



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



Volume 137 No. 22

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Thursday, June 4, 2026

\$1.⁵⁰

Commission announces grand opening of Elk River Trail Visitor Center at Dundon



A look inside the new gift shop.

By Gary Lee Stuber

The Clay County Commission met for their second regular meeting for May on Tuesday, May 26, the day after the Memorial Day holiday. All three commissioners were present: Commissioner David Schoolcraft, Commission President Joyce Johnson, and Commissioner Duane Legg with County Clerk Shelia Stone present as recorder.

The commission approved minutes from the previous meeting, bills, purchase orders, budget revisions, erroneous assessments as presented by the Assessor, fiduciary appointments as presented by the County Clerk: appointments of administrators or administratrix for estates, last wills and testaments and affidavits and waivers of final settlements.

At the previous meeting, the commission had accepted all bids for the Judicial Annex Paving Project, and at this meeting they announced the winning bid was awarded to Triple A Paving for their bid of \$29,600. And while it was not the lowest bid, for the project complexity and their depth of the proposed asphalt paving they were selected as the best offer.

The commission changed the salary for Poll Workers to \$25 for schooling and \$225 for Election Day.

The commission reappointed McKenzie Smith to the Clay County Library Board.

The 911 Ambulance Service requested to increase Riley Rush's salary to \$14 per hour due to his certification status change from EVO Driver to licensed EMT-B, and hire Cody Hubbard as a full time



Mayor Marlene Lewis

employee with benefits, his salary at \$17 per hour. The commission approved both requests.

Marlene Lewis, Mayor for the Town of Clay, requested the use of the Courthouse and courtyard for the Fourth of July celebration and festivities on June 27 from noon until 9:30 p.m. This is a Saturday a full week before the actual holiday on the next Saturday. The bathrooms will be open and the town will pay all expenses for the day. Marlene says there will be street vendors, as well as music and the public is invited. The day will end with a fireworks display after dark.

The commission also announced the

ELK RIVER cont. on page 8

'I'm now a desperate mother': Clay County's only daycare center is closing as Morrissey looks to cut assistance for childcare

House Speaker Roger Hanshaw has called childcare one of the Legislature's biggest priorities. Now, the only licensed daycare in his home county of Clay is closing.

By Tre Spencer for Mountain State Spotlight

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

About a week after Mountain State Spotlight wrote about Clay County's only childcare center, House Speaker Roger Hanshaw visited Taylor Tots Daycare to hear firsthand about challenges faced by the childcare provider in his district.

Workers at the Wallback center told Hanshaw about rising costs, a lack of available staff and the growing difficulty families faced in finding care in the coun-

ty. Hanshaw told the staff he wanted to continue discussions about the challenges facing the childcare industry and to schedule another meeting.

But Taylor Tots will close at the end of June, leaving Clay County without a licensed childcare center for infants and toddlers.

Owner Allie Taylor said she made the difficult decision to close because it became too expensive to operate, and she isn't sure what's next for her, her staff or the parents she serves.

"Parents are panicked because we were the only ones around," she said.

The closure comes as West Virginia's childcare system faces mounting pressure, leaving thousands of children without access to care and many families with few options. Over 200 centers have

DAYCARE cont. on page 6



Big Otter receives donations for ball field

Senator Glenn Jeffries and Speaker of the House Senator Roger Hanshaw recently donated to Big Otter Elementary School to fund the baseball field topsoil. Big Otter Elementary Principal Anthony Boggs and Clay County Schools Super-

intendent Phil Dobbins accepted the donations. Students and staff at Big Otter Elementary are excited to use the ball field once construction is completed! Thank you to Senator Jeffries and Senator Hanshaw for your generous donations!

New River CTC Announces Spring 2026 President's List

Students at New River Community and Technical College have been named to the President's List and Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester.

President's List students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours and earn a grade point average (GPA) of 4.0 for the semester, not including foun-

dational courses. Dean's List students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours and earn at least a 3.25 GPA.

New River CTC President Dr. Bonny Copenhaver announced that Donna Rose of Clay has earned the President's List designation for the spring 2026 semester.

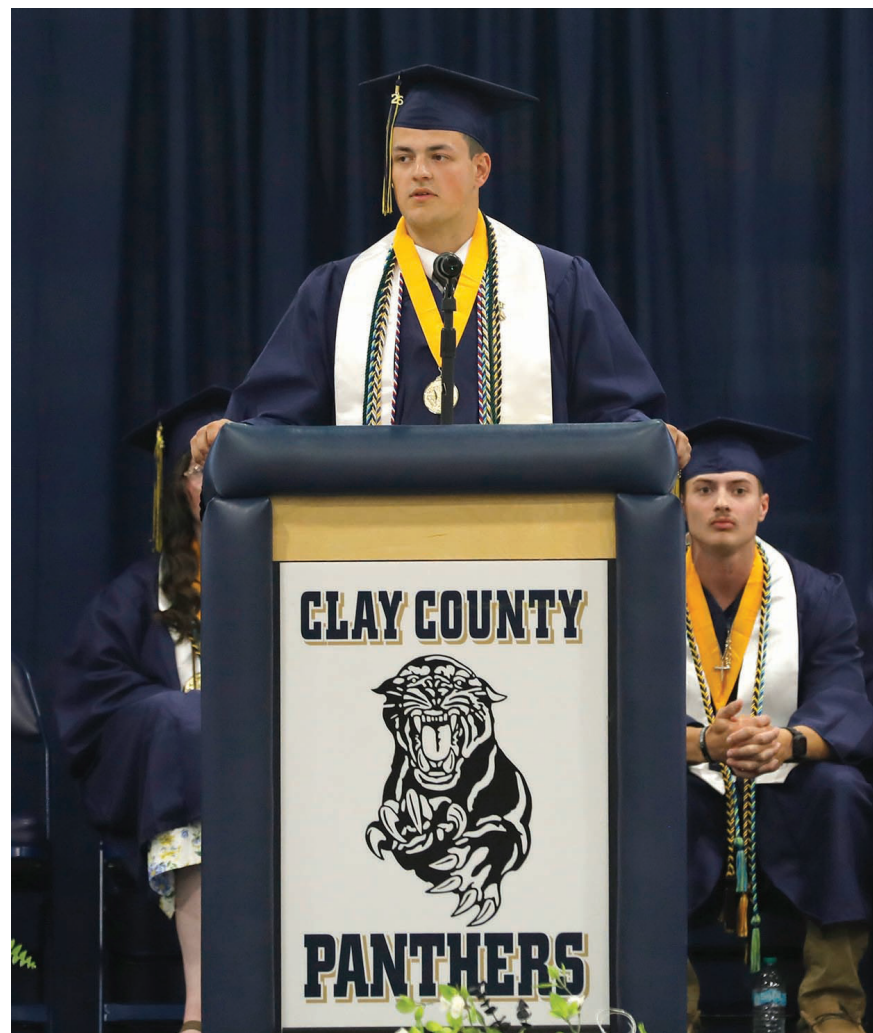
Concord University announces Spring 2026 Dean's List

The following students have achieved the Spring 2026 Dean's List at Concord University. The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who were registered for a minimum of 12

Concord credit hours and have attained a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the end of the semester.

Marquise Walker of Clendenin was named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List.

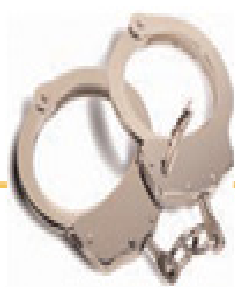
Clay County High School holds 2026 graduation ceremony



Valedictorian Jaxon Brown shares words of encouragement.

See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

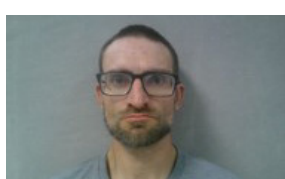
BRAXTON COUNTY



Aleigh Marie Auxier
Booked 6/1/26
Grand larceny, attempt to commit a felony



William LyDell Corley Jr.
Booked 5/31/26
Domestic battery



Dustan Albert Culverhouse
Booked 6/1/26
Domestic assault, domestic battery



Imani Najee' Garner
Booked 5/31/26
Domestic assault, domestic battery, obstructing an officer



Timothy Eugene Miller
Booked 5/27/26
Failure to register as a sex offender

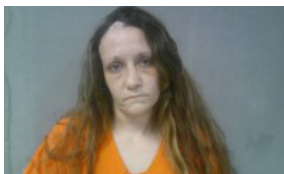


Roy Harold Spinks Jr.
Booked 6/1/26
Grand larceny, attempt to commit a felony

CLAY COUNTY



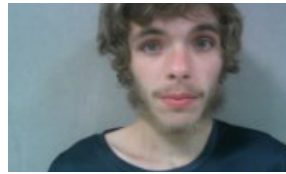
Renea Lynne Bloom
Booked 5/29/26
Entering without breaking, trespassing asked to leave



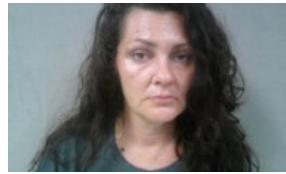
Aquayla Shay Fugate
Booked 5/28/26
Drug delivery resulting in death/failure to render aid, possession with intent



Gary Wayne Harlow
Booked 5/30/26
Capias



Isaac Wade Pauley
Booked 5/31/26
Petit larceny, breaking and entering other than dwelling, conspiracy to commit a felony



Lisa Marie Thaxton
Booked 5/26/26
Conspiracy, possession with intent



Richard Wayne Triplett
Booked 5/29/26
Destruction of property, battery

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Jody Eugene Asbury
Booked 5/30/26
Possession of controlled substance, open container, defective equipment, driving revoked for DUI, possession with intent



Eric Andrew Barnett
Booked 5/29/26
Capias



Kathy Lyn Carpenter
Booked 5/31/26
Domestic assault



Dalton Antonio D'Angelo
Booked 5/31/26
Domestic battery, obstruction of officer, fleeing on foot

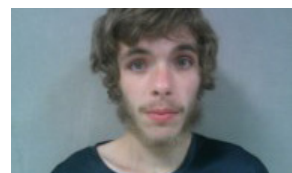


John Sterling Holcomb Jr.
Booked 5.28/26
Capias



Shawn Rachael Jarvis
Booked 5/26/26
Breaking and entering, petit larceny, Capias

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Isaac Wade Pauley
Booked 5/31/26
Grand larceny



Anthony Duane Wolfe
Booked 5/28/26
Capias

Mountaineer Food Bank Partners with Clay County Schools to provide meals to children during the summer

Mountaineer Food Bank announces its sponsorship of the federally funded Summer Food Service Program. Multiple-day parent pick-up for breakfast & lunch are open to all children, ages 18 years and under, who would like to participate. During the weeks of summer school, parents have the option to have meals sent home with their child on the bus or pick up meals at both locations.

Meals will be served at the following sites on select dates and times: Clay High School
Meals will be provided on the following dates:

Date	Number of multi-day meals	Clay High School Time
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	7 days of Breakfast & Lunch	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Pick up ONLY
Tuesday, June 9, 2026	6 days of Breakfast & Lunch	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Pick up ONLY
Monday, July 20, 2026	7 days of Breakfast & Lunch	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Pick up ONLY
Monday, July 27, 2026	7 days of Breakfast & Lunch	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Pick up ONLY

A nutritious meal is important for children to learn, play, and remain active during the summer months. Remember, Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation!
For more information about the Summer Food Service Program, please call Mountaineer Food Bank at 304-364-5518.

Dr. Jonathan E. Stanley named Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America

Jonathan E. Stanley, DO, an infectious disease specialist at UHC Infectious Diseases, has been honored as a Fellow by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). Fellowship in IDSA is a prestigious recognition conferred upon professionals who have

achieved excellence in the field of infectious diseases and demonstrated a high level of commitment to the profession. Dr. Stanley was selected for this honor based on his significant contributions to the field and his dedication to improving patient care and public health.

As a Fellow, Dr. Stanley is recognized as a leader among his peers and will hold the distinction of FIDSA (Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America). "I am deeply honored to be named a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America," said Jonathan E. Stanley, DO, FIDSA. "This recognition reflects not only my commitment to the field of infectious diseases, but also the hard work and collaboration of my colleagues and team. I look forward to continuing to work alongside the esteemed leadership of IDSA to address the evolving challenges in infectious diseases and to shape the future of our



Jonathan E. Stanley, D.O.
UHC Infectious Diseases specialty."

With more than 13,000 members, IDSA is the nation's largest professional society of infectious diseases specialists. The 2026 class of Fellows will be officially recognized during an induction ceremony at IDWeek in Washington, D.C.

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

G	A	S	L	I	T	L	A	T	K	A	S	L	A	M	I	M	O		
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I	D	I	D	W	H	O	A	T	H	E	R	E	C	H	I	A			
P	E	C	A	N	P	I	E	L	I	E	U	N	D	E	R	O	A	T	
P	E	E	L	S	O	F	F	S	P	A	R	E	L	E	S	L	I	E	
A	R	S	A	T	I	T	A	S	T	O	R	S	E	E	S	A	W		

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Giving And Living

By Joe Mazzella

For many years now I have tried to make a quicker version of my Nana's homemade spaghetti sauce. And I have finally realized that there can be no shortcuts to success because no matter how many times I try, it always comes out thinner, more watery, and not quite as good. Nana would spend hours every Sunday slowly simmering and thickening her sauce. She would add hand rolled meatballs, cut potatoes, chicken, and even sometimes steaks to slow cook in the sauce as well. While she watched it in the kitchen she would also make loaves of homemade Italian bread. Each Sunday dinner was a feast to behold. Each Sunday dinner was a gift of love from her to us which we happily accepted with full stomachs and grateful hearts.

That is who my Nana was. She never asked for much but she always gave freely and joyfully to her family and everyone she met. I remember one time years after Nana passed away a lady told me of how she had visited my Nana when she was just a young girl. She admired a necklace my Nana was wearing and without a second thought my Nana took it off and gave it to her. My Nana seemed to instinctively know what it took me many years to learn: when we give, we receive and as we give, we live.

I still miss my Nana every single day of my life. If I could go back and be a child again I wouldn't change anything. I would just take the time to enjoy and cherish her love with the wisdom of an adult while still being a child. I learned so much from her about love, about kindness, about joy, about giving and about living. And I thank God for the time I had with her.

Our lives here are God's gift to us. But how we live them is our gift to God. My Nana knew this so well. And she filled her life with loving meals, acts of kindness, and big hugs that filled my little boy's heart. May we all live our lives so well.

Just Pinch A Nickel Until The Buffalo Screams

Dr. James Snyder

Every so often, something happens reminding me of my father, who passed away over 16 years ago. Thinking back, he was the epitome of frugality. If I were to look up in the dictionary the meaning of frugality, I would not be surprised to find my father's name.

His favorite saying was, "Just pinch a nickel until the buffalo screams."

When I first heard him say that, I did not understand what he meant.

I try to be frugal and not spend money I do not need to. I got that from good old dad.

Thinking of my father and his frugal attitude, I remembered when he generously picked up the lunch tab, then left a nickel tip for the waitress.

At first, I could not believe it. I thought maybe it was a joke, and I was waiting for the punch line. Unfortunately, it never came. He actually tipped the waitress a nickel. I was tempted to ask him about that, but I figured it was none of my business.

I do not need to have the latest gadget on the market. I do not have to update my cell phone every year to have the latest model. I've had my truck for 20 years and I'm not planning to trade it in for a newer model anytime soon. If that old truck gets me to where I need to go, that is all I really need.

Years ago, I had a friend who traded in his car every two years for a brand-new one. I do not know whether he paid the car off before trading it in. He had to have a new car, which made him feel like a big man.

Some relatives of mine, whom I will not name, are very obsessed with having the latest gadget. They like to flaunt it all the time.

I do not interfere in their business. If they do not want to be frugal with their money, that's their business, not mine. However, I think it is very important for me to be frugal with my spending. After all, I am retired and live on a limited budget.

I'm never going to win that \$10 billion lotto because I'm too frugal. I cannot tell you how many phone calls I received claiming I had won \$10 million in some lottery. All I have to do is pay \$ 1,500 in processing fees.

If my anti-frugal friends are willing to pay a \$ 1,500 processing fee out of pocket, that is none of my business. To get that out of my pocket would be more impossible than anything I can think of at the time.

I do not live an extravagant lifestyle by any means. Fortunately, for me, The Gracious Mistress of the Par-

sonage does not live an extravagant lifestyle either. We are not in it for the money, but for the time we can spend together.

If you walk by me sometime and hear a buffalo scream, you will know what I'm doing: pinching a nickel.

Another area where I try to be frugal is with my time. I want to feel in control of my days and use my time meaningfully, avoiding wasting my time, and focus on what truly matters.

As a teenager, I knew how to waste time as well as anybody else. It took me a long time to realize I needed to be frugal with my time and make the most of it.

My parents were snowbirds and spent the winter in Florida. The last time they were in Florida, my father was really in a serious health situation. He had been in a coma for a week or so. Then one day, he woke up as though he had never been sick in his life.

I am so glad I was there when he woke up. When he saw me, he actually got out of bed and sat with me in the living room. The first thing he said was: "Son, I want to go back home to Pennsylvania as soon as possible. Do you think we can do it in the next couple of days?"

I agreed with him, and one of Dad's friends was there, took me out to the garage and said, "Don't you know your father is sick and may not live much longer?"

Looking at him, I said, "Friend, I know my father has maybe two days left to live. I do not want the last of my time with him arguing about going back to Pennsylvania. I want to have a good conversation with him because I know this is the last one I'll have with him."

The next day, my father passed away, I was so grateful I spent the time I had with him before he passed, and that time was not spent arguing about anything.

I want to be frugal with every aspect of my life, not just my money.

Jesus addressed this subject in Luke 14:28-30.

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish."

I have learned that being frugal enables me to finish what I start, which is so satisfying.

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.

Home Country

Slim Randles

June just might be the first month of summer ... to most of us. But for some of this planet's people, it's the dead of winter. That would be those wonderful folks who live south of the equator, of course. While we are busy cremating some cow or pig on the backyard barbecue, they are still holed up and wondering if they can make it to penguin season without starving.

And I'm just kidding of course because 1. I'm fairly certain no nation has a penguin season, and 2. penguins don't need any more problems. Hey, they already live where it's too cold and they walk funny.

I thought I knew all kinds of things about sleds and dogs. Hadn't I already won a 100-mile race? Hadn't I darn near won a 300-mile race? Didn't I live 12 miles from my car and have to use the team to get to town and to file my columns. Heck yes! Well, in those days I was married to Pam, who ran race headquarters for the Iditarod Race. That was a long, cold 1100-mile camping trip from Anchorage to Nome.

This finds us in race headquarters in Anchorage, which looked an awful lot like a borrowed room in the Roosevelt Hotel. Just before the second race, which was in March of 1974, we were sitting in the room and in walks a very finely dressed gentleman with a Boston

accent, and introduced himself as Norman Vaughan.

He sat down and asked some race questions, and I'm afraid I answered them all. Never did learn to stop talking about dogs. A couple of hours later, Norman left and we both remarked how polite and kind he was. Well, about an hour after that, we were listening to the radio and the announcer said, "Our special guest speaker for the mushers' banquet tonight will be Colonel Norman Vaughan, who drove a dog team to the South Pole in 1929 as a safety back-up for pilot Richard Byrd."

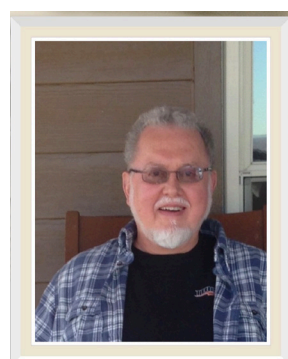
I wasn't able to speak at all after the biggest embarrassment of my life. But Pam made up for it by laughing her head off.

Finally, I had to laugh, too, after my coaching talk to an old guy from Boston. I said to Pam, "Well, at least he now knows the right way to do it."

Norman and I were close friends for the rest of his life. But there really should be a lever or something that you could pull and have the floor open up and swallow noisy dog mushers, newspaper columnists, and other blights on humanity.

Brought to you by "Dogsled, A True Tale of the North" which I wrote because someone had to. It's online.

OBITUARY



James Kerr

James "Jim" Allen Kerr, 74, of Burghill, OH passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2026, following a brief illness. Up until his passing, Jim had lived a vibrant and healthy life. Born June 8, 1951, Jim grew up in Clay County, West Virginia. He en-

joyed band and worked at a local Mobil Gas Station during his high school years. After graduating high school in 1969, he relocated to northeast Ohio. He proudly served his country in the Navy during the Vietnam War. He was deployed overseas aboard the WW II era destroyer, the USS Sarsfield, as a gun control technician. He served from 1971 to 1976 (two years in the reserves). Jim worked for 48 years at Delphi/Packard as a journeyman tool and die maker, working from 1969 until his retirement in 2017. He was always sharing the importance of saving for retirement and

how to go about it. He was a dedicated member and leader within IUE-CWA Local 717. Jim's true passion was his motorcycles. He found freedom on two wheels, sometimes three with a sidecar, riding with family and friends throughout the 48 continental United States and Canada. He and his sidekick, Wile E. Coyote, made lifelong friends along the way. He also spent several years teaching beginner sidecar classes to pass on his expertise. Jim is survived by siblings Joe Kerr and his wife, Ruth Ann, Fran Schafstall and her husband, Mike, and Frank "Dink" (Jim's spe-

cial name for his little brother) Kerr Jr. and his wife, Connie; as well as his nieces and nephew. "Jim was a Christian and believed in prayer." He was loved and will be missed by family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Lewis Kerr Sr. and Sarah Lorene Shepherd Kerr Chapman and a sister, Linda Joyce Perry. .No services will be held at this time. His remains will be interred at Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery, a beautiful resting place in Dunbar, West Virginia. He will receive a Veteran's Military Service with full honors.

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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

June 3, 1856: Harriet B. Jones was born in Pennsylvania. After attending Wheeling Female College and graduating from the Women's Medical College of Baltimore, she opened a private practice in Wheeling, becoming the first woman licensed to practice medicine in West Virginia.



June 3, 1861: The first land battle of the Civil War between organized troops took place in Philippi. About 3,000 federal troops drove about 800 Confederates from the town.

June 3, 1861: A company of Confederate soldiers known as the Logan Wildcats was created at the Logan County Courthouse. The company, consisting of about 85 men, first saw action weeks later at the Battle of Scary Creek.

June 3, 1880: Benjamin Rosenbloom, to date the only Jewish member of Congress from West Virginia, was born in Pennsylvania. As a Republican representing Wheeling from 1921 to 1925, he was an outspoken opponent of Prohibition.



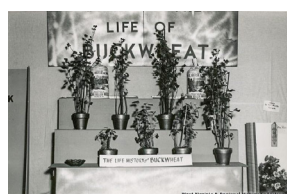
June 3, 1936: The first Strawberry Festival was held in Buckhannon. More than 6,000 spectators attended the festivities, which also included a parade of 30 princesses down Main Street.

June 4, 1971: A former Boone County coal miner hijacked a plane from Charleston and demanded to be flown to Israel. At Dulles Airport near Washington, he allowed the passengers and flight attendant to dismount but held the pilots and flight

engineer at gunpoint for hours before they disarmed him. It is West Virginia's only documented hijacking.



June 4, 1975: Clark Kessinger died in St. Albans, Kanawha County. Kessinger was among the most prolific and influential fiddlers of the 20th century.



June 5, 1859: A great frost killed crops in Preston County. The fields were replanted with hardy

buckwheat, which became a staple crop, celebrated in the annual Buckwheat Festival in Kingwood.



June 5, 1915: Four young people were killed at Rock Springs in Hancock County when the Old Mill ride caught fire.

June 6, 1919: Historian Otis Rice was born in Hugheston, Kanawha County. Rice was named West Virginia's first Historian Laureate in 2003.

June 6, 1954: Award-winning children's author Cynthia Rylant was born in Hopewell, Virginia, but spent much of her youth in Raleigh County and earned degrees from Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston) and Marshall University.

June 7, 1905: Fiddler David Frank "French" Carpenter was born in Clay County. A notable

member of a famous musical family, he learned most of his music directly from his father, Tom, the "fiddling preacher." He influenced the great fiddler and fellow Clay Countian Wilson Douglas.

June 6, 1979: One of the oddest events in state history occurred when an old Douglas DC-6 cargo plane carrying 12 tons of marijuana plummeted over a hillside at Kanawha (now Yeager) Airport in Charleston. Hundreds of bales of marijuana spewed from the plane before it caught fire. Onlookers looted much of the marijuana before law enforcement officials could dispose of it.

June 6, 1899: During the Pittston strike, about 60 miners embarked on a four-day march from Logan County to Charleston, following the reverse path of the 1921 Armed March.

June 7, 1899: Congresswoman Elizabeth Kee was born in Radford, Virginia. In 1951, she became West Virginia's first female member of Congress.

June 7, 1905: Fiddler David Frank "French" Carpenter was born in Clay County. A notable

member of a famous musical family, he learned most of his music directly from his father, Tom, the "fiddling preacher." He influenced the great fiddler and fellow Clay Countian Wilson Douglas.

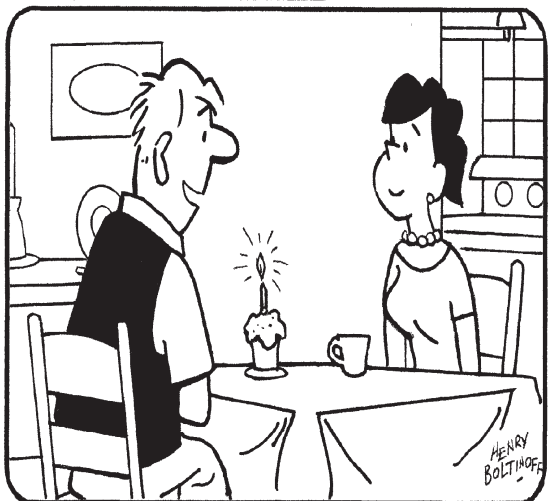
June 7, 1926: An explosion at a sand mining operation in Morgan County killed six men. Their deaths were the inspiration for the ballad "The Miner's Doom."

June 9, 1915: Storyteller Bonnie Starkey (Collins) was born in Doddridge County. In her 50s and 60s, the "Belle of Doddridge County" honed her storytelling skills and became a popular entertainer at the Morris Family Old-Time Festival, Stonewall Jackson Jubilee, state Folk Festival, Mountain State Art & Craft Fair, and Vandalia Gathering.

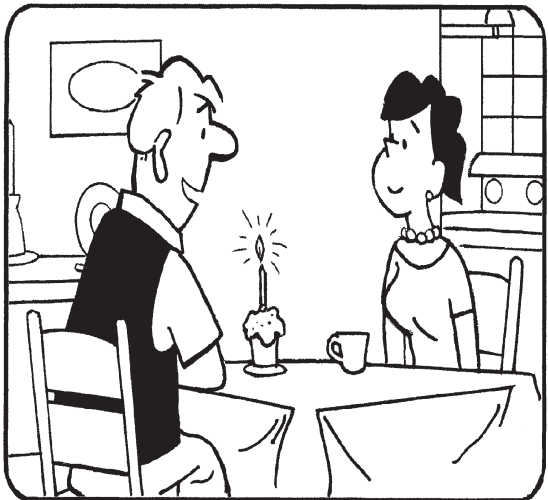
June 9, 1927: Karl Dewey Myers was named the state's first poet laureate by Governor Howard Mason Gore. Myers held the post for 10 years.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Candle is taller. 2. Arm is resting on table. 3. Back of chair is different. 4. Dial on stove is moved. 5. Light is shorter. 6. Hair is different.

Super Crossword

PUZZLING PERJURY

ACROSS

- 1 Illuminated like quaint old streets
- 7 "Taxi" mechanic
- 12 Shut noisily
- 16 "If u ask me ..."
- 19 Full of mischief
- 20 Dam on the Nile
- 21 Very angry
- 23 What you may feel after doing something very bad
- 25 In a messy way
- 26 Be worthy of
- 27 Feudal sovereign
- 29 Big name in car rental
- 30 Bad-mouth
- 31 Currency in 60-Down
- 32 Hosp. zones
- 33 James of "Gunsmoke"
- 35 Sly plan
- 38 Somewhat
- 42 Shed for watercrafts
- 44 In — terms (not using technical jargon)

- 46 "Fernando" group
- 48 Ballet bend
- 49 Settle the bill
- 50 Bi- x four
- 51 Top 40 DJ
- 53 "My life — open book"
- 55 Clothing supporter
- 59 Smidgens
- 61 Wild West's Wyatt
- 65 North of Iran-Contra
- 66 Decks in a boxing ring
- 67 Mediocre
- 68 Loan shark
- 70 New York Giants legend
- 72 Certain cereal bran
- 74 In a macabre manner
- 75 Down East dweller
- 76 "Night" writer
- 77 PE place
- 79 Allayed
- 80 Wintour of fashion
- 81 Thus far
- 83 Major leaguer, e.g.
- 85 Endure
- 87 Fossil rock
- 89 Debt security

- 90 Biceps locale
- 93 Spiced tea
- 95 Dueling tool
- 96 Close enough to touch
- 100 People tending butting beasts
- 103 Hunger sign
- 105 Et — (and others)
- 106 Banked (on)
- 107 Diner bill
- 109 Gallery stuff
- 111 Get decayed
- 112 Terse confession
- 113 "Hold on just a minute!"
- 117 Planted "pet"
- 119 Nutty holiday dessert
- 122 Commit perjury ... or what literally can be found eight times in this puzzle
- 125 Unsticks, as a sticker
- 126 Fifth wheel?
- 127 Caron of "Lil"
- 128 Letters before esses
- 129 Doing the job
- 130 1941 Oscar winner Mary
- 131 Park board

DOWN

- 1 They may be AWOL
- 2 Old Glory's home
- 3 Very eye-catching
- 4 Pick-me-up
- 5 Atoll part
- 6 E'en if
- 7 Señora, say
- 8 Court great Arthur
- 9 Little branch
- 10 "Citizen" of film
- 11 Trig measure
- 12 Cousin of a custard apple
- 13 "Casablanca" character Ilsa
- 14 ABA mem.
- 15 Med. scan
- 16 "Uncle!"
- 17 Actress McCarthy
- 18 Homeric epic
- 22 "A Bell for —" (1944 novel)
- 24 Hoppy brew
- 28 Sky sphere
- 30 Broadband inits.
- 31 Gossipy sort
- 33 Up for debate
- 34 Emu's cousin
- 36 Full of feeling

- 37 Bush knife
- 39 Fundraisers with food
- 40 Bridge beam
- 41 "Wipeout" channel
- 43 Et — (and others)
- 45 Descended
- 47 Vowel string
- 52 Color of a forest "carpet"
- 54 Computer system modeled on the human brain
- 55 Punctuation causing pausing
- 56 Fake fat brand
- 57 Wagering everything
- 58 Viscid
- 60 Japan's capital
- 62 Come about
- 63 Find new tenants for
- 64 Marvel superhero Kitty —
- 67 That gal
- 69 "Listen, pal!"
- 71 Threw away
- 73 Donate 10%
- 78 African land

- 82 Galaxy unit
- 83 Supplication
- 84 Hint of color
- 86 Dull hurt
- 88 Tablet extra
- 90 Great-grandfather of Nero
- 91 Certain stag or doe
- 92 Intentions to do evil
- 94 Phishing crime
- 97 TV antennas
- 98 Zagreb locale
- 99 Fedora or fez
- 101 — wave
- 102 — Paulo
- 104 Accumulate
- 108 Raft wood
- 110 Ruby-hued
- 113 Hotel room service, often
- 114 Helpful hints
- 115 Oven output
- 116 Irish money
- 117 Ontario tribe
- 118 Nylons, e.g.
- 120 Intel org.
- 121 Chili holder
- 123 Urban trains
- 124 Whack down

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15		16	17	18
19							20						21				22			
23							24						25							
	26						27					28					29			
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70						71			72		73				74					
75									76				77		78		79			
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100					101				102		103		104		105					
106								107		108			109	110					111	
112							113					114	115	116				117	118	
119						120	121				122				123					124
125											126				127					
128						129					130				131					



THE WIDEN NEWS



The people who think alike should vote alike.

"DUNDON" RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.

February 1959

Were You There When?

Mr. Leeson wasn't a good sport? Mr. Osborne said "Turn the jukebox up and I'll play the records?"

Doris Young didn't say "Well stop, thats not nice?"

Joyce Workman wore a dress instead of levis and sweaters?

Betty and Judy Sigman didn't ask their mother first?

Carol Neal and Judy Shaffer weren't together?

Dave Hamrick ate his food instead of inhaling it?

Carl and Lora weren't guarding the gate on the ball diamond?

Girls didn't want to go to Birch?

Harold Johnson wasn't hitchhiking out of Widen?

Jimmy Manning drove under 20 M.P.H.?

Howard Dancy was loud?

Girls didn't hang around Mr. Stovers room at noon?

6th Mr. Hathaway
 Tony Bego
 Ronald Dodrill
 Ruthie Donohue
 Arthur Osborne
 Sandra Tinney

Mystery Student

GIRL . . .

Did you see that girl just go up the hall singing her favorite song—"Donna?" She is 5 feet, 5 inches tall, and wears her hair in short black curls as usual. Her favorite foods are chicken and macaroni salad. She is usually found in a black station wagon with her girl friend.

She is always busy in school at the office, being useful with her services. Her greatest ambition is to be a typist.

* * *

BOY

You may have noticed this cute boy running—from what? Girls. They're all after him. They can't wait until noon and after School to get their hands on him, although I can hardly blame them. He's got brown hair and blue eyes. He stands 4 ft., 4 inches tall. His favorite song is "I got Stung" By Elvis Presley. He has various crushes on older girls. His favorite food combination is Peanut butter, cake, salt and Ketch-up.

His ambition is to still have his charm when he gets older.

Mystery Students for last month were Karen and Joe Woods.

Third Grade:
 "A"
 Julia Dawn Acree
 Michael Triplett
 Yvonne Hamilton
 "B"

Curtis Davis
 Patsy Adkins

Third Grade:
 "A"
 None
 "B"
 Donald Conner
 Danny Keen
 James Dorsey

Fourth Grade:
 "A"
 Benjamin Connor
 Herlman Gibson
 Judith Gibson
 Lois Gill
 Linda Hamrick
 Beverly Hathaway
 Jack Holcomb
 John Houghton
 Steven Taylor
 "B"

Bethel Frame
 Naomi Hamrick
 Connie Henderson
 Teresa Potasnik
 Howard Wyatt.

Fifth Grade:
 "A"
 Lynn Kay Mullins
 J. B. Butcher
 Ella Ruth Frame
 "B"

Linda Baughman
 Jesse McClain
 Brenda Adkins
 David Marple
 Walter George

Sixth Grade:
 "A"
 None
 "B"
 Ronald Dodrill
 Shirley Connor
 Garry Marple
 Arthur Osborne

Miss Ashley

Ninth Grade:
 "A"
 None
 "B"
 None

Tenth Grade:
 "A"
 Terry Shaffer 3.55
 *Charles Barrett 3.50
 "B"

Robert Baughman 3.50
 Karen Mick 3.25
 Virginia Nettles 3.20
 "B"

Juanita Forte 3.10
 Nancy McMillion 3.05
 Jane Gibson 3.00

Eleventh Grade:
 "A"
 Lillie Nash 3.85
 "B"

Dawne Backus 3.45
 Karen Donohue 3.39
 Lora Wilson 3.00

Twelfth Grade:
 "A"
 Ruby Lee Rapp 3.94
 Dave Hamrick 3.69
 Judy La Corte 3.55
 "B"

Rosa Gibson 3.44

Mr. Krise

Mr. Metheny

Mr. Leeson

Mrs. Bragg

Mrs. Jackson

Mr. Hathaway

Mrs. Stover

Mrs. Hathaway

Mrs. Elliott

Mrs. Bragg

Mr. Jackson

Mr. Stover

Mrs. Hathaway

Mrs. Elliott

Mrs. Bragg

Mr. Jackson

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Mr. Jackson

Mrs. Hathaway

Mrs. Elliott

Mrs. Bragg

Mr. Jackson

Mrs. Hathaway

Mrs. Elliott

Mrs. Bragg

Mr. Jackson

Mrs. Hathaway

ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS

Second Semester, 1958-1959
 January 14 Student Council
 January 28 Polio Movie
 February 11 Dramatics Club
 February 25 Junior Class
 March 11 Safety, W. W. Milem
 March 25 Mr. Brooks Smith
 April 8 Band Concert
 April 22 N.H.S.
 April 29 Senior Class
 May 6 Awards Assembly

BEST WRITERS FOR JANUARY

1st Mrs. Butcher
 Chris Sears
 Carlos Washington

2nd Mrs. Elliott
 Mary Harris
 Frances Samples
 Sally Butcher

3rd Miss Ashley
 Julia Acree
 Yvonne Hamilton
 Anna Sizemore
 Carol Wood
 Nathan Hickman

3rd Miss Graham
 Rodney Conner
 Danny Keen

4th Mrs. Bragg
 Judith Gibson
 Connie Henderson
 John Houghton

5th Mr. Jackson
 Richard Gill
 Lynn K. Mullins
 David Marple
 Sharron Jo Manning

Forty-Seven Make Grade School Honor Roll

First Semester, 1958-59
First Grade: Mrs. Butcher
 "A"
 None
 "B"
 Jerry Connor
 Frederick Rapp
 Sherry Hutchinson
 Jacquelyn Wood

Second Grade: Mrs. Elliott
 "A"
 Roger King
 "B"
 Frances Samples
 Emma Forte
 Sandra Frame
 Karen Marple
 Lovie Davis
 Mary Harris
 Sally Butcher

Twenty-Eight Make High School Honor Roll

First Semester, 1958-59
Seventh Grade: Mr. Stover
 "A"
 Brenda King 3.60
 "B"
 Sharron Baughman 3.40
 Sandra William 3.25
 T. G. Griffith 3.20
 Janice Triplett 3.10
 Jean Dodrill 3.05
 Carol Hamrick 3.00

Eighth Grade: Mrs. Hathaway
 "A"
 *Sandra Henderson 3.87½
 Marion Gibson 3.81
 Phyllis McClain 3.69
 "B"
 Patricia Manning 3.44
 Sandra Holliday 3.00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Grade School
Happy Birthday For February
 Harriet Barrett 17
 James Baughman 23
 Tony Bego 23
 Jerry Boggs 2
 Ruth Anna Douglas 19
 Janet Eagle 24
 Emma Louise Forte 13
 Karen Marple 28
 Carol Sue Martin 16
 Elizabeth Kay Mullins 26
 Frances Samples 2
 David Woods 18

High School
 Robert Baughman 25
 Ronald Conner 2
 Mildred Gibson 23
 Ronald James 3
 Judy LaCorte 3
 Pat Manning 2
 Karen Mick 10
 Tommy Persinger 13
 Joseph Potasnik 20
 Carl Rogers 3
 Luther Young 25
 Penny Young 24

LATE COMERS

Five of West Virginia's 55 counties; Mineral, Grant, Lincoln, Summers and Mingo; were created by acts of the legislature after the formation of West Virginia as the 35th State.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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DAYCARE

Continued from Page 1

closed within the past two years. At the same time, Gov. Patrick Morrisey said the state's primary fund for assisting needy families has been supporting programs it can no longer afford.

He said he would be specifically looking for changes with childcare assistance, among other areas, as officials search for millions of dollars in budget savings.

In 2023, West Virginia spent about \$22 million in funding on childcare assistance, making it the assistance program's second-largest spending category.

Providers across West Virginia say low worker pay, staffing shortages and rising operational costs have made it increasingly difficult to keep centers open, especially in rural communities where families already have limited options for care.

Taylor Tots served up to 27 children in a county where more than 90% of young children lack access to care.

"We've had to send parents information for centers in Kanawha and Braxton counties," Taylor said. "We gave them a month, and we hope it's enough time."

Morrisey is reviewing childcare funding

Last week, the Morrisey administration announced it was searching for savings within the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, commonly known as TANF.

During a press conference, Gov. Morrisey announced his administration had identified millions in potential savings through agency audits.

As part of that process, he said he discovered West Virginia's TANF program was facing a \$43 million funding gap.

Kelly Allen, director of the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, said on social media that she was concerned about lawmakers and the governor needing to use TANF funding reserves to keep the state budget flat.

She said the money could be used for multiple programs, but it is primarily for child welfare. But because lawmakers haven't put enough regular state funding into childcare, the state is now using that money to plug budget holes that years of

underfunding created.

Childcare providers have repeatedly warned that cuts to subsidies or unstable funding could make it harder for low-income families to afford care and place more financial pressure on centers already struggling to stay open.

But House Finance Chair Del. Vernon Criss, R-Wood, said lawmakers weren't warned during state budget discussions about major TANF funding problems.

Criss questioned whether the administration's projected shortfall represented an immediate budget emergency.

"I'm inclined to believe this is an artificial crisis," he said.

The debate over the assistance funding comes as West Virginia's childcare system has already struggled. Over 28,000 children lack access to childcare across the state, while families struggle to afford care costs and providers are underfunded.

Hanshaw said two years ago that childcare was one of his top priorities for the Legislative session. But he introduced no legislation to fix it, and though he is the speaker of the House with a Republican supermajority, the legislature passed no childcare proposals, and the 2024 session ended without any plan to help parents and providers.

During this year's Legislative session, a Mountain State Spotlight reporter stopped Hanshaw outside the House chamber and asked him how state leaders planned to address child care shortages.

He requested we direct our questions to his spokesperson. She did not respond to our questions.

Hanshaw did not respond to additional requests for comment this week about the center's closure.

For parents like April Taylor, the closure leaves more uncertainty about how they will continue working while finding care for their children. April Taylor is a nurse who needs care for the seven-month-old child she is fostering.

Without another center nearby, she said, she has no other options.

"I'm now a desperate mother."

Henry Culvyhouse contributed reporting.



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LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

In the Matter of Petition of Name Change of Joshua Puit Civil Action No. 26-P-3
Current Name Joshua Puit Judge Asbury
To
New Name Joshua Marker

Legal Notice of Publication Change of Name

Order of Publication
Circuit Court of Clay County
West Virginia

Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of July, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Petitioner Joshua Puit 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 Joshua Puit to Joshua Marker 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 their office.

ENTERED by the Clerk of said Court this 22nd day of May, 2026.

Clarissa D. Hanshaw
Clarissa D. Hanshaw, Clerk of Court

LEGAL

"NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING"

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has scheduled a public meeting on June 17, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the **Draft Fiscal Year 2027 Intended Use Plan** for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Program. A part of the Intended Use Plan is the Fiscal Year 2027 Priority List. The meeting will take place in person at the WV DEP's Headquarters in Charleston, WV. An option to attend remotely or call-in is below. A copy of the draft Fiscal Year 2027 Intended Use Plan is available, and may be requested by calling, writing, or sending an email request to the address below. The plan can also be viewed on DEP's web site.

Contact

Katheryn Emery
WV Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water & Waste Management
Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds
601 57th Street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304
(304) 926-0499 Ext. 43830
Katheryn.D.Emery@wv.gov
Google Meeting information

Video call link: meet.google.com/hfk-ktgm-fei
Dial in number: (US) 1-352-888-6340
PIN: 710 382 982#

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 23-0469-E-ENEC
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and
WHEELING POWER COMPANY

Petition to Initiate the Annual Review and to Update the ENEC Rates Currently in Effect

NOTICE OF FILING AND EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

On April 30, 2026, Appalachian Power Company and Wheeling Power Company (jointly the Companies) filed their 2026 petition to initiate the annual review and update of Expanded Net Energy Cost (ENEC) rates. The Companies propose to decrease ENEC rates effective September 1, 2026, for a reduction of \$8.7 million in annual ENEC revenues, a decrease of 0.44% in total revenues. If approved, the impact on an average monthly bill by customer category would be:

	ENEC	
	(\$ INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	(%) INCREASE/ (DECREASE)
Residential	\$0.78	0.44%
Commercial	(\$1.79)	(0.38%)
Industrial	(\$5,520.97)	(1.73%)
Special Contract ¹	(\$4,142.99)	(0.67%)
Other	\$0.05	0.27%

As part of their ENEC filing, pursuant to the Commission's final directives in Case No. 24-0956-E-IDS, the Companies propose to true-up their Business Ready Sites Program (BRSP) Surcharge as of August 28, 2025. If approved, the impact on an average monthly bill by customer category would be:

	BRSP	
	(\$ INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	(%) INCREASE/ (DECREASE)
Residential	\$0.20	0.11%
Commercial	\$0.42	0.09%
Industrial	\$149.73	0.05%
Special Contract ²	\$261.34	0.04%
Other	\$0.01	0.02%

¹ Excludes Special Contract customers who are billed standard tariff rates.

² Excludes Special Contract customers who are billed standard tariff rates.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Each class may receive an increase or decrease greater or less than stated here. 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 Commission.

People interested in providing written comments regarding this case should submit their comments by mail or hand delivery to Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323 or online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us> by clicking on "Submit A Comment" in the left column and following the directions provided. All written comments should be marked with Case No. 26-0469-EENEC.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing on the under-recovery amount calculated by the Companies and true-ups of surcharges discussed in the Petition beginning at 9:30 a.m. on June 26, 2026, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission Building, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. The Commission will conduct a second evidentiary hearing, on the proposed ENEC rates in the Petition beginning at 9:30 a.m. on July 22, 2026 in the same location noted above. Interested persons should monitor the Commission's web docket and website because the public comment or evidentiary hearing may be cancelled for good cause.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a notice of intervention no later than 4:00 p.m. June 15, 2026, unless this deadline is modified by Commission order. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rule on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All interventions may be mailed and be addressed to Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, West Virginia 25323, or hand-delivered. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Executive Secretary at the address above.

A complete copy of the proposed tariff rates, as well as a representative of the Companies to provide any information requested concerning the proposed rate filing, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at any of the business offices of the Companies.

A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia and can be viewed on the Commission website at <https://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/WebDocket/ViewDocument.cfm?CaseActivityID=640581&NotType=WebDocket> (Warning: this is a large document and may take a while to open in your web browser.)

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and WHEELING POWER COMPANY

To place your legals Call us at (304)-647-5724

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 26-0508-E-42T
MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and
THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

Rule 42T tariff filing to increase rates and charges

NOTICE OF EVIDENTIARY HEARING AND PROPOSED CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES

Notice is hereby given that Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company, public utilities, have filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, tariffs containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing electric service to approximately 558,000 customers in northern, central, eastern and northwestern portions of West Virginia in all or portions of the following counties: Barbour, Berkeley, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, and Wood.

If approved by the Public Service Commission, the proposed increased rates and charges will occur in two steps, with the first step effective August 1, 2026, and the second step effective June 1, 2027. The first step will produce an approximate \$37.9 million increase in revenues, or approximately 2.1%. The second step will produce an approximate \$37.6 million increase in revenues, which is an incremental increase of approximately 2.1% over the first step. The aggregate of both increases is \$75.6 million, or 4.25% as compared with present rates. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers are proposed to be changed as follows:

Average Customer Class	First Step Increase		Second Step Increase	
	Effective August 1, 2026		Effective June 1, 2027	
Residential	\$4.12	3.0%	\$4.11	2.9%
Commercial	\$6.88	1.7%	\$6.74	1.6%
Industrial	\$2,545.25	1.3%	\$2,508.64	1.3%
Street Lighting	\$9.60	2.0%	\$9.41	1.9%

There are no resale customers of Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company. 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 will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing beginning at 9:30 a.m. on July 9, 2026, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Interested persons should monitor the Commission's web docket and website because the evidentiary hearing may be rescheduled or cancelled for good cause.

Anyone desiring to protest or comment should file a written comment prior to July 9, 2026. Anyone desiring to file protest or comments or participate on the record in public comment proceedings may do so without formally intervening. Protests and comments may be filed online through the Public Service Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us) using the "Submit Comment" link or may be mailed or hand delivered to the Executive Secretary Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

Anyone desiring to formally intervene must file for leave to intervene on or before June 26, 2026, and comply with the Public Service Commission's rules on intervention. Petitions to intervene must include a statement of the petitioner's unique interest in the outcome of the proceeding and reason for the intervention. Formal intervention is necessary for party status and to allow participation in the evidentiary hearings. Failure to formally and timely intervene will restrict rights to participate as a party. All petitions to intervene may be mailed or hand delivered to The Executive Secretary, at the same address as above.

A complete copy of the tariff filing, as well as a representative to provide information about the filing, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the Company offices at 5001 NASA Blvd., Fairmont, WV 26554. A copy of this tariff filing is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission.

Monongahela Power Company and
The Potomac Edison Company

LEGAL

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2027

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

CLAY COUNTY, to wit:

In accordance with West Virginia Code §11-8-12, as amended, the Clay County Board of Education proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the 2027 fiscal year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:

GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources:			
Property Taxes (Net of allowances)	\$	3,094,129	
Other local sources		50,000	
State Sources:			
State aid to schools		14,643,716	
Other unrestricted		10,000	
Federal sources:			
Unrestricted		150,000	
Miscellaneous sources			
Total estimated revenues		17,987,845	
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources			
Estimated beginning balance		500,000	
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	\$	18,487,845	
Estimated expenditures:			
Instruction	\$	10,550,840	
Supporting services:			
Students		200,568	
Instructional staff		228,423	
Central administration		390,146	
School administration		883,153	
Central services		1,079,992	
Operation and maintenance of facilities		1,972,770	
Students transportation		2,645,044	
Food services			
Community services		161,503	
Capital outlay		85,448	
Debt service:			
Principal retirement		160,000	
Interest and fiscal charges		39,435	
Total estimated expenditures		18,397,318	
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses		90,527	
Estimated budgetary reserves			
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses, and reserves	\$	18,487,845	

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2027 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources:		\$	35,445
State Sources:			
State aid to schools		444,216	
Other			
Federal sources			2,733,915
Miscellaneous sources			
Total estimated revenues		3,213,576	
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources		90,527	
Estimated beginning balance			
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	\$	3,304,103	
Estimated expenditures:			
Instruction	\$	1,989,329	
Supporting services:			
Students			
Instructional staff			
Central administration			
School administration			
Business			
Operation and maintenance of facilities			
Students transportation			
Food services			1,314,774
Community services			
Capital outlay			
Debt service:			
Principal retirement			
Interest and fiscal charges			
Total estimated expenditures		3,304,103	
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses			
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses	\$	3,304,103	

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2027

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

Clay County, to wit:

I, Philip R. Dobbins, Secretary of the Clay County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proposed budget being considered for adoption by the board of education on the 19th day of May, 2026.

Philip R. Dobbins
Secretary of the Board of Education

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that WV RECLAIM CO. LLC, 200 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 400, ORANGE VILLAGE, OH 44122, has a permit on file with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the surface mining of approximately 539 acres and has submitted an application to the DEP, 47 School Street, Suite 301, Philippi, WV 26416-1600, for renewal of Article 3 Permit Number S201298 to coal surface mine in the Kittanning, Clarion, Stockton and Coalburg seam of coal.

The operation is discharging into Sycamore Run and an un-named tributary of Lilly Fork and Lilly Fork of Buffalo Creek of Elk River and is located 6 miles, northwest of Bickmore, in Henry/Grant & Summersville Districts of Clay & Nicholas counties, Longitude 80° 59' 2" and Latitude 38° 22' 39" (Coordinates from USGS Topographic Map).

Surface of the area associated herewith is owned by:

NAME	ADDRESS
Heartwood Forestland Fund VI LLC - surface	8809 Lenox Pointe Dr. Sutie B Charlotte NC 28273
Allegheny Forestlands LLC c/o Orbiz Inc	8809 Lenox Pointe Dr. Sutie B Charlotte NC 28273
EL2, LLC	11 Splertz Ln Oley PA 19457
Civil-Military Innovation Institute Inc	3592 Collins Ferry Rd Morgantown WV 26505

*and the mineral associated herewith is owned by:

NAME	ADDRESS
AppleAtcha Land, LLC	200 Park Ave., Ste. 400, Orange Village, OH 44122

*and the mineral within 100 feet of the permit area is owned by:

NAME	ADDRESS
AppleAtcha Land, LLC	200 Park Ave., Ste. 400, Orange Village, OH 44122

Surface of the area within 100 feet of the permit area is owned by:

NAME	ADDRESS
N/A	

Written comments and/or requests for an informal conference of the permit renewal application shall identify the applicant and application number and will be received by the Permit Supervisor at the DEP address above until 7/6/26, or thirty (30) days from the date of **final publication**. A copy of the application will be available for review until 7/6/26, or thirty (30) days from the date of final publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is available at:

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

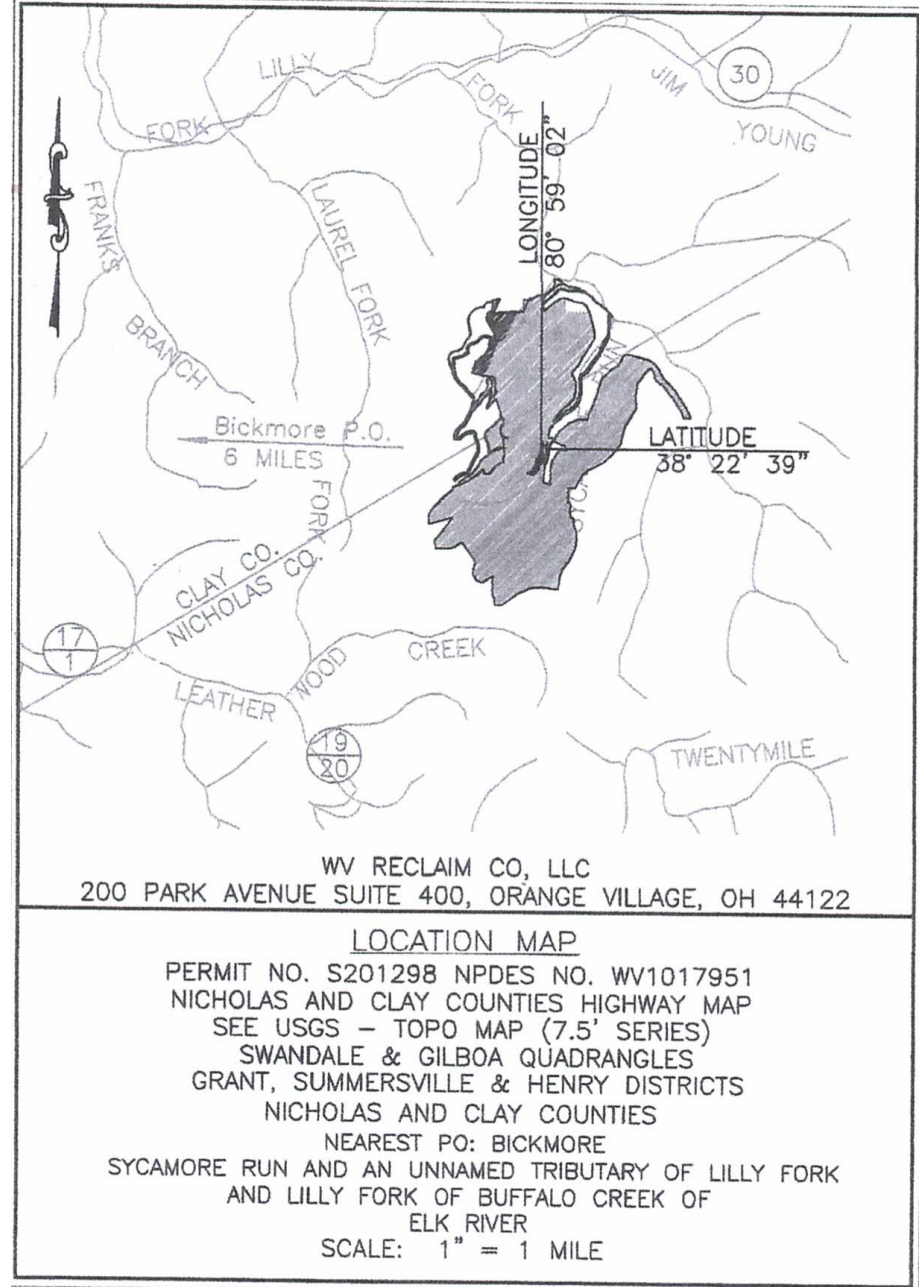
The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries.

DEP Telephone Number: 304-457-3219

Permit Number: S201298

*These items are to be completed only for operations involving mineral removal.

Include location map in accordance with 38-2-3.2(b)(2)



WV RECLAIM CO, LLC
200 PARK AVENUE SUITE 400, ORANGE VILLAGE, OH 44122

LOCATION MAP

PERMIT NO. S201298 NPDES NO. WV1017951
NICHOLAS AND CLAY COUNTIES HIGHWAY MAP
SEE USGS - TOPO MAP (7.5' SERIES)
SWANDALE & GILBOA QUADRANGLES
GRANT, SUMMERSVILLE & HENRY DISTRICTS
NICHOLAS AND CLAY COUNTIES
NEAREST PO: BICKMORE
SYCAMORE RUN AND AN UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF LILLY FORK
AND LILLY FORK OF BUFFALO CREEK OF
ELK RIVER
SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

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 44-3.

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, June 4, 2026
Claim Deadline:	Monday, August 3, 2026
APPOINTMENT DATE	05/21/2026
ESTATE NAME:	LARRY LAWSON CUNNINGHAM
EXECUTRIX	RACHEL DAWN SAMPLES 205 BUCK FORK RD DUCK WV 25063
APPOINTMENT DATE	05/21/2026
ESTATE NAME:	LETHA CUNNINGHAM
ADMINISTRATRIX CTA	RACHEL DAWN SAMPLES 205 BUCK FORK RD DUCK WV 25063
APPOINTMENT DATE	05/07/2026
ESTATE NAME:	LENA AGNES DAVIS
EXECUTRIX	DEBORAH CAROL FREDERICK 228 WYNTERHALL LANE SOUTH CHARLESTON WV 25309
APPOINTMENT DATE	02/19/2026
ESTATE NAME:	JAMES GARY DAWSON
ADMINISTRATRIX	DOROTHY JOAN DAWSON 263 DEE ROAD DUCK WV 25063-9405
APPOINTMENT DATE	05/11/2026
ESTATE NAME:	RANDALL ERIC LAMBEY
ADMINISTRATOR	RICHARD JUNIOR LAMBEY 3869 OSSIA ROAD DUCK WV 25063
APPOINTMENT DATE	05/18/2026
ESTATE NAME:	DONAL DAMEE YURKOVICH
ADMINISTRATRIX	JENNIFER NICOLE JARVIS 972 BILLS FORK ROAD DUCK WV 25063-9405

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 05/29/2026

Sheila Stone
County Clerk
Clay County
P.O. Box 190
246 Main Street
Clay WV 25043-0190

Your
Ad
Could
Be
Here!
Call us
at
304-
647-
5724

Seniors bid farewell to Clay County High School

By Allen Hamrick

Clay County High School's Graduation of 2026 has now been committed to memory. In a gym packed with parents, friends and supporters, attendees watched as graduating seniors got set to receive some hard-earned diplomas. There were many scholarships given in memory of those who have passed as well as those funded by the people of this county through programs and events to help the youth in their quest for higher learning. The graduating seniors were given great pep talks by their peers who attained the highest levels of academics during their stay at CCHS. The basic idea they all spoke of was to get out there, be somebody and not fear what lies in their future.

This year's commencement address was done a little differently. Parker Taylor, senior class president, gave the commencement address with words of encouragement and determination to never give up what you love to do. He also reminded graduates that being from a small community does not make their goals small, rather it makes them more attainable because of the support and determination that a small com-

munity instills in an individual. It was good to have a local individual speak who has attained success not only as a student but a voice for the young people of the world just getting started in their future endeavors. Two thousand twenty-six has been a great year for CCHS; the students' will and determination showed throughout the year in academics, sports, theater and other endeavors. This senior class received scholarship money, college awards and other accolades.

Clay County High School will bid farewell to some intelligent and hard-working young men and women who will no doubt be an influence in the fields they enter. The graduates will now embark on a new journey and accept new roles in society as citizens and leaders that will ultimately play a big part of this country's future. With the unsettled politics in this country and the economy in a bind, the future will be bright for those who will take the bull by the horns and change this country while keeping the founding principles in mind. It is an opportunity for our youth because they are smart and have zeal to change the world.



Parker Taylor gives the commencement address



Principal Angela Nichols opens the ceremonies.

Many of the seniors will be going on to higher learning, others will serve in our country's military to defend our rights and freedoms and others will assume their roles as hard-working individuals that makes this state and country strong. Now graduates, it is time to move on, and there are time tested and

proven rules to guide your success - talk very little, listen a whole lot, reflect on what has passed, never forget where you come from, distrust your own opinion, respect others and value those who earn it. Congratulations to all the students of Clay County High School; Clay County wishes nothing but the best for you.



Salutatorians L-R Christian Bryant, Brianna Gilland, Owen Tinney



Lydia Shamblin delivers the closing prayer.

ELK RIVER

Grand Opening of the Elk River Trail Visitor's Center, a gift shop and museum at the meeting of Lily Creek and the Elk River on the trailhead. The new site has plenty of parking and designed to look like an older train depot. Inside there is

a gift shop selling Clay County and West Virginia souvenirs. An open area with glass-topped cabinets will house the Elk River Railroad Museum once the items arrive on site. Once the museum portion is in place the center will be open seven

days a week.

The center sits on the site overlooking the confluence of the creek and the Elk River, and the property is well managed and makes for a large curved bank where public access is made for some of what

should be Clay County's finest fishing spots. Either there or off the reconstructed railroad bridge only 50 yards from this center over the creek. Either spot should be good for bass fishing as fish tend to swim into the mouths of creeks emptying into the Elk for easy food. Bring a folding chair and sit along the bank and enjoy the spot. While there are no picnic tables here, there appears to be lots of area in the mowed grass for picnics, and if the heat gets to you, take advantage of the shade at the Visitor's Center. This might eventually be the favorite spot of most residents of Clay County.

The Clay County Commission next meets for their first regular meeting on Monday, June 8.



The new Elk River Trail Visitor's Center.



Manager Debi Graham.

VISIT US ONLINE AT
CLAYCOUNTYFREEPRESS.COM