



# Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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## County Commission establishes Committee for Public Transportation

By Gary Lee Stuber

All three county commissioners: David Schoolcraft, Duane Legg, and President Joyce Johnson were present for the final commission meeting for the month of April. By all measures it should have been a short and eventless meeting as the agenda appeared to have only a half-dozen items on it, and of these, most were routine business.

The meeting started out with a joint statement from Sheriff Alan King and his tax collections department. The Sheriff's department will be \$1,100 under budget for the publication of delinquent taxes published in the paper of record as required by law. Further, they will need an additional \$1,300 to print tax statements for mailing. He asked the commission to please meet this need. They told him that presently, like most counties where coal severance income has dried up, they are struggling to meet present needs, including keeping utilities paid on the county courthouse, but they would try to see what they can do.

The Sheriff also told them he was concerned about deputy pay. None had received pay increases in years, and they are losing many deputies to other counties who pay better. He said Clay was at least \$4 an hour under the lowest paying of these counties, he stated that, "And the first of the year, Calhoun will give their deputies another dollar an hour." He added that Clay has lost their last grant for a new sheriff's deputy vehicle because they did not have the funds to meet the ten percent matching fee. They were applying for a new grant for a vehicle of \$150,000 and would need \$15,000 as a matching fee. "I guess I was frustrated when the opioid money came in and I wasn't even asked. You put it all on the jail bill. And that is like putting a drop of water in a bucket."

"You are right," Commission Joyce Johnson agreed, "It is a drop in the bucket. But without putting a dent, even a drop, in that huge debt, it is so high and we have to make some kind of effort, or we will be in trouble and they will pull the plug on it."

All three commissioners expressed regret and frustration that they could not help him at this time.

The commission then took care of routine business: bills, purchase orders, budget revisions, erroneous assessments, and fiduciary appointments as presented by the County Clerk, who was represented at this meeting by Deputy Clerk Judy Scott.

The commission took up a change order for the Judicial Annex, presented by Terry Martin, who was not present, as they wanted to address changes in both plans and costs as they arise during this, the interior construction phase. They hope to have the judicial annex completed and operational by the end of the year.

Two weeks after pulling the Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee off the agenda to give more time and consideration to it, the Fee was back on the agenda at this very next meeting. This time no representatives from the tourist industry were present. All three commissioners voted to approve the fee. Commissioner David Schoolcraft, after having conversations with a number of people affected by it, offered a compromise. He suggested they make the fee effective in July of 2026, as opposed to this July. Commissioner Duane Legg agreed and the item was amended before being approved.

The final item on the agenda was to create a public transportation board, a committee to explore the implementation of public transportation in the county. Tim Thomas of the Mountain Transit Authority was introduced and spoke briefly on the public transportation proposal.

"We are proposing to come into Clay County and provide public transportation for all. This includes for medical appointments, shopping and more. It would be five days a week. Public transportation is a need, regardless of whether



Tim Thomas

er you have a vehicle or not, you can ride public transportation, it is not dedicated to one individual group. It came up in the meeting a few weeks back that there is a number of people in the county that need transportation. It is going to be a demand response system, and we will provide matched funding. It is also an economic boost to your county. For every dollar that goes in to public transportation through the American Public Transit Association, a study shows over these past few years, five dollars is returned. We will hire people within the community, house their vehicles here, and we will provide the service. I want to thank the commission for allowing us

to come in and speak and get the ball rolling. The state was at the meeting and they are going to provide federal funds so that it is not the burden of the county or the individuals. We are looking at two routes, and we are looking at \$80 to \$100,000 per year, per route and that should be covered by federal monies. The county would need to come up with \$200,000, an investment, really, in your own county," said Thomas.

The committee will begin the task of making it all feasible. There is optimism that Clay County will have an opportunity for economic growth.

The first commission meeting next month is scheduled June 9 at 9 a.m.

## Mountaineer Food Bank Partners with Clay County Schools to Provide Meals to Children During the Summer

Mountaineer Food Bank announces its sponsorship of the federally funded Summer Food Service Program. Multiple-day Parent Pick-Up Lunches are open to all children, ages 18 years and under, who would like to participate. During the weeks of summer school, parents have the option to have meals sent home with their child on the bus or pick up meals at both locations.

Meals will be served at the following sites on select dates and times: Clay High School and Clay Elementary Meals will be provided on the following dates:

-Monday, June 9: 7 days of lunches will be provided. Meals can be picked up at Clay High School from 1 to 3 p.m. only. This is a Pick up ONLY day.

-Monday, June 16: 7 days of lunches will be provided. Meals can be picked up at Clay High School from 1 to 3 p.m. only. This is also a Pick up ONLY day.

-Thursday, June 26: Meals for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday lunches will be distributed. At Clay Elementary, meals will be sent home on the bus or available for pick up from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1 to 3 p.m.

-Thursday, July 3: Friday through Sunday lunches will be provided. At Clay Elementary, distribution is from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., either sent home on the bus or available for pick up. At Clay High School, meals are sent home on the bus ONLY from 1 to 3 p.m.

-Thursday, July 10: Friday through Sunday lunches will be available. Clay Elementary distribution will take place between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m., either sent home on the bus or available for pick up. Clay High School will send meals home on the bus ONLY from 1 to 3 p.m.

-Thursday, July 17: Friday through Sunday lunches will be provided. At Clay Elementary, meals will be sent home on the bus or available for pick up from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1 to 3 p.m.

-Thursday, July 24: Meals for Friday through Sunday lunches will be distributed. At Clay Elementary, meals will be sent home on the bus or available for pick up from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1 to 3 p.m.

-Thursday, July 31: Friday through Sunday lunches will be provided. At Clay Elementary, meals will be sent home on the bus or available for pick up from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1 to 3 p.m.

A nutritious meal is important for children to learn, play and remain active during the summer months. Remember, Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation! For more information about the Summer Food Service Program, please call Mountaineer Food Bank at 304-364-5518.

## Summer fun is right around the corner



Biking along County Road 30. Photo Allen Hamrick

See story on Page 10

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Roger Lee Auxier III  
Booked 5/27/25  
Capias



Anthony Lynn Denna  
Booked 5/28/25  
DOP, grand larceny, unlawful taking of a vehicle, possession of stolen property



Tyler James Hesson  
Booked 5/30/25  
Concealment of deceased human body, conspiracy



Lindsay Adele Hillwig  
Booked 5/29/25  
Bond violation




Tex Monroe Koch Jr.  
Booked 5/31/25  
False information, battery, petit larceny, possession of controlled substance




Gaylord Wayne Morris  
Booked 5/31/25  
Domestic battery third offense, prohibited person with firearm


NICHOLAS COUNTY




Sarah Renee Rogers  
Booked 5/29/25  
Trespassing asked to leave, disorderly conduct




Tammy Lynn Seabolt  
Booked 6/1/25  
Capias




Justin Shaw Thompson  
Booked 5/28/25  
Stalking



Krystal Kay Carpenter  
Booked 5/31/25  
Possession with intent



Jeremy Stephen Duckworth  
Booked 5/27/25  
Probation violation



William Joseph Posey  
Booked 6/2/25  
DOR/DUI, possession and delivery of a controlled substance, driving revoked for DUI third

BRAXTON COUNTY

CLAY COUNTY



Elizabeth Dawn Holcomb  
Booked 5/29/25  
Grand larceny, fraud, financial exploitation of an elderly person/protected person/incapacitated adult, conspiracy



James Ryan Schoonover  
Booked 5/29/25  
Fraud, grand larceny, conspiracy, financial exploitation of an elderly person

From the Superintendent

Roughly a week ago, Clay County lost two beloved pillars of the community and longtime champions of its school system. Bobby Stover passed away at the age of 88, and Jim Dawson at 89. Words cannot fully capture the profound impact these two men had on the students, staff, and citizens of Clay County. Nearly everyone who has attended school, worked within the district, or grown up in the area has a cherished memory or story involving either Mr. Dawson or Mr. Stover.

Mr. Jim Dawson served as Superintendent of Clay County Schools for 22 years, a period during which the school system flourished. Under his leadership, Clay County became a model for how a rural district could thrive despite challenges. From 1988 to 1993, three Clay County schools were honored with the prestigious National School of Excellence designation by the U.S. Department of Education. This recognition is reserved for schools that demonstrate exceptional leadership, effective teaching practices, strong community engagement, and high or rapidly improving student achievement. Having not just one, but three schools earn this distinction during Mr. Dawson’s tenure is a testament to his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to education. In honor of his contributions, the Clay County Schools Academic Hall of Fame bears his name, a fitting tribute, not only because he founded the annual awards ceremony, but also because he would be a unanimous first-ballot inductee.

Mr. Bobby Stover began his teaching career at Widen High School in 1958. After graduating from Morris Harvey College in 1964, he joined Clay County High School, where he taught physical education and social studies. Though he coached several sports, including football and baseball, he is best remembered as the longtime wrestling coach. Mr. Stover founded the wrestling program at CCHS and led it for an incredible 37 years. He was twice named AA Wrestling Coach of the Year (1979 and 1980), and during his career, he coached ten state champions and twelve runners-up. In 2004, he was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Before retiring in 1989, he also served as athletic director and vice principal at CCHS. Even after stepping away from the school system, Coach Stover remained dedicated to mentoring youth and promoting the wrestling program he built. The annual wrestling tournament at Clay County High School, named the Bob Stover Classic, stands as a tribute to his legacy.

Though we are deeply saddened by the loss of these two icons, there is no doubt that Clay County and its school system are far better because of their service, passion, and leadership. The Clay County School System extends heartfelt gratitude to the Dawson and Stover families for sharing these remarkable men with generations of students, educators, and community members.

*Philip Dobbins*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

OBITUARIES



James Dawson

James G. Dawson, 89 of Duck, WV, entered into Heaven on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Born in Widen, WV, he was the son of Custer

Dawson and Sylvia and Dorsel Grogg. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Gary Dawson and his son-in-law, Rick Willis.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Truman Dawson, daughter Cindy Willis, son Joe Dawson and wife April, grandchildren Joe Dawson, Mike Willis, Clare Dawson, and Holt Dawson, all of Duck.

Jim graduated from Widen High School, WVIT, and WVU. He served his country as a U.S. Marine. He was a coal miner, DOH worker,

and a supervisor at Kraft Foods. He was a teacher and principal for Clay County Schools before becoming the Clay County Superintendent for 21 years. He also served as the RESA III Director and a WV State Senator. One great honor was the James G. Dawson Hall of Fame where students are acknowledged for their academic successes!

He was a member of Fairview Baptist Temple where he taught Sunday School for many years.

Funeral services will be on Wednesday, June 4

at Wilson Smith Funeral Home at 11 a.m. with Minister Joe Dawson officiating. Burial will be at the Dawson Farm, Duck, WV.

Friends may visit with the family 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation to the church of your choice.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.carl-wilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carl-wilsonfuneralhome.com)

Wilson Smith Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Dawson family.



Bobby Stover

Bobby Monroe Stover, the son of Clarence Monroe and Hazel Leah Whaling Stover, entered into his eternal home with our Lord and Saviour on Monday, May 26, 2025 at the age of 88 years old. Bobby was a member and trustee of the Clay United Methodist Church in Clay, West Virginia.

Born on March 1, 1937, Bobby spent his childhood at his birthplace in Red Dragon, Boone County, WV where he spent his childhood. Eventually, he moved to Clay where he graduated from Clay County High School in 1955. This is where he met the love of his life, Rozella Fay Wilfong. The couple married on December 26, 1959. He attended Marshall College where he was chosen to be on the baseball and wrestling teams. He started his teaching and

coaching career at Widen High School where he taught from 1958-1963.

In 1964, he finished his Bachelors degree from Morris Harvey College, and in the same year, he moved to Clay County High School to continue teaching physical education and social studies. In 1965, he began coaching football where he had the first football team to have an 8-2 season. Additionally, he coached baseball for 13 years.

Coach Stover, as he was lovingly known, was chosen as “Man of the Year” by the Clay County Youth in 1967. He also started the first wrestling program at Clay County High School. Coach was chosen AA wrestling coach of the year in 1979 and 1980 by the WV Wrestling Coaches Association and then again in the 1987-88 school year. Over the years, he had ten state champions and twelve runners up. He continued to coach wrestling for 37 years.

Coach Stover eventually took over the roles of athletic director and vice principal before retiring from Clay County High School in 1989. However, he returned to coaching in 1990 to keep the wrestling program alive. In 1998, Coach

started working with children at Ivydale Elementary School to revive interest in the program.

In 2004, he was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma where a plaque was placed in his honor. He very proudly wore his green jacket that had been awarded to him to commemorate this accomplishment.

Coach Stover was further honored when Clay County Youth Wrestling named their local tournament the Bob Stover Classic. He loved attending the matches each December and reliving some of his glory days.

Besides wrestling, Coach Stover enjoyed his family, the outdoors, playing golf, fishing, hunting, and spending time with his beloved wife Rozella of 65 years.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Norma Stover Daniel and her husband Frederick Daniel, and son-in-law, Gary Dean Walker. He is survived by his wife, Rozella Wilfong Stover, his daughter Kim Annette Stover Hanna (husband William Franklin Hanna) his son, Brett Monroe Stover, (wife Kara) his sister, Carolyn Stover Young, (husband

Mickey, deceased), brother Jerry, and brother Kent Stover (wife Patricia). He leaves behind five grandchildren: Tabitha Terry, Jordan Walker, Kelsey Mosely, Katie Akers, Seth Stover, and 10 great grandchildren: Katie, Briar, and Logan Cochrum, Cameron, Lily, Gracie, and Brody Walker, John David Blankenhorn, Ella Akers and soon to be, Benjamin Akers, several nieces, extended family, beloved friends, special neighbors, former students, and colleagues.

Coach Stover leaves behind a true legacy of leadership, laughter, and love. Psalm 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Funeral Service was held 1:00 pm on Monday June 2, 2025, at Wilson Smith Funeral Home, Clay, WV, visitation was one hour prior to the service from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm with Pastors Don and Wilma Dobbins officiating. Burial followed in Clay Memorial Gardens, Clay, WV.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.carl-wilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carl-wilsonfuneralhome.com)

Wilson Smith Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Stover family.

**Clay County Free Press**

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**POSTMASTER:**

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# Mom’s Eyes

**By Joe Mazzella**

It was the middle of summer, yet my Dad was already getting ready for winter. He had dumped a load of firewood from his pickup truck and it was my job to put it in the wheelbarrow and move it to our winter woodpile. I was a skinny 12 year old and it wasn’t easy work. I was loading the wheelbarrow for the fifth time when I felt like I was being watched. I looked up and saw my Mom smiling at me from the porch. Her eyes sparkled and the look on her face made me feel warm and happy inside. I couldn’t define that look in her eyes then but I realize now it was unconditional love. Just seeing her look at me like that made me want to be the good, kind, and loving son she saw there.

That wasn’t the only time I saw that look in Mom’s eyes either. Countless times growing up I would catch her staring at me with that same gentle smile and those same sparkling eyes. Each time I did I felt so loved. Each time I did I felt that same warmth and happiness.

Sadly just as I was becoming a man my Mom was diagnosed with cancer. She fought it long and hard for years, but finally when I was only 25 years old she passed away. Over the years since then I have missed her every single day. I have missed her warm smile, sweet words, musical voice, and gentle touch. But most of all I have missed seeing that look of unconditional love in her eyes when she looked at me. Sometimes I go outside, look up to the heavens and talk to her. And when I do I can still feel in my heart those loving eyes looking down on me.

We are all called to Love. We are all created in Love. God Loves each and every one of us unconditionally. And all God asks of us is that we Love each other the same way. It isn’t always easy but it is possible. My Mom was living proof of that. May you always give your love freely and unconditionally. May you always be the good, kind, and loving child you were meant to be.

# Home Country

**By Slim Randles**

It’s the heat that defines us this month. It greets us at daybreak with its promise, but in an hour or so, it bears down on our shoulders and makes us dream of shade and something cold to drink.

The best thing about our hot season, however, are evenings when most of the earth cools, and that breeze slides in off the mesa and caresses our cheeks. Then it’s time to sit, and laugh, and tell stories and just be with someone we love. Then is the culmination of a day we can be proud of.

Inside each of us, we silently and privately applaud ourselves, because the hot day tried us, but we did it. All day. We made it through the heat today. Made it with our hands today. Made it through to another precious June evening when we can sit on the patio with something cold and someone sweet.

So it gets hot in the daytime. Okay. But just don’t forget to give us these evenings, these blessed evenings when we can recall what cooler weather felt like.

Without these evenings, it would just be another hot summer day.

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*Brought to you by the nice folks at New Mexico Magazine, who have given so much of themselves in helping readers get good reading about the Southwest.*



# What’s Chocolate Got To Do With It?

**Dr. James L. Snyder**

Did you ever have a morning when everything went exactly as you planned? Well, neither have I.

I plan my schedule to include everything I need for the day. But, unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I fall way short of accomplishing that.

When I think I have my schedule in place, something undermines everything I’ve done so far. Oh boy, if I only had the scheduling gift of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

She can plan a dozen projects simultaneously and complete them all at once, usually ahead of schedule. After living with her for 54 years, I still don’t know how she does it. I want to ask her, but you know how that would turn out.

Without her knowing, I could watch her and see how she is doing what she is doing at the time. No matter how much I watch, I could never figure out her multitasking secret. If I knew that one secret, imagine all the stuff I could do in one day.

I took a break one morning and went into the kitchen to get a cup of coffee. For some reason, I opened one of the cupboard doors and was surprised to find a Hershey chocolate bar. I’m not quite sure where that came from, but I was so excited to find it.

The thought in my head was, “Should I, or shouldn’t I?”

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage cannot eat chocolate. It gives her a headache, so she says. So, I don’t think she purchased that chocolate bar. Why would she? However, it did not matter where it came from; all that matters is where it’s going. I went to my easy chair with my cup of coffee and the amazing chocolate bar.

I can’t remember the last time I had a chocolate bar, but I was really anticipating enjoying this one. After taking a sip of coffee, I unwrapped my chocolate bar and looked at it briefly.

Do you know how wonderfully delicious a chocolate bar looks? I couldn’t keep my eyes off that amazing treat.

I took the first bite and found my world flourishing like red roses. I had forgotten how chocolate affects my attitude.

No matter how angry, grouchy, or frustrated I feel, one bite of a chocolate bar makes it all disappear.

Growing up near Hershey, Pennsylvania, I was very familiar with their chocolate. In fact, my father worked there for a short time and often brought home samples.

I sighed as I sipped my coffee. I stared at the chocolate bar and wondered who created it. Whoever created it deserves a Nobel Peace Prize.

After two bites, I had forgotten all my stress that morning. All I could think about were lovely roses floating in my mind and their amazing fragrance. Chocolate has a way of doing that for me. My best thoughts come while eating chocolate.

# Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers Now Available in West Virginia

Vouchers for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) are now available to eligible seniors across the state through their county senior services. The SFMNP is a federally funded initiative that provides low-income seniors with access to fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey from authorized farmers’ markets and roadside stands.

Vouchers are valid from June 2 through October 31, 2025, and support both senior nutrition and local agriculture. Seniors must receive vouchers in the county where they reside, but they may redeem them at any participating market statewide.

“The SFMNP supports two vital needs—improving senior nutrition and strengthening our local farming economy,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “We encourage all eligible seniors to take

Suddenly, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage burst into the room where I was sitting and demanded, “Just what are you doing?”

At first, I was so euphoric that I didn’t recognize her. All I saw were red roses around her head. I smiled, and then suddenly realized who she was.

At that point, there was no way I could hide that chocolate bar I was enjoying.

“I’m just,” I said cautiously, “resting from a very hard morning.” I flashed a smile at her, but she wasn’t smiling at me.

“And where did you get that chocolate bar?”

It’s one thing to lie but quite another thing to lie to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. There are reciprocations. My head was so euphoric that I didn’t quite know how to answer her.

“I just found it in the cupboard,” I said with a big smile.

She stared at me and said, “You found it in the cupboard? I purchased that chocolate bar for our granddaughter’s birthday this week. You had no right to eat her birthday present.”

I wasn’t sure I understood what she meant, but eating that chocolate bar made me calm. It blocked out any negativity.

“That’s okay,” I said cheerfully, “I’ll go to the store and buy her a chocolate bar.”

My plan was to buy three chocolate bars, hide two, and give one back for our granddaughter’s birthday.

When I eat chocolate, I can think as clearly as ever. That’s why I like chocolate.

“Okay,” The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, “as long as you only buy one Hershey’s chocolate bar. That would be just perfect.”

I’m going to fix this problem somehow. But for now, I have at least three more bites of this Hershey’s chocolate bar.

As I was enjoying this chocolate bar, I had an interesting thought. Will there be Chocolate in heaven?

When I finished that amazing Hershey Chocolate Bar, I remember what Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Like everyone else, my days can be very stressful. A chocolate bar can only go so far. To truly experience peace from Jesus’ perspective, I need to come unto the Lord. This invitation requires that I act on it and come to the Lord.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail [jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnsnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnsnyderministries.com).*

# Appalachian Power to use helicopters to maintain some power line rights-of-way

**June 5, 2025**

Weather permitting, Appalachian Power (APCo) will begin an aerial maintenance program this week. This program is necessary for maintaining the rights-of-way for some power lines in West Virginia, and it will be executed by applying herbicides via helicopter.

Lines scheduled for maintenance in West Virginia include Bright Coal Company Tap 46kV in Clay County. A transmission line on wood structures beginning at a tap off the Belva-Clendenin 46kV line, running west approximately one mile and ending at a dead end.

“The company generally makes aerial maintenance applications only in less populated areas where terrain and accessibility make it difficult for ground-based crews to safely clear rights of way,” said Christopher Hoffman, utility forester. Rights of way in populated areas, as well as near parks, ponds and other sensitive areas, are maintained by other means.

Herbicides used by AEP and Appalachian Power have been registered for use on rights-of-way by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDoA). Herbicides used are imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, fosamine, triclopyr, aminocyclopyrachlor and aminopyralid; the manufacturer, colleges and governmental and independent research laboratories have extensively tested each. Questions concerning these herbicides may be addressed to the EPA and the WVDoA.

As part of APCo’s commitment to safety, helicopter pilots conduct thorough visual checks of all areas to be treated in advance. This is to verify the location of any sensitive areas and ensure that people or domestic animals are not visible in the area to be maintained.

advantage of this opportunity to access fresh, West Virginia-grown products.”

Each eligible senior will receive a booklet of vouchers worth \$30, containing three \$10 vouchers. Vouchers can be redeemed at participating farmers’ markets and farm stands across the state. A list of authorized locations is available on the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) website and through local senior centers.

Participants must be 60 years of age or older and meet income eligibility guidelines. To apply, seniors should contact their local senior center or county aging office.

For more information, please visit [agriculture.wv.gov](http://agriculture.wv.gov) or call the WVDA Business Development Division at 304-558-2210.

Right-of-way maintenance agreements between APCo and landowners are available to landowners who prefer to accept responsibility for clearing the right-of-way crossing their property instead of the company’s aerial application of herbicides. The agreement compensates the landowner by an amount equivalent to the cost of aerial herbicide application, provided the work meets APCo’s specifications.

Customers with questions about the company’s aerial maintenance program can call a toll-free number (1-800-642-3622) for information. Customers also can write for information at Appalachian Power, Attn: Transmission Forestry, 346 Raymond Peak Way, Hurricane, W.Va., 25526.

Residents who have questions about the program or who want to alert the company to the location of sensitive areas near power lines, such as springs, wells, streams, lakes, ponds, orchards, crop areas, gardens, pastures, meadows, year-round dwellings, public recreation areas and Christmas tree farms, should also contact the company. To ensure accurate reporting of the sensitive areas, provide the number of the nearest pole or tower. These numbers are posted on utility poles and one leg of utility towers.

After the maintenance program begins, 24-hour telephone service at the above number will provide information daily on locations scheduled for maintenance.

Complaints about possible damage resulting from herbicide applications should be made by contacting Appalachian Power at its toll-free number or the above address. Complaints also may be directed to the WVDoA, Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit, which can be reached in Charleston at (304) 558-2209.





# 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

## Attend Camp Galahad Dedication at Blue Creek



Miss Hazel Baughman, Mrs. Scott Williams, Mrs. Robert Manning and Mrs. Vera Shaffer attended the dedication of Camp Galahad at Blue Creek, Kanawha County on Sunday June 8, 1958. The Senior and Junior Clubs of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs played a great part in making this camp available for blind diabetic and retarded children by donating the money to build three cabins.

## Boosters to Open Refreshment Stand

Mrs. Pearle Williams, newly elected President of the Widen Band Boosters Club, has made the announcement that that Club is erecting and will open shortly a refreshment stand at the Buffalo Valley Sportsman's Club recreation area. This is a permanent installation and will be open during the months of the Summer that the swimming pool and tennis court are used.

The menu includes Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Cold Cuts, Candies, Cookies, Cakes and Soft Drinks.

Mr. Bernell Baughman is foreman of the construction crew and all labor is voluntary. Mr. Gerald Simmons, Widen Band Director, and the larger boys in the band are assisting Mr. Baughman. Some of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company employees are also volunteering their services.

The female members of the Club have graciously consented to give some of their valuable time during the hours the booth will be open to help serve the large crowds that are expected to use the recreation facilities this season.

## Swandale News

The Swandale vacation Bible School closed Sunday evening June 8th with a Bible School Program at the Community Chapel.

There was an enrollment of sixty and there was good attendance throughout the week.

The teachers were:  
Nursery: Mrs. Adam Roberts and Mrs. James Moorehead.

Beginners: Mrs. Dedzil Paxton and Mrs. Roy Foster.

Primary: Mrs. Harold Hildebrand and Miss Judy Gregorich.

Juniors: Mrs. Omer Gregorich and Mrs. Brooks Litton.

Intermediates: Mrs. Hobert Hamrick and Mr. Dennie McClung.

Supervisor: Mrs. Noble Conner.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Frame was the setting for a happy event Sunday morning June 15th at 10:00 A.M. when their daughter Rosetta became the bride of Mr. Paul Ayers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Ayers. The double ring ceremony was performed by Rev. Ed Hunt. A reception following in the home of the brides parents. They left immediately for their new home in Akron, Ohio.

Mrs. Hobert Hamrick had a bridal shower for Rosetta Frame at her home Friday evening June 13th. Every one had a wonderful time. Those attending were: Mrs. Roy Foster, Mrs. Dennis Gray, Mrs. Owen Myers, Mrs. Virgil Ayers, Mrs. Earn Ayers, Mrs. Rolan Rhodes, Mrs. Harold Hildebrand, Mrs. Brooks Litton, Shirley Adkins, Lois Ayers, Brenda and Sharon Conner. Those sending gifts were: Mrs. Adam Roberts, Mrs. Lloyd Myers and Mrs. Noble Conner.

Dr. and Mrs. O. M. Harper spent Sunday June 15th with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gregorich.

Mrs. Thomas Young of Hookersville is visiting her daughter Mrs. Noble Conner this week.

Mrs. Dennie McClung is attending classes at Morris Harvey this summer.

Mrs. Adam Roberts and Penny motored to Widen recently to see the little Miss Caroline Zoe Butcher.

Everyone was certainly pleased to see the one and only "Good Ole Herb" Johnson in town last week. We miss that young fellow's smiles, his sweet disposition and his consoling word to the old as well as the young. Keep your chin up "Herb" and we will be at the bat for you, and after you are nursed along a little farther on the road to recovery, then we know "Mommy" will enjoy a well earned rest.

Mrs. Paul Murphy and children of Massillon, Ohio are visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. Owen Myers this week.

Mrs. Helen Napier and son Joe of Huntington are visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Hamrick this week. Miss Brenda Conner will return to Huntington with her for a short visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Currence returned from Oyster Harbors, Mass. where he attended the LTGA Meeting.

## Boy Scout News

Eight members of Troop 111 at Widen camped out overnight at the camp grounds near the head of Buffalo Creek on the night of June 13. It was about as wet a night as we ever had around Widen, but the boys stuck it out until late Saturday afternoon. A snipe hunt and some frog-gigging had been planned, but the rains cancelled the fun after one lone little frog had been bagged. Fortunately the boys had laid in a good supply of fire-wood before the rains came and it was possible to keep a good fire going. Other than a little hoarseness for a couple of the boys, there were no ill effects. Scoutmaster Gene George and Assistant Scoutmaster Austin Hudson accompanied the boys.

At a Board of Review conducted by members of the Widen Rotary Club, which sponsors the troop, T. G. Griffith, Charles Johnson, Roger Strickland, and Johnny Matheny received their Second Class badges, following the regular Club meeting on June 19. These four have set their sights on completing their First Class work by the time they return from Camp McClintic in July.

## Okey E. Davis, 68 Dies In Nicholas Co.

Mr. Okey E. Davis, 68 years of age of Hookersville, Nicholas County, expired at his home Sunday morning July 13th, 1958 following an extended illness. He was the son of the late George and Mary Barnette Davis and was born at Sutton, January 17, 1890. He was an employee of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company for some forty years previous to his retirement in 1953. He was a member of the Beulah Baptist Church and had previously served as Sunday School Superintendent. He was united in marriage to Rosa Rapp Davis at Birch River on March 4, 1911. She now survives. Also surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Beulah Holcomb of Widen, Mrs. Violet Fernatt of Pratt, and Mrs. Verelene Coffman of Richwood. Two sons, French of Indore and Royal of East Bank, W. Va. Six sisters, Mrs. Loula Walker, Mrs. Mintee Young and Mrs. Linell Walker of Dills, Mrs. Joy Wilson of Gassaway, Mrs. Nora Carr of Canton, Ohio, and Mrs. Leila Davis of Parcoal, West Virginia. One brother, Virgil, Davis of Petonia. Nineteen grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon, July 15, 1958 at 2:30 P. M. at the Beulah Baptist Church at Hookersville, with the Rev. Glover P. Robinson officiating and burial followed in the Walnut Grove Cemetery on Wilson Ridge.

Mr. Davis' granddaughters acted as flower girls.

## West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

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Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011



**Dr. C. E. Campbell**

**OPTOMETRIST**

**EXAMINE EYES FOR**

**GLASSES**

**Y.M.C.A. BEAUTY SHOP..**

**Widen, West Virginia**

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**EACH MONTH**

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

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a generator.  
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call us at  
(304) 647-5724**

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CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
CLAY COUNTY, to wit:  
In accordance with West Virginia Code §11-8-12, as amended, the Clay County Board of Education proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the 2026 fiscal year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:  
The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:

GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND

<b>Estimated revenues:</b>		
Local Sources:		
Property Taxes (Net of allowances)	\$	2,809,767
Other local sources		90,000
State Sources:		
State aid to schools		15,046,111
Other unrestricted		10,000
Federal sources:		
Unrestricted		200,000
Miscellaneous sources		
Total estimated revenues		18,155,878
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources		
Estimated beginning balance		500,000
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	\$	18,222,914
<b>Estimated expenditures:</b>		
Instruction	\$	10,817,190
Supporting services:		
Students		195,061
Instructional staff		46,932
Central administration		365,380
School administration		886,307
Central services		1,038,275
Operation and maintenance of facilities		2,094,521
Students transportation		2,517,074
Food services		
Community services		146,662
Capital outlay		77,595
Debt service:		
Principal retirement		198,058
Interest and fiscal charges		
Total estimated expenditures		18,383,055
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses		272,823
Estimated budgetary reserves		
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses, and reserves	\$	18,655,878

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CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

<b>Estimated revenues:</b>		
Local Sources	\$	23,526
State Sources:		
State aid to schools		391,102
Other		
Federal sources		2,843,066
Miscellaneous sources		
Total estimated revenues		3,272,823
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources		167,771
Estimated beginning balance		
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	\$	3,530,517
<b>Estimated expenditures:</b>		
Instruction	\$	2,096,353
Supporting services:		
Students		
Instructional staff		
Central administration		
School administration		
Business		
Operation and maintenance of facilities		
Students transportation		
Food services		1,434,164
Community services		
Capital outlay		
Debt service:		
Principal retirement		
Interest and fiscal charges		
Total estimated expenditures		3,530,517
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses		
Estimated budgetary reserves		
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses	\$	3,530,517

CLay COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
Clay County, to wit:  
I, Philip R. Dobbins, Secretary of the Clay County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proposed budget being considered for adoption by the board of education on the 20th day of May, 2025.

  
Secretary of the Board of Education

LEGAL

Notice

Request for Proposal (RFP) \*\*Notice of available funding to serve as the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Fiscal Administrator for the Nine (9) County local Workforce Development Board Mid-Ohio Valley (Calhoun, Clay, Jackson, Mason, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood Counties) of West Virginia. The deadline for bids is June 26, 2025. Interested parties can review the RFP's at [www.wdbmov.com](http://www.wdbmov.com).

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Notice

Request for Proposal (RFP) \*\*Notice of available funding to serve as the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Direct Service Provider for the Nine (9) County local Workforce Development Board Mid-Ohio Valley (Calhoun, Clay, Jackson, Mason, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood Counties) of West Virginia. The deadline for bids is June 23, 2025. Interested parties can review the RFP's at [www.wdbmov.com](http://www.wdbmov.com).

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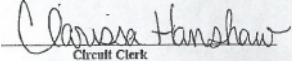
Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Clay County Clerk's Office at P.O. Box 190, 246 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043-0190. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Clay County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 or 44-3A.  
Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.  
Publication Date: Thursday, July 5, 2025  
Claim Deadline: Monday, August 4, 2025  
APPOINTMENT DATE 01/22/2025  
ESTATE NAME: **JOHNNY BROOKS BODKINS**  
ADMINISTRATRIX BARBARA JEAN BODKINS  
PO BOX 62  
LIZEMORES WV 25125-0062  
APPOINTMENT DATE 03/13/2025  
ESTATE NAME: **LARRY ALLEN SIMONS**  
ADMINISTRATRIX GAIL LEE SIMONS  
763 MAYSEL LAUREL RIDGE RD  
MAYSEL WV 25133-8117  
Subscribed and sworn to before me on 05/22/2025  
Sheila Stone  
County Clerk  
Clay County  
P.O. Box 190  
246 Main Street  
Clay WV 25043-0190

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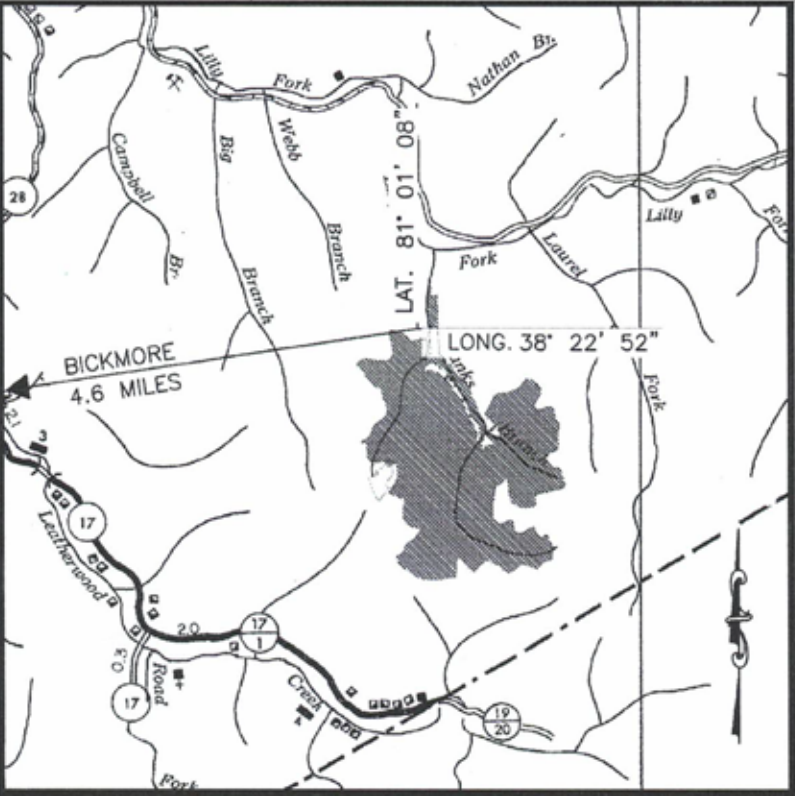
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY  
THAT BEING THE CIVIL COURT OF SAID COUNTY  
IN RE: Randy L. White and Joyce R. White Case No. 25-C-14 v.  
Lavon D. Hunter, in her own person, Lawon D. Hunter, a non-resident of Clay County, and the State of West Virginia, Lavon D. Hunter, believed to be a deceased person, the HEIRS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN OF LAVON D. HUNTER, a deceased person, JOSEPH T. HUNTER, in his own person, JOSEPH T. HUNTER, non-resident of Clay County, and the State of West Virginia, JOSEPH T. HUNTER, believed to be a deceased person, the HEIRS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN OF JOSEPH T. HUNTER, a deceased person and OTHER UNKNOWN DEFENDANTS.

In the matter of Randy L. White and Joyce R. White. V. Lavon D. Hunter, in her own person, Lawon D. Hunter, a non-resident of Clay County, and the State of West Virginia, Lavon D. Hunter, believed to be a deceased person, the HEIRS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN OF LAVON D. HUNTER, a deceased person, JOSEPH T. HUNTER, in his own person, JOSEPH T. HUNTER, a non-resident of Clay County, and the State of West Virginia, JOSEPH T. HUNTER, believed to be a deceased person, the HEIRS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN OF JOSEPH T. HUNTER, a deceased person and OTHER UNKNOWN DEFENDANTS.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
And  
NOTICE OF ANSWER  
To: Lavon D. Hunter, in her own person, Lawon D. Hunter, a non-resident of Clay County, and the State or West Virginia, Lavon D. Hunter, believed to be a deceased person, the HEIRS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN OF LAVON D. HUNTER, a deceased person, JOSEPH HUNTER, in his own person, JOSEPH T. HUNTER, a non-resident of Clay County, and the State of West Virginia, JOSEPH T. HUNTER, believed to be a deceased person, the HEIRS, AND UNKNOWN OF JOSEPH T. HUNTER, a deceased person and OTHER UNKNOWN DEFENDANTS..  
(The object of this action is to notify the above-named Defendants of this pending action by the Plaintiffs to Quiet Title, or in the alternative award judgment for Adverse Possession in favor of the Plaintiffs by the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia).  
You are hereby notified that a Civil complaint has been filed with the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, on the 22nd day of May 2025, and assigned Case Numbers 25-C-14. You are hereby notified that you have the right to answer said complaint and you have the right to have counsel present at all stages of these proceedings.  
Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the above-named Defendants, **Lavon D. Hunter, Joseph T. Hunter, and any Known or Unknown Heirs**, shall file an answer or any other pleadings by mailing the same to the Clerk to the Circuit Court, at 246 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043, with copy to Randy L. White and Joyce R. White at 1132 Clinic Dr., Ivydale, WV 25113 within thirty (30) days of the filing of this publication, or judgement by default in favor of the Plaintiff, may be taken against him.  
A copy of said Complaint can be obtained from the Office of the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, at the Clay County Courthouse, Clay, West Virginia.  
BY: Randy L. White and Joyce R. White,  
1132 Clinic Dr., Ivydale, WV 25113  
Entered by the Clerk of said Court on the 22nd day of May, 2025  


LEGAL  
ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that WV RECLAIM CO, LLC, 2122 LEATHERWOOD ROAD, BICKMORE, WV 25019 has submitted an application with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), 47 School Street, Suit 301, Philippi, WV 26416-1600 for a Phase 2 and 3 release on Permit Number S200494 Increment Number 1 issued for 447 acres.  
The permit is located in HENRY District of Clay County, 4.6 miles east of BICKMORE, on Franks Branch of Lilly Fork of Buffalo Creek of Elk River.  
WV RECLAIM CO, LLC completed final reclamation on 3/18/2010 and is requesting 100 percent of the reclamation performance bond currently in the amount of \$703,080.00.  
Written comments will be received at the DEP address above until 7/14/25, or thirty (30) days from date of **final publication**.



LOCATION MAP  
PERMIT NO.: S-2004-94 NPDES NO.: WV1013882  
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP  
SEE USGS - TOPO MAP (7.5' SERIES)  
QUADS: CLAY / LOCKWOOD  
DISTRICT: HENRY / COUNTY: CLAY  
NEAREST P.O.: BICKMORE  
RECEIVING STREAMS: FRANKS BRANCH  
OF LILLY FORK OF BUFFALO CREEK  
SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

LEGAL

Tariff From No. 12  
(Tariff Rule 23.1 et seq.)  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES BY NON-LRR MUNI UTILITY  
NOTICE is hereby given that the TOWN OF CLAY (the "Town"), has adopted by ordinance on May 13, 2025, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing water service to its 548 customers in Clay County, West Virginia.  
The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective 45 days from the date of adoption of the Ordinance unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will produce approximately \$102,869 annually in additional revenue, an increase of 20%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$)	INCREASE	INCREASE (%)
Residential (3,400 gallons)	\$	6.08	20%
Commercial (6,800 gallons)	\$	11.29	20%
Public Authority (9,900 gallons)	\$	16.02	20%
Resale (per 1,000 gallons)	\$	0.96	20%

Resale customers include Clay-Roane Public Service District and Clay County Public Service District.  
The Increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. The Commission shall review and approve or modify the increased rates only upon the filing of a petition within thirty (30) days of the adoption of the ordinance changing said rates or charges, by:  
(1) Any customer aggrieved by the changed rates or charges who presents to the Commission a petition signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the customers served by such municipally operated public utility; or  
(2) Any customer who is served by a municipally operated natural gas public utility and who resides outside the corporate limits and who is affected by the change in said rates or charges and who presents to the Commission a petition alleging discrimination between customers within and without the municipal boundaries. Said petition shall be accompanied by evidence of discrimination; or  
(3) Any customer or group of customers of a municipally operated natural gas utility who are affected by said change in rates who reside within the municipal boundaries and who present a petition to the Commission alleging discrimination between said customer or group of customers and other customers of the municipal utility. Said petition shall be accompanied by evidence of discrimination.  
All petitions should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, P. O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.  
A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of the utility to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the Recorder's Office, Town Hall, 956 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia 25043.  
A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, P. O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

www.cmiwv.com

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MASTERCRAFT COURSER CXT-275-7018 10PLY \$245.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS HT- 275-65-18 TR \$184.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AP 265-70-17 TR \$129.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT QUEST PLUS 265-65-18 TR \$155.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS HT 255-65-18 TR \$129.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT COURSER TRAIL 245-60-18 HR \$154.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AP 265-70-17 TR \$129.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT COURSER TRAIL 265-70-17 TR \$149.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT SRT TOURING 225-65-17 TR \$109.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT QUEST PLUS 225-65-17 HR \$124.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AS 225-60-17 HR \$99.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT GLACIER TREX 225-60-17 TR \$129.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AS 215-60-16 VR \$79.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT COURSER QUEST 215-60-16 VR \$95.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT COURSER QUEST 195-65-15 HR \$89.99 EA.  
MASTERCRAFT GLACIER TREX 195-65-15 TR \$94.99 EA.  
**ATV-UTV TIRES**  
CARLISLE 489 25-8-12 4 PR \$109.99 EA.  
CARLISLE 489 25-10-12 4 PR \$114.99 EA.  
**LAWN TIRE**  
CARLISLE TURF SAVER II 20-8-8 2PR \$54.99  
POWER KING WING 25-8-12 6PR \$109.99 EA.  
POWER KING WING 25-10-12 6PR \$129.99 EA.  
POWER KING TERROROK 26-11-14 8 PR \$144.99 EA.  
**TRAILER TIRES**  
MASTERTRACK UN 203 205-75-15 8 PR \$74.99 EA.  
MASTERTRACK UN203 225-75-15 8 PR \$79.99 EA.  
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M-F 8:00AM-5:00 PM  
SAT-9:00 AM -2:00 PM  
SUN-CLOSED

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2015 Chevy Spark-5 Speed Manual, A/C & Power Windows, Silver	\$4,999.00
2014 Toyota Avalon-V6, Auto, Many Options, Purple	\$9,999.00
2014 Chevy Malibu-Auto, Many Options Including A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Blue	\$8,999.00
2013 Ford Taurus-V6, Auto, Many Options, White	\$7,999.00
2013 Ford Taurus-V6, Many Options, Black	\$5,999.00
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# CHURCH DIRECTORY



**ALTA CHURCH OF GOD**  
Sunday Night Services  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday 7:00 PM Everyone  
is welcome! **Pastor: Paul E. Young**

**BELL CREEK  
COMMUNITY BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
NO Scheduled Services  
At This Time

**BELL CREEK  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
Dixie  
Tuesday Night 6:00 PM  
Thursday Night 6:00 PM  
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
PM **Pastor: Lee Holiday**  
(304) 632-1135

**BETHEL BAPTIST  
CHURCH** of Adonijah.  
Preaching from K.J.V. Bible  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Morning 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening 7:00 PM  
Thursday Evening 7:00 PM

**BETHEL COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**, Porter Creek Road,  
Bomont, WV  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service  
7:30 PM  
Thursday Night Service  
7:30 PM  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Junior Davis**

**BICKMORE BAPTIST  
CHURCH** located at Bick-  
more on Fola Road  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM  
Wednesday evening services  
7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Ralph D. Lane**

**BIG OTTER BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF IVYDALE**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Wednesday prayer service and  
Bible Study 6:30 PM **Pastor:  
Danny Richardson**

**BIG UNION BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:15 AM  
Worship Service 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Service 1st,  
3rd and 4th  
Sundays Preaching 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Night Prayer &  
Bible Study 7:00 PM  
2nd Sunday Communion  
Service 6:00 PM  
**Pastor: Pete Shaffer**

**BLUE KNOB CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM Everyone  
is Welcome!

**BUFFALO VALLEY  
BAPTIST CHURCH** Sunday  
School 10:00 AM Worship  
Service 11:00 AM Sunday  
Evening Service  
6:00 PM  
Radio Broadcast, Sunday  
Morning 9:00 AM. WCWV  
Summersville  
Everyone Welcome **Pastor:  
Doug Newell IV**

**BURKE MEMORIAL  
METHODIST CHURCH** in  
Procious. Across Camp Creek  
Bridge on the left. Preaching  
Every Sunday  
9:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM Bible  
Study every Wednesday 7:00  
PM **Pastor: Jerry Chandler**

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF  
LIZEMORE**  
Prayer Service and Bible Study,  
Tuesday 7:00 PM Regular  
Service Sunday Nights at 7:00  
PM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
**Pastor: Thurman Sizemore**

**CHURCH OF GOD  
BENTREE**  
Sangamore Rd.,Bentree, WV  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Service  
7:00 PM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
Come and worship the Lord  
with us.  
Everyone Welcome!  
**Pastor: Michael L. Holcomb, Sr.**

**CLAY COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service  
7:00 PM  
Wednesday Night Service 7:00  
PM. Everyone welcome.

**CLAY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Worship 11:00 AM.  
Everyone is Welcome!  
**Pastor: Wilma Dobbins**

**CLENDENIN UNITED  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
10:00 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Preaching  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday 7:30 PM  
**Pastor: Fred Walker**

**CLIO COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night Preaching 7:00  
PM  
Wednesday Worship  
7:00 PM  
Everyone welcome.  
**Pastor: George Stickland**

**COLD SPRINGS GOSPEL  
TABERNACLE**, Upper Fall-  
ing Rock, Clay County  
Sunday Morning Worship  
10:00 AM  
Sunday School 11:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Service  
7:30 PM  
Tuesday Evenings 7:30 PM  
Teachings from the King  
James Bible  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Darris Barker**

**CORNERSTONE  
INDEPENDENT BAPTIST  
CHURCH**, Rt. 3, Newton  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service 7:00  
PM  
Wednesday Prayer Service/  
Discovery Clubs 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Roy Huffman**

**ELK RIVER BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
Saturday Night 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Brace Cook**

**FAIRVIEW BAPTIST  
TEMPLE**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM  
Wednesday 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Bret Wiley**

**FAITH MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Dutch Ridge Laurel Road  
Sunday Service 6:00 PM  
Tuesday Service 6:00 PM  
Everyone Welcome!  
**Pastor: Brother B. J. Evans**  
**Associate Pastor: Lee Roy  
Anderson**

**FAITH MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Bomont, WV  
Sunday Service 10:00 AM  
and 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Nick Bird**  
Phone 304-548-6665

**FLAT FORK  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Wednesday Prayer & Bible  
Study 6:00 PM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:30 AM  
**Pastor: Chris Johnson**

**FOLA MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Adults Bible Study  
& Kids for Christ 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Daniel Tanner**

**GAULEY BRIDGE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship  
11:00 AM  
Junior BYF/Senior BYF  
6:00 PM  
Sunday Evening Worship  
7:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:00 PM  
Wednesday Kids/Chilren/  
Youth 7:00 PM

**GOSPEL LIGHT  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Located on Rt. 119 at the  
mouth of Gabe. All Sunday  
night services begin at 7:00  
PM. Everyone welcome.  
**Pastor: Rev. David Smith**

**GROVES CREEK  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Sunday Service 10:00 AM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
Friday Service 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Dean Rogers**

**HALLBURG BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday Sunday 10:30 AM  
Sunday Night Preaching 6:00  
PM  
**Pastor: Michael Jackson**

**HARTLAND COMMUNITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Wednesday Night Service  
7:00 PM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service  
6:00 PM  
**Pastor: Jeremy Holcomb**

**HORNERS FORK  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Youth  
7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Joe Dawson**

**HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
Hansford Fork Rd, Maysel,  
WV (off Rt. 36)  
Pentecostal/Full Gospel  
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM  
Wednesday evening 7:00 PM  
Pastor: (304) 587-2996  
(home), (304) 587-2703  
(church)  
**Pastor: James R. Paxton**

**IDA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Bentree  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Prayer Service &  
Bible Study 7:00 PM  
Wednesday BYF 7:00 PM.  
All ages welcome. Also  
have crafts, etc., all children  
welcome.  
**Pastor: Larry Skaggs**

**INDORE BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM  
Sunday Class 11:00-12:30  
Preaching Lunch  
12:30-1:30 PM  
Wednesday Service  
6:30-7:30 PM  
Everyone welcome!

**IVYDALE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Worship Service 11:00  
Everyone Welcome!  
304-395-9990  
**Pastor: Freddie Elliott**

**JODIE BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Come Worship with Us!  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Evening Service 7:00 PM  
Wednesday (BYF) 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Night 7:00 PM

**JOHNSON CREEK  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Vineyard Ridge  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service  
7:00 PM  
Wednesday Night 7:00 PM

**JUBILEE MOUNTAIN  
CHURCH**  
103 Main Street, Clay, WV  
25043  
Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 12 noon  
For more info call 304-587-  
4779  
**Pastor: David Davis**

**LAUREL FORK  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH** of Adonijah  
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
Youth Meeting 7:00 PM

**LEATHERWOOD  
FREEWILL BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Service 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Services 7:00 PM

**LIBERTY ADVENT  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Night: Bible  
Study/Prayer Meeting and  
Youth Group 7:00 PM **Pastor:  
John Barnhouse**

**LICKFORK BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 10:00 every  
Sunday Morning  
Sunday Night Services  
7:00 PM  
Wednesday 7:00 PM  
Come worship with us!  
**Pastor: Herb Vance**

**LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Mark Dudley**  
Phone 304-286-5909

**LITTLE LAUREL  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship  
6:00 PM  
Everyone Welcome!  
**Pastor: David McLaughlin**

**LIVING GOD WORSHIP  
CENTER**  
We invite you to come and  
worship with us.  
Thursday Evening 7:00 PM  
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
**Pastor: Cecil Lee**

**LIZEMORE CHURCH  
OF THE NAZARENE**  
Sunday School 10-11:00 AM  
Church Service 11-12 Noon  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Robert Thomas**

**MAYSEL COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00  
Sunday Night 6:00 PM  
Monday Night Service  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday Night Prayer  
Meeting/Bible Study 6:00 PM  
Everyone welcome!

**MAYSEL MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Worship Service 11:00 AM  
Everyone Welcome  
**Pastor: Jim Hamrick**

**MIDDLE CREEK  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Night 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: John Osborne**

**MT. OLIVE  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Preaching 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting

Everyone welcome!

**MUD FORK CHURCH**  
Sunday & Jr. Worship  
Service 10:00 AM Sunday  
School 11:00 AM Sunday  
Night 6:00 PM Wednesday  
Night & Jr.

Church Service 7:00 PM  
Everyone Welcome!  
**Pastor: Christopher Stout**

**NEBO BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Preaching every Sunday  
Morning at 10:00 AM

Sunday School 11:00 AM  
Preaching, Prayer Meeting  
Wednesday at 7:30 PM

**NEW ANTIOCH  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Service 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Night Prayer  
Meeting 7:00 PM  
Please join us in Praise!  
**Pastor: Gary Walker**

**NEWTON UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching every Sunday  
11:00 AM  
**Pastor: Kenneth Boggs**

**NEWTON BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Adult Choir Practice Sun. 9 AM  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Night Prayer Meet-

ing & Bible Study 7:00PM  
**Pastor: Darius Walker**  
**Pastor Emeritus: Ron  
Fisher**

**NOAH'S ARK FULL  
GOSPEL CHURCH**  
Thursday 7:00 PM  
Sunday 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: R.J. Mullins, Sr.**

**O'BRION ADVENT  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching after Sunday  
School. Wednesday Prayer  
Meeting 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: James L. Balser**

**OVAPA METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
Preaching every Sunday at  
9:45 PM  
Sunday School 10:30 AM  
Sunday School on the 2nd  
Sunday is at 10:00 AM  
Wednesday 7:00 PM  
Phone 304-587-2955  
**Pastors: Cindy & Roger  
Dunlap**

**OTTERLICK  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service  
6:00 PM  
Bible Study Thursday  
6:00 PM  
**Pastor: Gene Copen**

**OTTERVALE ADVENT  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching every Sunday,  
except 5th, 11:00 AM  
Prayer Meeting Tuesday  
Evening  
**Pastor: Rev. Rick Sams**

**PEOPLES COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Wednesday Night 7:00 PM  
Sunday Night Service 7:00  
PM  
Take time out for Jesus, he  
took time our for you.  
**Pastor: Freddie Schoolcraft**

**PISGAH FREEWILL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Bible Study  
& preaching 6:00 PM  
**Pastor: Dennis Vance**

**PLEASANT DALE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching Sunday 11:00 AM  
Wednesday night Bible Study  
7:00 PM  
Saturday Night Preaching  
**Pastor: Wayne Litton**

**PLEASANT HILL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening 6:30 PM  
Wednesday Night 6:30 PM  
Everyone welcome.  
**Pastor: Wayne Smith**

**PROCIOUS  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
*Welcomes You!*  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:15 AM  
Bible Study 2nd, 4th, 5th  
Wednesday Night 6:30 PM  
**Pastor: David Walker**

**QUEEN SHOALS F.G.C.  
CHURCH**  
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night 7:00 PM  
Thursday Night 7:00 PM  
Everyone Welcome!  
**Pastor: Scott Means**

**RISEN LORD CATHOLIC  
CHURCH** at Maysel  
Sunday Liturgy 8:30 AM fol-  
lowed by Religious Education  
9:30 AM  
Wednesday Liturgy 6:00 PM  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Father Matheus Ro  
SVD**  
**Pastoral Associates: Father  
Dominijus Boak SVD**

**ROGERS FORK BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Saturday Prayer Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Sunday Worship 7:00 PM  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Delbert McKenzie**

**RUSH FORK  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 2nd & 4th Sunday  
11:00 AM  
Every 1st and 3rd Sunday  
Singing or Preaching  
11:00 AM  
Wednesday Prayer Service &  
Bible Study 7:00 PM  
Come see us in church.  
**Pastor: Harry Dobbins**



**STRANGE CREEK  
CHURCH**  
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
Preaching 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 11:00 AM  
Thursday Service 7:00 PM  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Jason Belt**

**THE AMERICAN CHAPEL  
AT ELKHURST**  
Saturday Services 7:00 PM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM

**Pastor: Hiram Lewis**

**TRINITY MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Night Service  
7:00 PM.  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Clifford Samples**

**UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF LIZEMORES**  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Service 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Service 7:00  
PMEveryone welcome  
**Pastor: Don Dobbins**

**UNITY GOSPEL  
TABERNACLE**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Prayer Service  
7:00 PM  
Everyone welcome!

**VALLEY RIDGE  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Bible Study Wednesday  
Night 7:00 PM  
Everyone is welcome to  
attend.

**WALLBACK  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
Preaching 1st, 3rd, 5th Sun-  
days 9:45 AM  
Bible Study Wednesday Eve-  
ning 7:00 PM  
Everyone welcome.  
**Pastor: Rev. Stewart Cottrell**

**WALNUT GROVE  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
Preaching 1st & 3rd Sundays  
11:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Pastor: (304) 332-5503  
**Pastor: Jimmy Adkins**

**WALNUT MEMORIAL  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 10:00 AM  
Thursday Evening Service  
7:30 PM  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Lester Tanner**

**WHITE PILGRIM  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
Preaching Sunday 9:45 AM  
Sunday School 11:00 AM  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Paul Coon**

**WHITESTAR  
TABERNACLE CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night 6:30 PM  
Wednesday Night 6:30 PM  
**Pastor: Rev. Mike Hall**

**WIDEN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday Night Service  
6:00 PM  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Randy Tinney**

**WINGS OF DELIVERANCE  
APOSTOLIC  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
Rt. 4, 1/4 miles below  
Maysel on the left  
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Night 7:00 PM  
Come worship the Lord with  
us!  
Phone: (304) 587-7410  
**Pastor: Jerry Hanshaw**



# Thousands of West Virginians could lose SNAP in federal cuts. State politicians haven’t offered solutions.

*A federal cost-sharing proposal for food stamps could cost West Virginia from \$60 to \$100 million. State legislative leaders said it’s too early to talk about how they would pay for it.*

by Henry Culvyhouse for Mountain State Spotlight, [www.mountainstatespotlight.com](https://mountainstatespotlight.com)

*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>.*

As Congress moves toward cutting crucial funding that helps West Virginians — many of them elderly or disabled or children — get the food they need, state elected officials so far have no plan to reduce the harm. Under a plan passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last week, funding for SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, and Medicaid would be cut to pay for tax cuts that disproportionately go to the wealthy. On the day the bill passed the House, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat from Minnesota, who sits on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, which oversees SNAP legislation made a statement.

“House Republicans are pulling the rug out from under millions of families by taking away federal assistance to put food on the table,” she said.

Sen. Jim Justice, who sits on the same committee, did not respond to questions about the legislation.

Since its inception, SNAP has been 100% paid for by the federal government.

Under the current proposal, states would be required to chip in 5% to 25% of the cost, based on their rate of errors, meaning percentage of overpayments or underpayments of benefits. The changes would go into effect in October 2028.

The U.S. Senate is expected to start working on the bill when it returns to business on June 2. While moderate Republicans and hard-nosed deficit watchers are at odds over cuts to Medicaid, cuts to SNAP haven’t been a big topic of conversation.

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, who sits on the powerful Senate committee that decides how federal dollars are spent, said the cost-sharing arrangement was news to her during a press call last week.

“I am not sure how I feel. I don’t know how it would impact the state of West Virginia if it was a match,” Capito said. “I need to do my home-



Sen. Jim Justice gives a farewell address to state lawmakers earlier this year in Charleston. Photo courtesy the Governor’s Office.

work on that.” Excluding COVID years — when West Virginia expanded SNAP to more families with children — the program has on average over the last decade served 280,000 people in the state at a cost of \$484 million per year. However, the average payment error rate over that same time period would result in the state paying 15% of the cost, which equals roughly to \$72.6 million to keep assistance going to the same number of people.

The amount states pay will vary from year-to-year, because the error rate changes. For instance, the state’s error rate in 2023 was higher than it’s been in the last decade, and under the new proposal, it would result in a 25% cost share or around \$141 million.

In addition to sharing the cost of the assistance, the bill would require states to take on more of the program’s administrative costs.

But the governor’s office was already projecting about a \$400 million shortfall in the next budget year, and that’s without the additional cost of food stamps.

“This is a brand new problem for

the state,” said Sean O’Leary, a budget analyst for the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy.

Ideally, O’Leary said the state could raise taxes to pay for the new cost. But given the income tax cut passed on the state level and vows by the state’s Republican controlled Legislature to avoid raising taxes, that’s highly unlikely.

Instead, lawmakers could keep the same amount of people on SNAP by cutting other areas of the budget, like pay raises for employees or other social service programs, O’Leary noted. Or they could change eligibility requirements and reduce the number of people who get assistance.

And it’s not just beneficiaries who could lose out.

For every one dollar spent in SNAP, the United States Department of Agriculture estimates \$1.50 is put back into the economy. That means SNAP spending can generate between \$700 and \$800 million in the state’s economy per year, either through people spending their food stamps, or being able to pay for other goods because they don’t have to spend cash on a certain amount of food.

But even with potential budgetary and economic losses coming down the line, state leaders have been mum about the changes.

In a joint statement, West Virginia House Speaker Roger Hanshaw and Senate President Randy Smith said they are monitoring what’s happening in Congress and staying in communication with decision makers in D.C.

“Any discussions of additional fiscal implications are premature,” the politicians said.

House Finance Chair Vernon Criss said he’s waiting to see what “the sausage factory” turns out in D.C, too.

Gov. Patrick Morrisey, who is charged with introducing the framework of a budget every year, did not reply to questions. Not that SNAP isn’t on his mind – last week, he announced that he was asking the federal government to stop West Virginians from using SNAP money for pop.

But up in D.C., West Virginia’s two U.S. Representatives, Carol Miller and Riley Moore, were busy congratulating themselves in helping move the bill forward. Amid the praise for tax cuts, neither said a word about the threat to SNAP.

# Big Otter students participate in Brave Warrior Challenge



Big Otter Elementary School recently held its fifth annual Brave Warrior Challenge. Students raced through an amazing obstacle course, danced on the field, and enjoyed popsicles afterward. With the help of friends, family members, and businesses, students also raised money

for our school. This year’s t-shirt was designed by 5th grade students Lyla Titus and David Ferrell. For the silly string challenge, 38 students silly stringed the principal, Mr. Boggs. The weekend top class challenge was Ms. Douglas’ 1st grade class. These

students were rewarded by super-soaking Mr. Boggs with water while he rode his bike around the field. The overall top class was Mrs. Collins’ Kindergarten class. They received an all-day field day, popsicles, and pizza. The top students were 4th grader Harper Faulkner

and Kindergartener Layla Brogan. These students each earned a Visa gift card. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers and PTO for helping make the Brave Warrior Challenge a great success for our students! It’s a great day to be a Big Otter Brave!

# It’s time to shed the jackets and jump into summer

Allen Hamrick

There isn’t a speck of doubt in anyone’s mind that January to May has been a cool and wet period of time. In late March and early April, taters were planted and taters rotted in the ground with just a few to survive. The sun made a few appearances, but the temperature stayed fall like on the John Deere thermometer hanging on the front porch. The local school system is nearly ready to close the doors on another year as students and teachers are set to herald in the summer with all the passion of a Harlequin romance novel if only the calendar would stop being extended due to emergency closures. Summer trips were marked on the calendar in the dark days of winter and camping gear was taken out of storage and replaced due to mice damage...but hey, a new and improved tent was in order anyway. All this in hopes that summer will return from the South Pole in time for the summertime fun that will end as quickly as it begins.

West Virginia is full of streams, trails, rivers, lakes, and camp grounds that draw a person into a world of peace and coal black coffee heated to perfection on open flame grills. Fresh trout on an open spit and steaks on hot coals, it just doesn’t get any better than that. That’s, of course, if you’re a true blue, bib overall wearing West Virginian who prefers the smell of camp smoke deodorant. Quite a few will head to the beaches that line the coast line and get their much needed soul stirring ocean sun rises and sunsets along with the fresh baked lobster tan seared evenly over a span of a week. Many will just hang around home and utilize the many trails hidden in the mountains and valleys of good ol’ Almost Heaven to get the heart pumping after all the days of sitting the bench over the lingering winter and spring.

Biking is always available for those that

are up for adventure whether it’s on mountain trails, flat trails or endurance rides. The Elk River Trail is wide open now from Gassaway to Clendenin. If you’re truly up for an adventurous ride, don’t forget County Route 30. This is a route littered with obstacles that will prove to test mental and physical endurance to the limits. This road has been used by the people who settled this area years ago as well as logging companies and mining companies that have both ceased operations for the most part. County Road 30 is roughly a 14 mile stretch that begins in the wilds of Nicholas County and snakes through the hills to end up in Dundon, Clay County. It isn’t a ride for the faint at heart and you’d better make sure there is a chuck wagon that follows the group. It’s a ride full of creeks, rocks, stretches of mud, brutal up hills, and high speed down hills. It’s an epic ride and just surviving it is a daunting task.

Little League will hopefully be up and running soon, and later on new seasons at CCMS and CCHS will begin with summer flex practices. The Elk River is running, kayaks will start filling the pockets and the small jaws will be biting. Clay County Schools will have a summer camp offering for both elementary and secondary students and will begin on June 23 and end July 31. There will be sessions in music, art, sports, theater, wood working, fishing lure making, leather work, RC Cars and more at CCHS as well as equally exciting activities at Clay Elementary for younger attendees. Parents and students interested in any of these opportunities need to be sure to check out 21st Century activities on the Clay County Schools website, claycountyschools.org. Summer is just around the corner in Clay County, and there’s a lot of fun to be had. Get out and enjoy it somewhere between work and bed.



Last year’s students worked on discovering Bigfoot in the summer camp program.



Ocean sunsets call to those needing time away from the every day.



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## USDA Sends Fire Resources to Assist Canada Wildfire Response

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins has announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is deploying resources to assist the wildfire response currently impacting Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Alberta, Canada. The Canadian Interagency

Forest Fire Center raised the wildfire preparedness level to 5 on May 29, 2025, as the country is experiencing very high to extreme wildfire activity. USDA deployed an air-tanker to Alberta, on May 31st, and the United States is mobilizing over 150 firefighters and support personnel to assist with the Canadian wildfire response. The United States is also mobilizing other equipment including sprinkler kits, pumps, and hoses.

“We are here to help our neighbors during their time of need, and our Forest Service Wildland Firefighters are the best in the business. I am thankful for the men and women who are bravely stepping up to serve. We pray for their success as they fight fires and save lives,” said Secretary Rollins.

The current fire activity in the United States remains normal. USDA will retain readiness and if we anticipate any operational needs, we reserve the right to recall our resources. USDA Forest Service operational readiness will never be diminished.

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