



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



Volume 137 No. 8

Periodical Postage Paid at Clay, West Virginia 25043-0180

Thursday, February 19, 2026

\$1.50

0 51497 13936 0



WV Legislative Photography by Perry Bennett.

This Week In The House Of Delegates

For the week ending Feb. 13, 2026

Members of the House of Delegates finished the week by voting to leverage a tax credit that would bring in private investment for small West Virginia businesses, and the bill is in line to be the first completed legislation of the session.

Delegates Passed Senate Bill 1, the West Virginia First Small Business Growth Act, Feb. 13 after having amended most of the provisions of its counterpart, House Bill 4003, into the measure the previous day. The bill would offer a limited tax credit against the West Virginia Insurance Premium Tax to financial institutions that invest in state-certified growth funds. Only businesses principally operating in West Virginia with fewer than 250 employees at the time of their application with at least 60% of their workforce in the state would be eligible to receive the funds, with the West Virginia Department of Commerce overseeing the program.

"As someone who grew up in a family that owned their own small business that paid for my education and everything else I needed, this is a bill that I just take a lot of personal pride in," said Judiciary Committee Chairman J.B. Akers, R-Kanawha, the lead sponsor of House Bill 4003, in presenting the West Virginia First Small Business Growth Act on the floor before the vote. "This bill is focused on existing West Virginia businesses. This is a promise that we have made that we're going to start focusing as much of our attention as possible on existing West Virginia businesses, and this bill provides them with the capitalization they need to grow."

Akers said it would mirror a federal program already successfully operating in 18 other states, including Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

"We've got private investors providing private capital to private companies," he said. "The government is not involved in this other than ... as a safeguard and guardrails."

House Majority Whip Marty Gearheart, R-Mercer, who also serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Revenue, spoke about the bill ahead of the

vote as well.

"I don't mind telling you that high finance is not necessarily my specialty, and when I looked at this bill it made my eyes spin just a little bit because there's a lot of detail here and there, but the reality is the impetus of this bill is pretty simple," Gearheart said. "It makes a pool of capital available to West Virginia businesses that currently cannot access that kind of capital."

"Businesses that are successful that have the opportunity to grow and become even more successful and to expand what we do here now can have access to the dollars in order to do that by means of this bill, and it really is that simple."

Finance Committee Chairman Vernon Criss, R-Wood, spoke before the vote to explain how being in a border county gives him the perspective that forms his urgency for this initiative.

"We see a lot of this activity," he said. "I look around the room to Mason County and Cabell County and Jackson County; we see it all the time, we're competing for those people that live in our valley to locate their businesses on one side of the river or the other."

"Finally — finally — in the financial structure of our state, we're going to have the opportunity to help small businesses."

The bill passed by a vote of 87 to 3 and returns to the Senate for its review. If the Senate approves, the bill will be the first completed legislation of the 2026 regular session and will go to the governor for action.

Also this week, the House unanimously approved: House Bill 4011, which would allow expanded material recycling; House Bill 4749, which was written and presented to the Legislature by a teenager who is in foster care, and would expand the Foster Child Bill of Rights; and House Bill 4089, which would require insurance coverage for scalp cooling systems that preserve hair during chemotherapy treatment, also known as Jessica Huffman's Law.

The last day to introduce bills is Feb. 17, and 69 House bills have passed the House. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight March 14.

Senator Justice highlights West Virginia wins in recent Appropriations Minibus

Clay County Commission to receive \$4.6 million

Senator Jim Justice released a statement highlighting huge West Virginia wins following both Senate and House passage of the appropriations minibus to fund the federal government. Wins span the Department of Defense; Financial Services and General Government; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related Agencies; Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related Agencies; and State, Foreign Operations, and related Programs bills:

"Despite the dysfunction in Washington, we were able to secure some massive wins for West Virginia in this government funding go-around which is great. On the other hand, this two-week

CR remedy for DHS funding puts vital agencies like FEMA, TSA, CISA, and Coast Guard at risk. At the end of the day, we've done some really great things for West Virginia, but shutting down DHS so Democrats can have a media talking point is completely unacceptable," said Senator Jim Justice.

The appropriations package includes projects championed by Senator Justice that strengthen West Virginia's education and research institutions, prepare the workforce of the future, support health-care systems, grow small businesses, improve infrastructure, and enhance community well-being.

Locally, \$4,600,000 was allocated to

SENATOR JUSTICE cont. on page 7

Clay County Commission meets and approves new hires, reviews invoices

By Gary Lee Stuber

The Clay County Commission met for its first regular February meeting on Monday Feb. 9. This was only the third meeting of the Clay County Commission since December first. There was a state mandated meeting on Jan. 2 to establish a schedule for the year, but this was the third meeting for regular county busi-

ness. The second meeting in December was closed due to brutal snow fall and single digit temperatures, and the second meeting for January was closed for the same reason. So, this regular meeting was heavy on regular business that needed resolved.

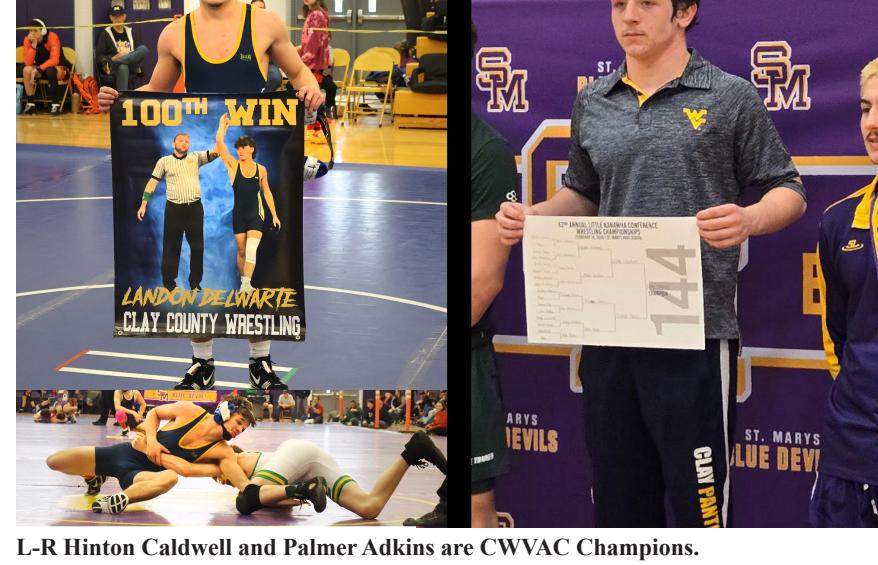
All three commissioners were present, technically. But only Commissioner

CLAY COUNTY COMMISSION cont. on page 7

CCHS and CCMS bring home the champions



L-R- Landon Delwarde gets 100th win and Blake Coleman LKC Champion



L-R Hinton Caldwell and Palmer Adkins are CWVAC Champions.



Mason Hall drops three points.

See story on Page 10

BOOKED

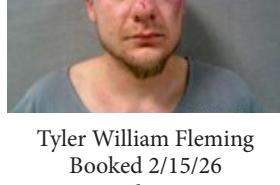


REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAKTON COUNTY



Patrick Lee Butler II
Booked 2/10/26
Capias



Tyler William Fleming
Booked 2/15/26
Petit larceny



Nathin Joshua Garlitz
Booked 2/15/26
Obstructing an officer



Marilee Clydena Mckenzie
Booked 2/9/26
DUI causing serious bodily
injury, DOP

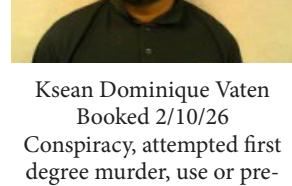


Sheena Rochelle Rose
Booked 2/15/26
Obstructing an officer,
possession of controlled
substance, Capias



Ken Allen Roupe
Booked 2/14/26
Capias, Capias for felony

BRAKTON COUNTY



Ksean Dominique Vaten
Booked 2/10/26
Conspiracy, attempted first
degree murder, use or pre-
sentation of a firearm during
commission of a felony,
wanton endangerment



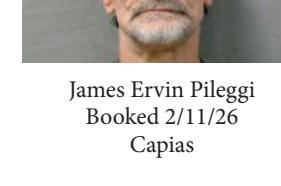
Julius Dustin Wine
Booked 2/14/26
DUI with child endanger-
ment, DUI first offense,
defective equipment



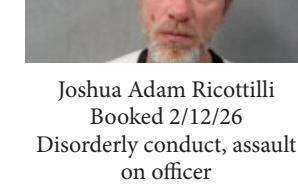
Tyler William Fleming
Booked 2/15/26
Fleeing from officer, fleeing
on foot, battery on officer,
reckless driving, grand lar-
ceny, breaking and entering



Ryan Alexander Mullins
Booked 2/16/26
Domestic assault, destruc-
tion of property

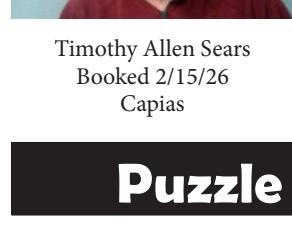


James Ervin Pileggi
Booked 2/11/26
Capias



Joshua Adam Ricottilli
Booked 2/12/26
Disorderly conduct, assault
on officer

CLAY COUNTY



Timothy Allen Sears
Booked 2/15/26
Capias



FOLLOW
US ON

Puzzle Answers

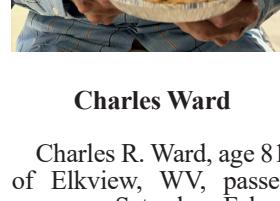
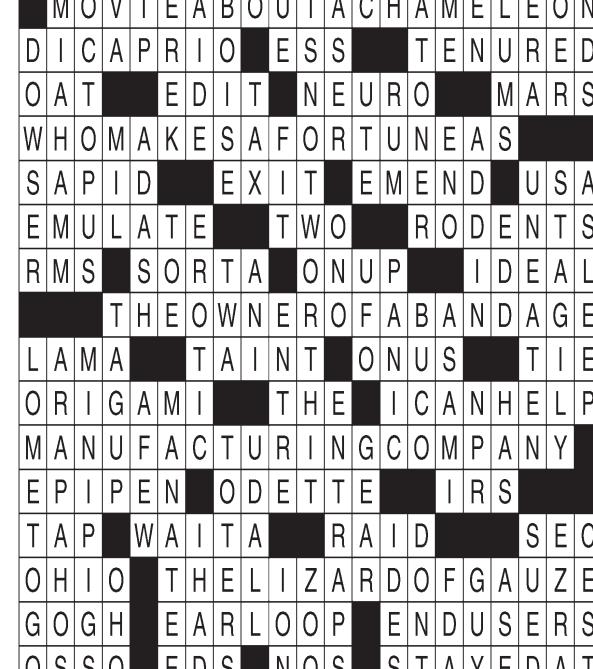
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers



Charles Ward

Charles R. Ward, age 81, of Elkview, WV, passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2026, surrounded by his family after a short illness. He was especially known for his love of family and friends, his exceptional work ethic, and

wonderful sense of humor. He was a Teamster Member and owned a trucking company for many years with several trucks and employees operating multiple US Postal Service contracts originating from Charleston.

Charlie was born on November 4, 1944, in Clay County WV to the late Clarence E. Ward and Victoria Dawson Ward of Ivydale, WV. He lost the love of his life and best friend Bonnie Blankenship Ward after 47 years of marriage in 2012. Also preceding him in death are his sister Barbara Ward Cummings and her husband Fred of Charleston, and his brother James A. Ward of Ivydale, his nephews Timothy "T.J." Jordan, Jr and his great nephew

Mavis Bryant

Mavis Jean Bryant, 90, of Dixie, WV went home to be with Jesus on February 11, 2026.

Mavis was born on November 14, 1935, to the late Benjamin and Barbara Salisbury in Enoch, WV. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son Jeff Adkins, multiple siblings, and her late ex-husband and father of her children William "Bud" Adkins. She is survived by her children Andy Adkins (Monica), Lester Adkins (Monica),

Teresa Osborne (Rick) and Ronnie Adkins (Stephanie); her grandchildren, Amy Young (Tim), Tonya Summers (Jeremy), Jimmy Ganley, Kay Smith, Tyler Ganley, Millie Osborne, Cora Osborne, Austin Adkins (Kristin), Colton Adkins (Shelby), Shealee Adkins, and a host of great grandchildren, family and friends whom she loved dearly.

Mavis will be remembered for her warmth, generosity, strength, laughter and faith. She dedicated her life to her family, always there with a warm embrace

and smile. Mavis had many hobbies which she loved. You could find her outside working around the house, in her garden, or sitting on the front porch swing admiring her flowers. She loved to crochet, play the guitar, sing in church, study the Bible, drink her coffee with a cookie in hand, and would never pass up a good game of rummy or a wood working project. Throughout her entire life, she held an unwavering faith in God, which she shared with those who surrounded her.

The family would like

Summers along with many nieces and nephews who viewed Charlie as a bonus Dad.

Graveside services will be held on February 17, 2026, 1:00 PM, at the Ward Cemetery in Ivydale, WV. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to your favorite local charity in the Clay or Charleston area. We would like to extend our gratitude to Wilson Smith Funeral Home and the SICU team at CAMC Memorial for all they have done for our family during this extremely difficult time.

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

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

to send a special thanks to Montgomery Rehab and Nursing Staff for taking excellent care of Mavis for the past several years.

Funeral Service will be held at Pennington Smith Funeral Home, Gauley Bridge, WV on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 1:00pm. Visitation will be from 12:00-1:00pm. Burial will follow at Sunset Cemetery, Bickmore, WV with Pastor Tim Young officiating.

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

EDITOR

Sarah Richardson: news@claycountyfreepress.com

ADVERTISING

Debra Smith: debra@mountainmedianews.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

subscriptions@claycountyfreepress.com

PUBLISHER**Michael Showell, Publisher**

The Clay County Free Press (USPS 116-660) is published weekly at 291 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia. Subscription Rate: In County \$37.00; In-State \$47.00; Out-of-State \$50.00

Address all mail (subscription, change of address) to: P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call 304-647-5724 or Fax 304-647-5767.

POSTMASTER:

Please provide old address and your new address.

Make My Heart Like Yours

By Joe Mazzella

My daughter has a very gentle, loving heart. Now she often hides it behind a tough, practical nature and a snarky, sarcastic and sometimes naughty sense of humor that she gets in equal parts from her mother and me. Sometimes, though, I can see that loving heart peek through. I see it in the way she treats her two mentally handicapped brothers. I see it when she patiently takes the time to explain things to my oldest son in ways he can understand it. I see it when she allows my youngest son to lay on her shoulder while she plays him videos on her phone. I can see it too in the concern she has for all the handicapped, abused, and suffering people in this world.

I can also see her heart's love in the way she feeds the birds and stray cats that come to her house. I can see it in the way she rescues dogs and loves them like her own children. I can remember one time especially when she heard of a tiny Chihuahua mix being held at a local shelter. She had me drive her there and she gently coaxed the frightened dog out of its cage and walked it around outside until it felt safe. Then she held the dog in her arms as I slowly pulled out of the parking lot. I glanced to my side to see tears of joy flowing from my daughter's eyes while her new puppy happily licked them off her face.

One of the most powerful prayers you can say is: "God, make my heart like Yours." It is a prayer I say every day. I do try my best to make my heart like God's but don't always succeed. Still, I take comfort in knowing that my daughter's heart is much closer to being like God's than mine. She tries to hide it sometimes in the face of the harshness of this world but within her is a gentleness and unconditional love that is beautiful to see.

May we all pray to have a heart like God's. May we all try to live our lives with a Love like God's. And may we always share that Love with ourselves, others, and all of God's creatures.

Home Country

By Slim Randles

It was Doc's idea, of course. That's what made it sing. That's why it took off in gales of laughter and fun.

He knew we needed the money for the children in our area who might be without warm clothes this winter, so he brainstormed among himself and came up with the golf tournament.

He went to Delbert McLain, who is our local chamber of commerce. Delbert's eyes lit up at the suggestion, but then suddenly clouded over with doubt.

"But Doc," Delbert said, "we don't have a golf course."

"Leave that to me, Delbert me lad. Leave that entirely to me."

And so our medical leprechaun talked to two farmers whose land adjoined each other, and after they quit laughing, they agreed.

Doc rounded up Dud and Herb Collins and laid out an 18-hole golf course in about an hour. They used steel t-posts for flags (with bandanas tied to the top) and dug a hole with a shovel. They put smaller flags at the tee-off spots, and there you go! An 18-hole golf course that was one hundred percent hazard.

No fairway, just hazard. Rocks and trees and Lewis Creek and the occasional cactus and yucca. Doc figures if you make it around all 18 holes without encountering a poisonous snake, you should get bonus points.

"This course," said Doc, "is so bad, everyone will want to play, because everyone will have a terrific excuse for having a terrible game."

The cattle were moved to safer locations before the tournament began, and enough money was raised to keep the kids warm this winter.

"Life," said Doc, "should be ridiculous and fun. So let's do this again next fall."

Brought to you by Saddle Up, A Cowboy Guide to Writing by Slim Randles. On the internet and from Rio Grande Publishing in Albuquerque.

Valentine's Day, Just Another Day on the Calendar?

By Dr. James Snyder

The older I get, the more I have to forget, and believe me, I don't forget to forget. I can't keep up with dates, holidays, or even my birthday. I believe a day is a day, and that should be the end of it.

As I was drinking my morning coffee, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage entered and said, "Do you know what day Saturday is?"

I didn't know what kind of question this was because she always throws questions at me that confuse me, just to see if I can get confused. Looking at her, I said very seriously, "I believe that it will be Saturday." Then I looked at her and smiled.

"Oh, you silly boy. This Saturday is February 14. You do know what day that is."

I had to admit to her that I had no idea what she was talking about. I thought about it and then said to her, "Is it one of our granddaughter's birthday?" We always like to celebrate these birthdays, and I had no idea which of our granddaughters had a birthday this week.

"You sure don't keep up with the times, do you?" She said rather snickerly. Looking at me with one of her serious looks, she said, "This Saturday is February 14 and that is Valentine's Day. Remember what Valentine's Day is?"

I had to think for a moment, and then it came to me, another holiday that I can't keep up with.

"Don't you remember we became engaged on Valentine's Day 55 years ago?"

Looking at her, I said, "No way it's that long!"

I had to give this a lot of thought, and I began to remember that 55 years ago, on Valentine's Day, we became engaged. Then six months later, we got married. My, oh my, how time flies when you're getting old.

That sure was a long time ago, and it has gone by rather quickly. I never thought I would live to be this old. But here I am, celebrating 55 years of being engaged.

I remember meeting The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage six months before our engagement. And then six months later, we were married.

We were at Bible school together, where we met. One Sunday, a bunch of us went to a church to sing. We did that often during our school time. I lip-synched while the others actually sang.

On our way home, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were sitting towards the back of the van. We were talking about this and that and everything. Then she asked me a question, which I assume was rhetorical.

She said, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to be married?"

Not knowing that it was not rhetorical, I smiled and said, "Yes, it would be wonderful to be married someday."

That was the end of that conversation. She was smiling.

ing all the way back to the dorms.

The next day, as I was walking down the school hallway, everybody looked at me, smiled, and said, "Congratulations." I smiled back and thanked them. I thought I had finally passed one of my tests, and they were congratulating me. But everybody I passed congratulated me.

Not knowing what was going on, I stopped one of them and said, "What are you congratulating me for?"

"Oh, you know. You're getting married."

I was getting what? I had no idea where that was coming from. But the rhetorical question was actually a real question. I was the last one at school to find out I was getting married.

At first, I thought it was some prank that people were playing on me. I went along with it, not wanting to look stupid.

I met with the former Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and wanted to get things straightened out. I didn't want to take anything for granted; what I really wanted to know, was this the truth?

We went to a little restaurant down the street, and as we were sitting there, I looked at her and said, "Did you hear the rumor that you and I are getting married?" I then laughed quite hilariously.

She smiled and said very enthusiastically, "That's not a rumor it's true. You and I are going to get married."

Well, there wasn't anything more I could do about that.

55 years later, as I was thinking about Valentine's Day, I remembered that incident so many years ago. Looking back over the years, I couldn't help but think what a wonderful time that has been.

Now that I'm old, I can say that Valentine's Day 55 years ago was probably the best day of my life, and it was all because of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I looked back at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and said, "Valentine's Day is one of the best days of the year. Don't you agree?"

In pondering this I was reminded of what King Solomon said, "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:9).

This August we will celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary and I intend to follow King Solomon's advice to "Live joyfully with the wife." Why change when it's working just fine so far?

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamessnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamessnyderministries.com.

What in the world is securitization?

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

The word "securitization" is one you're going to be hearing a lot more of if you pay attention to utility rates in West Virginia.

The word involves a method to spread the cost of an item over a period of time, rather than requiring the buyer to pay the entire price up front.

Think of it as a home mortgage. You buy a house for \$100,000, but no one expects you to pay for that all at once.

Instead, you allocate those payments to be made on a monthly basis over a 20-year period. The monthly payment then is manageable. You don't get instant sticker shock.

The Legislature in 2023 passed a law to provide for this sort of stretched-out, gradual payments in rate cases through a system known as securitization.

The Public Service Commission, using that new law, recently authorized a power company to come up with a securitization plan in a case in which the company was seeking a \$250 million rate increase.

The PSC reduced the rate request in August but told the company to come back to the PSC with a securitization plan that the Commission could use to stretch out the full impact of the rate increase over a number of years. And, as a result, rates may decrease.

Generally, securitization is achieved by a company selling bonds to immediately recover its outlay.

The ratepayers then pay additional amounts on their monthly bills to pay down and eventually dispose of the bonds.

To enhance its own expertise in this area, the Commission, in an order issued August 29, 2025 (Case No. 25-0310-E-PC), said it would hire an outside professional adviser to help it with this critical issue.

The amounts involved in this case are very large. They could run to \$2.5 billion. They cover a number of issues for which the company is seeking recovery, such as storm damage, environmental controls at plants, fuel costs, and other important issues involved in keeping electricity-production plants operational.

In its order, the Commission noted it received more than 5,000 comments in one case and 200 in a separate case in which the customers asked for rate relief.

We said in the order, "The Commission believes that securitization will provide the rate relief the customers seek."

This is not going to be an easy process. There is no magic silver bullet here.

The trade-off is a smaller power bill, but a bill that will be stretched into the future to cover the life of the bonds.

We are eager to learn what we can from the adviser we will hire. We are equally interested in trying to hold the line on what our ratepayers have to pay in their monthly bills.



Jacuzzi | Bath Remodel

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW 1.866.465.3017

SPECIAL OFFER
FREE Fixtures and
FREE Shower Door

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 3/31/26.





PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

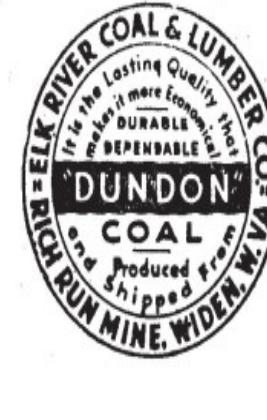


THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike
should vote alike.

"DUNDON" RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.



December 1958

SPORTS

Widen Loses To Webster Springs

The Widen Buffaloes were defeated at home Tuesday, December 2, by the Webster Springs Wildcats, by the score of 46-79. Out of the starting line-up of the Buffaloes, three of the boys had never played any high school ball. The starting line-up was: David Hamrick, David Wilson, Jerry Hamrick, Tommy Napier, and Dave Shaffer. David Hamrick was high-point man with 22 points: David Wilson had 15; Dave Shaffer. David Hamrick was high-point man with 22 points; David Wilson had 15; Dave Shaffer, 4; and Tommy Napier, 4; Jack Wilson, 1. The Wildcats highest scoring men were Douglas with 24 points and Marsh with 22 points. The Buffaloes played good ball and showed a fine fighting spirit.

Score by quarters:

Buffaloes 5 15 13 13—46
Wildcats 11 21 30 17—79

Widen Loses To Blue Devils

Widen Buffaloes lost the second game of the year to the Sutton Blue Devils by a score of 34 to 68. David Hamrick was high scorer for the Buffaloes with 26 points. David Wilson was next with 8 points. Tolley was high point man for the Blue Devils with 23 points and Jarvis was next with 13.

The grade school boys played the Sutton grade school in a preliminary game, but lost with the score 15 to 59. Tony Bego came out with 7 points which was high point for his team and Keener came out with 9 points high for Sutton's team.

Veteran player David Hamrick, averaging 24 points a game, has been ordered to drop basketball for at least a month. He pulled a ligament in his leg on December 2 in a game against Webster Springs and injured it more severely on December 5 against Sutton. He may be able to play after January 9, 1959.

Score by quarters: Widen High vs. Sutton High:

Widen 12 8 5 9—34
Sutton 13 29 23 23—88

Buffaloes Trampled by Bulldogs

Widen Buffaloes were beaten by the Cowen Bulldogs Tuesday night, December 9, 1958, at Cowen. At the end of the first quarter, Widen had scored 2 points against Cowen's 11. The game continued, with Widen never scoring more than five points a period. The game ended with the score 17-73. David Wilson was high point man for Widen with 7 points. George Barnette scored 14 points to lead Cowen's scoring.

Score by quarters:

Widen 2 5 5 5—17
Cowen 11 14 18 30—73

HONOR STUDENT SERVES TEA

The members of the National Honor Society served coffee, cookies, and cake to the parents who visited their children at school on November 12, 1958.

The members carried coffee and cookies to each of the teachers at school that day from the Home Economics Building, where the tea was served.

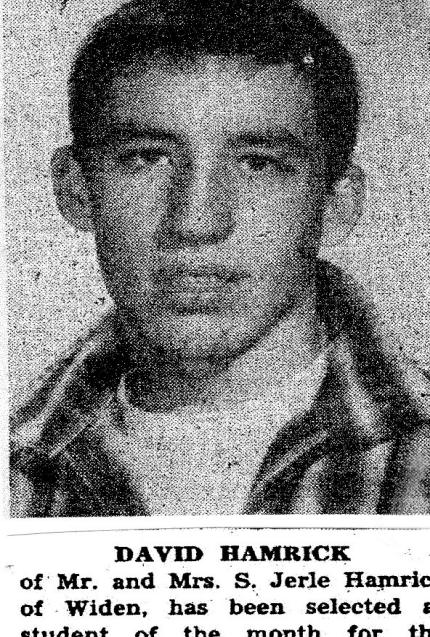
The Society is trying to make this informal tea an annual event.

We, the members, and Miss Bailes, the sponsor, wish to thank Mr. Harry Baer, Mrs. Betty Sizemore, Mrs. Leona Griffith, Mrs. Joe La Corte, Mrs. Prussia Gibson, Mrs. Dorothy Ellis, and all the parents who attended, for helping to make the tea a success.

Best Writers For Nov.

Mrs. Butcher:
Scotty Gill
Mary Propps
Joann Propps
Mrs. Elliott:
Sandra Frame
Lovie Davis
Miss Ashley:
Julia Acree
Yvonne Hamilton
Miss Graham:
Marilyn Rapp
Michael Frame
Gary Douglas
Donna Gill
Mrs. Bragg:
John Houghton
Benjamin Connor
Mr. Jackson:
Lynn Kay Mullins
Linda Baughman
Sharon Jo Manning
Mr. Hathaway:
Tony Bego
Ronald Dodrill
Joyce Triplett

Student-of-the-Month



DAVID HAMRICK

of Mr. and Mrs. S. Jerle Hamrick of Widen, has been selected as student of the month for the month of December.

David is a senior. He is a member of National Honor Society. He has been president of his class, and has served four years in Student Council one of which he was president.

He is co-captain of the basketball team and a member of Athletic Club.

Throughout school he has maintained an "A" average.

David likes to play basketball and to eat. He dislikes poor sportsmanship.

DRAMATIC CLUB SPONSORS

DANCE, FRIDAY, NOV. 21

The spotlighters sponsored a dance in the Legion Hall, on Friday night, November 21, 1958. Dancing was from 7:30 until 9:30 to the recordings of favorite dance bands.

Sandwiches, cookies, candy and punch were sold by dramatics club members. The fourteen dollars made at the dance will be used for play material and make-up.

Red Cross Contribution

Grade 2	Mrs. Elliott	\$2.28
Grade 12	Mrs. Griffith	1.70
Grade 5	Mr. Jackson	1.47
Grade 7	Mr. Stover	1.32
Grade 3	Miss Ashley	1.22
Grade 1	Mrs. Butcher	1.15
Grade 11	Mr. Leeson	.97
Grade 4	Mrs. Bragg	.76
Grade 6	Mr. Hathaway	.66
Grade 3	Miss Graham	.35
Grade 8	Mrs. Hathaway	.33
Grade 9	Mr. Krise	.21
Grade 10	Mr. Matheny	.15
Total		\$12.57

Attendance Banner

Mr. Jackson's fifth grade won the Attendance Banner for the 3rd month with a percentage of 98.98.

The eighth grade won for the High School with a percentage of 98.21.

Congratulations 5th and 8th graders!

Percentage of Attendance

Mr. Jackson	Grade 5	98.98
Miss Graham	Grade 3	98.32
Mrs. Hathaway	Grade 8	98.21
Mr. Hathaway	Grade 6	97.60
Mrs. Ashley	Grade 3	97.60
Mrs. Bragg	Grade 4	95.53
Mrs. Griffith	Grade 12	97.27
Mrs. Butcher	Grade 1	97.03
Mr. Leeson	Grade 11	96.87
Mr. Krise	Grade 9	96.05
Mr. Stover	Grade 7	96.00

Assembly Program

The seventh grade presented an assembly in two parts on November 19, and December 3. It was a variety type program including:

Sandra Williams, Diane Adkins, James Conner, and Jean Dodrill playing "Scherzo" on the clarinets; duet on piano, "Country Gardens", by Sandy Williams and Brenda King; Casey Jones and T. G. Griffith in a war story; Luther Young, "Little Jimmy Dickens from Braxton Street", sang "Courtin' in the Rain", "Hole in the Bottom of the Sea", and "The Wooden Indian"; Janice Triplett, Sharon Baughman, Diane Adkins, Carol Hamrick, Joyce Dorsey, and Sandy Williams sang "Dream, Dream, Dream" and "We are the Widen Girls"; Dale Rogers sang "Cannibal King" and "Three Fishermen"; Jean Dodrill in a ballet dance; Shirley McClain in a pantomime of Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog" and "All Shook Up"; T. G. Griffith told the story of the "Rahmah-jah and his daughters."

NEW CHEERLEADERS

Barbara Young sophomore, was selected as a regular cheerleader at a try-out in assembly on November 19. Linda Rapp, sophomore, was selected as as substitute.

The girls performed before the student body with a variation of action-yells. They also worked in the regular cheering squad on two numbers.

They were selected by a faculty committee, composed of Mr. A. R. Matheny, Mr. Clyde Krise, and Mrs. Leona Griffith.

Since that time Lora Lou Wilson a regular cheerleader has resigned from her position. That leaves Dawne Backus as head cheerleader. Linda Rapp will thus become a regular cheerleader. The other member is Karen Mick.

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

HEALTH/MEDICAL

AUDIEN HEARING. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-866-327-9323

DONT LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-844-592-5113

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-274-3943

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-405-3412 www.dental50plus.com/press #6258

INTERNET/TV

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-736-4350

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET WITH EARTHLINK. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation,

and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 844-230-3640

MISCELLANEOUS

WANT TO FIRE YOUR BOSS IN 2026? For more information, go to www.TrueFreedomAtLast.com or call 931-207-1301

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL can install a new, custom bath or shower as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-866-465-3017 SUNSETTER. AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE AWNING! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-888-485-5756

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-615-6411

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

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-901-2301 today to

schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company-888-217-5559 or visit www.Life55plus.info/wv

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

NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-844-295-2840 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

TRAVEL

YMT VACATIONS. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-833-649-1532

Elk River Coal and Lumber Company Stores

WIDEN . DILLE . SWANDEALE . DUNDON

AT ALL

ELK RIVER COAL AND LUMBER COMPANY STORES

WIDEN . DILLE . SWANDEALE . DUNDON

AT ALL

ELK RIVER COAL AND LUMBER COMPANY STORES

WIDEN . DILLE . SWANDEALE . DUNDON

AT ALL

ELK RIVER COAL AND LUMBER COMPANY STORES

WIDEN . DILLE . SWANDEALE . DUNDON

AT ALL

ELK RIVER COAL AND LUMBER COMPANY STORES

WIDEN . DILLE . SWANDEALE . DUNDON

AT ALL

ELK RIVER COAL AND LUMBER COMPANY STORES

WIDEN . DILLE . SWANDEALE . DUNDON

AT ALL

ELK RIVER COAL AND LUMBER COMPANY STORES

WIDEN . DILLE . SWANDEALE . DUNDON

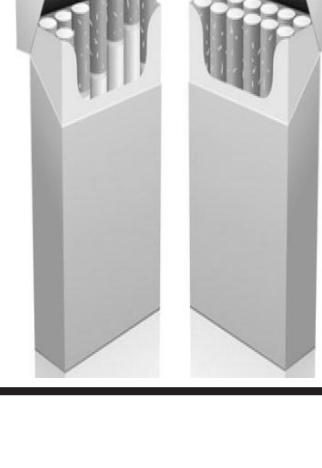
www.cmiwv.com

CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2019 Ford Escape- Auto, 4WD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Black	\$8,499.00
2019 Nissan Sentra-4Cyl, Auto, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Silver	\$7,999.00
2018 Dodge Caravan-All Seats, White	\$4,999.00
2017 Chevy Silverado 1500-Auto, 4WD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Red	\$18,999.00
2017 Ford Explorer-3 rd Row Seating, Many Options, Silver	\$13,999.00
2016 Dodge Journey-Auto, 2WD, A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Red	\$8,999.00
2016 Jeep Patriot-4cyl, Auto, 2WD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Blue	\$7,499.00
2016 Nissan Rogue-4Cyl, 4X4, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, White	\$6,999.00
2016 Ford Edge-FWD, Auto, Tilt & Cruise, White	\$5,499.00
2015 Toyota Rav4- Auto,4WD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Gray	\$11,999.00
2015 Chevy Cruze-Auto, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Red	\$4,999.00
2014 Chevy Malibu-Auto, Many Options Including A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Blue	\$8,999.00
2014 Chevy Cruze-Auto, Tilt, Power Doors/Locks, Red	\$3,999.00
2013 Ford Edge-V6, 4WD, Auto, A/C, Tilt Cruise & many other options, White	\$6,999.00
2013 Chrysler Town & Country Van-V6, Auto, All Seats, White	\$5,999.00
2012 Kia Soul-4Cyl, Auto, Very Clean, Black	\$6,499.00
2011 Subaru Forester-Auto, 4WD, A/C, Tilt & cruise, Gray	\$4,999.00
2008 Honda Odyssey Van-Auto, V6, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Silver	\$4,999.00
2008 Toyota Rav4-4X4, 4DR, Auto, White	\$3,999.00
2007 Chevy Silverado-2WD, Work Truck, Graystone	\$5,999.00
2007 Jeep Commander-V8, 4X4, Auto & 3 rd Row Seating, Silver	\$3,999.00
2007 Jeep Grand Cherokee-V6, 4WD, Auto, Tilt & Cruise, White	\$3,999.00
2004 Chrysler Crossfire-Auto, 6Cyl, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Black	\$5,999.00

STORE HOURS
M-F 6:00AM-6PM
SAT 7:00AM-6PM
SUN-CLOSED
TIRE SHOP
MON-SAT 8AM-5PM
SUN-CLOSED
OFFICE HOURS
M-F 8:00AM-5:00 PM
SAT-9:00 AM -2:00 PM
SUN-CLOSED

**WE HAVE STATE
MINIMUM PRICES!**
304-286-4671



304-286-4671

304-286-3802



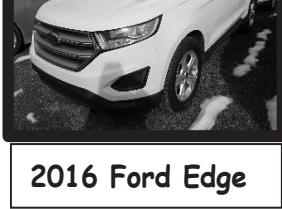
2011 Subaru Forester



2017 Chevy Silverado



2017 Ford Explorer



2016 Ford Edge



2017 Ford Explorer



2019 Ford Escape



2016 Dodge Journey



2007 Chevy Silverado

FMP BATTERIES!

GENERATOR

26R-\$59.99

MARINE /MOBILE HOME

M24-930ST-\$99.99

M27-7DC-\$114.99

31TXHD-\$109.99

VEHICLE

35-\$64.99

47-90-\$59.99

48-91-\$69.99

94R-\$94.99

65HD-\$89.99

75DTHD-\$79.99

78DT-5AT-\$64.99

LAWN

51R-\$59.99

41R-300V\$49.99

41L-340V-\$49.99

4-WHEELER

LBX14B-BS\$42.99

ALL PRICES REQUIRE A CORE!

Great in-store deals!

➤ STABLE FUEL STABILIZER 16 OZ \$12.99-10 OZ \$7.99

➤ DEICER-\$4.99

➤ SCRAPERS-\$3.99

➤ STIHL MIX GAL-\$3.29-\$4.29

➤ STIHL MIX 2.5 GAL-\$4.99-\$5.49

➤ FVP 1 GAL MIX-\$1.89

➤ BARS AND CHAINS-\$19.99-\$39.99

➤ FILES-\$3.99

➤ BAR OIL-QTS-\$6.99

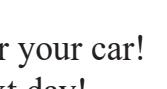
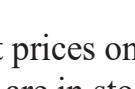
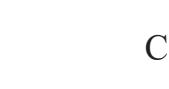
➤ BAR OIL GAL-\$13.99

➤ ANTIFREEZE-\$10.99

➤ -20F WASHER FLUID \$4.99

➤ JUMP BOX-\$179.99

➤ BATTERY TRICKLE CHARGER-\$39.99



Call us for best prices on parts for your car!

Most parts are in stock or next day!

We have replacement parts available for your lawn mower
And chain saws!

Cunningham Motors Inc.

Intersection
of Rts. 4 & 16
10560 Ivydale Road
Ivydale, WV 25113

email:

cmiwv@hotmail.com

304-286-4671

304-286-3802

Fax: 304-286-2100

SENATOR JUSTICE

the Clay County Commission for 911 Center Relocation.

Other projects receiving funding include:

-\$750,000 to Jobs & Hope West Virginia to support wage reimbursements.

-\$15,000,000 to Charleston Area Medical Center for equipment for technical infrastructure upgrades and cybersecurity technology.

-\$5,460,000 to City of Ronceverte for Fred Workman Bridge

-\$966,000 to Region 4 Planning and Development Council for Fruits of Labor Expansion

-\$7,500,000 to Concord University for facilities and equipment for construction of the Center for Rural Healthcare Workforce Solutions.

-\$310,000 to Grant County Courthouse for equipment & for purchase of new ambulance.

-\$345,000 to Jefferson County Commission for facilities and equipment for the Jefferson County Health Department relocation and expansion.

-\$2,105,000 to Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority for equipment for purchase of new ambulances.

-\$3,250,000 to Minnie Hamilton Health Care Center, Inc. for facilities and equipment for renovation of the Minnie Hamilton Hospital Emergency Department, medical clinic, laboratory, dietary space, dental clinic, and pharmacy.

-\$8,100,000 to Mon Health Medical Center for equipment for technical infrastructure upgrades and cybersecurity technology.

-\$1,500,000 to Wirt County Health Services Association for facilities and equipment for construction of Coplin Health Systems Parkersburg health clinic and wellness center.

-\$766,000 to West Virginia CASA Association, Inc. for funding to implement a Continuum of Care model to prevent and treat child abuse.

-\$500,000 to National Youth Science Academy for the

purchase of equipment and technology.

-\$1,105,000 to Applied Research Foundation of West Virginia for campus security upgrades.

-\$1,150,000 to Bethany College to support nursing education, including the purchase of equipment.

-\$1,650,000 to Fairmont State University for the purchase of aviation equipment.

-\$1,500,000 to Marshall University Research Corporation for the purchase of equipment and to develop curriculum, including financial aid.

-\$600,000 to Morgan County Partnership, Inc. for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Substance Use (SU) Mitigation Project.

-\$800,000 to Charleston Area Alliance for Small Business Incubator Modernization.

-\$500,000 to City of Fairmont for Façade Improvement Project.

-\$690,000 to Advantage Valley Community Development Corporation for FASTER WV Support for Entrepreneurial Development.

-\$500,000 to Hatfield-McCoy Convention & Visitors Bureau for Growing Small Businesses in Man and Logan.

-\$2,502,000 to Marshall University for Marshall University Aviation.

-\$750,000 to New River Gorge Regional Development Authority for Public-Private Childcare Cohort Model in Raleigh County.

-\$750,000 to WV Hive Network, Inc. for Rise Together: Building Businesses and Community Capacity project.

-\$500,000 to West Virginia Women Work for Strengthening Small Businesses in WV.

-\$371,000 to West Virginia Department of Agriculture for WV Grown Project Expansion Through Marketing & Trainings.

-\$25,000,000 to Yeager Airport (CRW) for Terminal Modernization Project.

-\$2,000,000 to West Virginia Department of High-

ways for Northern Parkway Improvements.

-\$2,240,000 to West Virginia Department of Highways for Sutton Elk River Trail Improvements.

-\$4,000,000 to West Virginia Department of Highways for Corridor H Parsons to Davis.

-\$5,000,000 to West Virginia Department of Highways for WV Route 2 Improvements.

-\$6,400,000 to West Virginia University Research Corporation for Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) Guideway Rehabilitation Project.

-\$3,250,000 to Monroe County Board of Education for Peterstown School Athletic Facility.

-\$1,000,000 to City of Parkersburg for Municipal Parking Improvements.

-\$1,000,000 to City of Fairmont for Watson Fire Station Renovation.

-\$2,059,000 to Town of Marlinton for Downtown Trailhead.

-\$503,000 to City of Elkins for Downtown Improvements.

-\$7,690,000 to Montgomery General Healthcare Systems, Inc. for Montgomery General Hospital Revitalization.

-\$500,000 to Appalachia Service Project for Home Repair for Flooding Victims.

-\$1,980,000 to West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council for the WV Freedom and Independence Project.

-\$250,000 to Craik-Patton, Inc. for Craik-Patton House Site Accessibility Project.

-\$7,000,000 to City of Charleston for Charleston Capital Sports Center.

-\$750,000 to Capitol Market, Inc. for Capitol Market Safety and Security.

-\$1,103,000 to Facing Hunger Foodbank for Warehouse Distribution Center Renovation.

-\$3,200,000 to New River Gorge Regional Development Authority for Meadow River Corridor Improvements.

CLAY COUNTY COMMISSION

Continued from Page 1

David Schoolcraft was present physically. President Joyce Johnson and Commissioner Duane Legg were present by phone. The outside temperature that morning as the meeting began was eight degrees. Clay County Schools were operating on a two-hour delay. Ice was still treacherous on many secondary county roads.

The first order of business was that the commission had to vote to make Commissioner David Schoolcraft President of the Commission, Pro Tem, just for the day, so he could chair the event. They did so by vote, two of them by phone.

The regular meeting always begins with the handling of regular county business: Minutes from the previous meeting; bills; purchase orders; budget revisions; erroneous assessments by the Assessor; fiduciary appoints as presented by the county clerk; appointment of administrators for estates, last wills and testaments, appointments of executors and affidavits and waivers of final settlements.

The commission then approved a slew of new hires.

For the 911 Ambulance Service they accepted the employment of Joshua Hand as paramedic and Chris Nienhaus. For the Sheriff's Department they approved

Kaitlyn Preast as part-time tax deputy for \$10 an hour

and Sara Blankenship as a full-time tax deputy at \$12 an hour. They accepted the resignation of Laura Scott effective Feb. 15 and allowed the promotion of Jeana Rounsville to Chief Tax Deputy at \$17 per hour effective Feb. 1, provided the Sheriff's Department had the internal funds to sponsor the promotion.

The county commission approved the new fees and services schedule for the Clay County Health Department, being that they are the final step in the approval process.

Even though Terry Martin was not present at the meeting, he had submitted invoices for the commission to approve. The commission approved the Big Otter Nebo Waterline Extension resolution; the Grassy Fork Waterline Extension resolution; tabled for a later date the Clay County Judicial Annex Resolution because all of the final invoices had not been submitted.

While the mid-term primary seems a long time yet away, the commission resolved to appoint Emergency Absentee Ballot Commissioners for the May 12, 2026 Primary Election and resolved to approve the number of Election Officials designated for the Primary Election. All eleven Clay County precincts will have three Democratic election officials (one clerk and two com-

missioners); and two Republican election officials (one clerk and one commissioner).

Commissioner Schoolcraft asked if anybody else wanted to bring anything before the commission. One lady sitting with her husband in the gallery wanted to make a statement, and Commissioner Schoolcraft asked her to come up to the front to address the commission with a public statement since two of them were on the phone.

She identified herself as Martha Nottingham and said she was a Clay County probation secretary. As she came up before the commission her right arm and wrist were bandaged. "I was going to my office and fell outside this courthouse and broke my wrist. And I just want it on record that I am issuing a complaint because you have been very negligent in not keeping this parking lot free of snow and ice. Snow and ice has not been removed for weeks," she said. "You have not kept it clean nor safe." She expressed that she had visited the ER and was filing a worker's compensation claim. "I know a couple of weeks ago there was another fall by another staff member."

The next Clay County Commission will be held on Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. providing the worst of the winter weather is over.

Man with Clay County ties earns third doctoral degree

Rodney E. Graham, grandson of the late Samuel Moore & Alma Moore, and son of the late Thomas Graham & Della Graham, has received his third doctoral degree.

Rodney has just been awarded, on February 10th, his Doctor of Ministry Degree in Theology & Music from Newburgh Theological Seminary in Indiana. Rodney's Dissertation was based upon establishing a full church music program, from small children to full adult choirs, as well as a full Praise & Worship Band. It also addressed issues such as acoustics and P.A. systems.

Rodney had previously earned both a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Martial Arts Studies, and a Doctor of Science Degree in Martial Arts Studies. Rodney is a former Champion Tenth Degree Karate Black Belt, who has been inducted into the USA Martial Arts "Hall of Fame."

Rodney earned his Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ. He graduated with a 4.0 GPA and earned induction into the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, representing the Top 10% of All U.S. College Graduates.

Rodney has also earned Undergraduate Diplomas/Degrees from the University of Notre Dame, the University of South Carolina, Charleston Southern University, and Trident Technical College. Additional studies include Pensacola Christian College and Hillsdale College.

Rodney works with the Music Department at Walterboro Church of God, in SC. He has been a Professional-Class Drummer for four decades, having recorded and performed both Christian music and Broadway-type productions on television and in theatres. He has also been a returning cast member at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.

Rodney is single and resides in Cottageville, SC. He proudly acknowledges Jesus Christ as the absolute Lord of his life!



Rodney Graham

 Audien Hearing

The World's First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Call 866-327-9323 to get your 45-day risk free trial.

- ✓ Revolutionary technology with touchscreen control.
- ✓ Hearing modes for any environment.
- ✓ Multiple models to choose from.
- ✓ Portable charging case.
- ✓ 48-hour battery life.
- ✓ UV cleaning.
- ✓ Background noise cancellation.
- ✓ 45-day risk free trial.
- ✓ Proudly located in the U.S.A.
- ✓ Free shipping direct to your door.
- ✓ 1.5 million+ happy customers.
- ✓ Lifetime support.

Atom X



Like us on Facebook



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 Bickmore on Fola Road
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
Wednesday evening services

7:00 PM

Pastor: Ralph D. Lane

BIG OTTER BAPTIST
CHURCH OF IVYDALE

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Preaching 11:00 AM

Wednesday prayer service and

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

Danny Richardson

BIG UNION BAPTIST

CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Worship Service 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening Service 1st,

3rd and 4th

Sundays Preaching 6:00 PM

Wednesday Night Prayer &

Bible Study 7:00 PM

2nd Sunday Communion

Service 6:00 PM

Pastor: Pete Shaffer

BLUE KNOB CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Preaching 11:00 AM Everyone

is Welcome!

BUFFALO VALLEY

BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday

School 10:00 AM Worship

Service 11:00 AM Sunday

Evening Service

6:00 PM

Radio Broadcast, Sunday

Morning 9:00 AM. WCWV

Summersville

Everyone Welcome **Pastor:**

Doug Newell IV

BURKE MEMORIAL

METHODIST CHURCH in

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

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

H

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: Freddie Elliott

L

LAUREL FORK

MISSIONARY BAPTIST

CHURCH

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 AM

Sunday Night 7:00 PM

Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

Youth 7:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study

7:00 PM

Pastor: David Davis

LEATHERWOOD

FREEWILL BAPTIST

CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Sunday Service 7:00 PM

Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

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

Hale Mini Honeybells
The once a year citrus sensation!



ONLY \$34.99
Reg. Price \$44.99
Special Limited
Time Offer!
27% SAVINGS
INCLUDING SHIPPING

Call 1-844-308-4327 to order item 2692X
or Visit HaleGroves.com/H6YU52
* Only \$34.99 (reg. \$44.99) plus \$7.99 shipping and handling per pack to 48 contiguous states. Some restrictions may apply. Limit 5 boxes per customer.
IC: H6YU52

LEGAL

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA

TO:
Christopher David Lautzenheiser Magistrate Court Case No.: _____
13277 Clay Road Family Court Civil Action No.:
Newton, WV 25266 26-DV-1
DOB: 06/28/1986

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION
(PROTECTIVE ORDER / HEARING DATE)**

1. The object of this suit is to obtain protection from the Respondent.
2. The object of this publication by Class I legal advertisement is to notify Respondent of the PROTECTIVE ORDER prohibiting the above-named Respondent from having contact with certain individuals. This Order may affect property and other rights of the Respondent. Violating this Order may subject the Respondent to criminal sanctions. The Respondent is strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of this Protective Order and Petition from the Circuit Clerk of the county listed above.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

It appearing by evidence duly taken in this action that you could not be found in or that you have left the State of West Virginia, you are hereby notified of the ORDER referenced above, a copy of the Petition and Order may be obtained at the CLAY County, Circuit Clerk's office. This PROTECTIVE ORDER will remain in effect until 03/05/26.

A Final Hearing is scheduled for the 5th day of March, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., before the CLAY County Family Court.

Issued this 02/12/2026 12:25 PM


Circuit Clerk

LEGAL

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: Civil Action No. 25-D-61
The Marriage of:

Jacob Young and Lyndsey Nottingham

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE.

THIS IS A PUBLICATION BY CLASS II LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT.

To the Above-Named Respondent:

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that Lyndsey Nottingham is a non-resident of the State of West Virginia or has an unknown address. It is hereby ordered that Lyndsey Nottingham serve upon Jacob Young, Petitioner, whose address is 536 Reed Fork Rd., Procious, WV 25164, West Virginia, an Answer, including any related counter-claim or defense you may have to the Petition for Divorce filed in this action on or before 3/19/26 at 11:30 a.m. If you fail to Answer the Petition for Divorce, a judgment may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk's Office.

Entered by the Clerk of Clay County Family Court.



LEGAL

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: Civil Action No. 25-D-58
The Marriage of:

Timothy Gould and Jordan Gould

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE.

THIS IS A PUBLICATION BY CLASS II LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT.

To the Above-Named Respondent:

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that Jordan Brooke Gould is a non-resident of the State of West Virginia or has an unknown address. It is hereby ordered that Jordan Brooke Gould serve upon Timothy Gould, Petitioner, whose address is 4480 Swindle Rd., Clay, WV 25043, West Virginia, an Answer, including any related counter-claim or defense you may have to the Petition for Divorce filed in this action on or before 3/12/26 at 12:00 p.m. If you fail to Answer the Petition for Divorce, a judgment may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk's Office.

Entered by the Clerk of Clay County Family Court.



LEGAL

Tariff Form No. 8
(RULE 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE RATE

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

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective Thursday, March 5, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will produce, on a total Company basis, \$26,793,000 annually in additional revenues, or an overall average increase in revenues of approximately 8.44%. The \$26,793,000 consists of an increase in base rates of \$43,764,000 and a decrease in the Company's Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program ("IREP") of \$16,971,000. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$)	INCREASE	(%)	INCREASE
Residential	\$	9.63	%	10.57
Commercial	\$	14.23	%	4.09
Large Commercial	\$	1,058.29	%	1.31
Industrial	\$	378.26	%	1.69
Resale	\$	125.36	%	1.31
Other	\$	-	%	-

This increase incorporates the rate impact of the cumulative investment under the IREP that was placed into service as of September 30, 2025. As a result, the Company proposes to reduce the IREP component of its rates relating to that investment when the new base rates go into effect.

Resale customers of Mountaineer Gas Company include Canaan Valley Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, Inc., and City of Philippi.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

Anyone desiring to intervene and act as a party in the case should file on or before May 5, 2026, a Petition to Intervene complying with the Commission rules on intervention in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 150 C.S.R. 1, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. The Commission may establish a final deadline for intervention. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written protest as soon as possible, although protests will be accepted by the Commission through the pendency of this proceeding. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. All interventions may be mailed and addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston West Virginia 25323 or may be hand-delivered. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us) using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary at the same address as above.

A complete copy of the Company's tariff proposals and a representative of the Company to provide information concerning this tariff are available to all customers, prospective customers or their agents at the following office of the Company:

501 56th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304

A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

Big Otter students compete in Math Field Day



Big Otter Elementary Students recently competed in the Clay County Math Field Day. Big Otter Elementary won the traveling trophy! Congratulations all the winners, and good luck to Kathryn, Lanie, Tripp, Kinsley, and Harper as they will be competing in the Regional Math Field Day on March 2. It's a great day to be a Big Otter Brave!

5th Grade Oral
2nd Place - Kash Kincaid
4th Place - Cheyenne Bays
Emma Stephens
Zoey Raynor - Alternate

3rd Grade Oral
1st Place - AF
2nd Place - Terran Raynor
Anna Sears
Courtney Duffield - Alternate

4th Grade Written
1st Place - Kathryn Hanshaw
3rd Place - Lanie Goe
Cameron Schoonover
Owen Paxton - Alternate

4th Grade Oral
1st Place - Kathryn Hanshaw
2nd Place - Lanie Goe
Owen Paxton
Cameron Schoonover - Alternate

5th Grade Written
1st Place - Tripp Sears
2nd Place - Kinsley Duffield
3rd Place - Harper Faulkner
Michael Gill - Alternate

THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR Community.



LOCAL STORIES. LOCAL PEOPLE. LOCAL CONNECTIONS.

More Than Just Paper and Ink.
We don't just report the news; we live it alongside you. By sharing local stories told by local people, we create the local connections that turn a zip code into a home. When you read The Clay Free Press, you aren't just staying informed—you're keeping our community's heart beating strong.

WEST VIRGINIA Press

ASSOCIATION • SERVICES • FOUNDATION

In print and online, your community's stories live here.

Mustangs defeat Lumberjacks in nail biter

By Allen Hamrick

The Mustangs locked horns with the Lumberjacks of Richwood Middle this past week in their final game of the regular season. Both teams came out looking like they were ready to eat the biggest bone in the bowl, but the Mustangs couldn't hardly hold a full house on a basket. Mason Hall kept the Mustangs alive in the first period by dropping two three pointers on the table. However, the Lumberjacks weren't on crutches and dropped 10 points on the board in the first period to lead the game 10-6.

The teams traded blows standing toe to toe in the 2nd period as Mustang defense turned up the heat and started burning the lumber off the Jacks. Gunner Dobbins and Ryder McMillion started adding their two cents on the board as Dobbins was ice on the cheat line dropping seven of his nine points from the free line.

It was all tied up at 12 going into the lockers at the half, and it looked like it was turning into a manicure salon as fans were biting their nails. Both offenses came out shooting for the Vegas odds in the second half, nailing 12 more points on each side of the boards. The game was tied up at the end of the 3rd at 24 all.

The fourth period would decide for each team whether they were going to be heroes or zeros at the end of their season. They both came out swinging and gave the fans their money's worth; they traded shots like MMA rivals. Dobbins went to work on the line again, and with ice in his veins, he dropped four more shots from the free line and added two more from the field.

Mason Hall added another three to his hand and called with five threes in the game. Ryder McMillion had a run of twos in the second half and ended up with 11 points on the night. In the end, it was a furious ending

to a great game with the Mustangs outlasting on the nets. The final score was Mustangs 39 Lumberjacks 32. This game was retribution for the Mustangs as the Lumberjacks beat the Mustangs back in the season 42-33.

This was a good game to learn from, and now they need to tweak the defense and get more players on the boards. The Mustangs will get their chance Monday



Gunner Dobbins looking for 3 points.

night in tournament play against the Bears of Summersville Middle at Summersville. A win will move them toward the CWVAC Championship, or a loss ends their season. Come on out, catch the game and support the Mustangs as they go for the CWVAC championship. The Lady Mustangs also begin their run to the CWVAC Championship against South Harrison Monday evening at home. Come out and support the Lady Mustangs.



Ryder McMillion driving for 2 points.

Mustang wrestlers Adkins and Caldwell are CWVAC Champions

By Allen Hamrick

Once again, the Clay Middle School mother hens have hatched out a batch of champions. This time it was a wrestling team who punched their ticket to the top of the podium. On Thursday evening at Spencer Middle School, the season ended for the Mustang powerhouse at the CWVAC wrestling tournament - basically the state championship for middle school wrestlers of the region. The weather has played a role in the sports games this winter, and because of this the tournament was delayed until Thursday evening.

All season the Mustangs have been harder to beat than a four-legged man in a butt kicking contest, and this tournament would be no different. Seven teams from around the region participated in the event, and as the tournament progressed throughout the evening, the Mustang wrestlers were carving notches in the mats. When it came to the final rounds, Clay had three wrestling for 3rd and 4th places and four wrestling for 1st place. It was a neck and neck race to the mountain of gold.

Here's how it played out - Christian Belt took 2nd

place, Gabrielle Belt took 2nd place, Peyton Rogers took 4th place, Kayden Neal took 3rd place, Palmer Adkins took 1st place, Trenton Neal took 2nd place, Cameron Douglas took 3rd place, Hinton Caldwell took 1st place, and Josiah McQuillian took 5th place.

As far as the team ranking, Clay was 5th - not the champs this year but there is always next season. Congratulations to the CCMS Mustangs for a great finish to a great year. Only time will tell just how good this team will be next season.



Christian Belt 2nd place



Trenton Neal 2nd place

Panthers place fourth at LKC Tournament

By Allen Hamrick

It was the LKC Championship Tournament at St Mary's High School this past week. The Panther wrestling team placed 4th overall against some tough, tough competition. However, coming out as LKC

Champion was Blake Coleman who is now a two-time LKC Champion. Caiden Bryant and Owen McGlothlin both took second place. Cameren Nelson, Eddy Metheney, and Landon Delwarte all took 3rd place. Landon Delwarte also got his 100th win at this tourna-

ment. Congratulations to Blake Coleman and the rest of the team. Regional competition will be held this weekend at Hoover and will determine who will be going to the state competition. Good Luck to the Panther wrestling team!



Caiden Bryant takes 2nd place. Photo CCHS Wrestling.



Owen McGlothlin takes 2nd place. Photo CCHS Wrestling.