



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



Volume 136 No. 91

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Christmas Backpack Distribution at Lighthouse Baptist Church

Free Christmas Backpacks for ages 2-17 packed with Christmas goodies and gifts will be distributed at Lighthouse Baptist Church, 153 School Street, Ivydale, WV 25113.

We will be distributing the backpacks on Sunday, December 21 from 9 a.m.

to 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Our Sunday School for all ages is 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Worship Service starting at 11 a.m. We will not be distributing Backpacks during Sunday School or Church Worship Service but everyone is welcome to join in with us during those times.

Town of Clay awarded grant funds to replace water tank

Governor Patrick Morrisey has announced more than \$15.4 million in grant awards to projects across the state aimed at updating water and sewer infrastructure and environmental conservation.

The water and sewer infrastructure grants announced by Governor Morrisey total \$12,643,588 for projects in 13 counties.

"As my administration continues our work to make West Virginia more competitive with our neighboring states, these critical upgrades to water and sewer infrastructure are moving the needle," said Governor Morrisey. "Clean water and functional infrastructure lift up the standard of living and propel economic growth in our communities."

The following water and sewer infrastructure projects were approved by the Water Development Authority in the county for funding:

Town of Clay: Clay County – The Town of Clay was awarded a \$477,500 IJDC grant to replace a water tank that has been deemed to be deficient in the Health Department's Sanitary Survey and added to a Corrective Action Plan for replacement. The project area is in the Clay area in Clay County and will affect 528 customers. These funds, along with funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission, provide the \$1,257,500 needed for this project.

Other funding included:

Wilderness PSD: Nicholas County – Wilderness PSD received an IJDC grant of \$500,000 to upgrade and extend water service in the Mt. Nebo area of Nicholas County. This system improve-

ment will affect 2,054 existing customers and adds one new customer. These funds, in combination with grants from the Appalachian Regional

Commission, Nicholas County Commission, and the Young Life Resort, cover the total project cost of \$2,771,500.

Flatwoods Canoe Run PSD: Braxton County – Flatwoods Canoe Run PSD was awarded \$2,889,500 to fund an upgrade to the current SCADA system that will provide quality control measures to the water system such as data collection, leak detection, automated shutoffs, and manual remote-control functions. The waterline replacement portion of the project will replace the deteriorated waterline leading to the Route 19 water storage tank, which would reduce water loss in the existing water distribution system and reduce operation and maintenance costs associated with the frequent repairs. The primary project area is Exchange in Braxton County, and this project will benefit 2,009 existing customers.

Sugar Creek PSD: Braxton County – Sugar Creek PSD was awarded \$37,500 to conduct an evaluation and develop a Preliminary Engineering Report to determine the location, capacity, type of treatment, preliminary probable construction and project cost to replace the aging current plant. The primary project area is Frametown in Braxton County and this water plant upgrade project will support 610 customers. This funding, along with funds from Braxton County Commission will provide the \$75,000 needed for the evaluation.

Clay County Commission holds December meeting

By Gary Lee Stuber

The regular meeting of the Clay County Commission on December 8 was the only meeting for the Commission in December. All three commissioners were present: David Schoolcraft; Joyce Johnson, president, and Duane Legg. County Clerk Shelia Stone was present as recorder. The commission approved the next meeting to be on January 2, which is a Friday and will be an organization meeting for the year. The meeting, which is required by law, will set the schedule dates and times for next year's meetings, which are all subject to change year to year.

The fairly brief meeting was mostly regular business: minutes from the previous meeting, bills, purchase order, budget revisions, erroneous assessments as presented by the Assessor, fiduciary appointment as presented by the County Clerk, probating last wills and testaments, and final settlements of estates.

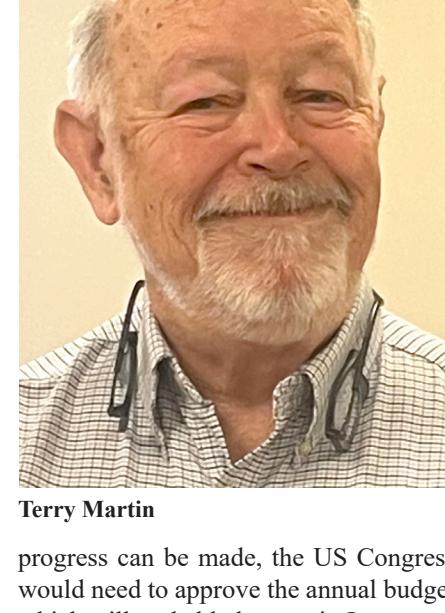
The commission accepted the Letter of Resignation of Marsha King, effective December 31.

The commission approved the purchase of an ambulance and a cot from Stryker from the state funded Ambulance Equipment Fund.

After a number of weeks of consideration and looking at options, the commission approved a new PEIA insurance change effective January 1, 2026 for all employees who wanted to take advantage of this. The plan change is for the Commission to directly pick up 80% of employee premium costs for employees that choose Plan C. The employees during open enrollment have the option to choose Plan A. But the commission will only pay 80% for those employees who remain in, or change to, Plan C. During comment opportunity, no one in the room objected to this change.

Terry Martin gave a number of reports beginning with the 2025 HUD Community Development Block Grant. Last year they applied for funding for the Ossia Water Project and only five projects were funded. He wanted to know if the commission wanted him to reapply this year. It would only require one public meeting to announce it. They gave him permission to tender the application.

Next, he addressed the Congressional Directed Spending 911 Center update, telling the commission they were on the federal budget for up to \$4.5 million dollars to relocate the 911 center. Before further



Terry Martin

progress can be made, the US Congress would need to approve the annual budget which will probably happen in January or February of next year. Last year because it was a Continuing Resolution, the President stripped out all extraneous spending from last year's budget. The funding is still in the budget, but that budget would need to be approved. It could take up to six months after the budget is approved, because they will have to update a new application with HUD and an environmental study would need to be prepared on any selected site.

Terry Martin also gave updates on several projects. Regarding the Big Otter Nebo Waterline, Terry said they were about 60% complete and are expecting to have all work completed and people connected to water in March. The Grassy Fort Waterline is still in design and is about 75% completed. The issues right now are just getting easements and right-of-way signatures for the physical line. As far as the Clay County Judicial Annex is concerned, there are only minor things to be completed. So final payment will be delayed until the work is finished. After the meeting in a conversation with Sheriff Deputies, it was clarified that the Department is now using the patrol office in the new Judicial Annex. But the retaining cell is still not in use because benches are still three weeks out from arriving, and they will need to be bolted to the floor when they arrive.

The commission also noted that they had 13 applications for a second full-time janitor and were looking them all over. And that finishes the Clay County Commission for the year.

House To Start Session With Focus On Jobs

House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, announced several initiatives he expects the West Virginia House of Delegates to consider when second regular session of the 87th Legislature convenes in January.

"West Virginia voters continue to tell us they want us to focus on jobs," Hanshaw said. "When our leadership team surveyed the 91 Republican Delegates in the 100-member House to prepare for this year, 81 of them responded, and overwhelmingly the focus was clear: economic development and the education that builds it for the state."

Hanshaw noted that the proposals came from interim committee reports and studies, along with workgroups and conferences to learn from other states since the 2025 regular session had adjourned.

"This is by no means an exhaustive list of everything that will be debated during the session, and we certainly don't have all the details ironed out on these things yet either," he said. "We recognize the growing majority party includes many voices and each of our communities has different needs, but every community benefits from

good jobs and opportunity."

Hanshaw spoke about efforts to enhance workforce-ready education programs within the state, starting with a pay raise for teachers and service personnel. Other proposals included the ReCharge West Virginia Act, which would reimburse certain training costs for existing businesses that upskill their workers and boost their wages, as well as two work skills pathway programs: Skills at Work, and Tech Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul for future aviation careers. The West Virginia Collaboratory proposal would connect higher education research with the Legislature to provide data-driven solutions for major challenges.

Several proposals to ensure fair regulations and minimal red tape look to continue shaping the job-creating business climate West Virginia is becoming known for.

"These may not be the most provocative bills, but they are issues our members hear about when they're at the gas station and the grocery store," Hanshaw said. "Things like expanding what we define as 'recycled feedstock' and 'solid waste' would

FOCUS ON JOBS cont. on page 3

Gridiron glory for five Panthers



1st Team All State.

See story on Page 8

BOOKED

REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS



NICHOLAS COUNTY



Tiffany Nicole Bragg
Booked 12/10/25
Child neglect, conspiracy,
possession with intent

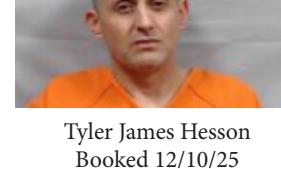
Damackus Frazier-Salaam
Booked 12/10/25
Child neglect, conspiracy,
possession with intent



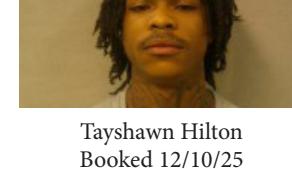
Tyler Macabe Hamrick
Booked 12/10/25
Burglary, daytime break
without entering, failure to
pay for gas, DOR/DUI



Dylan Cord Hayhurst
Booked 12/12/25
Capias

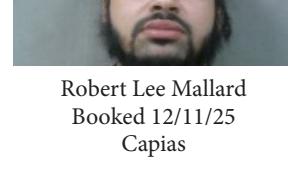


Tyler James Hesson
Booked 12/10/25
Circuit court Capias



Tayshawn Hilton
Booked 12/10/25
Possession with intent, con-
spiracy, child neglect

NICHOLAS COUNTY

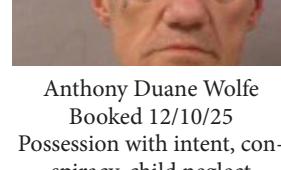


Robert Lee Mallard
Booked 12/11/25
Capias

Carl Junior Moses
Booked 12/10/25
Domestic assault



Tani Danielle Weaver
Booked 12/12/25
Capias for felony



Anthony Duane Wolfe
Booked 12/10/25
Possession with intent, con-
spiracy, child neglect

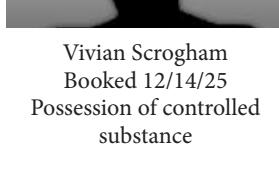


Quentin Curtis Griffin
Booked 12/11/25
Capias



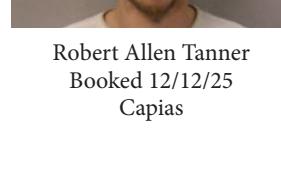
Jason James Smith
Booked 12/9/25
Bailpiece, domestic battery,
domestic assault

BRAXTON COUNTY

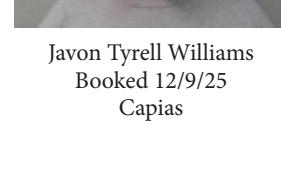


Christopher Lee Nottingham
Booked 12/11/25
Assault

Vivian Scroggaham
Booked 12/14/25
Possession of controlled
substance



Robert Allen Tanner
Booked 12/12/25
Capias



Javon Tyrell Williams
Booked 12/9/25
Capias

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

POSTITS	KEEPSAKE	ALGA
UPTOBAT	AT RANDOM	BELL
BROWNFOR	THE COUNT	REAL
SYNE	TUE	OLD MATZO
ELF	TOOGOOD	TOBEDREW
PAMELA	PANTS	STEED
INATUFT	SPOT	BEAR VOL
LOST	TOM	ORES OLIVA
OTOE	TUPAC	ETASINEZ
TEN	PHOTOGRAPHIC	MEMORY
PEA	PAULA	AAA
LAMEDUKE	PRESIDENT	HAM
ANASLIME	LOREN	SHULA
INGOT	LIDO	LIPOLIN
DINRIOT	LOCKEDIN	PACE
HABIT	FAUNA	GUISES
RICE	TO THE FINISH	INK
ELATE	RAD	TEA GISH
BART	GET OUT OF YALE	FREE
ETTE	INERRANT	PIVOTED
LEAR	STRAINED	STARSKY



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Big Otter names Star Readers



Big Otter Elementary has lots of Star Readers! Kindergarten students get to read to the principal, Mr. Boggs, once they reach the highest level book! Students are then awarded a Star Reading trophy. Congratula-

tions to all of the Star Readers!

Pictured are Baylee Rogers, Cole Titus, Easton Metheny, Lincoln Vaughan, Connor Taylor, Kylum Sontos, and Jason Rhodes.



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A Crack In The Clouds

By Joe Mazzella

It was a gray, gloomy day. The sky had been overcast for 3 days in a row. Even when it wasn't raining there was little light. It looked like all the colors of the world had dimmed thanks to the gray sky overhead. It looked like a dreary preview of the many Winter's days to come. I was driving along in my car on my way home. I had put on some Christmas music to try and lift my spirits but I still felt tired and run down from the lack of light.

I put in another Christmas CD and listened to the music. Suddenly, "Joy to the World" was playing and I smiled. It had always been one of my favorite Christmas carols. Since no one was in the car with me to hear I started to sing along in my weak, raspy, cracking voice. Just as I started to sing, though, a crack appeared in the clouds and a beam of sunlight broke through. It shined through my windshield and landed on my face like a Heavenly Kiss. I soaked in its light and warmth and felt such joy. I blinked back at my moistening eyes and continued to sing. Then as quickly as it appeared the crack in the clouds closed and the sun was hidden again. But its light lingered in my soul. I thanked God for this little miracle that had energized my weary heart and continued to sing all the way home.

This life has its share of gloomy, gray days and not just in the sky either. When these days appear you have two choices. You can join in the grayness or you can be the light that finds a crack in the clouds and shines through to brighten another's heart. For myself, I will always choose the light. I will always remember that God is the Love within us. And I will always do my best to share that Love with the world.

Find that crack in the clouds then. Do your best to bring a little more light to this life. Do your best to bring a little more Joy to this World. Do your best to share the Love within you.

Home Country

Slim Randles

When the new college opened in the next town – a somewhat larger town than ours – our folks began wondering if making the 30-minute drive to class would be worth it.

Dud was the first to figure out that it was.

"Boys," he said, sitting at the Mule Barn philosophy counter and flipping his cup upright with one poetic motion, "I'm signed up over at J.H.T... I'm going to get me an education."

"That's great, Dud," said his mentor and straight man, Doc. "What are you taking?"

"Just one class to start out, Doc," Dud said. "Thought I'd kinda e-e-e-ease into it, you know. I'm taking functional literacy. We're going to study words and their meanings."

"I thought you did that in high school. Maybe even in grammar school?"

"Right, Doc. But this is college, you know. We're going to take functional literacy to a higher plane!"

When Jerry Hat-Trick Junior College recently opened its doors, it attracted a great deal of attention. Not only was it the first privately-endowed junior college in the country, but it was named for its benefactor, the famous retired hockey player. It had always been Jerry's dream, he told the world, to bring about a greater appreciation for the associate in arts degree. To do this, he paid educators to meet in think tanks all over the county and come up with classes that were "outside the box."

Jerry did well in hockey, naturally, but endowing a two-year institution of semi-higher learning became possible only after he married the heiress to a pork-belly fortune. You might call that "functional matrimony."

So J.H.T. J.C. was born, having innovative classes like "Pruning for the New Millennium," "Creative Sword Swallowing," and "First-Strike Self Defense."

It got some of the rest of us considering a return to the halls of Virginia creeper for a tune-up. After all, as charter members of the Mule Barn truck stop's world dilemma think tank, it's our duty to stay on the cutting edge.

Let's see if your local junior college boasts a class in "How to teach an old dog new tricks."

When it comes to gifts, I'm not gifted

By Dr. James Snyder

Christmas is my favorite holiday. A time of celebration and enjoying family time together.

It wasn't always my favorite holiday. There was a time when my birthday was my favorite holiday of the year. I enjoyed celebrating my birthday with presents and that amazing birthday cake that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always made.

That is, when I reached 50 years on my birthday, it came to an end. No more celebrating getting one year older. Every day on my birthday, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would say, "Today you are one year older." And then she would laugh.

That was the last birthday I had, and I don't remember it anymore, or at least that's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

Now Christmas is my favorite holiday, and I enjoy just about every aspect of it. It's great to have my family together around the Christmas tree and sharing Christmas presents. That's a really fun time of the year.

I must confess that I do have a problem with the Christmas holiday.

I don't have any problem with gathering together and eating a marvelous Christmas dinner. The issue I have concerns the gifts. When it comes to something like gifts, I am absolutely not gifted.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I really don't know how to shop. I don't know what gifts to buy for anybody in my family. Sometimes I give cash.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage starts her Christmas shopping right after the 4th of July. All summer long, she will be shopping for and storing those Christmas gifts in her craft room. Of course, I never go into her craft room because I would get lost and not know my way out. But she can figure out every gift every individual in our family deserves.

I can't sit down and name all of the family members, let alone know what they would like for Christmas.

When I was a kid, my parents would take me downtown to visit Santa Claus. I would sit on Santa Claus's lap and tell him what I really wanted for Christmas. Little did I know that my parents were right next to Santa, listening to all my Christmas wish lists?

It was amazing on Christmas Day to find out that Santa had come through with my Christmas gifts. It took me a long time to realize that Santa had nothing to do with my Christmas gifts, but they all came from my parents. My parents knew me better than I knew myself.

That said, looking back on my life of Christmas gifts, I do not believe I could name my favorite. I'm

not even sure what I got for Christmas last year.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrate our 55th Christmas this year. She can sit around the Christmas tree and recall every gift we have ever received or given and to whom.

That makes Christmas a great challenge for me. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has no problem with Christmas gift shopping. I must confess that most of the time I let her do the shopping for me, I have to pay for it.

One of the greatest disappointments in Christmas gifts is that I don't know who wants what.

Another problem I have with Christmas gifts is that I don't know what I want. I can't think of anything that I would want anybody in my family to buy me for Christmas. They always come around and bring me things that surprise me, and I appreciate it. But if I had to make a list of what I wanted for Christmas, that list would be blank even today.

My other big problem with Christmas gifts is for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I would never know what Christmas gift she would like from me. What does she need for Christmas? After all, she has me, so what else does she need?

If I'm going to do Christmas right, I'll need to ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage what I should get for each of the family members. When I asked her that question, she didn't need to think about it and came up with a long list of what I could get for each of my family members.

Oh boy, if I didn't have her, I wouldn't be able to celebrate Christmas as I do today.

In her craft room, she has a special place, I don't know where it is, where she stores all of her Christmas gifts for the coming year. She knows what she has and who it's for. I sometimes wonder whether Santa Claus might be part of their family heritage.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful Christmas. It is amazing to me to see the gifts people give each other. I can only assume that they get that trait from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Celebrating Christmas around the Christmas tree is a wonderful time to be with family.

Thinking along this line, a scripture came to mind. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Christmas is a great time to gather and give God the glory for all He has done for us. A time to remember all God has done for us during the year and looking forward to the New Year.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

FOCUS ON JOBS

Continued from Page 1

recognize advanced technology for recycling and allow for more manufacturing, and that's a proposal for more jobs, plain and simple."

Other business climate proposals included allowing portable benefits for the modern workforce to more flexibly maintain retirement or insurance savings across multiple employers; Mountaineer Flex, a performance-based, flexible tax credit to encourage major investment and job creation without limiting it to a specific industry; a timing proposal for the PSC to allow an Energy Infrastructure Approval fast track for more modern and reliable power which also would create jobs; and TEAM-WV, which would create a competitive, statewide nonprofit to drive a cohesive strategy for site development, partnerships and business growth.

"We always look to serve the long-term interests of the state with real and lasting infrastructure and development, along with the knowledge that different parts of the state have different needs," Hanshaw said.

Finally, proposals to address responsible economic growth included the Construction Cost Relief Act, which would exempt building construction materials from the state sales tax; the Welcome Home Act, which would help real estate developers by separating their parceled inventory to fairly tax what is developed; the West Virginia First Small Business Growth Act, which would allow capital and financing for job creators already in the state; an update with additional funding to the Industrial Access Roads program for local Economic Development Agencies; and expanding site readiness grants with more funding altogether while including smaller acreage.

"I cannot think of a single societal ill that cannot be improved by a thriving economy," Hanshaw said. "Ensuring people have opportunities to earn a decent living and make the right decisions for themselves and their families should not be controversial or even political, which is why we will remain focused on the principles that create and maintain a growing and diverse economy."

Governor Patrick Morrisey Announces Plan to Include State Employee Pay Raises in 2026 Budget Request

Governor Patrick Morrisey announced that his proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget will include pay raises for state employees, citing West Virginia's improved financial outlook made possible by his administration's disciplined, balanced-budget approach over the past year.

"I believe in casting a wide net," said Governor Morrisey. "Our state employees are the ones who teach our children, fix our roads and bridges, guard our prisons, police our streets, and administer the programs thousands of West Virginians rely on. They enter public service not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of our people. They deserve to share in the positive results of our fiscal progress."

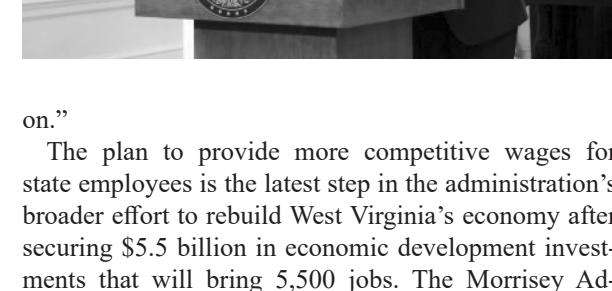
The pay raises proposed by Governor Morrisey will apply to state employees who are funded through the general revenue budget, which includes the vast majority of state workers. This category covers teachers, State Police, corrections officers, and many other essential public servants.

Governor Morrisey's proposed pay raise will also address critical vacancies in areas such as Corrections, Child Protective Services, and Education.

"Too often, we lose talented teachers, service personnel, and police officers to neighboring states offering higher pay," Governor Morrisey said. "We must reverse that trend by ensuring our public servants can build their careers here in West Virginia. Keeping teachers, law enforcement, and other dedicated professionals is essential to maintaining the vital services our communities rely

on."

The plan to provide more competitive wages for state employees is the latest step in the administration's broader effort to rebuild West Virginia's economy after securing \$5.5 billion in economic development investments that will bring 5,500 jobs. The Morrisey Administration has secured additional wins, successfully championing universal licensing reciprocity to reduce barriers to work and implementing the one-stop shop permitting system to cut red tape and speed up business development. Additionally, House Bill 2014 has positioned West Virginia as one of the most attractive states in the country for data center investment, while supporting microgrids, strengthening the energy grid, lowering income taxes, and helping counties fund critical infrastructure.



THIS WEEK IN

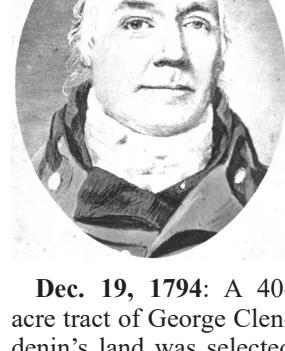
West Virginia History

Dec. 17, 1957: The J. L. Stifel & Sons calico plant at Wheeling closed. For most of its history, Stifel & Sons produced indigo-dyed prints and drills for clothing manufacturers. At its peak, the plant produced 3.5 million yards of cloth per month.

1921.



Dec. 18, 1816: Lewis County was formed. It was named for Colonel Charles Lewis, killed at the Battle of Point Pleasant.



Dec. 18, 1842: U.S. Senator Nathan B. Scott was born. By 1900, Scott had become one of West Virginia's four richest and most powerful men.

Dec. 18, 1864: General Harry Hill Bandholtz was born in Michigan. Bandholtz was commander of the federal troops that intervened to end the West Virginia Mine Wars in

Dec. 19, 1794: A 40-acre tract of George Clendenin's land was selected as the site of Charlestown,

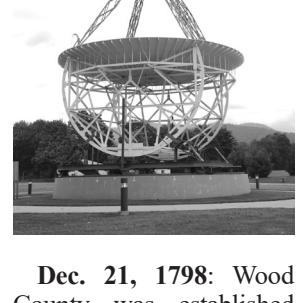
later renamed Charles-ton. Clendenin, born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1746, was one of the first settlers in the Kanawha Valley. Through Clendenin's influence the Virginia Assembly authorized the formation of Kanawha County from parts of Greenbrier and Montgomery counties in 1789.

Dec. 19, 1832: The town of Ripley received its charter. It was probably named for Harry Ripley, a popular circuit-riding Methodist minister who drowned in Mill Creek in 1830.

Dec. 20, 1943: During World War II, German fighter pilot Franz Stigler protected the heavily damaged B-17 bomber flown by Charlie Brown, originally from Weston, as it made its way from enemy territory back to England. The two war veterans met in 1990 and remained friends until their deaths.

Dec. 20, 2002: Grote Reber died. In 1937, Reber built the world's first parabolic radio telescope in his backyard. The Re-

ber Telescope was moved to the National Radio Observatory at Green Bank in the 1960s and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989.



Dec. 21, 1798: Wood County was established by the Virginia General Assembly. It was named for James Wood, governor of Virginia from 1796 to 1800.

Dec. 21, 1967: West Virginia's 37th Governor, Patrick Morrisey, was born in Brooklyn and then grew up in Edison, New Jersey. Beginning in 2012, the Republican was elected to three consecutive terms as West Virginia attorney general before winning the gubernatorial election in 2024.

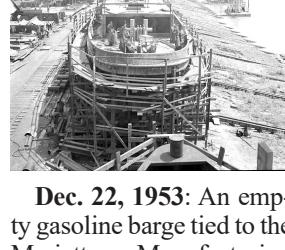
Dec. 22, 1894: Daredev-

il Morris "Dinger" Daugherty was born in New Martinsville. After surviving a catastrophic railroad accident that cost him both legs and an arm, he reinvented himself as a nationally known stunt pilot. His attempt to prepare for a transatlantic flight (that never happened) made him a brief New York celebrity. His music, performances, and public service made him a legend in New Martinsville.

Dec. 22, 1928: Radio station WMMN of Fairmont began operations as one of West Virginia's pioneer stations. For nearly two decades beginning in 1935, WMMN was an important outlet for country and western music performers. The highlight of this era was the *Sagebrush Roundup*, a Saturday-night live-audience show that began in December 1938 and was broadcast weekly for nearly 10 years.

Dec. 22, 1930: Author and director Clyde Ware, Jr., was born in Clarksburg, and then raised in West Union. He contributed scripts to such popu-

lar shows as *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, *Rawhide*, *Daniel Boone*, and *Gun-smoke*. He also wrote and directed the film *No Drums, No Bugles*—a Civil War drama set and filmed in West Virginia—as well as the TV film *The Hatfields and the Coopers* (1975).

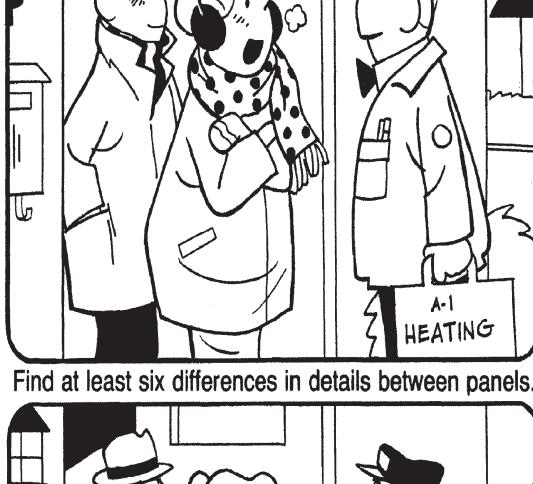


Dec. 22, 1953: An empty gasoline barge tied to the Marietta Manufacturing dry dock in Point Pleasant exploded, killing six men. During World War II, Marietta Manufacturing had received the prestigious Army-Navy "E" Award for wartime production.

Dec. 23, 1987: Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme escaped from the Federal Prison Camp in Alderson. Fromme, who was serving a life sentence for trying to kill President Gerald Ford, was captured two days later near the prison.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

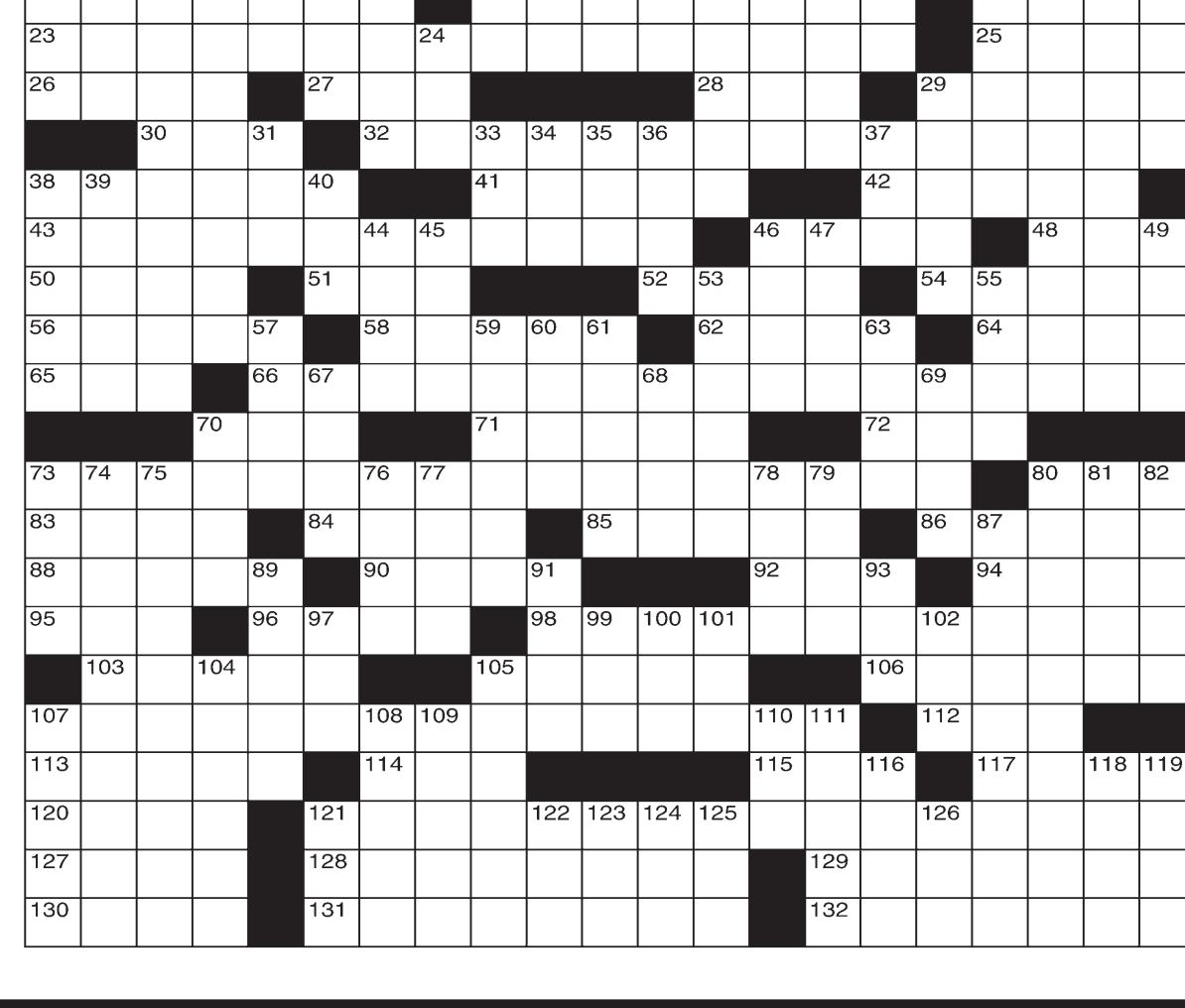


Differences: 1. Mailbox is open. 2. Patch on sleeve is higher. 3. Mouth is open. 4. Roof is smaller. 5. Cap is different. 6. Mittens are missing.

Super Crossword

UNIVERSITY SUBSTITUTES

ACROSS	54	Baseball Hall of Famer Tony	98	Unable to escape from a New York university?	3	Wall builder, e.g.	39	"La, — to follow so"	87	Wishing to receive
1	Small, sticky sheets	56	Some Siouxan people	103	Routine	40	Sternward	88	Stale	
8	Sentimental souvenir	58	Shakur of hip-hop	105	Animals of a region	44	Dog in Oz	91	Royal name of Norway	
16	Bit of aquatic flora	62	LAX stats	106	Pretenses	45	X-rated stuff	93	Sow or boar	
20	In hitting position, in baseball	64	Little — ("Hairspray" girl)	107	Houston university attended for four complete years?	46	Actress Mary — Hurt	97	Figure skater Midori	
21	Haphazardly	65	Certain till bill	112	Tattoo fluid	47	Actor Morales	99	Arles assent	
22	Ringing thing	66	Title of a picture album featuring an Atlanta university?	113	Make ecstatic	49	Like loafers	100	Wolf Blitzer's channel	
23	Providence university founded to educate Dracula?	70	Paella veggie	114	"Way cool!"	53	Fix	101	Chiang — -shek	
25	Not phony	71	Singer Abdul	115	Tazo drink	55	Peru's capital	102	Rapa — (Easter Island)	
26	Auld lang —	72	Org. offering tows	117	"Intolerance" star Lillian	57	Went swiftly	104	No longer ill	
27	Wed. preceder	73	Inadequate leader of a Durham university?	120	TV imp Simpson	59	Burst open, as corn	105	Hat for Frank Sinatra	
28	Stale	74	Leader of a Durham university?	121	Leave a New Haven university with no exit fee?	60	Lab gel	107	Mutinous sort	
29	Passover bread	75	Easter meat	127	Kin of -trix	61	Very mean	108	Former senator Lott	
30	Pixieish type	83	Santa — (desert winds)	128	Able to do no wrong	63	Eye carefully	109	Spiteful sort	
32	Nicer than a Madison university?	84	Tart garnish	129	Swiveled	67	Lug	110	Home for a 93-Down	
38	Actress Anderson	85	Italian actress Sophia	130	Big name in private jets	68	In addition	111	Messy stacks	
41	Jeans, e.g.	86	NFL coach Don or Mike	131	Used a sieve on	69	Gobbles up	116	Dismounted	
42	Ridden horse	88	Fort Knox bar	132	Partner of Hutch	70	Cali currency	118	Search for	
43	Located on a Somerville university's campus?	90	deck (cruise ship part)	DOWN		73	Installed, as carpet	119	Lamarr of "Algiers"	
46	Pooh or Yogi	92	Cup edge	1 Alehouses		74	Totally wipe out	121	Mil. enlistees	
48	Encyclopedia unit: Abbr.	94	Actress Lena	2	Nashville's Grand Ole	75	Document of English liberties	122	Mentalist Geller	
50	Clueless	95	Loud noise	3		76	Metric mass, in brief	123	Khaki cousin	
51	Cruise of film	96	Mega melee	4		77	Give forth	124	Certain till bill	
52	Mine metals			5		78	Nixing mark	125	Bouquets-to-order co.	
				6		79	City in Oklahoma		126 Mendes of "Hitch"	



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Puzzle Answers Page 2



THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike should vote alike.

"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.



November 1958

ANNUAL SHOOTING MATCH HELD BY BVSC



The "Lower Gob Dump" at Widen was the scene of the annual shooting match held by the Buffalo Valley Sportsman's Club on November 15, 1958.

Mr. Richard Manning was Chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements, and was assisted by Charles Barrett, John Henley, Scott Williams, Tom Mullins and Jerle Hamrick.

Mr. Fielding Kyer, County Conservation Officer helped to direct the shooting match. Mr. Manning has announced that this project was very successful and expresses his thanks to those who served on his committee and especially to Mr. Kyer for his time and effort.

The Widen Band Boosters Club was on hand all day with their "lunch wagon" selling hot dogs, barbecues and coffee. Those who helped on the "lunch wagon" were Mrs. Elizabeth Manning, Chairman, Mrs. Maude Hamrick, Mrs. Charlotte Morris, Misses Hazel Baughman, Mailyn Lewis, Patricia Manning and Terry Shaffer.

School Superintendents To Meet Here Nov. 19

The County Superintendents of Central West Virginia and their Supervisors met November 19 at the Clay County High School to study the curriculum for the schools and to make reports on what their respective counties are doing to improve the curriculum, it was announced by Supt. Brooks Smith of Clay County.

Those attending were Superintendents Oakford Deitz of Nicholas; Troy Morrison of Calhoun; Roy Cartright of Braxton; Mac Brooks of Pocahontas; A. L. Walker of Fayette; Roland Butcher of Gilmer; John Shock of Webster; and Brooks Smith of Clay; and the Supervisors from the respective counties.

Supt. Brooks Smith said Tuesday that the superintendents were trying to work up a more practical and useful curriculum for the schools.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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

Christmas Seals Are In The Mail

The annual sale of Christmas Seals opened November 14th in West Virginia and the entire United States and its possessions. The Christmas Seals are mailed to the citizens of Clay County by the West Virginia Tuberculosis and Health Association, the state association, because there is no Seal Sale conducted by local people in Clay County this year.

The funds derived from the annual sale of Christmas Seals will be used by the voluntary tuberculosis associations to help control and prevent this infectious disease in Clay County and the state, through the program of case-finding to find unknown cases of tuberculosis; education to prevent this infectious disease; research to study the disease and to promote techniques in surgery and drug therapy and to search for a vaccine which will prevent and cure this disease; social service to help the tuberculous patient and the patient's family; and rehabilitation to return the arrested case of tuberculosis to a useful and gainful life.

Tuberculosis still remains a major public health problem in spite of all that has been accomplished. Much remains to be done and funds are needed to carry on this work. The annual sale of Christmas Seals, by mail, is the only source of revenue of your tuberculosis association and you are requested to please purchase the Christmas Seals mailed to you and to use them on your Christmas mail and packages.

Mr. and Mrs. James Dawson announce the birth of a daughter, Cindy Lou, born at Gassaway Hospital, Saturday, November 15, 1958. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Nettles announce the birth of a daughter, Melody Ann, born at the Gassaway Hospital on November 16, 1958, weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

In 1776, the District of West Augusta, extending from the Alleghenies westward to the Ohio River and northward to Pittsburgh, was subdivided into three counties: Ohio, Monongalia and Greenbrier.

Gym Classes For Youths Sponsored By Y.M.C.A.

Widen YMCA gym classes for elementary age school boys have been growing steadily since opened for registrations November 1st. All classes meet at the "little gym", formerly occupied by school basketball squads - twice each week under the direction of H. C. Johnson, general secretary of the YMCA, for periods of instruction in calisthenics, indoor games, precision marching, athletic tests, tumbling and fellowship.

Mondays at 3:30 and Saturdays at 10:30 the Juniors (90 lb. class) meet; and at press time 15 boys had enrolled including, Earl Gibson, Rocky Wilson, Phil Morris, Steve Lane, Pat Morris, Jack Holcomb, Jr., Johnny Houghton, Ernest Hardway, David Brown, Robert Miller, Neal Morris, Robert Dorsey, Jr., Warren Donohue and Curtis Davis.

The "Prep" enrollment (60 lb. class) includes; Jimmy Dorsey, Teddy Rapp, Johnny Russell, Roger Miles, Mike Triplett, Herby Gibson, Mike Morris, Steve Truman, Mike Truman, Kenneth James, Steve Morris and Mike Frame. Meets Tuesday 3:30 and Saturday 12:30

The "Biddy" or Beginners' (under 60 lb. class) includes; Criss Sears, Jimmy Russell, Freddy Rapp, Roger King, Danny Tinney, David Marple, Dave Woods, Danny Wood, David Maby, Carlos Washington, Jimmy Sizemore, Keith Butcher and Timmy Butcher. Meets Wednesday 3:30 and Saturday at 2:30.

Saturday nights at 6:30 to 8:00 all groups meet in the YMCA primary room for a social and "skull session", plus a reel of comedies and cartoons. Finishing up with light refreshments.

Enrollment in the YMCA gym classes is open free to all boys in the elementary grades of schools serving Elk River Coal and Lumber Company employees in Widen or near-by communities. The classes last for approximately 90 minutes, including time for dressing. All participants must wear rubber soled tennis shoes, T-shirt and khaki shorts, which are worn only on the gym floor.

Parents' written consent must be handed to Principal Harry E. Baer permitting boys to come directly to the gym from school.

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DILLE SWANDALE DUNDON



CHURCH DIRECTORY

**A**

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

B

BELL CREEK
COMMUNITY BAPTIST
CHURCH
NO Scheduled Services
At This Time

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

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

BETHEL COMMUNITY
CHURCH, Porter Creek Road,
Bomont, WV
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Night Service

7:30 PM
Thursday Night Service

7:30 PM
Everyone welcome!

Pastor: Junior Davis

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

Pastor: Ralph D. Lane

BIG OTTER BAPTIST
CHURCH OF IVYDALE
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Preaching 11:00 AM

Wednesday prayer service and

Bible Study 6:30 PM **Pastor:**

Danny Richardson

BIG UNION BAPTIST
CHURCH
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening Service 1st,
3rd and 4th
Sundays Preaching 6:00 PM
Wednesday Night Prayer &

Bible Study 7:00 PM
2nd Sunday Communion
Service 6:00 PM
Pastor: Pete Shaffer

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

BUFFALO VALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday
School 10:00 AM Worship
Service 11:00 AM Sunday

Evening Service
6:00 PM
Radio Broadcast, Sunday

Morning 9:00 AM. WCWV
Summersville
Everyone Welcome **Pastor:**

Doug Newell IV

BURKE MEMORIAL
METHODIST CHURCH in
Procious. Across Camp Creek
Bridge on the left. Preaching

Every Sunday
9:00 AM
Sunday School 10:00 AM Bible

Study every Wednesday 7:00
PM **Pastor: Jerry Chandler**

C

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

CLENDEENIN 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

E**ELK RIVER BAPTIST**

CHURCH
Sunday School 10:00 AM

Preaching 11:00 AM

Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

Saturday Night 7:00 PM

Pastor: Bruce Cook

F**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

G**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

H**HALLBURG BAPTIST**

CHURCH
Sunday School 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

H

The Elves Are Scheming Again – The Calhoun Cabaret Christmas Spectacular Is Back

By Jessi McCumbers

ARNOLDSBURG, WV - Those pesky North Pole elves... will they EVER learn?

After a brief hiatus, The Calhoun Cabaret is thrilled to announce the return of its Christmas spectacular with "A Claus for Concern," an original script written by company founder Mercy Collins. This festive production features live theatre, dancing, music, and more!

The talented cast bringing this original holiday tale to life includes Katey Bever, Cierra Carpenter, Jon and Mercy Collins, Jess Fischer, Erica Greathouse, and Jessi McCumbers.

The event will be held at the Arnoldsburg Community Building. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. Admission is a \$5 donation at the door, and children under three enter for free. Attendees can also enjoy concessions, a raffle, and the company's hilarious 6th Annual Reindeer Games.

Can those clumsy elves keep Christmas on track? Find out December 20th and 21st at the Arnoldsburg Community Building!

About The Calhoun Cabaret

The Calhoun Cabaret was founded in 2017 by Mercy Collins with a goal of providing an outlet for people of all ages to explore and share performing arts with the community. For more information, please follow @thecalhounCabaret on Instagram, or email thecalhounCabaret@gmail.com.



CLAY COUNTY FREE PRESS

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LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE:

In accordance with Chapter 11, Article 3, Section 2a of the Code of West Virginia, I am notifying all real property and personal property owners of Clay County that for Tax Year 2026, all real property and personal property will be assessed at 60% of its current market value. This may or may not result in a general increase in the assessed value of your property.

Should you have any questions concerning the assessment of your real or personal property, you may contact this office at 587-4258, or you may come in the office and we will review your appraisal with you.

If, after a review with this office, you disagree with the appraisal of your property you may appeal the valuation to the Clay County Commission sitting as a Board of Review and Equalization, during the month of February.

Teresa Davis

Assessor of Clay County

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Could Be
Here!
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LEGAL

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY

IN RE: State J.W.

Case Nos. 25-JA-39

In the matter of J.W., and the unknown whereabouts of the Unknown Father of J.W.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

And

NOTICE OF ANSWER

To: Unknown Father

(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 24th day of April 2025, and assigned Case Number 25-JA-39, wherein it is alleged that the Adult Respondent Mother of the Infant Respondent J.W. (DOB: 4/21/25), is Jaelynn Thacker, and that said Infant Respondent 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.

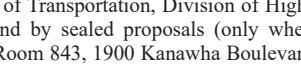
Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Unknown Father shall appear before the Honorable Judge Asbury on the 5th day of January 2026, at 11:00 a.m., at the Clay County Courthouse, 246 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against them at any time thereafter, and termination 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 8th day of December, 2025.



LEGAL

Please be advised that the below listed vehicles are being held at the KINGS TRUCKING AND WRECKER SERVICE, 220 Procious Maysel Road, Clay WV 25043. Phone Number 304-587-2784. Contact Fran, Steven, or Rodney. Please be advised that you have 10 days from the publication of this notice to reclaim your vehicle from the above address and pay all towing and storage charges that have resulted from recovering the listed vehicles. Failure of the owner or lienholder of record to reclaim the below listed vehicles within 10 days it shall be deemed a waiver of all rights, title, and interest and will serve as consent to the sale or disposal of the abandoned or junk vehicle.

2020 Chevrolet Silverado
VIN# 3GCPWEED4LG282052
Picked up 10/17/25
Mile Marker 37 on I-79
2024 Chevy Colorado Red in Color
VIN# 1GCPTEEK9R1117791
Picked up 8/22/25
at 2547 Maysel-Procious Rd.

LEGAL

(2024-C-000007 - CLAY COUNTY - HOLLINS WAYNE DUFFIELD)
To: DONVILLE C. DEEMS, SR., JOHN WAYNE CANTRELL II, NANCY KAY BYRD C/O JOHN WAYNE CANTRELL II, STEVEN LEE CANTRELL C/O JOHN WAYNE CANTRELL II, STEVEN LEE CANTRELL, STEVEN LEE CANTRELL, STEVEN LEE CANTRELL, NANCY KAY BYRD C/O PATRICIA MORALES, NANCY BYRD, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS & ASSIGNS OF CHARLES FORD DEEMS, DONVILLE [DONVAL] C. DEEMS, SR., ELIZABETH CANTRELL, MARJORIE PAYNE, JOHN WAYNE CANTRELL, II, STEVEN LEE CANTRELL AND NANCY KAY CANTRELL BYRED, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

In accordance with Chapter 11, Article 3, Section 2a of the Code of West Virginia, I am notifying all real property and personal property owners of Clay County that for Tax Year 2026, all real property and personal property will be assessed at 60% of its current market value. This may or may not result in a general increase in the assessed value of your property.

Should you have any questions concerning the assessment of your real or personal property, you may contact this office at 587-4258, or you may come in the office and we will review your appraisal with you.

If, after a review with this office, you disagree with the appraisal of your property you may appeal the valuation to the Clay County Commission sitting as a Board of Review and Equalization, during the month of February.

Teresa Davis

Assessor of Clay County

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until January 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call Contract State Project Federal Project Description

030 2020001486 S308-79-39.92 00 NHPP-0791(136)D ContWkTyp

PEARL HARBOR PFR CAREY STOCKWELL

PEARL HARBOR PFR CAREY STOCKWELL

COUNTY: CLAY

CONCRETE SLAB ON PRESTRESSED GIRDER

STRUCTURE STEEL:

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

To place your legals

Call us at (304)-647-

5724

(2024-C-000007 - CLAY COUNTY - HOLLINS WAYNE DUFFIELD)
To: DONVILLE C. DEEMS, SR., JOHN WAYNE CANTRELL II, NANCY KAY BYRD C/O JOHN WAYNE CANTRELL II, STEVEN LEE CANTRELL C/O JOHN WAYNE CANTRELL II, STEVEN LEE CANTRELL, STEVEN LEE CANTRELL, NANCY KAY BYRD C/O PATRICIA MORALES, NANCY BYRD, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS & ASSIGNS OF CHARLES FORD DEEMS, DONVILLE [DONVAL] C. DEEMS, SR., ELIZABETH CANTRELL, MARJORIE PAYNE, JOHN WAYNE CANTRELL, II, STEVEN LEE CANTRELL AND NANCY KAY CANTRELL BYRED, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

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Teresa Davis

Assessor of Clay County

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Panthers claim end of season glory

By Allen Hamrick

It has been said, "If a man has any brains at all, let him hold onto his calling, and in the grand sweep of things, his turn will come at last." W. McCune.

During the 2025 season the Panther football team ground their way into one of the best teams in the state, evidenced by the fact they went to the quarterfinals in the state tournament. This team dedicated themselves to the sport of football and got the job done. In the world of high school football, Friday nights are about a team of eleven players and their

standbys coming together and moving as one. This Panther team was in it to win every down, every kick and every quarter.

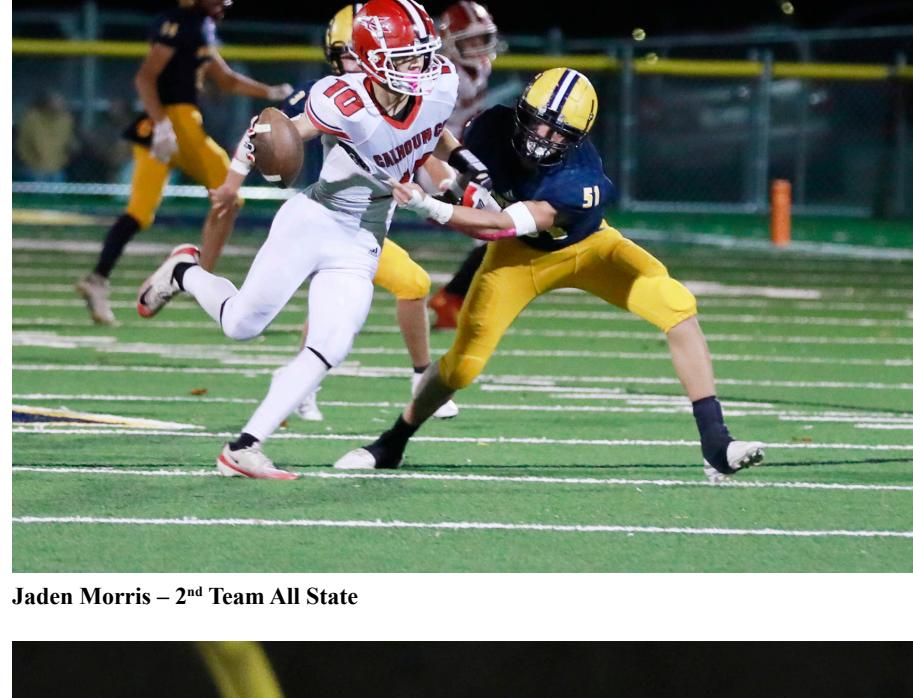
However, when the stadium lights go out and the season ends, it's time for the collective big wigs to get together and recognize the individuals who went above and beyond and powered their teams. This past week the Panther football franchise solidified its place in the state with five players earning All State recognition. This is a testament to the grit, discipline and culture built up by Coach Jason Nichols and his assistant coaches. It's grand

enough to have one player make the list, but five across the different levels speaks volumes of the students in the halls of CCHS.

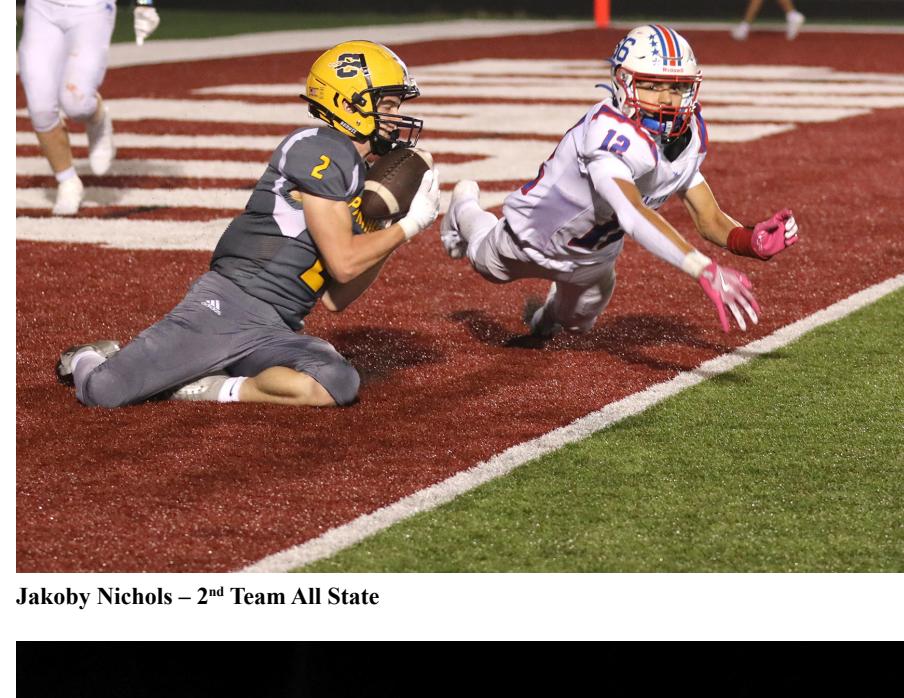
Leading the group was Jaxon Brown, kicker for the Panthers who was awarded 1st Team All State. Jakoby Nichols, Jaden Morris and Cooper Collins were named 2nd team All State. Coming in with Honorable Mention honors was Joel Elliott who I would put up against any wide receiver in the state. Not sure what the powers that be who make these decisions were thinking but honorable mention for

a player as good as Joel Elliott is a kick in the pants. He deserved much better. Clay County fans should be very proud of these young men because awards like this don't just happen, they are a result of hard work and a refusal to quit. They didn't just play for themselves; they played for the fans of this county. The pads and jerseys have been put away until the next season and these five players have set the standard for future Panther teams as to exactly what it takes to reach this level.

Congratulations to these players!



Jaden Morris – 2nd Team All State



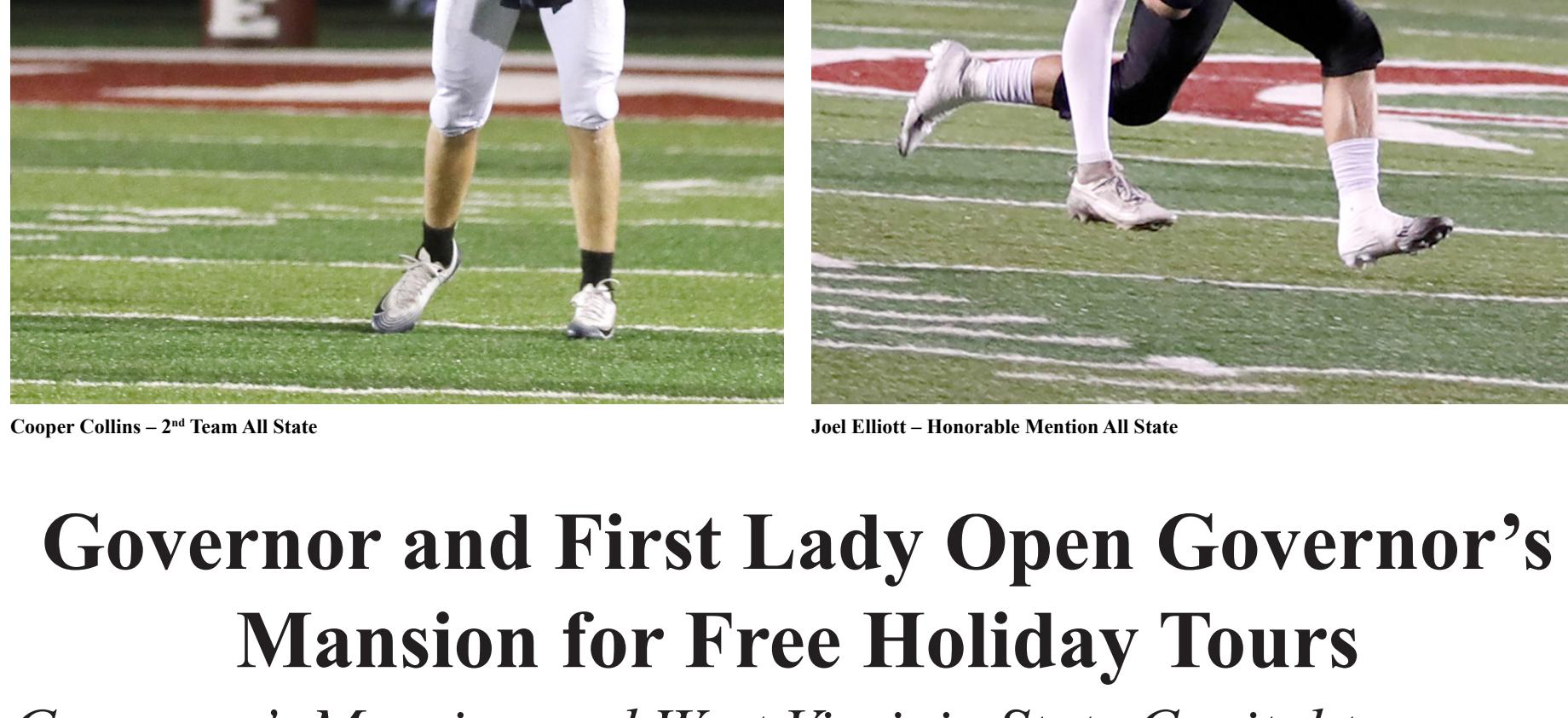
Jakoby Nichols – 2nd Team All State



Cooper Collins – 2nd Team All State



Joel Elliott – Honorable Mention All State



Governor and First Lady Open Governor's Mansion for Free Holiday Tours

Governor's Mansion and West Virginia State Capitol tours now available to be booked online

Governor Patrick Morrisey and First Lady Denise Morrisey have opened the Governor's Mansion to the public for free tours. Just in time for the holidays, tours of the Governor's Mansion and West Virginia State Capitol give visitors an inside look into two of the Mountain State's most iconic landmarks.

As announced during last week's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, a unique treat awaits at the Mansion this holiday season. The First Lady has created a special life-size gingerbread house that children will be excited to enter on their way to the front door of the Governor's Mansion. Starting today, tours of both the Governor's Mansion and the West Virginia State Capitol are available to be booked online.

"We are so excited to open up the Governor's Mansion for tours," said First

Lady Morrisey. "The Christmas season is a special time to share the Mansion's rich history and holiday spirit with families and guests across our great state. I can't wait to see children's faces light up when they see our special gingerbread house."

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Governor's mansion, one of West Virginia's most beloved residences. Nestled along the banks of the Kanawha River, this stately home has been the center of historical milestones since 1925.

Tours of the Governor's Mansion are offered Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tours of the Governor's Mansion can be combined with a tour of the West Virginia State Capitol Building for an immersive historical day. To schedule your free guided tour today, visit <https://wvtourism.com/tours/>. Reservations are required.

