



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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Eighth flood death confirmed in Ohio County; governor calls for volunteer assistance in recovery



Gov. Patrick Morrisey held a news conference in Wheeling, W.Va. to give an update on the state's flood response on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. (West Virginia Office of Gov. Patrick Morrisey video screenshot)

By: Lori Kersey for West Virginia Watch, www.westvirginiawatch.com

One more person has been confirmed to have died in flash flooding in Ohio County, West Virginia over the weekend, bringing the death toll to eight. One other person is still unaccounted for, Gov. Patrick Morrisey said last Wednesday.

The male victim's name is being withheld until his family has been told, Morrisey said. Officials did not say where the body was located.

"This is a very challenging time for the residents of Ohio County," the governor said during a briefing from Wheeling.

Recovery efforts are underway in Ohio and Marion counties in northern West Virginia, where several inches of rain fell in a short time period Saturday and Sunday, causing flooding.

The body of a 71-year-old woman was found at the Wetzel County dam earlier this week. A 3-year-old child and her mother were also among those who died in the flooding.

In Marion County, where a 28-unit apartment building in Fairmont collapsed during the flooding Sunday, there are no reports of death, Morrisey said last Wednesday.

Morrisey said he had spoken with White House officials and the Federal Emergency Management Agency about the flooding and the need for federal assistance. He encouraged affected resi-

dents to fill out a survey that will help the state tally how much damage the storms have caused. The surveys are very important to the state's request for FEMA help, he said.

"We're going to proceed diligently the same way the state always has," he said. "We're going to go through the process. We're working locally with people to make sure that those survey instruments are filled out and that they're returned. That's the key to success in situations like this."

"We have to have people that are affected on the ground return that survey instrument in order to ensure that we are counting the numbers properly," he said.

Morrisey called for volunteers to help with cleanup efforts.

"I ask people in West Virginia and across the country if people want to come in and help, we need to get those homes cleared and mucked up," Morrisey said.

In Marion County, people can call the Tygart Valley United Way at 304-366-4550 if they'd like to volunteer. People who'd like to volunteer in Ohio County can call the Wheeling-Ohio Emergency Management Agency at 304-234-7109.

West Virginia Watch is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. West Virginia Watch maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Leann Ray for questions: info@westvirginiawatch.com.

Times updated for Summer Food Service Program meal pickup

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:

-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 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

-Thursday, July 3: Friday through Sunday lunches will be provided. At Clay Elementary, meals will be sent home on the bus or available for pick up from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

- Thursday, July 10: Friday through Sunday lunches will be available. At Clay Elementary, meals will be sent home on the bus or available for pick up

from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

-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 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

-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 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

-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 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. At Clay High School, meals will be sent home on the bus ONLY from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

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

Veterans Memorial Nearly Finished



Old Courthouse goatee getting shaved.

By Allen Hamrick

Many years the original Clay County Courthouse has stood the test of time on its hill overlooking the town. It holds many records associated with Clay's rich

history. Over the years there has been a memorial at the base of the hill in honor of the veterans of the county to commemorate their sacrifice and duty served for this great nation. The cannon that used to

VETERANS cont. on page 8



Audience members, featuring representatives from the Communications Workers of America, listen as commissioners make remarks during the hearing on June 12, 2025. Photo by Tre Spencer/Mountain State Spotlight

After years of customer complaints, Verizon makes new promises for Frontier's aging phone and internet lines

During a brief hearing, state regulators couldn't get clear answers from Verizon representatives about their plans. Now, a settlement is in review that would make the company the largest provider in West Virginia.

by Tre Spencer for Mountain State Spotlight, www.mountainstatespotlight.org

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>.

The hearing room inside West Virginia's Public Service Commission was filled with plain suits, heavy briefcases and growing anticipation.

At stake was control of an aging internet and landline system serving some 300,000 West Virginians. Verizon wants to buy Frontier Communications' operations across the state.

VERIZON cont. on page 6

Clay County High School's new AstroTurf is being installed



New field will soon be in place.

See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON COUNTY



Isaiah Dean
Booked 6/20/25
Trespassing asked to leave,
possession of controlled
substance, domestic assault,
domestic battery



Evelyn Ashley Johnson
Booked 6/16/25
Conspiracy, grand larceny,
breaking without entering
other than dwelling



Curtis Paul Robinson
Booked 6/22/25
DOR/DUI, possession of
controlled substance



Joshua Paul Sebert
Booked 6/16/25
Grand larceny, conspiracy,
breaking and entering



Anthony Keith Stimson
Booked 6/16/25
Driving revoked for DUI



Eric Michael Bailey
Booked 6/16/25
Capias

NICHOLAS CTY.

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Crystal Lea Brown
Booked 6/23/25
Battery



Kimberly Michelle Crites
Booked 6/16/25
Capias



Tammy Lynn Hamon
Booked 6/17/25
Abuse of neglect of incapacitated adult

CLAY COUNTY



Christian Kyle Thomas
Booked 6/18/25
Strangulation, domestic battery third offense

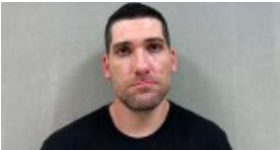


Charles Chester Gibson
Booked 6/23/25
Prohibited person with
firearm, transferring stolen property



Steven Harold Grav
Booked 6/22/25
DUI causing serious bodily injury

CLAY COUNTY



Jon Henry McCune Jr.
Booked 6/20/25
Capias



Jeremiah Allen Meadows
Booked 6/20/25
Domestic battery



Robert Lee Sheets
Booked 6/20/25
Domestic battery

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Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

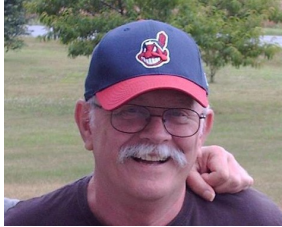
6	5	4	7	9	2	3	8	1
7	3	1	6	4	8	5	9	2
9	8	2	1	3	5	4	7	6
1	4	6	2	5	9	8	3	7
2	9	5	3	8	7	6	1	4
3	7	8	4	1	6	9	2	5
4	2	9	5	7	3	1	6	8
8	1	7	9	6	4	2	5	3
5	6	3	8	2	1	7	4	9

Super Crossword

Answers

SUR	FACES	NEW	WEST	DOFFS
ISEE	THAT	APOLLO	ARROW	
CON	TRARY	OPINION	STARE	
	ETAIL	WAG	PEA	EMMA
AAR		SYNE	REVERSE	GEAR
TRUST		OMEARA	COASTS	
WEST	WARD	EXPANSION		
ASSU	AGES	OHS	ONT	REDS
ROOD	ASAP		WTS	EERIE
	POT	TURN	AROUND	TIME
BRI	OCH	LAPSE	MENACED	
BACK	HANDS	SPRING	SAL	
OGEES	DIE	SOFT	ISNT	
YSER	SUN	ASH	FALL	AWAY
	OP	SITED	DIRECTION	
PRO	COL	ADORES	DEMME	
LEFT	FIEL	DER	CHAT	MIR
AWLS	TAI		MAO	DICTA
TRACI		RETRO	GRADE	ORBIT
EAT	AT	POSEUR	FLOTILLA	
SPEND		SNAP	TO	TENSPEED

OBITUARY



Charles McCune

Charles Leon McCune, 79, of Duck, West Virginia, passed away peacefully under hospice care on June 20 2025, in Fairmont, WV, due to complications from a long-term illness following a stroke. Born on April 28, 1946, in Harrison, West Virginia, Charles was a proud veteran, devoted family man, and skilled tradesman. He honorably

served his country in the United States Army from 1969 to 1971 with the 25th Infantry Division during the Vietnam War, earning two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for Valor after being wounded in combat.

Following his military service, Charles went on to build a successful 40-year career as an electrician with USW Local 1104, working at RTI/US KOBE/US Steel in Lorain, Ohio, until his retirement.

Charles was preceded in death by his wife of 34 years, Melodie McCune; his parents, Howard and Ivy McCune; and ten

brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his wife of 6 years, Birgit McCune (Trinemeyer); his daughters, Amy McCune (Berry) and Crystal McCune (Hunt); his sons, Eric McCune and Steven McCune; and nine cherished grandchildren.

An avid bulldog lover, Charles shared his life with many loyal companions over the years, including Opie Taylor and Lance. He enjoyed traveling, classic cars, being in the outdoors, and most of all, spending quality time with his children, grandchildren, and lifelong friends. He found great peace in the hills of West

Virginia and loved calling it home.

Services will be held at Carl Wilson Funeral Home, 154 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043, on June 30, 2025. The viewing will be from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, followed by funeral services at 1:00 PM. Charles will be laid to rest at Grey Cemetery immediately following the service.

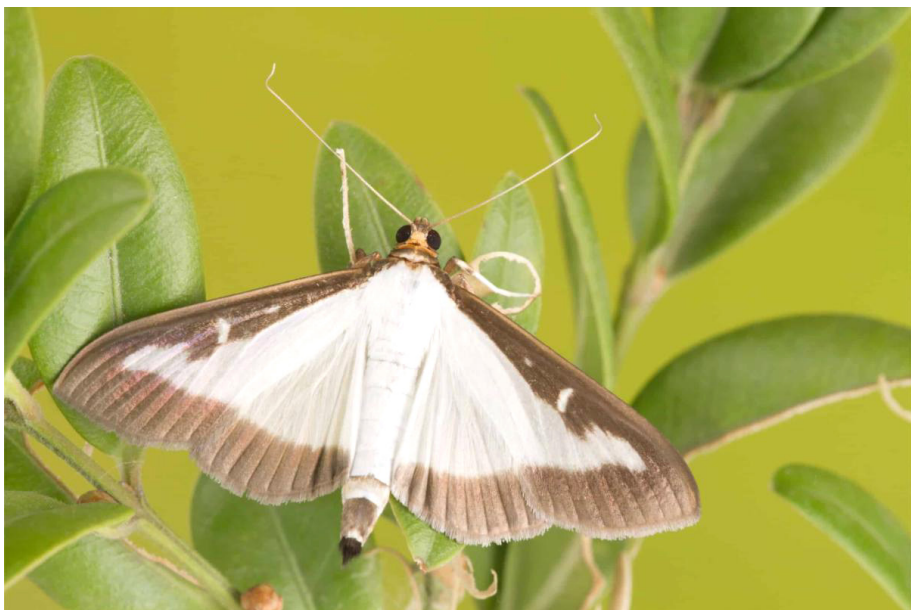
Charles Leon McCune will be remembered for his strength, humor, patriotism, and the deep love he had for his family and his country.

Wilson Smith is honored to be serving the McCune family.

Public Meeting set for Grassy Creek residents

The Clay Co PSD will be holding a public meeting for the residents of Grassy Creek that are interested in public water on July 1, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Lizemore Fire Dept. If you have any questions call 304-587-7579.

Damaging Boxwood Pest Confirmed in West Virginia, Box Tree Moth Detected in Berkeley County



Box Tree Moth (Cydalima perspectalis)

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has confirmed the presence of the Box Tree Moth (Cydalima perspectalis) in Berkeley County, marking the first detection of the invasive pest in the state. Native to East Asia, the Box Tree Moth (BTM) feeds primarily on boxwood plants (Buxus species), a popular ornamental shrub widely used in landscapes across West Virginia.

Since its initial detection in North America near Lake Ontario in 2021, the pest has rapidly spread and is now confirmed in Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and, as of 2025, West Virginia.

“This pest poses a serious threat to boxwood plants, which are foundational elements in many residential and commercial landscapes,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “Early detection is critical, and we’re asking homeowners and landscapers to keep an eye out and report any suspicious damage.”

BTM larvae feed on the leaves and bark of boxwoods, potentially causing complete defoliation and plant death. The lime-green caterpillars are small and difficult to detect in early stages, often

blending in with foliage. Infestations may not be noticeable until significant damage has occurred.

Signs of infestation include:
-Chewed or missing leaves
-Presence of small green caterpillars
-Webbing on or inside the plant
-Bark stripping in advanced stages

The pest can produce multiple generations per year, compounding the damage if left untreated.

If caught early, BTM can be effectively managed with treatment options such as Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk), a naturally derived pesticide safe for use on boxwoods and available at many garden centers. Multiple insecticides labeled for BTM control may also be effective. Always read and follow all pesticide label instructions.

Residents who suspect their boxwoods may be affected by Box Tree Moth are encouraged to contact the WVDA immediately for confirmation and treatment guidance.

Contact the WVDA at 304-558-2212 or at bugbusters@wvda.us.

For more information about the Box Tree Moth and treatment recommendations, visit www.agriculture.wv.gov.

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What I Know Now

By Joe Mazzella

It is funny how so many commercials these days steal the lyrics from old rock and roll songs. I can turn the television on and suddenly I am back in my childhood again. I usually don't pay attention to the commercial itself. I just close my eyes, listen to the music, and sometimes even sing along.

One of those songs was playing today as I did the dinner dishes in the sink. "I wish that I knew what I know now when I was younger", it sang. I smiled as those lyrics sank into my heart. I thought to myself, what would I tell a younger me if I could go back in time? What advice would I give him? What pitfalls would I urge him to avoid? What mistakes would I warn him of? What encouraging words would I share with him?

I thought about this for a long time. Then in the end I decided that my advice would be very simple. I wouldn't warn him of any events coming his way. Instead I would encourage him to Live each day. This is what I would tell him: Relax. Stop worrying. Slow down. Enjoy today. Share your talents. Share your kindness. Share your smile. Yes you are going to go through a lot of things. We all do. But you will get through them all. All that worry, stress, and fear is just wasting precious moments of your life. Just remember that God Loves you. And you are here to Love too. Love God. Love yourself. Love everyone else. Love nature, animals, this world, and this life. Because when you Love, you will have joy, you will help others, and you will make this world a better place.

Of course I couldn't go back in time to tell him these things so I looked in the mirror and reminded myself instead. Then I walked over to my computer and wrote this to share with you. May you always Love. May you always live each day in wisdom and in joy.

Home Country

Slim Randles

Dud was down at The Lunker Hole on Lewis Creek before it even turned yellow in the east. He had some thinking to do, and, as everyone knows, there's no better way to think than fly fishing.

Just about the time Dud could make out The Lunker's rock at the head of the hole, he had gotten a tiny midge tied on some leader and sent it on its way to the general vicinity of the rock.

It floated slowly downstream without being bothered by piscatorial pirates, and when the line told him he'd reached as far downstream as he could on this cast, he picked it up, waved it dry and cast back up at the rock.

Okay, now is a decent thinking time, so it was well to get started.

It's the book, of course.

Why do I do it? He asked himself. It doesn't make any sense. If I spent that time washing dishes down at the Mule Barn truck stop, I'd make more money. And the title? I like Murder in the Soggy Bottoms, but my friends keep calling it The Duchess and the Truck Driver. Maybe I should change it?

Okay, pick up the fly and send it back up to that rock again.

And the love stuff ... the truck driver and the duchess are nuts about each other and have a kid in common from when he was in Europe on special assignment the last time. And the language problem. The duchess speaks a couple of European languages and the truck driver is from the South. But if they are so different, how did they have a kid together?

Cast upstream again. Wait. False cast until the fly is dry then ... yeah, like that.

You know, it doesn't make any sense, but some people actually write more than one book!

They have to be cheating somehow... they've GOT to be cheating...

Brought to you by my books. I didn't cheat, and there's lots of words in each one. Most of them are spelled correctly, too.

Did My Body Warranty Just Expire?

Dr. James L. Snyder

Just when I recover from the latest ache in my body within a few minutes, I will get a "Boo, I'm back."

I'm not quite sure why these Aches and Pains love my body so much. Why don't they just get over it and move on to another circus. The problem is, after I'm through with one ache, the next ache is just a wee bit more painful. I think the previous ache is just a practice for the next ache.

Getting up from bed the other day, I complained to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that my body was achy all over. I'm not sure why I thought she needed to know about all of these aches and pains, but I had to spill my beans.

After my lecture, she looked at me and said, "Maybe you need some body parts replaced." Then she continued, "I know an antique store I could take you."

I did not find that very funny, and smiled sarcastically at her and went to my office to complain to myself.

I've been to the doctor quite a few times in the last few years to deal with a variety of body aches and pains. He prescribed to me so much medicine that I kind of believe I'm a drug addict at this point. I have a pill for every ache and pain in my body along with substitutes.

While in my office, the telephone rang, and it was, you guessed it, a call reminding me that my car warranty was about to expire. Of course, I have no such warranty on any of my vehicles. However, it did get me to think about something.

Is my body warranty on the verge of expiring?

I'm waiting for someone to call me and offer me a renewed body warranty. That would solve a lot of my problems, I think.

In the meantime, I have to settle for what I got.

I started to chuckle. I discovered The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is having an affair with Mr. Arthur Ritis. He's in her hand, fingers, and knee. No matter where she goes, Arthur goes along with her. I will never know why she puts up with Arthur.

Some of my worst pain is a pain in the neck. I get this so often as I get older. When I was younger, I had no pain of this nature. But getting older, I've had this pain in the neck. Personally, I want to be a pain in the neck to somebody, like The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I know what would happen if I were a pain in her neck. She would say something very nice at my funeral.

I was having a little trouble with my hip, and was tempted to ask her to take me to her favorite antique

store. After all, what did I have to lose in that regard?

When I told her, she smiled at me and said, "I don't think I can. I'm afraid they will want to keep you."

Talk about a pain in the neck?

As I get older, I am trying to learn how to deal with all the aches and pains that come daily. As soon as I get used to one pain, a new one shows up and I have to start all over again. Why isn't there one pain pill to deal with all the pain in my body?

I tried several things to deal with my pain. First of course is the doctor. Every time the doctor sees me he smiles and greets me very heartily. I used to think he was happy to see me, but then I realized when I went to him, he was getting money out of my insurance, Medicare, and whatever else I have. Realizing this, I began to understand that to all those doctors I am an ATM machine. I guess I'm glad that my pain benefits somebody in this world.

Another thing I try to deal with is ignoring my pain. Pretending it doesn't exist. That doesn't always work.

When I wake up in the morning, the first thing The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asks is, "How are your aches and pains today?"

It's hard to ignore them when somebody is always talking about them.

Then there's another aspect of this. I am learning that although these aches and pains are a curse, they are also a blessing. I never knew that before.

When The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asks me to do something I don't want to do, I start complaining. "Oh, dear, I'd love to, but my shoulder hurts so much. I just can't do it."

I'm not sure she believes me or not, but it works most of the time, and I'm happy with anything I can get.

I might never get used to my aches and pains. But if I can turn them into an advantage, that will be a very happy day for me.

I then thought of one of my favorite verses in the Bible. James 1:2-4, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

A pain sometimes helps me to be patient and learn a new lesson of patience in 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

Mark Burdette named new Deputy Director of the West Virginia Small Business Development Center

The West Virginia Small Business Development Center (WV SBDC) announces Mark Burdette as its new Deputy Director.

A West Virginia native, Burdette has devoted his career to starting and growing companies in the state, helping to advance entrepreneurship and innovation as an important economic development strategy throughout West Virginia.

"We are excited to introduce our new Deputy Director, Mark Burdette. His proven track record in launching and scaling innovative ventures will greatly benefit the West Virginia Small Business Development Center, said WV SBDC Director Will Miller. "Mark's focus on mentoring will help us support small businesses in the Mountain State."

Since joining the WV SBDC in 2022, Burdette has strengthened WV BusinessLink by expanding its network of resource partners and improving access to critical services for entrepreneurs. He also earned the Entrepreneurship Development Professional (EDP) credential from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). In his new role, he will continue to lead WV BusinessLink.

Prior to that, he worked in the private sector, most notably as co-founder of Citynet and served as General Manager of the Advantage Valley Entrepreneurial League System®.

"I'm honored to step into this new role and continue the important work of supporting West Virginia's entrepreneurs," said Burdette. "Small businesses are



Mark Burdette

the heart of our communities, and I believe the key to West Virginia's economic future lies in how well we identify and develop our entrepreneurial talent. That belief drives my work every day, and I look forward to building on that mission with our incredible team and resource partners across the state."

As Deputy Director, Burdette will lead strategic initiatives to expand the WV SBDC's reach and impact across all 55 counties, supporting business advisors statewide, and ensure the seamless delivery of business coaching and training programs that empower small businesses and startups. Central to his vision is the belief that West Virginia's long-term economic success depends on how effectively the state identifies, nurtures, and develops its entrepreneurial talent—a commitment that will guide his efforts to strengthen the state's entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The WV SBDC, an accredited partner program with the U.S. Small Business Administration and a division of the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, helps small businesses at all stages of development by connecting owners to programs, resources, and coaches. WV SBDC business coaches have professional certifications ranging from Certified Business Advisor® (CBA), Entrepreneurship Development Professional (EDP), MBAs, design thinking, AI, cybersecurity, and exporting, along with experience in technology, innovation, manufacturing, finance, management, HR and marketing.

For more information about the WV SBDC and its services, visit wvsbdc.com.

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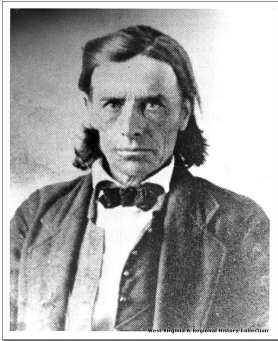
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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

June 25, 1811: Bridge builder Lemuel Chenoweth was born near Beverly, Randolph County. His many bridges also included the earliest covered bridge at Beverly and the famous Philippi covered bridge.



June 25, 1950: The Korean War began when the armies of Communist North Korea pushed across the 38th parallel into South Korea. Army private Kenneth Shadrick of Wyoming County was among the first U.S. servicemen killed in action, on July 5, 1950.

June 26, 1887: Sheriff Don Chafin was born in

Logan County. Chafin was a bitter foe of union organizers and, with financial support from coal companies, used his many deputies to keep labor organizers out of Logan County, most notably during the Battle of Blair Mountain.



June 26, 1892: Pearl Buck was born in Hillsboro in the home of her maternal grandparents. She received the Pulitzer Prize for *The Good Earth* and was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

June 26, 1936: Basketball star Hal Greer was born in Huntington. Greer

was the first Black athlete to play at Marshall College (now University). When his pro career ended in 1973, he held the NBA record for most games played and ranked in the top 10 in points scored, field goals attempted, and field goals made.



June 27, 1897: Musician Maceo Pinkard was born in Bluefield. Pinkard became one of the most successful songwriters of the 1920s Jazz Era.

June 27, 1961: *Honey in the Rock* was first performed at Grandview

State Park near Beckley. The play by Kermit Hunter depicts the founding of the Mountain State in 1863.

June 28, 1936: Athlete Chuck Howley was born in Wheeling. Howley played linebacker for 12 seasons for the Dallas Cowboys. He was an All-Pro six times and named to six Pro Bowls.

June 28, 2010: Robert C. Byrd died at the age of 92. He was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1958 and served until his death.

June 29, 1845: George W. Atkinson was born in Charleston. In 1896, Atkinson was elected governor in an upset victory over Cornelius C. Watts of Charleston, ending 26 years of Democratic rule.

June 29, 1952: Writer Breece D’J Pancake was born in South Charleston and grew up in Milton, Cabell County. Many of Pancake’s stories are set in Milton, fictionalized as “Rock Camp.”



June 29, 2012: A violent storm called a derecho raced across West Virginia, leaving downed trees and damaged homes in its wake. About 688,000 homes and businesses lost power for a week during a widespread heat wave.

June 30, 1914: State-wide prohibition of alcohol sales became law years before it was enacted for the whole nation.

June 30, 1929: The Wheeling Symphony Orchestra gave its first concert at Oglebay Park.



June 30, 1944: Harp-

ers Ferry National Historical Park was authorized as a national monument, the first in West Virginia.

July 1, 1861: Francis Pierpont, governor of the Reorganized Government of Virginia called the legislature into session. The general assembly re-established governmental functions, provided for the raising of military units, and elected new U.S. senators and representatives.

July 1, 1937: Watoga State Park was opened to the public. The Pocahontas County park is the largest of the state parks and among the oldest.

July 1, 1971: Southern West Virginia Community College was formed by joining the Marshall University branch campuses at Logan and Williamson. In 1995, the name changed to Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Desk is wider. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Blinds are higher. 4. Pocket is moved. 5. File cabinet is taller. 6. Desk lamp is different.

Super Crossword

REGRESSION ANALYSIS

ACROSS

- 1 Outermost layers
9 Most current
15 Tips, as one's hat
20 "Yes, it's obvious"
21 Artemis' twin
22 Bow missile
23 TNIOPWEIV
25 Gaze
26 Web selling
27 Joking sort
28 Stew globule
30 2021 U.S. Open champion Raducanu
31 Bern's river
33 "Auld Lang —"
35 TNEMPIUQE
39 Rely on
42 1998 Masters champion Mark
44 Beach sites
45 HTWORG
50 Eases
51 "Ex's & —" (2014 Elle King hit)
52 Toronto loc.
53 Ruby and garnet
57 Large crucifix
58 PDQ cousin

- 60 Scale amts.
61 Creepy
62 Stew or coffee holder
64 DOIREP
69 Sweet bun
73 Minor error
74 Was a threat to
75 POLFPILF
78 "My Gal —" (classic song)
79 S-shaped moldings
80 Fizzle out
81 Not at all firm
83 Has no entity
87 Belgian river
88 Part of SPF
89 Grayish hue
92 Ebb
94 ECNADIUG
97 — Harum ("A Whiter Shade of Pale" band)
101 Truly loves
102 Filmmaker Jonathan or Ted
103 LAISUM
106 Gab
109 Old Russian space station
110 Shoemakers' tools
111 — chi

- 112 China's Long March leader
114 Authoritative declarations
117 One of the singing Braxtons
119 TIUCRIC
125 Bother badly
126 Affected sort
127 Small naval vessel group
128 Shell out
129 Suddenly regain focus
130 Kind of bicycle
DOWN
1 [not my error]
2 GI tour gp.
3 She played Frigga in 2011's "Thor"
4 Sci-fi bounty hunter Boba
5 Razor brand
6 Spiced teas
7 Prematurely
8 Pigs' place
9 California wine area
10 Monument inscription
11 Finished first
12 NFLer Apple
13 Skiing locale
14 Printer ink

- 15 Wagner's "— Rheingold"
16 Big name in taco shells
17 Encloses in a border
18 Layout
19 Vows
24 "You — one!"
29 Sporty scarf
31 Doing battle
32 Retort to "Am not!"
34 Says "OK" to nonverbally
36 Long stretches
37 U-Haul unit
38 Long stretch
40 "Five-card" or "seven-card" game
41 Erstwhile flight inits.
43 Prefix with skeleton
46 Christie of mysteries
47 Dwelling place: Abbr.
48 "Licence to Kill" actress Talisa
49 "To recap ..."
53 Take revenge
54 Stonestreet of "Modern Family"

- 55 Light coin
56 Bird feed bit
59 Throb
60 Brown songbirds
61 Poet — St. Vincent Millay
63 "Love Me, I'm a Liberal" singer Phil
65 J. Cole's music
66 "Consider This" network
67 "— recall ..."
68 Curl up cozily
69 Guy into hip-hop, in old slang
70 Tattered garb
71 Slush Puppie alternative
72 Finish
76 Prehistoric beast, in brief
77 Simple card game
82 Not at all near
84 Safe to take a dip in, say
85 Tennis player Osaka
86 Jazz pianist McCoy
88 Break up

- 89 Page or gofer
90 Exit angrily
91 — Majesty
93 Kind of PC screen
94 Comic punch response
95 Devoid of joy
96 Indoor design
97 China pieces
98 Cover again, as a gift
99 In recent days
100 Diagnostic med. image
104 Lawmen Wyatt and Virgil
105 Use as a bed
107 Confuse
108 Attach with string, e.g.
113 Farm-related prefix
115 Army beds
116 Voyage
118 "— be a pleasure"
120 Airport uniform abbr.
121 Sales agt.
122 To the rear
123 Land in eau
124 Itty-bitty bit

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128						129							130							

Weekly SUDOKU

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							6		
8	1								3
5		3	8	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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THE WIDEN NEWS



The people who think alike
should vote alike.

"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.

July 1958

Bradley Sounds Bell For Action On "Missing Link"

COMPLETION OF MUDDLETY TO ENOCH ROAD WOULD OPEN "DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY" NOW.

On July 12, speaking at the Clay Centennial Celebration, J. G. Bradley, one of West Virginia's veterans and better known industrialists said, during his speech covering early Clay County history and Clay's early industrial development: "The term, 'Clay Court' came to us from Old Virginia. Places on the County Court have always been considered places of honor so that the members are under a moral responsibility to give their best efforts to the conduct of county affairs. I would say that things haven't changed much because I have been at work trying to get the "Missing Link" built for many years and years and years"

From Nicholas Republican

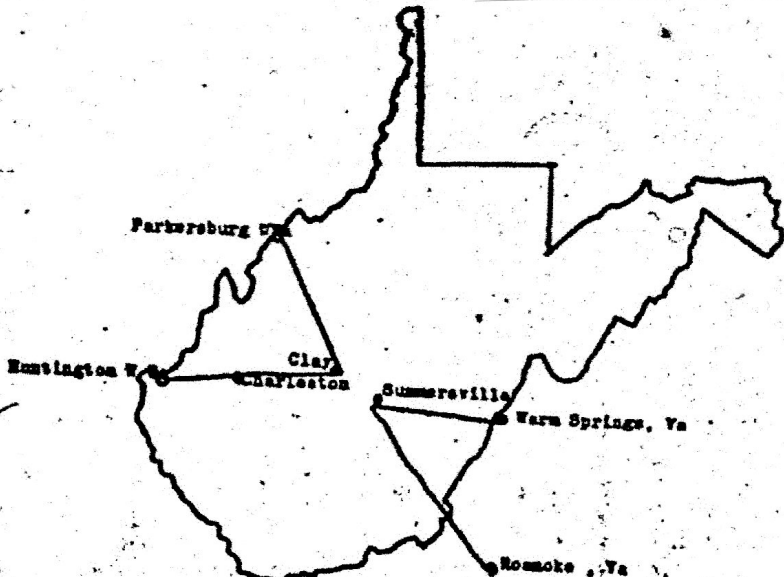
Mr. J. G. Bradley has for many years been an advocate for the completion of some 21 miles of road from Muddlety, on Route 19 to Ivydale, on Route 4; known as the "Missing Link."

Mr. Bradley argues that the importance of this road is not so much locally, but that it will afford a third highway across West Virginia, relieving traffic on Route 50 to the North and Route 60 to the South. He has also claimed, after having traveled much on the two East-West roads, that the distances to population centers in Virginia, Ohio and other states to the east and west, would be materially shortened. Right now, such a road would come in handy while Route 60 is closed for the removal of enormous slides.

Using the above headlines, the Nicholas Republican, of Richwood, in its issue of July 23, 1958, published much of Mr. Bradley's speech made July 12 at the Clay County Centennial Celebration at Clay. (This issue of the Widen News carries the full text of the speech).

It seems that Mr. Bradley has finally gotten the "ball to rolling" and if the people of Central West Virginia will join the movement, something definite will result.

The Nicholas Republican, after quoting from the speech, commented as follows:



The map pictured above, showing the "Missing Link" drawn by Mr. Bradley, was published in some of the county newspapers recently.

ficult nor as extensive an engineering project as was the Route 39 "Missing Link", yet once completed would not only serve as a most important route in taking pressure off of Route 60 into Charleston from Central West Virginia, and connect this rapidly expanding area, east and west but would immediately open up a vastly important economic area in both Nicholas and Clay counties and provide a wealth of opportunity for citizens in both counties.

GENTLEMEN — START SWIMMING

It would bring Clay Courthouse within 30 miles of Summersville approximately 44 miles to Richwood and this whole area of Central West Virginia would have an outlet to the east. Cutting down the distance from this rapidly expanding area to Charleston and its airport and airlines is a factor growing more important every day.

Here is a relatively small project, but of major importance!

On July 12 J. G. Bradley sounded the "Gong" once more. The ring is there—all that is needed is for a few strong and courageous men to get in and start some real, old fashioned action!

WIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH DINNER

The Widen Baptist Church is sponsoring a Dinner to be held August 16, 1958 at The Big Poplar Lodge, located at the Buffalo Valley Sportsman's Club recreation area. Dinner will be served from 5 o'clock p. m. until 7 o'clock p. m. Admission will be \$1.25 for adults and \$.60 for children. Proceeds from the dinner will be used for the Widen Baptist Church Building Fund.

MARY SUSAN NICHOLS DIES UNEXPECTEDLY

Mrs. Mary Susan Nichols, 68, of Dille, Clay County, died Monday night, July 21, 1958 in Sutton General Hospital after a short illness. She was a member of the Big Union Baptist Church at Dille. Surviving are her husband, Scott Nichols, four daughters, Mrs. Ethel Sigman of Widen, Mrs. Irene Hoover and Mrs. Eunice Wood, both of Birch River and Mrs. Dorothy Bailey of Stow, Ohio; four sons, Millard Young of Widen, Adrian and Donald Nichols, both of Gouverneur, N. Y.; three sisters, Mrs. Bessie Butcher of Widen and Mrs. Ida Givens and Mrs. Ivy King, both of Atwater, Ohio. 29 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Services were held at 10:30 A. M., Thursday July 24th in the Big Union Baptist Church at Dille with the Rev. J. H. McLaughlin officiating. Burial was in the Butcher Cemetery at Dille.

Picnic Area Built At Old Ball Park

Mr. and Mrs. Lakey Starcher of Nicholas Street, with the help of Mrs. Emogene Buck, Mrs. Judy Long and Mrs. Ethel Morgan and lots of the neighborhood children "took on" a big project recently which was finished just in time for the big fourth of July Homecoming Celebration.

The Starchers got the idea that the hillside adjacent to the old ball park would make a nice park and picnic area and they immediately got to work on the project. With a little help from the Company the hillside was cleaned off and the Starcher's "work-party" began. Picnic tables were placed under the trees and park benches were arranged very attractively around the hillside where those attending the festivities on the fourth of July could have a ring-side seat without standing in the hot sun, or suffering from the heat. Rocks and trees were whitewashed which added even more to the attractiveness of the park. It is a lovely place to relax and enjoy a picnic under the trees. Everyone is welcome to take the family and use this park area at any time.

After the work was done, Mrs. Starcher, assisted by Mrs. Long, Mrs. Buck and Mrs. Morgan had a party for all the children who helped. Delicious refreshments were served and each child was presented with a gift from Mrs. Starcher. Our hats are off to people like these who have such a wonderful community spirit and, do so much to help make Widen a better place in which to live.

JAMES SALISBURY KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

James M. (Jimmie) Salisbury, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curt Salisbury of Ivydale, West Virginia, was killed instantly on June 29, 1958 in an automobile accident on Dullis Creek Mountain. Jimmie was employed by the Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad Company as an apprentice brakeman at the time of his death. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Curt Salisbury, his wife, Mrs. Patricia Salisbury and one sister, Miss Mary Lee Salisbury, at home.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. L. H. LaFon at the Ivydale Methodist Church, Tuesday, July 1, 1958. Interment was in the Douglas Cemetery at Ivydale, West Virginia.

BIG UNION BAPTIST CHURCH TO HOLD REUNION, JULY 27

The Big Union Baptist Church of Dille, W. Va., will hold their Annual Homecoming Sunday, July 27. Everyone is welcome to attend. Dinner will be served on the Church grounds.

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But during a brief hearing last week, questions about the deal went largely unanswered: How much will Verizon invest in upgrading Frontier’s poor landline system? Can customers expect better service? How will the company improve broadband service?

On the stand, Tom Nugent, an executive for Verizon, gave a sales pitch.

“We will bring Verizon’s full suite of services to West Virginia,” he said. “We’ve got the breadth, the skills and the tools in order to support customers with any questions that they might have.”

When regulators pressed for details, he repeatedly deflected questions to colleagues.

“Mr. Nugent, my main concern about this whole transaction is the quality of service that our landline customers, who have no alternative, are going to see,” said Charlotte Lane, chairman of the PSC.

As Nugent looked on, she asked him to explain how much money Verizon was willing to invest in upgrading Frontier’s landlines.

He couldn’t. “I think it’s a fair concern when it comes to a robust plan that we currently have for both copper and our fiber customers, but I’m going to divert to Mr. Sullivan,” he replied, looking to another executive.

Then, there was a brief pause as Lane looked around, puzzled and confused by his response.

“Okay...what is the specific plan to enhance the 911 system?” she said. “Because we get a lot of complaints about service outages, and that is solely unacceptable.”

Nugent again deferred back to yet another colleague. Lane ended her questions.

And then, to her surprise, representatives for Verizon interjected, asking to recess briefly. Attorneys slipped out of the room to finalize details of a settlement between the company, state broadband officials and union leaders.

Instead of two days of witness testimony and rigorous exchanges between lawyers, deliberations occurred behind closed doors, sidestepping public scrutiny.

While not yet approved, the settlement sheds some light on Verizon’s broadband plans for the state and service for current Frontier customers.

In the settlement offer, Verizon committed to improving customer service, expanding broadband and maintaining staffing.

The company will answer at least 80% of customer calls within 30 seconds and provide the option to schedule calls with customer service representatives. It will also hire 25 additional employees and will move 97 part-time workers to full-time positions.

Verizon is also pledging to connect 35,000 more homes with fiber broadband within two years after the deal’s closure or invest \$30 million into expanding internet service to customers.

If approved, Verizon’s acquisition of Frontier Com-

munications’ broadband and landline operations would make it the largest telecommunications company in the state.

The deal would have sweeping implications for the state’s broadband access, especially in more rural areas.

A deal with a flawed past

Verizon first operated in West Virginia in 2000, emerging from another telecoms deal with Bell Atlantic Telephone, which had been operating in the state since 1984.

At the time, fiber broadband technology was still new, and many providers were using DSL — digital subscriber lines — to use the internet. These were copper lines that delivered phone and internet service.

Fiber technology offers cheaper and faster internet service. But nearly one-third of West Virginians still rely on outdated, slower DSL service, according to a 2023 survey from the state’s broadband office.

Frontier purchased telecommunication lines from Verizon in 2010, catapulting it to one of the country’s largest broadband providers. But soon after, complaints flooded in to state regulators, who opened an inquiry into Frontier’s services.

By 2015, Frontier settled with then-Attorney General Patrick Morrissey, pledging to invest \$160 million to improve its broadband network. It later filed for bankruptcy in 2020, again pledging to invest millions more in its West Virginia network.

The PSC has since received over 13,000 complaints about the company’s service.

In Berkeley County, Lisa Knight has had Frontier Internet for about a decade.

“Our internet has been so slow, you can’t really qualify it as broadband,” she said during a public hearing on the deal last week. “We cannot even watch two shows at the same time in different rooms.”

She told commissioners that after reaching out to the company, all she received was a new modem, which still didn’t work.

In dozens of written testimonies, other customers complained about years of dropped calls, unfair prices and poor customer service with Frontier. And many seemed skeptical that their service would improve, if at all, under Verizon. And that uncertainty wasn’t just limited to frustrated customers.

Even state broadband officials are cautious.

Last month, after an online meeting of the state’s Broadband Enhancement Council, several members lingered and informally discussed the merger.

“I’ll be honest with you,” said council member Robert Cole. “Having worked with multiple telecommunications companies in my career, I’m not real optimistic about a lot of improvements.”

“Could we at least hope that it won’t be any worse?” quipped Kelly Workman, the state’s broadband office director.

“Yeah,” Cole replied. “That’s the whole outlook re-



Horst Motz (left) is a Calhoun County Board of Education member. He is standing alongside his colleague Jeff Brannon during a ceremony on May 26, 2023. Photo by Crystal Toney/Calhoun County Schools

ally.”

In an email, a spokesperson said the council is “optimistic” that Verizon will improve service.

West Virginians want more accountability

On Friday, a tentative settlement was reached between Verizon, broadband officials and union representatives to address concerns they had about how the company would protect Frontier customers.

Inside, the company said it had plans to connect thousands of residents to high-speed internet, hire more frontline workers and commit to sharing reports with state regulators during regularly scheduled meetings.

Robert Williams, director of the PSC’s Consumer Advocate Division, represents thousands of residential customers in the state and helped negotiate the deal.

He was concerned about whether Verizon would be able to address the complaints from Frontier customers.

“We all brought different concerns to the table, and I think Verizon did a good job of listening and working with us,” he said.

He said he anticipates the PSC will approve the settlement offer and expects a ruling as early as next week or in a few months as Verizon officials work to get the deal approved in other states.

Horst Motz, a Calhoun County resident and former Verizon employee, said he hopes the new owners will bring better internet to rural areas.

“I know the type of service that they can provide,” he said during the public hearing. “Fiber is one of the options that we’ve been really looking for in my county.”

Earlier this month, contractors surveyed utility poles near his home. He asked them when he might get fiber.

Three months, they told him.

“Goodness gracious,” he replied. “I’ve only been waiting seven years.”

Treasurer Pack encourages Hope Scholarship participation

State Treasurer Larry Pack, who serves as Chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board, today announced the application deadline for new students to receive full funding for the Hope Scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year is this Sunday, June 15.

Applications are available online at www.HopeScholarshipWV.com.

“With the Hope Scholarship application deadline coming to a close, I am encouraging families to apply online by June 15 to receive the full funding amount for the upcoming school year. My Office is excited to welcome new students to the program, and we expect the number of participants to increase this fall,” Treasurer Pack said. “Every child deserves a shot at a bright future – and that’s what the Hope Scholarship offers. At the end of the day, this is all about empowering parents and students to find the education that fits their unique needs.”

A student application submitted within the following dates will receive the associated level of Hope Scholarship funding:

March 1-June 15: 100% of Hope Scholarship annual award amount.

June 16-Sept. 15: 75% of Hope Scholarship annual award amount.

Sept. 16-Nov. 30: 50% of Hope Scholarship annual award amount.

Dec. 1-Feb. 28: 25% of Hope Scholarship annual award amount.

Current Hope Scholarship students who wish to renew their participation in the program during the 2025-2026 school year have until June 15 to submit their Continuing Participation Confirmations.

The Hope Scholarship award amount varies each school year depending on the amount of state aid funding per pupil provided to county boards of education for public school students. The scholarship amount for the 2025-2026 school year is \$5,267.38.

Program participation grew from 5,443 students during the 2023-2024 school year to more than 10,000 students during the 2024-2025 school year. There are currently 263 participating nonpublic schools and microschools as

well as 850 non-school providers in the Hope Scholarship Program, providing a variety of educational options for students.

The Hope Scholarship will open to all school-age children residing in West Virginia beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year.

“We have seen tremendous growth within the program, and we believe that will continue to be the case as the program goes fully universal for the 2026-2027 school year,” Treasurer Pack said. “My Office’s goal is to ensure the program is run efficiently and students can find the education that they need.”

To qualify for the Hope Scholarship, a student must be a West Virginia resident and be either:

Eligible to be enrolled in a kindergarten program.

Enrolled full-time in a public elementary or secondary school program in this state for the entire instructional term during the current academic year immediately preceding the academic year for which the student is applying to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program.

Or, enrolled full-time and attending a public elementary or secondary school program in this state for at least 45 calendar days during an instructional term at the time of application and remain enrolled and attending public school until a decision is reached on the student’s Hope Scholarship application.

In addition to filling out the application, state law also requires participating families to fill out a notice of intent to participate in the program with their local county superintendent. A sample template for that notice as well as Frequently Asked Questions regarding the notice are also available online at the program’s website.

Families are reminded to notify the Hope Scholarship Board via email at hopescholarshippwv@wvsto.gov if they are awarded the Hope Scholarship for 2025-2026 but ultimately decide to remain in public school.

For more information on the Hope Scholarship, visit www.HopeScholarshipWV.com.

LEGAL

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA

TO: Dante Dwayne King, Sr. Magistrate Court Case No.:
918 Cooks Lane Family Court Civil Action No.:
Baltimore, MD 21229 25-DV-24
DOB: 08/20/1982

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
(PROTECTIVE ORDER / HEARING DATE)

1. The object of this suit is to obtain protection from the Respondent.
2. The object of this publication by Class I legal advertisement is to notify Respondent of the PROTECTIVE ORDER prohibiting the above-named Respondent from having contact with certain individuals. This Order may affect property and other rights of the Respondent. Violating this Order may subject the Respondent to criminal sanctions. The Respondent is strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of this Protective Order from the Circuit Clerk of the county listed above.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

It appearing by affidavit duly taken in this action that you could not be found in or that you have left the State of West Virginia, you are hereby notified of the ORDER referenced above, a copy of which may be obtained at the Clay County, Circuit Clerk’s office. This PROTECTIVE ORDER will remain in effect until July 3, 2025.

A Final Hearing is scheduled for the 3rd day of July, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., before the Clay County Family Court.
Issued 6/18/2025 at 3:50 p.m.

Christina Henshaw
Clerk of the Court

LEGAL

(2022-C-000344 - Clay County - KIMBERLY DAWSON)
To: ELBERT SIMMONS C/O PAT VALADE, JENNIFER WOODARD, ERICA GIBBONS, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT UNION MAP 13 PARCEL 0040 0001 0000
You will take notice that KIMBERLY DAWSON, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000344**, located in UNION District, 1.5 AC PORTER SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of SIMMONS THOMAS EUGENE, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 4, 2023. KIMBERLY DAWSON requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after September 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before August 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 18855.	\$	224.74
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 18833.	\$	140.90
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor’s Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	129.65
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	702.07
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	357.63
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,554.99

You may redeem at any time before August 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest. If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.
Given under my hand June 16, 2025

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia
Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor’s Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568



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
Prociuous. 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/Children/
Youth 7:00 PM
**GOSPEL LIGHT
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Located on Rt. 119 at the mouth
of Gabe. Everyone welcome.
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday night 6:00 PM
Wednesday night 6:00 PM
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

**PROCIIOUS
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



VETERANS

Continued from Page 1

By Allen Hamrick

Many years the original Clay County Courthouse has stood the test of time on its hill overlooking the town. It holds many records associated with Clay’s rich history. Over the years there has been a memorial at the base of the hill in honor of the veterans of the county to commemorate their sacrifice and duty served for this great nation. The cannon that used to serve as a monument was taken away, and the memorial became nothing but a notch in the hill. Trees, brush and trash accumulated, and it fell to ruin like a third world country.

In came Joe Lanham with his dream of erecting a me-

morial for all veterans of the county. Others became dedicated to the idea, and the new memorial was born on paper and the money needed was raised. Fifteen years have passed and that idea has become a reality. In those 15 years, few hands have done most of the work as the project got underway. It has been a monumental chore of raising money, getting volunteers to help, making numerous phone calls and setting deadlines for contractors to get the job done. The light at the end of the tunnel can now be seen by the originators of the project. As you go through town now, you can see the project is nearly finished.

This past week a mountain of veterans and their families, along with other volunteers ascended on the memorial and gave it a much-needed shave. The long-standing Courthouse Goatee, as some call it, is gone and a new wrought iron fence will take its place, All the ducks are lining up for the memorial and it is projected to be finished prior to this year’s Apple Festival.

This memorial has been a labor of love and honor for Joe Lanham and friends, and it is a memorial that the people of this county can and should be proud of. Thanks to Joe there will be a long-lasting monument to the unyielding will of Clay Countians to protect and



The clean shaved memorial and the crew that made it all happen.



The process began to take shape.



Workers getting the job done.

Clay’s new and improved football field underway

By Allen Hamrick

If you have passed by Clay County High School and seen what looks like an archaeological dig for football dinosaurs and wondered what the first down is going on, think no more - the brand new astro turf field is being installed. No longer will Clay County be known as the mud hole field, now we will be respected in the field of sports. Like the idea or not, it’s going in and it will be a spectacular opportunity for the youth of this county. A person must look at this field with an open mind. Yeah, it costs a small fortune, but the benefits outweigh the cost. After all, you can’t take your tax monies with you.

This field will not only benefit the high school football program but will also be used for the CCMS football games as well as the Little League games. It will have a new softball field as well as a concrete path around it for the fans to walk in instead of mud. The field will also be marked for soccer so that in the future, if soccer teams can be formed, there will be an opportunity. Presently, there is a place at Maysel Park where kids are practicing soccer, so who knows what the future will hold? The dirt that is being taken from the field will be placed at the field at Maysel Park to level the playing field. The new field will also benefit the track team. Although they will not have the oval track for obvious engineering reasons, the track team will have opportunity to practice hurdles and other running events, and the band will have a great place to practice drills. This is an investment in the youth of this county to give them all the opportunities available at other schools. It’s out of the dark ages of mud and guts to high society sports for the youth of the county.

According to Superintendent Phil Dobbins this is strictly to benefit the students of the county and give them opportunities for growth. If we don’t invest in the



New field will soon be in place.

youth, then there is no future for them. Sports are a big deal in this county, second only to education. While it may seem that the school system is losing ground in academics, the test scores have gone up and the future looks bright. Although we are losing students and decreasing the teacher population, the system is hanging

in there. There are reasons for the loss of teachers and students, but that’s for another article. This is all about the new field and what great opportunities it will bring to the youth of the county. So, sit back and support the local teams this fall as they hit the new field and enjoy it.

Happy Birthday West Virginia!

By Allen Hamrick

June 20th, 1863 - finally a new state those at the time could call home, a place where fresh air was free and mountains ran as wild as the animals that inhabited them. All a person had to do to live here was to be stronger than the mountains, a task that few could handle. The new state was majestic and rugged, completely unhinged by progress, and to live here was both a gift and an opportunity to create a life of your own without intervention...but it was hard living. The first pioneers built cabins and forts along rivers and streams and blazed trails through Native American hunting lands, often resulting in their untimely deaths. Sometimes, through negotiating, treaties were made and then broke by greedy folks who wanted all the resources that the mountains had to offer. To achieve that, the Natives had to go and so the wars were on, and the genocide of a culture was on the horizon. Those were the darker days of the state, and though they must be remembered, the state had to move on. Through that difficulty the state rose from ashes and became one of the greatest suppliers of coal and timber in the country. Even that had its difficulties with unsafe mines and brutal work in the timber fields. Since then, times have flourished as well as diminished over the years, but the state stays the same. Towns have boomed and become ghost towns as industry came and went, but the people moved on and forged lives for themselves regardless of the situation.

Now we live in the hills and valleys of some of the most spectacular scenery east of the Mississippi. These hills and valleys allow some of the best views in the world, and they are covered with a blanket of lush green forest. The valleys are littered with streams that have world class fishing and boating opportunities. People from all over travel great distances to camp, hike, hunt, fish, bike, sight see, stargaze, eat and shop in this state because the people here have always been unique.

The story of our rich history is like a living monologue of wonder and imagination. West Virginia’s history remains vivid with the idea that in some ways we can be a part of those who have walked these hills before us. We owe it to ourselves to remember; else our ancestors’ efforts were in vain. Once someone travels to this state they never forget and continue to return to its drawing power. Unfortunately, history is not taught in schools to the degree it once was.



The wild and wonderful Appalachian Mountains.

The importance is not as prevalent with those that govern the state as can be seen in many counties who struggle with staying afloat. Our county, as with others, is used to make money with the natural resources and beauty and yet all of history dwindles like melting snow.

Our small county of Clay, like other counties, has yielded a great deal of resources of coal, timber and gas all in the name of progress; money for our state and jobs for our people. For the good of the generations on the rise, we now embark on preserving our great state so that the generations of the past can still teach the generations of the future. Our state is strong because we stand together and that alone is the only way we move forward. If we let it fall into the pages of a book that is never opened and take down

all the buildings that were once full of life, then we lose and should be called Western Virginia. Our county and state could have been among the richest in history as well as progress, but businesses come in, they take then leave.

This state we live in, almost heaven West Virginia, is a great place. She inspires creativity and an insatiable desire for adventure, one just simply looks at the horizon of so many hills and gets lost in the infinity of the dreams of exploration. Be proud of your state; she is as old as time itself yet so young at 162 years. Her story continues to be told over time whether we are here or not, so leave your mark in the state, create your own story, and take a journey. This is your right of passage; you are a West Virginian after all.