs
- Simple Home Sale
- Convenient Closing Date



Liz Buys
HOUSES

CALL (866) 249-3126

LEGAL

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Substitute Trustee, WV Trustee Services, LLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated June 1, 2022, executed by Borrower, Lonnie Darrell Donelson, to Robert H. Skeen, Jr., the Trustee of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia, in Book 151, at Page 495. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 287 Shamblin Run Rd, Prociuous, WV 25164. WV Trustee Services, LLC were appointed as Substitute Trustees by APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE dated March 20, 2025. The borrower defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustees have been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustees will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Clay County, in Clay, West Virginia, on the following date:

1st day of May, 2025 at 1:15 p.m.

That certain tract or parcel of land, with it appurtenances, situate on the waters of the Reed Fork of Big Laurel Creek, in HENRY District, Clay County, West Virginia, and further bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a 1/2" iron rod set, said rod being N-54-49W, 665.11' from a 24" white oak, thence N-51-00-W., 295.16' to a 1/2" iron rod set, thence N-3900-E., 295.16' to a 1/2" iron rod set, thence S-51-00-E, 295.16' to a 1/2" iron rod set, thence S39-00-W., 295.16' to the place of beginning, containing 2.00 acres, more or less, more fully described on a plat prepared by Wallace J. Board Land Surveying and made a part of this description. Together with a right of way and easement, for the purpose of ingress and egress, of record in Deed Book 174, Page 314. LSOT: Deed Book 223, Page 859, dated October 23, 2018.

TERMS OF SALE:

- 1) The property will be conveyed in an "AS IS" physical condition by Deed containing no warranty, express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-ways, easements, covenants, conveyances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.
- 2) The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia Code § 11-22-1.
- 3) The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.
- 4) The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.
- 5) The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY
- 6) The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten (10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

WV Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee

BY:

Jim Ashley, Limited Signing Officer
WV Trustee Services, LLC
McGuire Office Center
618 Tenth Street, Suite 108
Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 853-3336
jim.ashley@wvtrusteeservices.com

Like us on
Facebook

**INOGEN®
PORTABLE OXYGEN
CONCENTRATORS**



Call us toll-free at
1-833-274-3943

*30-day risk-free trial: Return within 30 days of purchase for a full refund of purchase price.
PM230469 EN, EX, USA | Rx Only © 2024 Inogen, Inc.
859 Ward Drive, Suite 200, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Inogen® is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen, Inc. trademark is strictly forbidden without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.



LEGAL

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY

IN RE: State v. K.V. and W.V., Case Nos. 25-JA-6-7

In the matter of K.V. and W.V., Infants, and the unknown whereabouts of Rebecca Guyatt, Adult Respondent Mother, and Russell Vaught, Adult Respondent Father of said Infants.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

And

NOTICE OF ANSWER

To: **Rebecca Guyatt and Russell Vaught**

(The object of this action is to notify the Adult Respondents of an abuse and neglect petition herein filed so that said Adult Respondents may answer the same to protect their interest.)

You are hereby notified that an abuse and neglect and/or abandonment petition has been filed with the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, on the 15th day of January 2025, and assigned Case Numbers 25-JA-6-7, wherein it is alleged that the father of Infant Respondent K.V. (DOB: 5/18/24), and W.V. (DOB: 5/18/24), is Russell Vaught and the Adult Respondent Mother is Rebecca Guyatt, and that said Infant Respondents be placed in the custody of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, with said Infant Respondent remaining in the care, custody and control of the said Department since that time in accordance with WV Code §49-6-3. You are hereby notified that you have the right to answer said petition and you have the right to have counsel present at all stages of these proceedings and ALL PROCEEDINGS CAN RESULT IN THE PERMANENT TERMINATION OF CUSTODIAL AND PARENTAL RIGHTS TO SAID INFANT CHILD.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the Adult Respondents, Rebecca Guyatt and Russell Vaught, shall appear before the Honorable Michael W. Asbury, Jr. on the **9th day of May 2025, at 10:30 a.m.**, at the Clay County Courthouse, 246 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against them at any time thereafter, and termination of your custodial and parental rights may be ordered by the Court.

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

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

BY: Wayne King, Prosecuting Attorney Clay County, West Virginia

Entered by the Clerk of said Court on the 27th day of March, 2025.

Clerk of the Court

LEGAL

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

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

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

Publication Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025

Claim Deadline: Monday, June 2, 2025

APPOINTMENT DATE	03/04/2025
ESTATE NAME:	LONNIE DARRELL DONELSON
ADMINISTRATRIX	REBECCA JOYCE DONELSON 3248 TURNPIKE RD SUMMERSVILLE WV 26651-4008

APPOINTMENT DATE	03/14/2025
ESTATE NAME:	SHERRI RENEE DOTSON
EXECUTRIX	ARIEL D MEADOWS 2178 GRANNIES CREEK RD OVAPA WV 25164-7604

APPOINTMENT DATE	03/20/2025
ESTATE NAME:	BEVERLY ADELL JONES
ADMINISTRATOR	WILLIAM JONES 354 CROOKED RUN ROAD NEBO WV 25141-9596

APPOINTMENT DATE	03/13/2025
ESTATE NAME:	HAROLD D KEENER
EXECUTRIX	VONDA D KEENER 472 ELK RIVER RD PROCIOS WV 25164-8003

APPOINTMENT DATE	11/04/2024
ESTATE NAME:	WILLIAM CHILTON MITCHELL
ADMINISTRATOR	MICHAEL NEAL MITCHELL 1514 NORTH FORK RD PINE GROVE WV 26419-8313

APPOINTMENT DATE	02/13/2025
ESTATE NAME:	JAMES STANLEY MOONEY JR
ADMINISTRATRIX	TRACY RENEE CROUCH 132 HIDDEN VALLEY ESTATE SCOTT DEPOT WV 25560-9301

APPOINTMENT DATE	01/09/2025
ESTATE NAME:	AVIS ELIZABETH MOORE
EXECUTRIX	VICKI MOORE CUNNINGHAM 1 KORI RD CHARLESTON WV 25304-2771

APPOINTMENT DATE	03/24/2025
ESTATE NAME:	WANDA LEE PENNINGTON
EXECUTRIX	ANGELA SALISBURY CRUIKSHANK 2943 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE CHARLESTON WV 25302-4501

APPOINTMENT DATE	03/17/2025
ESTATE NAME:	ERMA IRENE SAMPLES
ADMINISTRATOR	RONALD CLAY SAMPLES 107 COPPERFIELD LANE CLENDEIN WV 25045-9313

APPOINTMENT DATE	03/21/2024
ESTATE NAME:	ROBIN MURRAY SMITH
ADMINISTRATOR	JALEN SMITH 2178 GRANNYS CREEK RD OVAPA WV 25164-7604

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 03/27/2025

Sheila Stone
County Clerk
Clay County
P.O. Box 190
246 Main Street
Clay WV 25043-0190

LEGAL

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026
LEVY ESTIMATE - BUDGET DOCUMENT

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA		
MUNICIPALITY OF CLAY, WEST VIRGINIA		
In accordance with Code § 11-8-14, as amended, the Council proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the current fiscal year, and does determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:		
The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:		
REVENUE SOURCE		
Nonspendable Fund Balance	\$	
Restricted Fund Balance		
Committed Fund Balance		
Assigned Fund Balance (General Fund Only)		
Unassigned Fund Balance	30,000	
Property Taxes - Current Expense	58,463	
Prior Year Taxes	-	
Supplemental Taxes		
Tax Loss Restoration		
Property Taxes - Excess Levy	-	
Property Taxes - Excess Levy	-	
Property Taxes - Excess Levy	-	
Property Taxes - Bond Levy	-	
Tax Penalties, Interest & Publication fees		
Gas & Oil Severance Tax	750	
Excise Tax on Utilities	20,000	
Business and Occupation Tax		
Wine & Liquor Tax	14,000	
Animal Controll Tax		
Hotel Occupancy Tax		
Amusement Tax		
Insurance Premium Surtax		
Motor Vehicle Operator's Tax		
Horse and Dog Racing Tax		
Sales Tax		
Fines, Fees & Court costs		
Parking Violations		
Regional Jail Operations Partial Reimbursement		
Licenses	3,000	
Building Permit Fees	100	
Miscellaneous Permits	1,000	
Franchise Fees		
Inspection, Dilapidated Building & Vacant Property Fees		
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)	25,000	
Employee Health Insurance Premium Charges		
Retirees' Medical Insurance Charges		
Retirees' Prescription Insurance Charges		
Private Liquor Club Fee		
Cemetery Revenues		
Dog Pound Fees		
Emergency Communication Fee		
Emergency Service Fee		
Parks & Recreation		
Municipal Service Fees		
Parking Meter Revenues		
Off Street Parking		
Collection of Delinquent Accounts		
Rents, Royalties and Concessions		
Airport Revenues		
Jail Fees		
Special Assessments		
Refuse Collection		
Police Protection Fees		
Fire Protection Fees		
Planning Commission Revenue		
Landfill / Incinerator Fees		
Street Fees		
Housing Program Revenues		
Civic Center / Coliseum		
Floodwall Fees		
Charges for Services		
Charges to Other Entities		
Ambulance Fees		
Federal Government Grants		
State Government Grants		
Other Grants		
Contributions from Other Entities		
Contributions from Other Funds		
Charges to Other Funds		
Payment in Lieu of Taxes		
Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes		
Flood Reimbursement		
Payroll Reimbursements		
Transfers from Rainy Day Fund		
Gaming Income	11,000	
Capital Lease Revenues		
Municipal Specific		
Gain / Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets		
Interest Earned on Investments	150	
Reimbursements		
Refunds		
Sale of Fixed Assets		
Sale of Materials		
Commissions		
Insurance Claims		
Filing Fees		
Library Fees		
Accident Reports		
Bingo Revenues		
Recycling Program		
Property Rehabilitation		
Interest on Special Assessments		
Confiscated Property, Forfeiture / Seizure		
Employees Retirement Contribution (Police & Fire)		
Fair Market Value		
Video Lottery (LVL)	600	
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds		
Miscellaneous Revenues (provide details on 'Explanations' tab)	1,000	
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (GENERAL FUND)	\$ 165,063	
COAL SEVERANCE TAX FUND		
REVENUE SOURCE		
Assigned Fund Balance (Coal Fund Only)	\$ 300	
Coal Severance Tax	1,200	
Interest Earned on Investment		
Reimbursements		
Refunds		
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (COAL SEVERANCE FUND)	\$ 1,500	
General Fund	Coal Severance Fund	
ESTIMATED CURRENT EXPENDITURES		
Economic Development	\$	\$
Federal Grants		
State Grants		
Zoning Board		
Consumer Protection		
Civil Service		
Insurance Program (Self Insured)		
Mayor's Office	7,900	-
City Council	8,400	-
Recorder's Office	6,300	-
City Manager's office	-	-
Treasurer's Office	-	-
Finance Office	-	-
City Clerk's Office	-	-
Police Judge's Office		
City Attorney		
City Auditor		
Main Street Program		
Engineering		
Community Development (Housing)		
Personnel Office		
Purchasing Department		
Contributions to Comms / Authorities		
Enforcement Agency		
Litigation Reserve		
Rehabilitation of Property		
Acquisition of Property		
Clearance		
Program Planning		
Printing		
Other Grants		
Custodial		
Housing Authority		
Regional Development Authority	250	
Building Inspection		
Planning & Zoning		
Elections		
Data Processing		
City Hall	63,842	-
Other Buildings		
Internal Audit		
Charter Board		
Contributions / Transfers to Other Funds		
Worthless Checks / Bad Debt Expense		
Other Buildings #2		
Employee Wellness		
Electrical Services		
Public Works Department		

Public Grounds	22,000	
Complaint Department		
Local Government Access Channel		
Energy Savings Contract		
Parking		
Market House		
Transfers / Reimbursements		
Contingencies		
Police Department		
DARE Grant		
COPS Grant		
Investigative Services & Control		
Police - Special Duty		
Regional Jail		
Fire Department		
Dog Warden / Humane Society		
Watershed Project		
Ambulance Authority		
Dams & Dredging		
Communication Center / Central Dispatch		
Traffic Engineering		
Civil Defense		
Flood Control / Soil Conservation		
Fire Hydrants		
Emergency Services	-	-
Juvenile Justice Diversion Program		
Drug & Violent Crime Control Grant		
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant		
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant		
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant		
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant		
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant		
Fire Fee Distribution		
Streets and Highways	-	-
Street Lights	17,500	-
Signs and Signals		
Snow Removal		
Central Garage		
Street Construction		
Street Cleaning		
Sidewalks		
Airports		
Public Transit		
Port Authority		
Grants - Street and Transportation		
Garbage Department		
Landfill / Incinerator Department		
Recycling Center		
Local Health Department		
Other Health Program		
Storm Sewer		
Water & Sewer		
Sewer - Source of Supply		
Water - Source of Supply		
Grants - Health and Sanitation		
Parks & Recreation	3,500	1,500
Visitors Bureau		
Travel Council		
Fair Associations / Festivals		
Swimming Pools		
Community Center		
Arts & Humanities		
Youth Program		
Playgrounds		
Museum Commission		
Civic Center - Municipal Auditorium		
Historical commission		
Civic Promotions		
4-H Camp		
Rails to Trails		
Ice Arena		
Library		
Law Library		
Golf Course		
Stadium		
Grants - Culture and Recreation		
Beautification Programs		
Aging Program (Senior Citizens)		
Cemeteries		
Social Services		
Human Rights / Affirmative Action		
Human Resources		
Community Council		
Bingo Expenses		
Grants - Social Services		
Capital Projects - General Government	35,371	
Capital Projects - Public Safety		
Capital Projects - Street and Transportation		
Capital Projects - Health and Sanitation		
Capital Projects - Culture and Recreation		
Capital Projects - Social Services		
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	\$ 165,063	\$ 1,500
MUNICIPALITY OF CLAY, WEST VIRGINIA		
Regular Current Expense Levy		
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026		
Certificate of Valuation		
Assessed Value	Levy	Taxes
for Tax Purposes	Rate/\$100	Levied
CLASS I		
Personal Property	\$ 0	10.05 \$ 0
Public Utility	0	0
Total Class I	\$ 0	\$ 0
CLASS II		
Real Estate	\$ 3,331,020	\$ 6,695
Personal Property	68,986	139
Total Class II	\$ 3,400,006	\$ 6,834
CLASS IV		
Real Estate	\$ 7,193,010	\$ 28,916
Personal Property	4,080,717	16,404
Public Utility	2,965,874	11,923
Total Class IV	\$ 14,239,601	\$ 57,243
Total Value & Projected Revenue	\$ 17,639,607	\$ 64,077
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes	5.00%	3,204
Less Tax Discounts (use Total Projected Revenue to calculate)	2.00%	1,217
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable)		0
Total Projected Property Tax Collection		\$ 59,656
Less Assessor Valuation Fund	2.00%	1,193
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)		
Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes		\$ 58,463
MUNICIPALITY OF CLAY, WEST VIRGINIA		
Excess Levy / Levies		
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026		
Certificate of Valuation		
Assessed Value	Levy	Taxes
for Tax Purposes	Rate/\$100	Levied
CLASS I		
Personal Property	\$ 0	0.00 \$ 0
Public Utility	0	0
Total Class I	\$ 0	\$ 0
CLASS II		
Real Estate	\$ 3,331,020	\$ 0
Personal Property	68,986	0
Total Class II	\$ 3,400,006	\$ 0
CLASS IV		
Real Estate	\$ 7,193,010	\$ 0
Personal Property	4,080,717	0
Public Utility	2,965,874	0
Total Class IV	\$ 14,239,601	\$ 0
Total Value & Projected Revenue	\$ 17,639,607	\$ 0
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes	5.00%	0
Less Tax Discounts (use Total Projected Revenue to calculate)	2.00%	0
MUNICIPALITY OF CLAY, WEST VIRGINIA		
Excess or Bond Levy		
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026		
Certificate of Valuation		
Assessed Value	Levy	Taxes
for Tax Purposes	Rate/\$100	Levied
CLASS I		
Personal Property	\$ 0	0.00 \$ 0
Public Utility	0	0
Total Class I	\$ 0	\$ 0
CLASS II		
Real Estate	\$ 3,331,020	\$ 0
Personal Property	68,986	0
Total Class II	\$ 3,400,006	\$ 0
CLASS IV		
Real Estate	\$ 7,193,010	\$ 0
Personal Property	4,080,717	0
Public Utility	2,965,874	0
Total Class IV	\$ 14,239,601	\$ 0
Total Value & Projected Revenue	\$ 17,639,607	\$ 0
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes	5.00%	0
Less Tax Discounts (use Total Projected Revenue to calculate)	2.00%	0
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA		
COUNTY OF Clay MUNICIPALITY Clay		
I, _____, Recording Officer of said municipality, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies from the record of the orders made and entered by the council of the said municipality on the ____ day of March, 2025.		

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
Department of Environment Protection
Division of Water and Waste Management
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304
Telephone: (304) 926-0495
Fax: (304) 926-0463
GENERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PERMIT
STORMWATER ASSOCIATED WITH OIL AND GAS RELATED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES
WV PERMIT NO. WV0116815

Public Notice No.: BS-029-2025
Publication: Statewide/West Virginia Press Association
Publication Date: April 5, 2025
The State of West Virginia, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water and Waste Management is proposing to reissue the West Virginia General Stormwater Associated with Oil and Gas related Construction Activities. The General Permit will authorize discharges associated with industrial activity from oil and gas to surface waters of the state for construction activities.
It is proposed that this General Permit be issued for a five (5)-year term. All facilities covered under the existing general permit within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the reissued general permit will be required to submit a new registration form to obtain coverage under the new Stormwater Associated with Oil and Gas related Construction Activities Permit.
The Draft Permit and Fact Sheet are available on the WVDEP website at:
https://dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/stormwater/ogcsw/Pages/default.aspx.
The comment period for the Draft General Permit begins April 10, 2025, and ends on May 10, 2025.
During the public comment period, any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and/or request a public hearing. Comments and/or a request for a public hearing shall be made in writing and addressed to:
Director
Division of Water and Waste Management
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304
Attention: Billy Shirley
Phone: (304) 926-0499, Extension 43893
E-mail: billy.t.shirley@wv.gov
The request shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing and must be received within the comment period. The Director shall hold a public hearing whenever he or she finds there is a significant degree of public interest in issues relevant to the draft permit.
For more information, contact Billy Shirley at the email address or phone number listed above.
Hearing impaired individuals having access to a Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) may contact our agency by calling (304) 926-0489. Calls must be made between 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

LEGAL

Clay County Commission Levy Estimate (Budget)
2025 - 2026 Fiscal Year

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
County of: Clay, West Virginia
In accordance with Code §11-8-10, as amended, the Clay County Commission proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the current year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

General Fund		Estimated Revenues
Fund Balance	\$	300,000
Property Taxes Current year		1,193,169
Prior Year Taxes		81,461
Property Transfer Tax		30,000
Gas & Oil Severance Tax		35,000
Wine & Liquor Tax		300
Miscellaneous Energy Tax (Coal Bed Methane)		8,200
Licenses		200
Building Permits		800
Sheriff's Service of Process		6,000
Sheriff's Earnings		50
County Clerk's Earnings		28,000
Circuit Clerk's Earnings		8,000
Accident Reports		150
Motor Vehicle License Fee		1,200
Clerk Deed Fees		1,000
Rents & Concessions		7,000
Franchise Agreement		800
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)		45,000
Interest Earned		1,200
Miscellaneous Revenue		30,000
Sheriff's Commission		15,000
Gaming Income		40,000
Video Lottery		4,000
Transfers Assessor's Valuation Fund		62,773
Total Estimated General Fund Revenues	\$	1,899,303
Coal Severance Tax	Estimated Revenues	
Assigned Fund Balance	\$	10,000
Coal Severance Tax		30,000
Interest Earned on Investment		100
Total Coal Severance	\$	40,100

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES GENERAL GOVERNMENT	General Fund	Coal Severance Tax Fund
County Commission	\$ 463,592	\$ -
County Clerk	142,748	-
Circuit Clerk	123,320	-
Sheriff - Treasurer	177,737	-
Prosecuting Attorney	263,411	-
Assessor	101,272	-
Assessor's Valuation Fund	62,773	-
Statewide Computer Network	47,584	-
Elections - County Clerk	38,000	-
Circuit Court	11,310	-
Courthouse	246,995	-
Regional Development Authority	1,948	-
County Clerk Operations	7,125	-
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,687,815	-
PUBLIC SAFETY	-	-
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	149,088	-
Sheriff - Service of Process	6,000	-
Regional Jail	53,200	40,100
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	208,288	40,100
HEALTH & SANITATION	-	-
TOTAL HEALTH & SANITATION	-	-
CULTURE & RECREATION	-	-
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	-	-
SOCIAL SERVICES	-	-
Human Resources	3,200	-
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES	3,200	-
CAPITAL PROJECTS	-	-
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,899,303	\$ 40,100

CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA REGULAR CURRENT EXPENSE LEVY FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025- JUNE 30, 2026			
Current Year	Certificate of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
CLASS I			
Personal Property	\$	14.30	\$
Public Utility			
Total Class I	\$		\$
CLASS II			
Real Estate	\$ 115,947,470	28.60	\$ 331,610
Personal Property	3,557,098		10,173
Total Class II	\$ 119,504,568		\$ 341,783
CLASS III			
Real Estate	\$ 58,902,100	57.20	\$ 336,920
Personal Property	50,465,062		288,660
Public Utility	50,689,240		289,942
Total Class III	\$ 160,056,402		\$ 915,522
CLASS IV			
Real Estate	\$ 7,193,010	57.20	\$ 41,144
Personal Property	4,080,717		23,342
Public Utility	2,965,874		16,965
Total Class IV	\$ 14,239,601		\$ 81,451
Total Value & Projected Revenue	\$ 293,800,571		\$ 1,338,756
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes		7.20%	96,390
Less Tax Discounts		2.00%	24,847
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable)			0
Total Projected Property Tax Collection			\$ 1,217,519
Less Assessor Valuation Fund		2.00%	0
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)			
Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes			\$ 1,217,519

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF CLAY
I, Sheila Stone, CLERK OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF SAID COUNTY, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING ARE TRUE COPIES FROM THE RECORD OF ORDERS MADE AND ENTERED BY SAID COMMISSION ON THE 24th DAY OF MARCH 2025.

Sheila Stone
(Signature)

RAIL EXPLORERS

Continued from Page 1

modations go beyond the motor assist with five-point harnesses for children and adults as well as seat belt extenders and umbrellas for added comfort. They even have dog mats for your four-legged companions. While on the property at Dundon depot, you'll find Clay's very own West Virginia swing, as well picnic tables and yard games for more family fun.

As a thank you for the love and support that they have been shown from Clay County, each Monday during the months of April, May, and September Rail Explorers will host 'Locals' Days', offering a 35 percent discount to all Clay County residents and those in local communities in bordering counties as well! For more details or to secure your booking call 877-833-8588.



The Rail Explorers season begins on Saturday, Apr. 19, with "Locals' Days" to be held on Mondays during April, May, and Sept. with a 35 percent discount for Clay County residents.



The Elk River tour covers 12.5 miles roundtrip.

Your Ad Could Be Here!
Call us at
304-647-5724

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH AT 5:00PM
REGISTRATION & VIEWING BEGIN AT 4:30PM
1122 BLUE KNOB ROAD, MAYSEL, WV 25133
3 BEDROOM HOME ON 2 ACRES

3 BEDROOMS, 2 FULL BATHROOMS | LOVELY, 1,848+/- SQ FT -- ONE STORY HOME
2.13+/- ACRE (AS ASSESSED) | MOSTLY FLAT LOT | 2-CAR GARAGE
QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL TAYLOR RAMSEY, SALESPERSON (304)-552-5201
RE Terms: 10% down payment made day of auction w/balance due at closing w/in 30 days. 10% BP. Additional Terms on Website.

JOE R. PYLE COMPLETE AUCTION & REALTY SERVICE
Joe Pyle, Broker WV212
5546 Benedum Drive, Shinnston, WV
(888) 875-1599 • (304) 592-6000
www.joerpyleauctions.com

www.cmiwv.com

TIRE MANAGERS SPECIAL
TIRE SALE

MASTERCRAFT COURSER CXT-275-7018 10PLY \$245.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS HT- 275-65-18 TR \$184.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS HT 275-65-18 TR \$139.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT QUEST PLUS 265-65-18 TR \$155.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS HT 255-65-18 TR \$129.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT COURSER TRAIL 245-60-18 HR \$154.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AP 265-70-17 TR \$129.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT COURSER TRAIL 265-70-17 TR \$149.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT SRT TOURING 225-65-17 TR \$109.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT QUEST PLUS 225-65-17 HR \$124.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AS 225-60-17 HR \$99.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT GLACIER TREX 225-60-17 TR \$129.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AS 215-60-16 VR \$79.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT COURSER QUEST 215-60-16 VR \$95.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT COURSER QUEST 195-65-15 HR \$89.99 EA.
MASTERCRAFT GLACIER TREX 195-65-15 TR \$94.99 EA.
ATV-UTV TIRES
CARLISLE 489 25-8-12 4 PR \$109.99 EA.
CARLISLE 489 25-10-12 4 PR \$114.99 EA.
LAWN TIRE
CARLISLE TURF SAVER II 20-8-8 2PR \$54.99
POWER KING WING 25-8-12 6PR \$109.99 EA.
POWER KING WING 25-10-12 6PR \$129.99 EA.
POWER KING TERROROK 26-11-14 8 PR \$144.99 EA.
TRAILER TIRES
MASTERTRACK UN 203 205-75-15 8 PR \$74.99 EA.
MASTERTRACK UN203 225-75-15 8 PR \$79.99 EA
LAWN TIRES
HI-RUN TURF 15-6-6 2 PR \$34.99 EA.
WANDA TURF 16-16.50-8 4PR \$39.99 EA.
MISCELLANEOUS CAR TIRES
MULTI SUPREME TOUR CSX 245-60-18 TR \$139.99 EA.
THUNDERER MOCH 1 PLUS 235-55-17 HR \$94.99 EA.
ROAD ONE CAVALRY AS 205-55-16 HR \$105.99 EA.
KELLY EDGE AS 205-55-16 VR \$105.99

ALL PRICES ARE CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD.
ALL PRICES INCLUDE MOUNT & BALANCE.

FREE ROTATION DOWN TO 2/32 TREAD.
PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH AVAILIBTY.

FEATURE VEHICLE



**2019 TOYOTA
HIGHLANDER**

**Brown, 4WD, port/direct injection, V6,
4WD, tilt steering ,leather interior, climate
control settings, lumbar support, heated
exterior mirrors, air conditioning, interval
wipers, cruise control, power door locks and
windows**

\$21,999.00

STORE HOURS
M-F 6:00AM-6PM
SAT 7:00AM-6PM
SUN-CLOSED
TIRE SHOP
MON-SAT 8AM-5PM
SUN-CLOSED
OFFICE HOURS
M-F 8:00AM-5:00 PM
SAT-9:00 AM -2:00 PM
SUN-CLOSED

**WE HAVE STATE
MINIMUM PRICES!**
304-286-4671



2004 Subaru Legacy



2014 Dodge Durango



2014 Ford F-150

CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2019 Toyota Highlander-V6, Auto, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Brown	\$21,999.00
2018 Ford F-150-Super Crew Cab, Auto, 4WD, V8, A/C, Tilt & Cruise	\$18,999.00
2016 Jeep Cherokee Latitude-71,000 miles, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Gray	\$10,999.00
2015 Ford Explorer-V6, Auto, 3rd Row Seating, Many Options, Green	\$9,999.00
2015 Ford Focus-Auto, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, White	\$8,999.00
2015 Chevy Spark-5 Speed Manual, A/C & Power Windows, Silver	\$4,999.00
2014 Ford F-150-V8, Auto, 4WD,A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Black	\$19,999.00
2014 Ford Explorer-Auto, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Black	\$10,999.00
2014 Dodge Durango-Auto, V6, A/C, Power doors and Windows, White	\$9,999.00
2014 Chevy Silverado 1500-Auto, 4WD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Silver	\$9,999.00
2014 Chevy Malibu-Auto, Many Options Including A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Blue	\$8,999.00
2013 Jeep Wrangler-Auto, 4WD, A/C & Cruise, Silver	\$12,999.00
2012 Hyundai Accent-4 Cyl, Auto, A/C, White	\$3,999.00
2011Toyota Corolla-Auto, Base Model A/C & Tilt, Blue	\$5,499.00
2010 Subaru Forester-AWD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Blue	\$4,999.00
2008 Toyota Sequoia-V8, Limited All Options, Tan	\$9,999.00
2007 Ford Ranger-Auto, V6, 4WD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Black	\$8,999.00
2004 Subaru Legacy-35th Anniversary Edition, Auto, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Silver	\$4,999.00
2002 Jeep Wrangler- 5 Speed Manual, 4WD, Removable Top, Blue	\$6,999.00

304-286-4671 or 304-286-3802

FMP BATTERIES!

GENERATOR
26R-\$48.99
MARINE /MOBILE HOME
M24-930ST-\$72.99
M27-7DC-\$80.99
31TXXHD-\$97.99

VEHICLE
35-\$50.99
47-90-\$50.99
48-91-\$53.99
24FHD-\$57.99
65HD-\$68.99
P75DT-\$86.99

LAWN
51R-\$43.99
41R-300V\$39.99
41L-340V-\$43.99

ALL PRICES REQUIRE A CORE!

Great in-store deals!

- SEA FOAM - \$10.99
- MOUNTAIN SHINE CLEANER-\$6.99
- BLUE CORAL CLEANER- \$4.99 TO \$7.99
- 0.95 WEED EATER STRING-\$5.99 TO \$38.99
- MIXING OIL-\$2.99 TO \$4.99
- SAFETY GLASSES- \$2.99
- ROTARY BAR AND CHAIN OIL \$14.99
- BELTS FOR LAWNMOWERS STARTING AT \$8.99
- BARS AND CHAINS FOR SAWS STARTING AT \$12.99



Call us for best prices on parts for your car!
Most parts are in stock or next day!
We have replacement parts available for your lawn mower
And chain saws!

Cunningham Motors Inc.

**Intersection
of Rts. 4 &16
10560 Ivydale Road
Ivydale, WV 25113**

**email:
cmiwv@hotmail.com**

**304-286-4671
304-286-3802
Fax: 304-286-2100**

Mustang boys place third and Mustang girls place seventh at Walton Tiger Invitational

By Allen Hamrick

It was time to burn some sneakers Saturday, April 5, as the Mustang boys and girls competed at Roane County in the Walton Tiger Invitational. Twelve of the top middle school teams in the state competed in the event with the very tough Braxton, Ripley and Blennerhassett track teams in the house. It was a windy and rainy day, and runners were hit in the face with heavy wind gusts at one turn and rain in the other. Then the sun would pop out and spread some heat on the field as the humidity rose. However, the heavy rain held off for the most part, and the day went as planned.

As a team, the Mustang boys came in third overall closely behind first place Braxton. The Lady Mustangs came in seventh overall, as Point Pleasant came in first

in the girls' division.

Clay County Middle School had some outstanding performances with both the Lady Mustang and the Mustang teams. Tilyr Bird, Jackson Stricker, and Cole Boggs were top dogs in their events, with Tilyr taking first in the 100 meter hurdles, first in the long jump, second in the 200 meter hurdles and second in the high jump. Jackson Stricker took first in the pole vault and second in the 400 meter dash. For the Lady Mustangs' team, Marissa Atha, who will one day take the distance run to world class levels, took second in the 2 mile and third in the 1 mile runs, and McKinley Mahan took second in the 800 meter run. The Mustang track teams are working hard to put CCMS track at the top of the food chain. Both teams will be back in action at the Elkview

Middle Annual Invitational on April 10 th at UC Stadium in Charleston. Go Mustangs!



Cole Boggs takes first in the high jump.



Marissa Atha places 2 nd in the 2 mile.



Jackson Stricker places 2 nd in the 400.



Hayden Rogers wins her 100 meter heat.

Lady Mustangs split games last week

By Allen Hamrick

The Lady Mustangs are still smoking the diamonds, going 3 and 2 for the season so far. The Lady Mustangs opened the week with a game against Midland Trail. This game is one of those games you just know is going to be all out, and it did not disappoint the fans a bit. With a ton of truly questionable calls, it looked as though the Lady Mustangs only had a pair of deuces to bet with no draws left. In the first part of the game, it looked like the Lady Mustangs would hold their own against Midland Trail until the questionable calls surfaced. The Lady Mustangs tried to go bat for bat but just couldn't get the bats to swing their way. Trail scored early in the game and didn't look back. In the end it was Trail over the Lady Mustangs 11-0.

One thing the Lady Mustangs hate the taste of is losing, and they got their taste buds back against Braxton who came to town looking to have horse meat for lunch. The Lady Knights didn't know what hit them as the Lady Mustangs sent Rockin' Roxy Schoolcraft to the mound to blow out the candles on the Knights. Roxy was devastating on the Lady Knights as the English she was pitching couldn't be translated by the Lady Knights. Lady Mustangs got busy on defense and allowed just two runs to cross the plate. The Lady Mustangs went to work putting

Lady Knight notches on their bats, and Laney Sears jacked an inside the park home run in the game as she flew the bases staying ahead of the Lady Knight throws. When the dust settled, it was the Lady Mustangs over the Lady Knights by the score of 10-2. Weather permit-



Roxy Schoolcraft brings the heat.



McKinley Mahan gets the grounder and the out.

ting, the

Lady Mustangs will be on the road Monday night against Summersville and back home on April 9th against George Washington. Softball is a game full of

bursts of action and intense, edgy moments. If you want to see this for yourself, get to one of the Lady Mustangs softball games; they have already kicked some butt, and the season has just got underway.

Mustangs stomp Braxton on the diamond

By Allen Hamrick

The CCMS boys' baseball team had one game cancelled against Ravenswood early in the week but got to play a bat buster against Braxton. The Mustangs, now 3-2 on the season, have set the diamond on fire with some excellent technical / physical baseball. Simply put, this is one of the best teams to hit the field for the Mustangs. The talent on the team would lend itself to believe that this could be the year they bring home the gold, but there is a lot of baseball yet to play.

With Braxton, it was a good game for the Mustangs as they met little resistance towards the win. Both teams

looked as though talent wouldn't be a problem and neither would be the action. The Mustangs sent ace pitcher, and I do mean ace pitcher, Palmer Adkins to the mound to try and put down any offense Braxton might muster. Adkins went to work with some English that didn't come from a cracker box. Those pitches kept the Knight players guessing and striking. By the time he was done, he set down five batters in three innings while allowing no hits and no runs.

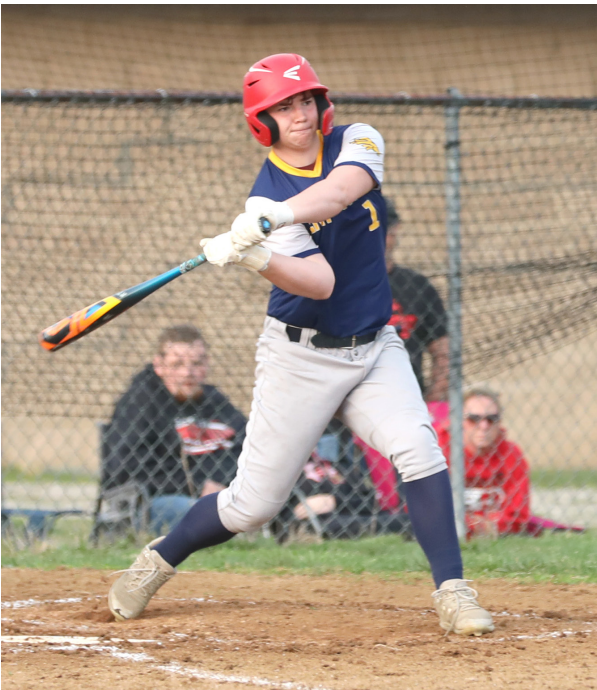
The Mustangs' bats had no problem with the Knight pitcher as they scored 10 runs in the first inning that put shackles on any Knight hope for a win. The Knights were up in the 2 nd inning, but the shellacking the Mustangs

gave them in the 1 st gave them a bitter taste in the mouth. They couldn't get any runs off of Adkins as Mustang defense stepped up their game. The final five nails were driven into the coffin when the Mustangs scored five runs in the bottom of the 3 rd inning ending the game. With the official white towel thrown in, the game ended with the Mustangs short gaming the Knight 15-0. Holden Winebrenner had the heavy bat for the Mustangs knocking in four RBIs on three hits.

The Mustangs will once again be at home on April 7 th against Calhoun and away at Ravenswood on April 8, these games should be some good bat busters. Go Mustangs!!



Pierce Adkins throws a no hitter.



Holden Winebrenner jacks a base hit.



Collin Elliott gets the out at first.