



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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Thursday, March 5, 2026

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This Week in the House of Delegates

For the week ending Feb. 27, 2026

A direct stream of funding that would support the state's Emergency Medical Services got a unanimous vote of support from the West Virginia House of Delegates this week.

"Well, I want to say to the Finance Committee, thank you; thank God we finally got something done," Delegate Buck Jennings, R-Preston, said on the House floor ahead of the vote, adding that he had been trying to find permanent state funding for EMS since he first got elected in 2018.

House Bill 5168, which passed Feb. 23, would transfer a total of \$12 million through the state Office of Emergency Medical Services at the end of each Fiscal Year from the State Lottery Fund. It would direct \$6 million to the EMS Salary Enhancement, Crisis Response, and Mental Health Treatment Fund; \$3 million to the County EMS Fund; and \$3 million to the All-County EMS fund. Counties would be required to match the funds, which they could do through a levy, severance funds or private donations.

"In all reality, this is a historical day if this body passes this and it makes it all the way to the governor; we're actually putting the first permanent funding to support the EMS workers of the state of West Virginia," said Delegate Joe Statler, R-Monongalia. "I think we're telling our first responders out there that we care. We know that they do a job for us every day, they're out there working and that we're willing to reach out to help them, to try

and keep them going."

Members of the House Finance Committee also acted this week to preserve the jewel of the state's Capitol Complex, the Culture Center. Delegates heard from Tourism Secretary Chelsea Ruby about the extensive deferred maintenance she inherited with the 50-year-old building and took a tour to see the problems firsthand. House Bill 5685 would allow excess lottery funds to be used as revenue bonds for necessary renovations with appropriate legislative oversight.

The House overwhelmingly passed the West Virginia Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Growth Act Feb. 27. The measure, House Bill 4006, includes a host of initiatives to support growth in the state's aerospace industry. The Aerospace Development Program under the state's Department of Commerce would encourage construction, operation, development, maintenance, manufacturing and expansion of the industry. The West Virginia Job Development Grant Program under the Division of Economic Development would allow aerospace businesses to enter into agreements with the Division to create a special revenue fund, utilizing grants and private funds to create new jobs. Another change would adjust the way capital additions to manufacturing facilities are appraised, at salvage value, for property tax purposes, and finally it would create the MRO Workforce and Aviation Maintenance Education Act, requiring the Council for Community and Technical College Education to develop



WV Legislative Photography by Perry Bennett.

an aviation and aerospace industry pathway.

"I think this is a very creative way to encourage companies to invest in West Virginia and then stay for a long time because of the way their investment goes in and they employ people, those dollars eventually do flow back into their companies, but it's over a long, substantial period of time," said Delegate Clay Riley, R-Harrison, in explaining the bill before the vote. "This is a situation where you have the opportunity to have companies come in and locate for 50 years, to be able to continue to be able to employ the citi-

zens of West Virginia.

"We have a strong history of the aviation and the aerospace industry with Chuck Yeager and Katherine Johnson and Homer Hickam. This just sends a message to the world that we still have those folks, and they're right here in the state of West Virginia, and this bill allows every county to prosper and every opportunity for every county to be successful."

The House also passed a budget bill back to the Senate this week for continued deliberation. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight March 14.

Final payment made on new judicial annex

By Gary Lee Stuber

The second regular February meeting of the Clay County Commission was relatively short and sweet. All three commissioners were in attendance, with Commissioner Duane Legg and Commission President Joyce Johnson present, and Commissioner David Schoolcraft in attendance by phone. County Clerk Shelia Stone was present to record.

As usual, the commission took care of routine business. Minutes from the previous meeting, bills, purchase orders, budget revisions, fiduciary appointments as presented by the Assessor, appointments of Administrators, last wills, testaments, affidavit and waiver of final settlements.

The commission had intended to set time and dates for estate hearings for both Joyce S. Gibson and Tyrus H. Stone Jr., but neither of the parties were present. Thus, both estate hearings were rescheduled to the next regular meeting of the Clay County Commission on March 9, at 9 a.m., pending the presence of the concerned parties.

The commission approved a Policy for Purchasing and Procurement, and they also made the final payment of \$100,000 for the completion of the new Judicial Annex that has been in use since November. The payment was made out of ARP funds as previously established.

While Terry Martin was not present, the commission approved two funding resolutions presented by Terry for the Ossia Road Waterline Extension. They approved the HUD Funding request for funding of \$3,000,000. They also approved the ARC funding request for \$2,000,000. That is a request for \$5 million dollars for the Ossia Road Water Project.

At this point, the commission asked

those present for any business they wanted to bring before the commission. For the second meeting in a row Martha Nottingham, a Clay County probation secretary, spoke. As she came up before the commission her right arm and wrist were still bandaged. "At the last meeting I issued a complaint that you had been very negligent for not keeping the parking lot free of snow and ice. So my question is, what are you going to do to make this a safe working environment for us?" She added, "I was told there were over 200 people who fell prior to my fall."

Commissioner Legg was the first to address the issue. "The gentleman that we usually use for this service, I contacted him last night and he is not presently available. A lot of the getting this resolved is dependent upon finding someone that we can find to do it. There is no one dedicated to this work in the county to my knowledge." He added, "Becky (the courthouse janitor) has been out shoveling and salting this morning although it has been a slow meltdown." He continued, "We have talked to the school board. They will scrape it for us; and the State Road will as well. But when there are cars parked here, trucks with blades don't have enough room to safely navigate through the back of this building where the traffic is parked." It was brought to his attention that single digits through low teen temperatures such as been present these last few snows are ineffective when salted. Neither salt nor potassium will melt snow or ice below sixteen degrees. "We are looking at things, although we do not yet have a plan."

The next Clay County Commission will be held on March 9 at 9 a.m., providing the worst of the winter weather has ended.

Clay County man arrested following fatal shooting in Maysel

On Feb. 26, the West Virginia State Police arrested Richard Grad following a fatal shooting at a residence located at 303 Blue Knob Road in Maysel.

At approximately 9:40 a.m., State Police received a dispatch regarding a shooting after a witness at a local gas station reported that Grad had confessed to killing someone. While en route to the scene, troopers were informed that the Clay County Sheriff's Office had taken Grad into custody.

Upon arrival at the residence, law enforcement discovered a female victim, identified as Ms. Ketion, deceased in the kitchen from a gunshot wound to the back of the head. Investigators recovered a spent shotgun casing in the kitchen and a black shotgun with a live round on a

couch in the living room.

According to the criminal complaint, Grad waived his Miranda rights and provided a statement to investigators. Grad stated that during a verbal argument regarding the discipline of their child, he retrieved a shotgun from a safe and shot Ms. Ketion.

A witness at the scene, identified as Ronald Mullins, reported hearing a loud bang while working outside. Mullins stated that Grad exited the residence with a shotgun and confessed to the killing. Mullins then took the firearm from Grad and confirmed the victim was deceased inside the home.

The investigation is ongoing. Grad remains in custody facing charges related to the incident.

Panthers go 1-1 this past week and say goodbye to their seniors



Michael Foster gets two points in the paint.

See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

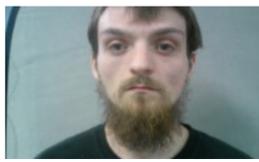
CLAY COUNTY



Jennifer Rose Brown
Booked 2/28/26
Breaking and entering



Matthew Duane Evans
Booked 2/27/26
Transferring stolen property



Richard Joseph Grad
Booked 2/26/26
Murder in the first degree



Monica Lynn Matheny
Booked 2/26/26
Probation violation



James Clifton Rogers
Booked 2/28/26
Breaking and entering



George Brent Summerfield
Booked 3/1/26
Strangulation, domestic battery

BRAXTON COUNTY



Racheal Sharisse Bishop
Booked 2/27/26
Destruction of property, domestic assault



Darick Brent Bosley
Booked 2/28/26
Capias



Bobby Joe Dennison
Booked 2/27/26
Driving suspended



Samuel Eugene Elvington
Booked 3/1/26
Driving suspended for DUI



Aaron Joseph Fraley
Booked 2/27/26
Probation hold



Joshua David Loyd
Booked 3/1/26
Possession of controlled substance, seatbelt violation, DOR/DUI

BRAXTON COUNTY



Kenneth Ryan Lyle
Booked 2/25/26
DUI



Beraique Jade Taylor
Booked 2/28/26
Conspiracy to commit felony offense against state, child neglect creating risk of serious injury or death (2 counts), obstructing an officer



Joshua Lee Taylor
Booked 2/28/26
Obstructing an officer, child neglect creating risk of serious injury or death (2 counts), conspiracy to commit felony offense against state



Vincent Charles Tromatore
Booked 3/2/26
DOR/DUI



Jayce Garrett Acord
Booked 2/27/26
Sexual abuse



Trevor Lanham Humphreys
Booked 2/27/26
Capias

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Evelyn Ashley Johnson
Booked 2/28/26
Obstructing an officer, conspiracy



Amy Jo Knoph
Booked 3/1/26
Expired operators, fleeing on foot, possession of a controlled substance, Capias



Sarah Renee Rogers
Booked 2/26/26
Trespassing

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Big Otter names winners of 2026 Literacy Fair



The 2026 Literacy Fair was recently held at Big Otter Elementary School. Students created a display board and props based on a book they read. It was a wonderful experience for students and their families. Forty six students partici-

pated in this year's Literacy Fair. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a huge success! The following students were the overall winners for their division. Congratulations!

K - 2nd Division
1st Place - Taylynn Proctor (1st Grade)
2nd Place - Case Titus (2nd Grade)
3rd Place - Wren Burge (1st Grade)
4th Place - Cole Titus (Kindergarten)

3rd - 5th Division
1st Place - Ellayna Brown (5th Grade)
2nd Place - Harper Faulkner (5th Grade)
3rd Place - Lanie Goe (4th Grade)
4th Place - Lacey Tanner (3rd Grade)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Courthouse News

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, Docket Schedule for Magistrate: Bass, Scott

09:00 AM, State v. Wesley Ty Bevins, Pre-Trial Hearing, Domestic battery, domestic assault

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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WVU Medicine United Hospital Center invites high school students to “Junior Healthcare Academy” for hands-on clinical experience



Amber Marshall, BSN, RN, Nurse Educator at WVU Medicine United Hospital Center.

WVU Medicine United Hospital Center (UHC) is proud to announce the return of its Junior Healthcare Academy, a specialized two-day program designed to inspire and prepare the next generation of medical professionals. The academy will host two sessions this summer: June 16–17, 2026, and July 14–15, 2026.

The “Let’s Build Your Future Together” initiative offers incoming 9th through 12th-grade students a unique, no-cost opportunity to step into the shoes of healthcare providers. Participants will receive direct mentorship from experienced registered nurses and explore the core responsibilities of the nursing profession through immersive clinical experiences.

“We are thrilled to open our doors to students who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of others,” said Amber Marshall, BSN, RN, Nurse Educator. “Our goal is to provide a bridge between the classroom and the clinical floor. By offering hands-on time in our simulation labs and exposing them to diverse specialties such as radiology and respiratory therapy, we hope to ignite a lifelong passion for healthcare and show these students their future in medicine starts right here at UHC.”

Academy Highlights Include:

-Simulation Labs: Interactive training using high-fidelity mannequins, an OB simulator, and state-of-the-art medical equipment.

-Professional Skills Training: Hands-on skill sessions with respiratory therapy, radiology, and laboratory services.

-Emergency Services: An overview of EMS and HealthNet operations.

-Certification: Participants will earn a certificate of completion in CPR.

Application Information:

The academy is open to all incoming 9th–12th graders with a desire to learn more about healthcare careers. Interested students must submit their applications by May 8, 2026, deadline.

For more information on how to apply for the Junior Healthcare Academy, please visit bit.ly/4s5WhBC.

About WVU Medicine United Hospital Center

United Hospital Center (UHC) is the result of a merger between St. Mary’s and Union Protestant hospitals in 1970. This bold move provides North Central West Virginia with a regional community hospital that offers a vast array of services. The new UHC opened in 2010 and is located along I-79 in Bridgeport. The 736,403 square foot structure rises eight stories. It is designed around the environment with patients, family, employees, and community in mind, which includes enhanced patient privacy, a high level of technological integration, and improved access to care. The acute care facility has 292 private inpatient rooms and a medical staff that consists of more than 366 physicians, advanced practice providers, and allied health professionals. UHC has more than 2,613 employees and is a member of WVU Medicine (West Virginia United Health System). For more information about UHC, please visit uhcwv.org.

Hocus-Pocus, My Sanity Has Disappeared

By Dr. James Snyder

For over 70 years, I believed sanity was a very important part of a person’s identity. Being sane enables one to be successful in life. Who doesn’t want to be successful?

I’ve made it my business to focus on my sanity and make sure it’s working just fine. Of course, I’m not sure how to build my sanity.

Actually, it wasn’t until I met and married The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that I understood what sanity was all about. All my sanity brought me to that wonderful place in my life. If anybody has more sanity than The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I have yet to meet them.

For over 50 years, she has been the most sane aspect of my life. Without her, I don’t know where I would be today. At least I wouldn’t recognize where I’m at.

It wasn’t until I hit my 70s that I realized my sanity had disappeared. I have no idea where it went, and believe me, I have searched for it for a long time. I even watched a Three Stooges movie and still did not find it. Where else would it be?

All of this came together this past week.

I was working on a project that needed to be finished by the end of the month. Sometimes those projects stress me out. But finishing a project is a wonderful experience. I enjoy it very much.

Then my phone rang, interrupting my moment at the time. Sometimes I don’t turn my phone on until the end of the day, but I had it on this morning.

When I answered it, I was rather surprised. According to the person on the other end of the phone, I had made a marvelous victory. According to the person on the phone, I had won over \$5 million plus a brand-new Mercedes. I can’t tell you how happy I was.

I couldn’t thank the person on the phone enough for this marvelous win. I didn’t know if I had regained my sanity or if I had dropped to a lower level of sanity.

Do you know what I could do with that kind of money? Neither do I.

When he told me about my winnings, I laughed hysterically and couldn’t thank him enough over the phone.

“When can I expect my winnings?” I asked the guy on the phone.

“We can send it to you today,” he said very happily. “Just give us your address and it’ll be on its way.”

Then I had an unusual sane moment. Thinking about it, I asked, “How much is this going to cost me?”

“Oh, my lucky friend. All you have to do is pay a \$1500 processing fee and the package will be yours.”

Sanity started knocking on my door, and I began

thinking, “It’ll only cost me \$1500 to get \$5 million. That shouldn’t be too much to ask for.”

Sanity began whispering in my ear, suggesting a question. So, I responded to the person on the phone and said, “That sounds great. Just deduct that \$1500 from my \$5 million winnings, and we got a plan.”

If you think about it, that makes a lot of sense. He gets his fee, and I get my winnings. What’s wrong with that?

From the other end of the phone, I heard, «That’s not possible. I’ve already wrapped your cash money in a box and I am not able to unwrap it and take money out. You will have to send me the \$1500 through some gift card that you can get at the store.»

Yeah, right, a gift card. I may have lost a lot of sanity along the way, but I have now experienced a revival of my sanity.

It seems feasible to send him the money so I can receive my reward.

I continued my phone conversation and asked an important question: “Sir, how do I know I can trust you to send me the money?”

He chuckled on the phone and then said most bravely, “You can trust me with anything. I’m not here to scam anybody I’m just here to get you your winnings to you as fast as possible. Believe me, you can trust me. Everybody trusts me.”

He then sent me photographs of other people who had won millions of dollars. As if I’m going to believe that.

Responding to those pictures, I said, “How can you prove to me that those are real people with winnings and not some AI production?”

“Oh my friend,” he said most enthusiastically, “you can trust me I would never lie to someone like you.”

If this wasn’t a scam, I’ve never heard of one. I responded by saying, “When you send me my winnings, I will pay you the processing fee plus a \$500 tip. How does that sound?”

The only sound I heard was “click,” and he was no more. I love it when my sanity shows up with a smile every once in a while.

As I was thinking about this, a verse of scripture came to mind. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7).

True sanity comes from God. He gives me everything I need to be all He wants me to be. He is the only one I can truly trust, and that’s my daily discipline.

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

A Soft Touch

By Joe Mazzella

I was driving to have lunch out with an old friend whom I hadn’t seen in years. When I arrived at the restaurant I saw him standing outside the entrance. I parked and started to walk over when I saw a homeless man near the edge of the parking lot. I stopped and gave him a few dollars before going on to my friend. As I walked over I saw my friend shaking his head. “You have always been such a soft touch,” he said. “How do you know if that guy is even homeless? How do you know that he isn’t going to spend the money you gave him on drugs?” “How do you know that he is?” I replied with a smile.

After we spent an hour eating and catching up on the years we split the check. My friend shook his head again when he saw me leave the waitress a large tip. “You’ll never change!” he said. I laughed out loud and replied, “I hope I never do.” As he drove away I wondered if my friend was right. His wallet certainly was

heavier than mine, but I knew my heart felt lighter than his. He was definitely richer in the eyes of the world, but I felt richer in the eyes of Heaven.

I have always believed that the loving way is the way to behave towards everyone. Our Father in Heaven commanded us to Love our neighbor as ourselves and Jesus taught that our neighbor is everyone. It doesn’t matter if they are white, black, brown, or yellow. It doesn’t matter if they are rich, poor, healthy, sick, homeless, or disabled. We are asked to Love everyone and that is what I try to do every single day. And if that makes me a soft touch then so be it.

Don’t be afraid to be a soft touch then. Don’t be afraid to let the Love within you out. Don’t be afraid to give your time, your talents, your money, and your kindness to help those around you. We are all one family in this world. We are all God’s children. And every bit of love we share helps to make this Earth more like Heaven.

Former WVU Medicine employee indicted in P-Card fraud case

The West Virginia State Auditor’s Office announced that a former WVU Medicine Eastern Campus (WVU-MEC) employee has been indicted on 25 counts of Fraudulent Use of a State Purchasing Card and Embezzlement following a state purchasing card fraud investigation.

Tonya Renee Armstrong, 56, of Ranson, was indicted Feb. 17, 2026, by the Berkeley County Grand Jury after the State Auditor’s Public Integrity and Fraud Unit identified 25 fraudulent transactions totaling \$10,075.78 between March 1, 2023, and Nov. 15, 2024. Armstrong,

who served as Manager of Student Services at WVU-MEC from November 2022 through October 2024, allegedly submitted fraudulent invoices through two vendor businesses she operated for goods and services never delivered, and used her state purchasing card to send Venmo payments to family members unaffiliated with WVUMEC.

“When public resources are abused, our office will find it, document it, and ensure the appropriate authorities have what they need to hold those responsible accountable,” said State Auditor Mark A. Hunt.

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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

March 4, 1849: Earl Williams Oglebay was born in Bridgeport, Ohio. He became one of Wheeling's most successful industrialists and generous benefactors.

along with Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas, and Randy Hughes. Hawkins was born in Huntington.



March 6, 1820: Joseph H. Diss Debar was born in France. Diss Debar was the designer of the Great Seal of West Virginia and the state's first commissioner of immigration.

March 6, 1828: John-son Camden was born in Lewis County. In 1861, he opened one of the state's first oil wells, in Wirt County, and a refinery in Parkersburg in 1869. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1881.

March 6, 1900: A mine explosion at the Red Ash Mine in Fayette County killed 46 men. It was the

state's first major mine disaster of the 20th century. Five years later, another 24 men were killed at the same mine.



March 6, 1928: Banjo player Don Stover was born in Aameagle, Raleigh County. He performed most notably with Bill Monroe and the Lilly Brothers and had an outstanding solo career. His spirited, pioneering three-finger style of playing helped spread the popularity of bluegrass internationally.

March 7, 1856: Tucker County was formed from Randolph County and named for Henry St. George Tucker Sr., a Virginia soldier, statesman and jurist.

March 7, 1929: The legislature adopted the official state flag. The state's coat of arms is emblazoned in color in the center. Above the seal is a red ribbon lettered "State of West Virginia," and a wreath of rhododendron surrounds the lower part of the seal. The white field of the flag is bordered on four sides by a strip of blue.



March 7, 1990: West Virginia teachers went on strike after negotiations with the governor's office and legislature failed to produce an agreement on a pay package. Teachers in 47 of the 55 counties were involved in the 11-day strike.

March 8, 1926: An explosion killed 19 miners at Eccles in Raleigh County.

Ten men were saved by barricading themselves in the mine.

March 8, 1963: The state colors of blue and "old gold" were adopted by the legislature.



March 9, 1832: George Robert Latham was born. At the onset of the Civil War, Latham turned his Grafton law office into a recruiting station, and he led the first Union troops in north-central West Virginia.

March 9, 1953: Football player Dennis Harrah was born in South Charleston. In the NFL, Harrah played in 168 games for the Los Angeles Rams (1975-87), was a six-time All Pro and played in one Super Bowl.

March 9, 1965: Presi-

dent Lyndon Johnson signed the act establishing the Appalachian Regional Commission.

March 10, 1872: Labor lawyer Harold Houston was born in Ohio. One of the most prominent attorneys of the Mine Wars period, he represented Matewan police chief Sid Hatfield and UMWA clients during the 1912-13 Paint Creek-Cabin Creek strike and after the 1921 Battle of Blair Mountain.

March 10, 1910: Kermit McKeever, considered the father of the modern West Virginia state park system, was born near Renick, Greenbrier County.

March 10, 1915: West Virginia's first Rotary International club was established in Wheeling.

March 10, 1920: West Virginia became the 34th state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Page is added to newspaper. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Arm is shorter. 4. Pillow is different. 5. Cuff is added to sleeve. 6. Curtain is not as wide.

Super Crossword

FUN 'N' GAMES

ACROSS

- 1 Lack of vitality
- 7 Neighbor of Florida
- 14 Garlicky sauces
- 20 In a rational manner
- 21 Unexpired driver's license, e.g.
- 22 Well-spoken
- 23 Whole bunch of baby felines?
- 25 Regions, weatherwise
- 26 Some reddish deer
- 27 Sex educator Shere
- 28 Jokester Jay
- 30 Viscous stuff
- 31 DVD- (data holders)
- 32 Make angry
- 33 Dogs that hunt egrets?
- 37 Fade away
- 38 B.A., e.g.
- 39 Corp. exec in charge of ads and branding
- 41 Locale
- 42 "Oh, gotcha"
- 43 Snacks that help physicists build atomic bombs?
- 47 Campus digs

- 49 Text-scanning device: Abbr.
- 50 French for "the king"
- 51 Head up
- 53 1890s veep Stevenson
- 55 Back of an overseas ship?
- 59 Entrepreneur Bezos who cooks sheep delicacies?
- 63 Tan-colored "Berliner"
- 66 Actors Momoa and Statham
- 67 Frigid
- 68 Ladies who use Speed Stick?
- 72 - Newton
- 75 Shared a living space
- 77 Water, in Lille
- 78 2008 documentary about the national debt
- 80 Cover girl from a city in central Georgia?
- 84 Fire breather's parachute descent?
- 88 Flabbergast

- 89 Paddy food
- 91 - Park (Edison's home)
- 92 Machinery wheel
- 93 Unwell
- 97 Package shipped to singer Dolly?
- 102 From the top
- 104 En - (in full court)
- 106 Free TV spot, in brief
- 107 "I taut I - a pudgy tat!"
- 108 Med. group
- 109 Serenity in a rabbit colony?
- 112 Woodsy den
- 114 U-boats, e.g.
- 115 Feel unwell
- 116 Andean land
- 117 French essayist Simone
- 118 Singer Horne
- 119 Nag
- 122 Answer from poet Countee?
- 126 Greek goddess of wisdom
- 127 Phoenician goddess of fertility
- 128 "Could be"
- 129 Deny
- 130 Own

- 131 Atlantic City hotel/casino
- DOWN
- 1 Request
- 2 Capital of Kenya
- 3 Buries
- 4 Doles (out)
- 5 Specks in la mer
- 6 "Anthem" author Rand
- 7 Benefit
- 8 Med. test worker
- 9 Balm additive
- 10 Playbill info
- 11 Befuddle
- 12 Some track runners
- 13 Lymphoid throat mass
- 14 Ravens' gp.
- 15 "Send me"
- 16 "Yes, yes!," in France
- 17 Food flatfish
- 18 Suffix with Benedict
- 19 Roads: Abbr.
- 24 Bun worn at the back of the neck
- 29 Savvy about
- 31 Fight arbiter
- 32 Co. shuffling
- 33 Expectation
- 34 That girl
- 35 Unstimulating java
- 36 Letter stroke

- 38 Protest at which people lie down
- 40 "Uncle" of old TV
- 44 Whole lot
- 45 U.S. spy gp.
- 46 "Uncle" of the U.S.
- 48 Singer Aimee
- 52 "Of the day," on menus
- 54 VIPs at raves
- 55 DOJ agency
- 56 Tolkien fiend
- 57 Crooner Orbison
- 58 Often-dinged car feature
- 60 - o'-shanter
- 61 Mao - -tung
- 62 Ending for ball or bass
- 65 DE-to-VT dir.
- 68 Dad's mate
- 69 Angry genre
- 70 Flanders of "The Simpsons"
- 71 Fishing boots
- 72 Animal's coat
- 73 The same: Prefix
- 74 Hiatus
- 75 Cartoonist Chast
- 76 Wallet bills
- 78 Spouse's father, e.g.
- 79 Bad smell
- 80 Kind of parrot

- 81 Refrigerator brand
- 82 Reluctant to be filmed
- 83 Glass edge
- 85 Latin "I love"
- 86 Non-Jewish
- 87 Comparable (with)
- 90 Robin's wear
- 94 "Son of," in Arabic
- 95 AI who drew Li'l Abner
- 96 Patella
- 98 Natural gifts
- 99 England-to-France connector
- 100 Envoy's residence
- 101 - Angeles
- 103 Authors
- 105 David of "NYPD Blue"
- 110 Justice Kagan
- 111 Niche sects
- 113 Buenos -
- 114 Capital of South Korea
- 117 Existed
- 118 Meg Mallon's gp.
- 119 Wok, e.g.
- 120 Greek vowel
- 121 Light beam
- 123 Notes before tis
- 124 Sis, e.g.
- 125 Swirly letter

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Weekly SUDOKU

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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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

Widen Notes

Dear Jerry—

Weather-wise, it looks as though we may have a white Christmas! We have had our first snow of the season since the last issue of Widen News. Cold weather is really here, too. Only two more shopping days until Christmas—hope you have all your shopping done, these last few days are always hectic.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Gray spent the Thanksgiving Holidays with their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. E. B. Gray. While here they made the "acquaintance" of their new granddaughter — little Elizabeth Ann Gray, who was born during the latter part of September.

Miss Judith George is spending the Christmas Holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. George of Kanawha Street. Judy is a freshman at Indiana University.

Miss Betty Jayne Craft is also spending the Christmas Holidays with her parents. Betty is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garland D. Craft and is attending school at Glenville State Teachers College.

Mr. Gerald Simmons, band director, spent the Thanksgiving Holidays with his parents in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

We had a nice long letter from Mr. T. I. Beam, father of George Beam. Mr. Beam lives in Arlington, West Virginia. He expressed the hope that everyone on Buffalo Creek are happy and doing well.

Mr. and Mrs. Dorsel Perry are the parents of a new daughter, born at Widen, November 1958. The baby has been named Capris Shane Perry. Mr. Perry is in the U. S. Army and is presently serving overseas.

Mr. and Mrs. "Russ" Mullins had all their children and grandchildren as guests on Thanksgiving Day. Mr. and Mrs. Pat Morris and three children from Ivydale, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Neal and son from Summersville, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mullins and two children, Tom Mullins and Russell, Jr., all of Widen.

Mr. and Mrs. George Morris, Jr., announce the birth of a daughter at Widen, W. Va., December 8, 1958. Mrs. Morris is the former Margaret Ann Holcomb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Holcomb of Kanawha Street.

We wish for all of our readers a Merry Christmas, and hope that it is observed in its true meaning and not as a pagan holiday.

May the New Year bring much happiness and success in whatever you are doing—

Bye 'till next month.

—Co-Editors

Relief Committee Meets November 22

The Widen Relief Committee met at the offices of Elk River Coal and Lumber Company at 11 A.M. on Saturday, November 22, 1958, to consider matters pertaining to its business accumulated since its meeting on October 24. The employees were represented by Billy G. Facemire, Edgar Donohue, James Triplett, Lloyd Butcher, Jr., and Carl Young. Company representatives were H. L. Beattie, H. S. Williams, R. G. Elliott, and G. D. Craft.

The list of retired men remains unchanged, with twenty-seven pensioners. Only Ira Eagle and Joe Boggs have accepted retirement during the past two years, although there are a number of other employees who have been eligible for quite some time.

Fifteen men received disability benefits for November, of whom ten were off all month and five for a portion of the month. Thirteen men remained on the list at the end of November.

Thirty-eight widows and sixty-nine surviving minor children of deceased employees received benefits for November. One widow who recently remarried was taken off the list, and the widow and five small children of William Douglas, killed in an automobile accident on November 9, were added.

Medical and hospital bills were paid for two hundred one employees and their families, at Charleston, Clay, Clendenin, Cowen, Gassaway, Gauley Bridge, Glenville, Richwood, Rowlesburg, St. Albans, Spencer, Summersville, Sutton, Webster Springs, and Weston, W. Va., and Middleport, Ohio, and Salem, Indiana, and addition to the list accounts at Widen Medical Department and Charleston General Hospital.

Are your dependents listed correctly with your employer? Is the beneficiary on the insurance policy the beneficiary you want to receive the proceeds if anything happens to you? Does the beneficiary know where the policy is kept? Those are all simple queries, and if you can't answer "Yes" to each of them, you may well save your family time, money, and embarrassment by taking a total of about ten minutes of your

own time now. Along the same lines, have you made a will, especially if you own any property? If you know how you want to dispose of your possessions, or rather what disposition you want made of them if anything happens to you, better get it into proper legal written form. Many a nice congenial family has been turned into a bunch of bitter wranglers because Daddy neglected to prepare for that moment which must come to all of us sooner or later. Most people wouldn't think of neglecting their families during their lifetimes, so why leave a mess for them to clean up when you're gone? Property of persons dying without a will is apportioned by the courts according to law, and that may not be the way you want it, and in case there happens to be any considerable amount of it, chances are a good piece of it will go for attorneys' fees. These are all items that must be taken care of while you're still alive, and while all of us like to think we'll be around for a long time, who knows what tomorrow may bring?

WIDEN WOMAN'S CLUB TESTED RECIPE

Pumpkin Pie

- 1 C. Granulated sugar
 - 1-2 tsp. salt
 - 1 1-2 tsp. Cinnamon
 - 1-2 tsp. nutmeg
 - 1-2 tsp. ginger
 - 1-2 tsp. Allspice
 - 1-2 tsp. Cloves
 - 1 1-2 C. Canned Pumpkin
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 2-3 C. Carnation Milk
 - 9 inch single unbaked pie crust.
- Mix filling ingredients until smooth. Place in unbaked pie crust. Bake in hot oven (425 degrees F.) 15 minutes. Lower temperature to moderate (350 degrees F.) and continue baking about 35 minutes or until custard is firm.

BRIGHT
SPARKLING
PICTURE WITH
2 Great New Developments
NEW 1958
ZENITH TV

**SLIMMER,
TRIMMER
CABINET
STYLING**

**THE FAIRFIELD
MODEL A2223**
21" diag. meas. 262 sq. in. rectangular picture area. Available in choice of 4 colors. Base extra.

1. NEW SUPER HORIZONTAL CHASSIS

with Extended Band Video Amplifier—allows up to 350,000 more cycles of picture information to reach the TV screen for greater picture detail, depth, realism than ordinary narrow band TV receivers. Has 18,000 volts of picture power.

2. NEW SUNSHINE PICTURE TUBE

with new Zenith high speed electron gun that drives electrons against the screen *hard* and *fast*—pictures sparkle with bright highlights. New design eliminates troublesome ion trap magnet which, when improperly adjusted, causes low brightness, fuzzy detail. Tube is shorter for slimmer cabinet styling.

SEE NEW 1958
ZENITH PORTABLE TV
as LOW as **\$229**

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MISCELLANEOUS

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

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NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferable 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.

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MUST BOOK BY 3/31

Grand Alaskan Cruise & Tour

12 DAYS INSIDE CABIN STARTING AT \$3,549 \$3,299*
BASED ON JUL 8, 2026 DEPARTURE

- Marvel at Alaska's natural beauty in Denali National Park
- Visit Alaska's the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Cruise Glacier Bay and Wrangell St. Elias National Park
- Travel through the legendary Inside Passage



MUST BOOK BY 3/12

Historic Route 66 - 100th Anniversary

16 DAYS STARTING AT \$4,099 \$3,849*
BASED ON APR 18, 2026 DEPARTURE

- Visit must-see sights like the historic starting point of Route 66 in Chicago, the famous Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, and the "End of the Trail" sign in Santa Monica
- Explore natural wonders of the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest National Park, and the Painted Desert
- Discover Seligman, known as the "historic birthplace of Route 66," and visit the vibrant Hotel El Rancho in Gallup, where Golden Age movie stars once stayed

CALL US: 1-833-649-1532

*Per person based on double occupancy & includes tax service/gov't fees. Ask your Travel Consultant for terms & conditions. Add-on airfare with transfers available for most major gateways.

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Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011



www.cmiwv.com

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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
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M-F 8:00AM-5:00 PM
SAT-9:00 AM -2:00 PM
SUN-CLOSED

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2017 Chevy Silverado



2017 Ford Explorer



2016 Ford Edge



2017 Ford Explorer



2019 Ford Escape



2016 Dodge Journey



2007 Chevy Silverado

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LBX14B-BSS\$42.99

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LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE

Request for Proposals (RFP):

Notice of available funding to serve as the One-Stop Operator and/or Title I Comprehensive Youth Service Provider under the guidelines of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 for the eleven-county area of Region 1 in West Virginia (Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh Summers, Webster & Wyoming). Interested parties can review the RFP's at www.rlwib.org on or after Monday March 2, 2026. Youth Services Prover Contract is \$789,342.33 and One-Stop Operator Contract is \$100,000.00.

The Mandatory Bidder's Conference for this Request for Proposal will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 2 PM at the Raleigh County WORKFORCE American Job Center, 200 New River Town Center, Beckley, WV 25801.

LEGAL

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Clay County Clerk's Office at P.O. Box 190, 246 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043-0190. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Clay County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 or 44-3A. Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.

Publication Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026

Claim Deadline: Monday, May 4, 2026

APPOINTMENT DATE 09/08/2025

ESTATE NAME: MICHAEL LEE CASH

CO-EXECUTRIX LISA ANN CASH

PO BOX 803

CLAY WV 25043-0803

CO-EXECUTRIX TIFFANY DAWN CASH

PO BOX 803

CLAY WV 25043-0803

APPOINTMENT DATE 02/20/2026

ESTATE NAME: ROBERT ALLEN DRAKE

ADMINISTRATOR ROBERT EARNEST DRAKE

450 WEST WATER ST

SLIPPERY ROCK PA 16057-1042

APPOINTMENT DATE 01/05/2026

ESTATE NAME: REBECCA JEAN HARPER

ADMINISTRATRIX REGINA MAE HARPER

145 NORTON AVE

CHARLESTON WV 25311-1809

APPOINTMENT DATE 11/24/2025

ESTATE NAME: DANNY EUGENE MCCUNE

ADMINISTRATRIX NANCY KAY MCCUNE

PO BOX 178

LIZEMORES WV 25125-0178

APPOINTMENT DATE 01/28/2026

ESTATE NAME: REX ALLEN PIERSON

EXECUTRIX BEVERLY PIERSON

1434 IVYDALE RD

CLAY WV 25043-7015

APPOINTMENT DATE 01/20/2026

ESTATE NAME: DENZEL BLAINE SEARS

ADMINISTRATRIX HEATHER NICHOLE SEARS

1039 GIBSON ROAD

CHLOE WV 25235-9735

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 02/26/2026

Sheila Stone

County Clerk

Clay County

P.O. Box 190

246 Main Street

Clay WV 25043-0190

LEGAL

Petition for Reinstatement of Law License

Jeffery A. Davis, Sr., whose West Virginia law license has been suspended since Mach 14, 2022, has petitioned the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals for reinstatement of his law license. The Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel is soliciting written public comments on the reinstatement petition, with a deadline of April 10, 2026. Please submit your comments to:

Davis Public Comments
Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel
4700 MacCorkle Avenue SE, Suite 1200
Charleston, WV 25304

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until April 14, 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
004	2024080029	S308-44-3.77 00	NFA-0044(048)D	ContWrkTyp O'BRIEN CREEK RD SLIDE Midpoint COUNTY: CLAY

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's 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.

LEGAL

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,

WEST VIRGINIA

TO: **General T. Shamblin** Magistrate Court Case No.: _____

Respondent Family Court Civil Action No. 26-DV-4

1987 Simons Fork Rd

Wallback, WV 25285

DOB: 04/14/1960

ORDER OF PROTECTION / HEARING DATE

- The object of this suit is to obtain protection from the Respondent.
- 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 from the Circuit Clerk of the County listed above.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

If 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 which may be obtained at the Clay County, Circuit Clerk's office. This PROTECTIVE ORDER will remain in effect until March 19, 2026.

A Final Hearing is scheduled for the 19th day of March, 2026, at 10:30 AM, before the Clay County Family Court.

Issued this 02/26/2026 11:19 AM

Christina Hanshaw
Clerk of the Court

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LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY

In The Matter of Petition of Name Change of

Amanda Lynn Reneau Civil Action No. 26-P-1

Current Name Amanda Lynn Reneau Judge Jasmine R.H. Morton

To New Name Amanda Lynn Holley

Legal Notice of Publication

Change of Name

Order of Publication

Circuit Court of Clay County

West Virginia

Notice is hereby that on the 15th day of April, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Amanda Lynn Reneau will apply by Petition to the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said Court, Changing name of Amanda Lynn Reneau to Amanda Lynn Holley, at which time any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at his office.

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this 20th day of February 2026.

Christina Hanshaw
Circuit Clerk

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Governor Morrisey announces \$4 billion private investment in West Virginia's first high impact intelligence center

Last week, Governor Morrisey announced a historic private-sector investment in West Virginia by Penzance Management that will result in a total capital investment of \$4 billion dollars at full build out, a project that will create hundreds of jobs, strengthen local infrastructure, and fund community programs in the Eastern Panhandle.

"This \$4 billion investment is a historic win that proves West Virginia can compete at the highest level for the global tech economy," said Governor Morrisey. "By earning the state's first High Impact Intelligence Center designation, Penzance is helping us transform the Mountain State into a powerhouse for artificial intelligence and cloud computing. This project brings more than 1,000 jobs and a massive new revenue stream to our communities - all driven by private capital and our commitment to a business-friendly, reliable energy strategy."

As part of its investment, Penzance's Bedington Campus has officially earned designation as West Virginia's first High Impact Intelligence Center. The campus will be located on 548 acres in the Falling Waters District of Berkeley County. At full buildout, the development will total approximately 1.9 million square feet and deliver 600 megawatts of critical IT capacity, putting West Virginia on the path to compete in the global race to power artificial intelligence, cloud computing, advanced manufacturing, and supercomputing.

The project is expected to create approximately 1,000 construction jobs and 125 full-time permanent positions, with additional growth potential as the campus expands. Importantly, no state funding was used for this project. The investment represents private capital choosing West Virginia because of the state's competitive business climate and energy strategy.

"West Virginia has created a truly business-friendly environment for companies investing in digital infrastructure," said Penzance Managing Partner and Founder Victor Tolkan. "Governor Morrisey has championed policies that position the state as a leader in the data economy, and we're proud to be part of that broader vision. Initiatives like HB 2014 and the High Impact Intelligence Center program demonstrate a clear commitment to attracting and supporting world-class intelligence center development. We look forward to a successful partnership with Berkeley County, the West Virginia Department of Commerce, and the State of West Virginia."

The investment was made possible thanks to the state's Power Generation and

Consumption Act and House Bill 2002, legislation designed to streamline permitting, expand microgrid use, and allow companies to utilize coal, natural gas, and other reliable energy resources. By expanding microgrid capabilities and establishing a One-Stop Shop permitting portal, the state eliminated bureaucratic barriers and accelerated responsible development.

The project qualified for High Impact Intelligence Center designation by exceeding 90 megawatts of projected load, submitting detailed engineering and environmental plans, coordinating utility milestones, providing water and mitigation strategies, and demonstrating a long-term commitment to responsible development. Following review by the state's Data Economy Office and Department of Commerce, the designation was formally approved.

Berkeley County Commission President Eddie Gochenour stated, "Following productive preliminary discussions with project leadership, Berkeley County officials, and Governor Morrisey's team, I am very optimistic about this project. We have already identified a significant opportunity to potentially utilize reclaimed water, which will lower costs for the company, save taxpayer money for the county, and preserve our vital natural resources. The annual revenue generated

by this project will further cement Berkeley County's reputation as the premier destination to live and work in the Mountain State. I am grateful for Governor Morrisey's leadership in championing this type of investment."

With today's announcement, the administration has secured more than \$10.5 billion in new private-sector investment and more than 8,000 projected private-sector jobs since October. When combined with major federal commitments, including the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program and the Rural Health Transformation Program, total investment commitments under the current administration now approach \$12 billion, supporting well over 9,000 projected jobs across the Mountain State.

Under the microgrid legislation spearheaded and signed into law by Governor Morrisey's administration, revenue generated from projects like this will be reinvested directly into West Virginia communities: 50 percent to a Personal Income Tax Reduction Fund; 30 percent to the host county; 10 percent distributed to all counties on a per capita basis; 5 percent to the Electric Grid Stabilization and Security Fund to help keep rates down; and 5 percent to the Economic Enhancement Grant Program.

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Panthers thump South Harrison on senior night

By Allen Hamrick

It was a make-or-break week for the Panthers last week as they wound down the last three games of the 2026 season. Friday night's game was also senior recognition night, and seven players played even closer to their last game on Panther maple. Jacoby Nichols, Dalton Griffin, Michael Brown, Kaden Fitzwater, Michael Foster, Levi Morris and Jaxon Brown have one more home game on Monday and will bid their final good-byes to their senior year of basketball. This group of veteran Panthers has been a force during their years on the courts of CCHS. They will be missed when the next season begins, but their story will just be starting, whether they decide to take their skills to the next level or not.

These young men let their skills hang out against the visiting Nicholas and South Harrison teams' team early this week. Both games were full of high-flying Panther action, and they were devastating on the court on defense and offense.

In their game against the Grizzlies, the Panthers pounded the offense but missed some great looks at the net yet went into the half ahead of the Grizzlies. Panther defense was killing the Grizzlies early in the game as the Grizzlies couldn't buy a net shot - it was as hard to get as stacking donuts on their edge. In the end the Panthers still had trouble landing the shots they needed to win and lost by the narrow score of 51-56. Michael Foster was top shot in the game

with 17 points followed by Joel Elliott with 14 points, 6 rebounds and 4 steals. The boys did prove one thing and that was that the Panthers have a great offense and defense and can beat anybody. They have speed and agility and can out rebound, out steal, out dribble and get players open, but the ball must sweep the net.

Next up was South Harrison, and this game would be different to say the least. The Panthers zeroed in on the net and racked up points, living up to their skills. The boys glued on their game face this time so it wouldn't fall off and got down to the business of playing basketball, as did South Harrison. This was a game that fans would expect it to be between these two great teams. There were not a

lot of mistakes on either side, just good, hard playing action. The Panthers were firing shots at the board, setting the net on fire and playing some good defense. South Harrison was also gnawing at the bone, grabbing some points of their own and hanging tight with the Panthers in the first half. The turbo was kicked in after the half, and the Panthers were off and running. In the end, they buried the bone beating South Harrison 61-51. Joel Elliott was top shot in the game with a whopping 26 points, hitting 15 of those points with triples. The Panthers will be at home this Monday and will butt heads with Poca. It should be a whale of a game so come out and support the team and the seniors in their last home game as Panthers.



Joel Elliott drives for two points.



Michael Brown looks for two points the hard way.



Jacoby Nichols takes the steal downtown.



CCHS Panthers' seven seniors shown alongside Coach Holcomb.

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