



# Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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## Public bus service comes to Clay County

By Gary Lee Stuber

Clay County now has a public bus service thanks to Tim Thomas, a former Clay County resident who now serves as CEO of the Mountain Transit Authority. County Commissioner Duane Legg hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday morning of Aug. 6 where MTA had a bus at the courthouse, and even a cake for anyone who wanted to participate.

"I am able to bring public transit into a community that there is a need. We are community oriented as a transit authority," Tim says, "And just to bring it here it's just a little bit of pride." Tim would give those in attendance a ride, driving riders himself to Go-Mart and back. The bus, which is distinctive, has twelve comfortable seats. "Twelve and two," Mike says from the driver's seat, "twelve seats and space for two additional wheelchairs." There is a wheelchair lift in the rear of the bus.

And while the bus service is designed to carry people to appointments, service contracts under MotiveCare state the service is also for any residents, regardless of status, age or anything else, who would love to take advantage of transportation.

Transportation to where?

"We are based out of Summersville, and we take busses into Summersville, Braxton, Fayetteville, or Montgomery. In Montgomery they can meet KRT busses into Kanawha County and beyond." Mike says. For those with appointments, work, or for just shopping, the service is open to all riders.

The schedule is a work in progress. Medical demand is separate from regular public bus service. Right now, they will have one bus headed north to



A ribbon cutting event for the new MTA bus line was held last Wednesday.

Braxton County and one bus southeast to Gauley Bridge. They have established a meet up with KRT in Montgomery but could in the future, if demand and negotiations with KRT are fruitful, meet KRT at Elkview at their schedule. That would open even more opportunities for Clay County residents in that region.

Commissioners Joyce Johnson and Duane Legg were present as well as Donna Salisbury, who has been a big supporter of the project. WSAZ Televi-

sion News was also present and filmed the ribbon cutting.

This is an opportunity for local groups to schedule shopping trips, or perhaps lunch at Shoney's in Summersville or even Chinese buffet at OK Chinese restaurant in the Oak Hill Shopping Center. And now Wal-Mart shopping is assessable to senior groups with a comfortable ride with friends there and back.

If you have a need for transportation, call MTA at 34-872-5872.



Tim Thomas takes everyone for a bus ride.



Passengers can now attend medical appointments, get to work, or run any number of errands thanks to the new bus route.

## County Commission approves appointees to boards, hires employees for Ambulance Service

By Gary Lee Stuber

The last meeting of the Clay County Commission for July was short and sweet. Commissioners Joyce Johnson and David Schoolcraft were in attendance, and Commissioner Legg was absent. In fact, because of so many anticipated commission activities in the month of August, the commission adopted only one meeting date in August. Monday, Aug. 18, is the only date scheduled for their next regular meeting. Commissioner Johnson said that regular business would continue, including meeting county payroll, and regular bills and purchases.

The July meeting was mostly regular business: approving minutes from the previous meeting; bills and purchase orders; budget revisions; erroneous assessments; fiduciary appointment as presented by the county commission, affidavit, waivers of final settlement, and last will and testaments.

There was a presentation expected by Rhona VanKirk of West Virginia Goes Purple, but she was unable to attend.

The commission appointed Shawna Taylor to the Parks and Recreation Board, and Donna Salisbury to the Business Development and Authority Board.

They accepted the Sheriff's Settlement for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

The commission hired two new employees for the Ambulance Service. Both men passed their screening, and will begin immediately as EVOC Drivers at \$11



This painting, which was donated to the county and the Clay Historical Society over a year ago, is planned to be installed in the Courthouse for public viewing shortly.

an hour: Danny Stump and Brandon Hardy.

In other news, Commissioner Johnson will shortly be putting up a historic painting donated to

the County and the Clay Historical Society more than a year ago inside the Courthouse for public display.



BOOKED

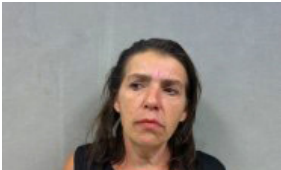


REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON COUNTY



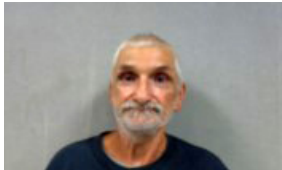
James David Bragg  
Booked 8/7/25  
Conspiracy, child neglect with risk of injury



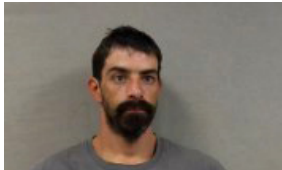
Mary Kay Bragg  
Booked 8/7/25  
Child neglect with risk of injury, conspiracy



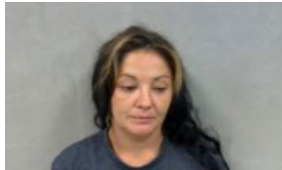
Randall Glenn Brown  
Booked 8/5/25  
Fugitive from justice



Adron Harold Claypool  
Booked 8/4/25  
False report of emergency, prohibited person with firearm



Shawn Michael Helmick  
Booked 8/6/25  
Violation of protective order



Abbie Marie Morrison  
Booked 8/5/25  
Harassment, reckless driving

BRAXTON COUNTY



Curtis Victor Riggs  
Booked 8/7/25  
Obstruction



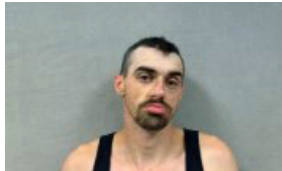
Brandy Nicole Shaver  
Booked 8/9/25  
Bailpiece



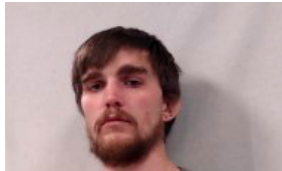
Terry Arnold Bess  
Booked 8/5/25  
Home confinement violation



Ronny Lee Hinkle  
Booked 8/8/25  
Entering without breaking



Randy Lee Johnson  
Booked 8/5/25  
Entering without breaking

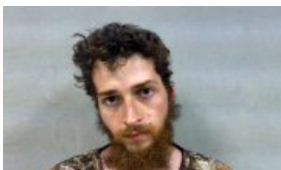


Jack Scott Queener  
Booked 8/6/25  
Parole hold

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Tashina Renee Ritchie  
Booked 8/10/25  
Entering without breaking



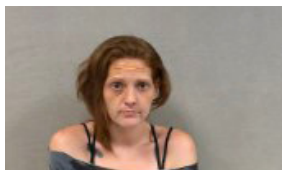
Dalton Scott Strader  
Booked 8/5/25  
Sexual abuse in the first degree



Tyler Wesley Thomas  
Booked 8/8/25  
Capias



Travis Leroy Thompson  
Booked 8/6/25  
Bond violation, Capias



Tiffany Nicole Bragg  
Booked 8/8/25  
Capias

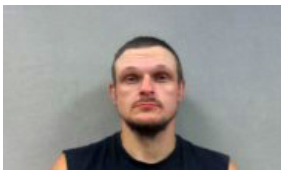


Robert Lee Grose  
Booked 8/9/25  
Wanton endangerment with firearm

CLAY COUNTY



Melissa Lynn May  
Booked 8/7/25  
Obtaining money/property services by false pretenses



Russell Swatz Schoolcraft  
Booked 8/10/25  
Domestic battery

Celebrating those who help keep our elections safe, secure, and fair on National Poll Worker Recruitment Day

By Kris Warner, WV Secretary of State

West Virginia is a place where people know their neighbors, and that’s exactly what makes local elections work. When voters walk into a polling place and see a familiar face, a teacher, a pastor, a coach, a neighbor, a parent, it builds trust in the system. It reminds folks that elections aren’t run by distant bureaucrats; they’re managed by people right here in our own communities.

We West Virginians pride ourselves on being a state full of hard-working, community-minded people. From the southern coal fields to the beautiful river views of the northern panhandle, Mountaineers know what it means to show up for one another. That same spirit is what makes our elections possible. This National Poll Worker Recruitment Day was August 12, it’s time we put that spirit into action again.

Why It Matters in West Virginia

Poll workers are the everyday heroes who keep our democracy running. They’re the first face voters see when they walk into a polling place. They help check voter IDs, issue ballots, explain procedures, and ensure every vote is cast securely and counted accurately. We need individuals of all ages, races, and party affiliations to serve, and especially want younger people and those with a heart for helping seniors or voters with disabilities.

Without them, Election Day simply doesn’t happen.

And yet, across the country and right here in West Virginia, we’re facing a poll worker shortage. In the 2024 General Election, several counties in our state reported last-minute scrambles to fill staffing gaps. If we want fair, efficient, and accessible elections next year and beyond, we must recruit and train a new generation of poll workers. That effort begins now.

What Does a Poll Worker Do?

Poll workers are trained to perform a variety of tasks, including:

- Setting up and closing the polling location
- Greeting voters and checking them in

Assisting voters with voting equipment

Answering questions and ensuring the voting process runs smoothly

Helping ensure voters with disabilities have an accessible voting experience

It’s a long day, no doubt about it—but it’s a deeply rewarding experience. You’ll walk away knowing you’ve played a direct role in safeguarding our democratic process. And let’s not forget: being a poll worker is not a volunteer gig. Poll workers are paid for their time, including training and Election Day service. You’re not just doing a civic duty, you’re also earning a paycheck.

Who Can Be a Poll Worker?

To serve in West Virginia, you must be a registered voter in the state and able to complete training. Whether you’re retired and looking for a meaningful way to give back, a stay-at-home parent with flexibility, or a college student looking to engage with the democratic process, there’s a place for you at the polls.

A Call to Serve

When we think of protecting our constitutional republic, we often picture dramatic headlines or major elections. But, the truth is, democracy is protected by everyday people doing small, steady work at their local polling place like checking voter IDs and passing out stickers. Serving as a poll worker is a simple yet powerful way to make a difference. It’s not glamorous. It won’t land you on the front page. But it will make sure your neighbors can cast their votes with confidence and have their voices heard.

So, this National Poll Worker Recruitment Day, I’m asking all West Virginians to consider becoming a poll worker for your community and our state. Step up Sign up. We need your help.

For more information or to apply visit GoVoteWV.com.

Let’s do what West Virginians do best—show up for each other and for the Great State of West Virginia.

OBITUARY



Myrna Weatherholt

Myrna Nell Weatherholt passed away peacefully on July 28, 2025 in her home at Windsor Run in Matthews, North Carolina. Nell was surrounded by her devoted husband Charlie of 65 years; loving daughter Jill; and her great caregivers Janaya and Toni. Nell’s other wonderful caregivers not present for her final moments included Rans, Cece, Susan, Mona and Quan.

Born March 9, 1939, in Ivydale, West Virginia, Nell was the youngest of four daughters of the late Reverend James J. and Merle Rogers. A lifelong Methodist, Nell was a woman of deep, but quiet faith. Among her survivors are her sisters Phyllis, age 98, of Madison, Alabama, and Sharon, age 90, of Nicholasville, Kentucky. Her sister Kathleen preceded her in death in 1992.

Nell graduated from Clay County High School in 1957 and continued her formal education to become an X-ray Technician at Charleston General Hospital. She met Charlie in Charleston, West Virginia. They were married September 4, 1960. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother.

Nell worked at Charleston General and support-

ed Charlie through the remainder of his college education. She faithfully supported Charlie through a career of 33 years with the U.S. Defense Department, including the Corps of Engineers in Huntington, West Virginia; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Upon Charlie’s retirement in 1995, Nell was recognized for her contributions by the Assistant Secretary of the Army.

In addition, Nell worked for many years as the Assistant Director of a private school owned by the founders of Sunrise Assisted Living. She loved working with children, and they loved her in return, as evidenced by the many notes and small gifts she brought home.

Nell’s favorite pastimes included traveling overseas with Charlie, going

on cruises, playing golf, shopping for bargains, and working Sudoku puzzles.

Unfortunately, the final 13 years of Nell’s life were spent fighting a courageous and tenacious battle with Alzheimer’s Disease. Through it all, she maintained her spunky attitude and her love of music while always displaying her beautiful smile.

Nell will be laid to rest at Mountain View Cemetery in Marlinton, West Virginia. Eventually, she’ll be joined by Charlie and Jill.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to VIA Health Partners, whose compassionate care and support provided comfort during this difficult time. Donations can be made online at www.hpccr.org.

Puzzle Answers Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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







# THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

Aug. 13, 1900: Railroad mogul and founder of Huntington, Collis Potter Huntington, died. Raised in poverty, Huntington went west when gold was discovered in California. There he became rich, not from mining but by selling supplies to miners.

Aug. 13, 2018: The House of Delegates adopted articles of impeachment against all sitting justices of the state Supreme Court of Appeals.

Aug. 14, 1894: Entertainer Ada Beatrice Queen Victoria Louise Virginia “Bricktop” Smith was born at Alderson. She performed in Paris in the 1920s and opened her own clubs, the Music Box and Bricktop’s, a favorite hangout of songwriter Cole Porter.

Aug. 14, 1914: Five burglars robbed the Glen Alum Coal Company payroll in Mingo County. In the chase that followed, eight men—including all the robbers—were killed. All but \$20 of the stolen blood-stained \$7,000 was recovered.

Aug. 14, 1941: Singer Connie Smith was born in Indiana but was raised in Summers County. She became the first female country artist to have a number one record for eight weeks. Dolly Parton once said, “There are only three great singers: Connie Smith, Barbra Streisand, and Linda Ronstadt. The rest of us are just pre-tending.”



Aug. 14, 1943: Astronaut Jon Andrew McBride was born in Charleston. McBride became an astronaut in 1979 and piloted the space shuttle Challenger on an eight-day mission in 1984.

Aug. 15, 1867: The cornerstone was laid for the Fairmont Branch Normal

School (now Fairmont State University).



Aug. 15, 1906: The Niagara Movement began a five-day meeting at Storer College in Harpers Ferry. The organization was founded the previous year by a group of Black intellectuals, including W. E. B. Du Bois.

Aug. 15, 1946: The first FM radio station in the state, WCFC of Beckley, began regular programming.

Aug. 16, 1851: William Hope “Coin” Harvey was born in Buffalo, Putnam County. Harvey, a social reformer, was nominated for president of the United States by the Liberty Party in 1932.

Aug. 16, 1913: Helen Holt was born in Illinois. In 1957, Governor Cecil Underwood appointed her to fill the secretary of state’s unexpired term, making her the first woman to hold statewide office

in West Virginia.



Aug. 17, 1944: Staff Sergeant Stanley Bender of Fayette County earned the Medal of Honor in southern France. Bender rushed through intense machine gun fire and grenades, and knocked out two German machine guns with rifle fire. His actions inspired the rest of his company to take out a German roadblock, kill 37 enemy soldiers, and take 26 prisoners.

Aug. 17, 1946: Old-time musician Dwight Diller was born in Rand but spent most of his life in Pocahontas County, documenting, teaching, and performing traditional

music.



Aug. 17, 1976: The National Mine Health and Safety Academy opened at Beaver, near Beckley. The academy, located on a 76-acre campus, is the world’s largest educational institution devoted solely to safety and health in mining.

Aug. 18, 1749: Explorer Celoron de Blainville buried a leaden plate at Point Pleasant, after burying another at Wheeling, to claim the Ohio Valley for France.



Aug. 18, 1885: Artemus Ward Cox was born on a farm at Red Knob, Roane County. In 1914, Cox bought the George

Ort Department Store on Capitol Street in Charleston. That store became the first in a chain of 21 A. W. Cox stores in West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.



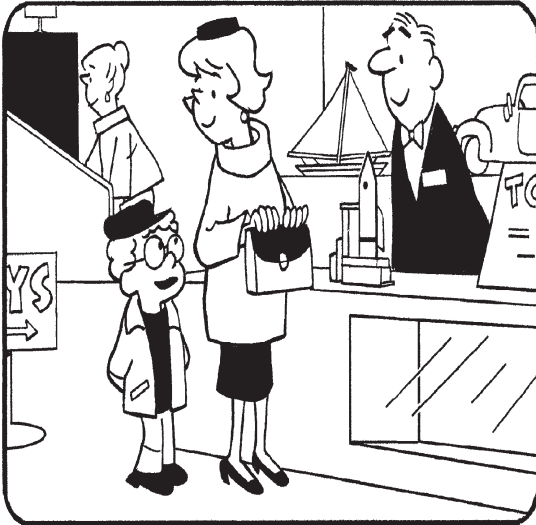
Aug. 19, 1863: Union cavalry under Brigadier General William W. Averell destroyed the Confederate saltpeter works near Franklin. It was the first of a series of Union raids in West Virginia led by Averell that month.

Aug. 19, 1997: Fiddler Curly Ray Cline died. Born in Logan County, Cline was a member of the Lonesome Pine Fiddlers and Ralph Stanley’s Clinch Mountain Boys.

## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Sign is lower. 3. Sailboat is smaller. 4. Skirt is longer. 5. Pocket is added. 6. Boy is moved.

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

### GAMEPLAY

#### ACROSS

- 1 Served in blazing liquor  
7 Longtime executive of the Oakland Raiders  
14 Utters words  
20 Tulip relatives  
21 Divider of musical measures  
22 Began vigorously  
23 Classic board game played by judges between trials?  
25 Put in a box  
26 Ending for priest  
27 Gets frantic with fear  
28 Oil rig part  
30 Feel sore  
31 Russian war vessel on which a classic board game is played?  
35 Person knocking over a drink, e.g.  
38 “— queen!” (“You go!”)  
39 Grandiosity  
40 “Toodle-oo!”  
41 Bauxite, e.g.  
44 Publish anew  
47 Neighbor of Mich. and Ill.

- 50 Review of a classic board game?  
54 Quiver  
56 Tangle up  
57 Trifecta, e.g.  
58 1/60 min.  
60 Like some noisy little dogs  
61 —OPs (CIA tactics)  
62 Maple or oak  
64 Morally rigid  
68 60% of cinco  
69 Classic board game that’s popular with inhabitants of heaven?  
73 Make whole again  
75 San Francisco’s region  
76 Don of radio  
77 Tennis match unit  
80 First-string players  
82 Springfield’s Flanders  
83 Singapore sling liquor  
85 Havana resident, to Havanans  
87 Infatuate  
89 Classic board game played at a shindig?  
93 Tennis court divider

- 94 Of atomic weapons  
96 “... or — thought!”  
97 Filly’s father  
98 Mexican 81-Down  
99 “Combat!” actor Morrow  
101 Captured with a rope  
104 Classic board game you keep making people play even though they have no interest?  
111 Appeal  
112 Voting group  
113 One causing fright  
114 Ovid’s “— Amatoria”  
117 Regard highly  
119 Shop dedicated to selling a classic board game?  
123 Prickly plant  
124 Snooty sort  
125 “Everything’s good here”  
126 “Marty” star Borgnine  
127 When a check to a landlord is due  
128 “— what your country can do for you ...”

#### DOWN

- 1 Big ice sheet  
2 They may be chapped  
3 Toby brews  
4 Space station until 2001  
5 “C’m on, help me out here”  
6 Will subject  
7 Bubbling over  
8 Knight’s weapon  
9 Containing smelting waste  
10 TV title ET  
11 Cruella  
De — (“101 Dalmatians” meanie)  
12 Like purchases gotten via the program  
13 Close using stitches  
14 Cleaned with a broom  
15 Ballpoint, e.g.  
16 Put up tents  
17 Sharp as —  
18 Maker of GLEAN cereals  
19 Dutch genre painter Jan  
24 Preludes  
29 Janitors’ tools  
31 Actress Lively  
32 Injure  
33 “Got it now”

- 34 Nail file stuff  
35 Throat bug  
36 Analgesic targets  
37 “I’ll pay for this one”  
42 Exuberant war cry  
43 Ending for Siam  
45 Commercial lead-in to -gram or -matic  
46 Turn the car toward  
47 Ballet promoter, e.g.  
48 “Huh-uh!”  
49 Teetotalers  
51 About  
52 Landscaping plant  
53 Step  
55 Has food  
59 Pack tightly  
63 “My People” writer Abba  
65 A, in French  
66 Wolfgang Puck’s restaurant  
67 Bring forth  
70 Make juice of  
71 Ethel Merman’s “— Was a Lady”  
72 “The jig —!”  
73 Normandy city  
74 — Reader (eclectic quarterly)

- 78 — nous (between us)  
79 Trifled (with)  
81 \$\$\$  
84 Possibilities  
86 — -Terre (capital of Guadeloupe)  
88 U.S. region with aging factories  
90 — bean  
91 Journalist Burnett  
92 Actress Duff  
95 “Neato!”  
98 Rave about  
100 Tooth type  
102 Lack of vigor  
103 Beats it  
104 Sudden flood  
105 More aged  
106 Staff anew  
107 “Papi Chulo” co-star Matt  
108 School, in Soissons  
109 Prefix with -hedron that means “twenty”  
110 Like brine  
114 Related  
115 Nevada city  
116 “Let it stand”  
118 Hi- — graphics  
120 Author Anaïs  
121 Hitter Mel  
122 Brother of DDE’s follower

|     |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5   | 6   |    | 7   | 8   | 9  | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  |     | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20  |     |     |    |     |     |    | 21  |     |    |     |     |     |     |     | 22  |     |     |     |     |     |
| 23  |     |     |    |     |     |    | 24  |     |    |     |     |     |     |     | 25  |     |     |     |     |     |
| 26  |     |     |    | 27  |     |    |     |     |    |     |     | 28  |     | 29  |     |     | 30  |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |    | 31  |     |    |     |     |    | 32  | 33  |     |     |     |     | 34  |     |     |     |     |
| 35  | 36  | 37  |    |     |     |    |     |     | 38 |     |     |     |     | 39  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
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| 73  | 74  |     |    |     | 75  |    |     |     |    |     |     |     | 76  |     |     |     |     | 77  | 78  | 79  |
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| 104 | 105 | 106 |    |     |     |    | 107 | 108 |    |     |     | 109 | 110 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 111 |     |     |    |     | 112 |    |     |     |    |     | 113 |     |     |     |     |     |     | 114 | 115 | 116 |
| 117 |     |     |    | 118 |     |    |     | 119 |    | 120 | 121 |     |     |     |     |     | 122 |     |     |     |
| 123 |     |     |    |     |     |    |     | 124 |    |     |     |     |     |     | 125 |     |     |     |     |     |
| 126 |     |     |    |     |     |    |     | 127 |    |     |     |     |     |     | 128 |     |     |     |     |     |

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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.



September 1958

## THE WIDEN NEWS

WIDEN, WEST VIRGINIA

H. L. BEATTIE

MANAGING EDITOR

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

PEARLE D. WILLIAMS

VICTOR B. SHINGLER

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## Widen Notes

Dear Jerry:

School is now in session and everything is settling down to normal again after all the excitement that accompanies the beginning of the school year. It seems that Fall is really here; the days are getting shorter and the mornings and evenings have a nipiness that tells us that colder weather is just around the corner.

Lots of our neighbors have been on the "sick list" since last month and some of them have had sojourns to the hospital. Robert Elliott, Marvin Houghton, Theodore Johnson, French Snow, "Red" Truman, Steve Felix and Virgil Johnson are among the ones who have been hospitalized. Hope they'll be out and around again soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barrett have recently moved to Widen and are living in the house formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Leeson. Mr. Barrett works in the Engineering Department and Mrs. Barrett is employed in the Medical Department as R.N. The Barretts have two children, Chuck who is — years old and a High School in 15 year old and a High School Saphomore and Harriet who is 10 years old and in the sixth grade.

Miss Betty Craft, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garland Craft and Miss April Manning, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Manning left Sunday September 7th for Glenville College where they are enrolled as freshmen. Betty and April are both 1958 graduates of Widen High School.

Dr. and Mrs. E. D. Moyers spent the week-end of September 6th visiting in Fairmont, W. Va. and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Moyers has resumed his duties at the Widen Medical Department after an extended illness.

Mrs. Hannah M. Peterson of Des Moines, Iowa, mother of Mrs. E. C. George, recently visited in Widen for about 10 days. This was her first trip to West Virginia and she seemed to like what she saw. Her most vivid impression was the number of curves in the road between Widen and Clay.

On her second trip over the road she made the effort to count the turns and came up with 196 for an answer to how many twists there are in those 20 miles. Mrs. George brought her mother to Widen on the return trip from taking daughter Judy to school at Bloomington, Indiana, and Mrs. Peterson will make the return trip by train, stopping off in Cincinnati and Chicago to visit with her other two daughters in those cities.

Mr. Marvin Houghton has been seriously ill and a patient in the Charleston General Hospital for several days. Mr. Houghton is a retired employee of Elk River Coal and Lumber Company. We hope that his condition will soon be improved and that he will be back home before too long.

Mrs. Harry Manning was recently a patient in the Charleston General Hospital but is at home now and is much improved. She and Mr. Manning and grandson Jimmy visited with Mrs. Manning's sister in Maryland the week-end of September 6th.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dorsey and children, Mrs. George Kitzmiller and Mrs. Earl Napier and son recently spent a week vacationing in North Carolina. While there they visited Mrs. Napier's son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Napier.

The site for the new Baptist Church is beginning to take shape as the ground work progresses. Bulldozing is being done as the operators can find time from their duties to do so.

Mr. Cecil Butcher is Chairman of the Building Fund Committee and will accept any and all donations.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mr. W. H. Bower's mother, Mrs. Dora Bower of Spencer, West Virginia, September 6, 1958.

The Widen School Band has been working very hard getting ready to attend the Black Walnut Festival at Spencer, October 4, 1958. Let's all try to go to this Festival and give our kids rousing cheer as they pass the reviewing stand.

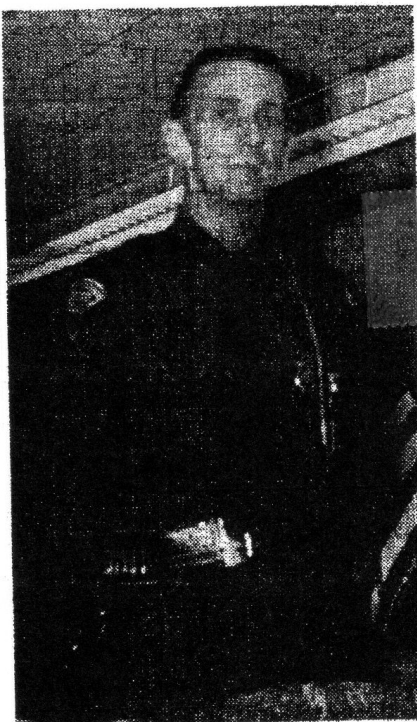
Hula-Hoops are the latest fad to hit Widen. All the youngsters seem to be enjoying this amusing pastime. Have you tried it? Gee! It really isn't easy, but it's guaranteed to take inches off your waist line.

You should take time out for a visit back home now. The trees are gradually changing to a splendor of brilliant colors. West Virginia is beautiful during the autumn months, to say the least. Sure hope you'll be able to make a trip back this year.

So long 'till next month—

—Co-Eds.

### TROOPER SERGENT ADDRESSES ROTARY



Guest speaker at the August 29 meeting of Widen Rotary Club was Trooper W. D. Sargent of the Clay detachment of the West Virginia State Police. In keeping with his position, the officer's talk centered on highway safety.

He stressed the fact that while inspection of vehicles and taking bad ones off the road was a big help in holding down accidents, the big need in traffic safety is education of drivers. Driving an automobile or truck is a job that requires the entire attention of the driver as much or more than anything else that contributes to

the gruesome statistics of fatal accidents on the highway. The physical operation of a modern automobile has become so simple that drivers tend to forget that they still have to watch where they are going.

As a point to prove his theory of inattention as the major cause of accidents, Trooper Sergeant pointed out that West Virginia's school buses have the best safety record in the nation and he feels that is the direct result of the care with which drivers are selected and tested annually.

Following his talk, which was brief, to the point and well delivered, Trooper Sergeant answered questions from the floor.

This occasion was the trooper's first formal contact with the people of Widen and from what the Rotarians could tell, Clay County has received another fine officer to look after the well-being and safety of the county's citizens.

### WAYNE GEARY TRUMAN DIES

Services were held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 10, 1958 for Wayne Geary Truman, 7 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Truman of Harrison who died on September 7th from injuries received when struck by a car on September 5th. The accident occurred on State Route No. 11 near the Harrison Post Office.

Wayne was a student at the Flat Fork Elementary School at Harrison and was in the second grade.

Surviving are his parents Mr. and Mrs. Glen Truman, two sisters, Mrs. Darius Greenleaf and Mrs. Roxie Luzader of Lorain, Ohio; two brothers, Larry of Lorain and Gale, at home; and the grandfather, T. T. Bragg of Harrison, West Virginia.

### DUNDON STORE HAS NEW MANAGER

Mr. Dolan Rhodes has been named acting manager of the Dundon Store of the Elk River Coal & Lumber Company, upon the resignation of its former manager, Mr. Russell Hess.

Mr. Rhodes has previously worked at the Dundon Store as clerk and delivery boy, before being transferred to the Widen Store. Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes plan to move from Widen to Dundon in the near future.

Mr. Rhodes is the son of the late Jay D. Rhodes, who was a former manager of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company store at Swandale.

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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 Bickmore on Fola Road  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM  
Wednesday evening services 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Ralph D. Lane**

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

**BIG UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 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 Prociuous. Across Camp Creek Bridge on the left. Preaching Every Sunday  
9:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM Bible Study every Wednesday 7:00 PM **Pastor: Jerry Chandler**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GAULEY BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Junior BYF/Senior BYF 6:00 PM  
Sunday Evening Worship 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Kids/Children/ Youth 7:00 PM  
**GOSPEL LIGHT COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Located on Rt. 119 at the mouth of Gabe. Everyone welcome.  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday night 6:00 PM  
Wednesday night 6:00 PM  
**Pastor: Rev. David Smith**  
**GROVES CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Sunday Service 10:00 AM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
Friday Service 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Dean Rogers**

**HALLBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday Sunday 10:30 AM  
Sunday Night Preaching 6:00 PM  
**Pastor: Michael Jackson**

**HARTLAND COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Wednesday Night Service 7:00 PM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM  
**Pastor: Jeremy Holcomb**

**HORNERS FORK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 PM  
**Pastor: Joe Dawson**

**HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
Hansford Fork Rd, Maysel, WV (off Rt. 36)  
Pentecostal/Full Gospel  
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM  
Wednesday evening 7:00 PM  
Pastor: (304) 587-2996  
(home), (304) 587-2703 (church)  
**Pastor: James R. Paxton**

**IDA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Bentree  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Prayer Service & Bible Study 7:00 PM  
Wednesday BYF 7:00 PM.  
All ages welcome. Also have crafts, etc., all children welcome.  
**Pastor: Larry Skaggs**

**INDORE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM  
Sunday Class 11:00-12:30  
Preaching Lunch 12:30-1:30 PM  
Wednesday Service 6:30-7:30 PM  
Everyone welcome!

**IVYDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Worship Service 11:00  
Everyone Welcome!  
304-395-9990  
**Pastor: Freddie Elliott**

**JODIE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Come Worship with Us!  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Evening Service 7:00 PM  
Wednesday (BYF) 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Night 7:00 PM

**JOHNSON CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Vineyard Ridge  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Night 7:00 PM  
**JUBILEE MOUNTAIN CHURCH**  
103 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043  
Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 12 noon  
For more info call 304-587-4779  
**Pastor: David Davis**

**LAUREL FORK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH** of Adonijah  
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM  
Sunday Night 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
Youth Meeting 7:00 PM

**LEATHERWOOD FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Sunday Service 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Services 7:00 PM

**LIBERTY ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Night: Bible Study/Prayer Meeting and Youth Group 7:00 PM **Pastor: John Barnhouse**

**LICKFORK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Preaching 10:00 every  
Sunday Morning  
Sunday Night Services 7:00 PM  
Wednesday 7:00 PM  
Come worship with us!  
**Pastor: Herb Vance**

**LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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 followed by Religious Education 9:30 AM  
Wednesday Liturgy 6:00 PM  
Everyone welcome!  
**Pastor: Father Matheus Ro SVD**  
**Pastoral Associates: Father Dominijus Boak SVD**

**ROGERS FORK BAPTIST 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 PM  
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 Sundays 9:45 AM  
Bible Study Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM  
Everyone welcome.  
**Pastor: Rev. Stewart Cottrell**

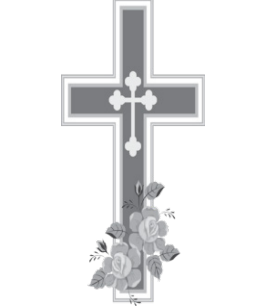
**WALNUT GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Preaching 1st & 3rd Sundays 11:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Pastor: (304) 332-5503  
**Pastor: Jimmy Adkins**

**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**





To place your legals  
Call us at (304)-647-5724

LEGAL

Tariff Form No. 8-C  
(Tariff Rule 14.2 et seq. (Historical Rule 30-C))  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES UPON APPLICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY, a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, an application containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers at various locations in the Counties of Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood and Wyoming.

The proposed changes in rates and charges will become effective November 1, 2025, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will increase revenues approximately \$44,564,000 annually, an increase of approximately 39.2%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers of MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY will be changed as follows:

|             | INCREASE    | INCREASE |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Residential | \$ 12.51    | 15.56%   |
| Commercial  | \$ 62.49    | 19.80%   |
| Industrial  | \$ 440.00   | 9.18%    |
| Resale      | \$ 1,479.55 | 28.10%   |

Proposed PGA rates for each Mountaineer rate schedule, which include Business and Occupation Tax, are as follows:

| Rate Schedule | Present  | Proposed | Increase \$ | Increase % |
|---------------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| RS            | \$ 3.460 | \$ 3.960 | \$ 0.500    | 14.45%     |
| RS Demand     | \$ 11.08 | \$ 20.59 | \$ 9.51     | 85.83%     |
| GS            | \$ 5.308 | \$ 7.391 | \$ 2.084    | 39.24%     |
| LGS           | \$ 2.860 | \$ 3.960 | \$ 1.101    | 38.46%     |
| WS            | \$ 5.080 | \$ 7.074 | \$ 1.995    | 39.25%     |
| IS            | \$ 2.860 | \$ 3.960 | \$ 1.101    | 38.46%     |
| LIS           | \$ 2.860 | \$ 3.960 | \$ 1.101    | 38.46%     |

Resale customers of MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY include Canaan valley Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Consumers Gas Utility Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, and City of Philippi.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. 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 increased rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing.

This filing also contains proposed changes to MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY’S rate components for customers that purchase their gas from an alternative supplier/marketer and purchase only transportation services including MDFQ, Storage Balancing Fee, Firm Standby Fee, and Fuel Retention Percentage from MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY. These transportation service rates are applicable to customers that voluntarily elect to subscribe to transportation service. The proposed changes to the rate components are as follows:

| Rate Component        | Present   | Proposed | Increase \$ | Increase % |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| MDFQ                  | \$ 12.952 | \$15.861 | \$ 2.909    | 22.46%     |
| Storage Balancing Fee | \$ 0.483  | \$ 0.609 | \$ 0.126    | 26.09%     |
| Firm Standby Fee      | \$ 1.833  | \$ 2.648 | \$ 0.815    | 44.46%     |
| Fuel Retention        | 4.00%     | 4.00%    | N/A         | 0.00%      |

Any change in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. If a hearing is conducted, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.

A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the following offices of the Company:

- Mountaineer Gas Company Office
- 501 56th Street SE, Charleston, West Virginia 25304.

A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

The Rule 30-C procedure is designed to provide a procedure for changing rates charged to customers by natural gas distribution utilities based exclusively on the cost of purchased gas. Consequently, protest should be limited to the reasonableness of such costs and the method by which they are calculated. Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or notice of intervention within twenty-five (25) days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate adjustments and to participate in future proceedings. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission’s rules on intervention set forth in the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. All interventions must be mailed or hand-delivered and be addressed to Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323. Protests may be filed online through the Commission 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, Charleston, WV 25323.

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA

In the Matter of Petition of Name Change of

Emma Hartshorn Civil Action No. 25-P-12  
Current Name Emma Marie Hartshorn Judge Jasmine R. H. Morton  
To  
New Name Emma Marie Arnold

Legal Notice of Publication  
Change of Name

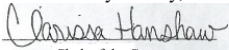
Order of Publication

Circuit Court of Clay County  
West Virginia

Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of October, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Emma Hartshorn will apply by Petition to the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said court, changing name of Emma Marie Hartshorn to Emma Marie Arnold 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 this office.

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this 31st day of July, 2025.

  
Clerk of the Court

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA

In the Matter of Petition of Name Change of

Sadie Onyx McCallister Civil Action No. 25-P-13  
Current Name Sadie Onyx McCallister Judge Michael Asbury  
To  
New Name Sadie Onyx Losito

Legal Notice of Publication  
Change of Name

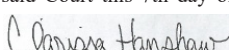
Order of Publication

Circuit Court of Clay County  
West Virginia

Notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of September, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Marina Losito will apply by Petition to the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said court, changing name of Sadie Onyx McCallister to Sadie Onyx Losito 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 this office.

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this 7th day of August, 2025.

  
Clerk of the Court

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA

In the Matter of Petition of Name Change of

Kamryn Carly McCallister Civil Action No. 25-P-14  
Current Name Kamryn Carly McCallister Judge Michael Asbury  
To  
New Name Kamryn Carly Losito

Legal Notice of Publication  
Change of Name

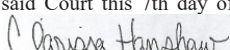
Order of Publication

Circuit Court of Clay County  
West Virginia

Notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of September, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Marina Losito will apply by Petition to the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said court, changing name of Kamryn Carly McCallister to Kamryn Carly Losito 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 this office.

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this 7th day of August, 2025.

  
Clerk of the Court

LEGAL

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

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

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

Publication Date: Thursday, August 7, 2025

Claim Deadline: Monday, October 6, 2025

APPOINTMENT DATE 07/09/2025

ESTATE NAME: EVELYN ALDEN RYERSON HATHAWAY  
EXECUTRIX VIRGINIA HATHAWAY  
4321 BIG OTTER HWY  
IVYDALE WV 25113-8226

APPOINTMENT DATE 07/01/2025

ESTATE NAME: CLINTON NOLAN NICHOLS  
EXECUTRIX BEVERLY JEAN CARPER NICHOLS  
2277 CLAY MAYSEL ROAD  
PO BOX 121  
CLAY WV 25043

APPOINTMENT DATE 07/02/2025

ESTATE NAME: PHYLLIS JOY SAMPLES  
EXECUTOR DARRELL A SAMPLES JR  
2700 MIZELL AVE, UNIT 902  
FERNANDINA BEACH FL 32034-2399

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 07/30/2025

Sheila Stone  
County Clerk  
Clay County  
P.O. Box 190  
246 Main Street  
Clay WV 25043-0190

LEGAL

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY

IN RE: State v. J.P., A.P., & D.P., Case Nos. 25-JA-58-60

In the matter of J.P., A.P., & D.P., and the unknown whereabouts of Amanda Baty, Adult Respondent Mother, of J.P., A.P., & D.P., and Kevin Puente, Adult Respondent Father of J.P.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

And

NOTICE OF ANSWER

To: Amanda Baty, and Kevin Puente.

(The object of this action is to notify the Adult Respondents of an abuse and neglect petition herein filed so that said Adult Respondents may answer the same to protect their interest.)

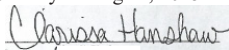
You are hereby notified that an abuse and neglect and/or abandonment petition has been filed with the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, on the 9th day of July 2025, and assigned Case Numbers 25-JA-58-60, wherein it is alleged that the Adult Respondent Mother of the Infant Respondent J.P. (DOB: 12.31.08), A.P. (DOB: 11.29.11), and D.P. (DOB: 04.17.13), is Amanda Baty, and that said Infant Respondents be placed in the custody of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, with said Infant Respondent remaining in the care, custody and control of the said Department since that time in accordance 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 CUSTODIAL AND PARENTAL RIGHTS TO SAID INFANT CHILD.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Adult Respondents, Amanda Baty, and Kevin Puente, shall appear before the Honorable Judge Asbury, Jr. on the 21st day of August 2025, at 11:30 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 Circuit Clerk of Clay County, West Virginia at the Clay County Courthouse, Clay West Virginia.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

BY: Wayne King, Prosecuting Attorney Clay County, West Virginia  
Entered by the Clerk of said Court on the 5th day of August, 2025.

  
Clerk of the Court

# Vandalia Health Charleston Area Medical Center first radiation center in area offering cutting-edge treatment for osteoarthritis

Vandalia Health CAMC Radiation Oncology is now treating patients with inflamed joints using low dose radiation therapy (LDRT).

This is a well-established treatment modality in Europe that significantly reduces pain and improves mobility, especially in patients who haven’t responded well to conventional therapies.

Low dose radiation therapy is a safe, non-in-

vasive way to help reduce pain and inflammation in joints affected by osteoarthritis.

“It’s exciting how CAMC is advancing the future of radiation therapy right here in Charleston,” said Lloyd Farinash, MD, Radiation Oncologist. “Unlike high-dose radiation used to treat cancer, this therapy uses very low levels of radiation, just enough to calm the body’s overactive inflammatory

response. For many patients, this can mean real relief from joint pain and improved mobility without the side effects that sometimes come with medications or surgery.”

LDRT is especially helpful for older adults (50 and older) who have ongoing joint pain despite using medications, physical therapy or injections or other treatments.

Osteoarthritis is commonly treated with a combination of over-the-counter pain relievers and anti-inflammatory medications, physical therapy, exercise, injections into the joint and joint replacement surgery in more advanced cases

While these options can help, they don’t work for everyone, and many come with side effects, downtime or limited effectiveness.

“LDRT gives our community a new option for managing chronic pain right here at home,” Dr. Farinash said. “It helps patients avoid surgeries, reduce their reliance on medications, and get back to the activities they enjoy. It’s convenient and doesn’t require a hospital stay or recovery time.”

For patients who feel like they’ve run out of options, this therapy may offer hope, relief and a better quality of life without having to travel far or take on high medical risks.

Patients or physicians treating patients with osteoarthritis can contact CAMC Radiation Oncology for more information and to see if this treatment is appropriate.

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# West Virginia will finally study how to protect communities after deadly 2016 floods

*Gov. Patrick Morrisey announced his office would fund two studies aimed at identifying projects to mitigate damage from flood events. This includes a study of the Kanawha River Basin, which was originally requested almost a decade ago.*

by Sarah Elbeshbishi for Mountain State Spotlight, [www.mountainstatespotlight.com](http://www.mountainstatespotlight.com)

*This story was originally published by Mountain State Spotlight. Get stories like this delivered to your email inbox once a week; sign up for the free newsletter at <https://mountainstatespotlight.org/newsletter>.*

Nearly a decade after the deadly 2016 floods, West Virginia officials are moving forward with a study to look at flood mitigation measures across the Kanawha River Basin.

Last month, Gov. Patrick Morrisey announced that the state will work with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers on a study that thoroughly examines flood risk management strategies across 20 West Virginia counties, most of which were impacted by the June 2016 floods.

Morrisey’s announcement comes nearly four years after the study was initially funded by the federal government.

West Virginia Sen. Shelley Moore Capito requested the study in 2016, following the deadly flooding that swept across the state and left 23 dead. Federal funding for the project was later secured in the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

But these types of studies require the state and federal government to split the cost equally. And the state didn’t put forward its \$1.5 million share for the study until last month, indicated by Morrisey’s July announcement.

In addition to the money for the Kanawha River Basin study, the governor’s office also put \$1.5 million toward the Upper Guyandotte Flood Study. That study will look at the flood risk and possible mitigation measures across Wyoming County and parts of Raleigh, which are especially vulnerable to flooding.

These two studies are the first major investments in several years by state leaders to address the growing threat of flooding, underscoring the state’s slow progress in tackling this issue.

Securing the funding spanned two Governors’ administrations, according to Morrisey spokesperson Drew Galang. He said after the Legislature allocated funds, Gov. Jim Justice’s administration worked on it and the Morrisey administration determined the final amount.

A spokesperson for Justice, who is now a U.S. senator, did not respond to questions.

West Virginia’s mountainous terrain and thousands of rivers and creeks — along with decades of strip mining and timbering — make the state especially vulnerable to flooding. This is likely to only get worse as climate change continues to increase the risk. And with an in-

creasing frequency of floods, mitigation efforts are crucial to lessen the damage caused by them.

But it will likely be awhile before any projects stemming from the two studies are executed. Both studies are anticipated to take three years, and there’s no guarantee funding for any potential projects will be immediately available.

Capito did ensure that any project that comes out of the study of the Kanawha River Basin will only require a 10% state match — less than the typical 35%. The rest will be covered by the federal government.

The governor’s office is currently working on other flood mitigation projects in the state, including warning systems, improving drain systems and building and repairing culverts, said Galang.

“Governor Morrisey is committed to protecting West Virginians from floods and all options are on the table to best prevent and mitigate these disasters,” he said.

## Lots of plans, no funding

In 2004, after decades of devastating floods, West Virginia officials drew up a flood protection plan that proposed several actions, including suggestions on floodplain and wastewater management as well as improved building codes and flood warning systems. But it was never implemented by state agencies.

Lawmakers revisited that plan in the aftermath of the 2016 floods and eventually tasked the State Resiliency Office, which they created in 2017, with updating the plan.

In 2023, the Legislature designated a special trust fund to help the office protect communities, especially those with low-income households, from flooding as well as to implement recommendations from its updated state flood plan, which the office completed in June 2024.

But lawmakers have never allocated money to that fund.

Robert Martin, director of the State Resiliency Office, told a legislative committee in December 2023 that there were “probably projects right now we’d be able to execute if we had what we were looking to do either with federal or state dollars.”

In his final budget proposal as governor last year, Justice asked the Legislature for \$50 million for the flood resiliency fund. But as lawmakers hammered out the budget, they rejected Justice’s request, leaving the fund empty again.

As of last November, the office was still looking to secure funding.

Morrisey didn’t propose any funding for the trust in his budget earlier this year, just days before flooding in the southern coalfields. And the Legislature voted down an attempt to add money to the



Then-Gov. Jim Justice speaks with residents after flooding in Kanawha County in 2023. Courtesy photo.



Gov. Patrick Morrisey visits areas in the northern panhandle after recent flooding. Courtesy photo

trust during the legislative session.

## Flood risk greater than previously reported

Between 2005 and 2024, West Virginia experienced nearly 2,300 floods events, costing \$342 million in property damage, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s storm events database. However, damage from smaller-scale floods is often under-reported, so the actual cost may be much higher.

Nearly 200,000 West Virginians live in a high-risk flood zone, according to the West Virginia Flood Resiliency Framework created by researchers at West Virginia University.

Through their work, researchers found that the state has no long-term flood recovery plan, which has caused West Virginia’s flooding response to be inefficient.

WVU researchers also found of the nearly 100,000 buildings located in high-risk flood zones, a little more than 500 of them are considered essential. This

includes fire and police stations, schools, hospitals and nursing homes.

But those findings are based on data that experts say underreports the risks.

West Virginia researchers used data and flood maps from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. While beneficial, in recent years, experts have been critical of the federal maps, saying that they’re often incomplete or out of date and don’t account for the way rain moves and pools once it falls.

While FEMA’s flood maps account for main river channels and coastal storm surge areas, they don’t model heavy rain-fall — which is often the cause for flooding in West Virginia.

Under the federal maps, a little more than 9% of properties in the state are considered within the agency’s Special Flood Hazard Areas.

But under mapping by First Street Foundation, a nonprofit that studies flood risk, that tries to fill in the gaps left by FEMA, one-third of the properties in the state are at risk of flooding.

# Supreme Court secures grant to sustain Family Treatment Courts through Sept. 30

The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia today announced it has secured a \$280,000 State Opioid Response grant which will be used to fund the operations of Family Treatment Courts through September.

“The Supreme Court is grateful to receive this grant, which will allow us to continue operating our Family Treatment Courts over the next two months while we pursue other funding possibilities,” Chief Justice William R. “Bill” Wooton said. “We would like to thank the team at the state Bureau for Behavioral Health, including Interim Commissioner Nicholas Stuchell, along with the staff at the Office of Drug Control Policy for working with the Supreme Court’s Administrative Office to secure these critical funds.”

Family Treatment Courts are specialized, problem-solving courts designed to support parents in overcoming substance use disorders while working toward the safe reunification of their families.

They offer immediate intervention, intensive supervision and comprehensive treatment services to help parents access recovery resources in a timely manner, which helps reduce the amount of time

children spend in foster care prior to their return to a safe home environment with their families. There are currently 14 Family Treatment Courts operating in 18 counties.

State Opioid Response Grants use funds provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and are administered by the West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS), Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) SOR Team.

The Legislature created Family Treatment Courts as a pilot program in 2019, later making them a permanent program under supervision of the Supreme Court in 2021. Family Treatment Courts function as a collaborative effort among the Circuit Court, Child Protective Services, substance abuse treatment providers, and other key stakeholders invested in the well-being of children and families.

In that time, the Courts have reunited 437 children with FTC-graduate parents and demonstrated notable reductions in the amount of time those children spend in foster care while the cases progress.

The average time a child spends in fos-

ter care under a Family Treatment Court is approximately 10.8 months, compared to 18.8 months for West Virginia children whose families are not in a treatment court program. Only 10.7 percent of those children involved in Family Treatment Courts have re-entered foster care within two years of their family being in the program.

Through this reduced time in foster care, it is estimated the state has saved approximately \$7 million in foster care or kinship subsidy payments through Family Treatment Courts.

Additionally, there have been 17 infants born during their mother’s Family Treatment Court participation, and all 17 were born free of any illicit substances.

Since inception, these courts have been funded through federal grants and McKesson Corporation settlement funds administered by the West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy. However, the transition of settlement fund distribution from the Office of Drug Control Policy to the West Virginia First Foundation has created a gap in the flow of grant funding.

In an attempt to provide some certainty in funding for the treatment courts, the

Supreme Court included an additional \$1 million in appropriations as part of its Fiscal Year 2026 budget request to cover their operations for this fiscal year. Gov. Patrick Morrisey included this funding in his proposed budget bill submitted to the Legislature at the beginning of the 2025 regular session. However, lawmakers did not provide the judicial branch with any increases in funding for the current fiscal year as part of the final approved version of the budget bill.

While the State Opioid Response grant will fund the Family Treatment Courts program through Sept. 30, Supreme Court staff are continuing to work with the West Virginia First Foundation and state and federal grant programs to secure additional funding.

“We believe these courts have demonstrated their effectiveness in returning children to a safe home environment while also showing they can ease some of the burden on our strained foster care system,” Chief Justice Wooton said. “We hope to continue working with lawmakers and grant administrators to educate them on the benefits of Family Treatment Courts and why they are a worthwhile investment in our communities.”