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Town of Clay announces Independence Day Celebration for Saturday, Jun. 28

By Gary Lee Stuber

Mayor of the Town of Clay, Jason Hubbard, came before the Clay County Commission's first regular meeting of June to make a request of the commission. Commissioner Joyce Johnson was the only one present in the room. Commissioner David Schoolcraft was present by telephone, with County Clerk Shelia Stone taking notes. Commissioner Duane Legg, Joyce said, was working and not present. Mayor Hubbard asked if the commission would repeat what they did last year during the Apple Festival, and keep the courthouse open on Saturday, Jun. 28 so that crowds could use bathroom facilities, drink from the water fountain, and get out of heat that might beat down on that Saturday afternoon. He was granted permission. They also gave him permission to use the front

Mayor Hubbard announced that the Independence Day celebration, and subsequent fireworks, would be held that last Saturday of June, rather than on the fourth to accommodate citizens who expressed that if held on a weekend, it would be easier to participate. He said the fireworks would begin fifteen minutes after dark. He hoped to have food vendors set up through Clay and possibly porta-potties. He would also keep the water on at the sprinkler park until fireworks started. He was open to other suggestions. It was too early to know if other entities would be participating but he was not opposed to musicians or others who wanted to come in and join the activities. He said, traditionally, the activities would begin at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jun. 28. If you have ideas that can enhance this year's activities, contact the Mayor's Office.

Following the town council meeting, Mayor Hubbard made more announcements about the Independence Day activities. The Local Tim Miller band will be playing at the courthouse square from about four or five until the fireworks start. There will be a cornhole competition and registration is free. There is a \$200 prize. More than 17 vendors some

of these, food trucks, will be set up along the street. CMI2 out of Fort Andrew in Lizemores will, for the second year in a row, provide the high quality firework display. If you remember last year it was Clay's best firework presentation ever. Clay County's own Representative Roger Hanshaw will again this year provide three bouncy houses for children located at the old IGA parking lot. There will be porta-potties located all over town and the courthouse will be open to get out of the heat, drink from the fountain or use the restrooms. Local businesses will be open for those who want to shop downtown. More events may be added later. For more information call the Mayor's office at Clay City Hall at 304-587-4233.

The commission quickly took care of regular business: minutes from the previous meeting, bills, purchase order, budget revisions, erroneous assessments and fiduciary appointments as presented by the Assessor. Speaking of the Assessor, she announced that the Clay County Land & Personal Property Books for the year 2025 were done and ready to be delivered.

The Commission approved the reappointment of Barry McCune to the Regional Intergovernmental Council and accepted invoices as presented by Terry Martin for the Judicial Annex, The Big Otter Water Project and the Nebo/Walker Road Waterline Extension.

Donna Salisbury with the Clay Family Center announced on Jun. 23 they would be holding 'Connections Matter' Classes. They will have a 'Darkness to Light' presentation at 9 p.m. that evening instructing how and when to call CPS. On Jun. 24 they will host a 'Mental Health First Aid review.' On Jun. 28 during the Independence Day celebration they would be passing out goodies to children at their location across from the courthouse. She intended, if funds were approved, to repave the two-run basketball court and pave an additional space for a pickle-ball

They commission's next regular meeting will be 9 a.m. on Jun. 23.



Terry Martin



Jason Hubbard

Natalie Coleman Named to University of Alabama Spring 2025 Presidents List

Natalie Coleman of Wallback was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for Spring Semester 2025.

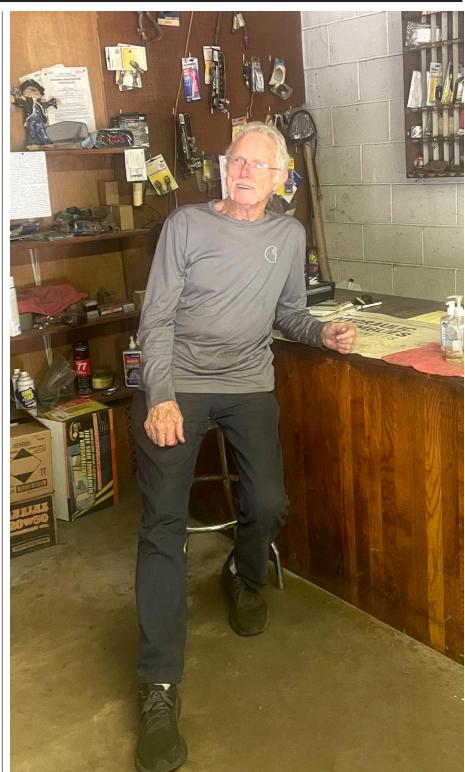
A total of 14,289 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2025 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs and 12 colleges and schools.

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information visit news. ua.edu.

ua.edu.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.



Iim Dawso

Spotlight on Jim Dawson

By Gary Lee Stuber

Jim Dawson is a workaholic, and his Dawson's Auto Repair Service garage is an icon, not only there, one dangerous curve away from Two-Run toward Maysel, but the whole of Clay County. He is the longest operating auto garage in the county ever since it was built there

in 1992.

"I bought this bottom, this piece of land. Already there was a truss shop in here. Brett Legg had his truss shop here. It was as big as you see it now but it was all open. Just beams holding a roof up. He nearly got run over every time he tried to move one of those big trucks with trusses

SPOTLIGHT cont. on page 3

Three Panthers participate in the North-South All-StarFootball Classic



From left to right are Head Coach Jason Nichols, Assistant Coach Brian Collinsand Quarterback Noah Collins. Photo Allen Hamrick

See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON COUNTY



Kevin Jay Brown Booked 6/12/25 Capias



Elizabeth Viola McCourt Booked 6/15/25 Petit larceny



Christopher Lee Nottingham Booked 6/10/25 Trespassing, assault



Pliant Junior Smith Jr.
Booked 6/12/25
Conspiracy, possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance, transport of controlled substance into jail, delivery of a controlled substance



Leonard Paul Sniffin Booked 6/15/25 Public intoxication, DOR/ DUI, liquor/drink in motor

vehicle



Daniel Cardell Snodgrass Booked 6/14/25 Battery, public intoxication, obstructing an officer

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Terry Edward Adams Booked 6/14/25 Conspiracy, grand larceny, domestic battery



Joshua Lee Baker Booked 6/15/25 Capias



Tiffany Nicole Kinter Booked 6/12/25 Capias



Jesse Lee Mullens Booked 6/14/25 Child neglect



Branden Keith Ross Booked 6/13/25 Probation violation



CLAY COUNTY



Tiffany Nicole Kinter Booked 6/12/25 Shoplifting



Chad Lee Bishop Booked 6/9/25 Capias

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

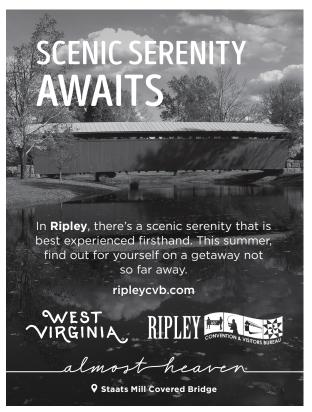
Answer

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5	4	1	9	2	8	6	7	3
7	3	9	6	5	1	2	4	8
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-Super Crossword -

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Answers																				
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CCMS Sixth Grade Students Create Statues



Students' cat statues filled display cases in the school's main entryway.



Each cat represents a specific art movement studied by the sixth grade students.



CCMS Art Teacher Carlet Blake.

Teachers and students at Clay County Middle School dedicate a large portion of their days to academics; however, the school also provides multiple opportunities for students to delve into the fine arts. Band, music, choir, and art classes are available to all students. Art teacher Carlet Blake, who just completed her ninth year as an educator for Clay County Schools, holds a degree in the subject, as well as a passion.

During the 2024-2025 school year, Mrs. Blake shared the book "A History of Art in 21 Cats" by Nia Gould, with each of the 21 cats representing a different genre of art. Blake used the book as the foundation for a project for her sixth grade students. They could choose from one of eight art movements – Ancient Egyptian, Impressionism, Post Impressionism, Pointillism, Dadaism, Magic Realism, Surrealism, and Graffiti – to create their very own cat.

Students began by creating a sketch of their design. With only a plastic water bottle filled with a little sand, students used papier-mâché and their imaginations to bring their sketches to life. Mrs. Blake even kept her classroom open for students during lunch, so they could come in and work on the project outside of class time. Blake said, "The sixth grade absolutely blew me away with their creativity with this project, especially how they were able to discuss each of the art movements. It truly made me realize how much they learned and how much they really enjoyed it."

To honor the students' hard work, Mrs. Blake had their completed "statues" displayed in the glass cases lining the school's main entry, so everyone could appreciate the various designs.

Thank you to Mrs. Blake for her professional creativity and dedication to the students at Clay County Middle School!

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An Empty House

By Joe Mazzella

I grew up across the road from a 4-H camp. During the summer months it was always busy with various camps coming in for a week at a time. During the rest of the year, though, it was largely empty and I would ride my bike along its roads and shoot basketball at its courts, but I was always home by the end of the day.

Then came the time when I was finally old enough to go to 4-H camp myself. It was a week spent away from home, even though home was just across the road. At first I was so excited. It was an adventure staying in a cabin with other boys and the days were full of fun classes, sports, and activities. There was always some free time each day, however, and it was then that the loneliness would creep into my heart. I really missed seeing my Mom and Dad. It was the first time I was ever away from them. One day during the free time I decided to sneak back home and pay them a visit. But as I walked through the door I noticed something. The house was empty. I guess Mom and Dad were enjoying their free time somewhere. I walked through the house and it felt so strange. It was eerie. It was scary. It was lonely. Soon I took off back to the 4-H camp fighting back tears in my eyes, and not really understanding all the feelings I was feeling.

I realize now it was the fear of losing my parents that I was feeling then. Being home meant nothing without them being there. It was the love they shared with me, not the house itself that made things so special, that created so many happy memories that I carry in my heart to this day.

It truly is the love we bring to a place that makes it special to us. A house is just a house, but a house full of love is a home. Fill all of your homes with Love then. Fill them with laughter. Fill them with joy. Fill them with happy memories that last a lifetime. Then your soul will be ready when you truly go Home to God and are reunited with all those you have loved here.

Home Country

Slim Randles

We weren't at all sure why Doc did it. Well, yeah, maybe human curiosity was the answer. Doc seemed to hate unanswered questions. It was about Sarah McKinley down at the Read Me Now bookstore. And yes, it was about the sign.

Inside, you see, on the end of one of the stacks, Sarahhad hung this sign, proclaiming the area to be for books for sale on "Love and Other Fiction." Most of us just giggled a little and let it go. But that wasn't true with Doc or Dud or Steve. All three of them wanted to know. No, they had to know. There's a difference. Sothey had a meeting and elected Doc as spokesman because ... well, he had these initials after his name. you know.

So in went Doc one fine day in summer and bought a couple of books just for fun reading and smiled at Saraha lot. They discussed the weather and whether or not the season looked promising for peaches.

Then Doc said, "I know you aren't married now, Sarah, but how about before you moved here?

"What?" she asked.

"Well, it's about that sign you have. You know, wondered whether or not it was once tied to ...well, a broken heart."

"Isn't that a pretty personal question, Doc?" "Well ... yes. I guess so, but your friends care about

you."

"So tell me, Doc. How often do you and Mrs. Doc ... you know....? "That's a pretty personal question to ask, isn't it?"

"Well, ... yes, I guess so, but your friends care about you... you know?"

We still don't know about that sign.

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To Be or Not to Be, That's My Confusion

Dr. James L. Snyder

After many years of denial, I finally realized how easily I am confused. Why it took me so long to realize this, I will never know.

If only I could go back to my wonderful teenage years when I knew everything and nobody could tell me what to do. Why do those days go by so quickly?

Now, I'm at the stage where I'm looking at life a little more realistically than I did back in my teenage

The main problem with this is not only can I get confused, but I rarely know when I'm confused. That in itself is confusing to me.

I am not blaming old age because, as I look at my

life, I've been confused throughout although I didn't know it at the time. I have no idea what old age contributes to my state of confusion each day. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is the one

person in our home who is never confused. I'm not sure how she has done this all these years. It can't be easy living with someone like me, who's always I'll be working in my office, she'll step in and say,

"Are you ready to go?"

A little surprised, I look up from my desk and say, "Go where?"

She looks at me for a moment and says, "Don't you remember you have a doctor's appointment today?" What," I will say, "do I have a doctor's appoint-

At that point, I am in a real state of confusion. But

I had to ask, "It's not a psychiatrist, is it?" "Oh, I wish," she says and walks away.

I could not remember my doctor's appointment for today. Do I really have a doctor's appointment? Or is

she taking me to see her doctor? Surely, there must be some advantage to being confused. I'm going to search for it until I find it, and until then, I will operate in my confused mode.

When I grab my truck keys and head for the door, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage often asks, "Do you know where you're going?"

I don't think I would've been confused if she hadn't asked that question. Obviously she knows something I didn't know. I look back at her, smile, and ask, "No, where am I going?"

On my way to the door, I thought I knew where I was going. I carefully planned everything out: where I was going and what I would do and when I would return home. But when she questioned me, all that came up in my fuzzy mind was confusion. Do I really know where I'm going?

I wouldn't say this out loud, but I sometimes think she does that intentionally to confuse me. And boy, is she an expert at that. When I'm confused I'm easy to manipulate.

When working on a writing project I am never confused. I know exactly what I'm doing and quite content and what I'm doing.

My biggest problem is knowing if I should do something or not. I can never figure that out. "To do, or not to do?" That seems to be my confusion. I get up early in the morning, take my coffee to my

easy chair, and enjoy those few moments of quiet-

ness. During that time, I think of my schedule for It's easy to think of what I could do, but my most demanding job is figuring out what I should not do. If I do everything I want to do, I'm never going to

finish anything. I need to learn to manage my time so I don't sink into the swamp of confusion. Thinking along this line, it occurred to me that if I could figure out what not to do I believe I could get much more done. Differentiating between "do and don't" is very hard for me.

If I do what I don't have to do, it takes away time to do what I should do. Oh boy, this is very confus-

I recently spent a week observing The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, watching her every step. I wanted to see her aspect of "do and don't". The end result of that week was I couldn't find anything she didn't do. She is the Do Queen of the Parsonage. I could not find one thing she didn't do.

I wish I could understand how that happens and differentiate between "do and don't". That would eliminate some of my confusion, I think.

Perhaps that is why people get old and forget things. Maybe it's a good thing to forget some things. If only I could select the things to forget, my life would be a lot better and less confusing.

Until then, I will wallow in my confusion.

While pondering this I was reminded of a verse of Scripture in Philippians 3:13-14. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

With all of the things in front of the apostle Paul, he boiled his life down to just one thing, "forgetting," and then "reaching forth." To know what to forget enables me to understand what to reach forward to. That certainly will simplify my life.

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

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from Page 1

on it, so he moved to Bickmore. There was a frame up with a roof on it. All open. So I had a guy come in and lay all the block for me. I put in a concrete floor, put all the equipment in it," said Dawson.

Jim was familiar with Bickmore. In 1984 he and his wife moved back into Clay and bought the grocery store J&S Grocery and his wife ran that while he rented the attached gas station from Doug Osborne. "We would come in about four or four-thirty and open as early as five. There would be a lot of coal miners outside on their way to work or coming from work and they would all want biscuits. My wife made a ton of biscuits in the mornings in her little deli. If they were going to work they would buy extras for later."

He ran the gas station and did auto repairs next door. After he opened his garage there at Two-Run, he closed the gas station but his wife continued to run the little grocery until about ten years ago.

Jim was familiar with the work. He was born in 1942 to Robert Dawson who owned and operated a Gulf gas station and garage just up the road where GoMart is today and a Texico gas station in Ivy-

"In the 1950's he had a Texico station at Ivydale on this end of the bridge where the old car wash is today." Even as a child, Jim was helping dad, getting his hands dirty. "He moved to Weston, we had a gas station there too."

He grew up changing tires, doing mechanic work on everything, including 'Hot rods.' He graduated high school in 1960 and moved out to Virginia where he worked at, well, what else? A gas station.

In 1966 Jim married Mary Sue Mullins. They are still married. She has followed him everywhere. She still makes biscuits but now, only for Jim. Jim has four daughters, two of them live in Clay County at Maysel. Back in 1967 Jim moved out to Ohio

and became an underground miner. Salt Miner, for Morton Salt Company. Nearly two miles under Lake Erie. Worked there for eighteen years operating heavy equipment.

"I retired in 1984, moved back to West Virginia, spent all my money. We bought the grocery story and rented the gas station. I wasn't ready to retire." Jim is still not ready to retire. He is 83 and works four days a week by himself, in the auto garage he

"I love the work. As long as I feel healthy enough to keep doing this I will. I love to talk to people. Everybody is different." To be sure, work is different now that it was ten or more years ago. He still does tires, inspection stickers, oil changes and some light mechanic work. He no longer does alignments even though he has the equipment. He doesn't do muffler replacement, major engine or transmission work. And he takes Friday's off to spend with that bride of his.

He has two lifts in two bays and on any given day both of them will be in the air. "Once upon a time there was three of us working in here. Two of them left to do this on their own." And he explains why he is now working alone.

"It is hard to find people willing to work these days. Willing to work hard, and work right."

Jim is old school, a generation that is vanishing. People who get up early, rain or shine, go out to work, and work hard and show pride in their work. For now, Jim has no plans to retire or sell out. "I only had one accident in all the years I've been here. I was doing an alignment and the vehicle dropped back and pinned me. I was off about four or five days. Mostly I have been lucky." It probably isn't luck, Jim, if you have ever watched him work is very safety conscious.

If you have light auto work to be done, Jim is the man to see. He has a great sense of humor and is friendly and loves to talk. But he is serious and thorough when it comes to his work. He is old school like that.





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This Week in West Virginia History

June 18, 1937: Jay Rockefeller was born in New York City. He served as West Virginia's 29th governor from 1977 to 1985 and in the U.S. Senate from 1985 to 2015.



June 18, 1944: *It's* Wheeling Steel aired its last program. A half-hour musical variety radio program that drew upon talented Wheeling Steel employees and families, the show ran eight years and was broadcast nationally.



June 19, 1905: Senator

Rush Dew Holt was born in Weston. At 29, Holt was the youngest person ever elected to the U.S. Senate, earning him the nickname "Boy Senator." Since the Constitution sets 30 as the minimum age for senators, Holt had to wait until his birthday in June 1935 to take his seat, nearly six months into the 74th Con-

June 19, 1909: Oak an amusement park in Preston County, opened. The park was an easy ride from Morgantown and helped fill up trains on weekends and holidays. On one summer day in 1909, 14 trains brought more than 4,000 people to the park.

June 20, 1861: Francis Pierpont was unanimously elected governor of the unionist Reorganized Government of Virginia, which sat at Wheeling until West Virginia entered the Union two years later.

June 20, 1863: West Virginia became the 35th

state. Arthur Boreman was the state's first governor.

June 20, 1932: The West Virginia capitol was officially dedicated. Construction had begun in



June 20, 1963: On the 100th birthday of West Virginia, President John F. Kennedy made his last appearance in West Virginia. Speaking in Charleston in a pouring rain, he said, "The sun does not always shine in West Virginia, but the people always do."

June 20, 1970: The play Hatfields and Mc-Coys opened at Grandview State Park amphitheater. Written by Billy Edd Wheeler with music

by Ewel Cornett, the show joined Honey in the Rock as a regular summer offer-

June 21, 1920: Wheeling Steel Corporation was organized when La Belle Iron Works, Whitaker-Glessner Company, and Wheeling Steel & Iron Works combined. In the 1920s, Wheeling Steel employed more than 17,000 workers and ranked as the nation's third-largest steelmaker.



June 21, 1959: Musician Kathy Mattea was born in South Charleston but grew up in nearby

Cross Lanes. She rose to country music stardom in the 1980s. Since 2021, she has hosted the Mountain Stage radio program.



June 22, 1926: Earl Olgebay died in Cleveland. He was one of West Virginia's most successful industrialists and a generous benefactor.



June 22, 1949: Artist Paula Clendenin was born in Cedar Grove, Kanawha

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9 "Dr. Pimple

10 Coll. near

11 "Beats me"

12 Strategies

14 Put on, as a

garment 15 Irked

16 Book read

13 German

Popper" airer

Beverly Hills

painter Nolde

during Purim

17 Employ again

18 Oil-covered

24 Habited

sister

25 Rival of

31 Ho-hum

34 Not sick

32 "Up and -

FedEx

26 Sheep's call

33 "Puh-leeze!"

36 Insect stage

Style" rapper

40 "Gangnam

41 Naval fleets

43 Absorbed

44 E-journals

County. She has earned national acclaim for her paintings, richly colored, textured shapes that merge West Virginia's mountain landscape with mystical and spiritual symbols.

June 23, 1944: A tornado struck Shinnston and the surrounding area, killing 103 people and injuring hundreds more.

June 23, 1952: The Toledo Mud Hens moved to West Virginia's capital city, making the Charleston Senators part of the Class AAA American Association for the first time.

June 23, 2016: Eight inches of rain fell in a 12hour period. The Meadow, Cherry and Elk rivers, as well as Howard Creek, flooded downtowns and The Greenbrier resort, killing 23 people.

June 24, 1842: Author Ambrose Bierce was born. Bierce found the setting for some of his famous short stories in the mountains of Civil War-era West Virginia.

HOCUS-FOCUS

HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



as wide. 6. Hat is different. 3. Wheel is larger. 4. Box in window is moved. 5. Building is not Differences: I. Word on sign is different. 2. Door is different.

- about
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- 19 Loc. of Las
- Vegas
- (eclectic digest)
- 21 Tinfoil maker 22 Cat helping
- with extermi-
- nation 23 Start of a riddle
- 27 Difficult duty 28 Syrup source
- **29** "Is it —?" ("Are we
- on?") 30 Karmann
- (classic
- Volkswagen) 31 Riddle, part 2
- 35 Antipollution
- org.
- **37** Preceding night
- 38 Ended a fast 39 Flower part
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- of old

20

- 107 Computer printer brand
- 60 Tiny amount 61 Riddle, part 4 108 Citi Field stat
- **67** Certain male 109 End of the physique, riddle
 - informally 113 Kin of Kong
- 114 Like the flesh 69 Month, in Madrid of an orange 70 Cheers for
 - 116 Life sketch,
 - in brief 117 Folk tales
 - 118 Riddle's answer
 - 124 De-intensify 125 Cinematic
 - swordsman 126 Two squared
 - 127 Shapiro of NPR
 - 128 Unearth, with "up'
 - **129** Sabers' relatives
 - 130 Cries noisily
 - 131 IRS digits
 - - 1 Wichita-to-

 - 3 Street in

 - as the
 - welcoming
 - time

 - 5 Utmost

- 45 To boot
- 49 Official

 - helper 50 Swimming

star Thorpe

- 87 Thick Japa-

13

22

- nese noodle 88 Winter hrs. in Kansas

- 90 Foot fraction 91 Prefix with potent 92 People who

magnate

Marcus

"YOU'RE

FREE TO GO"

- pamper
- 55 Fr. resort port 96 El Capitan's
 - range 97 Makes
 - precious
 - Balls (snack brand)
 - 99 Rang, as a church bell
 - 100 Come into view
 - 101 Sub-Saharan
 - bloodsucker **102** Was the
 - emcee for 104 Like some
 - sealable bags
 - 105 "Same here"
 - 108 elbows
 - with 110 Blood-typing
 - letters
 - Le Pew

 - **121** How-
 - 122 Central point

17

- 123 Gibson liquor
- 53

127

131

Weekly **SUDOKU**

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

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 48 Riddle, part 3 105 Neither Rep. 51 Prefix with life 89 Movie **ACROSS** 6 Infant's garment nor Dem. Magic's org. 55 Process unit **52** — strip 7 A daughter of **58** Android rival 106 B&B, e.g. (close to) 59 On the briny King Lear

- 8 Wounded by a bee
- Stefan
- - Reader
 - 71 Lofty poem 72 Former Swedish car
 - **74** Shiba -(dog breed) 75 Clever

a torero

- **77** Riddle, part 5 80 Actress and singer
- Falana 81 Formerly, old-style
 - "Candyman" director
- DaCosta 85 "Ah. OK" 86 Riddle, part 6 DOWN

 - Bismarck dir. advantage to
 - Manhattan's Alphabet City
 - 4 Lingers past,

21

- 47 The "13" of PG-13, e.g.
- colors 83 Light on fire
- scent of 73 Petri dish gel **76** Distant **77** "— be great 78 Inside dope (luau light) 82 Abbr. for three primary

(geometric

curiosity)

the Green

near Nantes

56 Oscar winner

Charlize

57 Neighbor of

62 The Astros,

on score-

boards

sit-ups

63 States as

fact

Calif.

Montebello,

53 Right away

54 Winona of

Party

- 64 Little 'un 65 NFL stats 66 "So icky!" 68 Targets of 72 Catch the
 - 111 Little quarrels **112** Ad committee
 - 115 Time past 119 Embrace 120 Suffix with
 - script (DIY books)

26 33 46 48 87 89 93 100 101 102 103 104 109 |110 |111 112 115 116 117 114

126

130

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125

129



CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

В

BELL CREEK COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

NO Scheduled Services At This Time

BELL CREEK PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Dixie Tuesday Night 6:00 PM Sunday Morning 10:00 AM

Thursday Night 6:00 PM 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 Bickmore 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

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

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.

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

Wednesday Worship 7:00 PM

Everyone welcome. Pastor: George Stickland

COLD SPRINGS GOSPEL TABERNACLE, Upper Falling Rock, Clay County Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Sunday Evening Service

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

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

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

G

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

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

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

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

Wednesday Night 7:00 PM JUBILEE MOUNTAIN

7:00 PM

CHURCH 103 Main Street, Clay, WV

25043 Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 12 noon For more info call 304-587-

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

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

LIZEMORE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Pastor: Cecil Lee

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

Everyone welcome!

MAYSEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Meeting/Bible Study 6:00 PM

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

Church Service 7:00 PM Everyone Welcome!

Pastor: Christopher Stout

Night & Jr.

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

Please join us in Praise! Pastor: Gary Walker

Meeting 7:00 PM

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-

Pastor: Darius Walker Pastor Emeritus: Ron NOAH'S ARK FULL

GOSPEL CHURCH

Pastor: R.J. Mullins, Sr.

Thursday 7:00 PM

Sunday 7:00 PM

ing & Bible Study 7:00PM

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

Dunlap

Pastors: Cindy & Roger

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

Pastor: Rev. Rick Sams

Evening

PEOPLES COMMUNITY **CHURCH**

Sunday School 10:00 AM Wednesday Night 7:00 PM Sunday Night Service 7:00

Take time out for Jesus, he took time our for you. Pastor: Freddie Schoolcraft

BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Evening Bible Study

& preaching 6:00 PM

PISGAH FREEWILL

Pastor: Dennis Vance PLEASANT DALE BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School 10:00 AM Preaching Sunday 11:00 AM

Wednesday night Bible Study

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 followed 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

Sunday School 10:00 AM Saturday Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM

CHURCH

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

Saturday Services 7:00 PM Sunday School 10:00 AM

Pastor: Hiram Lewis

BAPTIST CHURCH

7:00 PM. Everyone welcome!

UNITED METHODIST

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

Sunday School 10:00 AM Preaching 11:00 AM Sunday Night 6:00 PM Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 PM

VALLEY RIDGE **CHURCH**

Bible Study Wednesday Night 7:00 PM Evertyone is welcome to attend.

ning 7:00 PM Everyone welcome. Pastor: Rev. Stewart Cottrell

CHURCH Preaching 1st & 3rd Sundays 11:00 AM

Pastor: (304) 332-5503 Pastor: Jimmy Adkins

Preaching 10:00 AM

7:30 PM

Pastor: Lester Tanner

Sunday School 11:00 AM Everyone welcome! Pastor: Paul Coon

Sunday Night 6:30 PM

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Everyone welcome! Pastor: Randy Tinney

Rt. 4, 1/4 miles below Maysel on the left

Pastor: Jerry Hanshaw



AT ELKHURST

TRINITY MISSIONARY

Sunday School 10:00 AM Preaching 11:00 AM Sunday Worship 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Service

Pastor: Clifford Samples

CHURCH OF LIZEMORES

TABERNACLE

Everyone welcome!

Sunday School 10:00 AM

W -WALLBACK

METHODIST CHURCH Preaching 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays 9:45 AM Bible Study Wednesday Eve-

WALNUT GROVE UNITED METHODIST

Sunday School 10:00 AM

WALNUT MEMORIAL **CHURCH** Sunday School 10:00 AM

Thursday Evening Service

Everyone welcome! WHITE PILGRIM METHODIST CHURCH

WHITESTAR TABERNACLE CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Preaching Sunday 9:45 AM

Wednesday Night 6:30 PM Pastor: Rev. Mike Hall

WIDEN BAPTIST

CHURCH Preaching 11:00 AM Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Service

6:00 PM

WINGS OF DELIVERANCE APOSTOLIC

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Sunday Morning 10:00 AM Sunday Night 6:00 PM Wednesday Night 7:00 PM Come worship the Lord with Phone: (304) 587-7410



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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,

WEST VIRGINIA In The Matter of Petition of Name Change of

A.L.M. Current Name A.L.M.

Civil Action No. 25-D-8 Judge Harley Stollings

New Name A.L.M.

Order of Publication

Legal Notice Of Publication Change Of Name

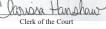
Circuit Court of Clay County

West Virginia

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of July, 2025, at 12:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Emily Meadows will apply by Petition to the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said court, changing name of A.L.M. to A.L.M. at which time any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this 30th day of May 2025.



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West Virginia Board of Education Issues **Statement on Vaccine Compliance**

During the June meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE), members voted unanimously to comply with state law regarding required school immunizations as it is written in W. Va. Code §16-3-4.

The WVBE directed the State Superintendent of Schools to notify all school districts to follow the law that has been in effect since 1937. This is in line with the actions of the West Virginia Legislature during the 2025 Regular Session which did not vote in favor of religious exemptions for vaccines.

The intent of the State Board is to do what is best for the 241,000 children, 23,000 educators, and 15,000 service personnel in our 629 public schools. This includes taking the important steps of protecting the school community from the real risk of exposure to litigation that could result from not following vaccination laws.

This Board is constitutionally bound to provide a thorough and efficient system of free schools, and our members remain committed to this charge.

Secretary Rollins Signs State Waivers to Make America Healthy Again by Removing Unhealthy Foods from SNAP in Arkansas, Idaho, and Utah in Addition to Indiana, Iowa, and Nebraska

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, joined by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., signed three new food choice waivers to Make America Healthy Again. The signed waivers will amend the statutory definition of food for purchase for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) in Arkansas, Idaho, and Utah, each commencing in 2026.

"The Trump Administration is unified in improving the health of our nation. America's governors have proudly answered the call to innovate by improving nutrition programs, ensuring better choices while respecting the generosity of the American taxpayer. Each waiver submitted by the states and signed is yet another step closer to fulfilling President Trump's promise to Make America Healthy Again," said Secretary

"Thank you to the governors of Indiana, Arkansas, Idaho, Utah, Iowa, and Nebraska for their bold leadership and unwavering commitment to Make America Healthy Again," said Secretary Kennedy. "I call on every governor in the nation to submit a SNAP waiver to eliminate sugary drinks—taxpayer dollars should never bankroll products that fuel the chronic disease

Secretary Rollins and Secretary Kennedy were joined at the event by Governor of Arkansas Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Governor of Indiana Mike Braun.

"This approval sends a clear message: President Trump and his administration are tackling America's chronic disease epidemic and Arkansas stands with him in that fight," said Governor Sanders. "I am incredibly grateful for Secretary Rollins' quick approval of our waiver. Arkansas leads the nation in getting unhealthy, ultra-processed foods off food stamps and helping our most vulnerable citizens lead healthier lives."

"Indiana is proud to be a leader in the Make America Healthy Again initiative, and I'm proud to join Secretary Rollins, Secretary Kennedy, Congressman Baird, and my fellow Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders to-

day to discuss returning SNAP to its proper purpose of nutrition, and how my Make Indiana Healthy Again agenda supports Indiana agriculture and empowers Hoosiers to live longer, healthier lives," said Governor

Prior to these waivers, SNAP recipients could buy anything except alcohol, tobacco, hot and prepared foods, and personal care products. This historic action expands the list of products excluded from SNAP pur chases in Arkansas, Idaho, and Utah. Arkansas' waive excludes soda, low and no-calorie soda, fruit and vege table drinks with less than 50% natural juice, other un healthy drinks, and candy, and it will take effect July 1 2026. The waiver for Idaho excludes soda and candy and it will take effect January 1, 2026. The waiver for Utah excludes soft drinks, and it will take effect January 1, 2026. Secretary Rollins has previously signed waivers for Nebraska, Iowa, and Indiana.

"Idaho proudly welcomes the MAHA movement because it is all about looking for new ways to improve nutrition, increase exercise, and take better care of ourselves and one another, especially our children. We are excited to partner with the Trump administration in bringing common sense to the government's food assistance program with the approval of our SNAP waiver," said Governor Brad Little.

At the direction of President Trump, Secretary Rollins is ensuring programs work harder to encourage healthy eating and improved lifestyle habits while protecting taxpayer dollars. On Secretary Rollins' first full day in office, she sent a letter to the nation's governors (PDF, 88.8 KB), outlining her vision for the Department and inviting them to participate in a new "Laboratories of Innovation" initiative to create bold solutions to long-ignored challenges. Secretary Rollins and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wrote an opinion piece in USA Today outlining their plan to Make America Healthy Again, including through SNAP waivers like the ones signed today.

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Panther power team smokes the north in the **North South Classic**

By Allen Hamrick

The 2025 West Virginia North-South All-Star Football Classic game is now in the annals of sports history. This game is an opportunity for the best players and coaches in the state to hit the field and butt heads in a war of the regions considered North and those considered South. When the smoke cleared, as most already know, the Cardinals beat the Bears in a nail biting 29-22 back-and-forth brawl, southern style. The event had a life of its own with many activities occurring prior to the matchup as players and coaches faced off in the bowling arena as well as doing other aspects associated with the game. Three members of the CCHS football team were

chosen to play and coach in the Superbowl of High School football in West Virginia. Head Coach Jason Nichols was selected to ramrod the South team, Coach Brian Collins was chosen to be the voice of power and offensive manipulation as assistant coach of the southern team, and CCHS quarterback Noah Collins was picked because plainly said, he's one of the best QBs in the state.

There has already been a plethora of words written, interviews given, and social media posts galore to highlight their exploits, so it doesn't leave much new to include in the Clay Free Press. People have discussed it in schools, over coffee, watched it on the news and various other digital formats. However, for this writer, there is a lot more to say about these individuals than the typical accolades of records and achievements that gave each one of these coaches and players the chance at high school football greatness; to play and coach in the North-South football game. Coach Nichols is the winningest coach in CCHS history, has had multiple shots at the title in playoff berths, holds a 64-27 record, etc. Coach Collins led one of the strongest offenses in the state last season.

Quarterback Noah Collins- it is difficult to write in this article and convey what Noah Collins has meant to the football programs from Little League to CCHS. The number of awards and records he has achieved, if piled up, would fill a room. While all these are a testament to their skills in the fine art of

football, it is not what measures their success and the level of football they have reached.

I am sure that Coach Nichols would agree that being a head coach is a lot more than just knowing and reading plays; it's about taking teenagers who think with their brains but roll through life doing everything from their hearts. A good coach finds a happy medium between life and sport and helps players focus that energy on positive outcomes. Jason Nichols and Brian Collins have been there through the thick and the thin to make sure the CCHS football teams are the best they can be and help transition boys into men through positive mentoring. Brian Collins has been a force in sports from wrestling to football; from Little League to high school level, he has been there for the youth of this county. Noah Collins is a product of that type of mentoring and has become among the best of the best in his sport. Therein lies their true success, after all. Congratulations to Coach Nichols and Coach Collins for proving that Clay County is a force to reckon with.

Congratulations to Noah Collins for proving that through hard work and determination an individual can achieve most anything they set their mind to. The football fans of the county will watch as you take the field at UC Stadium in the fall. I'm sure you will be a great addition to the Golden Eagles.

For Coach Nichols and Coach Collins, it's onto the 2025 football season; it looks like it will be a good one.



Noah Collins scrambles in the back field. Photo Joey Varrella



Coach Nichols doles out words of wisdom. Photo Joey Varrella



Coach Collins gets set to thump the North. Photo Joey Varrella

State Superintendent Announces Appointments for County Leadership

West Virginia Superintendent of Schools Michele L. Blatt has appointed the following superintendents to serve in counties currently under West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) control. These individuals will work with the WVBE and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) to address challenges at the local level and ensure the focus remains on student achievement and success.

Logan County

Superintendent Blatt has appointed Dr. George Aulenbacher as the new superintendent for Logan County. He is currently an assistant superintendent for Kanawha County Schools. He earned a bachelor's degree from West Virginia State University, two master's degrees from Marshall University and a doctorate degree from Morehead State University. Logan County has been under state intervention since October 2022, under the leadership of Mr. Jeff Huffman. "Mr. Huffman has performed an excellent job addressing the issues in Logan County Schools and creating a system that focuses on student learning and

professional growth of staff. He will transition into a leadership role to support the WVDE in its oversight of counties under WVBE control," said Superintendent Blatt.

Mingo County

Superintendent Blatt has appointed Dr. Joetta S. Basile to fill the Mingo County position. Dr. Basile has served as the Monroe County Superintendent of Schools for the past 13 years. She holds a bachelor's degree from Concord University, two master's degrees from Marshall 2025.

University and a doctorate degree from Liberty University. State intervention began in Mingo County in March Nicholas County Mr. Scott Cochran will serve as the Nicholas County Superintendent of Schools. He has served the same role in Doddridge County since 2024 and previously led Web-

ster County Schools for nine years. He holds a bachelor's

degree from Glenville State University, a master's degree

from West Virginia University and a master's degree from

Salem University. State intervention began in Nicholas

County earlier this month.

Tyler County

Superintendent Blatt retained Mr. Shane Highley as the Superintendent of Tyler County Schools. Mr. Highley has served as superintendent in the county for six years. He earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from West Virginia University with additional credentials from Ohio Valley University and Salem University. Tyler County was placed under WVBE intervention this month.

Special Circumstance Reviews and other materials are available on the WVDE Office of Accountability web

"These appointments are important as our counties prepare for the upcoming school year," said Superintendent Blatt. "The superintendents will begin to immediately address the issues identified in the counties to ensure student learning and well-being remain the central focus of our school systems. We look forward to working closely with county leadership to address the needs of our students, educators and staff."