



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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From left to right are (standing) Commissioners David Schoolcraft, Joyce Johnson, and Duane Legg. Seated is John Franklin Canfield and one of his daughters.

Clay County Commission Honors 100-year-old Veteran

By Gary Lee Stuber

The Clay County Commission met in their first regular monthly session on Tuesday, Apr. 15 at 9 a.m. All three commissioners were in attendance: Commissioner David Schoolcraft, Commission President Joyce Johnson, and Commissioner Duane Legg.

Their first order of business was to honor veteran John Canfield who turned 100 on February 27 of this year, and also got his diploma from Clay County High School and will be part of this year's graduating class. John served his country during World War II in the United States Air Force. A widower, he was married 50 years and had seven children. John worked for the West Virginia DOH and retired from Clay Development after serving 17 years. Many members of his family were in attendance as he was given a document from the commission declaring February 27, 2025 as John Franklin Canfield Day. The commission also presented him a second commendation from the office of Senator Shelley Moore Capito.

The commission took care of routine business, approving the previous minutes, approving bills and purchase orders, budget revisions, and fiduciary appointments for Last Wills and Testaments or Affidavits and Waivers of Final Settlements.

The commission appointed Chris Montville as OEM Director. They approved then explained the Clay County VFD's Billing Rate status for 2025. They scheduled an estate hearing for Randy Ramsey, deceased, for 11 a.m. on April 28, a few hours after the county's second monthly meeting this month.

Terry Martin gave an update on three projects: The Big Otter Water Project, the Grassy Fork Water Extension Project, and the Judicial Annex. He presented the commission with invoices for these projects.

Commissioner Schoolcraft reminded those in the room that the Clay County Clean up will be Saturday, April 26 across from Pierson Lumber. Any tires brought to the site must first be taken off the rim.

Clay County Ambulance announced an Open House on May 9 from 3 to 6 p.m.

The Clay County Health Department reiterated that they are having their annual Health Fair on April 29 and that most tests and screenings are free or have minimal charges. If you have a specialized test you need, please call the Health Department prior to April 29 and ask if it will be available at the Health Fair and if it involves a cost.

The next regular meeting of the Clay County Commission will be 9 a.m. on April 28, 2025.

WV child care crisis expected to worsen as lawmakers fail to take action

By Nadia Ramlagan

West Virginia lawmakers continue their inaction on improving access to child care.

House Bill 2026 would have allocated \$32 million toward child care subsidies, but ultimately did not make it into the budget.

Parents of more than 25,000 kids across the state have no child care options, and at least 100 providers have closed statewide in the past year.

The \$32 million would have maintained family eligibility policies and paid child care providers based on enrollment numbers, explains Kristy Ritz - the executive director of the West Virginia Association for Young Children.

"Just in the past two weeks, we've heard about a program that was closing in Whitehall," said Ritz, "another program closing in Weirton, and a program in Bridgeport closing their infant room."

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce says more child care centers would help increase the state's workforce participation rate, which is among the lowest in the nation - at around 54%.

According to a 2024 report by the Chamber, in 29 counties, more than half of children under age six lack access to child care.

Ritz said there are plenty of opportunities across the state for public-private investments in child care.

She noted that care costs are most expensive for infants, at around \$10,000 per year. That's about the same as in-state tuition at West Virginia University or Marshall University.

"I feel like businesses need to support their workers and contribute to their child care costs," said Ritz, "or support families who are having difficulty finding child care providers."

Legislation introduced earlier this year aimed to create the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership.

It would have connected the state with child care providers to offset employees' child care costs.

An estimated 2,000 Mountain State families could lose access to child care when pandemic-era federal subsidies to day care centers end on July 1.

Clay County Schools face possible stormy future amid clouds with silver lining



From left to right are Bob Morris, CTE Director; Phoebe Nichols, BOE President; Aaron Williams; Mike Mullins; CTE Instructor Julie Greenlee; USA Skills Student and Senior Akira Stuber; Brooke Jones, BOE Vice President; Lolita Nutter; and Superintendent Philip Dobbins.

By Gary Lee Stuber

During a time when all West Virginia schools face declining enrollment and the uncertainty of state and federal educational support, West Virginia schools, as Superintendent Philip Dobbins said in his remarks, "Unlike the Federal Government, West Virginia schools are required to operate within their budget, they can't print money or raise the debt ceiling."

With West Virginia facing financial uncertainties, including the fate of the federal Department of Education, Clay County Schools prepared a long list of 2025-2026 employees: teachers, administrators, professionals and service employees and staff that were considered for transfer and subsequent assignment. Some were expected to be terminated due to lack of need, some probationary, or subject to rehire or placed on a preferred recall list. Out of an abundance of caution this list of 100 plus people were put on notice. However, this action can be rescinded by the Board on or before August 1 as the school year's needs and resources become clearer. The lists can be found on the claycountyschools.org website under Board Agenda / Archive / 2024-2025 / April 15 2025, but is too long to list here.

But before this possible grim news was addressed, the board heard recognitions by teachers who had good news to share. Doug Wayne and select members of the Clay County Middle School Band were introduced to the Board and the public.

Mr. Wayne said that the band was in a recent concert in Chapmanville and perhaps all of them appeared for the first time on stage in front of a huge crowd. There they were evaluated by a board of three judges. In all ten categories from all three judges they got a review of "Excellent to Superior." The future for the band in Middle School and High School looks bright.

Bob Morris, the CTE Director and assistant principal, gave a presentation of where the Technical School stands presently by showing that the school has excelled in its goals to meet or exceed standards set for it. In fact, in the annual USASkills competition this year, Clay County had nine students who placed in the Top Ten in State. The winners are as follows:

Business Teamwork: Third Place, Kain Osburn, Bobby Rogers, Dakota Litton and Jaden Morris. Food Design and Presentation: Wedding Cake, Second Place: Savannah George and Lilli Langhorn. Pastry And Baking: Fourth Place, Akira Stuber. Electrical: Eighth Place, Jacob Taylor. Carpentry: Ninth Place, Shane Tracy.

The board took care of routine business including consent for trips, agreements, policies, resignations and the hiring of summer teachers and staff. For more information, these can be found on the schools website, previously noted.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is 6 p.m. on May 6 at Clay High School.

Lady Panthers swamp the Highlanders in a double header



Madison Morton gets the dig and the out. Allen Hamrick photo.

See story on Page 10

BRAXTON COUNTY



Gary Augustus Beamer
Booked 4/14/25
Obtain property by false
pretense



Grace Faye Flynt
Booked 4/15/25
Capias



James Matthew Harper
Booked 4/15/25
Domestic assault, domestic
battery



Ricky Allen Harper Jr.
Booked 4/19/25
No insurance, improper
registration, driving revoked,
expired MVI, defective equip-
ment, DUI second offense



James Joseph Smith
Booked 4/16/25
Child neglect resulting in
death



Angel Marie Talbert
Booked 4/16/25
Child neglect resulting in
death, conspiracy

CLAY COUNTY



Robert Lee Sheets
Booked 4/18/25
Domestic battery, domestic
assault



James Edward Tidwell
Booked 4/15/25
Driving while suspended/
revoked



Bradley Monroe Barker
Booked 4/16/25
Conspiracy, possession with
intent



Aaron Scott Canfield
Booked 4/18/25
Destruction of property,
domestic assault, domestic
battery, refuse to fingerprint



Joseph Ray Johnson
Booked 4/19/25
Possession with intent,
contributing to delinquency
of a minor



Randy Lee Johnson
Booked 4/17/25
Capias

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Jason Lewis McBroom
Booked 4/21/25
Strangulation, malicious
wounding



Joseph John McComas
Booked 4/17/25
Failure to register as a sex
offender



Tashina Renee Ritchie
Booked 4/18/25
Capias



Thank You

The Hobert Cummings Family would like to thank everyone who stopped by, brought food, sent flowers and condolences during this difficult time. A special thank you to B.J. Smith of Wilson, Shamblin, Smith Funeral Home for your care and service, Clay County EMS for their kindness and care as well as WV Trooper Whitt for his professionalism, compassion and support. Also, a special thank you to Tasha Wray for the beautiful family flower piece. Each and every one of you are appreciated. Thank you.

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

USDA Reiterates Importance of Those Who Can Work, Should Work While Receiving SNAP

This week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a memorandum to all state agencies administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) making it clear states must ensure SNAP benefits are provided with an expectation that those who can work, do.

“Since my confirmation, I have reiterated the states are our partners, and this includes ensuring our nutrition programs are tied to putting Americans back to work,” said Secretary Rollins. “It is important to remind states that Congress conditioned the receipt of benefits by able-bodied adults without dependents on satisfying work requirements. Many states have abused the system by requesting work requirement waivers. Today marks the start of a new era for SNAP—prioritizing work, career and technical education, and volunteering rather than idleness, excess spending, and misapplication of the law.”

In June 2023, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 amended the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) to include in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program’s (SNAP) purpose statement that it “assist low-income adults in obtaining employment and increasing their earnings.” This pivotal legislation reaffirmed efforts to reduce dependency on public assistance programs and increase self-sufficiency.

Today’s memorandum reiterates these fundamental objectives and their interaction with the Secretary of Agriculture’s authority to grant State SNAP agencies

requests to waive the time limit on receiving SNAP benefits by Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) who do not meet statutory work requirements. Section 6(o)(4) of the Act explicitly allows the Secretary sole discretion to grant an ABAWD waiver request when the Secretary determines that the area has an unemployment rate of over 10% or does not have sufficient jobs to provide employment for ABAWDs. Congress conditioned the receipt of benefits by ABAWDs on satisfying work requirements when it passed the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA, Pub. L. No. 104-193). The text and structure of the statute reveals a clear purpose to reduce dependence on public assistance programs and to support self-sufficiency. Congress also allowed the Secretary discretion to approve waivers of the ABAWD work requirement in specific circumstances outlined in Section 6(o)(4).

As we partner to lift Americans out of dependency and into hopeful futures, FNS affirms its commitment to consult with State agencies during the waiver review process and provide technical assistance to ensure ABAWD waivers are only utilized when consistent with the Act and protect the integrity of SNAP to the greatest extent.

Additionally, FNS will review the effectiveness of current regulatory authorities to effectuate statutory requirements and the Secretary’s discretion, all under the overarching principles articulated by Secretary Rollins.



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Taking The Time To Donate

By Joe Mazzella

The Red Cross called me the other day to cancel my next appointment to donate blood. It seems that you can only donate blood six times a year not every 56 days like I thought. I never knew this before. I had always missed at least one blood drive a year because of snowy roads or car trouble or being sick or appointments I couldn't break. I felt a little better knowing that I probably wouldn't have been able to donate those times anyway because of the limit.

I will miss seeing the volunteers at the next blood drive. They always provide such delicious snacks for the blood donors after they donate. I will miss too the kind faces of the Red Cross workers who make the long drive up to the church where I usually donate. They work so hard to help save lives and make this world a better place. I will also miss seeing the other blood donors. Some of them I have seen so many times over the years. They are always willing to take the time out of their busy days to give the gift of life and help their fellow human beings.

Each time I donate blood too I feel a sense of community, a sense of caring, and a sense of family. Being with so many kind, giving, and loving people reminds me that we are all God's Beloved Children in this world. And each time we donate our blood or give our time, or share our love we become more like God, more like the person we were always meant to be. And isn't that why we are in this world in the first place?

Always take the time to donate then. Donate your Love. Donate your time. Donate your smile. Donate your kindness. Donate your blood. Donate your money. Donate your joy. Donate your life. Make each day a day of giving, caring, and sharing. Then each day you will make this Earth a little more like Heaven. Then each day you will make the angels sing. Then each day you will become a little more like the Loving God who smiles down upon you.



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How Much Sleep Is Too Much?

Dr. James L. Snyder

I have noticed recently that sleeping has become a very important part of my life. This just snuck up on me overnight.

When I was young and living at home, I tried to come up with excuses and reasons for not going to bed at night. My parents had an early bedtime schedule that they enforced rather strictly. Try as I might, I was never successful in beating that schedule.

Lately, I have noticed a completely different attitude about sleeping. I'm not sure where it came from, and I'll have to ponder it for a while to find out.

It's not just my problem but also the problem I share with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Maybe I got it from her, I just don't know.

When the sun goes down, so does my interest in staying awake.

After we finish the day, we watch a little bit of television before we go to bed. If there's anything more boring than television, I haven't found it yet.

Usually around 9 o'clock, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will look at me and say, "Is it time to go to bed yet?"

I have been married long enough to realize that when your wife asks a question, she may not be asking the question she's asking, but setting a trap for something else. I never know what else it might be.

When she asked that question, I looked at her seriously and asked, "Are you ready to go to bed yet?" Then, looking at my watch, I said, "It's not quite 9 o'clock yet."

She clears her throat and then says, "I was just wondering if you were ready to go to bed."

I'm not going to fall into that trap because I know she's trying to set it up, so I became the reason we went to bed this early. Every once in a while, I noticed that her eyes were shut and I asked her, "You're not sleeping are you?"

"Oh no," she will say.

Then it goes around the other way, and she sees my eyes are closed and asks me, "Are you sleeping?"

"Oh no," I will say, "I've just been praying for the day."

She will smile and say, "I thought so because I heard you snore."

As we age, our time schedule begins to change a bit, and it seems healthier to go to bed earlier and get more sleep.

I don't want to be the first one to go to bed because I don't want her to know that I am tired. I want to ensure she realizes I have my old energy, which is actually get-

ting out of date.

Being retired has redefined our schedule. Our doctor's appointments are the only things on our schedule during the week. We have so many doctor appointments that we might have to hire a secretary to help us keep up with our schedule.

Lately, I've been trying to stay awake until 10 o'clock, and then go to bed. I'm not sure why I stay up until 10 o'clock, but I'm trying to convince myself that I'm not as old as I think I am.

The next thing about sleep is getting up in the morning. It is funny that I can be awake just about all night and then fall into a sleep that lasts several hours by 4 o'clock in the morning. I know I should have an alarm clock to get me up, but what do I need to get up for?

The only reason to get up in the morning is for breakfast. I can't think of anything else to schedule my early rising from La-la land.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage needs to get up when the great-grandchild comes for the day. She babysits for the granddaughter throughout the week, so she has a reason to get up at a certain time.

When I am on the other side of the bed, I do not have any reason to get up at a certain time in the morning. When I get out, I get up.

Sometimes, I wake up around 5 o'clock and enjoy the silence in our neighborhood. I think I should be getting up very soon, but then I fall back into such a sound sleep that I don't get awake until 7:30. I wake up, look at my clock, and wonder where in the world the time went.

I stare at the clock and wonder how in the world I could have slept for 9 ½ hours. That doesn't seem possible at all. And yet it happens more than I like to admit.

The question I have is, how much sleep is too much? What is the right amount of sleep for a person my age?

Another aspect of this sleep problem is that I usually nap in the afternoon. I think I sleep more than I'm awake, which may be suitable for the people around me.

In all of my considerations about this, I must confess that I really enjoy sleeping. I'm not sure of any activity I enjoy more than this.

Thinking about this, I was reminded of what David said. "It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep." (Psalms 127:2).

Sleeping is a blessing from God.

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

Did you know ...which is the oldest settlement in the United States? Forget Jamestown. Forget Roanoke. Forget St. Augustine. According to book learning, the oldest settlement in the United States is Acoma Pueblo, which sits on top of a 365-foot-high mesa in the middle of New Mexico.

It will come as no surprise that Native American settlements predate European ones, but it may surprise some people that Acoma Pueblo, west of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been continuously occupied since the 12th century. The Acoma still inhabit their "Sky City," a settlement of about 4,800 people. Traditionally hunters and traders, the Acoma people now make their income from a cultural center and casino complex. Coincidentally, the oldest state capital in the United States is Santa Fe, which recently celebrated its 400th anniversary.

Poultry Exhibition and Sale Events Suspension to be lifted May 1

As of May 1, 2025, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) will lift the suspension on all poultry exhibitions, shows, swaps, meets, and poultry sales at flea markets or auction markets based on the following conditions being met:

No HPAI detections in West Virginia commercial poultry or backyard flocks located near commercial premises during April 2025.

No major HPAI-related developments in neighboring states that would result in quarantine zones impacting West Virginia's poultry industry.

This decision follows careful monitoring of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) situation across the state and surrounding regions. The WVDA will continue to monitor the situation closely in collaboration with federal and state partners, particularly through the remainder of the spring wild bird migration season, which runs through mid-June.

Since early 2022, a nationwide outbreak of HPAI has impacted commercial and backyard poultry operations,

prompting biosecurity measures nationwide. The original suspension in West Virginia was implemented out of an abundance of caution to protect the state's poultry industry, which remains the largest contributor to West Virginia's animal agriculture economy.

Biosecurity Still Critical:

Although poultry events may resume, the WVDA strongly encourages poultry owners, event organizers, and exhibitors to maintain strict biosecurity practices:

-Limit and monitor access to poultry areas

-Continue disinfection of equipment, vehicles, and footwear

-Keep domestic flocks separate from wild and migratory birds

-Report any unusual illness, sudden death, or drop in egg production

Report Sick Birds:

To report signs of illness or unexpected mortality in poultry flocks, contact WVDA's Animal Health Division at 304-558-2214.

Route 33 Wrestling to once again bring pro wrestling action to Spencer

Wrestling fans and families alike are in for a night of excitement as Route 33 Wrestling returns to the Spencer Armory on Saturday, May 3. With doors opening at 6 p.m. and the first bell set for 7 p.m., the event promises a full evening of hard-hitting, family-friendly entertainment — just in time for an early Mother's Day celebration. In the spirit of the season, any attendee who brings their mother will have the opportunity to enter her name into a free raffle for a special Mother's Day goodie basket — a small gesture of appreciation from the Route 33 Wrestling family.

Headlining the card is a showdown for the Route 33 Wrestling Open Weight Championship, as reigning champion Gorgeous Morgan Taylor defends the title against "The Babushka Baron" Jeffrey John. Furthermore, the Rural Rumble Battle Royal will determine the next holder of the coveted Mountain Pass Medal, while two more matches in the Wild and Wonderful West Virginia Championship Tournament move us closer to crowning the inaugural WWWV champion.

Spencer's hometown hero, the Mountain King, steps into the ring in a high-stakes grudge match against Michael Anthony, with the winner earning the next shot at the Open Weight Championship. Fans can also expect tag team championship action and a stacked undercard

that showcases the region's top talent.

"It's all about bringing top-tier pro wrestling to our community," said the Boss Lady, Route 33 Wrestling's promoter and guiding force. "It's going to be an interesting evening, and I'm especially eager to see my husband (the Mountain King) take on Mr. Anthony."

Fans will have opportunities for photos and autographs with the stars of Route 33 Wrestling, along with a variety of concession options and local vendor tables to browse.

Tickets are available now at Route 33 Wrestling's official Facebook page and in person at Smoker Friendly on Ripley Road in Spencer, as well as at the door on the day of the event, with kids five and under entering free.

About Route 33 Wrestling, LLC:

Founded in 2017 by stuntwoman and actor-combatant Jessi McCumbers (aka. "The Boss Lady"), Route 33 Wrestling is a 100% woman-owned and -run pro wrestling company located in the heart of Spencer, WV. Route 33 Wrestling's core goals are to make quality live sports entertainment accessible to all, and to put the "professional" in "professional wrestling."

For more information, please visit us at linktr.ee/route33wrestling

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

April 23, 1857: Andrew S. Rowan was born in Gap Mills, Monroe County. Rowan, a military officer, was chosen as the messenger when President William McKinley wanted to send a message to Cuban General Calixto Garcia during the Spanish-American War. The 1899 pamphlet *A Message to Garcia* made the incident famous.

April 24, 1865: McNeill's Rangers surrendered to Union troops at New Creek (now Keyser). The Confederate guerrilla force probably never numbered more than 100 men at any time but managed to inflict regular damage on Union operations.

April 25, 1863: About 1,500 Confederate soldiers under Gen. William "Grumble" Jones advanced through Greenland Gap, a deep pass through New Creek Mountain in present Grant County. The Confederates encountered 87 Union soldiers who held off several assaults before finally surrendering.

April 25, 1923: Union leader Arnold Ray Miller was born at Leewood on Cabin Creek in Kanawha County. In December 1972 he defeated Tony Boyle to become president of the United Mine Workers.



April 26, 1816: General Alexander Welch Reynolds was born in Lewisburg. He served in both the U.S. and Confederate armies. After the war, Reynolds accepted a com-

mission as a colonel in the forces of the khedive of Egypt, which ruled Egypt under the Ottoman Empire.

April 26, 1900: Baseball great Lewis Robert "Hack" Wilson, whose 1930 single season run-batted-in record stands today, was born in Pennsylvania. He started his pro career with the Martinsburg Blue Sox. He returned to Martinsburg after his retirement and is buried at Rosedale Cemetery.

April 26, 1937: The first West Virginia highway historical marker was installed in Charleston, detailing the many travels of our state capital.

April 27, 1758: Fort Upper Tract in present-day Pendleton County was destroyed by an Indian attack during the French and Indian War. The next day, Delaware and Shawnee warriors destroyed Fort Seybert in the same county.

April 27, 1978: An accident at the Willow Island

Power Station on the Ohio River killed 51 men. The scaffolding that had been erected for use in the construction of a new cooling tower collapsed, sending the workers plunging to the ground.



April 28, 1884: Musician Henry Reed was born in Peterstown, Monroe County. Reed was a legendary West Virginia fiddler whose repertory contributed to the old-time music revival in the last half of the 20th century.

April 28, 1914: An explosion at the Eccles No. 5 mine in Raleigh County killed 174 men. The mine connected with Eccles No. 6, operating in another

coal seam. Nine men in No. 6 died of injuries and of afterward, the deadly gas left after a mine explosion.

April 28, 1920: The Monongahela National Forest was created by presidential proclamation. It is the only national forest completely within the boundaries of West Virginia.



April 28, 1924: An explosion ripped through the Benwood coal mine south of Wheeling, killing 119 miners.

April 28, 1948: Watt Powell Park opened in Charleston. About 8,000 people, including Governor Okey L. Patteson, attended the city's inaugural game in the Class A Central League. After the 2004 season, Watt Powell Park was replaced by what

is now known as GoMart Ballpark, and the old park was demolished in 2005.

April 29, 1863: Confederate General William E. "Grumble" Jones waged a battle at Fairmont that involved a force of 500 regulars, home guards and volunteers. The Confederates prevailed, burning the personal library of Francis Pierpont, governor of the Restored Government of Virginia, and exploding an iron railroad bridge across the Monongahela River.

April 29, 1924: Playwright, teacher, and actress Ann Kathryn Flagg was born in Charleston. She is best remembered for her play *Great Gettin' up Mornin'*, which was broadcast by CBS-TV in 1964.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



6. Tie is thinner.
5. Name on door is lower.
4. Door is not as wide.
3. Label is different.
2. Hat is larger.
1. Byes are different.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

RE-SOUNDING DUOS

ACROSS

- 1 Gourd-shaped rattle
7 Cognizant
12 — -mo replay
15 Alaskan island
19 Greeting in Apple ads
20 Gourmet mushroom
21 Paddle-propelled surfboards
23 BOX + BISCUITS
25 Family of writer Ralph Waldo
26 Main character on "Saved by the Bell"
27 MARRY + WIDER
29 Yearned (for)
32 — Jima
34 Basil-based sauces
35 SHANTY + OWNERS
40 Suds maker
44 Golf bag peg
45 That, in Peru
46 Grain staple
47 Winnie-the-Pooh creator
50 Fix the spine of, as a book
53 CLONK + BUNGLE

- 57 "Rashomon" director Kurosawa
58 Rate — (be judged as perfect)
59 Vamooses
60 Annoy
61 CLEANSER + SCOW
64 Norway's biggest city
65 Positive votes
66 Je ne sais —
67 Finish
69 Prime draft status
71 Prefix with sphere
74 Radiance
77 PIGGY + CONCH
83 Siouan tribe
84 Successor of mono
86 — Reader (magazine)
87 Fool in the opera "Pagliacci"
88 SWAT + SCOURGE
91 Gives a lift to
92 Ancestry
93 Punk/folk singer DiFranco
94 Hamm of soccer
96 Bar "rocks"
97 Flimflam

- 98 OFFICIATED + IGNITE
103 Hammy actor
107 Turn — dime
108 Prenatal test, informally
109 BARBARIAN + FARM
115 Poetic foot
117 Fire-resistant material
118 ANISTON + J.M.
123 Repelled by
124 Animator Tex
125 Boston hockey team
126 Nimble
127 Survey info
128 "Let's wager on that"
129 Game venues

DOWN

- 1 1997 sci-fi spoof, briefly
2 Pal, in Paris
3 Sprinted
4 Bowled over
5 Quebec's home
6 "Ride On" rock band
7 "Better Call Saul" channel
8 "Yippee!"
9 Duncan of Obama's Cabinet
10 Wetland plant

- 11 Snow queen in "Frozen"
12 Stockholm citizens
13 Ovine babies
14 Plain to see
15 Booth or Oswald, notably
16 Defeated by decision in boxing, for short
17 Fork point
18 World power until '91
22 Slangy ending for switch
24 Slips on sleet, say
28 "Weekend Edition" ailer
29 Of the stars
30 Insolently bold
31 — -jeebies
33 "— Man" (1994 hit for Salt-N-Pepa with En Vogue)
36 Flanders on "The Simpsons"
37 Recline lazily
38 Pops
39 LAX guesses
41 Song from the '50s, e.g.

- 42 "It's the end of —"
43 Big wheel's benefits
47 Rock-clinging mollusk
48 Praline nut
49 Followers of lambdas
51 Baghdad citizen
52 Half of Mork's "Bye!"
54 That woman
55 Sgt., e.g.
56 "ER" figures
58 Texas or Kansas city
62 Pooch's ID
63 Suffix with depend
65 "Yippee!"
68 Hip-hop dance of the 2010s
70 This, in Peru
71 Copies
72 Moral tenet
73 2016 Disney film
75 No. like "first" or "third"
76 Spider snare
78 Suffix of 75-Down numbers
79 2015 Marvel film
80 Naval officer
81 Chinese nut

- 82 Be beaten by
84 Jamaican pop music
85 Snowman in "Frozen"
89 Gravesite site
90 Having one flat, musically
91 Nasty
95 Grant — (financial subsidy)
98 Yankees' rival
99 Fumble
100 Cause injury
101 Actress Hedy
102 Stain or soak
104 Jumble
105 Writer Joyce Carol —
106 Govt. bond
109 Sheep cries
110 Abbr. on an invitation
111 Rival of Lyft
112 Take — at (criticize sarcastically)
113 Actress Campbell
114 News site for techies
116 "Dancing Queen" group
119 "Science Guy" Bill
120 — Tin Tin
121 Stuck — rut
122 Suffix with lion

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THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike
should vote alike.

"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.



June 1958

THE WIDEN NEWS

WIDEN, WEST VIRGINIA

H. L. BEATTIE

MANAGING EDITOR

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

PEARLE D. WILLIAMS

VICTOR B. SHINGLER

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Forestry Field Day Held at Swandale

The second annual Forestry Field Day was held on Elk River Coal and Lumber property up Lily Fork on May 20, 1958.

Thirty two people boarded the train flat cars at 8 A. M. and rode to the logging operation where Mr. Elmore Starcher and Dale Nutter and their crews demonstrated power saws by cutting down several trees, logging arch pulled by track type tractor which raised one end of tree and skidded whole tree to landing where they were quartered and made ready for loading by crane operated by train crew.

Mr. Phil Berthy, Extension Forester, and Mr. Charlie Hall, Conservation Commission Forester, explained to the group the value of correct logging operation for large and small operators as well as farm forests. Mr. Berthy also demonstrated a pocket size tree girdler and the group examined some cull trees which were treated with chemicals last year to eliminate undesirable species.

This trip was made possible through cooperation of Mr. E. D. Currence, Supt. of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company Mill at Swandale; Paul Allen, County Agricultural Agent, C. V. Bosley, Soil Conservation Service; Fred Hanna, County Forest Protector, and other interested people.

Those attending were: Harold Burr, Summersville, Phil Berthy, Morgantown, C. V. Bosley, Clay, Earl Bransford, Lewisburg, Wilmer D. Hines, Lewisburg, George M. King, Corley, L. H. Young, Lewisburg, L. O. Walker, Summersville, Charles Gum, Summersville, E. T. Estlack, Summersville, O. M. Dotson, Sutton, D. E. Bird, Lizemore, J. H. Hamrick, Lizemore, J. C. Legg, Fola, Billy Williams, Bickmore Douglas Osborne, Bickmore, Ned Lega, Fola,

John Workman, Fola, Ronnie Legg, Fola, W. W. Beverage, Elkins, Bill Curry, Summersville, Charles R. Hall, Buckhannon, Dana C. Eakle, Clay, Herman Nelson, Dundon, Sterile Boggs, Swandale, Leonard Litton, Swandale, Jerry McCarthy, Clay, Fred Hanna, Jr., Clay, Carl Hickman, Dille; Fred L. Hanna, Sr., Clay and Gene Shreeves, Summersville.

HAMILTON GIVEN

HAMILTON GIVEN, 37, of Herold, Braxton County, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Given, passed away in the Gassaway Hospital June 11, 1958.

Surviving are his wife, Lola Given, and one son, Earl Eugene, who is with the Air Force, stationed at the Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Also surviving are two brothers, Harold of Widen and Curg of Wadsworth, Ohio; Mrs. Earl Donohue of Dille, Mrs. Rosalia Holcomb of Holden, W. Virginia, and Mrs. Goldie Kearns of Trimble, Ohio.

Interment was in the Given Cemetery on Keeners Ridge near Herold.

At the time of his death, Mr. Given was an employee of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company and had been for several years.

WIDEN WOMAN'S CLUB TESTED RECIPE

Submitted by

Miss Hazel Baughman

(Perfect for a company buffet. Guests spoon shrimp atop rice, then sprinkle curry condiments over all)

2 tablespoons butter or margarine

1½ cups finely chopped, pared tart apples

2 tablespoons enriched flour

2 to 2½ teaspoons curry powder

2 cups milk

1 teaspoon salt

2 to 3 cups cleaned canned or cooked shrimp

(1 to 1½ pounds in shell)

Hot cooked rice

Chopped parsley

Melt butter; add apples and cook five minutes. Mix flour and curry powder; stir into apples. Slowly stir in milk. Cook, stirring constantly, till mixture thickens. Add salt. Add shrimp, and heat through. Serve with fluffy hot rice garnished with chopped parsley. Offer traditional curry condiments: chutney, chopped hard-cooked eggs, salted peanuts, sliced green onions, preserved kumquats, flaked coconuts. Makes five to six servings.

Joe Boggs, 63, Retires After 20 Years Service



Hamrick, Joe Boggs and Holt Johnson. Standing—left to right: Lawrence Hamrick, Hobert Holcomb, Eugene Russell, Ray Cummins and John C. Calhoun, Jr. ... Seated—left to right: George ...

Mr. Joe Boggs, age 63, after 20 years, 2 months and 22 days retired from the services of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company on June 1, 1958. Mr. Boggs also has approximately 12 years service with The Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad Company, as repairman in their shops at Dundon.

Mr. Joe Boggs' brother, Homer, is employed by The Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad Company as a car inspector at Dundon and has been working for that company for a good many years.

Mr. Boggs and his wife live on a farm at "Blue Knob"—out from Clay a little ways.



WIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Widen Baptist Church Building Fund was held at the home of Mrs. Branty Hickman at 8 p.m. on Friday May 30, 1958. The chairman, Mr. Cecil Butcher called the meeting to discuss ways and means for raising funds for the construction of a new church. Those present were Cecil Butcher; Chairman, John Henley, Mrs. Branty Hickman and Mrs. D. L. McMillion. Anyone desiring to make contributions to this project may contact any of the above committee members.

A Baptismal Ceremony was

performed, by Rev. Ernest Hammack, Pastor, assisted by Cecil L. Butcher, Sunday, May 25, 1958 at 2:30 p.m. The service was held at Birch River, West Virginia in Powell's Creek. There were eight candidates for baptism.

The Daily Vacation Bible School held annually by the Widen Baptist Church is now in progress. There is a large enrollment this year and the children are enjoying the constructive activities being offered by the teaching staff.

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Lady Panthers sweep the Highlanders

By Allen Hamrick
The Lady Panthers had a rough time on the road this week dropping three games to Ravenswood, Roane and Buffalo before coming back to their own turf in a double header against Webster. It was time for a good ol' fashioned Lady Panther butt kickin' and a taste of winning. The Lady Panthers once again brought out the whipping sticks and their base running heated up. Gracie Johnson was firing bullets from the mound; the Highlanders sent them to the plate and Johnson set them down. The Lady Panther defense took care of what little hits the Highlanders had. The Lady Panthers won the game 8-0. It was on to the second game and the Lady Panthers sent Layla Parker to the dirt pile. There was no way the Highlanders were going to have an easy time. Parker throws fast with just enough touch of surprises to keep batters hoping. The Lady Panthers had on their running legs, as well, in this game with each player making a run for the plate. When the bats stopped swinging the Lady Panthers got another much needed win beating the Highlanders 11-1. They will have several home games in the next two weeks to finish out the season. This week they will have a double header against Calhoun on Monday evening, at Gilmer on Tuesday, an LKC placement game on Thursday and Richwood in a double header on Friday. The Lady Panthers will have a full schedule next week, so if you get the chance, get out and catch a game.



Layla Parker brings the heat.



Gracie Johnson fires bullets.

Panthers are kicking some Astroturf on the diamond

By Allen Hamrick
With the season winding down, the Panther baseball team was smoking the diamond and kicking some Astroturf. They went 3 for 1 this week and are getting back on track. They handed Braxton and Poca their butts and a bus pass out of Clay winning all three games. Joel Elliott took the hill for the Panthers in the first game slinging so much English the Eagles had a hard time understanding it. Elliott was getting his sea legs for the match when the Eagles got on the board quick notching a run. However, the Panthers answered those bats with some of their own aluminum ash. Once Elliott was in his groove, the Eagles slipped back into their nest. The Panthers got their hands on two runs in the first and never looked back, winning the game 10-3.

Next on the chopping block was Poca who came squaring up like banty roosters for a double header against the Panthers. The Panthers sent the hard throwing Ayden Brown to the hill against them, and after the Dots scored four runs in the first inning, and that was it. Brown went downtown and shut them down. Panther pitching and defense took over and shut down any offense the Dots could muster. Panther offense started rocking the bats and scored runs in every inning making the final score Panthers 8, Dots 4. The Dots gave it a college try in the second game, but they should have thrown in the white towel and saved themselves some lunch money. They went up against the Collins brothers with Noah Collins slinging first then brother Cooper to finish off the match. The Dots was celebrating their one run in the 1st inning when the whole chicken coop

went berserk as the Panthers started swinging ash. By the end of the 4th inning, the Dots had enough and the game was called after the Panthers smacked home plate 21 times making the final score 21-1 Panthers. The Panthers hit the road to St. Mary's and after a long bus ride and three wins under their belts, this game would be tough to win. The Panthers had the lead in the 6th inning 2-1 before St. Mary's added three in the bottom of the 6th. The Panthers couldn't answer in the top of the 7th and lost the game 2-4. This week was some much needed wins for the Panthers as the season is quickly coming to an end with just a handful of games left to play. The Panthers will have two games at home this week against Capitol on Monday and SCHS on Friday. They will be on the road to Roane County on the Thursday night. Come out and catch a game.



Ayden Brown fires on all cylinders. Photo J Varrella



Joel Elliott gets the out at home. Photo J Varrella

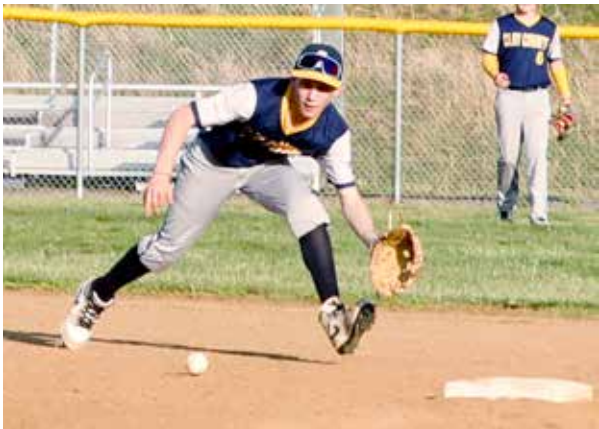
Mustangs go 1 and 1 this week as the season winds down

By Allen Hamrick
The CCMS Mustangs had one of those weeks where everything clicked like a fine watch then clicked like a bad push rod. They were at home for two games against Valley and the tough George Washington. Valley was one of those games where at any given time bats on either side could heat up. Collin Elliott took the hill for the Mustangs and Valley tagged him for three runs in the 1st inning to kick off the evening. The Mustangs chewed on those three runs like a rat's leg, the more they chewed the bigger it got. So the Mustangs come back with two runs in the 1st to keep the game reasonable. Valley used up their can of runs by the top of the 4th but led the game 3-5. The Mustangs, however, still had some juice left and scored four more runs by the 7th inning. Palmer Adkins was handed the reins on the mound to finish the game. Mustangs won with a score of 7-5. George Washington Middle School blew into town looking much like a college team. John Paxton took to the mound, and the responsibility was laid on him to get the job done. Not many can against this Blue Devil team as they have not lost a match all season. The Mustangs gave it a whale of a try, but that whale got beached. They threw their whole pitching staff against the Blue Devils but it was like handing a dictionary to a wolf. The Mustangs gave it all they had but couldn't get the job done scattering just two hits in the game.

The final score was Mustangs 0, Blue Devils 18. It was a tough matchup, one of those games that you just say ok and move on. Baseball 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 Mustang's baseball games; they have already kicked some butt, and the season is winding down quick. The Mustang will be in action just two more times in regular season play. South Harrison will be in town Tuesday evening, and their final game will be against Collins Middle on Thursday. Come on out in the sun; you will not want to miss a minute of it.



John Paxton rolls up a curve ball.



Collin Elliott gets the grounder and the out.