


Clay County

Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



0 51497 13936 0

Volume 136 No. 55

Periodical Postage Paid at Clay, West Virginia 25043-0180

Thursday, April 17, 2025

\$1.⁰⁰



Pictured from left to right are Superintendent Dobbins, Julia Triplett and Principal Leslie Goe.



Shawn Krajieski students, Principal Angela Nichols, Teacher Aide Denise Holcomb and Superintendent Dobbins.

School attendance numbers announced

The seventh school month, just as the sixth, brought about its share of illness and more absenteeism; however, our county goal, as set by the superintendent, of 93% is still attainable. We currently stand at 93.16% for the entire school year.

Our leaders for the seventh school month continue to maintain a high standard of attendance. Shawn Krajieski’s students at Clay County High School continue to lead the county with a 97.50%. Julia Triplett’s students at Clay Middle School hold the second position with a 95.53%.

Third place was held by Tonya Taylor’s 1st grade students at Clay Elementary School at 94.87%. And finally, fourth place was held by Kayla Montgomery’s Pre-K students at Big Otter Elementary School, with a 92.79%.

Runners up were Catherine Vaillancourt’s students at Clay Middle School, Christy Fitzwater’s physical education and health students at Clay County High School, Randi Holcomb’s students at Clay Elementary School and Stacy Marks’ Pre-K students at Big Otter Elementary.

Broken prison system leaves many in WV without options post-release

By Nadia Ramlagan

April is National Second Chance Month but across West Virginia, resources to help people leaving prison find gainful employment are dwindling.

According to data from the Prison Policy Initiative, out of more than 50,000 people in 2010, 33% found no employment in the four years following release.

Patience Lewis-Walker, deputy executive director of the Center for Employment Opportunities, in the South Mountain Plains Region, said the benefits of employment programs far outweigh the costs.

“We are able to also change communities, change this intergenerational cycle of poverty and incarceration, and really make longer-term impacts across our nation,” Lewis-Walker explained.

The Mountain State releases around 37,000 men and nearly 13,000 women

from its prisons and jails each year, according to the Prison Policy Initiative. Nationwide, more than half million people are released from state and federal prison each year.

Walker added entry-level, on-the-job learning programs can stabilize families and grow the local workforce.

“As they’re matriculating through our program, they then begin to learn other skills and have more opportunities to really create more advancement and more of a career pathway,” Walker outlined.

Without housing, it is difficult for individuals to obtain employment. According to federal data, at least one-quarter of returning individuals leave jails and prisons without a stable living situation. Research showed people who were previously incarcerated are around 10 times more likely to experience homelessness than the general population.

WV Dept. of Education Celebrates Student Excellence During State Social Studies Fair

Clay County student wins Honorable Mention

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) welcomed 540 students to the 2025 West Virginia State Social Studies Fair (WVSSSF) today in Charleston. Students in Grades 3-12 representing 43 counties submitted 349 projects showcasing individual and group work.

These projects featured content in anthropology, economics, political science, U.S. history, psychology, sociology and more. Students earned their way to the WVSSSF as first-place winners at their school, county and regional fairs. Projects were critiqued based on a student-led oral presentation, research methods, theme, overall design and an abstract.

The WVSSSF allows students to apply hands-on knowledge of concepts taught in social studies classrooms to projects of interest. This requires they conduct historical analysis, ask thought-provoking questions, recognize behavioral patterns, while also building their civic engagement and geographical understanding.

“The State Social Studies Fair is a highlight of the year for students

across the state. It showcases their passion for deeper exploration of topics that resonate with them,” said State Superintendent of Schools Michele L. Blatt. “Ours is one of the longest-running fairs of its kind in the country, and our success is built on the dedication of families and teachers and the creativity and curiosity of our students.”

The WVSSSF dates back to 1977 and was established by the WVDE in partnership with Marshall University. Several West Virginia social studies teachers were involved in the initial planning and organization of the fair that was first held in Huntington and later moved to Charleston.

The competition field featured three divisions, with a total of 90 first-place winners, 96 second-place winners and 94 third-place winners. Sixty-one students were recognized with an “honorable mention.”

Clay County student Benzley Champ received Honorable Mention in the Division I, Political Science, Individual category for the project “I Dissent.”

This week in sports...



Marissa Atha kills the two mile. Allen Hamrick photo.

See story on Page 10

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

NICHOLAS COUNTY

BRAXTON CTY.



Rachelle Dawn Duffield
Booked 4/12/25
Conspiracy to commit a felony, destruction of property, grand larceny, false information to law enforcement, receive/transfer stolen goods



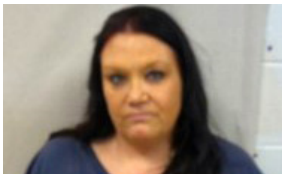
Jeffrey Earnest Mollohan
Booked 4/12/25
Receiving/transfer stolen goods, grand larceny, conspiracy to commit a felony



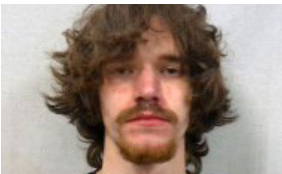
Justin Nicholas Owens
Booked 4/12/25
Obtaining money/property/ services by false pretenses



Nicoma Eagle Scott
Booked 4/11/25
Possession with intent to deliver schedule 1 controlled substance



Laura Anne Smith
Booked 4/7/25
Capias



Devon Lane Hill
Booked 4/12/25
Possession of a controlled substance

CLAY COUNTY



James Jennings Ramsey
Booked 4/10/25
Failure to register as a sex offender



Rodney Mark Workman
Booked 4/8/25
Battery on officer, fleeing from officer in vehicle



Jeremy Scott Wyant
Booked 4/7/25
Brandishing, assault



Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

West Virginia’s Cultural Heritage Should Be Defended, Not Defunded

DOGE’s proposed humanities cuts imperil the Mountain State’s cultural economy

By Eric Waggoner

The *West Virginia Encyclopedia Online*? Deleted from the internet.

The West Virginia Folklife Program’s preservation of our unique traditions and culture? Gone.

Hundreds of annual *History Alive!* presentations to schools, libraries, churches, and community centers across West Virginia? Cancelled.

Last week, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) targeted the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) with devastating funding cuts, putting West Virginia’s rich history, cultural tourism, and community programs at immediate risk. These cuts will pull nearly a million dollars per year in Congressionally approved federal funding out of West Virginia, directly affecting historical societies, museums, festivals, and organizations that work tirelessly to preserve and share the enthralling story of our Mountain State.

In our role as the NEH’s official state affiliate, the West Virginia Humanities Council, a nonpartisan non-profit organization, has delivered NEH funding throughout West Virginia since 1974, providing programs and giving grants to organizations and initiatives that celebrate our cultural heritage. These efforts ensure that West Virginia’s history and culture remain alive and accessible for future generations.

Our grants and programs can be found in all 55 counties, everywhere from cities to the smallest communities. We have supported initiatives as wide ranging as Arthurdale Heritage in Preston County and the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown. Our West Virginia National Cemeteries Project and the *History Alive!* speaker series are just two examples of how we bring state, national, and military history to life and create invaluable experiences for students, residents, and visitors alike.

Along with important programs like these, our support for West Virginia studies and civics programs has made the West Virginia Humanities Council a national leader in the arts and humanities for people of all ages.

Kenzie New Walker, executive director of Matewan’s West Virginia Mine Wars Museum, attests that Council grants “have enabled us to create new permanent exhibits, support Appalachian authors, and launch innovative programs—many of which continue to thrive well beyond their initial funding. The success of the Museum over the past decade is, in large part, thanks to invaluable partners like the West Virginia Humanities Council.”

But our work is about more than just preserving history—it’s also about contributing to a thriving cultural



Eric Waggoner

economy by fueling our state’s businesses and tourism industry. We coordinate with in-state businesses, corporations, foundations, and cultural organizations to create productive, sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors that benefit us all.

The West Virginia Humanities Council is federal funding done right—locally directed and locally delivered, with transparency and accountability to the people of West Virginia. West Virginia’s Congressional representatives know the impact of our work, and have demonstrated their support year after year through regular appropriations. With the help of Congressionally approved funding, our Council contributes over \$1.2 million annually to the state’s cultural economy. DOGE’s proposed cuts would terminate that contribution, effective immediately.

If budget cuts must come, those cuts should not reverse the essential work of sustaining and growing our state’s arts and humanities by decimating our up-and-coming cultural heritage economy—work that is supported by the West Virginia Humanities Council on every day of the year, everywhere in the Mountain State.

Eric Waggoner is the executive director of the West Virginia Humanities Council. More information may be found at www.wvhumanities.org.

Treasurer Pack Applauds Funding for Hope Scholarship

Last week, State Treasurer Larry Pack issued the following statement following the passage of HB 3357, which completed funding for the Hope Scholarship program.

“As a father of six children, I know first-hand how important it is for parents to have options when it comes to education. It is crucial we continue to empower parents and students to find the right education that best fits their unique needs,” Treasurer Pack said. “We applaud the State Legislature and the Governor for putting forth funding mechanisms that fully fund the Hope Scholarship program for the next school year.”

The Hope Scholarship program received a total of \$96,013,384 through two supplementals, HB 3356 and

HB 3357, as well as \$24,610,523 within the budget bill. It is anticipated that around 19,000 students will part in program for the 2025-2026 program. The program will go fully universal and open to all students in the 2026-2027 school year.

“West Virginia must continue to lead the way in education, innovation, and freedom. That is why my team will continue to travel around West Virginia discussing the education needs of parents and students as we approach the 2026 school year,” Treasurer Pack said. “Our goal is to improve education no matter the delivery system.”

For more information about the Hope Scholarship program, visit www.HopeScholarshipWV.gov.

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.

Created With Love

By Joe Mazzella

The first signs of spring are finally arriving here in the mountains of my home. The days are gradually lengthening. The air feels cool and comfortable instead of cold and bitter. The sun feels warm on your face as you go outside. Flowers are blooming in spite of the yellow grass and frosty mornings. And the air is full of songs of love sung by dozens of different species of birds. I even saw a finch and a robin inspecting the limbs of my maple tree, possibly scouting a location for their next nests.

I once watched a robin build a nest on the cross beams of my daughter’s front porch. It took her only a day to complete it. She wonderfully wove twigs, grass, and mud into a sturdy home to raise her babies. As I watched her do so with such perfection, with such completion I wondered where did that intelligence come from. There are no nest building schools out there and the baby birds leave the nest after only a few weeks so how is such knowledge passed on.

Perhaps it is the same divine intelligence that tells the flowers to come up again each spring. Perhaps it is the same wisdom that causes the grass to grow, the trees to create leaves, the animals to raise their babies, and the sun to warm the Earth. Perhaps it is the same wisdom that guides me to grow, to learn, and to love. Perhaps it is the same wisdom that helps us each day to gradually become the people God meant for us to be.

All I know is this. I can feel in my soul that this world was created with Love. I can see that God’s Universe is filled with intelligence and wisdom. And I know that God wants us all to take our own place in His Loving Creation. Take your place then. Let your love shine as bright as the sun on a spring day. Let your soul soar like a bird in flight. And build your life here like a robin builds her nest: with wisdom, with love, and with joy.

The Journey of 1,000 Miles Begins with an Apple Fritter

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Life has many paths, and I have discovered that traveling any of them takes a lot of energy.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, my energy comes from those wonderful Apple Fritters. I can’t remember the first time I had one, but I vividly remember the last time.

Trying to get through life successfully is quite an energetic activity; everybody needs that energy. Finding that energy is the great secret of life.

For years, I have tried convincing The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage of the value of an Apple Fritter, at least for me. We’ve had this argument or rather discussion, and I have tried to prove that an Apple Fritter is a fruit. After all, isn’t an apple fruit? And shouldn’t we be eating fruit?

On the other side of the dining room table, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage gets her energy from eating broccoli. I don’t even like pronouncing the name, let alone seeing it on the dining room table. But for her, broccoli is the Queen of all vegetables. (Yuck)

I argue that I’m a fruit guy, but she misuses that phrase and calls me a fruity guy.

I can remember one time in my life when I ate broccoli. It was so disgusting that I have never eaten it again. I can’t even stand the smell of broccoli in our house.

Every once in a while, I smell broccoli from the kitchen and know it’s on the dinner menu tonight. I don’t mind having broccoli on the table, but I certainly do not accept having it on my plate.

Through the years, I have tried to negotiate with her and tell her I will eat Apple fritters when she eats broccoli. After all, it’s what we like.

Once I was a good negotiator. My mother was trying to get me to eat spinach, which I really hated. One Saturday, I was watching Popeye the Sailor on TV. When my mother saw me watching it, she said, “See, Popeye loves spinach. I think you should be eating spinach too.”

Without even looking at her, I said, “Popeye also smokes a pipe. Does that mean I can smoke a pipe?” That discussion never came up again.

That’s the only negotiating on food I’ve ever won.

For some reason, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage hates Apple fritters. I think she hates them more than I hate broccoli.

For me, Apple fritters provide the energy I need to build up my attitude of excitement in life. Nothing does that better than Apple fritters.

She argues that because of my health condition, my food has to be sugar-free. I don’t know who came up with that idea, but a sugar-free menu certainly is not appealing.

“Don’t you know,” she will explain, “that there is sugar in those Apple fritters? And you need to be

on a sugar-free diet.”

After years of debate, I finally thought of a solution. I talked to the baker where I get most of my Apple fritters and we both came to an amicable agreement. I asked him how much sugar was in an Apple Fritter, and he told me. I asked if he could make the sugar free instead of paying for it. After all, if all the sugar is free, then according to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, it is okay for me to eat.

I tried explaining to her that sugar is always free whenever I buy an Apple Fritter, so technically speaking, the Apple fritters I purchase at my bakery are sugar-free.

How to be simpler than that is beyond my resources. She didn’t accept that argument and seriously said, “That is not what I’m talking about. The sugar in that Apple Fritter is dangerous to your health.”

Apart from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, nothing is sweeter than an Apple Fritter. Whether I pay for the sugar or it comes free doesn’t really matter to me. Honestly, I don’t eat Apple fritters every day. I am very disciplined when it comes to my diet. I can’t explain my frequency for obvious reasons.

Once in a while, I have this inward yearning for an Apple Fritter. If I haven’t had one in some time, I begin thinking about it and am famished for one.

Controlling my diet at my age is very important. I’m not as young or skinny as I once was. I understand that and realize I cannot eat like I am 18. But sometimes, I need to enjoy something that will nourish my current enthusiasm. Several things come to my mind, but the first thing is an Apple Fritter.

I’m not sure who invented the Apple Fritter, but I’d like to meet them someday, shake their hand, and thank them.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I will celebrate our 54th wedding anniversary this August. Amazingly, we’ve been together this long, and our only disagreement during that time has been the Apple Fritters/broccoli controversy. That’s a remarkable accomplishment, especially in the day we live.

So, if I gave up Apple Fritters, we would have no disagreements. What kind of life would that be?

While thinking about this a favorite verse of Scripture came to mind. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3)

It’s not so much what you don’t agree on but rather on what you to agree on. That’s what brings to people together.

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

Home Country

By Slim Randles

I can ‘memorate ‘thout too much trouble about the time this little girl come to visit on the ranch. Oh, Alphonse Wilson here, don’t you see...

Yessir, she was just a tad, mebbe three years old. Couldn’t say for sure. Didn’t check her teeth. Lived up in the city and was seeing what it was like to be around horses and cows and barns and stuff made out of cowhide.

Wellsir, she asked to use the bathroom and we pointed her toward the local outhouse. Her mom had to take her over and explain how it was used, and that little thing couldn’t get over it! Nossir! For the whole rest of the day she kept saying, “You don’t have to flush it!”

She thought it was the best intervention since Edison designed the airplane.

Well ... maybe it is. Oh, most people have the plumbing inside the house these days, and I ‘spose that’s as it should be ... but don’t sell the outhouse short.

Even politicians recognize the importance of the little house out back. Just the other day they had

one a-them bureaucraticals up in front of a table full of politicians who accused him of being contemporary with them and besides that tried to hang stealin’ sheep on him. Sure enough, one of them asked him a question, and he spectaclated it this way “Senator, I’m not privy to that information.”

You see that? Even in Washington District of Columbia they recognize the importance of the privy.

Well, I tell you what ... let’s all bunch up and swear we’ll do ever’ting necessary to keep on lovin’ the old outhouse. We could start a club, even. Call it the Birch John Society or somethin’. I’ll be the emperor or castigator or somethin’ and we’ll all have effluviations of fun.

‘Minds me though of the time up in the mountains at that camp. Boss man thought he’d do somethin’ chic or elegant ... you know ... noo-vo? Wellsir, since it flats gets cold up there, he lined the outhouse hole with fur. Had to take it out, though, after that tourist lady got fleas. Hey, if I’m lyin’ you can dip my flag in baking powder and make it rise by its ownself.

But them fleabites don’t stop outhouses from being a good idear. Nossir. And regulate this to your memorizer ... you still don’t have to flush!

##

Brought to you by the panel of geniuses sipping coffee down at the Mule Barn, because they didn’t have anything better to do.

SAVE \$160

12 TOP WINES + BONUS GIFTS

OMAHA STEAKS® WINE

POWERED BY LAITHWAITES

Go to **GetOSWine.com/Sip137**

or call **1.877.283.6687** and mention code **AG1F002**

Omaha Steaks Wine is operated independently from Omaha Steaks, LLC. Full terms and conditions online. Void where prohibited by law.

BATH REMODEL

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW
855.576.4703

SPECIAL OFFER

Waiving All Installation Costs!

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 6/29/25.

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 PROCIUS 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

ANDERSON HEIGHTS APARTMENTS

2626 PROCIUS • 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

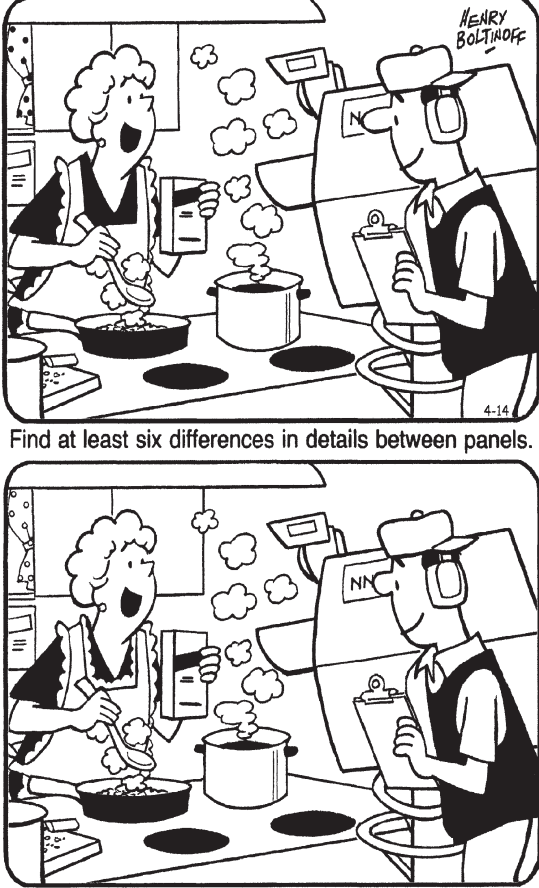
Electric • Air • Refrigerator • Range
Water, Sewer & Trash Included
Handicap Units Available
On-Site Management / Maintenance
Laundry Facilities

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

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Pot is larger. 2. Box is different. 3. Apron is smaller. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Curtain is moved. 6. Nose is different. 7. Box is different. 8. Apron is smaller.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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.

LET THE PROS
HANDLE IT!





Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters.

Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

20% OFF

Your Entire Purchase*

10% OFF



Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!¹


Promo: 285

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION!


1-844-295-2840



+ See Representative for full warranty details. *One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ¹Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 366920923, AZ ROC 344027, CA 1035795, CT HIC 0671520, FL CBC056678, IA C127230, ID RCE-51604, IL 559544, IN 176447, MD MHCI11225, MI 262300173, 262300318, 262300328, 262300329, 262300330, 262300331, MN IR731804, MT 226192, ND 47304, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 13VH09953900, NM 408693, NV 86990, NY H-19114, H-52229, OR 218294, PA 179643, 069383, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VA 2705169445, WA LEAFENW822JZ, WV WV056912.



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



America's #1 Awning

• 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!

Super Crossword

ALL THERE

ACROSS

1 Taunt in fun

5 Pinball fouls

10 Tram loads

14 Raisin, at first

19 \$5/hour, e.g.

20 Maker of the RDX SUV

21 Leading man

22 Greased

23 "Pardon me"

24 — One (vodka option)

25 Suspenseful situations

27 Test giving information about red and white cells

30 Throws

31 Actor Chaney

32 Country west of Uru.

33 — Lanka

36 Triscuit or Ritz tidbit

43 Faint streak

47 Clean air gp.

48 Comet's path

49 "Us" director Jordan

50 Gamut

54 Remitted

55 Wiped away

56 — -cone

57 Carell of "Date Night"

59 Clearasil or Stridex target

60 Jobs at hair salons

61 Roomy car

63 Doctors' gp.

65 "— So Fine"

66 Sun-hiding phenomenon

72 Suffix with lemon

74 — -Blo (fuse type)

75 Beauty in "Beauty and the Beast"

76 Stuns with a charge

79 "There, I did it!"

81 "By gar!"

85 Whoop-de— (fuss)

86 Like sweethearts

87 Not at all dense

89 Withholding of no relevant facts

92 "Bam!"

93 Pitcher — Nomo

94 Subj. for U.S. immigrants

95 "Back —!" ("Ditto!")

96 Larger version of a dictionary, say

101 Article in Essen

102 Bill for services: Abbr.

103 Scientist — Ho Lee

104 Triceps, e.g.

109 What you are giving when you contemplate this puzzle's theme?

115 Like some canvassing

118 Orem native

119 Eager

120 Wise truism

121 Article in Essen

122 Physicist Marie

123 Inferno

124 Put off

125 Really binged, for short

126 Long-term govt. security

127 Turned tail

DOWN

1 Chunk of land

2 Cowboy cry

3 Agenda parts

4 Office subs

5 Listens carefully

6 "Law & Order: SVU" actor

7 Guitar's kin

8 High-pitched

9 Sickly yellow

10 "This is bad!"

11 Part of ROM

12 "Layla" singer Clapton

13 Single-person show

14 Freaking out

15 "Norma Rae" director Martin

16 Bristol brew

17 Part of rpm

18 Mag VIPs

26 Hamilton's duel rival

28 "Holiday" actor Ayres

29 Like a stove burner turned way up

33 Does a rough plan of

34 Mend the inner layer of

35 Castle and Cara

37 Intel missions, e.g.

38 Backslides

39 Is mistaken

40 Lie next to

41 Clock info

42 Pro wrestler John

43 Sob

44 As to

45 Provoked major fighting

46 California's — Beach

51 Respite

52 Root canal performer, informally

53 Either of Frosty's eyes

54 Hauling truck

58 Hollow between hills

61 Plod heavily

62 Snag

64 Abbr. in many urban addresses

67 Not aweather

68 Actor Foxx

69 Race created by H.G. Wells

70 Storeroom

71 Taco topping

72 Offered for breeding, as a horse

73 Niles' wife on "Frasier"

77 "Climb — Mountain" ("The Sound of Music" tune)

78 "— penny, pick it up ..."

80 Saudi, e.g.

82 Not worth —

83 Guy

84 Arctic vehicle

86 Inauspicious

88 Rapid runner

90 "Camelot" composer Frederick

91 "—: Vegas" (CBS series)

93 Sharp TV images, e.g.

97 — -Chinese

98 Subtract, as an expense

99 Like "three men" of kids' verse

100 Convent woman

105 Work group

106 Part of ACLU

107 French river

108 Ceased

109 Implore

110 Make null

111 Actress Skye

112 — Scott case

113 Poi source

114 Slender

115 Pa

116 Keats poem

117 Stumblebum

Puzzle Answers Page 2

Your Ad Could Be Here!

Call us at
304-647-5724



THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike
should vote alike.

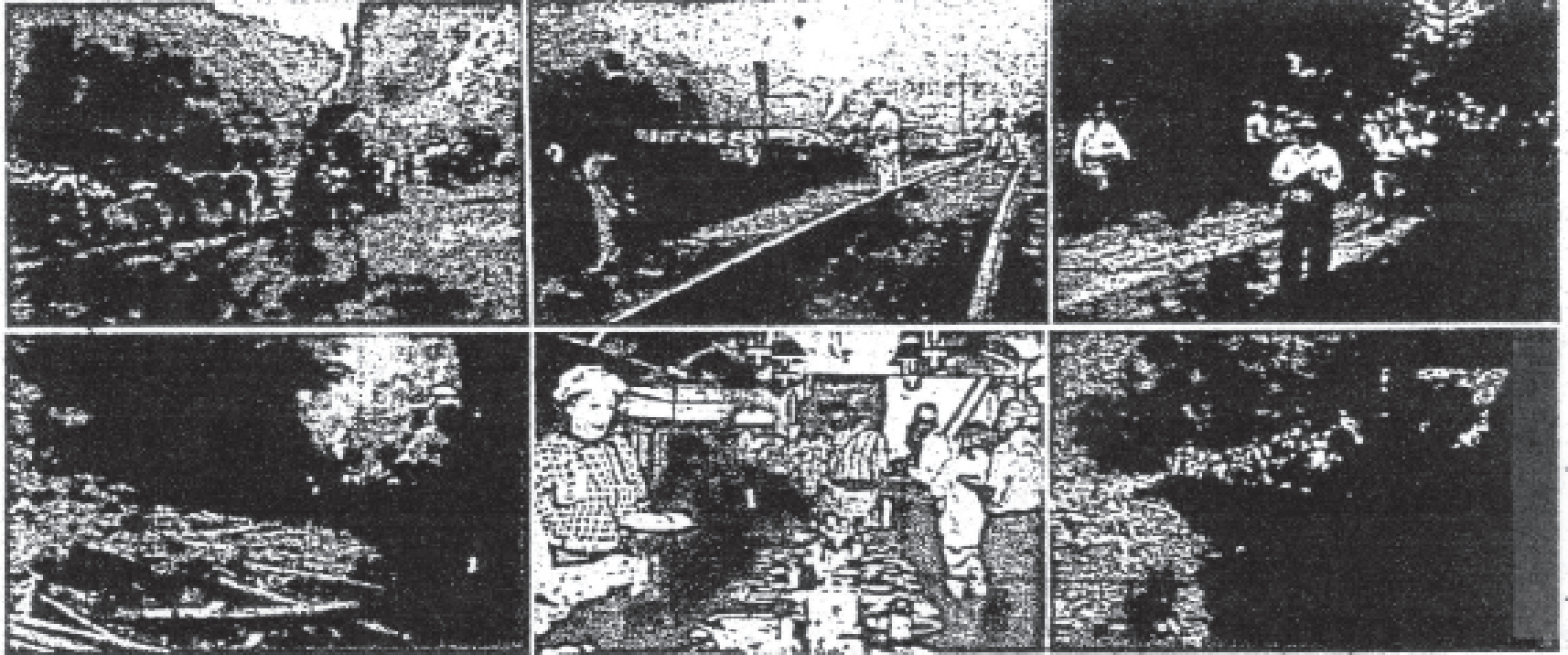
"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.



June 1958

Railroad Fans Visit Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad May 31



The above candid shots were taken during the Historical Railroad Society excursion over The Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad on May 31, 1958.

Order Eastern Star Elects New Officers

Miss Ruby Potasnik and Mr. Melvin Rapp of Widen, were installed as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, respectively, in Strange Creek Chapter No. 154, Order of the Eastern Star, in the Masonic hall at Strange Creek, Friday, June 20, and Mr. and Mrs. Lovell W. Gibson of Dille, were installed as Associate Matron and Associate Patron, beginning the fourth year of this active fraternal organization in the Grand Jurisdiction of the Order in West Virginia.

Mrs. John L. Henley of Widen, past Matron of Francis Chapter, No. 28, in Clay, was the installing officer, assisted by past Matron Mrs. Bonnie Parsons of Servia, installing Marshal; Mrs. Rebecca Hickman of Widen, Chaplain; Miss Elizabeth Parsons of Servia, organist; Junior Past Matron Mrs. Flora Ramsey, Warder; and past Patrons Alton Houghton of Strange Creek, Sentinel.

Other officers installed were: Illida Rinehart, Strange Creek, Secretary; Miss Hazel Baughman, Widen, Treasurer; Marie Donohue, Dille, Conductress; Dorris Beam, Strange Creek, Associate Conductress; Rosalie Nottingham, Servia, Chaplain; Betty Ann Rapp, Widen, Organist; Debbie Corley, Frametown, Marshal; Agnes Slack, Servia, Adah; Athel Frame, Strange Creek, Ruth; Beulah Cook, Dille, Esther; Mildred Gibson, Dille, Martha;

Rebecca Hickman, Widen, Elects; Camilla Elliott, Widen, Warder; and Rex Shaffer, Duck, Sentinel. Junior past Matron Flora Ramsey, Widen, trustee for three years.

The Grand Chapter of West Virginia will hold its annual meeting in Huntington on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of October. Junior Past Matron, Flora Ramsey and Junior Past Patron Lovell W. Gibson will act as Grand Page and Grand Guard at this session of the Grand Chapter, by invitation of Worthy Grand Matron Olive H. Bowyer. Other delegates to the session will be Past Matron Wealthy F. Johnson, Bonnie Parsons, and Past Patrons Herbert C. Johnson and Alton Houghton.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Technical Training Air Force
USAF Technical School

For outstanding performance of academic duties while attending a course of technical instruction at the United States Air Force Technical School at Sheppard Air Force Base, Airman Third Class Earl E. Given AF 15503.107 led his class with a scholastic average of 66 in the AB43330-2 Course.

His technical ability and earnest application reflect great credit upon himself. He is hereby commended for this notable achievement.

Patricia A. Motter
1st Lt., USAF
J. H. Wallace
Brigadier General USAF

Railway Historical Society See Climax Locomotive Ford Creek; Enjoy Visit

In the May 26, 1958, issue of The Widen News mention was made of the coming visit of rail fans to The Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad. On May 31, approximately 300 members of the American Historical Railway Society visited the Buffalo Valley and the operations of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company.

Mr. H. L. Beattie, Vice President of The Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad Company, was in charge of the excursion, which started from Dundon at about 9:00 P.M. On the first lap of the trip a Climax locomotive went 8 1-2 miles up Lilly Fork to observe logging operations of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company. This locomotive forded the creek many times, to the great delight of the passengers. The Climax was exchanged for a Shay when the party came back on the main line of the Railroad, which locomotive

brought the train to Widen, through Swandale and Crestmont. As a whole, the excursion was a great success.

Mr. Richard Manning, Superintendent of Transportation, The Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad, was in charge of the "cook car", from which were served sandwiches, baked beans, coffee and coke. Mrs. Hazel Manning, Miss April Manning, Victor B. Shingler, Carl Sears, Roy Ellis and Hollis Kinscald assisted Mr. Manning in preparing and serving the meal.

Mrs. H. L. Beattie, Mrs. John Beattie, Mrs. Pearl Williams, Mrs. T. H. Atherton and her daughter, Mrs. Russell Hess and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Elliott were the guests of the railroad.

These people who made the trip are all avid "camera bugs". Just about every available type of photographic equipment was used on this trip. You can readily see by the accompanying pictures that getting the right "shots" was very important.

NOTICE

It is the intention of the congregation of the Widen Baptist Church to build a new church building. A site for this purpose has been approved by Mr. Bradley. Your help and contributions are earnestly solicited by the church.

H. L. Beattie
Vice President

Widen, West Virginia.
June 20, 1958

SWIMMING POOL OPENS

The Buffalo Valley Sportsman's Club swimming pool was opened for the summer on June 19, 1958. The pool is open for all club members and their families. It will be open from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. each Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the summer months.

Mrs. Hazel Baughman, who was chairman of the Cancer Fund drive in this vicinity, wishes to thank all who contributed to this cause, especially the Widen Rotary Club for its generous donation.

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

HEALTH/MEDICAL

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection due to use of a Bair Hugger (Blue Blanket), between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call attorney Charles H. Johnson 800/535-5727

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 Standby 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!

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 6/30/25.) Call 1-855-576-4703

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



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



How the Legislature did — and didn't — address West Virginia's challenges during the 2025 session

The Republican supermajority reduced public input, rolled back water regulations and failed to address child care or transportation for workers. As they head home, here's what else lawmakers focused on and which problems they didn't address.

by Erin Beck, Duncan Slade, Tre Spencer, Sarah Elbeshbishi and Henry Culvyhouse

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

For the last 60 days, state lawmakers have had the chance to tackle the biggest challenges facing West Virginians: clean, reliable drinking water; affordable electricity; cheaper housing; better jobs; well-funded public education; transportation and finding reasonably-priced health care and treatment for addiction.

At the stroke of midnight, time was up.

The Republican-controlled Legislature ended its 2025 legislative session having eroded drinking water protections, prioritized private education, failed to address child care or transportation for workers and considered ways to cut Medicaid.

State employees won't get pay raises but will pay more for health insurance. They lost the office meant to protect them from harassment and discrimination.

Practices that promote fair treatment and full participation of all people will no longer be part of state agencies or schools.

**Here's what happened:
Less government, less transparency**

The governor and legislative leadership outlined their priorities at the beginning, setting out to bring more jobs, businesses and workers. To get it done, they focused on shrinking the government.

During the session, lawmakers haggled over how to allocate funding to services to sustain previous tax cuts and avoid additional spending. The Republican supermajority expanded its powers by passing a set of rules that limited public input.

House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, tried to make oversight more difficult by exempting the Legislature from the state's robust Freedom of Information Act. The Senate proposed a broader weakening of the state's public record law. But the bill died quietly.

A concerted campaign to allow a religious exemption to the state's vaccination laws was thwarted not once but twice.

Low-income West Virginians losing health care

Nearly a third of West Virginians are insured by Medicaid.

And as the U.S. Congress moves forward with Medicaid cuts, with the support of West Virginia's Republican congressional delegation, some states plan to or have set aside money to keep people enrolled in the program.

But following years of lawmakers' tax cuts and tight budgets, West Virginia health officials are already planning ways to cut services for the sick, disabled and low-income Medicaid population, including cutting treatment options. Lawmakers briefly considered kicking people off the program altogether.

Starting to meet the needs of the state's seniors

Seniors in the state are on waitlists for home-delivered meals, and families of more than 100,000 seniors with dementia are struggling to take care of them. Debbie Elkins, of Putnam County, quit her job to be a full-time caregiver for her husband when he was diagnosed.

Her story is not uncommon.

Those who care for people with dementia need in-home help, so they don't have to leave the workforce and experience declines in their own health.

Lawmakers passed a budget with

extra funding for home-delivered meals, but only if the state lottery brings in more money during the upcoming fiscal year than anticipated.

And more Meals on Wheels funding cuts due to Trump administration lay-offs are anticipated.

One bill that passed, designating a state official to oversee services for people with dementia, could help.

Changing the foster care system in hopes of protecting kids

Before the dismissal of a five-year lawsuit over the state's troubled foster care system earlier this year, lawmakers commissioned a work group to focus on fixing foster care.

Around 11 p.m. on the last night, senators and delegates agreed to pass a bill making multiple changes to the system, including assigning workers to biological families to give them the support and resources they need to get their kids back.

The bill also calls for state health officials to give children's medical records to those who are fostering them. And it calls for a regular review of incidents in the system where children are harmed or killed with accompanying recommendations to prevent future occurrences.

Sen. Mike Woelfel, D-Cabell, a member of the committee that worked to reconcile House and Senate versions of the bill, said just after midnight that while both agreed on final language, he anticipated there could be possible problems with enactment of the bill later on because there are slight discrepancies between the bill's title and its content.

Banning health care that protects at-risk transgender kids

On the final morning of the session, lawmakers considered whether or not to remove an exemption to the state's prohibition on gender-affirming care for transgender kids.

The bill removed permission for doctors to offer the care in cases where a person would be at risk of hurting or killing themselves.

Del. Bill Flanigan, R-Ohio, had tried to offer an amendment giving kids a year to taper from treatment, but other lawmakers argued those youth could become sterile.

"And that is very unfortunate," Flanigan said. "I'd never want to see that. You know what's worse? A kid being dead."

The bill passed anyway.

Criminal penalties instead of more help for people with addiction

West Virginia has been among the nation's leaders in overdose death rates for 15 years.

A new committee focused on substance use disorders proposed another year of study and spent much of its time proposing requirements for treatment facilities that ultimately failed to pass.

The committee did not address expanding needed services, like recovery residences or quick response teams.

Lawmakers did stiffen up the penalties for drug distribution, imposing mandatory sentences on dealers selling large amounts of drugs.

Rolling back clean water, environmental protections

West Virginians from Wheeling to Welch need clean drinking water.

There were a few attempts by lawmakers to address issues impacting access to clean and reliable drinking water, but those efforts also fell short of the finish line.

Instead, the Legislature approved a measure that chipped away at some of West Virginia's clean water protections and could worsen water quality.

At the end of session, the state's flood protection fund remained empty even though the southern coalfields were devastated by floods days into the start of the

60-day session.

Multiple lawmakers from both parties supported funding mitigation efforts.

They were overruled.

The state's manufacturers association introduced a pared down version of last year's controversial bill to limit community air monitoring. It didn't go anywhere.

And environmentalists and coal advocates made an unusual team in successfully opposing a measure that would have excluded data collected by state agencies in favor of peer-reviewed studies and science in creating new regulations.

Lawmakers did push through an amended version of Gov. Patrick Morrisey's microgrid bill despite concerns that it will increase power costs for ratepayers across West Virginia. The legislation is intended to encourage the development of data centers.

No relief for high utility costs

In the last year, state residents, who have faced rapidly rising electricity increases, have complained about their bills and rate hikes. One Raleigh County resident's bill went from the mid-\$300 range to over \$700 in February.

However, most of the legislation aimed at tackling that issue — including one to freeze rate increases — didn't go anywhere. And the one measure that lawmakers did take up, would have discouraged renewable energy options in favor of coal.

During testimony, one power company administrator told lawmakers that the increasing cost of burning coal was largely responsible for the company's rate hikes. In the end, the bill stalled in the House after clearing the Senate chamber.

A measure that requires utility companies to notify their customers of outages, both planned or unexpected, did make it through both chambers this year after last year's version stalled in the Senate.

Money for private schools, not public schools

Teachers will not get pay raises. The Senate briefly considered a proposal for locality pay, but shelved it. Lawmakers did not address the rising cost of health insurance for public employees, so state employees will pay 14% more in premiums beginning later this year.

Funding for public schools will largely stay the same as schools close and teachers are laid off due to declining enrollment.

But, lawmakers allocated nearly \$100 million to the Hope Scholarship, a program that gives parents the money for private school or homeschooling that would otherwise go to their county's public schools

Next year, tens of thousands of kids will become newly eligible for the program. Its total cost could reach \$315 million.

Addressing school discipline issues

Meanwhile the resources to help kids in public schools aren't adequate. Before the legislative session, teachers and principals described to lawmakers being kicked, punched and headbutted by elementary students.

Early ideas would have given elementary school teachers more power to kick kids out of the classroom. The final behavior law is less punitive, laying out steps for school staff to work with kids, and if that doesn't work, send kids to an alternative learning center.

But, more than half of counties do not have these centers. Lawmakers did not fund more of these but did allow counties some flexibility to use existing funding to hire specialists to help students with behavior issues.

In 2022, voters rejected a constitutional amendment that would've given elected officials more control

over the day-to-day operations of the schools. Now, lawmakers have passed a bill designed to give the state Supreme Court a chance to overturn decades of precedent.

Little action on barriers to employment

While Gov. Morrisey preached making West Virginia "more competitive" for businesses with his "Backyard Brawl" initiative, lawmakers did little to help West Virginians find high-paying jobs or address the barriers that keep people from working.

Two of the state's biggest workforce challenges weren't addressed this session: child care and transportation.

Both labor and child care advocates came together to push for solutions to the state's ongoing child care crisis. But the Legislature put the issue on the back burner as multiple bills were parked in committees, leaving families without child care options and providers without help.

The state also still lacks a fully funded public transit system.

West Virginia's rural communities reported a lack of access to buses or shuttles to take them to work and doctor's appointments, putting another strain on the state's workforce.

Members of the state's public transit association made a pitch to lawmakers for more funding to expand services to new counties, but nothing came of that either.

No housing solutions, but new law targets the unhoused

Housing advocates raised alarms about the state's affordable housing crisis. A representative from the state's affordable housing agency said nearly 150,000 West Virginians pay more than a third of their income on housing costs.

Lawmakers briefly considered a fund for developers to build workforce housing.

Instead, they targeted the state's homeless population by banning squatting, the act of living in a home without an owner's permission, and tried unsuccessfully to ban public camping.

Dismantling DEI

Lawmakers focused on removing diversity, equity and inclusion programs from state agencies and schools. Before the session, the governor vowed to eradicate these programs.

Business leaders at the state's Chamber of Commerce warned against it, saying it harmed the state's ability to attract new, diverse talent and businesses.

First, lawmakers eliminated a state office that protects public employees from discrimination — only to find it had been quietly gutted by the Morrisey administration.

Then, they took up a bill from Morrisey to ban diversity programs in state government and public schools. On the final night, the House had not yet voted on it.

As the midnight deadline approached, Democrats stacked more than 20 amendments onto the bill and read long-winded explanations.

Pulling every trick in the book to keep the bill moving, the Republican supermajority limited debate to an hour, ran out the clock with long legal soliloquies, and shot down amendment after amendment with a deafening "NO!"

In opposition, Del. Anitra Hamilton, a Democrat from Monongalia County and the only Black woman in the statehouse, said banning diversity programs sends the message: "You're welcome to work here, but your voice doesn't matter."

The House passed the bill. A young page ran it to the Senate.

In a flurry of maneuvers that left staff attorneys scratching their heads, Senate Republicans steamrolled objections from Democrats and passed it.

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 road 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

LEGAL

(2022-C-000080 - Clay County - JOSPEPH DOW JONES)

To: DANIEL N. MOHLER, WILLIAM B. MESMER, WILLIAM E. MOHLER, II, ROBERT MESMER, MS. MARSHALL V. BROWN, W.E.R. BYRNE IV, JEREMY AUSTIN BYRNE, BARBARA M. WRIGHT, MARY BYRNE, MARION BYRNE GETZ, BETHANY B. VANGOTUM, AMY M. O’SHAUGHNESSY, CHARLES ETHAN BYRNE, RACHEL BYRE HECTOR, COREY TODD BYRNE, HOUSTON ELLIS BYRNE, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT HENRY MAP 9999 PARCEL 0000 0101 0000

You will take notice that JOSPEPH DOW JONES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000080**, located in HENRY District, 675 AC N S ELK MIN 1/2 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of MOHLER WILLIAM E II ETAL, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 4, 2023. JOSPEPH DOW JONES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after July 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before June 30, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 5713.	\$	216.22
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 5725.	\$	113.52
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor’s Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	189.85
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	935.54
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	2,377.86
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	3,832.99

You may redeem at any time before June 30, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand April 7, 2025

Christal G. Perry

Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor’s Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

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

Public Notice No.: BS-034-2025

Publication: Statewide/West Virginia Press Association

Publication Date: April 12, 2025

The West Virginia, Department of Environmental Protection’s (WVDEP) Division of Water & Waste Management is proposing to reissue the West Virginia National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Water Pollution Control Permit WV0116025, which covers discharges to waters of the state from small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). The agency is proposing that the General Permit be issued for a five-year term.

An MS4 is a conveyance or system of conveyances that is:

- Owned by a state, city, town, village or other public entity that discharges to waters of the U.S.
- Designed or used to collect or convey stormwater (e.g., storm drains, pipes, ditches)
- Not a combined sewer
- Not part of a sewage treatment plant, or publicly owned treatment works (POTW).

This General Permit regulates storm water runoff from MS4s and is designed to prevent stormwater runoff from washing harmful pollutants into local surface waters.

The draft permit and fact sheet are available on the WVDEP website at:

<https://dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/stormwater/MS4/Pages/default.aspx>.

The public comment period for the Draft General Permit begins April 17, 2025 and ends on May 17, 2025. During the public comment period, any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and/or request a public hearing. Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit.

Comments and/or a request for a public hearing shall be made in writing and can be sent Via email to Billy Shirley at Billy.T.Shirley@wv.gov or by regular to:

Attention: Billy Shirley
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water and Waste Management
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304

All comments received by the end of the comment period will be considered prior to the agency making its final decision on the draft General Permit. Comments and/or requests for a public hearing should include the name and contact information of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues raised. Hard copies are available for review at WVDEP headquarters in Charleston or any of the agency’s regional field offices and can be mailed upon request. For more information, contact Billy Shirley at (304) 926-0499, Ext. 43893 or Billy.T.Shirley@wv.gov.

LEGAL

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clay, a municipal corporation, will hold a public hearing before the final vote on a proposed ordinance, the principal object of which is the increase of water rates for customers of the water system operated by the Town of Clay. The title of such ordinance is “An Ordinance Setting Forth Water Rates.” The final vote on adoption of said proposed ordinance shall take place in the **Council Chambers of the Town of Clay, located at 965 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia, on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at five thirty o’clock (5:30) p.m.** Interested parties may appear and be heard at such time with respect to the passage of the proposed ordinance. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available at the Office of the Clerk, Town Hall, 965 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia 25043.

LEGAL

ASSESSOR’S OFFICE BEGINS FIELD REVIEW

The Clay County Assessor’s Office has begun the review of property for Tax Year 2025. Within the next several months, property in Clay Corp and Henry Districts will be visited and reviewed by the Assessor and or a Deputy Assessor. In addition, other areas of the county will be reviewed where there has been an improvement to the property.

Those who will be doing the field review are Teresa Davis, Assessor, and McKenzie Smith, Deputy Assessor, Kari Scott, Carole Pierson, and Andrea Leftwich, also Deputy Assessors within the office.

If anyone should have any questions, please stop by the office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or call the office at 587-4258.

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until May 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
022	2021000717	S399-STR/IP-25 01	NHPP-2025(119)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS

INTERSTATE STRIPING
STATEWIDE
COUNTY: STATEWIDE

DBE GOAL: 10% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

REMARKS:

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors’ licence is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier’s Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

LEGAL

(2022-C-000189 - Clay County - JOSPEPH DOW JONES)

To: ELIZABETH GRAHAM HRS, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT OTTER MAP 9999 PARCEL 0000 0579 0000

You will take notice that JOSPEPH DOW JONES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000189**, located in OTTER District, 3682 AC NS ELK O&G 1/5 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of GRAHAM ELIZABETH HRS, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 4, 2023. JOSPEPH DOW JONES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after July 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before June 30, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 9908.	\$	300.09
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 9898.	\$	177.01
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor’s Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	219.85
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	653.33
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	361.68
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,711.96

You may redeem at any time before June 30, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand April 7, 2025

Christal G. Perry

Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor’s Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON

TARIFF FORM NO. 10

(Tariff Rule No. 19A)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO CHANGE RATES

The Gauley River Public Service District has filed a request with the West Virginia Public Service Commission for an increase in its water rates, and on December 28, 2024, the Commission approved emergency interim rates for the District. The Staff of the Public Service Commission and the District have agreed to recommend the following increases.

	PRIOR RATES	STAFF RECOMMENDED RATES
Rates (per 1,000 gallons/month)		
First 3,000 gallons	\$ 20.50	\$ 21.45
Next 3,000 gallons	\$ 19.95	\$ 20.87
Next 4,000 gallons	\$ 18.74	\$ 19.60
Next 10,000 gallons	\$ 17.55	\$ 18.36
All Over 20,000 gallons	\$ 16.33	\$ 17.08
<u>Minimum Charge</u>		
5/8 inch meter	\$ 61.50	\$ 64.35
3/4 inch meter	\$ 92.25	\$ 96.53
1 inch meter	\$ 153.75	\$ 160.88
1-1/2 inch meter	\$ 307.50	\$ 321.75
2 inch meter	\$ 492.00	\$ 514.80
3 inch meter	\$ 984.00	\$ 1,029.60
4 inch meter	\$ 1,537.50	\$ 1,608.75
6 inch meter	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 3,217.50
8 inch meter	\$ 4,920.00	\$ 5,148.00
10 inch meter	\$ 7,072.50	\$ 7,400.25
Resale rate (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 6.70	\$ 7.01

The Commission may adopt rates and charges for the District which are the same as, greater than or less than the Staff-recommended rates and charges.

Anyone desiring to protest the proposed changes must do so in writing within ten days of the date of publication of this notice. All protests should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323. To help the Commission determine the justification for additional review and investigation, protests should be specific as to reasons that the changed rates and charges should be modified. In addition, anyone desiring a hearing in this matter must demand a hearing in the letter of protest. If no substantial protest is filed, the Staff-recommended rates may be approved without hearing. Customers may also submit comments online at the Commission website.

GAULEY RIVER PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

Mustangs burn up the tracks

By Allen Hamrick

It's been tough to get several games in this past week due to the rain, but some were able to be played. The CCMS track team competed in the Elkview Annual Invitational at the UC stadium on Wednesday, April 9th. The boys placed fifth and the girls placed ninth out of the 15 teams that participated. Tilyr Bird and Jackson Stricker are making a name for themselves in the world of track with the hurdles and the pole vault by taking first place in those events. Lady Mustangs Marissa Atha and Natalie Tanner are also at the top of the food chain in hurdles and the long runs of the mile and the two mile, where Marissa once again placed first. For the first time ever there will be a state tournament for middle school track, and five of the athletes on the CCMS team have qualified: Tilyr

Bird, Jackson Stricker, who is ranked 2nd in the pole vault, Marissa Atha, top 10 in the 3200, Natalie Tanner, 12th in the high jump and Cole Boggs, top 10 in the high jump. CCMS track will be back in action this weekend at the Sidney Boggs Memorial being held at Roane County.

CCMS baseball had some trouble getting in games while the Lady Mustangs managed two games but had a rough week losing against George Washington and Summersville Middle. Lady Mustang softball will be at home on Tuesday for one game this week against South Harrison before a five game away stretch. Mustang baseball will be have two games this week, weather permitting. The season is closing fast for the Mustang and Lady Mustang ball teams so catch a game before they are over for the year.

The CCHS Lady Panther Softball team is on a roll when they are not getting rained out. They are currently 4-6 on the season with their last games against Poca and Braxton getting the Ladies back in the winner's circle. They mopped the field with Braxton scoring 15 runs in three innings to put the Lady Eagles to rest. It was the same with Poca; the Lady Panthers came into the double header bending bats and stepping up defense. They whipped the Lady Dots 10-2 and 10-1.

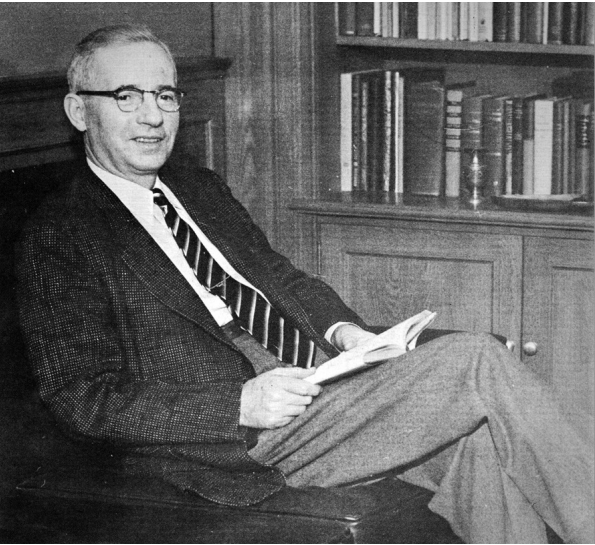
The last game of the week pitted the Lady Panthers against Elk Valley Christian, and they ended up cashing in their chips and losing the game 3-9. With the weather holding four aces on a five day draw, games have been iffy. The Ladies will be on a three game road trip this week against Ravenswood, Roane

and Buffalo before returning home in a double header against Webster.

The Panther baseball team did a little butt whipping of their own last week stomping Calhoun into plate dust 12-4. They then took a road trip to Logan, ran into a little trouble and got slapped around losing 0-10. Not liking the taste of bull whip, they travelled to Roane County to take their vengeance out and that they did winning the game 10-0. The Panthers will have five games this week, away at South Charleston on Monday, and home against Braxton and Poca then back on the road to St Mary's at the end of the week. The Panther track franchise will be at Hoover this week on Tuesday night for the Husky Classic the games will start at 4:30. The spring seasons are winding down come out and support the teams.

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

April 16, 1829: Jacob Beeson Jackson was born in Parkersburg. In 1881, he became West Virginia's sixth governor.



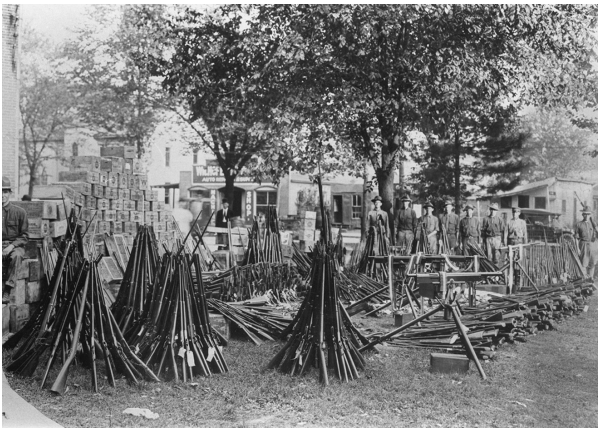
April 16, 1894: Leonard Riggleman was born in a Randolph County cabin. As president of Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston), he moved the school to Charleston in 1935 and led the college to accreditation in 1958.

April 16, 1923: Arch Moore was born in Moundsville. He was the first governor in 100 years to serve a second term, and he returned later for a third. He also was the second former governor to serve federal prison time.

April 17, 1827: Outdoorsman William "Squirrely Bill" Carpenter was born on the Elk River near the mouth of Laurel Creek. Carpenter guided prominent West Virginians, including Gov. MacCorkle, through the wonders of the Elk Valley.

April 17, 1871: West Virginians approved the Flick Amendment, which allowed former Confederates to vote. The amendment also applied to people who had been formerly enslaved, but they had been enfranchised already by the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

April 18, 1861: At the beginning of the Civil War, retreating U.S. troops set fire to the national armory and arsenal at Harpers Ferry to keep them out of Confederate hands. However, Virginia militia extinguished the flames and sent much of the weapon-making equipment south before destroying the site in June 1861.



April 18, 1912: The Paint Creek-Cabin Creek Strike of 1912-13 began when coal operators rejected the demands of their unionized workers for a wage increase. The strike that followed was one of the most dramatic and bloody conflicts in the early 20th century labor struggles in southern West Virginia known as the Mine Wars.

April 19, 1896: Writer Melville Davisson Post was born in Harrison County. His best-known works are the Randolph Mason series, published in three volumes, and the more successful collection, Uncle Abner: Master of Mysteries.

April 19, 1902: Author Jean Lee Latham was born in Buckhannon. She wrote a number of children's books, including Carry On, Mr. Bowditch, which won the 1956 Newberry Award.

April 20, 1823: General Jesse Lee Reno was born in Wheeling. He graduated from West Point in 1846, with another cadet from western Virginia, Thomas J. Jackson, later known as "Stonewall." Reno was the highest-ranking officer from present West Virginia killed in the Civil War.

April 20, 1863: President Lincoln issued a proclamation that in 60 days, West Virginia would become a state. This occasion was marked 100 years later during the state's Centennial celebration with a special ceremonial session of the West Virginia legislature on April 20, 1963, in Wheeling.

April 20, 1909: Fiddler Melvin Wine was born near Burnsville. A favorite of old-time music enthusiasts nationally, he was chosen as a National Heritage Fellow in 1991 by the National Endowment for the Arts, the highest recognition given to a folk artist in the United States.

April 20, 1939: Poet Irene McKinney was born in Belington, Barbour County. Governor Gaston Caperton

appointed her state poet laureate in 1993, and she served in that capacity until her death in 2012.

April 21, 1908: Traditional musician Phoebe Cottrell Parsons was born in Calhoun County. Parsons's traditional clawhammer banjo style, unaccompanied ballad singing, riddles and storytelling have influenced countless numbers of younger musicians.



April 21, 1936: President Franklin Roosevelt established the Jefferson National Forest. The West Virginia portion of this forest includes 18,530 acres in Monroe County.

April 22, 1908: Marshall "Little Sleepy" Glenn was born in Elkins. Glenn coached basketball at West Virginia University from 1934 to 1938 and football from 1937 to 1940. He was inducted into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame in 1992.

April 22, 2003: Activist Judy Bonds, a Raleigh County native, received the Goldman Environmental Prize for her fight against mountaintop removal mining. Her efforts inspired thousands and turned a local issue in West Virginia into a national cause.



VISIT US ONLINE AT
CLAYCOUNTYFREEPRESS.COM