



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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The Polymer Alliance Zone industrial park in Davisville, W.Va. is one of two sites being prepared by the state to attract new businesses. Photo by Henry Culvyhouse / Mountain State Spotlight

West Virginia lags behind its neighbors in sites for new businesses. The state is moving on a plan to change that.

Without ready-to-build sites, West Virginia risks losing out on major employers to neighboring states already prepared for new investment.

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

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On the Ohio River in Wood County, officials are clearing hurdles to prepare sites for new businesses.

Two locations, 70 acres of farmland and a sprawling industrial park, are set to become suitable for development, thanks to the first \$150,000 grant from a new state program designed to make “shovel-ready” sites attractive for businesses.

But these projects are the exception. Across the state, properties lack the infrastructure needed to attract new employers. Old industrial sites sometimes need extensive cleanup, while others lack sewer, water or broadband.

Neighboring states from Ohio to North Carolina already maintain catalogs of dozens of ready-to-build properties. Both Kentucky and Virginia list more than 30 certified industrial sites. But West Virginia has none, and a three-year-old program to change that has barely gotten underway.

Currently, nearly 600 buildings and empty properties are listed on the state’s economic development website. But none fit the bill for what the state considers investment-ready.

“We’re hoping that with this funding, we will get the first two stamps of approval,” said Lindsey Piersol, director of the Wood County Economic Development office.

Without this program, West Virginia economic development leaders say companies could turn to neighboring states with shovel-ready properties, taking their investments with them.

“We’re basically doing a company’s due diligence and their homework for them,” Piersol said. “It’s the most important aspect of economic development.”

The cost of not being ready for new businesses

In 2018, West Virginia lost a \$1.6 billion Toyota and Mazda car manufacturing facility to Alabama in part because the state did not have an inventory of shovel-ready properties.

Woody Thrasher, former state secretary of commerce, said the deal also fell through because officials needed to perform environmental studies at two proposed sites that would have taken at least nine months to complete.

“We scrambled like crazy to find a singular site, but Alabama offered them nine different ones,” he said. “It just shone a light on the fact that we really weren’t

ready to move quickly,” he said.

Alabama has poured \$30 million into its site evaluation grant program since its creation last year and currently has 29 certified sites available for businesses.

Dave Lieving, president of the Huntington Area Development Council, said states without a catalog of development-ready sites can miss out on jobs and investment.

He said companies want a strong labor workforce, a favorable business climate and enough flat land to grow.

“Companies don’t want to wait around years and years for you to clean up your property before you want to get all your ducks in a row,” Lieving said.

Ruthana Beezley has spent the past four years trying to bring jobs and businesses to the Greenbrier Valley.

As the head of the region’s economic development agency, she says the lack of adequately prepared business sites makes it tough.

“We’re prioritizing the folks that have already invested here,” she said. “It’s easier to grow somebody who’s already here than to attract somebody.”

A slow start in West Virginia

The Legislature tried to address the problem in 2022, when Del. Clay Riley, R-Harrison, sponsored a bill creating a program to improve the readiness of industrial sites. Riley works for Thrasher Group, the largest consulting and engineering firm in the state.

The state’s Economic Development Department administers the program and includes a grant program to provide developers up to \$75,000 per site to make them ready for new businesses.

Other states have invested in these programs, pouring millions of dollars into site readiness. In 2024, Virginia lawmakers poured \$126 million in development grants for sites, while \$35 million was handed out in Kentucky.

Riley said lawmakers put \$5 million into the fund in 2022, but Morrissey’s announcement in Wood County in 2025 marked the first allocation.

In the years that followed the initial allocation, the state hired consultants to evaluate more than 100 potential sites for development. That list was eventually narrowed to just 10 viable locations.

“It’s been something that the economic development world has talked about for a number of years,” he said. “I think it was definitely a step in the right direction.”

Steve Roberts, long-time president of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, said business leaders have been warning the state for decades that it is falling behind.

“States that surround us are far ahead in having reasonable, well thought through and well funded efforts to keep and attract jobs,” he said, “This is simply a matter of priorities.”

Stacy Marks named Teacher of the Year, Big Otter receives Superintendent’s Cup



Mrs. Marks, Teacher of the Year, and Mr. Boggs, Principal at Big Otter Elementary School.

Big Otter Elementary School’s Pre-school teacher, Mrs. Stacy Marks, was recognized as the 2025 Clay County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Marks has a warm personality and genuinely cares about each of her students. She helps set the foundation students need for a successful education. Congratulations, Mrs. Marks!

For the third year in a row, Big Otter Elementary School received the Superintendent’s Cup. This award is given to the top school based on attendance, academics, family engagement, and discipline. Big Otter Elementary is proud to help all students succeed. It’s a great day to be a Big Otter Brave!

Clay County Commission approves hire of new deputy, board appointments

By Gary Lee Stuber

The Clay County Commission’s only August meeting was held Monday, Aug. 18, and was mostly business as usual. Because there was no meeting earlier this month, the Commission gave the Clay County Clerk permission to pay bills through Aug. 24. Other regular business the commission approved was minutes from the previous meeting, regular bills and purchase orders, budget revisions, erroneous assessments as presented by the Assessor, and Fiduciary Appointments as presented by the Clay County Clerk.

The Commission approved the Sheriff’s Department hiring of a new deputy Brian Mitchem at \$2,600 a month effective Aug. 18. The Commission also used the opportunity to approve and implement a new clear policy regarding the



Mayor of Clay, Marlene Lewis

hiring of county employees. This was to ensure consistency, accountability, and

COMMISSION cont. on page 3

Waging war on the Kudzu



Lined up for dinner. By Allen Hamrick.

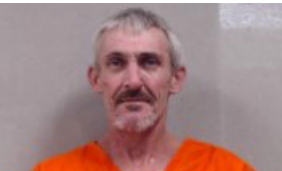
See story on Page 8

BOOKED

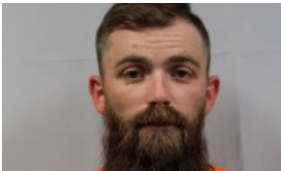


REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

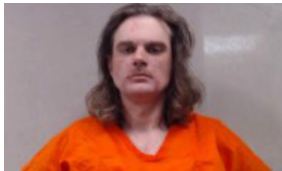
NICHOLAS COUNTY



Terry Edward Adams
Booked 8/23/25
Obstructing an officer



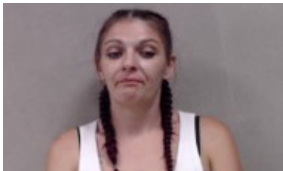
Jeremy C. Babers
Booked 8/22/25
Harassment, extortion,
criminal invasion of privacy



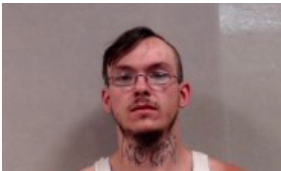
Thomas Anthony Baker
Booked 8/24/25
Harassment (x3), stalking



Zachari Alexander Ball
Booked 8/24/25
Circuit court Capias

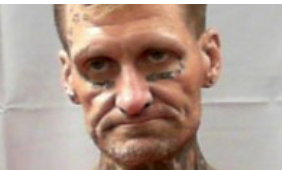


Britney Marie Bragg
Booked 8/23/25
Conspiracy to commit felony
against state, breaking and
entering



Jacob Livingston Conrad
Booked 8/20/25
Capias

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Michael Paul Greene
Booked 8/22/25
Circuit court Capias



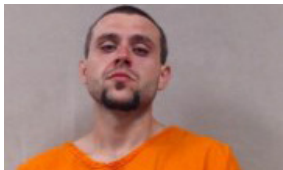
Pauline Marla Riffle
Booked 8/20/25
Violation of personal safety



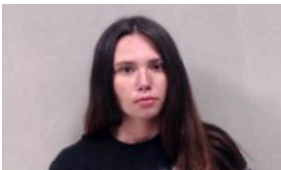
Angela Christine Webb
Booked 8/23/25
Shoplifting third offense,
possession of controlled
substance



Isaac Edward Ferreebe
Booked 8/21/25
Simple possession, trespass-
ing, Capias

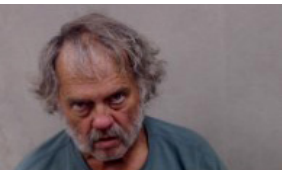


Quentin Curtis Griffin
Booked 8/19/25
Improper registration, flee-
ing with reckless indiffer-
ence, defective equipment,
no insurance, no operators,
driving suspended

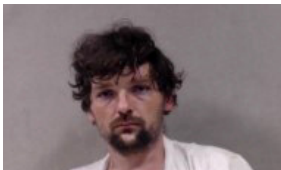


Ivy Marie James
Booked 8/23/25
False information, making
false statements, refuse to
fingerprint

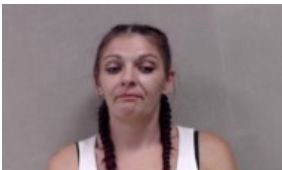
CLAY COUNTY



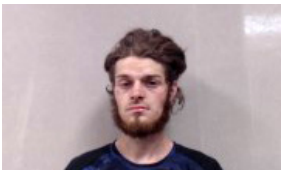
Larry Lamont Steinheiser
Booked 8/23/25
DUI second offense, posses-
sion of controlled substance,
impersonate law enforce-
ment



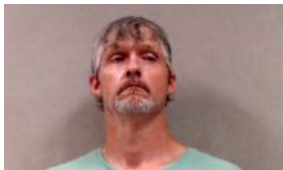
Thomas James Stone
Booked 8/23/25
Destruction of property,
escape, possession of con-
trolled substance



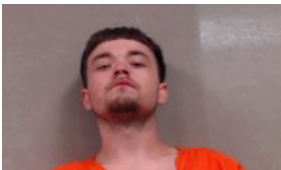
Britney Marie Bragg
Booked 8/23/25
Improper registration, ex-
pired MVI, driving suspend-
ed, possession of controlled
substance



Keith Edward Meadows
Booked 8/24/25
Possession of controlled
substance, ATV violation,
driving suspended second of-
fense, no insurance, no opera-
tors, no proof of insurance



Joshua Matthew Richardson
Booked 8/21/25
Receive/transfer stolen
property



William Edward Selph
Booked 8/20/25
Wanton endangerment, at-
tempt to commit a felony

BRAXTON COUNTY

OBITUARIES



Sharon Gray

Sharon Kay (Holcomb) Gray passed away peacefully on August 20, 2025, after a short journey with brain cancer. Sharon is survived by her three children and their spouses: Michael (Angie) Gray, Rebecca (Monty) Wheeler, and Sarah

(Adam) Gandee. Also survived by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sharon was proceeded to Heaven by her husband of 52 years, Woody Gray, her mother, father, sister, three brothers, and multiple grandbabies. Visitation will be held

at Middle Creek Baptist Church on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 11:30am-1:00pm. Funeral service to follow beginning at 1:00pm officiating by Pastor John Randolph Osborne. Wilson Smith Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Gray Family.



Mildred Hunt

Mildred “Millie” Lee Hunt, 90, of Wallback,

WV went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, August 24, 2025.

She was born April 20, 1935, to the late Joe and Edith Smith. She attended Spencer High School and lived the remainder of her life in Wallback, WV with her late husband Samuel Ray Hunt. They were happily married for 45 years before Ray preceded her in death in 1997.

She dedicated her life to her family and faith. She attended the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, and her interment will be in

the church cemetery.

Mildred is survived by her two sons, Randy Hunt and wife Shelley, Dennis Hunt and wife Jenny; grandchildren, Sean Hunt, Autumn Harrier, Kasey Proctor, and Tanner Hunt. She is also survived by her sisters, Betty Brabham, Vanessa Scott, Brenda Whaley and brothers, Roger Smith, Steve Smith, Danny Smith, Bill Smith, and Jackie Smith. Millie had three great grandchildren, Dakota Hunt, Peyton Proctor, and Hunter Proctor.

Graveside service will be held at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Wallback, WV on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 11:00 am with Pastor Wayne Smith officiating.

In lieu of flowers donation may be made to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 88, Wallback, WV. 25285

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

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



L. Frank Murphy

L. Frank Murphy, age 94, of Clay WV, passed away peacefully on Au-

gust 18, 2025, at Braxton Memorial Hospital. At the time of his passing, Frank was the oldest living person who continually lived his entire life in Clay, except for two years given to Uncle Sam.

Surviving are his wife and love of his life for 70 years Betty T Murphy, daughter Bredga (Glenn) Neal, sons Joseph F Murphy and Samuel T Murphy, grandson Isaiah Murphy and great grandson Dylan Murphy.

He was preceded in

death by his father Paul F Murphy, mother Nina F Murphy, brother, B.G. Murphy and grandson Isaac Murphy.

Frank went to school for 12 years, where he never missed a day or was ever tardy and graduated with the “Great” class of 1948. He also attended Marshall University.

Frank was the definition of a multi-faceted entrepreneur as in real estate, manufacturing, construction and rental.

He was also a member

of numerous Civil activities in Clay County including Civil Air Patrol, Housing Development, Fire Department and the Golden Delicious Festival, to name just a few.

Frank was also an avid pilot (airplane, helicopter, and glider.)

There will be no public service. Only a celebration of his life with family and friends at a later date.

Wilson Smith Funeral Home is honored to serve the Murphy Family.



Linda Perkins

Linda D. Perkins, 54, of Heaters entered her heavenly home on Saturday, August 23, 2025 after her battle with metaplastic breast cancer.

She was born in Grantsville, WV on September 10, 1970.

Linda was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Lou (Rinehart) Smith and her sister, Pamela Jo Baker; maternal grandparents, Deco James and Audrey Violet (Keith) Rinehart of Chloe, WV; and paternal grandparents, Aubrey Noel and Ruby M. (Nestor) Smith of Newton, WV.

A 1988 Graduate of Clay County High School, Linda was a varsity cheerleader, senior prom queen,

homecoming princess, driver’s education award winner, and voted “friendliest” amongst her senior peers. In 1990, she finished her Associates in Secretarial Science from Glenville State College, where she was also crowned Miss Kanawhachen 1990. Linda was also crowned Braxton County Homecoming (Festival) queen in 1990. The next year she married the love of her life, Jeffrey Lee Perkins in Ireland, WV. Linda was the mother of one son, Garrett, but also worked outside of the home for over 36 years.

She was the Office Manager for Healthcare Associates in Gassaway for many years until it closed. Her career in healthcare then led Linda to her next job at Braxton County Memorial Hospital where she worked as registration specialist until her passing. She was a member of the Gassaway Baptist Church (formerly of Newton Methodist and Ireland United Methodist) and had a testimony for the Lord. She was an inspiration to others; always showing

her helpful personality and serving attitude towards others. As someone with an infectious smile and warm personality, she never failed to brighten someone’s day. Linda continued to work during her cancer therapy and also continued caring for her friends and family. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, daughter, and aunt. She will be missed by her family, friends, coworkers and community.

Left to cherish her memories are her husband of 34 years, Jeffrey Lee Perkins, of Heaters; son, Garrett Presley Perkins, of Morgantown; father, Charles A. Smith of Napier; sister, Connie Sue Gwynn (Brian) of Napier; nieces, Jennifer “Punkie” Perrine (Matthew), Breanna Perkins, Christina Baker (Drew), and Siena Gwynn (Francisco); nephews, Nathan Gwynn, Dylan Gwynn (Erica), Zac Perkins (Tessa), Ben Perkins, John Cameron “JC” Baker (Taylor), Tyler Scott, and Kaiden Perkins; great nieces and nephews, Port Perrine, Pax Perrine,

Cash Travis, Tate Travis, Madeline Travis, Norah Jo Baker, and Winslie Marsh; uncle, Jim Smith (Kay); aunt, Martha Miller; great aunt, Marlene Conley (Junior); cousins, David Brannon (Tina), Dean Brannon (Beth), Danny Brannon, Angie Smith Conner (Gary), and Amy Lea Adkins; brother-in-laws, Jerry Perkins (Rena) and Terry Perkins (Amy); and mother-in-law, Donna Singleton Perkins. Linda is also survived by her beloved cats, Benzy, Smokey, Blondie, Whitey, and Red.

Linda’s visitation will be from 4 to 8 P.M. Friday, August 29, 2025 at Gassaway Baptist Church.

Services will be at 11 A.M. on Saturday, August 30th at Gassaway Baptist Church with Pastor Mark Stump officiating.

Burial will follow at the Falls Mills Cemetery, Napier.

Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway.

Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at www.roachfuneralhome.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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From Your First Day
Until Your Last

By Joe Mazzella

An elderly friend wrote me recently. She was discouraged about her failing health. But the thing that bothered her the most was she was no longer able to volunteer and help her community the way she used to. At the end of the letter she asked me: “What can I do to make this world better at my age?”

I wrote her back that every little thing she does can make this world better, that even the briefest smile can change a life. And I shared a story that I’d read recently. A young man had given up on life. He had become so filled with sadness and despair that he decided to go to his apartment and kill himself. As he was walking home he stopped at a corner to wait for a car to pass. As the car drove slowly by, the woman behind the wheel looked directly at him and flashed him a huge smile. That smile was so warm, so joyful, and so caring that it convinced him that there was still some goodness left in the world, and he decided not to end his life but rather to try and live it fully again.

I reminded my friend that while we all strive to do big things in this world, it is actually the little things we do each day that make a difference. A shared smile, a caring word, an act of kindness can all help to heal a heart, uplift a soul and change a life. In the end it is these things that change the world and change us. Every act of love, no matter how small makes a major difference in this world. And you are never too old to share them.

God Loves us all so much. God wants us to Love as well. And when we Love we will have joy, we will help others, and we will make a difference in this world. From your first day until your last you can help God to make this life better for everyone. No act of kindness is too small. No act of love is insignificant. Even the smallest smile can change a life.

Home Country

Slim Randles

We knew it was coming when Bert came into the Mule Barn truck stop the other day. He took his usual stool at the philosophy counter and world dilemma think tank, where he reigns as Cutting Edge Technology Advisor to the board of directors.

It was that glint in his eye that gave it away.

“Hi Bert.”

“Hi Doc. Say, isn’t this a beautiful day? It’s 32 out there.”

“Doesn’t seem that cold,” said Steve, our resident cowboy, who tends to look at everything from the back of a horse.

“Oh, not 32 degrees, dear friend ...”

Dear friend? We’re in for it.

“... but 32 inches of mercury in the barometer. Winds are calm. Sun is shining. No chance of snow.”

“You have a barometer?”

“Oh yeah. You can’t always depend on the TV weather guy, you know. You see, it’s not just where the barometer is that tells you what the weather’s like, but it’s where it is now in relation to where it was before. That’s what they call the trend.”

“Heard that word before,” said Doc.

“It’s scientific. Got a book about it the other day. Maizie picked it up at the library. You see, to the layman, the world outside looks kinda nice, doesn’t it? Sunshine, no wind. Looks like a beautiful day. But to the expert ... to the meteorologist ... that’s just the start. Oh yes. He’ll look outside at the beautiful weather, but he realizes it’s simply a precursor to the weather we’ll have tomorrow. He’ll know, you see, from how the mercury is responding in the glass ... we call the barometer a glass ... what kind of weather to expect tomorrow. That’s what sets us apart from other people.”

“Because you read a book?”

“... And I have my weather station ... yes.”

“So what kinda weather is coming tomorrow, Bert?”

“Oh ... ‘bout like today.”

“So the barometer told you that?”

Bert looked a little sheepish. “I didn’t have time to figure it out. Heard it on the news.”

Amaze your friends by reading a new barometer? Why not? Here’s how. <https://www.netatmo.com>.

Like us on
Facebook

Is That My Grandfather’s Hand

By Dr. James Snyder

This past week, I thought of my maternal grandfather. I haven’t thought of him for a long time because he died over 50 years ago. I’m not sure what inspired me to think about my old grandpa..

As a youngster, I used to spend summers with him on his farm. He owned a farm up in the mountains of Pennsylvania and had dairy cattle and hogs. So for many summers I spent with him on that amazing farm.

One thing I remember about my grandfather was his sense of humor. He was always telling jokes, and we all laughed, even though I had no idea what that joke was about.

For instance, “Why did the monkey not eat the banana? Because it was not appealing to him.”

I knew there was a joke in there somewhere, but I could never figure it out, even though he told that joke probably 100 times. That was his favorite joke of all time.

I tried to think of all those jokes, and I still don’t get the funny part of them. But, he was my grandpa, and therefore when he told a joke, I laughed. That’s what a good grandson is supposed to do.

There was a time in the 60s when he had some health problems, and we needed to bring him down to Hershey, where his doctor was. I still remember that very clearly. We took him to the fast-food restaurant for lunch. This was the first time he had ever been at such a place. Up in the mountains where he lived, they did not have fast-food restaurants.

I remember we got him one of the big cheeseburgers, and we sat down to eat them. Grandpa looked at it for a few moments. Finally, he began to separate everything from each other. He laid the bun down and took out the lettuce and the tomato, and all that went with it. He separated them all from each other. Then he began to eat each element one at a time.

I never saw that before, and I’m not sure where he got that.

I then remembered something I did to my grandpa, which was to make fun of him, especially his hands. I looked at his hands and saw so many wrinkles I didn’t know where they came from.

“Grandpa,” I said, “how did you get all of those wrinkles on your hand?”

Looking at me, he replied, “Well, son, if you must know every wrinkle is the result of one year of hard labor.” He looked at me and smiled, and then we both looked at his hand.

COMMISSION

proper administrative procedure. Effective immediately, no county office is permitted to begin employment for any new hire until the Clay County Commission has formally approved the hire and the Commission has issued an official start date. This process is essential to allow for the appropriate vetting of prospective employees and to ensure that new hires begin at the start of a designated pay period. Any office initiating employment without prior approval from the commission will be doing so without authorization and that employee will not be eligible to receive pay until the proper approval process has been completed. In order to be considered for approval, all hiring-related documentation must be submitted to the County Clerk’s office by the Tuesday prior to the regularly scheduled commission meeting which are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 9 a.m., unless otherwise posted by the commission.

The commission appointed Stephanie Scott to the Clay County Public Library Board with a term ending June 30, 2030. They also appointed Thaddeus Curry to the Solid Waste Authority.

Terry Martin was to be present to detail bills so the commission, a resolution for the Big Otter Nebo Waterline, and an invoice for the Clay County Judicial Annex. He was not present, but the commission, with invoices

“Will I ever get hands like that?” Grandpa laughed and then said, “Only if you live as long as I do and work as hard as I do.”

I had forgotten that conversation until just recently.

The other morning, I got up and went to my easy chair for my morning coffee. As I began sipping that delicious coffee, I happened to look at my hand, and I was scared. Is that my grandfather’s hand?

I almost had a heart attack as I was looking at my hand and seeing my grandpa’s hand. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. It was as if my grandfather’s hand was right there holding my coffee cup. How in the world could that be? After all, he’s been gone for 52 years.

I looked at that old wrinkly hand and soon realized that it was not my grandpa’s hand. In fact, it was my grandpa’s grandson’s hand. It was like he was right there in front of me.

Processing that was difficult because I did not know how in the world grandpa’s hand got on my hand. It was as if he were in the room with me at the moment.

Looking at my hand for a few moments, I begin to count the wrinkles on my hand. If what grandpa said was true, that every wrinkle represents one year of hard work, I must be 150 by now.

Sitting there, I remembered how many times I made fun of grandpa’s old wrinkly hand. I’m not sure what to do, but I might start wearing gloves when I go outside.

In a few moments, I began to smile. The thought came to me that this challenge to my smile was, How many other aspects of my grandpa do I have?

This is an area I do not want to visit. But is it that my grandchildren are seeing me as I saw my grandpa?

The other night, while watching TV, there was a commercial about getting rid of wrinkles. I watched that very carefully, and for a moment, I was tempted to get that cream to get rid of all my wrinkles.

When the commercial was over, I sat back and thought very deeply. What is wrong with being like my grandpa? After all, he was a good man. What I should do is to live my life in a way that he would be proud. So, my wrinkles are here to stay.

Recently, I read in the Bible a verse along this line. “Children’s children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers” (Proverbs 17:6).

I’m beginning to see that many things in my life lead back to my grandfather. I need to leave something to pass that on to my grandchildren so when I’m gone they’re remember me.

Continued from Page 1

in-hand, approved them. Mariah Marling was to present an issue about a dilapidated home but was unable to attend, as well.

The Commission, by request, approved a Letter of Support that was sent regarding black lung benefits for coal miners.

The Commission also approved leaving the Clay County Courthouse facilities open during the duration of the Clay County Delicious Apple Festival Sept. 18 through 21, 2025. This will allow the public come inside to get out of the sun or to use the bathrooms. The courtyard will also be open host to activities such as it has been in the past.

During the meeting, the new Mayor of Clay, Marlene Lewis, identified herself. She has been mayor since the resignation of Mayor Hubbard.

Donna Salisbury also spoke announcing Emergency Utility Assistance. Applications for Emergency Assistance accepted Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Applications must include this documentation: a DHHR referral, photo identification, proof of income for all members of the household and a current copy of a termination notice. For questions contact: Jennifer Jarosz at 304-872-1162, ext. 1120 or Email: jjjarosz@ncapwv.org or online at www.mylitt.com.



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almost heaven

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

Aug. 27, 1902: Mary McClain was born Mary Smith in Huntington. McClain was a blues legend who performed at Carnegie Hall, the White House, the Apollo Theatre, and the Cotton Club.



Aug. 28, 1900: Harrison H. Ferrell Jr. was born in Chicago. Known as “the Dean” to generations of students, he was professor of German, 1928–66, at West Virginia State College (now University) and served as dean and in other capacities from 1930 until 1970.



Aug. 29, 1952: A groundbreaking ceremony was held in Mercer County to mark the beginning of construction of the West Virginia Turnpike. Initially, most of the turnpike was just two lanes because officials believed revenues would be too low to finance four lanes.

Aug. 30, 1862: Confederate raiders under the command of General Albert G. Jenkins attacked and occupied

Buckhannon, where they captured 20 prisoners and 5,000 stands of small arms.



Aug. 31, 1945: The USS West Virginia led American battleships into Tokyo Bay two days before the formal surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945.

Sept. 1, 1777: Fort Henry, located at what is now Wheeling, was attacked by Indians for the first time during the Revolutionary War. Nearly half the militia were lured outside the post and killed.

Sept. 1, 1907: Walter Phillips Reuther was born to German immigrant parents in Wheeling. Reuther was a founder of the modern labor movement and a long-time president of the United Auto Workers.

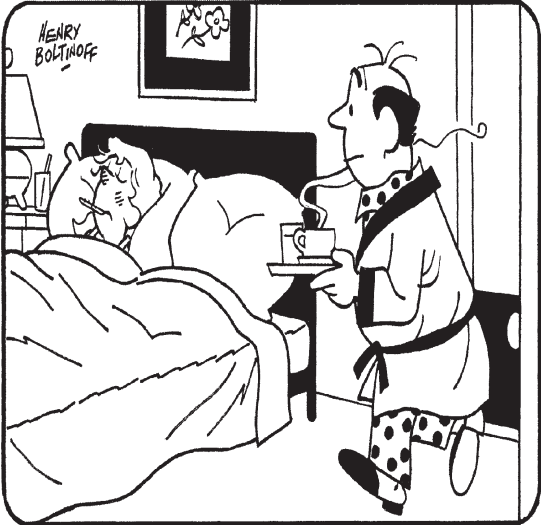


Sept. 1, 1921: By this date during the Battle of Blair Mountain, miners had captured half of the 25-mile mountain ridge and were ready to descend upon Logan. President Warren Harding placed the strike zone under martial law, and ordered federal troops and a squadron of bomber aircraft into the state.

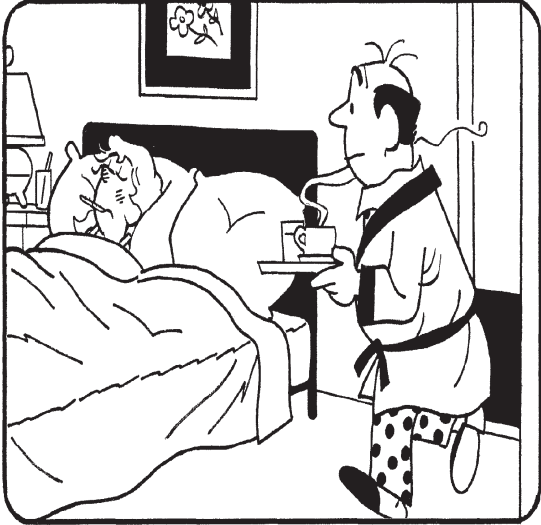
Sept. 2, 1722: Frontiersman William Crawford was born in present Jefferson County. He was a farmer, soldier, surveyor, and the land agent of George Washington.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tray is longer. 2. Leg is longer. 3. Mattress is thicker. 4. Flowers are reversed. 5. Door knob is missing. 6. Shirt collar is different.

Weekly SUDOKU

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		9				3		2	

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 M ENDS

ACROSS

- 1 “Venerable” Eng. monk
7 Place to grow cultures, for short
13 Furious with
20 “You can’t get out this way”
21 Catwoman portrayer Kitt
22 Panamanian dictator Manuel
23 Net access provider available on passenger flights?
25 “Jerry Maguire” studio
26 Petition
27 Hairy TV cousin
28 Women’s garment with an adage printed on it?
30 Video chat between people stroking their dogs and cats?
35 Sail supports
36 Gridiron divs.
37 Maiden name precursor
38 52 weeks
41 Brewpub drink, in brief
44 Burning

- 46 Situation creating strife within a sports squad?
50 Perfume bottle
53 Partner of Principe
55 Guarantee
56 Gulf ship
57 Chinese soup additive
58 Hobby
60 Touring actor representing his kingdom?
65 Broody rock genre
66 Blast stuff
67 Starting from
68 Gymnast Comaneci
70 Mild cheese
73 In days past
76 With 19-Down, toaster pastry brand
78 Ransack Oregon’s capital?
83 Locale of Baylor University
87 Time of note
88 “Laughing” scavenger
89 Big name in train travel
90 Hovering ominously

- 94 Establish contact (with)
95 Give a fleet commander new weapons?
97 Melancholy woodwinds
99 Immigrants’ class, in brief
100 Minimally
102 Part of UNLV
103 Here, in Haiti
106 Grilling place
109 Put the notation “this means the opposite” next to a word?
112 Junk email touting wellness products?
117 It’s continent
118 Razor name
119 Last king of the united Sweden and Norway
120 Stitched clothing line in the Haitian style?
125 Utterly foolish
126 Mole’s path
127 Austria’s capital
128 Discount item labels
129 Nome’s state
130 “Strut” singer Sheena

DOWN

- 1 Lively
2 Worked hard
3 Soft caps
4 Person living abroad, for short
5 Youngest of the Rugrats
6 GPS guess
7 “Atlanta” actress Zazie
8 “Same here!”
9 Spanish gold
10 British “Inc.”
11 “Pssst” relative
12 The Crimson Tide, to fans
13 Dadaism, to its critics
14 Typical situations
15 Grain to be crushed
16 Hazards
17 Abominable Snowman
18 Gel in a petri dish
19 See 76-Across
24 Mali neighbor
29 Dec. 24
31 Enlightens
32 No, in Berlin
33 Wise about
34 Come upon
39 Retired NBAer Ming
40 Actress Watson
41 Language akin to Aleut

- 42 Argentina’s Eva
43 “— you clever!”
44 High-speed train name
45 Gas option in Canada
47 Alter, as a computer program
48 Actress de Armas
49 Suffix with Marx
50 In favor of
51 Bit of untruth
52 In the way of
54 “Son of —!”
57 Roald Dahl’s “fantastic” title animal
59 Sorority “O”
61 Kansas’ capital
62 Duffer’s goal
63 Academy URL ending
64 Glass edge
69 “You said it!”
71 Most wan
72 Yucatec speakers
73 In the know
74 ESPN events
75 In base eight
77 Handheld computer
79 Jason’s ship
80 Luau garland
81 Jr. officer
82 West of “I’m No Angel”

- 84 Bruins’ Bobby
85 Piper’s cap
86 Garden dirt
91 Refinery input
92 Lady’s title
93 Rick’s love in “Casablanca”
94 Part of S&L
96 Yellow-disked blooms
98 Siren noise
101 37-season “Jeopardy!” host
103 Purpose
104 Writer — de Bergerac
105 1965 Yardbirds hit
106 Herbivore’s meal
107 Heart parts
108 Object
110 Coleridge’s “— Khan”
111 Wet spots in deserts
112 Frozen dew
113 “To be,” to Horace
114 Vinegar, e.g.
115 — part (role-play)
116 Heavy hitter
121 Viral gene material
122 — and outs
123 “Hail!” to Horace
124 Vardalos of “Connie and Carla”

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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 STAFF FOR THE RED AND WHITE REVIEW WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEXT MONTH. DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ALL OFFICERS ARE PROBATIONARY. ALL SCHOOL NEWS IS PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE JOURNALISM CLASS.

ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT BY GRADES FIRST SEMESTER

Teachers	Grade	Boys	Girls	Total
Mrs. Butcher	1	25	10	35
Mrs. Elliott	2	9	15	24
Miss Ashley	3	14	7	21
Miss Graham	3	9	11	20
Mrs. Bragg	4	13	12	25
Mr. Jackson	6	16	18	34
Totals		86	73	159

Teachers	Grade	Boys	Girls	Total
Mr. Stover	7	12	13	25
Mrs. Hathaway	8	10	11	21
Mr. Krise	9	15	11	26
Mr. Matheny	10	9	20	29
Mr. Leeson	10	6	9	15
Mrs. Griffith	12	7	11	18
Totals		59	75	134

GRAND TOTALS

145 148 293

BEHOLD THE NEW STUDENT!

Being a seventh grader in high school isn't all fun—especially at first. If you've never been a seventh grader you don't know what a feeling you have, how overwhelmed you are at first. It seems you are frightened to death, wondering, "which class do I go to next? Who's going to be my teacher? Gee! I'm lost. I'll swallow the butterflies in my stomach and head for Home Ec. Me—sewing! Golly! I can't even thread a needle! What do they think I am? Wow! Let's head for the hills here come the 7th grade boys headed for gym class. Let's listen in. Did you bring your trunks? What'll the coach say—I forgot my soap and towel?

Hey, duck! Here come those big upperclassmen and they may not see us here. I don't want trampled under their big feet.

To show you how seventh graders really feel—let's ask a few.

Janice Triplett — I like it, especially Mrs. Griffith. I like to sew even though I'll never get that blouse made.

Joyce Dorsey — I was messed up at first but I sure like it now. Mrs. Sizemore is the greatest, I believe I could sew two or three blouses for her.

Carl Rogers — I sure like it and Mr. Stover is the end. For him I'd run nine or ten laps a day.

Steve Keener — I hate the place or at least I think I do, but I sure like coach Stover.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The first meeting of the National Honor Society was held Wednesday, September 3, 1958, under the sponsorship of Miss Tressie Bailes. Officers were elected as follows:

Ruby Holcomb, President
Karen Donohue, Vice President
Rosa Gibson, Secretary-Treasurer-Reporter
Judy LaCorte, Chairman of Project Committee
David Hamrick, Member of Project Committee.
Lillie Nash, Member of Project Committee.

Welcome . . . New Students

The students and faculty of Widen School extend a hearty welcome to you—new members of the student body:

Glen Salisbury, Junior, from Ashtabula, Ohio.
Wanda Barnett, Sophomore, from Beckley High.
Charles Barrett, Sophomore, from Beckley Junior High.
Betty Jane Wendon, Sophomore, from Nicholas County High School.
Jerome Keener, Sophomore, from Dille.
Howard Dancy, Freshman, from Truman School.

Tommy Houghton, Freshman, from Truman School.
Milton Persinger, Freshman, from Dille.
Sharon Butcher, Freshman, from Dille.

Robert Ashley, Freshman, from Dille.

Brenda Butcher, Freshman, from Dille.

Michael Talbert, 8th Grade from Dille.

Marian Gibson, 8th Grade, from Dille.

Joanne Brown, 8th Grade, from Dille.

Steve Keener, 7th Grade, from Dille.

Greetings to you, also, elementary pupils. Those who are new in the grade school are:

6th Grade—

Harriett Barrett from Beckley.

Ruth Donahue from Dille.

Arthur Osborne from Dille.

Joyce Triplett from Dille.

Joe Strickland from Dille.

4th Grade—

Beverly Hathaway from Clay.

3rd Grade—

Carol Martin from Boggs School.

Carol Paintiff from Hickman School.

2nd Grade—

Diana Martin from Boggs School.

James Frame from Rock Camp.

1st Grade—

Richard Paintiff,

Paul Rapp,

Timothy Butcher,

William McClain,

David Magby,

Carlos Washington,

James Russell,

William Sigman,

Steven Osborne,

Danny Tenney,

Samuel Butcher,

James Bailey,

Timothy Wyatt,

Jerry Conner,

Jimmy Adkins,

Scotty Gill,

Gary Hill,

Drexel Waggoner,

James Frame,

Sarah Sigman

Ginney Douglas

Sheilah DeMoss

Linda Rogers

Shelia Hamrick

Sherry Hutchinson

Jacquelyn Wood

WIDEN SCHOOLS P.T.A. HOME ROOM MOTHERS

1958-1959

First Grade:

Mrs. Donna Osborne
Mrs. Marion Wood
Mrs. June Frame
Mrs. Betty Tinney

Second Grade:

Mrs. Bill Marple
Mrs. Roy King
Mrs. Annis Samples

Third Grade: (Miss Ashley)

Mrs. Eugene Russell
Mrs. Betty Acree
Mrs. Dreama Davis

Third Grade: (Miss Graham)

Mrs. Margaret Rapp
Mrs. Winnie Keen
Mrs. Nell Dorsey

Fourth Grade:

Mrs. Betty Rapp
Mrs. Marie Holcomb
Mrs. Dorla Truman

Fifth Grade:

Mrs. Sue Butcher
Mrs. Okal Dorsey
Mrs. Goldie Nicholas

Sixth Grade:

Mrs. Greta Brown
Mrs. Joyce Butcher

Seventh Grade:

Mrs. Elzvie Conner
Mrs. Mack Ellis
Mrs. Pearle Williams

Eighth Grade:

Mrs. Robert Manning
Mrs. A. R. Matheny

Ninth Grade:

Mrs. Mary Dodrill
Mrs. Oba Workman

Tenth Grade:

Mrs. DeForest McMillion
Mrs. Marjorie Baughman

Eleventh Grade:

Mrs. Norris Frame
Mrs. Kathryn Taylor

Twelfth Grade:

Mrs. Mae Eagle
Mrs. Gertrude Holcomb
Mrs. Pauline LaCorte
Mrs. Forrest Sigman

NEW COOLER PURCHASED FOR SCHOOL KITCHEN

The kitchen crew served meals on the first day of school. The two cooks, Mrs. Reba Shaffer and Mrs. Goldie Henderson, had been working the whole week before to

have everything ready.

The cook room is utilizing a new milk cooler which holds 500 half-pint milk containers.

Carolene Miller, Meledin Miller, Nancy Brown, and Donreta Sigman are workers in the kitchen this year.

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tative for warranty and offer details.

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POWDER FINISH, FAVORITE OF GLAMOROUS MOVIE
ACTRESSES. SEE CAMEO HOSE DISPLAYED AT
AT ALL

ELK RIVER COAL AND LUMBER COMPANY STORES
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SBA Opens Nominations for 2026 National Small Business Week Awards

Small businesses in the Mountain State are encouraged to submit nominations

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has opened nominations for the 2026 National Small Business Week Awards. National Small Business Week recognizes the contributions of America’s 36 million small businesses – which make up 99% of all businesses in America, create two out of every three new jobs, and employ about half of America’s workforce. Next year, National Small Business Week will take place May 3 – 9, 2026.

To nominate a small business in your area and download related forms, criteria, and guidelines, visit sba.gov/nsbw. All nominations must be submitted electronically by 7 a.m. ET on Dec. 8, 2025. National awards will

be presented during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., next May during National Small Business Week. Local awards will be presented in West Virginia also during National Small Business Week.

A business owner from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam will be selected for State Small Business Person of the Year awards. State award winners will compete for the 2026 National Small Business Person of the Year title, SBA’s signature award.

National award categories include:
-Small Business Person of the Year
-8(a) Graduate of the Year

-WV Small Business Exporter of the Year, and more
National award information can be found at: www.sba.gov/national-small-business-week/awards.
Local WV awards include:
-Family-Owned Small Business of the Year
-Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year
-Women-Owned Small Business of the Year
-Small Business Manufacturer of the Year (new!)
-Rural Small Business of the Year (new!)
-Blue-Collar Small Business of the Year (new!)
District office award information can be found at: www.sba.gov/district/west-virginia/west-virginia-district-office-awards.

Foundation announces 2025 Second Quarter Discretionary Grants

The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation (TGKVF) Board of Trustees approved the distribution of 29 grants totaling \$956,900.

TGKVF awarded \$48,000 to Arts & Culture projects, \$59,500 to Basic Needs projects, and \$465,900 to projects in the Foundation’s proactive areas of Community Economic Development (CED), Education, and Health. In addition, continued generous support from an anonymous donor provided funding to Dental and Emergency Aid projects totaling \$238,000. Additional awards include \$73,500 to Field-of-Interest projects and \$72,000 to General Special Initiatives.

1. The Bob Burdette Center, Inc. – Bob Burdette Center After School & Summer Enrichment Program: \$20,000 (Education)
2. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Tri-State (BBBSTS) – BBBSTS Expansion to Putnam and Kanawha Counties: \$29,800 (Education)
3. Legal Aid of West Virginia, Inc. – Lawyer in the School: \$60,500 (Education)
4. West Side Neighborhood Association, Inc. – West Side Clean, Safe & Engaged 2025: \$39,000
5. City of Madison – Madison Outdoor Economy & Revitalization Pan: \$35,000 (CED)
6. Partner Community Capital, Inc. – Undervalued No More: Catalyzing Economic Development by Championing Overlooked People and Places: \$65,000 (CED)
7. Civil Military Innovation Institute (CMI2) – IL-LUME Building a Brighter Future: \$45,000 (CED)
8. FamilyCare Health Centers – Prescribing Better Health Produce Prescription (PRx) Program: \$50,000 (Health)
9. Active Southern West Virginia – Active SWV Kids Run Clubs of the Greater Kanawha Valley: \$17,500 (Health)
10. Lewis County Family Resource Network (DBA

Try This WV) – Try This WV: \$30,000 (Health)

11. Just for Kids, Inc. – Fayette County Project GRACE: \$30,000 (Health)
12. New Roots Community Farm – Supporting Food Access, Nutrition Education, & Agricultural Learning Opportunities in the New River Gorge Region: \$44,100 (Health)
13. Charleston Ballet, Inc. – Charleston Ballet 70th Anniversary Season: \$20,000 (Arts & Culture)
14. The Norman Jordan African American Arts and Heritage Academy – Summer Youth Arts & Heritage Academy: \$15,000 (Arts & Culture)
15. Multi-Cultural Festival of WV, Inc. – Cultural Celebration with Multifest 35: \$13,000 (Arts & Culture)
16. Rea of Hope Fellowship Home, Inc. (DBA Rea of Hope, Inc.) – Rea of Hope Utilities: \$24,500 (Basic Needs Multi-Year)
17. BackpackBuddy.Org – 2025 BackpackBuddy.Org Summer Program: \$35,000 (Basic Needs)
18. Housing Innovations Corporation – Meeting the Needs of Older Adults in Our Community: \$25,500 (Field-of-Interest)
19. Faith in Action of the Greater Kanawha Valley, Inc. – Serving Seniors, Neighbor to Neighbor: \$48,000 (Field-of-Interest)
20. West Virginia Nonprofit Association – Stories from the Sector Meeting Needs Amid Uncertainty - \$22,000 (Special Initiatives)
21. Ron Clark Academy – Kanawha County Teacher Training and Support: \$50,000 (Special Initiatives)
22. Rea of Hope Fellowship Home, Inc. (DBA Rea of Hope, Inc.) – Rea of Hope Dental Fund: \$13,000 (Dental)
23. West Virginia Health Right – Dental Care for Impoverished Adults: \$125,000 (Dental)
24. American Red Cross – Disaster Cycle Services:

- Emergency Disaster Relief: \$5,000 (Emergency Aid)
25. BARN Community Group, Inc. – Basic Needs/Operation: \$22,500 (Emergency Aid)
 26. Pollen8, Inc. – ABHC Client Needs Support: \$25,000 (Emergency Aid)
 27. SOAR WV- Save a Life Day 2025: \$20,000 (Emergency Aid)
 28. United Way of Southern West Virginia – Bridging the Gap: \$7,500 (Emergency Aid)
 29. Walking Miracles, Org – Walking Miracles Cancer Navigation Program: \$20,000 (Emergency Aid)
- The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation is grateful to our community of generous donors who make these and other grants possible. The programs and work approved for the second quarter of 2025 are supported by the following funds: J. Honor Davis, II; George and Josephine Rogers; Morton F. Hess Memorial; Harry and Florence Silverstein; Lois and Larry C. Kaufman, Jr.; James F. Duncan Charitable; Mary Jane Mason Fisher General; General; General City National Bank; Rebecca Dickinson Goldsmith Memorial; Nan Nash Grosscup; Fred Haddad, General; John Roy Harris; General Huntington Banks; General JP Morgan; General United National Bank; Vernon B. “Bucky” Harris; Bessie E. Henson Memorial; Georgia Singleton Herscher Memorial; Grace S. Herscher Memorial; Alfred and Lucy McClung; Zelma Drennen Memorial; Loewenstein #2; McJunkin-Jones Family; Mary S. Moses Memorial; Dorothy M. and Charles N. Jardin; Raleigh and Rita #2 Jimison; Bernard H. Jacobson Cultural; Youth Enrichment Fund; Blanche E. Jacobson; Les and Verna Evans Memorial; Britt and Judy McJunkin; Prichard #1; Paul and Opal Vaughan; Pelzel Family; Nathan and Sarah Maslow; Lloyd and Margaret B. Erhard Jr. Trust; J. W. and Gabrielle P. Hubbard Jr.; Anonymous Dental; and Anonymous Emergency Aid.

LEGAL

TO: CHRISTOPHER MONTVILLE
11976 DUCK RD.
IVYDALE, WV 25113

BETTY MONTVILLE
11976 DUCK RD.
IVYDALE, WV 25113

NOTICE OF SALE

Under authority of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 25, 2022, from Christopher Montville and Betty Montville to J. Gregory Gency and Raymond G. Dodson, Trustees, securing Clay County Bank in the amount of \$127,500.00 of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 151, at page 784, default having been made in the payment of the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust, and sale having been requested in writing by the holder of the indebtedness secured, the undersigned, Andrew C. Shaffer, Substitute Trustee, by virtue of Notice of Substitution of Trustee dated April 29, 2025, and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk’s Office in Miscellaneous Book 37, at page 358, will hold a public auction at the front door of the Clay County Courthouse on Main Street, in Clay County, West Virginia, on September 16, 2025, at 10:00 O’clock, and sell the certain real estate conveyed in said Deed of Trust, which is further bounded and described as follows:

The surface only of all those two certain lots, tracts, or parcels of land, together with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate on the Elk River between West Virginia State Route No. 4, and Elk River, in Otter District, Clay County, West Virginia, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

FIRST TRACT:
BEGINNING at an iron pin situate in the southerly line of West Virginia State Route No. 4, said iron pin being 77 feet east of a drain and culvert situate in the southerly line of West Virginia State Route No. 4, said drain and culvert being situate 228 feet west of the northwest corner of a certain parcel of land described as “Tract No. One”, as the same was conveyed unto George E. Meadows and Ida Meadows, his wife, by Cullen G. Hall, Special Commissioner, by deed dated June 27, 1969, said deed duly of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Court [Commission] of Clay County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 100, at Page 580, thence in an easterly direction with the southerly line of West Virginia State Route No. 4, 70 feet to a stake in the said line of West Virginia State Route No. 4, thence leaving the said line of West Virginia State Route No. 4 and in a southeasterly direction 272 feet, more or less, to the water’s edge of Elk River; thence down the said river and binding thereon, 89 feet, more or less, to a stake in the water’s edge, thence leaving the water’s edge and in a northwesternly direction, 300 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning.

SECOND TRACT:
BEGINNING at a drain and culvert and the southerly line of West Virginia State Route 4, said beginning point being situate 228 feet west of the northwest corner of a certain parcel of land described as “Tract No. One”, as the same was conveyed unto George E. Meadows and Ida Meadows, his wife, by Cullen G. Hall, Special Commissioner, by deed dated June 27, 1969, said deed duly of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 100, at page 580; thence in an easterly direction with the southerly line of West Virginia State Route No. 4, 77 feet to a stake in the said line of West Virginia State Route No. 4; thence leaving the said line of West Virginia State Route No. 4 and in a southeasterly direction 300 feet, more or less, to the water’s edge of Elk River; thence down the said river and binding thereon, 142 feet, more or less, to a small drain; thence leaving the water’s edge and up with the meanders of said drain 267 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning.

Being the same property conveyed unto Christopher Montville and Betty Montville by that certain deed dated May 19, 2015, from Patricia A. Stover, of record in the aforesaid Clerk’s Office in Deed Book 214, at page 497.

This conveyance will also be made subject to any and all reservations, exceptions, restrictions, rights of way and easements contained in prior deeds affecting said property of record in said Clerk’s office or visible on the ground.

This property will be conveyed by Trustee “as is” and “where is” together with the hereditaments thereof and all building, structures and improvements now or hereafter situate thereon and all fixtures, materials, supplies, equipment, machinery and other property as is now or may hereafter be an accession thereto, be a fixture thereto, or be otherwise treated or deemed as a part of the land described herein, all of which is included in the term “property” as used herein. By way of example and not byway of limitation, such fixtures and accessions shall include heating, cooling and air-conditioning units, plumbing and electrical fixtures and equipment, built-in appliances of every kind, boilers, machinery, motors, wall-to-wall carpeting, storm doors and windows, awnings and all furnishings attached to the property.

The above-described real estate will be conveyed by the undersigned Trustee to the purchaser by deed containing a Covenant of Special Warranty and subject to all liens, reservations and exceptions appearing in the record of title, and to the lien of all unpaid taxes, if any, which are entitled to priority over the lien of the aforesaid deed of trust.

Purchaser must pay all transfer taxes, delinquent or current real estate taxes, title search and any costs related to recording any Deed from the Trustee herein.

TERMS OF SALE

Any successful bidder shall pay 10% of the sales price as a deposit in Certified Funds or Cash at the time of sale with the balance to be paid within 30 days from date of sale. The above-described real estate will be sold by the undersigned Substitute Trustee by auction to the highest bidder subject to the right of the Trustee to reject all bids if in his opinion they are inadequate. The owner of the indebtedness secured by the above-described deeds of trust and the owner of any other interest in the properties to be sold shall have the right to bid.

CONTINUANCE OR ADJOURNMENT OF SALE

The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to continue the sale, or adjourn the sale for a time, or from time to time, and the place of sale, as hereinabove set forth, or any continuance or adjournment thereof.
Dated: August 11, 2025

Andrew C. Shaffer
Substitute Trustee

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

In the Matter of Petition of Name Change of
Emma Hartshorn
Current Name Emma Marie Hartshorn Civil Action No. 25-P-12
To Judge Jasmine R.H. Morton
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 Family 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 his office.

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

Chorissa Hantshaw
Clerk of the Court

LEGAL

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY

IN RE: State v J.D. and B.D. Case Nos. 25-JA-16-17
In the matter of J.D. and B.D., and the unknown whereabouts of Joshua Dancy, Adult Respondent Father.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

And

NOTICE OF ANSWER

To: **Joshua Dancy.**

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

You are hereby notified that an abuse and neglect and/or abandonment petition has been filed with the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, on the 5th day of February 2025, and assigned Case Numbers 25-JA-16-17, wherein it is alleged that the Adult Respondent Mother of Infant Respondents J.D. (DOB: 8/29/14), and B.D. (DOB: 12/27/17), is Catherine Dancy, and that said Infant Respondents be placed in the custody of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, with said Infant Respondents remaining in the care, custody and control of the said Department since that time in 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 Respondent, Joshua Dancy shall appear before the Honorable Judge Asbury on the **12th day of September 2025, at 1:30 p.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 19th day of August 2025.

Chorissa Hantshaw
Circuit Clerk

LEGAL

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Andrew C. Shaffer
Substitute Trustee

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WVU Extension Office brings in the big guns



Talking over strategy before descending the hill.

By Allen Hamrick

If you have been in the town of Clay and lived here most of your natural life, you should have noticed the Kudzu plant. It is the plant that has waged war on the town of Clay for over one hundred years. It was brought in prior to the year 1900 to serve as a forage crop for the livestock of that period. The root system was also great for erosion control as it spreads quickly and roots deeply. Farmers and ranchers stopped using it because it spreads very rapidly and is difficult to control. Kudzu can be seen all through the town of Clay taking over hillsides and homes, and if not stopped, it will most definitely turn the town of Clay into a tomb. The plant is often called the vine that ate the south. Kudzu was first introduced in the United States in 1876 in Philadelphia. Because the climate is different in America, the warm moist temperatures caused it to flourish and grow nearly a foot a day. It caused widespread panic by taking over everything in its path. The weight of the plant uprooted trees and covered houses, especially abandoned ones. The worst part is if it gets completely out of control, it could upset the ecosystem of the area it encompasses. Kudzu is exceedingly difficult to dispose of and takes years to get rid of completely. However, there are some methods that can be used to help control

its growth. In recent weeks, a collaboration between the WVU-Clay County Extension Office, the Town of Clay, and the Clay County Health Department has started a war of their own against the plant. The walking trail across from the Health Department has been overtaken by the plant so a project using sheep to help control growth has been started. A fenced area using an 8000-volt portable fence from Primer One has been used to keep the sheep in the section until they have exhausted the Kudzu. This trial run is mainly to see if the sheep can safely get the job done in a town environment. Sheep are a flight risk and very skittish when people are around, so if you can't help yourself and you must watch them, watch them from a distance, and let them get their job done. Also, the fence is electric so do not get too close. The Extension office thanks you ahead of time for treating the sheep kindly, and they encourage you to watch; just approach the sheep with slow movements. The sheep have been on the job for about a week now and have done a great job. They have suffered no casualties or incidents. In the future, the WVU-Clay Extension Office would like to make this more of an advanced research project. The information gained from these kinds of projects will aid in future projects of



Sheep are making a big dent in the invasive plant.



Kudzu is taking over.

like issues. Once the sheep are finished in this area, they will be moved to the riverbank behind the Health Department. When they are finished there, they will once again be moved to a new area to graze. The sheep are a wonderful opportunity to rid Clay of this plant, but it will take time. One grazing will not be enough to get rid of the plant as it will return repeatedly, but using the sheep in a seasonal approach over the years can make the plant weak until it is too weak to return. There are limitations, too. The

sheep can only reach so high, so it is possible that equipment will have to be brought in to get the higher plants. This project is a good example of the dedication of the WVU-Clay Extension Office always considering the best for the county of Clay. This plant is trying to swallow Clay one building at a time, and the WVU-Clay Extension folks have our backs. Thanks to Michael Shamblin, Extension Agent, for the information included in this article and for getting things done.

Secretary of State Kris Warner completes 55-county tour to meet and talk with county clerks and their staff

A visit last week to the Webster County courthouse marked the completion of a promise made by newly elected WV Secretary of State Kris Warner. Secretary Warner took office on Jan. 13 becoming the 31st person elected to serve as West Virginia's Secretary of State. On that date, Secretary Warner promised to visit all 55 counties in the state, in particular, to visit with West Virginia's 55 county clerks. Along the way, Secretary Warner also got to visit with dozens of county commissioners, sheriffs, assessors, circuit clerks, judges, and magistrates. "I promised the county clerks that I would bring my office to them," said Secretary Warner. "I want all 55 county clerks to know that we recognize them as their county's chief elections officer. I want to know what they need to keep their elections fair, secure, and safe for all voters."

The WV State Code identifies the Secretary of State as the state's Chief Elections Officer. But Warner makes the point that the election process on Election Day is administered by the county clerks. "I want to know what's working, and what's not," Warner said. "I want to hear the ideas and concerns of the clerks and their elections staff, many of whom have decades of experience in managing local elections." West Virginia's 2026 Primary Election is set for Tuesday, May 12. The Candidate Filing Period to run for office in 2026 is scheduled for January 12 to January 31. Warner completed the tour and meeting with all 55 county clerks' offices last week in time for the 2025 County Clerks Election Training Conference being hosted by the Secretary of State this week at Canaan Valley State Park in Davis, WV. There are more than 200 clerks and their staffs reg-



WV Secretary of State Kris Warner

istered to attend this training conference to begin the preparation for the 2026 mid-term elections. To learn all about West Virginia elec-

tions to include how to register to vote, how to update your current registration, absentee balloting, and more, visit GoVoteWV.com.

Labor Day

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

I would like to wish you all a prosperous and happy Labor Day. When I think of Labor Day, I envision the machines manufactured by workers that freed us from a totally agricultural-based society. This advancement in machines enabled us to develop electricity, lighting, and, above all, refrigeration. The latter allowed us finally to conquer every corner of the world. Above all, Labor Day honors men and women who have been the backbone of our workforce, whether in the field or the factory. A great part of that honorable group included the men and women who filled the Ohio River valley in West Virginia with steel mills in the Northern Panhandle and great chemical plants in the Kanawha

Valley. Those plants and their energy sources were brought to life by West Virginia coal miners who made this state what it is today. Great power lines, whose manufacturing plants are fed by the coal they dig, crisscross our state and nation and provide light and heat not only to homes in West Virginia but far outside of our own region. Many of these industries today fall under the regulatory duties of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia. Decisions made by the Commissioners affect a broad spectrum of workers across this state. We as commissioners, have the complicated task of trying to balance the competing interests. It is rarely an easy task to make our decisions.

Most cases are highly complex and take time to complete. It seems as though they get more technical and elaborate each year. And in many of these cases, we get to hear not only from the companies but also from the members of the public. People seem to be more aware of the things that are going on around them these days and how they are being affected by others' actions. We at the Commission encourage comments from the people of West Virginia in these cases. We want to know what you think when it comes time for us to make decisions. So, this Labor Day, I want to thank all of you who take the time to get involved and let the Commission know how you feel about the cases we are about to decide. Enjoy your Labor Day.



PSC Chair Charlotte Lane