



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



Volume 136 No. 67

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2025 Clay County Golden Delicious Belle nomination period open

The Clay County Golden Delicious Festival Committee is accepting nominations for the 2025 Golden Delicious Belle. The nominee must be a resident of Clay County who is at least 65 years in age. Your nomination letter should tell why you think the person should be named the 2025 Belle and must include a non-returnable photo to use for printing.

All entries should include a contact person's name, and phone number for the person providing the entry, as well as the name and phone number

of the person nominated. All entries must be received by Friday, July 25, 2025.

Entries may be mailed to: CC-GDF Apple Belle Nomination, Attn: Laura Scott, P.O. Box 416, Clay WV 25043, or can be dropped off at the Clay County Assessor's office to Teresa Davis. Submissions can also be emailed with a photo attachment to clayapplefestival@gmail.com.

The festival Board of Directors will vote for a winner during the August 2025 board meeting.

Senate poised to cut benefits, increase SNAP costs for West Virginia

By Brett Peveto for WVNS

As the budget reconciliation bill moves through the Senate, West Virginia still faces cuts to a key food support program. The House budget reconciliation proposal cut \$300 billion, about 30% from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. While senators have reduced that cut by nearly one-third, it's anticipated millions of Americans would still lose access.

More than 2,200 West Virginia retailers accept SNAP.

Caitlin Cook, director of advocacy and public policy with the Mountaineer Food Bank, said cutting this program will tend to shrink local economies.

"SNAP benefits are a lifeline in a lot of rural grocery stores," she explained. "For every SNAP dollar, there's a \$1.50 economic impact. So, without a doubt, SNAP cuts are going to hit our state very hard because of the high level of food insecurity."

More than 275,000 West Virginians use SNAP to help keep food on the table, which includes 94,000 kids and more than 50,000 seniors.

Reports this week indicate the Senate parliamentarian will approve a provision shifting some costs to the states. For states with a SNAP error rate above 6%, that cost could run as high as 15%. The SNAP error rate measures how accurately states determine eligibility and benefits, including overpayments and underpayments. The error rate is not a measure of fraud. Errors are typically unintentional, and many are clerical errors from state agencies. Only one state has never had an error rate above 6% since recording began in 2003. The 2023 error

rate in West Virginia was nearly 11%, and Cook said introducing this variance into the system will have consequences.

"If this goes through, a person that lives across the border in Ohio may have greater access to food assistance by virtue of them living in Ohio," Cook explained. "It is dependent on what state you live in, as to how successful their SNAP program is run."

Currently errors are corrected, with overpayments being paid back to states, and underpayments reimbursed to households. States with a high error rate for two consecutive years are charged a penalty under current policy.

Both Senate and House versions of the bill will also reduce the federal share of administrative costs by half, pushing the state and county share of admin costs to 75%. The combined cost shift of error rate penalty and admin expense is estimated to be \$84 million a year for West Virginia, with an estimated loss of 32 million meals. Both versions of the bill have expanded work requirements and reduced exemptions, with the Senate version adding work requirements for older adults 55 to 64 and parents with children over age 9.

Vince Hall, chief government relations officer with Feeding America, sees work requirements as a misguided priority.

"The vast majority of people who are able to work are working," he said. "The bad news is that their wages, even with sometimes two full-time jobs, are so insufficient that despite how hard they are working, they are still unable to afford the basics of rent, food and health care."

Last year SNAP injected more than \$550 million into the state's economy.

Secretary Rollins Provides Update on Bird Flu Strategy, Egg Prices Continue to Fall *USDA Encourages Ongoing Vigilance and Biosecurity*

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins provided an update on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's comprehensive, five-pronged strategy announced in February to combat Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Wholesale egg prices have now dropped 64%, with retail prices falling 27% from their peak earlier this year. We must remain diligent, and egg farmers and producers can continue to utilize USDA resources to conduct biosecurity assessments before the Fall.

"When President Trump entered office, the cost of eggs was at a record high, seriously denting consumers' wallets after years of awful inflation. On my first day as Secretary, we got to work to imple-

ment a five-pronged strategy to improve biosecurity on the farm and lower egg prices on grocery store shelves. The plan has worked, and families are seeing relief with egg prices driving food deflation in the April Consumer Price Index," said Secretary Rollins. "While we are proud that over 900 biosecurity assessments have been conducted to date, resources remain available, and we are urging poultry farmers of all sizes to get your assessments done today before a potentially challenging fall."

Investing in Gold-Standard Biosecurity Measures for All U.S. Poultry Producers

USDA is covering the full cost of the assessments as well as supporting part of

SECRETARY ROLLINS cont. on page 6

Little Texas and Cody Clayton Eagle headline Braxton County Fair

The Braxton County Fair is set to take place this year from July 29 to August 2 at Holly Gray Park in Sutton, WV at Holly Gray Park. There will be carnival rides from Wednesday through Saturday, inflatables from Wednesday through Friday, and monster truck rides from Wednesday through Saturday during Fair hours for \$10 per rider.

Daily admission varies:

Tuesday, July 29: \$5 per car (Taste of the Fair - no rides or inflatables)

Wednesday, July 30: \$7 (Family Night)

Thursday, July 31: \$8

Friday, August 1: \$12

Saturday, August 2: \$15.

Season tickets cost \$35, and children two and under are admitted for free.

Paid admission includes all shows & carnival rides (except Tuesday, Taste of the Fair.) Concert Reserved Seating for Saturday is \$10.

On the Midway: Wednesday through Thursday hours are 6 to 10 p.m., Friday is 6 to 11 p.m., and Saturday is noon to 5 p.m. then 6 to 11 p.m.

Daily Highlights:

Tuesday, July 29: Taste of the Fair with flea market, exhibits, livestock, and vendors. No rides or inflatables.

Wednesday, July 30: Opening Ceremonies with WV Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt and American Legion Post 33, Rabbit, Beef and Swine Shows, and "Meet Ana & Elsa, Belle, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Mirabel and Captain Jack from the Little Glass Slipper!"

Thursday, July 31: Sheep and Goat Shows, Talent Show.

Friday, August 1: Square Dancing, 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale, Demolition Derby.



Cody Clayton Eagle will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2.



Little Texas will perform at 9 p.m. on Aug. 2.

Saturday, August 2: Karen Carr Memorial Car, Truck, Tractor & Motorcycle Show, Mud Bog, Down on the Farm activities, Cody Clayton Eagle concert (7:30 p.m.), Little Texas concert (9:00 p.m.), and a Fireworks Display.

Remembering the beginning of America



Fireworks over Clay. Allen Hamrick Photo

See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON COUNTY



George Franklin Cason
Booked 6/30/25
Possession of controlled substance



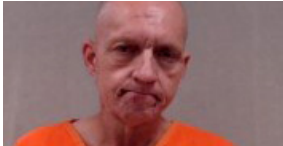
Andrew Tyler Dennison
Booked 6/28/25
Driving revoked for DUI, possession of marijuana, no insurance



William T. Gump Jr.
Booked 6/23/25
Fugitive from justice



Chester Dewayne Keen
Booked 6/30/25
No insurance, driving revoked for DUI third, obstructing an officer, possession of controlled substance



Russell Glen Moore Jr.
Booked 6/25/25
Domestic assault, domestic battery, malicious wounding



Jazmir Tyheem Young
Booked 6/26/25
Fleeing with reckless indifference, driving revoked, possession with intent

CLAY COUNTY



Damien Charles Short
Booked 6/30/25
Destruction of property, refusal to submit to tests, obstructing an officer, aggravated DUI

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PUBLIC NOTICES

The Birch River PSD will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 8, at 9 a.m., at the PSD office in Birch River.

The Clay County WIC office located at 452 Main Street in Clay is open to serve the public every Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OBITUARIES



Billy Fields

Billy Ray Fields, 69, of Ovapa, West Virginia, passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 26, 2025, at Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, WV.

Born on April 16, 1956, in Charleston, Billy was the beloved son of Vic-

toria Murphy Fields and Harley Fields. A man known for his strength, kindness, and deep devotion to family, Bill was a loving son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle whose memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

In March 1977, Bill began a lifelong career with Columbia Natural Resources, later TransCanada, where he worked diligently as an Operator for 42 years until his retirement on April 16, 2019.

Following retirement, Bill enjoyed the peace of nature hikes, the joy of watching his grandchildren grow, and the special

moments spent cheering on William and Cali at their sports events. One of his greatest joys was hosting his grandson Isaiah every summer from birth through age 11. Family beach trips to Myrtle Beach were always cherished traditions that will be forever remembered.

Bill is survived by his amazing wife of 46 years, Dian Carol Holcomb Fields of Ovapa; his sister Joann Fields Polidori of Big Chimney, WV; his daughter Jennifer Paige Fields Cameron (Joshua James Cameron) of DuPont, WA; his son Daniel Scott Fields (Dana Marie Taylor Fields) of Ovapa, WV; and his grandchil-

dren: Isaiah James Cameron of DuPont, WA; William Scott Fields and Cali Paige Fields of Ovapa, WV.

Visiting Wake Services will be held at Wilson Smith Funeral Home on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be held Thursday July 3, 2025, at Wilson Smith Funeral Home beginning at 11:00 am.

Bill's presence, laughter, and unwavering love will be deeply missed. His spirit will live on in the memories he helped create and the lives he touched.

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

Calvin Hyer

Calvin Ellsworth Hyer, 94, passed away peacefully on May 9, 2025 at his home in Hoover, AL.

Cal was preceded in death by his father, O.O."Buck" Hyer; mother, Icie McCracken Hyer; and sister, Mary Hyer Cupp.

Cal is survived by his

wife of 70 years, June Shinn Hyer; son, Bruce Edgar Hyer (Cathy); daughter, Stephanie Hyer Rubens (Fred); five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at the Hyer Cemetary on O'Brien Creek on July 5, 2025 at 2:00 PM, followed by a reception at the home of Bruce and Cathy Hyer.

Super Crossword

Answers

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Mary Lou

Mary Lou (Douglas) Means of Ivydale, WV went to be with Jesus on June 22, 2025, at 89 years of age.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis P. Means, parents, Ray Douglas and Gertude Amy (Brannon) Douglas and bother Paul

Ray Douglas and wife Letha (Bledsoe) Douglas.

She is survived by sister Nina Sue (Douglas) Yost of South Charleston, son Jeremy Ray Gardner and wife Linda of Wiscasset, ME, daughter Mary Lucinda (Cindy) Curry and husband Barry of Duck, WV. Grandchildren Alia Tanner and husband Frank of Ivydale, WV, Bethany Morris and husband Christopher of Maryville, TN, Ethan Curry of Culpepper, VA, Leah Campbell of Bath, ME and James Humphrey of Lewiston, ME as well as four great grandchildren Allison Miller, Liam Morris, Josie Curry, and Cadence Thompson and niece Amy Yost and great nephew Sean Yost.

She was loved and will be missed by her many friends, family and church community.

Mary was a graduate of South Charleston High School, earned her bachelor's degree (1958) at Marshall College and master's degree (1965) from Marshall University. She taught school for 30 years in both Kanawha and Putnam counties and was a principal at Hometown Elementary School. She was a past President of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, WV Chapter, and a lifetime member of the National Education Association.

She served as the music leader and treasurer of Rush Fork Community Church for many years

after her retirement and return to Big Otter in Clay County where she was born.

There will be a celebration of Mary's life at 2:00pm on July 6, 2025, at Rush Fork Community Church on Dink Road, Ivydale, WV. In leu of flowers please make donations in remembrance of Mary Means to Samaritan's Purse <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/donate-online> or charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com

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

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

Appalachian Power plans to maintain a portion of its power line rights-of-way in West Virginia through the aerial application of registered herbicides. Weather permitting, the program will begin on or about June 1, 2025.

Questions about the program or information about sensitive areas near the power lines listed below, such as springs, wells, streams, lakes, ponds, orchards, crop areas, gardens, pastures, meadows, year-round dwellings, public recreation areas and Christmas tree farms, may be directed to the company by calling toll-free 1-800-642-3622. Maps showing the location of rights-of-way to be maintained are available for review upon request.

Right-of-way maintenance agreements between Appalachian Power and landowners are available to landowners who prefer to accept responsibility for clearing the right-of-way crossing their property instead of the company's aerial application of herbicides. The agreement compensates the landowner by an amount equivalent to the cost of aerial herbicide application, provided the work meets Appalachian Power's specifications. Landowners desiring to enter right-of-way maintenance agreements with Appalachian Power should call the toll-free number above.

Herbicides to be used have been extensively tested and are registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. They are imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, fosamine, triclopyr, aminocyclopyrachlor and aminopyralid. All applications are performed by certified applicators.

Rights-of-way involved in the program are:

CLAY COUNTY

Bright Coal Company Tap 46kV – A transmission line on wood structures beginning at a tap off the Belva-Clendenin 46kV line, running west approximately one mile and ending at a dead end.



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Doing Good And Being Kind

By Joe Mazzella

One of the most beautiful signs of summer here in the mountains of my home isn't the flowers, or the trees or the early morning sunrises. It is instead the return of the work camps. These are week long trips that church groups make into our area to help people to make home repairs that they couldn't afford to do themselves. They are mostly kind-hearted teenagers giving up part of their summer vacation. They are always supervised, though, by experienced builders who know what they are doing. It always brings a smile to my face and a joy to my heart to see them out there in the hot, summer sun working to help those who need it most, with their only pay being the love in their hearts.

I remember watching one group building a new set of steps for a front porch one year. It was five teenagers being supervised by one adult. What got me the most was listening to him encouraging them. I lost count of how many times he said, "Good Job" or "Doing good" to them. There was one girl, however, who obviously had never held a hammer before. She bent 3 nails in a row working on one board. Finally the man knelt down beside her and instead of criticizing her, gave her a ten minute tutorial on how to hammer a nail. When he was done she tried again with a weak smile on her face and drove the nail in like an expert carpenter. The man looked down at her work and said, "Doing good!" once again. And I smiled and thought to myself, "Yes! they truly are DOING GOOD in this world."

Wayne Dyer wrote, "For every act of unkindness there are a million kind acts." And I see those acts of kindness, those acts of goodness, and those acts of Love every time I see one of these work camps helping those in need. They truly are doing God's work with hammers and saws and smiles and a lot of Love in their hearts. May we all learn from their example.

Home Country

Slim Randles

"This is 'bout the best time of year," said Steve, "to get out and do something fun, like go to a rodeo."

"Awful cold out there right now, Steve," said Doc, who has more degrees than a thermometer. "I guess it's a good thing they have all those building rodeos these days."

"Well, that would take all the sport out of it, wouldn't it?" Steve said. "Dud, pass the sugar please."

Dud passed the sugar. "Don't know what you mean, Steve. Why would it take all the sport out of rodeo if the folks in the stands were comfortable?"

"Cold factor," he said.

"What?"

Now Steve was our resident cowboy here at the Mule Barn truck stop's philosophy counter. He still worked on ranches and lived in bunkhouses and saddled his horses one at a time, but his rodeo days were far behind him. It's a sport with a very short career ... one way or another.

"You see," Steve said, "when it's cold, the rough stock bucks harder ... 'specially the broncs. Not sure why, but you can see it even with broke horses. On a cold morning, they're liable to hump their backs and hop a few times just for fun, or to shake out the kinks. Same with rodeo broncs. With them, I think it's just more fun, though."

"Well, I can see where watching broncs in cold weather would make it more fun to watch," Doc said.

"That's only half of it," Steve said, grinning. "Those poor cowboys who ride them are cold and stiff, too. Doesn't help much with riding rank stock. And that's the reason it's more fun to watch a rodeo in cold weather. It tends to rain frozen cowboys."

Brought to you by Ol' Jimmy Dollar, Slim's children's book about a happy hounddog man and his "kids." See it at riograndebooks.com.

Heat Is Not Just a Number, It's an Attitude

Dr. James L. Snyder

Lately, the temperature in Florida has topped 100°. I saw on the news that the Northeast is also hitting 100°.

It's easy to see why everyone wants to come to Florida. If they can't, they wish for some of our heat. Well, good luck with that. We'll send you all you can handle.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have lived in Florida for over thirty years. We've enjoyed every single day, and we have no plans to leave. At first the heat was more than we expected, but within a short time we got used to it. Now we enjoy it.

Records show this is the hottest June our country has seen. This heat has serious consequences. The human body can't handle such heat for long.

Just the other day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage complained about how hot it was. "Oh, my," she said, "where does all this heat come from?"

For a moment, I almost answered. But after 54 years of blissful marriage, I've learned when to speak and when to stay quiet. Of course, I'm still learning when to speak. That's one of my biggest challenges.

I could have said, "It's summer, the sun is out, and the heat comes from the sun." But I knew that wasn't the answer she wanted, so I held back.

I remember my father saying that life isn't about numbers but attitude. I'm starting to understand what he meant.

When I was young I had two female dogs at home, male dogs in the neighborhood would gather in our backyard when the females were "in heat." It was something beyond my control even though I tried. But that's not the attitude I mean here.

At my stage in life, when I step out into the hot sun, I start sweating. That sweat drives me crazy. The sweat runs from the top of my head all the way to the bottom of my feet. Everything about me is soaked. Believe me, it's not my favorite attitude.

I walked into the house and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked up and asked, "Did you take a shower with your clothes on?" Then she laughs. I did not respond.

My recliner is next to our big glass door. I can see the sun shining and feel the heat. I sigh deeply because I'm glad to be on the cool side. I enjoy the heat outside while I stay cool indoors.

One thing about this heat season that I have learned is, I avoid driving when it's this hot—not because my A/C doesn't work, but because other drivers have attitudes I can't relate to. The other day, I was driving across town. I saw cars go by with drivers shaking their fists out the window. It's like they thought that would fix anything!

If I shook my fist, it would only create more prob-

lems. I don't think those drivers realized that shaking their fists out the window didn't make the heat go away.

I don't want to drive among those people. After all, I love living.

One great perk of being retired is that I can choose not to drive if I don't want to. I am increasingly appreciating that.

My body isn't as strong as it used to be, so I avoid the 100° heat whenever possible. I respect my body, even if I'm not sure it respects me. That's a different issue.

In the late afternoon, the sun had been blazing all day and showed no signs of letting up. I was in my recliner drinking some ice tea when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sat down in the rocking chair and asked, "When will this heat go away?"

I chuckled to myself, remembering about a month ago a cloudy day with rain. Back then, she looked out the window and asked, "Where in the world is the sun?"

I wanted to respond, "My dear, the sun is in the sky, just above the clouds."

You have no idea how much I wanted to say that, but being a seasoned and successful husband, I kept it to myself.

The heat is not about numbers; it's about attitude. Some people's attitudes make me uncomfortable. Shaking fists and yelling at the sky show an attitude not rooted in sanity.

One of the best things about a hot, sunny afternoon is, I can sit down and enjoy it in a cool atmosphere. I remember those days far, far away when I lived up north and had to look out the window and see white fluffy stuff fill up our yard and driveway. Maybe if I would've stood there and shook my fist at the snow it would have gone away. If only I knew that back then.

Now that I have experienced both of these weathers, the hot and the cold, I have chosen the hot weather. And I am unanimous in that decision.

While contemplating on this I thought of some scripture.

"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" (James 1:2-4).

My attitude should not be based on what's going on around me. The heat and the cold comes and goes, but my relationship with God is firmly rooted in God's Word.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com

WV Dept. of Ed. and Partners Support 400 Summer Feeding Sites for Children

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) is once again working with local partners to support child nutrition this summer. Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the WVDE administers the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) feeding sites. This gives access to nutritious meals to those 18 years of age and younger. The USDA offers a website outlining locations to easily find feeding sites throughout the state and country. More than 400 locations in West Virginia serve meal at various times throughout the summer.

Each year, the SFSP ensures children have access to meals when schools are not in session. The WVDE accepts applications in the spring for organi-

zations interested in hosting sites, including schools, churches, community centers, pools, parks, libraries, housing complexes and summer camps.

While the meals are often offered in conjunction with supervised activities, some sites provide delivery or to-go options. Low-income areas benefit the most from these programs.

"For families facing food insecurity, this program is more than a convenience; it is a staple for children," said State Superintendent of Schools Michele L. Blatt. "We appreciate the participating organizations, and we hope to include more sites in the years to come, especially in rural areas."

To learn more about sponsorships, visit the Summer Food Service Program page of the WVDE website.

Happy Birthday, America

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

Happy birthday, America.

I always look forward to the Fourth of July celebrations and festivities, including family get-togethers and long-lasting picnics. This year, I hope for additional prosperity for our state and a revival of traditional industries that have made us strong. Among those is the coal industry. Coal remains essential to the production of electric power in West Virginia. And for that matter, to the entire eastern United States. Coal continues to underpin our economy, and the industry is one of the largest employers in the state.

As I have said in the past, our Commission has welcomed, and continues to welcome, all forms of energy, from whatever their source. But I maintain that the energy produced must be constant and reliable. It cannot flick off when the wind no longer blows or the sun goes down. Though Nuclear power might play a role in the future, that future is still a long way off. We are also a large producer of natural gas, and hopefully, more of this gas will be used in the future, too. And the need for electric energy is only going to increase now and, in the future, both here and nationally.

West Virginia is uniquely positioned to enjoy the benefits of that expanded energy need. This state is the second-largest producer of coal in the nation. In this time of world turbulence and troubled war spots across the globe, we have a constant and safe energy fuel. And its supply to us will not be interrupted by any foreign conflicts. We also sit right in the middle of the largest energy exchange network in the United States: the PJM grid system, which provides energy to a large part of the mid-Atlantic seaboard.

The present administration in Washington and Governor Morrissey's state government here in Charleston are



PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

both committed to promoting coal as a domestic energy source. The resurrection of coal may take a little time as we work through new incentives from Washington and at the local level. But as far as electric power is concerned, we will remain energy independent long into the future as long as we rely on what underlies our mountains. And, with that, the lights will remain on.

It's a good thought as we consider the anniversary of our nation's independence.


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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

July 3, 1863: At Gettysburg, Union troops in the 1st West Virginia Cavalry took part in a fruitless charge against Confederate infantrymen during the waning moments of that historic battle.

July 4, 1882: The steamboats *Scioto* and *John Lomas* collided on the Ohio River as they were returning from holiday excursions. The *Scioto* sank almost instantly, and 70 people drowned.

July 4, 1918: Poet Muriel Miller Dressler was born in Kanawha County. Her poem “Appalachia,” published in 1970, was her signature piece.



July 4, 1928: West Virginia dedicated its first state park—Droop Mountain Battlefield. Droop Mountain was one of the

most important Civil War battles fought on West Virginia soil.



July 4, 1938: Musician Bill Withers Jr. was born into a miner’s family of 13 children in Slab Fork, Raleigh County. In 1971, he released his first album, *Just As I Am*, including his first Grammy-winning song, “Ain’t No Sunshine.” In 2015 he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

July 4, 1944: Jazz drummer Butch Miles was born in Ohio. He grew up in Hinton and Charleston andeventually performed

with Mel Torme, Count Basie, Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, Tony Bennett, Itzak Pearlman, and many others.

July 5, 1896: Cartoonist Kendall Vintroux was born at Fraziers Bottom. He began his career with the *Charleston Gazette* when he submitted a cartoon about the town of Poca’s first paved road. Many of his drawings are now in the collection of the University of Charleston.



July 5, 1923: Football coach John McKay was born in Everettville,

Monongalia County. He became the winningest coach at the University of Southern California (USC) and later the first head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, of the National Football League.



July 6, 1806: Statesman Charles James Faulkner was born in Martinsburg. Faulkner served in the West Virginia legislature, U.S. Congress (1851–59, 1875-77), and as U.S. minister to France.

July 6, 1848: Historian Virgil A. Lewis was born in Mason County. In 1905,

Governor Dawson appointed Lewis as the first director of the Bureau of Archives and History.

July 6, 1883: Judge “R. D.” Bailey was born at Baileysville, Wyoming County. Bailey came into wide prominence as the judge of the Matewan Massacre trial in 1921.

July 7, 1928: The Madonna of the Trail monument was dedicated in Wheeling. It is one of 12 such statues erected along the National Road to honor America’s pioneering women.

July 8, 1894: Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photographer, Aegerter built both a studio and darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement. The glass plate negatives survive today in several archived collections.

July 8, 1924: Rock ’n’ roll pioneer Johnnie

Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as “Roll Over, Beethoven.” Berry’s hit “Johnny B. Goode” was supposedly written as a tribute to Johnson.

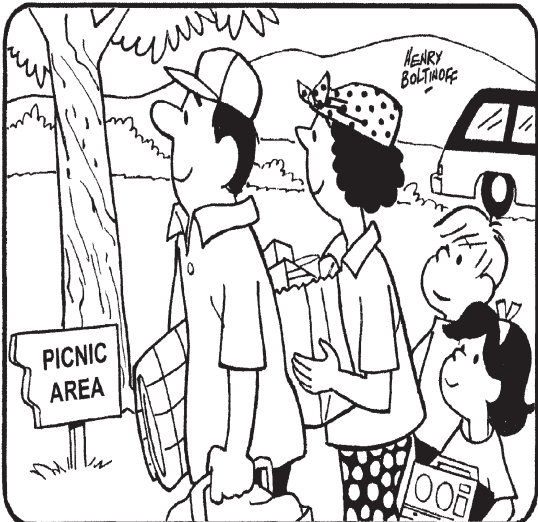
July 8, 1961: Sutton Dam was dedicated by Governor Wally Barron. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam for purposes of flood control, low-flow augmentation and recreation.

July 9, 1942: An explosion at the Pursglove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in an eight-month period.

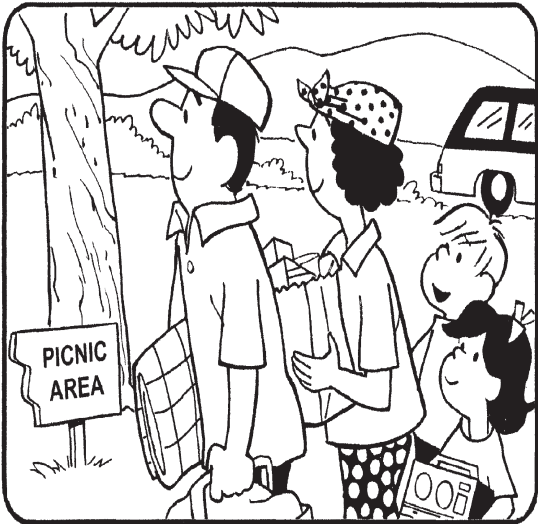
July 9, 1989: Treasurer A. James Manchin resigned after being impeached. With a stock market downturn in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly \$300 million in investments for which he was responsible.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cap is larger. 2. Hair ribbon is moved. 3. Thumb is moved. 4. Mouth is open. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Tree trunk is wider.

Super Crossword

NEW ORDER OF BIRDS

ACROSS

- 1 They're filled at filling stations
9 Causes of some winter roof leaks
16 Two or three
20 Its capital is Springfield
21 Good time to shop and save
22 1977 hit for Electric Light Orchestra
23 Bird hanging around power-generating structures?
25 Bottom-of-the-barrel bit
26 "Grace and Frankie" co-star Lily
27 Me, in Marne
28 Take a chair
29 Spike for a rock climber
30 lcky food
33 Bird with a pronounced lower back?
36 Elite police unit
41 35mm camera type
42 Holy Week follower

- 43 Bird with an affliction?
48 Lead-in to lateral
49 It flows through Köln
50 Rocker Ocasek
51 "Ammonium" has three
52 Single's first half
54 Response to "You weren't!"
55 Jazz great Fitzgerald
58 Give a bird a monetary reward?
60 "God Love Us" rapper
61 Pecans and cashews
64 Eggs
65 Slow-moving reptile with a bird on its back?
73 Aussie critter
74 Outer surface
75 911 VIP
76 Waterway full of birds?
82 Billfold bills
83 Employee welfare agcy.
84 Daisy type
85 Daisy of "Li'l Abner"
86 Pull along

- 88 Old paper sections
89 Bub
90 Share employment hours with a bird?
95 Actress Clarke or Fox
98 Boating blade
99 "Are we out of danger?"
100 Bird starring in "The Birds"?
104 Wise — owl
105 Novelist Loos
106 Two times LI
107 Neighbor of Okla.
109 "You did not just say that!"
115 Will of "The Waltons"
116 Jacket with bird hues?
120 Coastal eagle
121 100% correct
122 Overpraises
123 Old booming jets, in brief
124 Catholic prayer books
125 Pre-release software trial

DOWN

- 1 Central idea
2 Certain sax
3 Skinny
4 Cash drawer

- 5 Opposer
6 One who's hardly saintly
7 Tool set, e.g.
8 Guyana-to-Bolivia dir.
9 "Money — object"
10 Escalade carmaker
11 Wood for dartboards
12 Certain belief in God
13 Impromptu
14 Country south of Sicily
15 — admin
16 Extra installations
17 Courage in adversity
18 Big surprise
19 Like the operas "Parsifal" and "Lohengrin"
24 Wee devil
29 Free TV ad
31 Thai tongue
32 Texter's "Yowza!"
34 Website ID
35 Family mem.
36 Run very fast
37 Guitarist's pedal effect
38 Resting
39 That's partner
40 Boatload
41 — -fi movie

- 44 Tabriz native
45 Stephen of "Utopia"
46 Actress Irving
47 Suffix with cartoon
52 Break off
53 — -Tass
55 Slip-up
56 Allow to
57 Zodiac feline
58 H.S. junior's hurdle
59 Hostess snack cakes
61 — degree or another
62 Consumer
63 Neighbor of Okla.
66 Helen of —
67 Abbr. on a food carton
68 "Dr." of rap
69 It's in bronze
70 Greek goddess of the hearth
71 Doug who is married to Kamala Harris
72 Just one bite
76 Websites' "front covers"
77 Ones taking a close look
78 Awardee, say
79 Texter's "I think ..."

- 80 Alternate wd. spelling
81 "A mouse!"
83 Circus cries
86 Feeling gratitude
87 Not 'neath
88 Post-Q string
90 Baby's cry
91 "Little piggy"
92 — for Evidence" (Sue Grafton novel)
93 "Hugo" star Butterfield
94 Relative of a wood engraving
96 Petrol units
97 "Give — rest"
101 Gut bacterium
102 Radio knobs
103 Celebrity photographer Herb
104 Even a hint of
108 Spy Aldrich
110 Spanish greeting
111 Shutter piece
112 Short letter
113 God of war
114 "You ... over there ..."
116 Engine wheel
117 Singer Rita
118 Slap cuffs on
119 Fruity quaff

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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

THE WIDEN NEWS

WIDEN, WEST VIRGINIA

H. L. BEATTIE

MANAGING EDITOR

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

PEARLE D. WILLIAMS

VICTOR B. SHINGLER

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Elk River Employee's Annual Homecoming Is Big Success

The annual Fourth of July celebration at Widen, West Virginia was a great success. The celebration was sponsored by the Employees League of Widen Miners and promoted by the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Club, and under the personal supervision of Mr. H. L. Beattie, who is Vice President of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company and President of the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Club.

The day dawned with plenty of sunshine which lasted most of the day.

The Parade, starting down on Buffalo Road, wound its way to the upper end of Nicholas Street and ended at the "Old Ball Diamond." A lot of work was done in the weeks prior to the Fourth to prepare the floats, etc. that took part in the Parade. The National Guard Unit at Gassaway furnished a tank and crew to participate in the Parade, which caused much comment. The tank was put on display at Mullins Garage. A number of people in Widen that day had never seen a tank except in movies or pictures. This gave them a chance for a close-up of a real tank. B. E. Taylor was Committeeman in charge of floats.

Fourteen of Widen's most beautiful women participated in a Beauty Contest at the Swimming Pool. Mr. Harold Dawson was in charge. The Judges, Mrs. Noralee McMillion, Mr. E. D. Currence and Mr. W. S. Dorrill, chose Miss April Manning for first place, Miss Marilyn Lewis for second place, and Miss Patsy Gibson for third place.

Swimming and diving contests took place at 11:00 a.m. Winning first and second places for swimming were Jerry Hamrick and Johnny Beam, respectively.

A Band Concert was given by the Widen School Band, under the direction of Mr. Gerald Simmons. The Band also participated in the parade and looked real "snazzy" in their bright red uniforms.

Family". It was well received and appears elsewhere in this issue of The Widen News.

At 12:15 P. M. an Archery contest was held at the ball field, under the direction of Mr. Harold Stump. Several men entered the contest. Harold Stump won first place honors.

The Horse Show took place at 1:00 P. M. at the Old Ball Diamond. Several classes were entered in the contest—Ponies (48 inches and under and over), Western Parade, Potalo Race, Pleasure Horses, Open Walking Horses and Open Five Gaited. Local committeemen were Melvin Conner, W. W. Cook and Radford Lykins. Officials were: Judge, W. A. Williams, Alderson, West Virginia; Ringmaster, W. B. Rogers, Alderson, West Virginia; and Announcer, Woody Vankirk, Gassaway, West Virginia.

A baseball game took place between the old Widen Buffaloes and the New Widen Buffaloes teams. Although it rained a few drops, the large crowd gathered around the field stayed to the finish. The Old Widen Buffaloes team won the game.

Following the above festivities a Talent Show at 7:00 p.m. Presentation of Awards at 8:00 P. M. Fireworks at 9:00 P. M. and ending the long day with a dance at 10:00 P.M.

Dance music was by the Widen Rhythm Kings—Band music by Widen School Band and the food and refreshment stand was operated by the Widen Woman's Club

A RESOLUTION

I hereby resolve to keep my eyes open so that I may see my friends; my ears open so that I may hear my friends; my mind open so that I may understand my friends. I promise not to be cross if I am misunderstood by them, as I want my influence in this world to be for good.—Clark S. Haas.

Fourth of July Awards Presented

Many competitive events were held during the recent 4th of July Celebration at Widen, W. Va. Beautiful trophies were presented to the winners in each division by Mr. Carl Young, Member of the Bargaining Committee of the Employees League of Widen Miners. Awards were presented to the following:

Archery—

Harold Stump—1st place winner
Melvin Rapp—2nd place winner

Beauty Contest—

April Manning—1st place winner
Marilyn Lewis—2nd place winner

Patsy Gibson—3rd place winner

Floats

Widen Woman's Club—1st place winner

Buffalo Valley Sportsman's Club—2nd place winner

Widen PTA—3rd place winner

Jeep Parade—

Cecil Butcher—1st place winner

Bicycle Race—

Joseph Wayne Potasnik — 1st place winner

Abraham Holmes — 2nd place winner

Swimming Award—

Jerry Wayne Hamrick — 1st place winner

Johnny Beam—2nd place winner

Talent Award—

Lynn Mullins, Lois Casto, Teresa Potasnik, Beth Butcher, Mary Dorrill, Freda Cottrell—1st place winner (Choral Group)

Larry Kenner — (singing) — 2nd place winner.

WIDEN PARTICIPATES IN OBSERVER ALERT, JULY 19

A 24 hour alert was staged recently by the Ground Observer Corp of West Virginia. The post at Widen participated in this very successful alert. The alert began at 5 o'clock Saturday evening, July 19th and ended at 5 o'clock Sunday evening July 20th. This is the first 24 hour tour of duty called since Widen officially opened a Ground Observer Post. Those participating in the alert were:

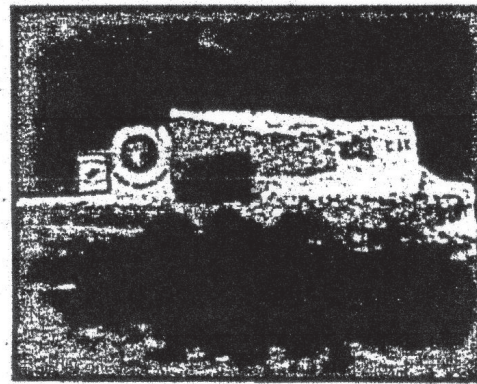
Mr. Robert C. Manning, Mr. Harold Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. Victor B. Shingler, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Williams, Miss Hazel Baughman, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Frame, Miss Marion Taka, Mr. Ed Ketchka, Mr. Monet Waggoner, Mr. T. H. Mullins, Mr. Charles A. Wilson, Mr. DeForrest McMillion, Mr. H. L. Beattie, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Manning, Mr. E. C. George, Mr. Darrell Wood, Mr. Jerle Hamrick, and Mr. Branty Hickman.

FOOD STAND SUCCESSFUL

Hazel Baughman, Finance Chairman of The Woman's Club reports the food booth of the club at the July 4th Celebration this year was a great success. She wishes to thank all members as well as all others for their help.

This project is the one big project undertaken by the Widen Woman's Club each year.

WIDEN WOMAN'S CLUB WINS FIRST PLACE IN FLOAT DIVISION OF JULY FOURTH PARADE HELD IN WIDEN



The above pictured float of The Widen Woman's Club which represents many hours of hard labor and blistered fingers, won 1st place award in the parade of floats at the July 4th celebration.

Mrs. Ronald Brown, Chairman and her Committee are to be complimented on it's beauty. The float

was made of paper napkins (approximately 9,000) which carried out the club colors of pink and green. Riding the float were the two girls sponsored by the club to Rhododendron Girls State and Camp Horseshoe, and also Brownie and Girl Scouts which are sponsored by the Club.

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SECRETARY ROLLINS

Continued from Page 1

the costs for biosecurity improvements on farms to help strengthen the biosecurity of the nation’s poultry flock.

USDA offers two free, voluntary biosecurity assessments to help farmers get ahead of any potential HPAI threats. One focuses on wildlife risk mitigation and another on general biosecurity improvements.

Wildlife Biosecurity Assessments have been very successful in safeguarding farms from the spread of HPAI from wild birds. These additional safety measures have proven to minimize flu cases. Biosecurity Incentives Assessments help poultry producers identify where they can best focus their safeguards against avian flu.

From January 20 to June 26, 2025, USDA has completed 948 total biosecurity assessments on farms across the United States. More information about the types of assessments completed and the updated number of participating farms is available on the public dash-

board.

USDA shares up to 75% of costs to fix the highest-risk biosecurity concerns identified during the assessments. Producers can email poultry.biosecurity@usda.gov or call 844-820-2234 to request these assessments.

Other Progress on USDA’s Five-Pronged Strategy

Expedited Relief for Farmers to Accelerate Repopulation: USDA has continued providing financial relief and support for faster repopulation of poultry flocks after an HPAI detection. Since February 27, 2025, when USDA increased indemnity values available to producers affected by HPAI, over \$70 million has been paid out to directly support layer flocks. These increased indemnity rates have provided producers a level of support and stability to help them in moving forward to repopulate their flocks as quickly as possible.

Reduced Regulatory Burdens to Expand Supply & Lower Prices: Secretary

Rollins continues to meet directly with producers around the country to listen to their concerns and work to find new and innovative solutions to provide relief for their regulatory and financial burdens. USDA has also taken action to reduce red tape for the poultry industry by eliminating redundant worker safety data submissions and extending line speed waivers and withdrawing the proposed “Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products”.

Harnessed American Innovation in Avian Flu Research & Vaccine Development: USDA received an overwhelming response to the HPAI Poultry Innovation Grand Challenge Funding Opportunity, which closed on May 19, 2025, with 417 proposals received. In total, applicants proposed a total of \$793 million in funding. These projects focus on a range of innovations to support research into HPAI prevention, therapeutics, and potential vaccines. USDA expects awards to be

finalized by this fall.

Leveraged Safe Import-Export to Stabilize Supply: USDA’s continued efforts to supplement domestic shell and egg products have resulted in an increase in imports to help bolster our domestic supply. Since January 2025, more than 26 million dozen shell eggs have been imported from Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, Turkey, and South Korea for breaking and pasteurization, increasing the quantity of eggs available to consumers. An additional 14 million egg products have been imported this year, bringing total egg imports to over 40 million. To compare, in 2024 U.S. egg production totaled 109 billion eggs. To more smoothly facilitate these imports, USDA has inspected and approved three new facilities—one in Arkansas and two in New York—to receive imported shell/table eggs for breaking and pasteurization, bringing the total number of approved facilities in the United States to six.

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARELSTON

CASE NO. 25-0413-E-ENEC
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and
WHEELING POWER COMPANY

Petition to Initiate the Annual Review and to
Update the ENEC Rates Currently in Effect.

NOTICE OF FILING AND EVIDENTIARY AND PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS

On April 29, 2025, Appalachian Power Company and Wheeling Power Company (jointly the Companies) filed their 2025 petition to initiate the annual review and update of Expanded Net Energy Cost (ENEC) rates. The Companies propose to increase ENEC rates effective September 1, 2025 to produce an additional \$71.6 million in annual ENEC revenues, an increase of 3.79% over total revenues.

If approved, the impact on an average monthly bill by customer category would be:

	(\$) INCREASE/(DECREASE)	(%) INCREASE/(DECREASE)
Residential	\$5.31	3.03%
Commercial	\$15.05	3.31%
Industrial	\$13,400.15	4.77%
Special Contract¹	\$40,054.10	6.88%
Other	\$0.45	1.98%

¹Excludes Special Contract customers who are billed standard tariff rates.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Each class may receive an increase or decrease greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Commission.

The Public Service Commission has scheduled a public comment hearing in this matter on August 11, 2025 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The public comment hearing will be held virtually, allowing for interested persons to make a comment telephonically, through the Microsoft Teams application from the internet, or in-person at the Commission headquarters. Interested persons intending to appear to make a public comment should register with the Commission by 4:00 p.m. on August 8, 2025. The Commission may cancel the virtual public comment meeting if there is not sufficient interest in participation shown. We, therefore, encourage members of the public who wish to speak at the meeting to register for the virtual meeting by August 8, 2025. Registration may be made by any of the following methods:

- (1) Through the Microsoft Teams meeting link located on the Commission’s website, <http://www.psc.state.wv.us> under the “PSC Hot Topics” section located at the top of the homepage;
 - (2) By calling 304-340-0822 (Alexis Weimer) or 304-340-0820 (Andrew Gallagher); or
 - (3) By emailing aweimer@psc.state.wv.us or aqallagher@psc.state.wv.us.
- The link for the Microsoft Teams meeting will also be provided in a future press release from the Commission. Interested persons wishing to comment in-person at the public comment hearing should attend and sign up to speak by 5:30 p.m. on August 11, 2025 at the Public Service Commission, Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 2532325301.

As an alternative to speaking at the public comment hearing virtually or in person, individuals or entities interested in providing written comments regarding this case should submit their comments by mail or hand delivery to Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323 or online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us> by clicking on “Submit A Comment” in the left column and following the directions provided. All written comments should be marked with Case No. 25-0413-E-ENEC.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing beginning 9:30 a.m. on August 12, 2025 and continuing through August 13, 2025, if necessary, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission Building, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Interested persons should monitor the Commission’s web docket and website because the public comment or evidentiary hearing may be cancelled for good cause.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a notice of intervention no later than 4:00 p.m. July 11, 2025, unless this deadline is modified by Commission order. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission’s rule on intervention set forth in the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. All interventions may be mailed and be addressed to Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, West Virginia 25323, or hand-delivered. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website using the “Submit a Comment” link or may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Executive Secretary at the address above.

A complete copy of the proposed tariff rates, as well as a representative of the Companies to provide any information requested concerning the proposed rate filing, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at any of the business offices of the Companies.

A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia and can be viewed on the Commission website at [https://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/WebDocket/View\[Document.cfm?CaseActivityID=640581&NotType=WebDocket](https://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/WebDocket/View[Document.cfm?CaseActivityID=640581&NotType=WebDocket) (Warning: this is a large document and may take a while to open in your web browser.)

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and
WHEELING POWER COMPANY

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
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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.

Christine Hershaw
Clerk of the Court

LEGAL

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Clay County Clerk’s Office at P.O. Box 190, 246 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043-0190. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Clay County Clerk’s Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 or 44-3A.

Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.

Publication Date: Thursday, July 3, 2025
Claim Deadline: Monday, September 1, 2025

APPOINTMENT DATE 06/10/2025
ESTATE NAME: ZACHARY BLAKE FUGETT
ADMINISTRATRIX JENNIFER RENEA FUGETT
2886 OSSIA ROAD
DUCK WV 25063-8312

APPOINTMENT DATE 03/19/2025
ESTATE NAME: DONALD RON MOORE
EXECUTOR RONALD LANE
2402 FOLA RD
BICKMORE WV 25019-9786

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 06/27/2025
Sheila Stone
County Clerk
Clay County
P.O. Box 190
246 Main Street
Clay WV 25043-0190

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Home of the brave, land of the free...right?

By Allen Hamrick
Here it is July 4th and people’s minds are focused on cookouts, fireworks, camping, boating and whatever else people do to entertain themselves in the beginning throes of summer. Rightly so, too. We have reason to enjoy freedom, do we not? Of course we do, but let’s not forget what the fireworks are all about. As the national anthem states, “And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.” The history of this country started long before 1776 and continues to evolve every day, sometimes good and sometimes not so good.
Who could forget the Boston Tea Party- when they discovered an herbal tea blend that revolutionized our new national health standards? This was a time when people got tired of the status quo of bowing to established orders; this was a time when people took con-

trol of their own lives. From 1775 to 1781, the American people paid a terrible price to get this country started. However, a determined people armed with old musketry, fire, pitchforks, wooden canoes and a raging case of kick butt triumphed over the armies and navies of merry old England.
It was a great victory from a people who organized into colonies and declared their independence. The war was a victory for people who could now find their place in society, and that they did. Since then, the states fought against each other in a bitter war of fire and devastation. Over 600,000 died with families decimated and torn apart. Politics went from a force for the people when it first started until the egos of the rich and shameless needed more. Native tribes were wiped out to near extinction all for the cause of greed. No matter how a person tries to justify it, you really can’t. It has taken

many years and many heartaches to get things right. No, this country is far from perfect, but take away politics, greed, and constant warring, and you have people who, for their own personal reasons, love the country and will die for it. What makes the country great is its people, and it was those people we remember on this day, July 4th, people just like us who had problems and fixed them. The Revolutionary War took care of a lot of problems, created just as many and the business of creating a country from scratch began leaving the greatest question for the people to figure out - what do we do now?
So, when you see the fireworks representing the bombs in the air, remember what they truly symbolize. Francis Scott Key was inspired to pen The Defense of Fort McHenry, otherwise known as The Star-Spangled Banner, when the British navy fleet attempted to bomb Fort McHenry and take over

the town. The people in the fort stood their ground, and the British were defeated. The actions of the Patriots when this country was formed were a thing of beauty. It is never over though; hope is the last thing that dies within its people. Let’s not let it die in this country.
Clay County held its own early celebration this past weekend with a party in the streets and fireworks that filled the night sky. A great time had by those in attendance as they danced into the night with music provided by local talent and filled their bellies with food.
This country is still one of the greatest countries to live in, remember this as we celebrate our freedoms and take time to reflect on our country’s history. America is a place where hard work, a strong mind and love of country and her people should be top on the list. Remember where you come from because it will light the path to your future.

Bassin’ in an outdoor furnace

By Allen Hamrick
It’s summertime, and it is hot enough to melt the skin off an alligator. Summer-time means fast, furious fishing for quick bites around ledges, points and brush piles. Strike zones in deeper, cooler areas need large baits to draw out the bucket mouths. Those large helpings help trigger hits as the bite slows down with the rise of the thermometer. It will make the difference between a good day on the water instead of a day on the water. In the summer, bass like to be where the current slings by the occasional dinner. Avoiding the high temperatures in the middle of the day is a good bet, but know that a cloudy and rainy day is one of those times to not shy away from the water. Just before a rain, the humidity is at its highest, and at that time, the fish will be on the run instead of hanging out waiting. Scientifically, bass feed different-

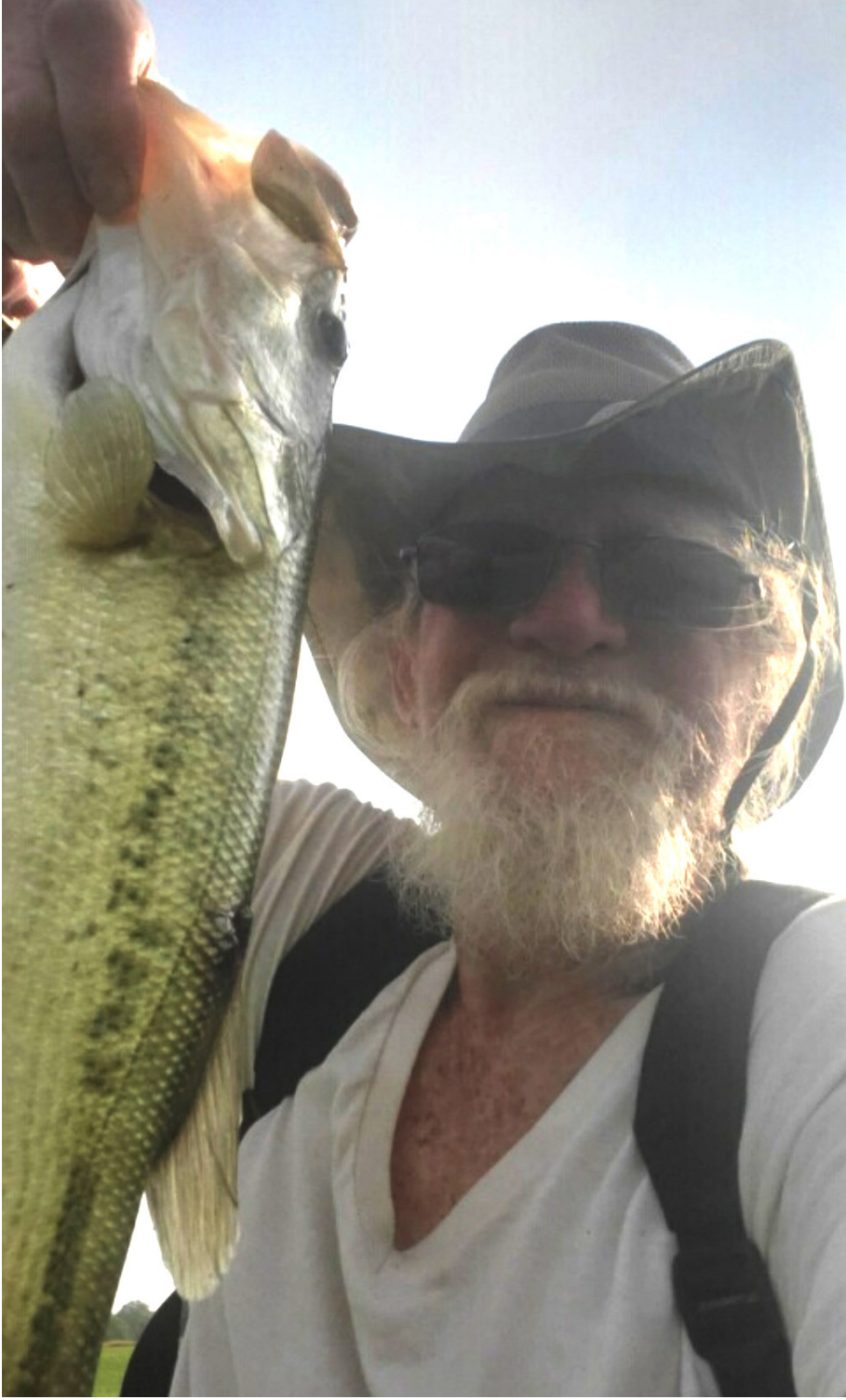
ly when the barometric pressure is up or down. So, high humid conditions and low pressure are best when it’s raining, hence better fishing opportunities to catch a lot of bass. The fact is summertime bass fishing is as unpredictable as getting married; conditions change, sometime fast, and you must be ready to adapt. If something ain’t working, don’t go home; try something different but do it intelligently.
Of course, not everybody wants to jump in a boat or kayak when it’s raining hard enough to sink a Jon boat. One must be a hardcore “basser” to break out the rain suit and get to casting- but it can yield a lot of fish. Top water baits are often the best during the rain, and you must play with the retrieve to get the speed right. Buzz baits, spinner baits, spoons - anything that will make a noisy presentation - will often draw a lot of attention from bass. Sum-

mit Lake in nearby Pocahontas County is a great place to put in your kayak or small boat. With tons of lily pads to get hung up in, the opportunity for big bass is there. With a kayak, you can get up and

into places the hot spots boats can’t get to. Challenge yourself to go out of your comfort zone in front of the AC and embrace the heat for some big bass. Stay cool and keep a tight line.



Elk River Lunker



R. Hamrick reeling and sweating

USPS Reminds Public: Fireworks are Fun on the Fourth, But They Don’t Belong in the Mail

With July 4th approaching, the U.S. Postal Service is reminding customers that while fireworks are a fun way to celebrate Independence Day, they are strictly prohibited in the mail system.

Fireworks of all kinds — including sparklers, firecrackers, bottle rockets and Roman candles — are considered hazardous materials and are banned from all air and ground transportation through USPS because they pose a threat to safety.

“Shipping fireworks through the mail puts our employees, customers and transportation networks at serious risk,” said Acting Postmaster General and CEO Doug Tulino. “Even small items like firecrackers or bottle rockets can cause fires, explosions or injuries if mishandled.”

To keep employees and facilities safe, the Postal Service uses a range of tools, including technology and inspection protocols, to detect non-mailable items. Individuals caught mailing fireworks may face civil penalties, criminal charges, and other consequences. Last year, the Postal Inspection Service opened 1,700 investigations regarding customer attempts to send hazardous materials through the mail, including fireworks and other explosives.

To help ensure a safe and celebratory holiday, the Postal Service encourages customers to review the list of hazardous and restricted items before shipping any package. A full list is available in Publication 52 – Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail. The Postal Inspection Service has also released a public service announcement on fireworks in the mail.