



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple

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State officials have a report about the effects of the Big Beautiful Bill on West Virginia. They won't release it.

Experts warn Trump's spending bill could raise state government costs and reduce revenue. State officials have an analysis on it but have not disclosed it.



Gov. Patrick Morrisey speaks at a press conference on Dec. 19. Photo by Henry Culvhouse / Mountain State Spotlight

by Henry Culvhouse for Mountain State Spotlight

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

West Virginia state officials will not release a report that analyzes the effects of a spending bill that President Donald Trump dubbed "the Big Beautiful Bill" on the state.

With around 50% of West Virginia's operating budget coming from federal sources, the Mountain State stands to be hurt worse than most states by federal spending reductions.

Estimates by the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy show that in the upcoming state budget, the state will need to spend an additional \$7.5 million to take on an increase in administrative costs for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, also known as food stamps.

The spending bill also freezes tax increases on healthcare providers, which are used to pay for state portions of Medicaid. That could cost at least \$40 million, because the state won't have an avenue to raise more money, according to the center.

During a September meeting of the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, asked Deputy Secretary of Revenue Mark Muchow if his office had run the numbers on the spending package.

"We have done an analysis for the governor's office on that, yes," Muchow replied.

"If that's an analysis you'd be willing to share, we'd benefit from that," Hanshaw said.

A month later Hanshaw and Senate President Randy Smith, R-Preston, had the report.

Gov. Patrick Morrisey's office, the Department of Revenue, the House and the Senate all refused to release the report. They all invoked language in West Virginia's Freedom of Information Act that allows agencies to withhold "internal memoranda or letters received or prepared" by government agencies.

The state Supreme Court has ruled that language allows — but does not require — agencies to keep secret "advice, opinions and recommendations," even if those materials were sent from one agency to another. West Virginia law also allows agencies to be transparent with the public by releasing such materials.

The denial issued by Morrisey's office shined some light on the scope of the report.

"It reflected Mr. Muchow's evaluative judgment and analysis of the significance of various aspects of the One Big Beautiful Bill and its impact on the state of West Virginia," wrote Katie Franklin, deputy general counsel, in her denial letter.

At a press conference on Friday, when Mountain State Spotlight asked Morrisey about the report, he said, "You're going to see the results of that on January 14th, when I submit my budget, that'll start to give you a better sense in terms of some of the changes."

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that the state will lose billions in Medicaid funding as a result of the bill.

Loss in funding means some of West Virginia's neediest could get hurt. Over the next decade, 55,000 West Virginians could lose their Medicaid insurance. And an estimated 30,000 families with children could lose food assistance in the state.



Tabitha Lafferre, the president of the American Society of Civil Engineers' West Virginia Section, presents findings of the organization's 2025 Infrastructure Report Card during a news conference outside of the West Virginia House Chamber in Charleston, West Virginia on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025. (Photo by Caity Coyne/West Virginia Watch)

West Virginia receives D+ grade on infrastructure report card

By: Caity Coyne for West Virginia Watch

As West Virginia leaders plan to make economic development a cornerstone of the 2026 legislative session, a new report published Wednesday shows the state has far to go — both technically and financially — in addressing basic infrastructure needs.

The report, published by the American Society of Civil Engineers' West Virginia Section, has the state receiving an average of a "D+" grade for its infrastructure. It accounts for 18 infrastructure categories, ranging from roads, bridges and

dams to school facilities, drinking water, broadband and more.

ASCE publishes these state-specific report cards about every four years. The most recent one published in West Virginia, according to Tabitha Lafferre, the president of the ASCE's West Virginia Section, was in 2020 and only covered five infrastructure categories. That year, she said, the state received a "D."

At a news conference on Wednesday, Lafferre said it was good to see the state improve slightly in its infrastructure status. But, she continued, it's clear that much work remains to be done.

INFRASTRUCTURE cont. on page 9

School Building Authority announces grant funding for Clay County Schools

Clay County Schools has been awarded \$9 million in "Needs" grant funding from the West Virginia School Building Authority (SBA) to support the consolidation of Clay County Middle School. The grant, part of a \$43.5 million statewide distribution announced earlier in the month, will be combined with approximately \$1.9 million in local funds to construct a new addition at Clay County High School. The project was highly favored during the competitive selection process, with Clay County receiving the second-highest score among 32 applicant counties.

The new addition is designed to serve 7th and 8th-grade students, featuring eight classrooms including dedicated spaces for art and band. To prioritize student security, the wing will house a "safe-schools" entrance and a modern administrative suite.

Furthermore, the project includes a new physical education facility and locker rooms to support junior high athletics and gym classes. Under the new configuration, 6th-grade students will remain at Clay Elementary and Big Otter Elementary rather than moving to the high school campus.

SBA officials selected the project based on its high educational value, cost-effectiveness, and the urgent need for facility safety and code compliance. District leaders noted that the consolidation will significantly reduce long-term operational costs while providing a more cohesive and modern learning environment. This investment marks a major step forward for the county, ensuring that public resources are used efficiently to enhance the safety and academic opportunities available to future generations of students.

Lady Mustangs suffer a loss against the Lady Bears



Marissa Atha looks for a lane.

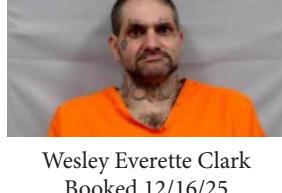
See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Lewis Brooks III
Booked 12/17/25
Home confinement violation



Zachary Logan Drennen
Booked 12/16/25
Bond violation



Michael Paul Greene
Booked 12/18/25
Fail drug test



Matthew Dale Jarrett
Booked 12/16/25
Sexual abuse in the first degree



Shane Robert Moore
Booked 12/18/25
Fleeing on foot, obstructing an officer, threats against officer

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Debbie Marie Springer
Booked 12/18/25
Capias

Michael Shane Tenney
Booked 12/16/25
Capias

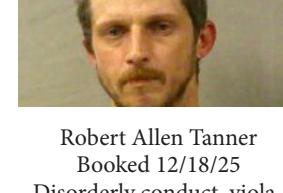
CLAY COUNTY



Dusty Wade Pritt
Booked 12/16/25
Petit larceny, entry of building other than dwelling



Ralph Allen Taylor
Booked 12/15/25
Destruction of property, grand larceny



Robert Allen Tanner
Booked 12/18/25
Disorderly conduct, violation of protective order



FOLLOW US ON

Courthouse News

Monday, December 29, 2025 Docket Schedule for Magistrate: Bass, Scott

10:00 AM, State v. Levi Ernest Siers, Pre-Trial Hearing, 1 Count of Exceed 25 mph speed limit while operating ATV, 1 Count of No Proof of Insurance

10:30 AM, State v. Kalem Andrew Boggs, Pre-Trial Hearing, 1 Count of Expired motor vehicle registration, 1 Count of No Proof of Reg, 1 Count of Operation without certificate of inspection or failure to produce certificate, 1 Count of No Proof of Insurance

11:00 AM, State v. Kathy Bickford, 3 Count(s) of Dog running at large x3, 3 Count(s) of Keeping vicious dogs

11:30 AM, State v. William Lloyd Bickford, 1 Count(s) of Dog Running at large x3, 1 Count(s) of Keeping vicious dogs

01:00 PM, State v. Angellica L. Gill, Pre-Trial Hearing, 1 Count of Possession of controlled substance without valid prescription, 1 Count of Obstructing during investigation - Materially false statement

01:30 PM, State v. Joshua Wayne Boswell, Pre-Trial Hearing, 1 Count of Unlawful removal, injury to or destruction of property

02:00 PM, State v. Jared Blankenship, Pre-Trial Hearing, 1 Count of Possession of controlled substance without valid prescription

02:30 PM, State v. James Clayton Starcher, Pre-Trial Hearing, 1 Count of Possession of controlled substance without valid prescription

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Students at Big Otter Elementary are following the PAX Good Behavior Game and becoming role models for other students. Students show a positive attitude towards their classmates and teachers. Congratulations to the following students for being selected as the November & December 2025 PAX Leaders at Big Otter Elementary School!

Mr. Dustin Vaughan - 5th Grade - Cheyenne Bays

Mrs. Smith - 5th Grade - Leighla Rose & Katie McCourt

Mr. Stricker - 4th Grade - Rose Billups & Madeline Montville

Mr. Dylan Vaughan - 4th Grade - Adalyn Boggs

& Jessie Cadle

Mrs. Pierson - 3rd Grade - Anna Sears & Ilyavae Boggs

Ms. Jarvis - 2nd Grade - Enzley Vaughan & Case Titus

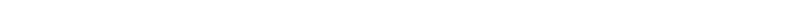
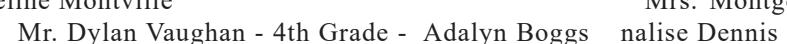
Ms. Douglas - 1st Grade - Taylynn Proctor & Mason Taylor

Mrs. Collins - Kindergarten - Easton Metheney & Hinsley Whittington

Mrs. Marks - PreK - Layken Ramsey & Brady Huddleston

Mr. Shepherd - Hayes Parker & Laken Grose

Mrs. Montgomery - PreK - Elena Cline & Ananalise Dennis



Clay County Free Press

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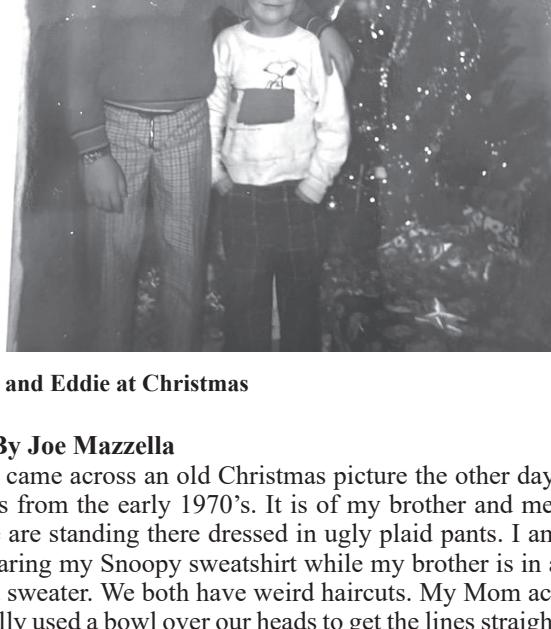
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The Gift Of Being Loved



Me and Eddie at Christmas

By Joe Mazzella

I came across an old Christmas picture the other day. It is from the early 1970's. It is of my brother and me. We are standing there dressed in ugly plaid pants. I am wearing my Snoopy sweatshirt while my brother is in a red sweater. We both have weird haircuts. My Mom actually used a bowl over our heads to get the lines straight so our hair looks just like a bowl. My 12 year old brother, Eddie is trying to look all serious with his arm across my shoulders. I have a happy but closed mouth smile on my face because I was still missing a few front teeth. We are standing in front of the scraggly, pine tree my Dad had cut down to be our Christmas tree. It is covered in lights, tinsel, and candy canes on my Nana's enclosed front porch. And under it are that year's gifts wrapped and ready to be opened on Christmas day.

What gets me the most about that picture is that I can't remember a single gift that I got that year. I am sure there were a few toys as well as the new socks, and warm winter clothes that we got each year, but I can't remember what they were. The one thing I can remember, however, is that I felt loved in that drafty, old house. I felt loved by my Mom. I felt loved by my Dad. I felt loved by my Nana. I felt loved by my two brothers. And I felt loved by our dog, Duke. It was that gift of being loved that I never forgot. It was that gift of being loved that I have carried in my heart all this time. It was that gift of being loved that helped me become who I am today. All that other stuff was just things. It was that feeling of being loved that made the holiday so special. It was that feeling of being loved that made every day there feel like Christmas.

The gift of Love is the greatest gift you can give and the most wonderful gift you can receive. Love is the gift that our Heavenly Father gave us on that very first Christmas over 2000 years ago. Love is the gift we are all called to share as well, each and every day of our lives.

Home Country

By Slim Randles

It's natural to mumble nasty things about the cold weather. We all do it from time to time. But even the cold has its merits.

One big plus is that it makes fireplaces a reasonable addition to our lives. In cold weather, we can build a fire in our home with a clear conscience. This is something that doesn't translate well to summer heat, but when it's cold, here comes the fire. Strange, isn't it, our love affair with a fireplace? Makes absolutely no sense. Today, we can make houses so impervious to cold that every time we light a candle, the temperature goes up ten degrees. So what do we do? We cut a hole in this sealed anti-cold unit so we can sit and look at the flames, the way our ancestors have done since they learned to walk upright and invented kindling.

But we don't care. We'll spend a lot of extra money to buy a house with a fireplace, and not think a thing about it. Because this fireplace is the spiritual center of a home, as it's always been. It's the gathering place. It's the place to read, to learn, to meet and tell stories. It's the core of our universe. The fireplace – and those waiting for us there – is what we dream about when we're miles from home in the woods or desert. It warms us, inside and out, occasionally cooks our food, and answers our questions.

Questions? Sure.

When the fire's burning low, and you can just see the little blue lickem flames curling around the glowing embers late at night, and when we've about talked out the day's adventures, we can look at those embers and find answers to questions we didn't even know we had. And we feel sorry for people who don't have these advantages.

Brought to you by "Just Sprinklers," which also sells firewood, gravel, big rocks and other stuff.

Another Christmas Down the Chimney

By Dr. James Snyder

If I have counted correctly, this is my 74th Christmas. Believe me, I do not remember all of them. The only thing is how much money I spent on all of those Christmases.

I know Christmas is filled with rituals. As a young person, I grew up on rituals. Our best ritual was on Christmas.

For instance, the day before Christmas, my father would get a real Christmas tree. On Christmas Eve, we would all gather to decorate it. Then, on New Year's Day, we would take down the decorations, and my father would move the tree outside to the backyard. Our backyard was filled with Christmas trees.

The day before Christmas, my mother and I would go Christmas shopping from early morning until late afternoon. She knew every shop and exactly what to buy in each. She worked on that list for months and was excited to receive all the gifts on it.

I remember one Christmas, after a full day of shopping, our car was packed with presents. I don't know how much my mother spent, but it must've been a lot.

On our way home, my mother remembered something she had forgotten.

She turned around and went back to a store for Christmas cards she had forgotten. We both went in, and my mother bought about 20 cards. As we left, she sighed and said, "Son, it's been a busy day—I'm glad it's over. I can't wait to get home." I agreed.

We would take these Christmas presents home, and when my siblings and I went to bed, my dad and mom would wrap all the gifts and put them under the tree.

As we approached the car, I noticed one of the back doors was not fully closed.

"Mom," I said, "did we leave the back car door open?"

Mother looked and said, "We sure did not leave any door open."

When we went into the store for the Christmas cards, the car was filled with all kinds of Christmas presents we spent all day collecting.

When we got to the car and opened the door, the inside was empty. All our Christmas shopping for the day had disappeared. My mother looked inside the car and could not believe what she saw. Or, maybe I should say she couldn't believe what she wasn't seeing.

Suddenly, my mother sighed, and tears ran down her cheeks. She looked at me and said, "Oh, what are we going to do?" It was too late to shop again, the stores closed early, and shopping time was over.

My mother stood just staring into that car for what felt like forever. I could feel her grief hanging heavily between us. I didn't know what to do. I felt helpless, wishing I could comfort her, but no words seemed right.

"This [D+] is still two notches below the national grade of a C, and unfortunately, it's not a grade that we can find acceptable if we want an infrastructure network that can protect our residents and businesses sufficiently," Lafferre said. "However, this represents progress and I will say, it's something that we should be proud of."

Seven of the 18 categories detailed in the report card — aviation, broadband, dams, drinking water, roads, school building infrastructure and wastewater — included estimates on how much funding will be needed to both maintain current infrastructure and meet potential future needs. Those seven categories alone totaled nearly \$13 billion in estimated funding needs over the next several years.

The report card emphasized that extreme weather events in West Virginia — which are becoming increasingly common due to climate change — present massive challenges in addressing infrastructure needs. Other challenges highlighted in the report throughout several categories include the state's population decline, rapidly aging and out-of-date infrastructure, rugged natural terrain and funding restraints.

Throughout the state report, authors stressed the importance of federal funding in both upkeeping and improving the state's existing infrastructure.

The report does not account for previously allocated federal infrastructure funding sources — grants and otherwise — that have been under threat by the Trump administration over the past year. Those include initiatives passed by Congress through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, which were both signed into law by former President Joe Biden in 2021.

Lafferre, responding to a question regarding federal funding instability, said Wednesday that part of the reason the report card is compiled is to show lawmakers — statewide and federally — how critical it is to protect and increase funding for infrastructure initiatives.

"One of the most fundamental things about the report card is we can use it as a tool to take to our legislators to show, you know, this is the reason we need more funding," Lafferre said. "The IIJA is great. But it was a one time thing. We need that (funding) consistently across the state to improve our efforts."

Lafferre called the state's infrastructure systems the "backbone of West Virginia's economy."

"When it's functioning as planned, it's often out of sight, out of mind," Lafferre said. "But when infrastructure encounters a serious problem or a system fails, the consequences can affect people's quality of life and have serious, widespread economic impact."

Rodney Holbert, the region four governor for the

statewide ASCE chapter, said improving the state's infrastructure and ensuring funding is secured to address future needs is crucial if the state wants to build up its economy.

"The future of our state relies on our ability to maintain and improve upon the current conditions of these infrastructure networks," Holbert said. "These systems drive economic growth, create jobs, improve public health and protect us from environmental threats."

West Virginia's below-average infrastructure grade comes as state leaders plan on making economic development a cornerstone of the upcoming legislative session. Republicans in the state House of Delegates said earlier this month that they want to see heavy investment and innovation for the state's aviation industry. Per the report card, the state's airports are estimated to need at least \$132 million in infrastructure investments over the next five years to adequately operate.

Throughout his first year in office, Gov. Patrick Morrisey has repeatedly touted his "Backyard Brawl" economic growth plan, which aims to see West Virginia compete more aggressively with surrounding states in recruiting businesses, increasing development opportunities and more.

Per the ASCE, every state surrounding the Mountain State — Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania — received higher average infrastructure grades than West Virginia in their most recent report cards.

The 2025 ASCE Report Card for West Virginia's Infrastructure was compiled by a committee of more than 25 civil engineers from throughout the state with support from about 50 former Fairmont State University Students.

The infrastructure report card is published about every four years, with the last statewide report coming out in 2020.

The 2025 report looked at 18 infrastructure categories and used several metrics — including the condition of the infrastructure, its current and future capacity, funding sources compared to estimated future needs, operation and maintenance needs and more — to assign letter grades.

Grades given in each of the categories are meant to reflect how the infrastructure itself is performing, not the work done by individuals to maintain and upkeep it.

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

OBITUARY

Phillip Carte

Phillip Joe Carte, 64, of Maysel, WV, went home to be with the Lord on December 16th, 2025. Phil was born on June 12, 1961, to Dallas and Nona (Stephenson) Carte. Phil was a Veteran, worked in the Coal Mines, and retired from Columbia Natural Resources.

Phillip married his high

school sweetheart and best friend, Deana Carte, in 1980, and they celebrated 44 years of marriage this year. She was his world and is left to cherish his memories. Also, left to cherish his memories are his daughter, Mandy (Dusty) Jones of Elkview and his son, Matthew (Tamarra) Carte of Maysel. Phil's grandchildren were his whole world. Miley-Auna, Emma-Lynn, Aleah, and Brielle Jones of Elkview and Kage, Kaydence, and Kreed Carte of Maysel will forever cherish their Papa. Phil is also survived by his mother Nona (Stephenson) Carte, brother William (Peggy) Stephenson, and sisters

Barbara (Jack) Fields, Pat Carte, Teresa Bird, and Starlett Miller.

Phillip is proceeded in death by his father, Dallas Carte, his sister, Jerri Summers, and his brother, Jimmy Miller.

Phil loved God. Phil was the strongest fighter and faithful to his family. He cherished his morning routines with his grandchildren, special conversations, and ball games. He was an avid hunter. He took pride in coaching Biddy Basketball League. He took the most pride in getting to coach his own grandchildren. He enjoyed camping and boating with them. He was our hero and he was loved so much.

Phil fought a good fight, he finished his course, and he kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV)

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 20th, at 1:00 p.m. at Wilson Smith Funeral Home in Clay, WV with visitation one-hour prior to the service from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm for friends and family with Jim Backus and Mike Pierson officiating. Burial will follow in the Clay Memorial Gardens, Clay, WV.

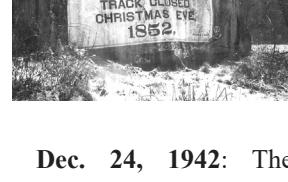
Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com.

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

THIS WEEK IN

West Virginia History

Dec. 24, 1852: The last spike was driven on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad between Baltimore and the Ohio River. The event occurred at Rosbys Rock near Moundsville. To mark the spot the following words were carved upon the rock: *Rosbys [sic] Rock Track Closed Christmas Eve 1852.*



Dec. 24, 1942: The Committee on Fair Employment Practices ordered that Jehovah's Witnesses be reinstated to their jobs at Pittsburgh Plate Glass in Clarksburg. The workers had been

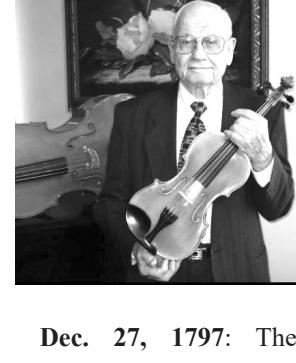
fired for refusing to participate in union-sponsored flag-salute ceremonies at the plant.

Dec. 25, 1887: Folk artist James Tyree Rexrode was born in Pendleton County. He created a visual record of rural West Virginia life in the early 20th century. He died in 1976.

Christmas Eve 1852.

Dec. 26, 1998: Sportsman George Bird Evans was in Pennsylvania. In 1939, he and his wife, Kay Harris, bought the historic "Old Hemlock" farm in Preston County, where he bred the Old Hemlock line of grouse-hunting setters. He wrote 27 books and numerous articles on upland shooting; Kay also co-wrote five mystery novels under the pseudonym Brandon Bird.

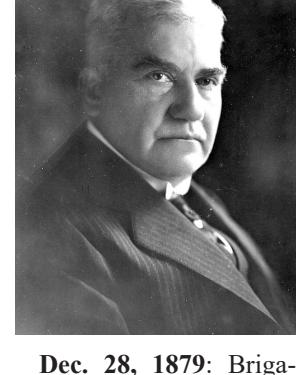
Dec. 26, 1917: Instrument maker Harold M. Hayslett was born in Putnam County. Hayslett's violins, violas and cellos have received awards for tone and workmanship, and are cherished by collectors and players alike.



Dec. 27, 1797: The county seat of Ohio County was moved from West Liberty to Wheeling.

Dec. 27, 1923: Businessman and Point Pleasant native Michael Ow-

ens, who revolutionized the glass industry through automation, died at age 64.



Dec. 28, 1879: Brigadier General Billy Mitchell was born in France. As chief of the Army Air Service, Mitchell ordered aircraft of the 88th Squadron to perform reconnaissance during the 1921 Miners' March on Logan.

Dec. 28, 1978: The last trains ran on the Greenbrier Division, a branch line

of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway. Unlike most

C&O branches in West Virginia, the Greenbrier Division was not a coal-hauling line but served the valley's timber industry.

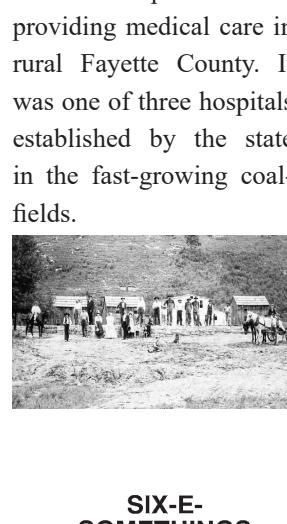
Dec. 29, 1861: Confederate soldiers burned most of downtown Sutton. The town slowly rebuilt but remained small until the local timber industry boomed in the 1890 to 1920 period.

Dec. 29, 1928: Humorist and political cartoonist James Frederick Dent was born in Charleston. His talent for turning daily events into delightful anecdotes gained him national fame. *Reader's Digest* reprinted 194 items from his columns, and radio commentator Paul

Harvey often used his work.

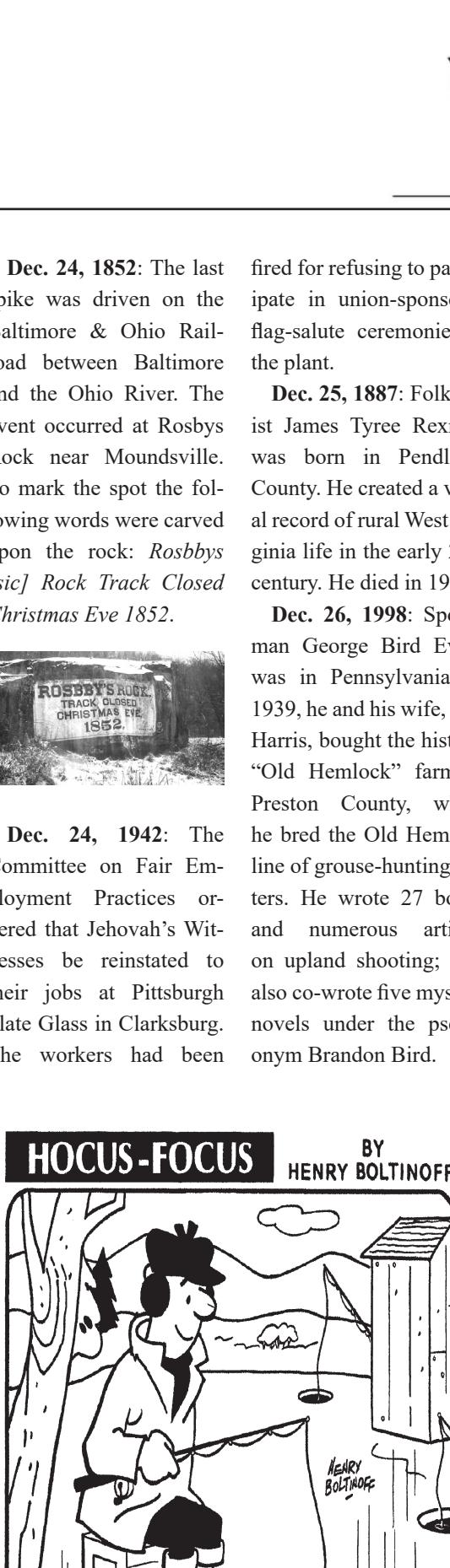
Dec. 29, 1970: John Denver and two friends completed the song "Take Me Home, Country Roads." Denver performed "Country Roads" in West Virginia on several occasions, notably for the opening of the new Mountaineer Stadium in Morgantown in 1980.

Dec. 30, 1901: McEndree Hospital started providing medical care in rural Fayette County. It was one of three hospitals established by the state in the fast-growing coalfields.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hull is taller. 2. Lakes are missing. 3. Cloud is different. 4. Cloud is lower. 5. Reel is moved. 6. Fishing line is

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THE WIDEN NEWS

"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

The people who think alike
should vote alike.

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.



November 1958

THE RED AND WHITE REVIEW STAFF



EDITOR Pete Gibson
ASSISTANT EDITOR Carolene Miller
SPORTS EDITOR Dave Wilson
CLASS AND OFFICE EDITOR Judy Shaffer
CLUB EDITOR Charles Sigman
CIRCULATION Victor Frame
SPONSOR Leona Griffith
TYPISTS Barbara Lee Eagle, Joyce Workman,
 Charles Sigman, Carolene Miller, Pete Gibson, Ruby Rapp

SUCCESSFUL PROJECT COMPLETED

We just have completed a successful project the carnival — designed to serve as community entertainment for the night of Haloween.

On the surface it served its purpose well. Laughter and gaiety prevailed; simple feats of skill were rewarded; contests were concluded; royalty was recognized and honored; a lot of hot dogs and hot chocolate was consumed. In fact, everyone seemed to enjoy the whole thing.

But—(and isn't it too bad that there must always be that little qualifying word?) there were little infractions of moral behavior. There were some who didn't bother to pay for a chance to win a prize—they took what they wanted under the protective cover of the crowd. Others even slit the burlap walls to get to prizes and money kept away from the front of the booths.

The thefts do not amount to much in actual value, but the acts do. Have we not yet learned that our moral behavior will influence our lives for good or bad? Here and now is the time to make our lives worthwhile to teach ourselves to respect the rights and properties of others and to become responsible members of society.

THANKSGIVING

Do you know the real meaning of Thanksgiving Day? It's a day for a big roasted turkey with all its trimmings and delicious pumpkin pie. Well, that is part of the meaning for Thanksgiving, but the real meaning is that Thanksgiving is a day when every American family should offer their thanks to God for the wonderful things life has given them. If we here in America would think of the hard times our ancestors had to get here, we would be as thankful again as we are.

So when we are chewing the big turkey on Thanksgiving, let us be thankful that we live in a country abounding with wealth and opportunities.

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Public Meeting Notice

The Clay County Board of Education will hold 2 public hearings to allow interested parties to discuss and provide input for the 2026-2027 school calendar. The first hearing will be held at Clay County High School on Tuesday, January 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The second hearing will be conducted at Clay County High School on Tuesday, February 6, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in addressing the Clay County Board of Education, at one or both meetings, should contact Mr. Philip R. Dobbins, Superintendent, at 304-587-4266, to have your name placed on the agenda or sign up in person 15 minutes prior to the start of the hearing.

There will also be a public comment period on the two calendar options posted at claycountyschools.org for students, parents, and staff to provide input to the Clay County Board of Education. If you have a comment or question about the calendar options, please email them to Mr. Dobbins at claycountyschoolsystem@gmail.com.

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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 ContWrkTyp

PEARL HARBOR PFR CAREY STOCKWELL

PEARL HARBOR PFR CAREY STOCKWELL

COUNTY: CLAY

CONCRETE SLAB ON PRESTRESSED GIRDER

BRIDGE: 08A070, 08A071

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.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that RANGE SKY VIEW LAND, LLC, 200 PARK AVENUE, ORANGE VILLAGE, OH 44122, has submitted an application with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), 47 School Street, Suite 301, Philippi, WV 26416-1600.

This application has been submitted for:

*Transfer, assignment or sale on Permit No(s).

S200307, S200396, S200409, S200502, S200599, S200605, S200798

S200995, S201199, S201293, S201298, S201496, S601489, S601989, U201310

from WV RECLAIM CO. LLC, 2122 LEATHERWOOD ROAD, BICKMORE, WV 25019.

Comments on the application shall be in writing and shall identify the applicant and application number and be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the address above. Comments received by 1/26/26, or thirty (30) days from date of publication, will be considered.

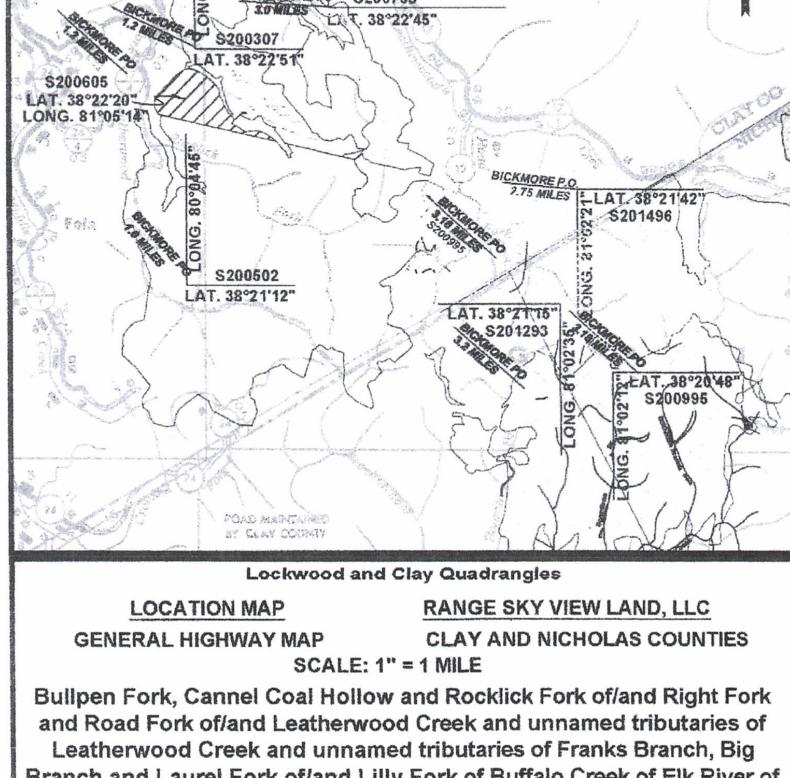
A copy of the application will be available for review until 1/26/26, or thirty (30) days from date of publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is available at:

http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/_dep/Search/ePermitting/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm

The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries.

DEP Telephone No. 304-457-3219

* Include Location Map(s)



LOCATION MAP **RANGE SKY VIEW LAND, LLC**

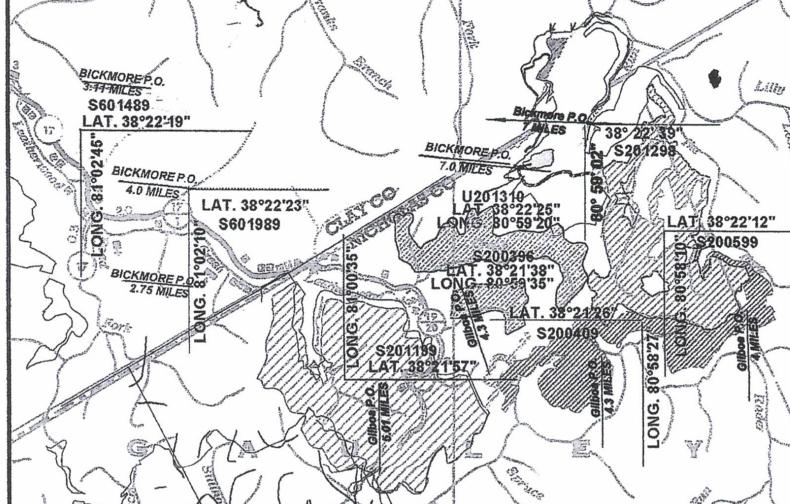
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP

CLAY AND NICHOLAS COUNTIES

SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

Bullpen Fork, Cannel Coal Hollow and Rocklick Fork of/and Right Fork and Road Fork of/and Leatherwood Creek and unnamed tributaries of Leatherwood Creek and unnamed tributaries of Franks Branch, Big Branch and Laurel Fork of/and Lilly Fork of Buffalo Creek of Elk River of Kanawha River.

Boardtree Branch, Stillhouse Branch and unnamed tributaries of/and Twentymile Creek of Gauley River and unnamed tributaries of Gauley River of Kanawha River.



LOCATION MAP **RANGE SKY VIEW LAND, LLC**

GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP

CLAY AND NICHOLAS COUNTIES

SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

2122 LEATHERWOOD ROAD, BICKMORE, WV 25019

Receiving Streams:

Leatherwood Creek and unnamed tributaries of Leatherwood Creek and unnamed tributaries of/and Franks Branch, unnamed tributaries of/and Big Branch, Laurel Fork, Sugarcamp Run, Ike Fork and Sycamore Run of/and Lilly Fork and unnamed tributaries of Lilly Fork of Buffalo Creek of Elk River of Kanawha River.

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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 is 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.


Christal G. Perry
Circuit Clerk

TO

place

your

legals

Call

us at

(304)-

647-

5724

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(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.

DISTRICT BUFFALO MAP 12 PARCEL 0052 0000 0000

You will take notice that HOLLINS WAYNE DUFFIELD, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert. No. 2024-C-000007, located in BUFFALO District, 1.88 AC ROCK CAMP SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of DEEMS CHARLES FORD, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the August 20, 2025. HOLLINS WAYNE DUFFIELD requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after May 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before April 30, 2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2023 - 667.

Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number

Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2024 - 659.

Additional taxes with interest.

Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.

Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.

Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.

Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.

You may redeem at any time before April 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest. If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand November 24, 2025

Christal G. Perry

Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the

West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections

Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Building 1, Room W-114

Charleston, West Virginia 25305.

Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

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This application has been submitted for:

*Transfer, assignment or sale on Permit No(s).

S200494, S200697

from WV RECLAIM CO. LLC, 2122 LEATHERWOOD ROAD, BICKMORE, WV 25019.

Comments on the application shall be in writing and shall identify the applicant and application number and be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the address above. Comments received by 1/26/26, or thirty (30) days from date of publication, will be considered.

A copy of the application will be available for review until 1/26/26, or thirty (30) days from date of publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is available at:

http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/_dep/Search/ePermitting/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm

The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries.

DEP Telephone No. 304-457-3219

* Include Location Map(s)



GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP

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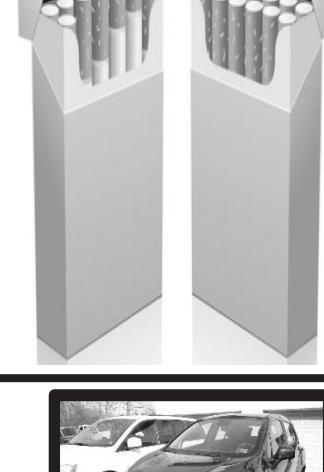
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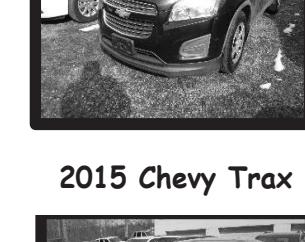
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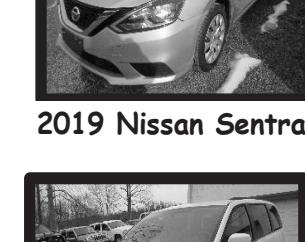
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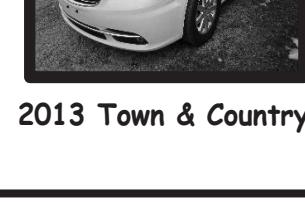
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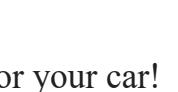
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