



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



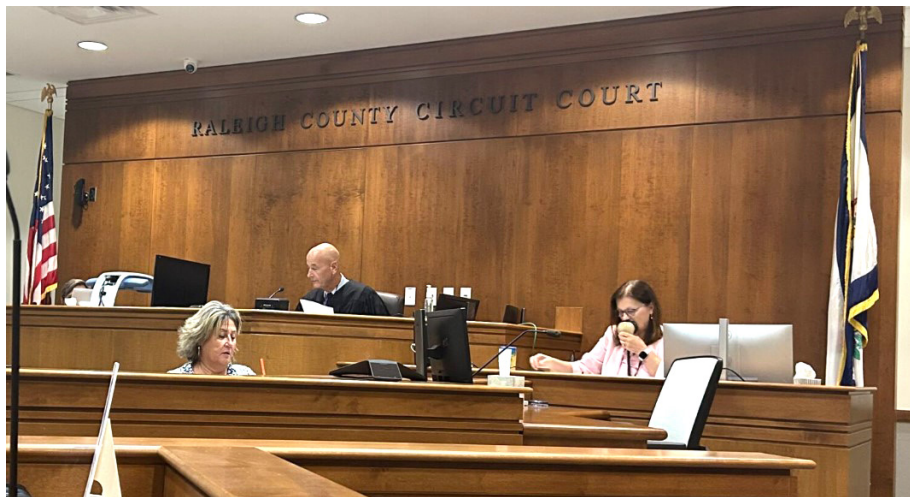
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Raleigh County Circuit Judge Michael Froble ruled Thursday in favor of three students suing the state board of education to attend school with a religious exemption to the state's school compulsory vaccinations. (Lori Kersey | West Virginia Watch)

Raleigh judge rules against West Virginia school board in vaccine lawsuit

Froble grants plaintiffs may attend school with religious exemption to state's vaccine law

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

BECKLEY — Dealing another legal victory to Gov. Patrick Morrisey and his executive order, a Raleigh County judge on Thursday granted a preliminary injunction allowing three Raleigh County students to attend school with a religious exemption to the state's strict compulsory school vaccination law.

Circuit Judge Michael Froble ruled that the state's mandatory school vaccine law is invalid without a religious exemption to the law. If there were any question, he said, the state's Equal Protection for Religion Act of 2023 makes it clear the law should make exceptions for religious beliefs.

The lawsuit was brought on behalf of Miranda Guzman, Amanda Tulley and

LAWSUIT cont. on page 7

The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation Announces 2025 Change Maker Awards

During The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation's (TGKVF) Annual Report to the Community the Class of 2025 Change Maker Award winners were announced. Each year TGKVF honors organizations that are making positive changes in the communities we serve.

While each of our grantee partners show dedication and perseverance in the face of our region's challenges, the organizations we highlight as Change Makers have exceeded our expectations in terms of innovation, resilience, and collaborative strategy.

TGKVF is excited to recognize each organization, showcase their work, and share their impact with others as an example to watch. Selection criteria includes leadership, long-term approach, organizational effectiveness, and field expertise.

The Class of 2025 Change Makers includes five nonprofit organizations from the areas of Arts & Culture, Basic Needs, Community and Economic Development, Education, and Health.

Charleston Ballet, Inc. is honored as they begin their 70th anniversary season. Kim Pauley, Artistic Director and CEO knows ballet is more than artistic expression it teaches discipline, perseverance, and personal growth.

Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA Area, Inc., serves an often overlooked population with their Work Readiness Program and the impact their independent living skills program at Lincoln County High School. This partnership helps ensure that students who might otherwise feel overlooked are given tools, support, and encouragement they need to succeed. Jean Mansfield, Work Readiness Instructor sees lives transformed as students realize their potential and learn skills that work to gain a path towards independence.

The Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries,

Inc., located in South Charleston works with families in Kanawha and Putnam counties. Jenny Keener, Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator and her team assist over 15,000 people each year through their food pantry clothing and household vouchers, and other community centered programs. Every day 15 to 245 carts of groceries are distributed to families in need.

Mountaineer Food Bank, Inc. based in Gassaway, serves as the state's largest hunger relief network, distributing food through a network of over 460 partner agencies, including food pantries, meal programs, and community feeding sites. CEO Chad Morrison acknowledges the importance of community support in making their mission a reality, knowing every meal distributed brings a moment of hope to someone in need.

Read Aloud West Virginia, Inc. distributed over 29,000 books last year to support their mission of fostering a love of reading in children. Through their partnership with TGKVF, Read Aloud was able to expand its reach and bring book distributions to schools in Eastern Kanawha County. Executive Director Dawn Miller believes providing books for children to take home is an effort aimed not only at nurturing existing readers but at reaching children who haven't yet discovered the joy of reading.

Films showcasing the work of these programs were premiered in May at the Foundation's Annual Report to the Community event. These and previous Change Maker films can be found on the Foundation's website www.tgkvf.org.

The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, established in 1962 is a community foundation serving Boone, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, and Putnam counties. As one of the top 100 community foundations in the nation, TGKVF administers 580 funds with assets of \$348 million.

Nationals Success: Clay TSA Teams Lead the Way



Hannah Gandee and Gunner Dobbins - Third Place, Challenging Technology Issues.



Avery Brouillard and Keira Asbury - Third Place, Forensic Science.

The Clay County Middle and High School TSA teams recently traveled to Nashville, Tennessee to compete in the Technology Student Association National Competition. They earned the right to compete there based upon their success at the WV State Competition held in March. At nationals, Clay High earned a third-place trophy, top ten finalist honors in three events, a top twelve semifinalist spot, and a top twenty-four semifinalist spot. The Middle School came home also with a third-place trophy and a top ten finalist honor.

At Nationals, more than 10,000 students competed in over 70 events. Thirty-six states were represented, and students came from as far away as Germany and American Samoa to compete. The conference theme, Tune In To Technology, aligned with TSA's competitions, activities and programs that provide members with enhanced exposure to topics in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); opportunities for personal and leadership development; and career awareness.

For CCHS, Keira Asbury and Avery Brouillard placed third in the nation in

Forensic Science. In this event, participants take a test of basic forensic science to qualify for the semifinal round of competition. Semifinalists examine a mock crime scene and demonstrate their knowledge of forensic science through crime scene analysis, with the findings synthesized in a written report/analysis. Also, for CCHS, Jaxon Brown placed fourth in Music Production; Ariel Dobbins and Lillian Starcher placed sixth in Children's Stories; and Ariel Dobbins and Sawyer Dobbins placed tenth in STEM Mass Media. Additionally, Parker Taylor was a top twelve semifinalist in Extemporaneous Speaking. Finally, Jaxon Brown, Alivia Gilliland and Morgan Payton were top twenty-four semifinalists in Geospatial Technology. Asbury, Brouillard, Brown, Gilliland, and Starcher were also recognized for earning the Gold Achievement Award. To earn the award, the students engaged in enumerated activities relating to service leadership, STEM immersion, and personal and professional development.

For the Middle School, Gunner Dobbins and Hannah Gandee earned a third-place trophy in Challenging Technology

CLAY TSA cont. on page 7

Agriculture Fair 2025 was HOT



Jase Young shows off his hog, Sage.

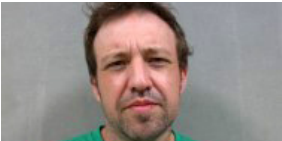
See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

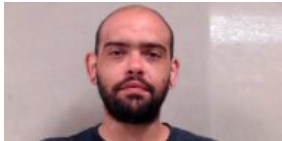
BRAXTON COUNTY



Justin Ray Chapman I
Booked 7/25/25
Harassment, harassment by electronic device, disruption of governmental processes

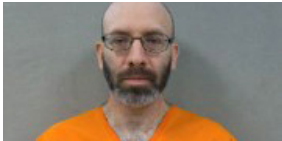


Janet Marie Hickman
Booked 7/21/25
Contempt

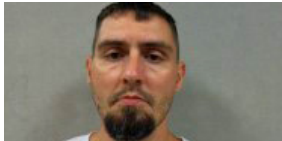


Trevor Adam Hurst
Booked 7/22/25
Capias

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Shawn Allen McMillion
Booked 7/25/25
Obstructing an officer, destruction of property, fleeing, domestic battery, assault on officer, attempt to disarm, domestic assault



Nathaniel Charles Rader
Booked 7/23/25
Bond revocation, Capias



Andrew Jackson Sedlock IV
Booked 7/25/25
Family court order

CLAY COUNTY



Tyler Ray Metheney
Booked 7/27/25
Domestic battery



Nathan William Stephenson
Booked 7/27/25
Wanton endangerment involving a firearm, prohibited person with firearm, brandishing a weapon



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.

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Davisson Brothers to headline inaugural Bumper Fest in Sissonville Aug. 23 to benefit scholarship fund



Davisson Brothers Band is headlining the first ever Bumper Fest on August 23 at Joe Sawyers Field in Sissonville. The show is a fundraiser for the Bumper Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the gate. Kids 12 and under get in free. They are available at www.bumper-fest.com. The concert is rain or shine.

“This will be a great community event celebrating our beloved Bumper Taylor and the impact he left in the Sissonville community,” said Stephen Farmer, member with the law firm Farmer, Cline & Campbell, which is presenting the event. “Bumper loved Sissonville. He loved West Virginia University. The Memorial Scholarship Fund is his legacy, and that’s what this show is about.”

Bumper Taylor passed away in 2023. The Bumper Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund provides financial support to graduating Sissonville High School seniors who plan to attend West Virginia University.

“Ticket purchases and donations provide tremendous help for those families in the Sissonville area facing the uphill hardship of being able to afford to take

out loans and pay for their children to attend college,” said Melody Taylor, Bumper’s mother and event organizer. “Many of these children would never be able to attend college without scholarships, even though they have worked hard to achieve academic success.”

Gates open at 2 pm. The show begins at 4 pm with opening act Rewind the Walkman. Food vendors and food trucks at the event include:

- Bowles Boyz BBQ
- BGz LA Street Taco
- Moshpit Munchies
- Sunset Slush
- Crafts of Coal Ice Cream

Major sponsors include Appalachian Medical.

“Join us in living your life to the fullest and taking a chance in making your dreams come true – just like Bumper,” said Melody Taylor. “Get your tickets or make a donation at bumper-fest.com!”

About the Bumper Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Bumper Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund provides financial support to graduating Sissonville High School seniors who plan to attend West Virginia University. Bumper passed away in 2023. He worked as a respiratory therapist at various hospitals and was a respiratory equipment salesperson. He decided to take a chance and make his dream come true by opening his own company – Appalachian Medical – with his cousin Mary Wiseman and two other partners. He loved his Sissonville community, and he loved the WVU Mountaineers. So in his memory, we’re supporting kids who want to take a chance, go to college, prepare for their dreams and work hard to make it happen!

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Clay County Free Press

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All Roads Lead Us Home Again

By Joe Mazzella

I was lost in the city. My nerves were stressed. My muscles were tense. My heart was pounding. My hands gripped the steering wheel of my car as I circled the same city block for the tenth time. I grew up in the country and never had much experience driving in the city but I needed to pick up my daughter so here I was with my three children in the car trying my best to find the exit back to the interstate. This was long before G.P.S. and my handwritten directions seemed to be wrong. It didn't help that the experienced city drivers were going around me with just inches to spare and honking their horns at me as I inched my way back to the turnoff again. Finally, in desperation I muttered a prayer under my breath: "Please, God. I want to go home. Help us find our way safely there!"

At that moment I saw it, the tiny one lane exit that led to the interstate again. At the last second I pulled into the right lane and got us all headed up the ramp. The interstate traffic out of the city at that time of the day was even worse than the traffic in the city. It was bumper to bumper at 70 miles per hour. Finally, though, the traffic started to thin out and I could relax at the wheel. I took in the beauty of the mountains covered in forests of green. I smiled at the sun shining down on them, giving them a golden glow and I thanked God for getting me out of the city and on the way back home again. At last we turned off the four lane highway onto the winding two lane road that would take us the last 16 miles home. I turned on the radio and laughed with joy when I heard the song that was playing: "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

In this life we will all take many paths and travel many places. But in the end all roads lead us home again. Travel then with a light and loving heart. And know that in the end we all will return Home again, to Love, to God, and to all those we hold dear.

Home Country

Slim Randles

Ran into Herb Collins the other day down by the school. He volunteers there, from time to time, helping kids with their math homework, and trying to recruit future members of The Great World of Business.

He loved business, back in the days when he lived in the city and ran the pawn shop. For years now, ever since he hung up his jeweler's loupe, he's told us that there was an excitement to making the right deal.

"It has to be right for the customer and for me, or it isn't right at all," Herb always says. "You can do that and make several people happy and earn a living. There's no need to take unfair advantage of someone just to earn a living."

Our little town is a bit tame after city life, but it's Herb's wife's home town and she wanted to come back here to live after he retired. So Herb turned to helping kids understand how wonderful business can be. He's advised kids on the most effective way of delivering newspapers on their bicycles, he's suggested advertising gimmicks for kids with summer lemonade stands, and he's helped several boys market their skills with a lawn mower. You can take the man out of the business, I guess, but it's hard to take the business out of the man.

So after the shaking hands and the how-are-yous, we talked about kids and business, and the new crop of youngsters coming up this year. I couldn't help thinking ol' Herb might jump at the chance to dive back into the world of commerce again, but he disabused me of that right away.

"All through with that," he said, shaking his head. "I was a successful businessman and now I'm successfully retired."

Successfully retired?

"That's right," he grinned. "I have a wife and a television set, and they both work."

Math shortcut from me to algebra students with love and best wishes. X equals 32. You're welcome.



And then it's Monday... Again

Dr. James L. Snyder

I'm not sure if it's just me getting old or something altogether different. Time seems to go by fast.

My father used to say, "The older you get the faster time goes." I'm finally beginning to understand what he meant by that.

At the time, I laughed at him and didn't understand what he was saying. However, I now have a good idea of what he was talking about. Time has a way of passing quickly.

It seems that all of a sudden, it's a Monday morning and my week is starting all over again. And I need to focus on planning out my week and making the most of it. However, by the time I finished planning my week, it was already Thursday. Oh boy, where does that time go?

When I was young, there were seven days in the week. Now that I'm older, there are only seven days in the week. The first seven days took significantly more time to complete than the next seven days. I'm still trying to figure out what the difference is.

Even The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a little problem with this. By Thursday, she will say, "Where did all my time go?"

I think I know a lot of things, but when I think I know them, I find out that I don't know them at all. I don't know where time goes or why it passes so quickly.

How would my life change if I could figure out where time goes? There must be somewhere where time hides or goes on vacation or something. And if I find that, I think my life would change in an instant.

The one thing that bothers me is that I just celebrated my 74th birthday. I've had 74 years to figure this out, and I'm still at the same place I started. I don't know where time goes.

It seems that when I walk into my office on Monday morning to begin the week, I walk out shortly after, and it's Friday. What happens between Monday and Friday? I have my schedule, and I know when I'm supposed to do certain things, but that still does not explain how fast time goes.

When I was young, time seemed to slow down almost to a stop. Back then, it took me about four years to have a birthday. It took me about five years to catch up to Christmas. I'm not sure, but I think old Santa Claus had something to do with that. All his "hoe, hoe, hoeing" is his way of hiding this secret about time.

There are times when it seems to take forever to get from Monday to Friday. But at the end of Friday, I'm so

excited my weekend is just about to begin. By the time I finish celebrating the weekend, it's Monday morning already. Oh boy.

The other week, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were going out for a nice dinner on a Saturday evening. We don't often do this, but occasionally, we treat ourselves to this kind of pleasure.

As we were going out the door to go to the diner, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Honey, do we have time to stop at Publix? I need to pick up something."

I never know how to answer that kind of question I want to say, "Okay, but where do we find the time?"

What I want to figure out is why, when I have a schedule to meet, time seems to pass quickly. But when I don't have anything to do, time slows down to a snail's pace. I can never figure that out. Why is 60 minutes in one timeframe faster than 60 minutes in another timeframe? And is it all the same?

On Monday morning, I try to plan out my week's schedule so that I can complete everything on time. That is my plan, but it seems to me that "time" has a different agenda for me. Why can't time be on my side?

I wished I had control of my time like The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Often, she will come to my office, look at me, and say, "Did you have enough time to finish that project?"

What do I say? Of course, I had the time to do it, but time was slipping away from me, wiggling to the left and then to the right, and I couldn't catch it. I had the time to do it, or at least I thought I did.

As I celebrated my birthday, I reflected on my past. How did I get to this point so quickly? Of all my expectations in life I never expected to get old.

I was reminded of what the Bible says along these lines.

"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that," (James 4:13-15).

My life as a Christian boils down to God's will for my life. My time is in His hands.

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 Board of Education Statement on Raleigh County Circuit Court Decision

On July 24, a decision was issued by Raleigh County Circuit Court granting a preliminary injunction to three Raleigh County students allowing them to attend public school without required vaccinations. This court's ruling was based on the families' claims of religious objections.

While the West Virginia Board of Education is disappointed by the ruling, members of the board will decide

next steps in the near future. This injunction is limited in scope and applies only to those named in this lawsuit. It will have no impact on other students in Raleigh County or throughout the state.

As students prepare for the upcoming school year, families are encouraged to comply with West Virginia's compulsory vaccination laws (W. Va. Code § 16-3-4) as required by legislative statute.

Utilities required to file notification plans

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

We are in the process of having all utilities file plans with the Public Service Commission on how they will notify customers about outages in service.

Utilities across the state have been given a 30-day deadline to file those plans with the Public Service Commission.

The Legislature passed a bill this year to require each utility to tell us how it will alert its customers in cases of planned or unplanned outages.

The bill was signed into law by Governor Morrissey on April 29.

They must tell us how exactly they are going to let customers know of these planned and unplanned events.

Furthermore, they must tell us what they intend to include in these messages, what content and terms they will use.

They must also estimate the duration and end of the outage.

This legislative effort dovetails precisely with an order issued by our Commission last October fourth.

In that order, we required all cable and nonmotor carrier utilities to have a process in place to notify customers about outages. We said the notifications must be made by email or text.

We also required those utilities to update their customer lists.

The new law expands on what the Commission ordered to include all utilities and requires more detailed plans.

The loss of utility services of any type is a troubling event. And this is particularly true in a mountainous and forested state like West Virginia. We have a great deal of outages caused by storms, animals, and even human error.

It is frustrating to be at the end of the utility line and



Charlotte Lane

to be left completely in the dark, so to speak, about when the lights are going to come back on.

This new law resulted from a severe service interruption that involved two utilities on Charleston's West Side. Hundreds of customers for a time were without two vital utility services.

We're trying very much in this to get ahead of those problems and be prepared in the future.

The plans should be available for review in August on our website.

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

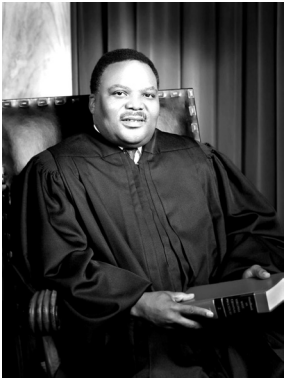
July 30, 1973: The Frederick Hotel in downtown Huntington closed to transient trade. After it was built in 1905, it was touted as the most elegant hotel between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

July 31, 1932: Actor Theodore Crawford “Ted” Cassidy was born in Pittsburgh but was raised in Philippi. He was best known for his role as Lurch on The Addams Family.



Aug. 1, 1921: Baldwin-Felts detectives shot and killed Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers as they ap-

proached the McDowell County Courthouse in Welch. As Matewan’s police chief, Hatfield had assisted the United Mine Workers’ campaign to organize Tug Fork miners. The assassinations set in motion an armed miners’ march ending with the Battle of Blair Mountain.



Aug. 1, 1940: Justice Franklin Cleckley was born in Huntington. In 1994, he became the first Black justice to serve

on the West Virginia Supreme Court. The Supreme Court once referred to Cleckley’s handbooks on evidence and criminal procedure as “the bible for West Virginia’s judges and attorneys.”



Aug. 2, 2009: Golfers Sam Snead and Bill Campbell became the first two inductees into the West Virginia Golf Hall of Fame.

Aug. 3, 1897: Fire destroyed much of downtown Lewisburg. The

town rebuilt and evolved in the next century into the hub of one of the state’s major farming areas and a center for education and the arts.



Aug. 3, 1907: Harley

Orrin Staggers Sr. was born in Keyser. Staggers served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 32 years.

Aug. 4, 1824: John Jay Jackson Jr. was born near Parkersburg. Jackson was a prominent judge who became notorious among those trying to organize labor unions in West Virginia. He blocked an effort by Mother Jones and United Mine Workers leaders to organize the miners of northern West Virginia.

Aug. 4, 1897: Musician William Jennings “Billy” Cox was born near Charleston. Cox, known as the “Dixie Songbird,” ranked as one of West Virginia’s premier country music vocalists and songwriters during the

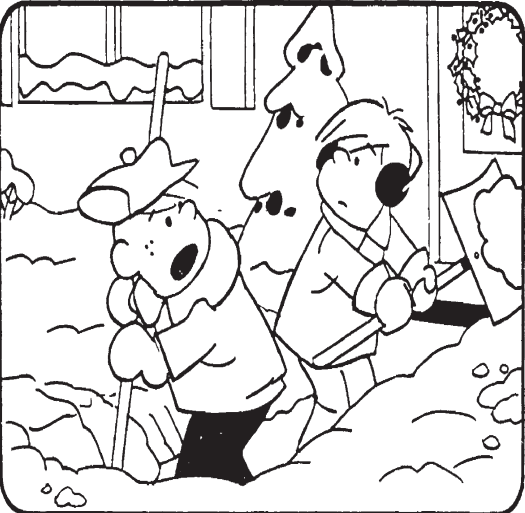
1930s. Aug. 4, 1930: Lewisburg set the record for the state’s hottest temperature ever: 112. Six years later, Martinsburg would tie it.

Aug. 5, 1958: Jennings Randolph defeated former governor William Marland in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate. Randolph soon became the senior senator from West Virginia and served for 26 years.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Car flap is moved. 2. Collar is smaller. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Wreath is missing. 6. Shovel full of snow is smaller.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

MAKING 20
OUT OF 9

ACROSS

- 1 Pueblo dweller
5 Sound of an “air kiss”
9 Forensic facility in Quantico, for short
15 Gig hookups
19 Refined finds
20 Civil rights leader Parks
21 In an uncivil way
22 Lawn mower brand
23 Parts of wholes
25 Key related to G major
26 “Jurassic Park” dino
27 “Billions” channel, in brief
28 Some boxing blows
30 Horn blowers
32 Person whose name consists entirely of the letters in 23-Across
37 Los Angeles neighborhood
38 “I knew — along!”
39 Old Nissan brand
40 Stephen of “Angie”
41 Humongous
44 Foot, in verse
47 Tattered
48 Novel whose name consists entirely of the letters in 62-Across
54 Others, in Oviedo
55 Last letter, in Leeds
56 Trig function
57 Arab nation
60 Titanic sinker
62 Didn’t type or text, perhaps
67 Relating to an eye layer
71 Corn, to a Brit
73 Neighbor of Latvia
74 Relatives of terraces
76 Silent performer
78 Consumer
79 Coup d’—
80 Attain
81 Exit
85 Film whose name consists entirely of the letters in 74-Across
93 Verve

- 94 Words of woe
95 Desert haven
96 Sch. founded by Thomas Jefferson
97 December mall temps
100 Consumer
103 Very talented
105 Setups whose name consists entirely of the letters in 117-Across
110 Some legumes
111 Lindsay of “Liz & Dick”
112 Be in debt to
113 Imp Simpson
114 Throat tissue
117 Lawbreaker
121 — fixe
122 Menu offering
123 In — (stuck)
124 Lasting mark
125 Betting info
126 “Mad” Carroll character
127 Some votes in Congress
128 Those folks

DOWN

- 1 Great athletes are enshrined in it: Abbr.

- 2 Bobby in the Hockey 1-Down
3 Leguminous side dish
4 Low pelvic bones
5 Hosp. test in a big tube
6 “Mrs. Dalloway” novelist
7 Ed of “Lou Grant”
8 Is trustful
9 Citrusy diet soft drink
10 Idling type
11 Cruel Amin
12 Slower than andante
13 Socially distant
14 Side street
15 Give proof of
16 Novelist Toni
17 Strong-arm
18 Boston Red —
24 This evening
29 Building-blasting stuff
31 Bag-screening org.
32 Gotten sight of
33 Attempter
34 Fibber’s admission

- 35 Cabbage side dish
36 Little hotel
37 Playtex item
42 “Ugly Betty” actress Ortiz
43 Crash-probing agcy.
45 Little plateau
46 Pickle liquid
49 Bubbly mixer
50 Blogging pundit Klein
51 Prescribed diet, say
52 Finishes up
53 Swamp wriggler
57 Round body
58 “Call — taxi”
59 Ocean east of Mass.
61 Inits. on an ambulance
62 Tailor’s edge
63 City on the Seine
64 Put- — (jokey pranks)
65 Knot up
66 Part of a jug
68 Yuletide song
69 Opposer
70 Climbing vine
72 Rigatoni’s kin
75 Ingrain
77 Film’s Kazan
80 Shimmer
82 Golfer Ernie

- 83 Even up
84 Out-of-towner
85 “Shane” star
86 Teased one another playfully
87 International alliances
88 Harbinger
89 Medieval Scandinavian
90 Group’s activity in the community
91 Crooner Burl
92 Frowny-faced
93 Suffix with Vietnam
98 Aesthetic interest
99 Sewing unit
101 Bank job
102 “Neroli” musician Brian
104 Least
106 Maui greeting
107 Contrarian’s retort
108 Nile capital
109 Come next
113 Short history
115 Park oneself
116 Cooler cubes
118 Divs. of dollars
119 Scot’s turndown
120 Give it a whirl

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
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LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON

Case No. 25-0485-G-390P
HOPE GAS, INC.

Annual Pipeline Replacement and Expansion Program
(PREP) Application, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 24-2-1k.

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

On May 30, 2025, Hope Gas, Inc. (Hope) filed its Annual Pipeline Replacement and Expansion Program (PREP) Filing with revised PREP Rates, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 24-2-1k, which authorizes the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (Commission) to approve cost recovery of projects to replace, upgrade, and expand natural gas utility infrastructure that are deemed to be just and reasonable and in the public interest. In its PREP Filing, Hope projects PREP capital investment for calendar year 2026 of \$115.5 million, as part of its General Program (core distribution system) and Gathering Program (gathering facilities), under its multi-year plans. The PREP Filing also contains a true-up for actual versus projected 2024 calendar year PREP capital investment activity for both the General Program and the Gathering Program. The PREP covers several categories of plant asset replacements and improvements, including mains, service lines, regulator stations, and other plant equipment. These plant investments are proposed to be made in Hope service territories throughout the State. These projects are identified in the PREP Filing, which is on file and available for public inspection at the Commission’s offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

Hope proposes to recover costs associated with these investments through an increment within the fixed or volumetric, base rate component of its rates depending on the applicable rate schedule under which service is rendered, to be effective on November 1, 2025. Hope projects that the average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed on November 1, 2025, as follows:

HOPE GAS, INC. - PROPOSED		
TYPE OF CUSTOMER	\$ INCREASE	% INCREASE
Residential Sales (Rate Class RS)	\$2.06	2.40%
Small Commercial Sales (Rate Class SGS)	\$1.95	0.70%
Small Commercial Transport (Rate Class SGS)	\$13.00	1.190%
Large Commercial Sales Rate Class LGS	\$342.16	3.71%
Large Commercial Transport (Rate Class LGS)	\$327.49	3.86%
Large Commercial-Industrial - Distribution Sales (Rate Class LCI-D)	\$240.71	1.39%
Large Commercial-Industrial - Distribution Transport (Rate Class LCI-D)	\$230.39	1.05%
Large Commercial-Industrial Direct Service Transport (Rate Class LCI-DS)	\$268.32	9.315
Resale Sales (Rate Class WS)	\$1,343.75	5.17%
Gathering Rate Class PGAS	\$13,256.27	42.52%

FORMER PEOPLES GAS WV - PROPOSED		
TYPE OF CUSTOMER	\$ INCREASE	% INCREASE
General Service - Residential Sales	\$2.03	2.58%
General Service - Commercial Sales	\$2.34	0.68%
Commercial Transport - WV Produced	\$18.32	1.50%
Industrial Sales	\$43.48	1.15%
Industrial Transport - WV Produced	\$89.71	4.00%

FORMER SOUTHERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY - PROPOSED		
TYPE OF CUSTOMER	\$ INCREASE	% INCREASE
General Service - Residential Sales	\$1.62	2.92%
General Service - Commercial Sales	\$2.57	0.84%

FORMER STANDARD/BAZZLE GAS COMPANY - PROPOSED		
TYPE OF CUSTOMER	\$ INCREASE	% INCREASE
General Domestic - Residential Sales	\$1.80	2.60%
Commercial Service - Sales	\$1.39	0.77%

FORMER CONSUMERS GAS COMPANY - PROPOSED		
TYPE OF CUSTOMER	\$ INCREASE	% INCREASE
General Domestic - Residential Sales	\$1.70	2.45%
Commercial Service - Sales	\$1.53	0.68%

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated classes. Each class may receive an increase 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 (increase or decrease) by the 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 Commission adopted the following procedural schedule:

EVENT	DEADLINE
Staff/Intervenor Direct Testimony	4:00 p.m., August 18, 2025
All Rebuttal Testimony	4:00 p.m., September 2, 2025
Agreed Order of Witnesses	4:00 p.m., September 5, 2025
Evidentiary Hearing	September 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia

If the Commission receives no opposition to the PREP Filing within one week of the hearing date, the hearing may be waived, and the Commission may issue a final Order within 150 days of the filing date.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene within twenty (20) days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission Order. All requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the request to intervene and comply with the rules on intervention set forth in the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission will receive public comments until the beginning of the hearing. All written comments and requests to intervene should state the case name and number and be addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Public Comments may also be filed online at http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/online_comments/default.cfm by clicking the “Formal Case” link.

HOPE GAS, INC.

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
July 18, 2025

The West Virginia Health Care Authority announced that it has received a Letter of Intent from Adoration Home Health Acquisitions, LLC, CON File #25-12-13340-A, to become the sole member of Amedisys West Virginia, LLC and Tender Loving Care Health Care Services of West Virginia, LLC, providing services to Barbour, Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Nicholas, Ohio, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood and Wyoming counties. Capital Expenditure \$24,300,000.

Further information regarding the Letter of Intent, including the Certificate of Need application when submitted, is on the Authority’s website at www.hca.wv.gov.

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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 notice of an objection with the County Commission 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 claims against an estate must be filed within 60 days of the first publication of this Notice in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 and 44-3. 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 31, 2025
Claim Deadline: Monday, September 29, 2025

ESTATE NUMBER:	803
APPOINTMENT DATE:	07/21/2025
ESTATE NAME:	WALTER HOLT WILSON
AFFIANT:	KATHERINE W LAMBE PO BOX 1785 KERNERSVILLE NC 27285-1785

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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WE BUY 8,000 CARS A WEEK. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-844-640-0583

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SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-803-1282

GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-368-9004 today!

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Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BIG UNION BAPTIST
CHURCH**
Sunday School 10:00 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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHITESTAR
TABERNACLE CHURCH**
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Night 6:30 PM
Wednesday Night 6:30 PM
Pastor: Rev. Mike Hall
**WIDEN BAPTIST
CHURCH**
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Preaching 11:00 AM
Sunday Night Service
6:00 PM
Wednesday Night Service
6:00 PM
Everyone welcome!
Pastor: Randy Tinney

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



LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 1

Carley Hunter, whose children were issued a religious exemption to the school vaccine mandates by the state Department of Health.

All states require students attending school to be vaccinated against certain diseases. West Virginia had been one of only five states that allowed only medical exemptions to those requirements. Morrissey issued an executive order in January requiring the state to allow religious exemptions to its school vaccination laws. The order is based on the 2023 Equal Protection for Religion Act. State lawmakers this year did not pass Senate Bill 460, which would have established those exemptions in state code.

The West Virginia school board voted not to comply with Morrissey’s executive order and to instruct county boards of education to require all vaccines and allow only medical exemptions to those vaccination requirements.

“The court finds that only requiring school kids in the public school to have vaccinations, but not requiring adults and other people and having learning pods and having athletic activities that does occur really diminishes any kind of argument that compelling state interest in only making sure that children in the public school or attending public schools are receiving their mandatory vaccinations, and that they are disregarding their rights for exercising their religion,” Froble said.

Speaking for Guzman and the other plaintiffs, attorney Chris Weist argued that barring the students from attending school would violate the state’s Equal Protection for Religion Act and cause

them irreparable harm.

“These plaintiffs are being forced to either give in to the state’s demands of vaccination, contrary to their religious beliefs, or not send their kids to school, which is a guarantee under the West Virginia Constitution for the West Virginia Supreme Court, a fundamental right.,” he said. “So I think we do have unquestionably a substantial burden on these plaintiffs’ religious exercise.”

Chris Smith, an attorney for the state Board of Education, said the governor’s reading of the Equal Protection Act is too broad. The Legislature is required to name bills according to what they do, he said. Lawmakers did not contemplate the Equal Protection for Religion Act amending the state’s school vaccination laws, he said.

The judge’s ruling applies to only the three students bringing a lawsuit against the state and Raleigh County board of education, but is likely to have broader implications. Froble said the next step in the case should be a hearing on a permanent injunction in the case, preferably set in the next 14 days. That hearing might not happen if parties in the case decide to file a written appeal, he said.

Froble said he purposely didn’t take up the issue of whether Morrissey’s executive order is legally valid, though he said he would take it up at a future hearing on the permanent injunction.

Speaking to reporters after the judge’s ruling, state School Board President Paul Hardesty said he was disappointed and said there is a lot to digest in the ruling with the rest of the school board.

“For our counties that are now scratching their heads trying to figure out what to do, the department, as we speak, is working on putting out a statement to all 55 counties as well as the press, and we’ll have that by the close of business today,” he said.

In the school board’s statement later Thursday, it reiterated that Thursday’s ruling is limited and will not apply to other families in Raleigh County or throughout the state. It said the school board would decide the next steps in the coming days.

“As students prepare for the upcoming school year, families are encouraged to comply with West Virginia’s compulsory vaccination laws (W.Va. Code § 16-3-4) as required by legislative statute,” the board wrote.

Health care organizations, including the West Virginia Immunization Network, the state Nurses Association and the West Virginia Medical Association, issued a group statement Thursday commending the school board for “continuing to follow state code” and stressing the importance of maintaining high vaccination rates.

The organization West Virginia Families for Immunizations said it was disappointed in the ruling, and that it means West Virginia’s children will have less protection from preventable diseases when school starts.

“West Virginia has a proud track record of maintaining high vaccination rates, and the longstanding law that allows only medical exemptions for school required vaccines plays a role in that success,”

they wrote. “For students and teachers who have legitimate medical reasons to forgo vaccination, their lives are now at risk as we see the resurgence of diseases once thought eliminated. We applaud the Board of Education for their strong stance on this issue, and we will continue to work to support them going forward.”

In a statement Thursday, Morrissey said the ruling is “another legal victory in the fight for religious freedom.

Kanawha County Circuit Judge Kenneth Ballard on Wednesday dismissed on procedure grounds a separate lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia and Mountain State Justice over Morrissey’s executive order. Ballard agreed with an attorney for the state that the ACLU failed to give the state 30-day notice of the legal action, as required by law.

“No family should be forced to choose between their faith and their children’s education, which is exactly what the unelected bureaucrats on the State Board of Education are attempting to force West Virginians to do,” Morrissey said in his statement. “My administration will continue to grant religious exemptions to compulsory vaccine requirements and uphold West Virginia’s Equal Protection for Religion Act until this case is fully settled.”

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

CLAY TSA

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Issues. In this event, participants collaborate to prepare and deliver a debate-style presentation explaining opposing views of current technology issues. The topics for the event were (1)genetic testing and counseling, (2) animal testing for scientific research, (3) the use of drones for surveillance, (4) privatization of space travel, and (5) nanotechnology in consumer goods. Also, for the Middle School, Marissa Atha and Roxy Schoolcraft placed tenth in Technical Design.

Moreover, CCHS students Morgan Payton, Juliann Gallaher, and Ariel Dobbins wrapped up their service as WV State TSA officers for the 2024-2025 school year. For the upcoming year, Dobbins will continue her service as WV State TSA President State and Gallaher will serve as Sargeant-at-arms.

Jessica Ramsey is the TSA Chapter Advisor for the middle school and high school. She works tirelessly to help students prepare for their events, keeping them updated with contest rules and regulations, of which there are many, and staying after school throughout the year to supervise and advise while they

work on their projects. She is also the chief TSA fundraiser, and she coordinates everything associated with trips to Cedar Lakes, WV each March for States, and to nationals in June. Her hard work and dedication are appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

Ms. Ramsey is the first person, however, to point out all the help she receives from the community. She wants to sincerely thank the many businesses and individuals who support TSA and helped with the trip to Nashville for the national conference. They include CMI2 which purchased supplies and a new printer for the organization, Clay County Clerk’s Office, Clay 911 Center, Legg’s Welding, Primary Care, and Advantage Health, and multiple anonymous individuals. Additionally, many friends and family donated money, time and baked goods to support the teams’ effort. Ms. Ramsey wishes to thank everyone who helped make the teams’ fundraisers a success by sponsoring students with the TSA logo fundraiser and purchasing baked potato dinners and meat sticks. Additionally, a special thank you goes to the chapter

ones who worked tirelessly to help keep the kids safe while at the national conference -Beth Gallaher, Luella Dancy, Lindsay Schoolcraft, Bobby Brown, Phil Dobbins, and Barry Payton– and to the parents who traveled to Tennessee to support the kids. Finally, she wants to thank the county and school administrators for seeing the good that is the TSA program and for supporting the students and cheering on their successes. She is extremely appreciative of all the support the teams have received this year and every year. We could not do it without you!

Congratulations to Ms. Ramsey and her TSA teams. They represent the county well!



CCHS and CCMS TSA



Ariel Dobbins and Lillian Starcher - Finalists, Children’s Stories.



Ariel Dobbins and Sawyer Dobbins - Finalists, STEM Mass Media



Morgan Payton, Alivia Gilliland and Jaxon Brown - Top 24 Semi-Finalist, Geospatial Technology.



Jaxon Brown - Finalist, Music Production.



Parker Taylor - Top 12 Semi-Finalist, Extemporaneous Speech.



Marissa Atha and Roxy Schoolcraft - Finalists, Technical Design.

Clay County Ag Fair 2025 was enjoyed by many

By Allen Hamrick

If you love the smell of barnyard with hog poo scent burning the hair in your sinuses, then the newly named Don Jarvis Memorial Park was the place to be this past weekend. Don Jarvis was one of those men who put others, especially the youth of this county, ahead of himself. He was instrumental in getting the park established in the early years. Mr. Jarvis passed in 2024 but left a legacy that will be remembered by many for years to come. Renaming the park is but a small sentiment to the life and passion he had for this county.

This year's Clay County Ag Fair will go down in history books as one of the hottest, if not the hottest, Ag Fair on record. The only thing that was not sweating was the empty glass after the lemonade was gone. Hogs were looking for mud holes where there were none, running wild and crashing gates on occasion as the heat intensified. It was a melting box as Friday evening ushered in the festivities with the ribbon cutting. Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture Amie Minor had the honor of cutting the ribbon this year.

As the floor fans pumped out the stifling air across the building, this year's queen, Katie Davis, was crowned by the Assistant Commissioner, and the barnyard parade got underway as some of the finest goats and rabbits strutted in front of the onlookers. Once that was over, it was time to roll out the red carpet for some of the finest looking ham, sausage and pulled pork ever seen at any event. I kid you not, every one of the hogs was of the finest quality and a welcome sight to the buyers. This year's judge, Peyton Dugan, would have a challenging time with this bunch of swine as each one looked equally as good as the other. The hogs, like everybody else, were having a tough time with the heat and weren't enjoying the party. Many of them laid down and refused to move, picking sure death over walking. However, boots were hoisted on the gates as the hogs did their best to escape, and the battle for containment was on. All the youth did a great job, but in the end, it was Jase Young taking home top hog honors with his pair of hogs as one was Grand Champion, and the other one took reserve Grand Champion. Jase did a fine job and seemingly took care of those hogs like they were part of the family. His hog Sage took home the Grand Champion market hog ribbon. The hog show wound down, and it was time for some much-needed R and R for the hogs and their keepers.

Saturday ushered in a new day with vendors setting up their wares outside the barn. This day brought about the fluff parade of rabbits, goats, chickens, sheep and cattle that took the stage. Judging started, and when the cutting was done, it was Matthew Neely taking home the Grand Champion market rabbit award. Savannah Rhodes took home the Reserve Champion award in the market rabbits. The Grand Champion meat goat award went to Adrian Davis and Reserve Champion was Jeremiah Davis. Taking home the Grand Champion feeder steer was Isaac Lilly as well as the showman ship award

Taking home the Grand Champion award for market wool breed lambs was Katie Davis, and Reserve Champion went to Gemalynn Lilly. In the market hair breed lamb class, Grand Champion was Carsynn Holcomb-Bennett, and Reserve Champion went to Lydia Shamblyn. Taking home the FFA Showmanship award was Elijah Armes, and the 4-H Showmanship award went to Addison Jones.

After all the judging took place, it was time to get ready for the auction. Before that event started, the buyer's dinner with some of the finest food was spread out on tables in grand fashion. The stands started to fill with bidders, and it was a great time for the youth to understand the meaning of hard work paying off. Overall, it

was a good show, and participants walked away from the event with good memories, some with pockets of money and most dropped about five pounds from sweating in the heat. Some of the youth of this county still hold true the ideals of farm life and have a desire for this way of living by the sweat of your brow to continue. They did a great job of raising some of the most superb farm animals I have seen.

This event wouldn't even take place if not for the figures that stand in the fields and pens, who brave the elements day after day. To them we raise a glass of warm goat milk and offer gratitude. The human ones who were at the helm of the Agriculture Fair also did a fine job of putting it together; it was a hot job to say the least, and it is good that we still have people who invest time and effort into the younger generation in this county. Many thanks go out to all the bidders that showed up in support of the kids. Special thanks to Betsy Keiffer for help with the information. As the evening sank across the horizon and the 2025 Ag Fair came to a close, a person could hear the hogs a hummin', *"Oh where, oh where has my mud hold gone? Oh where, oh where could it be? It's over the ridge where the lilies bloom on the other side of the creek."*

Support the youth, they are our future!



Isaac Lilly with his Grand Champion market steer



The crowning of the Ag Fair queen Katie Davis



Addison Jones with her Showmanship Award



Matthew Neely with his Grand Champion rabbits



Savannah Rhodes with her Reserve Champion rabbits



It's called the bacon field.



Adrian Davis with his Grand Champion meat goat



Deciding the Grand Champion hog.



Near standing room only at the barnyard parade



Hard work and research from the youth



4-H displays