



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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\$1.⁰⁰

What’s the big deal about data centers? Here’s what West Virginians need to know.

Gov. Patrick Morrisey has made attracting data center developments a key component of his economic development strategy. Lawmakers passed a bill to encourage these developments. So, what does that mean for West Virginia?

by Sarah Elbeshbishi for Mountain State Spotlight, www.mountainstatespotlight.com

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Data centers are coming to West Virginia.

At least that’s what state officials are hoping for as they court tech companies to set up shop in the Mountain State.

Gov. Patrick Morrisey has made big tech a key component of his administration’s economic development strategy. Earlier this year, state officials celebrated a measure Morrisey asked lawmakers to pass to lure companies to build these centers in West Virginia. There are at least four proposed projects that are publicly known.

But local residents have already organized to oppose the most high-profile of these, a proposed data center project between Thomas and Davis in Tucker County.

So, what even is a data center? Where are they being proposed? And how will they impact the state? Here’s what West

Virginians need to know.

What is a data center?

A data center is basically a building full of computers. It contains the equipment companies need to process and store their software and other digital data.

As the world becomes more dependent on digital services — whether it’s online shopping, storing data in the cloud or using artificial intelligence — there’s an increased need for more space to store the necessary equipment and information.

And as the demand for this data grows, so does the need for energy. Existing utilities are struggling to keep up with this demand. Data center companies are turning to generating their own power to run their facilities.

This is why West Virginia is starting to see proposals for power plants, unconnected to the electric grid, pop up around the state.

How is the state trying to attract data centers?

In March, more than halfway through the 2025 legislative session, Morrisey asked lawmakers to pass a measure, dubbed the Power Generation and Consumption Act, in order to promote data center development in West Virginia.

Morrisey’s bill proposed to encourage small local energy grids that projects like data centers could operate independently

DATA CENTERS cont. on page 8

County Commission announces Public Transportation Board, Clay County Landmark Commission members

By Gary Lee Stuber

The Clay County Commission met for its first regular monthly meeting on Jul. 14. Commission President Joyce Johnson and Commissioner Duane Legg were in attendance. Commissioner David Schoolcraft was absent. Clay County Clerk Shelia Stone was also present.

Moments before the meeting began, Pat Black, who represented the Veterans Memorial being erected across from the Courthouse on Main Street, had a discussion with the two commissioners about an issue with the retaining wall. They recommended that he try to resolve the issue with what resources he already had.

Joyce said that the Landmark Commission was being announced this morning and there is a long and arduous process to obtain new funding.

The commission opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance as it always does before taking on routine business. The commission approved previous meeting minutes, bills, purchase orders, budget revisions, and erroneous assessments as presented by the Assessor. They announced fiduciary appointments, affidavits and waiver of final settlements, estates, and last will and testaments.

The commission accepted resignations of Samuel Stewart and Christopher Nienhaus from the Clay County Ambulance Service, and designated the Clay County Bank as the Depository of County Funds for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

They announced the resolution of two ongoing water extension projects:

\$159,980.37 for the Big Otter/Nebo water extension project and \$36,825.75 for the Grassy Fork water extension project.

The commission also announced the Public Transportation Board: Joyce Johnson, Duane Legg, David Schoolcraft, Dr. Becher, Diane Hannah and Angela Brown.

With the Clay County Judicial Annex ready to come online by late fall or early winter of this year, and the closing of the old Courthouse, the commission is trying to get an early start on its expected release. So, they announced the Clay County Landmark Commission: Jerry Stover, Duane Legg, Kirstin Hanshaw, JoAnne Exline and Misti Tanner. Their first expected project will be to try to get the Old Courthouse named as a landmark and the funding to restore it before it becomes unusable.

The commission announced they would issue salary checks for county employees for fiscal year 2025-2026 as long as there are sufficient funds in the Elected Officials budgets.

The next regular meeting of the Clay County Commission will be at 9 a.m. on Jul. 28.

Donna Salisbury, who was also in attendance, made several announcements including the installation of new blacktop for the basketball court in Two Run. Angela Brown, Health Department Director, announced that Youth Soccer was now in registration and that games would resume this September on Saturdays. Contact Angela directly or go online to register at Clay County Youth Soccer.

Clay County Ag. Youth Fair set for July 25 and 26

The Clay County Agricultural Youth Fair will be held on July 25 and 26 at Maysel Park in Clay. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, July 23:

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fair Setup at Maysel Park

Friday, July 25:

7 to 11 a.m.: Exhibitor and Animal Check In (Bring your record book) at Maysel Park

11 a.m. to 12 noon: Exhibitor meeting in the Center Ring Bleachers

Noon: Concessions open

6:30 p.m.: Ribbon Cutting in the Center Ring

7 p.m.: Hog Show in the Center Ring

8 to 9 p.m.: Animal Meet and Greet at Maysel Park Ag. Fair Barn

Saturday, July 26:

7 a.m.: Exhibitor Breakfast at the Baseball Concessions Building

Noon: Concessions open

1 p.m.: Rabbit, Lamb, Goat, Chicken, and Calf Shows in the Center Ring

6 p.m.: Buyers Dinner at the Main Building

7 p.m.: Livestock Auction in the Center Ring followed by the fair teardown. Many hands make light work, please stay to work if you can.

2025 Qualified Settlement Fund Expenditure Report released by WVFF

Incorporated in May 2023, the West Virginia First Foundation (WVFF) is responsible for distributing 72.5% of the state’s opioid settlement funds from the Qualified Settlement Fund (QSF). The remaining funds are allocated from the QSF as follows: 24.5% to Local Governments and 3% to the Office of the West Virginia Attorney General. The funds allocated from the QSF to the Local Governments and Attorney General do not pass through WVFF; they flow directly from the QSF to the Local Governments and Attorney General. WVFF does not oversee how Local Governments use their 24.5% share; however, WVFF is responsible for collecting data and reporting those expenditures in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). \$73.5 million was distributed directly to Local Governments from the QSF in December 2023 (reported here). An additional \$24.5 million was disbursed in January 2025, which will be reported no later than April 30, 2026.

Prepared in accordance with Section C(13) of WVFF’s Memorandum of Un-

derstanding (MOU), this first-of-its-kind Annual QSF Expenditure Report reflects how Local Governments within Regions used their direct share of Opioid Settlement Funds from the QSF during the previous fiscal year. This report is intended to serve as a living resource, evolving alongside community needs and data quality

This report does not include funding distributed by WVFF, a private, nonprofit organization. Instead, it summarizes data submitted by Local Governments as required by the MOU, detailing their spending on Approved Purposes. Each Local Government was responsible for submitting its annual financial report to the Foundation by April 30, 2025. This regional summary incorporates all such submissions and was compiled within the thirty-day window outlined in the MOU.

The report includes:

- The total amount of Opioid Funds received directly by Local Governments in the Region

- A breakdown of how those funds were spent, categorized by Approved Uses

WVFF cont. on page 3

How to tell the weather from a granny’s point of view



Granny is conversing with the birds. Artwork by Allen Hamrick.

See story on Page 8

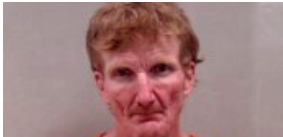
BOOKED



BRAXTON COUNTY



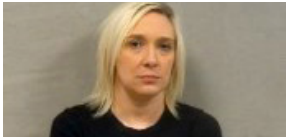
Christopher Lee Daniels
Booked 7/15/25
Violation of protective order,
violation of bond



Ernest Wade Stout
Booked 7/16/25
Capias



Jorge Geraldo Villarreal-Gutierrez
Booked 7/20/25
Brandishing, domestic bat-
tery, battery, domestic assault



Allyson Leigh Boone
Booked 7/17/25
Probation violation

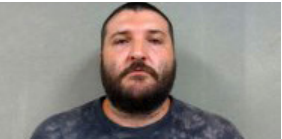


Timothy Lee Diamond II
Booked 7/16/25
Sexual assault, sexual abuse
by parent/guardian, ob-
structing an officer, battery
on officer, sexual abuse in the
first degree, incest

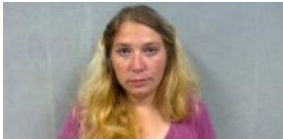


Shawn Michael Foor
Booked 7/19/25
Petit larceny, Capias, break-
ing and entering

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Matthew James Hammons
Booked 7/17/25
Capias



Samantha Nicole Jaynor
Booked 7/18/25
Capias, child neglect



Marinda Lou Sovine
Booked 7/18/25
Violation of protective order



Michael Scott Taylor
Booked 7/18/25
Domestic assault, fleeing on
foot

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*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Benefits reduced first two years. Insurance Policy L770 (ID: L770ID; OK: L770OK; TN: L770TN). 6236-0625

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Courthouse News

Monday, August 11, 2025 Docket Schedule for Magistrate: Bass, Scott

- 01:00 PM, State v. Edsel Ray Westfall Jr., Pre- Trial Hearing, Operators license - Driving while suspended or revoked for DUI, Failure to maintain motor vehicle insurance, Registration card to be carried and exhibited on demand
- 01:30 PM, State v. Charles Thomas Gibson, Pre- Trial Hearing, Persons prohibited possessing firearms - Unlawful user or addicted to controlled substance, Receiving or transferring stolen goods
- 02:00 PM, State v. Nathaniel B. Brown, Pre- Trial Hearing, Failure to yield the right of way at intersection
- 03:00 PM, Misdemeanor State v. Zaki Ivan Inthavongsay, Bench Trial, Simple assault, Battery, Trespass on property other than structure or conveyance, Unlawful removal, injury to or destruction of property (two counts)
- 03:30 PM State v. Bradley Monroe Barker, Pre- Trial Hearing, Open Burning of Refuse

E-LIEAP applications accepted through Aug. 8

The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS) announced that applications for the Emergency Low Income Energy Assistance Program (E-LIEAP) will be accepted from Monday, Jul. 28, through Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, or until funds are exhausted. This program helps low-income families in West Virginia who are facing an energy emergency.

E-LIEAP may also help with cooling costs in some situations. Each application is reviewed individually, and some types of cooling sources may require approval before assistance can be given.

- To qualify:
- Households using gas or electric must present a termination notice when applying.
 - Households using bulk fuels like propane, fuel oil, kerosene, wood, or coal must show that their supply is low when you apply.
 - Households that have already received a regular LIEAP payment for bulk fuel (such as propane, fuel oil, kerosene, wood, or coal), must provide a receipt or proof showing that the LIEAP payment was used to purchase fuel. Applications for E-LIEAP assistance may be denied without this documentation.
- Eligibility for E-LIEAP is determined based on household income, household size, and whether the household is responsible for paying utility costs. In emergency situations, all applicants must meet in person with a DoHS

Household Size	Monthly Allowable Income
1 Person Household	\$2357
2 Person Household	\$3082
3 Person Household	\$3808
4 Person Household	\$4533
5 Person Household	\$5258
6 Person Household	\$5984
7 Person Household	\$6120
8 Person Household	\$6590
9 Person Household	\$7263
10 Person Household	\$7935

worker.

The maximum allowable gross income levels for LIEAP Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 are listed in the graph. For each additional person, add \$673. Households whose countable income exceeds the maximum amount are not eligible. However, some types of income may be excluded for E-LIEAP.

To apply, residents must go to their local DoHS office. A list of local offices may be found at <https://dhhr.wv.gov/pages/field-offices.aspx>.

2025 Mollohan Reunion held

The Mollohan Reunion for 2025 was held earlier this year. There were 32 souls in attendance as follows (sorted by state/town):

Ohio, Beloit: Nicholas Cincinat & Erin Phillips Jordan, and her son William Jordan; Brewster: Sharon Mollohan Cincinat.

Pennsylvania, Butler: Vernon & Susan Aubrecht Hortet Dowdy (farthest).

West Virginia, Charleston: Gary & Loretta Mollohan Nichols Barnes; Whitney Butler & Shawn Kenney, and their dau. Ashlynn Kenney (youngest); Samantha Phillips, her son Bentley Phillips, and his friends Allie Moore and Ethan Rucker. Chloe: Burton & Carolyn Moore Murphy. Clendenin: Thomas & Glenna Mollohan Butler Weese. Duck: Everett & Sandra Kay

McCoy Greenleif Browning (oldest); Debra Foster Mayes; Reatha Robinson. Elkview: Pamela Butler Yost Phillips; Lonnie & Joanna Butler Porter Wheeler. Hurricane: Susan McCracken. Milton: Tim & Deanna McCracken Allen. Poca: Randall Butler & Paula Taylor, and her bro. Tim Taylor. Everett & “Kay” Browning had met at the Big Otter Comm. Center 25-years ago!

Plenty of good food, fellowship, and pictures taken for the Reunion Album to be displayed July 11, 2026 at the next Mollohan Reunion also at the Big Otter Comm. Center. Mark your calendars to save the date! And a big thank you to all who graced us with your presence to keep the reunion going for another year! Take care and God bless you and yours!

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Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Clay County Free Press

EDITOR

Sarah Richardson: news@claycountyfreepress.com

ADVERTISING

Debra Smith: debra@mountainmedianews.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

subscriptions@claycountyfreepress.com

PUBLISHER

Michael Showell, Publisher

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At The Top Of The Ferris Wheel

By Joe Mazzella

When I was a boy growing up every year the county fair would come in September and set up across the road in the 4-H camp near my home. As soon as I was old enough I would spend every night they were there riding the big rides and enjoying the thrills of them. I learned quickly too never to eat before I was done riding if I wanted that greasy fair food to stay down.

After I grew up I gave up the big rides and instead took my small children on the kiddie ones. I loved seeing the joy in their faces as they rode the Merry-go-round. One ride we all stayed away from, though, was the Ferris Wheel. It was too boring for me and too scary for them. But when my oldest son was full grown he asked if he could ride it. I knew the other adult rides would be too much for him because of his Autism sensitivities but I decided that we could handle the Ferris Wheel.

We got in line and as they loaded one car at a time we slowly moved up the wheel. Finally we were at the top. I looked out from that high perch. The mountains were still green and the sun was just beginning to set over them. The sky was the most breath-taking red and a flock of birds were flying across it. The air was warm and sweet. The laughter from the people below was music for my soul. At that time I was going through a lot of struggles financially, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually but sitting there in that moment I felt such peace. I knew that the same loving God who created this beautiful world was watching over and loving me as well.

Even today when I am troubled I go back to that moment in my mind and I always feel that same sense of peace, that same sense of being loved. God Loves us all so much. He created this beautiful world. And He wants us to live in it with Love. May you always choose peace. May you always choose Love. May you always live your life from the top of the Ferris wheel.

Home Country

Slim Randles

“Shore is cold ‘round here,” said Windy, stirring in more sugar. “Went out this morning to the pick ‘em up truck and half my farkels were dang near froze off ‘fore I got that heater a-goin.”

“I hear ya,” said Dud.

“Lose more farkels that way,” added Doc.

“Is farkels a medicine word, Dod?”

“Not really, but it says what you want to say when it’s this cold.”

The talk went along through two refills, a side of bacon and a short stack.

“Bet it don’t get no colder’n this in Alaska,” said Dud.

“You’d be wrong,” said Emma, she of the kind smile carrying the ready coffee pot. “Spent five years up there. Down here in winter, you get cold. Up there in winter, you get dead.”

She had our rapt attention.

“You mean chill factors and stuff like that?” asked Doc.

“Nope,” Emma said. “Want me to warm that cup for you, Steve?”

Steve nodded. Cup appropriately topped off.

She set the coffee pot down on the next table, which was empty. “They invented ways to kill people up there. In winter, it’s the williwaw.”

“Willy-what?”

“Williwaw. It’s a wind, sorta,” she said. “And if it hits you, you probably are going to die. It starts up at the top of a mountain and blows straight down a slope into whatever’s at the bottom. Blew one guy clear across Cook Inlet to the other side. The police said if the inlet hadn’t been frozen over, he’d have drowned.”

“Well, that was a lucky thing, wasn’t it?”

“It woulda been if he hadn’t froze to death on the way down.”

- - - -

Brought to you by Slim’s book “Strange Tales of Alaska,” which may be found on Amazon.com.



One More Candle On Another Cake

Dr. James L. Snyder

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were finishing our supper. If anyone can put together a marvelous supper, it is she. If anybody can eat a marvelous supper, it is me.

As we were finishing, she looked over at me and said, “My dear, do you know what we will be celebrating next week?”

She caught me off guard because I had no idea what holiday was coming up. I’m not a holiday person. I don’t mind celebrating holidays, but I can’t keep up with them.

Rubbing my chin, I said, “Well, we just celebrated the 4th of July a week ago, so I’m not sure what that next holiday is.”

“Oh, you silly boy,” she said, laughing at me. “Just think for a while and maybe you’ll come up with the right idea.”

At my age, it’s tough to think, even for a while. I had no idea what she was talking about, so I just inserted, “Is it one of our grandchildren’s birthday?”

I couldn’t think of anything else at the time. I know we have a bunch of children and grandchildren, and so I was suspecting that one of them was having a birthday. But, for the life of me, I couldn’t tell her which one was having a birthday.

“No, no, no,” she said, laughing at me. “None of our children or grandchildren are having birthdays rather, it is someone sitting here at our table.”

“Oh,” I said, “so you’re having a birthday next week. How old are you going to be?”

“You’re right about that,” she said, “but somebody else is having a birthday next week. You have any idea who that might be?”

I thought for a moment, and then it finally hit me. “Do you mean I’m going to have a birthday next week?”

I looked at her and said, “But how is that possible? I just had a birthday not long ago.”

“That was 12 months ago now you’re facing another birthday.” She looked at me and laughed. I had a hard time coming to terms with the fact that I was having another birthday. Why is it that birthdays come so fast the older you get?

When I was young, I could hardly wait for my birthday. When you’re young, a birthday means a whole lot more than when you get older.

I remember my 16th birthday; I was thrilled because I could now get my driver’s license.

I looked back and thought of all my birthdays and what they meant to me. It wasn’t until a few years ago I realized that having a birthday meant you were one year older. Getting older has many positive aspects, but it also has some less desirable aspects.

WVFF

Continued from Page 1

- Award recipient details, including amounts, descriptions of use, and disbursement terms
- Impact information highlighting measurable outcomes and community benefit

Clay County Commission

Generated on July 15, 2025 for July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Report # 59

County: Clay

Region: Region 5

Government Contact: David Schoolcraft, Clay County Commissioner

Did municipality/county report implementing internal controls or policies regarding opioid settlement funds? Yes

Per State Auditor’s Office requirements, did municipality/county open a separate bank account for opioid settlement funds? Yes

What is the municipality/county’s self-reported process for deciding how opioid settlement funds are disbursed and/or distributed? County Commission makes all decisions

Amount Government Reported Received 7/1/23 - 6/30/24: \$229,553.31

Amount Government Reported Expended 7/1/23 - 6/30/24: \$229,553.31

Balance Government Reports Remaining 6/30/24: \$0.00

Expenditure Details: No expenditure detail data was reported by government.

**HELP WANTED
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Opportunity to work in conservation and agriculture in Elk Conservation District area (Braxton, Clay, Nicholas and Webster counties). Office and field position. AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

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No health or medical insurance provided. Responsibilities include grant writing (experience preferred), and assisting USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service with program planning. This is an at will position.

Mail resume to Elk CD, 738 Airport Road, Sutton, WV 26601, or drop off in box at office, or submit by email to ecd@wvca.us. Deadline for application is July 28, 2025.

Two days after my birthday The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has her birthday. If my birthday was not two days before hers, I probably would never remember when her birthday was. Because she reminded me of my birthday by giving me a birthday card and gift, I remember her birthday was in two days.

I married the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage for many reasons. The best part of marrying her was that her birthday was two days after mine. That would enable me to keep up with my birthday.

One thing I have learned in my marriage is that women, especially wives, remember birthdays. She knows every birthday of every person on her side of the family, as well as all of our kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. I don’t know how she can remember all those birthdays, but she does, and that’s a good thing.

With another candle on my birthday cake, I now celebrate the fact that I am older today than yesterday. That has some benefits associated with it. I just can’t think of any.

The older I get, the less I can remember things. It’s interesting; I can remember things that happened in my childhood, but who’s to say they actually did? When you get old, you can do that sort of thing, and nobody is going to correct you. I make up my memories when I need to know them.

The best thing about my birthday being two days ahead of hers is that once my birthday is celebrated, I can then go out the next day and get a birthday card and present for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. If it were the other way around, she would never get a birthday present on time from me.

I have a hard time remembering my age.

I checked my driver’s license to find out how old I am this year. I never thought I would reach 74 years of age. My father was 78 when he died. In September, my mother will turn 95. I may have inherited my father’s age or my mother’s age. Only time will tell.

Getting old is a blessing in many ways. One of the blessings is memory failure. There are some things that I don’t want to remember, and at my age, I’m not able to.

At my age, I have discovered that the only important thing is today. Not yesterday or tomorrow, but today.

I was reminded of one of my favorite Bible verses. “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

I can’t change yesterday or predict tomorrow, but I can rejoice in Today.

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

Additional Notes / Remarks: None.

Calhoun County Commission

Generated on July 15, 2025 for July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

County: Calhoun

Region: Region 3

Government Contact: Jean Simers

Did municipality/county report implementing internal controls or policies regarding opioid settlement funds? Yes

Per State Auditor’s Office requirements, did municipality/county open a separate bank account for opioid settlement funds? Yes

What is the municipality/county’s self-reported process for deciding how opioid settlement funds are disbursed and/or distributed? Entities present proposals to the County Commission for approval and funding.

Amount Government Reported Received 7/1/23 - 6/30/24: \$120,243.07

Amount Government Reported Expended 7/1/23 - 6/30/24: \$0.00

Balance Government Reports Remaining 6/30/24: \$120,243.07

Expenditure Details: No expenditure detail data was reported by government.

Additional Notes / Remarks: None.

Town of Gassaway

Generated on July 15, 2025

County: Braxton

Region: Region 4

Government Contact: Steve Facemire, Clerk

Did municipality/county report implementing internal controls or policies regarding opioid settlement funds? No

Per State Auditor’s Office requirements, did municipality/county open a separate bank account for opioid settlement funds? No

What is the municipality/county’s self-reported process for deciding how opioid settlement funds are disbursed and/or distributed? Town Council vote

Amount Government Reported Received 7/1/23 - 6/30/24: \$1,629.59

Amount Government Reported Expended 7/1/23 - 6/30/24: \$29.30

Balance Government Reports Remaining 6/30/24: \$1,600.29

Expenditure Details:

Recipient: Hartland

Amount Expended: \$29.30

Approved Use Category: Expand training for first responders, schools, community support groups and families

Expenditure Terms: Other

Disbursement Purpose: Ordered checks for checking account

Outcomes: Able to write checks

Additional Notes / Remarks: None.

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

July 23, 1863: Financier and industrialist Isaac Thomas Mann was born in Greenbrier County. As president of the Bank of Bramwell and the Pocahontas Fuel Company for three decades, “Ike” Mann held vast holdings in coal, timber and especially financial institutions.



July 23, 1900: Author Julia Davis was born in Clarksburg, the daughter of future presidential candidate John W. Davis. She achieved acclaim writing for youth and adults, fiction and nonfiction. She died in Ranson, near her Jefferson County home in 1993.

July 23, 1919: Novelist Davis Grubb was born in Moundsville. His renown

came with his first novel, *The Night of the Hunter* (1953), a gripping suspense story adapted into a classic film in 1955 and for TV in 1991.

July 24, 1823: Arthur Boreman, West Virginia’s first governor, was born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. His family moved to Middlebourne, Tyler County, when he was still an infant.

July 24, 1919: Sam Taylor of Mercer County became the first West Virginia State Police trooper. During his tenure, Taylor tracked moonshiners and bootleggers, and helped set up new state police detachments.

July 24, 1929: Cornelius Charlton was born in East Gulf, Raleigh County. Charlton was killed in battle during the Korean War, and he was honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor.

July 24, 1942: Actor Chris Sarandon was born in Beckley. A film, stage and television performer, some of his credits include *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *The Princess*

Bride and an Oscar nomination for *Dog Day Afternoon*.

July 24, 1983: Kansas City Royals player and Glen Dale native George Brett was involved in the “Pine-Tar Bat Incident.” After hitting a game-winning home run against the New York Yankees, the umpires ruled that Brett’s bat contained too much pine tar and called him out. The ensuing melee at home plate is classic baseball lore.

July 25, 1864: A colony of eight Catholic nuns set out from Washington, D.C., and Frederick, Maryland, for Parkersburg. The sisters, who created a monastery there and named it DeSales Heights, ran a boarding school for young women for 75 years.

July 26, 1922: Country music producer and recording label executive Jim Foglesong was born in Lundale, Logan County. In Nashville, he found success working with Roy Clark, Donna Fargo, Hank Thompson, Barbara Mandrell, The Oak Ridge Boys, Don Williams and many

other artists.



July 26, 1942: Camp Washington-Carver was dedicated and opened to the public. The camp, located at Clifftop, Fayette County, was the first statewide 4-H camp for African Americans in the country. The camp’s Great Chestnut Lodge is West Virginia’s largest log structure.



July 27, 1895: Singer, instrumentalist and educator Revella Hughes was born in Huntington. After becoming a star of the Harlem Renaissance, she returned home to care for her ailing mother and lead the music department of Cabell County’s segregated Black school system.

July 27, 1896: Clark Kessinger was born near

Charleston. He was among the most prolific and influential fiddlers of the 20th century, and one of West Virginia’s most important traditional musicians.

July 27, 1909: Coach “Dyke” Raese was born in Davis, Tucker County. He directed West Virginia University to its first major sports national championship, winning the 1942 National Invitation Tournament in basketball.



July 28, 1836: Nathan Cook Brackett was born in Maine. In 1867, he founded and became the first president of Storer College in Harpers Ferry. For 24 years, it was the only Black college in West Virginia.

July 28, 1915: Frankie Yankovic was born in Davis, Tucker County.

Yankovic did more to popularize polka music than any other performer.

July 29, 1873: Malcolm Malachi “Mack” Day was born. As sheriff of McDowell County, he claimed that God had called him to enforce Prohibition, even arresting an uncle and his own son.

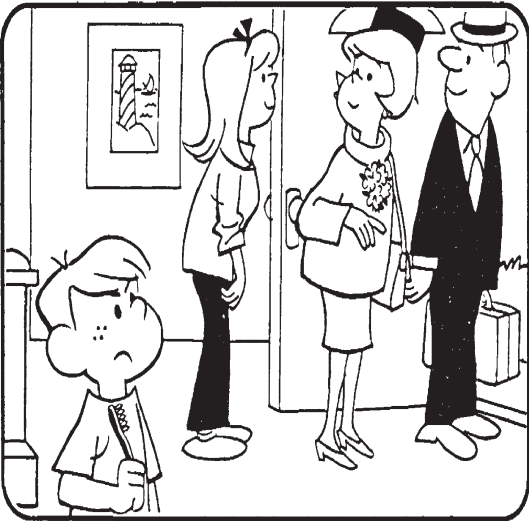
July 29-31, 1915: Camp Good Luck, believed to be the world’s first 4-H club encampment, was held at Elkwater in southern Randolph County.

July 29, 1918: Novelist Mary Lee Settle was born in Charleston. Her literary reputation rests on the “*Beulah Quintet*,” a sequence of five historical novels spanning four centuries.

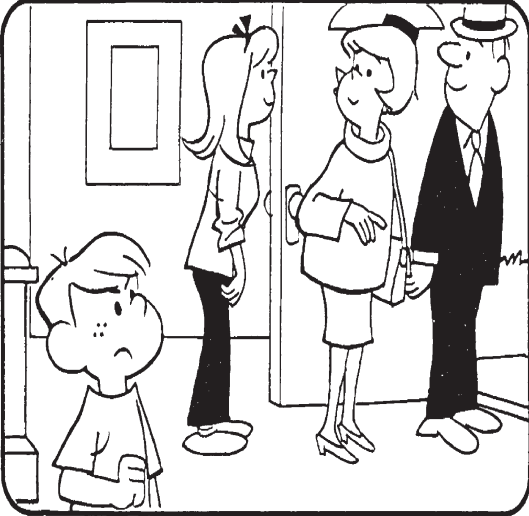


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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ACROSS

- 1 Warning about a racy web pic
5 “West Side Story” knife
9 Seasoned vet
15 Bro
19 French for “yours”
20 Treat for feet, for short
21 Pope after Marcellus II
22 Scads
23 RFORM
26 Rapper Snoop —
27 Variety show hosts, e.g.
28 ACLU interests: Abbr.
29 Farming unit
31 Pasty luau food
32 Flight takeoff abbr.
33 NTR
38 “Peek- —!”
40 Classic comic Martha
41 Uplifting poems
42 Place full of video games
43 UBL
46 Chicken cordon —
47 British chums
48 Stars and Stripes’ nation

- 49 —’wester (certain storm)
50 “Oh, God!” actress Garr
54 Cousins of aves.
55 Name of some newspapers
57 GHTE
62 Actors Fiennes and Macchio
65 Very top
66 Flying
67 TRONI
72 Cast out of the country
73 Official helper
74 Pays out
75 EAKI
79 Diner check
80 Start for existing
83 Name of some newspapers
84 Vetoer’s vote
85 U.S. tax org.
88 Aromatic aftershave liquid
90 QBs’ blunders: Abbr.
92 RKE
96 Person doing a crossword puzzle, e.g.
99 Outer limit

- 100 Chimney grime
101 Great serves
102 HEER
105 2000-15 CBS series
106 Writer Rand
107 Blood type, in brief
108 Total
109 Wakes up
112 Writer Uris
114 NTEN
119 Peel, as fruit
120 Excited response to “Who wants ice cream?”
121 Cozy corner
122 Pierce player Alan
123 Cast off hair
124 Swan constellation
125 Forest sight
126 Saclike growth

DOWN

- 1 Neck back
2 Mushroom feature
3 Some plays on ground balls
4 Fiancee
5 Colo. — (city S. of Denver)
6 Skirt line
7 “Just go ahead and try!”

- 8 Wine merchants
9 Unlock, in poems
10 Resting place for a napkin
11 Drinker’s hwy. offense
12 Implores
13 Christina of “Bel Ami”
14 Put too high a price on
15 Papa
16 Perfect world
17 Be charitable
18 Gas guzzler
24 Multivolume U.K. lexicon
25 Chicago winter hrs.
30 Blarney Stone’s land
33 Mushroom feature
34 King, in Lyon
35 Hubbub
36 Novelist Deighton
37 Runs furtively with short, quick steps
38 Heads of fleets: Abbr.
39 Regatta entry
40 Upshot
44 Evan of figure skating
45 Univ. helpers
46 Web automaton

- 49 Brother of Moe and Curly
51 Deep black, in poems
52 Break in friendship
53 Hairy TV cousin
56 “Science Friday” airer
58 Person tying shoes
59 Onetime transportation agcy.
60 Foods created by biotech
61 Flood-prevention sack
62 One sharing your blood
63 Songwriter Carmichael
64 Salon noise
67 Large-scale public show
68 Untrue tales
69 Neighbor of Mont.
70 Caress
71 How money may be lost
72 Sci-fi gift
76 Belonging naturally
77 “One Mic” rapper

- 78 “— ToK” (#1 hit for Keshia)
80 On the nose
81 Viking letter
82 Rescue crew VIPs
86 Occupant
87 Represented
89 Peruvian singer with a wide range
91 Notorious emperor
92 OR workers
93 Rust may be a sign of it
94 DVR remote abbr.
95 Cain, to Eve
96 Hair-raising sites?
97 “Is that so?”
98 Poe’s “radiant maiden”
99 Yuletide quaff
103 Destitute
104 Tic- — -toe
105 Gear tooth
109 Yard tool
110 Outer limits
111 Sports datum
113 TV neighbor of Homer
115 Pewter, mostly
116 Univ. website suffix
117 Vetoers’ votes
118 Rival of Wade

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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9					1		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.

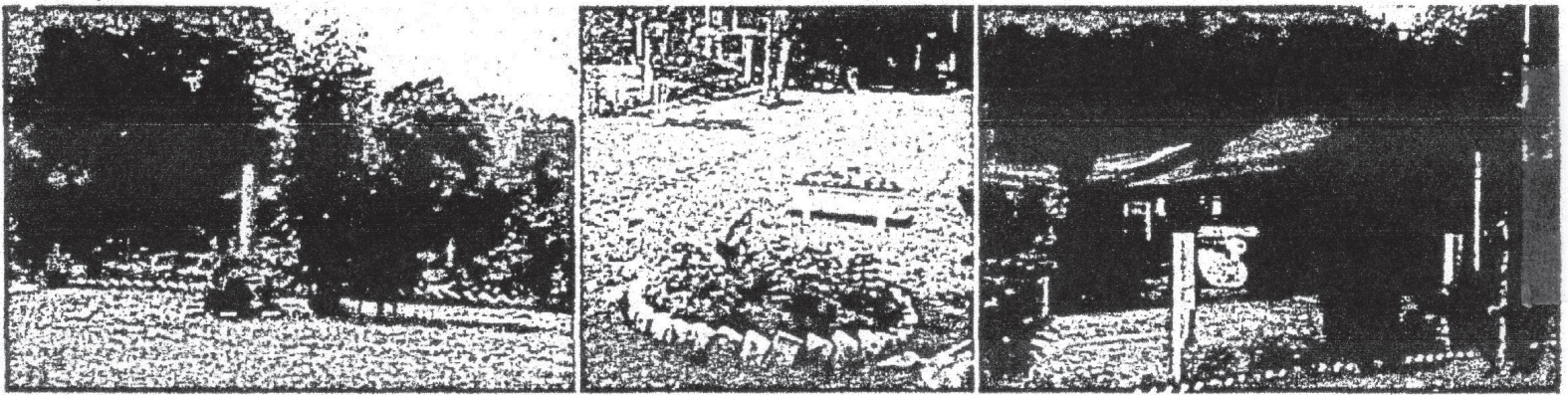
"DUNDON" RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.



July 1958

MR. AND MRS. T. A. SALISBURY ARE JULY YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS



Winning the "Yard-of-the-Month" contest for July was Mr. T. A. Salisbury of Nicholas Street, whose yard is pictured above. Mr. Sal-

isbury spends many enjoyable hours in his yard and the results of his work are very gratifying.

Local Boy Is Groom In Double Wedding Of the Stewart Sisters Of Gassaway

Mr. and Mrs. Camden W. Stewart, 225 Elk Street, Gassaway West Virginia, announce the marriage of their only daughters Diana Yvonne Stewart to John L. Henley, III, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Henley, Sr., of 27 Kanawha Street, Widen, and Susan Roberta, to Larry Kent McLaughlin son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl B. McLaughlin of Gassaway.

The double wedding, double ring ceremony was solemnized on July 11, at 5 p.m., in the First Methodist Parsonage at Tazewell Virginia, with Dr. J. T. Mustard officiating.

For her wedding the new Mrs. Henley was attired in a frost white acrilan sheath frock, with a round neckline, and bodice trimmed with lace. Her accessories were black. Her only jewelry was a necklace with gold cross with an embedded cultured pearl, a gift of the bridegroom's parents.

Mrs. McLaughlin was dressed in a white sheath dress of linen, with gold brocading on the bodice and skirt. Her accessories were baby blue. Her only jewelry was a gold cross on a necklace chain, which was a gift from her brother, Michael Stewart.

Mrs. Henley is a graduate of

Gassaway Highway High School with the class of '57 and at present is employed by the Elk Drive-In Theatre at Gassaway. Mr. Henley is an alumnus of Widen High School, and the past year attended Glenville State College. At present he is employed by the Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad Company at Widen where they plan to make their home in the near future.

Mrs. McLaughlin is a senior in Gassaway High School, and plans to complete her schooling. Mr. McLaughlin is a graduate of Gassaway High School and the past year attended Glenville State College. At present he is employed by McLaughlin Ford Sales in Gassaway. They are residing at Apartment A 712 Elk Street, Gassaway, W. Va.

Left, members of the Bargaining Committee, and Joe Truman League treasurer, represented the employees, while H. L. Beattie, H. S. Williams and E. R. Ketchka represented the company.

There was no change in the list of retired men and the only change in the survivors was the addition of Lola Given, widow of Hamilton Given, who died on June 11.

Fourteen men received disability benefits for the entire month of June and seven others were paid for a portion of the month. Five men, Leo King, Hamon Adkins, Beanie Young, Perry Houghton, and Russell Wyatt, came off the disability list during June with the only additions being Hamilton Given up to the date of his death and J. Cecil Adkins.

Medical and hospital bills were paid for 182 employees at Charleston, Clay, Clendenin, Cowen Gassaway, Glenville, Marmet, Montgomery, Richwood, St. Albans, Summersville, Sutton, and Webster Springs, W. Va., Peking Indiana, Middleport and Pomeroy Ohio; and Charlottesville, Virginia.

Two new items of policy were adopted by the committee at this meeting. The first provides that medical and hospital benefits for survivors of a deceased employee will continue for a period of twenty-one days or the balance of the month following the employee's death, whichever period is longer, the same as if the employee were still alive, and that if the survivors apply for benefits within ten days after the employee's death, the effective date of their benefits will be the day following his death instead of the date of application as heretofore. However, if due application is not made within the ten day period the effective date will be the date of application. The second item concerns medical and hospital benefits for a dependent who has other insurance to cover such matters. The committee agreed that in such cases the Widen Relief Committee would be responsible for only so much of those bills as were not covered by the dependent's insurance.

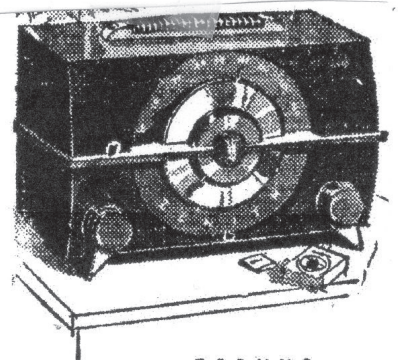
There are still some employees whose dependency cards are not up-to-date. Are you sure about yours? It will only take a minute to check the next time you are in your payroll office.

FEDERATION TO HOLD EDUCATION INSTITUTE

The West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs will hold their second annual Adult Education Institute on August 13 and 14, 1958. This institute will be held in Morgantown, West Virginia through the University Extension Division of The West Virginia University. A very interesting program has been planned which includes the following: Home Economics, Club Clinics, Psychology, Parliamentary Procedure, Education and Recreation. All club members are invited to attend. Reservations must be in not later than August 5th. Reservation blanks may be obtained from Mrs. Cecil Butcher, President, Widen Woman's Club.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Salisbury of Nicholas Street are the July Winners of the "Yard Of The Month Contest" sponsored by The Widen Woman's Club.

The lovely plaque which designates the winner may be seen hanging on Mr. Salisbury's front lawn. This plaque was made and donated to the club by Bernell Baughman. Judges for this month's contest were: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Given of Birch River and Mr. and Mrs. French Young of Dille, West Virginia.



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LEGAL

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA
THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY
IN RE: State v J.D. and B.D. Case Nos. 25-JA-16-17
In the matter of J.D. and B.D., and the unknown whereabouts of
Joshua Dancy, Adult Respondent Father.
ORDER OF PUBLICATION
And
NOTICE OF ANSWER
To: **Joshua Dancy.**
(The object of this action is to notify the Adult Respondent of an abuse
and neglect petition herein filed so that said Adult Respondent may
answer the same to protect their interest).
You are hereby notified that an abuse and neglect and/or abandon-
ment petition has been filed with the Circuit Court of Clay County,
West Virginia, on the 5th day of February 2025, and assigned Case
Numbers 25-JA-16-17, wherein it is alleged that the Adult Respondent
Mother of Infant Respondents J.D. (DOB: 8/29/14), and B.D. (DOB:
12/27/17), is Catherine Dancy, and that said Infant Respondents be
placed in the custody of the West Virginia Department of Health and
Human Resources, with said Infant Respondents remaining in the care,
custody and control of the said Department since that time in accord-
ance with WV Code §49-6-3. You are hereby notified that you have
the right to answer said petition and you have the right to have counsel
present at all stages of these proceedings and ALL PROCEEDINGS
CAN RESULT IN THE PERMANENT TERMINATION OF CUS-
TODIAL AND PARENTAL RIGHTS TO SAID INFANT CHILD.
Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the Adult Respondent, Joshua
Dancy shall appear before the Honorable Judge Asbury on the **13th
day of August 2025, at 9:15 a.m.**, at the Clay County Courthouse,
246 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia, otherwise judgment by default
will be taken against them at any time thereafter, and termination of
your custodial and parental rights may be ordered by the Court.
A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the Office of the Cir-
cuit Clerk of Clay County, West Virginia, at the Clay County Court-
house, Clay, West Virginia.
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA DEPART-
MENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES, CHILD PRO-
TECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION.
BY: Wayne King, Prosecuting Attorney, Clay County, West Virginia.
Entered by the Clerk of said Court on the 8th day of July 2025.

Chavisa Henshaw
Circuit Clerk

LEGAL

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the
Substitute Trustee, WV Trustee Services, LLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated November 10, 2010, ex-
ecuted by Borrower(s), Barbara R Welch and John W Welch, to Richard A. Pill, the Trustee of record in the
office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia, in Book 125, at Page 738. At
the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 240
UPPER TWO RUN RD, CLAY, WV 25043. WV Trustee Services, LLC were appointed as Substitute Trustees
by APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE dated April 21, 2025, of record in the Clerk's Office in
Book 37, Page 356. The borrower(s) defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustees
have been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustees will sell the
following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Clay County, in Clay,
West Virginia, on the following date:

1st day of August, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

All that certain tract or parcel of real estate, together with any buildings or improvements thereon, rights or
rights of way incidental thereto, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the Stephenson Addition
to the town of Clay, in Henry District, Clay County, West Virginia, and as more particularly bounded and
described as follows:

BEGINNING at a 1/2" iron rod set, being a common corner with property of Frank Kerr, Jr., at a 35' street,
thence running with said 35' street N, 70 degrees 24' W., 158.00 feet to an axle found at another 35' street N.
19 degrees 36' E., 109 feet to a 1/2" iron rod set at the old county road; thence running with the old county
road S. 81 degrees 30' E., 161.01 feet to a 1/2" iron rod set, being a common corner with property of Frank
Kerr, Jr.; thence running with the property line of Frank Kerr, Jr., S. 19 degrees 36' W., 140.00 feet to the
place of beginning, containing 0.45 acres, more or less, being designated as Lot 1, 2, and 3 of Block "G" of
the Stephenson Addition as surveyed May 17, 2000, by William A. Robert, N. 714. Being the same real estate
conveyed to John W. Welch and Barbara R. Welch, husband and wife, by Linda A. Given, (formerly known as
Linda A. Jarvis), et al, by deed dated October 28, 2010, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County
Commission of Nicholas County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 207, at Page 622.

This deed of trust is made subject to the same exceptions, reservations, conditions, restrictions and ease-
ments contained in prior deeds of conveyance of record for the above described real estate, insofar as same are
presently applicable and have not been released, abandoned or discharged by law or otherwise.

TERMS OF SALE:

- 1) The property will be conveyed in an "AS IS" physical condition by Deed containing no warranty,
express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior
Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-ways, easements, covenants, convey-
ances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.
- 2) The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia
Code § 11-22-1.
- 3) The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for
the property at sale.
- 4) The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or
oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.
- 5) The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to
vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the
foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED
OF ACCORDINGLY.
- 6) The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten
(10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

WV Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee

BY: _____
Jim Ashley, Limited Signing Officer
WV Trustee Services, LLC
McGuire Office Center
618 Tenth Street, Suite 108
Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 853-3336
jim.ashley@wvtrusteeservices.com

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON
CASE NO. 25-0074-PWD-19A
CLAY-ROANE PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
NOTICE OF STAFF-RECOMMENDED RATES

APPENDIX A

On February 3, 2025, Clay-Roane Public Service District, of Precious, West Virginia, filed with the Public
Service Commission of West Virginia an Application requesting increased rates and charges for furnishing
water service to approximately 856 customers in Clay and Roane Counties, in West Virginia.

The Staff of the Public Service Commission has reviewed the District's rate increase application and recom-
mended an increase in annual revenue of \$42,346, or 5.24% over the District's current rates. The Staff
Recommended Rates will become effective for all service rendered on and after the date upon which the
Public Service Commission's order in this case becomes final. The Staff Recommended Rates are designed to
produce approximately \$42,346 in additional revenue annually for the District, an overall increase of 5.24%
over revenue under Current Rates. Under the Staff Recommended Rates, the monthly bill for the District's
average residential customer with usage of 2,700 gallons will increase by \$3.56 monthly or 5.25% over cur-
rent rates. The District's commercial customers at the average monthly usage of 1,900 gallons will experience
an increase of \$2.64 monthly or 5.25% over current rates. The monthly bill for the District's average public
authority customer with usage of 1,800 gallons per month will increase by \$2.64 or 5.25% over current rates.

The current and Staff-recommended rates are as follows:

RATES (Customers with metered water supply)

	Current	Staff-Recommended
First 10,000 gallons used per month (per 1,000 gallons)	\$25.16	\$26.48
Over 10,000 gallons used per month (per 1,000 gallons)	\$16.51	\$17.37

MINIMUM CHARGE

No bill will be rendered for less than the following amounts, according to the meter installed

5/8 inch meter	\$50.32	\$52.96 per month
3/4 inch meter	\$75.48	\$79.44 per month
1 inch meter	\$125.80	\$132.40 per month
1-1/2 inch meter	\$251.60	\$264.80 per month
2 inch meter	\$402.56	\$423.68 per month
3 inch meter	\$805.12	\$847.36 per month
4 inch meter	\$1,258.00	\$1,324.00 per month
6 inch meter	\$2,516.00	\$2,648.00 per month
8 inch meter	\$4,025.60	\$4,236.80 per month

LEAK ADJUSTMENT (per 1,000 gallons)

\$3.13	\$3.21
--------	--------

Anyone desiring to review the Staff recommendation report may do so on the Commission website (www.
psc.state.wv.us). Anyone desiring to protest the changed rates and charges must do so, in writing, within
ten (10) days of the date of publication of this notice. All protests may be filed on line through the Com-
mission website using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary, Public
Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25323,
or hand-delivered to the Public Service Commission. To help the Commission determine the justification for
additional review and investigation, protests must be specific as to reasons that the changed rates and charges
should be modified.

The Commission may adopt rates and charges which are the same as, greater than or less than the Staff-
recommended rates and charges.

CLAY-ROANE PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

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place
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us at
(304)-
647-
5724

Former Fort Gay Mayor and Treasurer Indicted Following Investigation

A Wayne County grand jury has re-
turned a nine-count indictment charging
former Town of Fort Gay Mayor Joetta
R. Hatfield and former Treasurer and Re-
corder Sheila K. Bowen with embezzle-
ment, fraudulent schemes, conspiracy,
falsifying accounts, and computer fraud.

The charges allege the pair illegally
diverted more than \$370,000 of public
funds over an eight-year period. Based
on an investigation by the Auditor's Pub-
lic Integrity & Fraud Unit, the indictment
alleges that, from February 2017 through
February 2025, Hatfield and Bowen used
their positions to issue unauthorized ven-
dor and payroll checks, overcompensate
themselves for leave, withdraw cash, and
adjust utility payments, all for personal
benefit. Investigators estimate Hatfield

embezzled approximately \$245,000,
while Bowen embezzled about \$127,000.

West Virginia State Auditor Mark Hunt
said the case began when the office's
Chief Inspector Division conducted a
routine financial audit of the Town of
Fort Gay. "These indictments demon-
strate the importance of regular oversight
when it comes to protecting taxpayer dol-
lars," said Auditor Hunt.

The charges further allege Hatfield and
Bowen manipulated the town's books and
computer systems to hide their fraud and
misrepresent the municipality's financial
condition. If convicted, they each face
substantial prison time and restitution.
An indictment is merely an accusation.

All defendants are presumed innocent
unless and until proven guilty in court.

House Health Chair answers CDC report call to action

West Virginia House of Delegates
Health and Human Resources Committee
Chairman Evan Worrell, R-Cabell, is
announcing his plans to continue driving
bold legislative action that helps shape
nationwide health policy, using a new
report from the Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention as a beacon.

According to the CDC, nearly one in
three American teenagers now has pre-
diabetes, a statistic Chairman Worrell
described as alarming and unacceptable.

"This is a public health crisis unfold-
ing before our eyes, particularly in West
Virginia where we already struggle with
some of the nation's highest rates of obe-
sity and diabetes," Worrell said. "I know
we can make West Virginia a national
leader in turning the tide on childhood
diabetes."

West Virginia became the first state
in the country to enact a ban on certain
food dyes and chemicals during Worrell's
first year as Health Committee Chairman,
with the U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services Secretary and other fed-
eral officials visiting the state to applaud
the legislation.

Worrell said ultra-processed foods
have fueled the prediabetes crisis, with
outdated USDA meal-compliance stan-

dards allowing artificial additives and
inflammatory oils to become staples in
school breakfasts and lunches throughout
the Mountain State.

"When you walk into many school caf-
eterias, you'll find trays full of processed
meats, shelf-stable muffins and flavored
milks packed with added sugars," he said.
"That's not nourishment; it's a recipe for
metabolic disaster."

Worrell has already been working on
refining his legislative priorities for the
2026 regular session with a focus on
two areas: Healthy Schools for Healthy
Futures and Active Kids for Strong Com-
munities.

"These are generational issues that
need decisive action now," Worrell said.
"We all have a responsibility to act —
not just as legislators, but as parents and
citizens of this great state, and I refuse to
relegate tens of thousands of young West
Virginians to lives of chronic disease, re-
duced productivity and unnecessary suf-
fering.

"I pledged to use my role as Health
Committee Chairman to help Make West
Virginia Healthy Again. We've taken big
strides already, but much work remains,
and I'm eager to keep West Virginia at
the forefront."

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LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA
In the Matter of Petition of Name Change of
Deborah Mullins-Ayscue Civil Action No. 25-D-27
Current Name Deborah Mullins-Ayscue To Judge Stollings
New Name Deborah Mullins
Legal Notice of Publication
Change of Name

Order of Publication
Circuit Court of Clay County
West Virginia

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of July, 2025 at 1:00
p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Debo-
rah Mullins-Ayscue will apply by Petition to the Family Court of Clay
County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said court, chang-
ing name of Deborah Mullins-Ayscue to Deborah Mullins at which
time any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk
at his office.

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this 2nd day of July 2025.

Chavisa Henshaw
Clerk of the Court



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

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

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

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

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

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

**CLAY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Worship 11:00 AM.
Everyone is Welcome!
Pastor: Wilma Dobbins
**CLENDENIN UNITED
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**
10:00 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Preaching
6:00 PM
Wednesday 7:30 PM
Pastor: Fred Walker

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**FLAT FORK
MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH**
Wednesday Prayer & Bible
Study 6:00 PM
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship 11:30 AM
Pastor: Chris Johnson
**FOLA MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Preaching 11:00 AM
Sunday Night Service 7:00 PM
Wednesday Adults Bible Study
& Kids for Christ 7:00 PM
Pastor: Daniel Tanner

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



Predicting weather the old fashion way

By Allen Hamrick

The last few weeks have been nearly unbearable with the high humidity and extreme temperatures. We have heard many, “Why, it’s so humid I could make a shirt out of this air” complaints, and people genuinely seem miserable. Hardware stores have seen a rise in shower stalls and air conditioner purchases, and even those that only bathe on Saturday started showering two and three times a week. People are scrambling for the nearest water hole to soak their heads and are spending every chance they get near or on water. The one question asked a lot is, “Why is it hot enough to call our mountain state West Tahiti Virginia?”

There is no need to watch the TV weather forecasters to catch a glimmer of hope. I do believe they relish the weather drama, as proven when they are asked when we will get relief, they simply and evilly reply, “Not anytime soon I’m afraid,” with a smirky smile. Currently, they are giving no hope any time soon for the fresh cool air that West Virginians are longing for.

The scientific reason for the heat and the humidity is that West Virginia summers are hot and sultry, especially during the time from the first days of July until the middle of August when the dog star, Sirius, in the constellation Canis Major rears its bright head. This means that dog days are in full bloom, and it’s going to be hot. So, it’s a natural phenomenon they say, scientifically speaking, and you can believe it if the science proves it ...right?

Since modern technology is supposed to be the sounding board for the truth, why can’t meteorologists tell us when the cool air is going to arrive or at least when the wet air will leave our area? The answer, I believe, is they just can’t pass up a good weather drama and play it until the end, simple as that. Most of America has been tuned in every night to see the weather forecasters spin their crystal ball all while slinging their best opinions as to how we

should adjust our plans for the next day. Thank goodness they have brains, and we have listening ears.

Well, there may be a better way than using the reaches of modern science. There is always the rock method, and it’s easily portable and simple; a cave man can do it. Place a rock outside - if it’s wet, it’s raining, and if it’s dry, it’s not raining. If there is snow on the rock, it’s snowing, and if it’s too hot to pick up, damp and the sun is shining, chances are its very humid or a dog used it for a fire hydrant. If the rock is gone, there is high winds, and if you can’t see it, it’s most likely dark.

Here locally, I interviewed a few grannies, and one of the prerequisites was they had to be 85 to 95 years young or lived through at least 12 presidents. All had varying degrees of weather folklore. One common sign is if a rooster crows at night, he will have a wet head in the mornin’. Another favorite predictor is if a circle is around the moon, it will rain soon. When sounds travel far and wide, a stormy day will be on the tide. There are many more prognosticators, from cattle to roaches to groundhogs. However, all agreed on one old-time recipe for telling the weather and that was to watch the birds, not just one bird but all types of birds.

The question was, “How do the birds let you know the end of the humidity?” The answer is simple - when you start hearing the birds singing in the thorn bushes and the trees, it’s going to be far less humid. When the birds are sticking low to the ground, this means that the air above is still too unstable for flight so expect storms and continued high humid conditions. When you don’t hear the birds singing, not even a little bit, they are nestled in until the weather improves. One other favorite saying is when you see the goats stop flapping their ears, it means that the humid hot conditions are getting better.

While you may not believe these types of weather predictions due to the highly



Don’t forget to watch my ears. Artwork Allen Hamrick.

educated meteorologists telling you they are not reliable, remember they just might lose a job if folks go back to believing nature. So, I took notes and watched, and it is indeed a fact that the birds are laying low, even the crows are not flying high but sticking close to the ground. Buzzards are low in the trees and tell me the last time you saw birds in the sky or heard them singing. There is something to what old timers say;

just watch and learn for yourself.

No matter how you square up against what you believe, the heat and humidity are here, and they’re hanging around, much to the amusement of the meteorologists. Fall will come eventually, and the cold will return. Meantime, we will deal with the heat the best way we can and wait for the cold to give us something else to complain about.

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DATA CENTERS

or, in some cases, connect to the larger electrical system.

Data centers could be a major source of tax revenue and can also attract other developments and investments to a community. While these facilities can bring

jobs, they often aren’t many once the construction is complete.

Lawmakers did pass the bill into law, but not before making dozens of changes to it, including to the specialized tax structure the bill establishes.

Local and county officials criticized the measure because it significantly cut how much revenue localities would get from these projects.

Most of the taxes earned on data centers and microgrids will go to state level funds. The counties in which they are located will only get 30% of the revenue.

Lawmakers also stripped most, if not all, local authority over these types of projects, which local officials have expressed concern and frustration over.

Under this law, projects like these aren’t subject to county or municipal zoning. They are also exempt from any noise, lighting or land use ordinances. Local and county governments aren’t allowed to establish or enforce any regulations that would limit the development of a data center project.

Where are the proposed data centers in West Virginia?

The project in Tucker County is being proposed by Fundamental Data LLC, a Virginia-based company. The company is proposing to build an off-the-grid natural gas power plant between Thomas and Davis to power data centers and is currently seeking an air permit from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

New York-based TransGas Development Systems, LLC, is also looking to build two off-grid power plants in Mingo County. The company applied for air permits from the DEP in March for their projects, which they called the “Adams Fork Data Center Energy Campus” in their applications.

Another data center complex is proposed for Jefferson and Berkeley counties. The Berkeley County Planning Commission approved the concept plan for the county’s portion in March. Texas-based company, Fidelis New Energy, has proposed plans to build and operate a data center complex in Mason County.

What’s the big deal?

Along with data centers come a variety of environmental and public health impacts, which have caused tensions with surrounding communities across the country.

Data centers can use several million gallons of water a day, which is as much as a town with 10,000 to 50,000 people. In many places where data centers already exist, local communities have had issues with them over their water consumption.

The amount of energy they consume is another concern. A recent report from the Harvard Electricity Law Initiative found that residents have been footing the bill for the increased power costs driven by data centers.

They also are a source of noise pollution and can reach concerning decibel levels. Data centers are typically associated with a constant low humming sound, which comes from their cooling systems that run around the clock to keep the temperature down. The noise can also come from the facilities’ backup generators, which are usually diesel. And because companies are looking to power their data centers themselves — in some cases through natural gas powered plants — air pollution is emerging as another risk associated with data centers. Such power plants typically emit a combination of air pollutants that can have serious environmental and health impacts.

What don’t we know?

The developers have not released much information on their projects and neither Fundamental Data and Fidelis New Energy responded to questions about their proposals.

Adam Victor, president and CEO of TransGas, said that during a previous project where the company built a major facility in an urban location, they took “noise, light and pollution issues very seriously and maintained the strong support of the local community” for the almost two decades the facility operated.

In Tucker County, residents have complained about the lack of information and transparency around the proposed project in addition to their concerns about the potential environmental and public health impacts.

It’s also not exactly clear when and how the Power Generation and Consumption Act will impact the project proposed for their community.

And during a public hearing last month DEP staff told residents that they could only speak to what was in the company’s permit application. Fundamental Data’s air permit application has become another sticking point for the community because it was heavily redacted.

Country Roads News, which is a newsletter and website covering the Canaan Valley, Davis and Thomas communities, has extensively covered the Tucker County project, including updates as it continues to unfold.

There are also questions about where the company will get the water needed to cool down the facility. The source of water is also something that is not clear about the various other proposed data center projects.

And while most of the projects have indicated the size of their projects in acreage, it’s not clear how many data centers the sites intend to house.

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