



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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Clay TSA WV State Conference winners headed to Nationals

The Clay County Middle School and Clay County High School TSA teams recently competed at the WV State Competition at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, West Virginia. Led by their Advisor Jessica Ramsey, 54 students made the trip, 26 from middle school and 28 from high school. This year's conference theme was The Wild West.

TSA is the Technology Student Association. It is a student organization where students work and learn about STEM, or the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The competitions are all strategy, problem solving or research based. Each student worked many hours perfecting projects. Their hard work and dedication paid off.

Clay County Middle captured 12 first place, six second place, and five third place victories. CCMS was named Outstanding Middle School Chapter in the state of West Virginia. The award is determined by the total number of awards taken away from the conference. Clay County High School captured nine first place, nine second place, and four third place finishes. CCHS placed second overall. In total, 23 students earned the honor to compete at the national TSA competition in Washington, D.C. from June 22 to June 26, 2026.

Clay Middle winners were as follows:

First Place: *Biotechnology* - Marissa Atha, Kinley Ramsey, and Layla Stewart; *Career Prep* - Gunner Dobbins; *Challenging Tech Issues* - Gunner Dobbins and River Schoolcraft; *Children's Stories* - Lyla Titus; *Community Service Video* - Gunner Dobbins; *Construction Challenge* - Addy Jones and Kinley Ramsey; *Creed* - Lyla Titus; *Mass Production* - Marissa Atha, Layla Stewart and Addy Jones; *Medical Technology* - Marissa Atha and Layla Stewart; *Prepared Speech* - Lyla Titus; *Technical Design* - Marissa Atha and River Schoolcraft; and *Fishing Tournament* - Silas Corwell.

Second Place: *Mass Production* - Sadie Bird, Carson Brown and Colton Hersman; *Prepared Speech* - Gunner Dobbins; *Promotional Marketing* - Madison Holcomb; *System Control Technology* - Gunner Dobbins, Tren-



CCHS TSA



CCMS TSA

ton Parker and Eli Wilmoth; *Technical Design* - Jenna Paxton and Reagan Payton; and *Fishing Tournament* - Aiden Adkins.

Third Place: *Inventions and Innovations* - Sadie Bird, Carson Brown and Colton Hersman; *Leader-*

ship Strategies - Reagan Payton, Paisley Adkins and Charlotte Elliott; *Problem Solving* - Aiden Adkins and Silas Corwell; *Technical Design* - Sadie Bird and Sophia Boggs; and *Water Bottle Rockets* - Aiden Adkins and Eli Wilmoth.

CLAY TSA cont. on page 7

Appeals court again revives foster care lawsuit alleging West Virginia is failing kids

The opinion reversed the lower court's decision that the judicial system couldn't fix longstanding issues in state foster care.

by Erica Peterson 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>.

A federal appeals court has reversed a lower court decision, reviving a sweeping case brought on behalf of West Virginia foster kids.

The case has been pending for nearly seven years. It alleges West Virginia's response to longtime and well-documented problems in its foster care system — including too few foster homes, not enough community mental health support and insufficient staffing — has been “slow, indecisive and inadequate.” Because of this, the lawsuit argued, kids are being harmed: unnecessarily warehoused, shuffled from place to place and suffering further abuse. It asked for specific reforms and independent oversight to address those issues.

West Virginia officials under two administrations — current Gov. Patrick Morrisey and former Gov. Jim Justice — have spent years fighting the lawsuit. In court documents, they've argued they've been working to implement reforms without judicial intervention. In the meantime, Mountain State Spotlight has reported that the state continues to over-rely on institutional settings for foster kids with disabilities and is failing to connect kids aging out of the system with available federal funding.

The case has now been dismissed by U.S. District Court judges twice — and been sent back to those very courts both times by the higher appeals court. In the opinion released Thursday, the appeals court agreed with the lawyers representing the foster kids that federal courts are able to address their concerns.

“Because federal courts not only have the authority, but also a duty, to remedy systemic constitutional rights violations, we reverse,” Senior Circuit Judge Henry F. Floyd wrote in the opinion.

In a statement, A Better Childhood, the advocacy group leading the effort on behalf of the foster kids, applauded the decision.

“The dismissal from the district court was an inexplicable interruption to much-needed reform efforts,” said Executive Director Marcia Lowry. “The state continues to ignore desperately needed changes to protect the vulnerable foster children of this state. When the court dismissed the case, we were only months away from the trial. Since the legislature and the leaders of the agency have again failed to take action to protect these children, we look forward to getting to trial as quickly as possible to seek relief from the court.”

West Virginia Department of Human Services spokeswoman Angel Hightower said the department would not comment on pending litigation. Spokespeople for Morrisey did not immediately return emails seeking com-

ment.

Seven years of litigation

A Better Childhood filed the initial complaint in 2019, on behalf of twelve kids in foster care. Later, it was expanded as a class action lawsuit to include all current and future foster kids.

In 2021, U.S. District Judge Thomas Johnston dismissed the lawsuit, saying that it belonged in the state judicial system rather than federal court. The appeals court

disagreed and sent it back down to Johnston the following year. In 2023, Johnston recused himself from the case after Mountain State Spotlight began asking questions about emails and documents showing the judge was in regular communication about the case with state lawmakers and government staffers.

Then, the case went to U.S. District Judge Joseph R. Goodwin. Before the case could go to trial last year, Goodwin also dismissed the lawsuit. While he acknowl-

APPEALS cont. on page 3

Pool opens for the season

The Clay County Pool opened for the 2026 season on Tuesday, June 2. The pool will be open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 6 p.m. Admission costs are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children.

The final cadence—celebrating 43 years of music and mentorship



Doug Wayne (left) and Tracy Wayne (right)



See story on Page 7

BOOKED

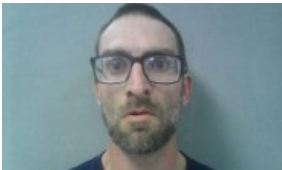


REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON COUNTY



Daniel Gene Blake
Booked 6/5/26
Fugitive from justice



Dustan Albert Culverhouse
Booked 6/2/26
DVP violation



Carl Alvin Payne Jr.
Booked 6/6/26
Domestic battery, domestic assault, obstructing police/interfere with officer



Dustin Chad Reed
Booked 6/4/26
Family court order

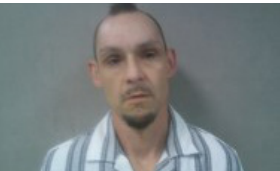


Joshua Matthew Richardson
Booked 6/5/26
Counterfeit cre. del. Possession with intent to deliver controlled substance

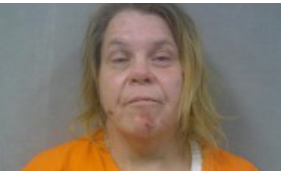


Austin Michael Staley
Booked 6/4/26
Domestic assault, domestic battery, destruction of property, obstructing an officer, strangulation

BRAXTON COUNTY



Dylan Lamar Stalnaker
Booked 6/5/26
Grand larceny, petit larceny, transferring stolen property, conspiracy



Susan Leigh Wotring
Booked 6/7/26
Introducing a controlled substance into a correctional facility



Jeremiah Lee Boggs
Booked 6/3/26
Harassment, DOP, violation of protective order regarding stalking/harassment



Tyler John Broyles
Booked 6/3/26
Obstructing an officer

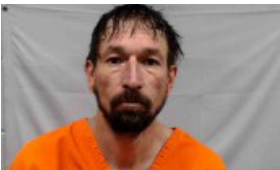


Jordyn Nicole Faith
Booked 6/7/26
Domestic battery

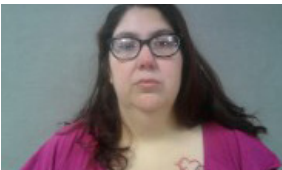


Damackus Timothy Frazier-Salaam
Booked 6/2/26
Capias

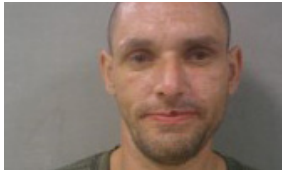
NICHOLAS COUNTY



Daniel Lee Green
Booked 6/6/26
Capias



Vanessa Nicole Hinkle
Booked 6/6/26
Distribute/display obscene matter to minor



David Lee Sharp
Booked 6/8/26
Drivers license revoked for DUI



Tandra Rae Smallwood
Booked 6/5/26
Abuse or neglect of incapacitated adult, malicious assault, domestic battery, joyriding

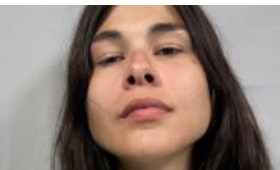


John Alden Boggs
Booked 6/8/26
Batter, obstruction of officer



Justin Michael Ramsey
Booked 6/4/26
Leaving the scene of an accident, defective equipment, no insurance, driving suspended, no registration, improper registration, expired registration

CLAY COUNTY



Terri Sue Young
Booked 6/6/26
Obstructing an officer



USDA confirms presence of New World Screwworm in the United States

Animal health officials working quickly to protect U.S. livestock and wildlife

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of a New World screwworm (NWS) in a bovine in Zavala County, Texas. NWS is a serious pest that affects livestock, pets, wildlife, and less commonly, people and birds. NWS larvae (maggots) burrow into the flesh of living animals, causing serious damage to livestock and economic losses.

The affected animal is a 3-week-old calf and larvae were identified in its umbilical area. To date, there have been no further detections.

“All models showed New World Screwworm entering the country in 2025; however, thanks to the hard work across the entire Trump administration and our industry, state, and local partners, we were able to buy time for this moment. Protecting our livestock industry is a national security issue of the utmost importance, and USDA is wasting no time in taking action,” said Dudley Hoskins, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. “USDA invested heavily in the tools needed to eliminate NWS ever since cases started increasing in Central America and Mexico. The United States has defeated this pest before, and we will do it again.”

USDA and Texas officials are taking immediate action to contain and eradicate NWS from the United States, following the strategies and actions outlined in the NWS Response Playbook (884.59 KB). This includes:

Forming a unified Incident Command Team with the Texas Animal Health Commission and deploying response personnel to the area;

Establishing a 20 km infested zone around the detection and implementing quarantines, movement controls, and surveillance in this area;

Expediting targeted release of sterile NWS flies by immediately deploying ground release chambers in the area, in addition to the 4 million sterile flies per week already being released aerially in the area;

Increasing trapping for NWS flies along the border and just outside of the dispersal area;

Implementing NWS surveillance and management strategies in wildlife; and

Conducting targeted outreach in the local area.

Additionally, USDA’s National Veterinary Stockpile stands ready to assist and will provide resources including treatments, equipment, and logistics support the response as needed.

USDA will continue to work with state departments of agriculture, animal health officials, industry, and producers to mitigate economic impacts of restrictions as much as possible, including negotiating with our trading partners to regionalize any trade restrictions on live animals, limiting them to defined geographic areas.

NWS maggots can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including in rare cases people. They most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal’s living flesh.

USDA urges residents in the area to check their pets and livestock for signs of NWS. Look for draining or enlarging wounds and signs of discomfort. Also look for screwworm larvae (maggots) and eggs in or around body openings, such as the nose, ears, and genitalia or the navel of newborn animals. If you suspect your animal is infected with screwworm, contact your state animal health official or USDA area veterinarian in charge immediately.

While not common in people, if you notice a suspicious lesion on your body or suspect you may have contracted screwworm, seek immediate medical attention.

The U.S. food supply is safe. Screwworms do not infest meat, fruits, vegetables, or other food sources. USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) ensures that the nation’s commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe and properly labeled. Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), FSIS inspection personnel must inspect all eligible animal species unless they are exempt or covered by a state inspection program.

Any evidence of screwworm infestation in an animal would be identified during these inspections, and any contaminated product from an affected animal would not be allowed to enter the food supply.

For more than a year, USDA has led a unified response to NWS. As the lead coordinating agency, USDA has deployed advanced surveillance systems and supported robust cross-border response efforts in Mexico and Central America to combat the pest and push NWS away from the United States. These efforts have bought time for USDA to increase domestic preparedness efforts.

Learn more about New World screwworm at [Screwworm.gov](#).

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
5	3	8	1	9	2	6	4	7
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	
I	M	P	I	S	H		A	S	W	A	N		O	U	T	R	A	G	E	D	
S	E	L	F	L	O	A	T	H	I	N	G		U	N	T	I	D	I	L	Y	
	R	A	T	E			L	I	E	G	E	L	O	R	D			A	V	I	S
D	I	S			Y	E	N					E	R	S		A	R	N	E	S	
S	C	H	E	M	E		A	B	I	T			B	O	A	T	H	O	U	S	E
L	A	Y	M	A	N	S		A	B	B	A		P	L	I	E		P	A	Y	
			O	C	T	A			K	A	S	E	M		I	S	A	N			
C	O	A	T	H	A	N	G	E	R			I	O	T	A	S		E	A	R	P
O	L	L	I	E		K	O	S		S	O	S	O		U	S	U	R	E	R	
M	E	L	O	T	T		O	A	T	H	U	S	K		E	E	R	I	L	Y	
M	A	I	N	E	R		E	L	I	E		G	Y	M		E	A	S	E	D	
A	N	N	A		A	S	Y	E	T			P	R	O	A	T	H	L	E	T	E
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A	R	M		C	H	A	I		E	P	E	E		I	N	R	E	A	C	H	
G	O	A	T	H	E	R	D	S		P	A	N	G		C	E	T	E	R	A	
R	E	L	I	E	D		T	A	B				A	R	T			R	O	T	
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	H	
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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Furnace



\$600
Water Heater



\$1,340
AC Unit



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Pumping



\$315
Toilet



\$2,000
Microwave



\$1,000
Dishwasher



\$275
Garage Door Opener



\$1,200
Wall Oven

National averages based on actual project costs as reported by unaffiliated third-party home project websites.

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The Angel In Each Of Us

By Joe Mazzella

A woman wrote me recently and asked me if I believe in angels. I answered: “Yes I do. I see them all the time. You just have to know how to look for them.”

Let me give you an example. A few years ago during a bad patch of weather in the middle of winter I found myself sitting in my car in the parking lot waiting for my daughter to finish her grocery shopping. I looked out my window and saw an elderly man struggling to walk across the icy asphalt. He had a hat pulled down over his head against the bitter, winter wind and a cane in one hand. I thought for a second that I should get out of my car and help him make it into the store, but then something miraculous happened.

Suddenly as the old man was going by a woman loading a huge bag of dog food into her trunk, she slipped on the ice. I thought she would hit the asphalt but the elderly man caught her with his free arm and steadied her. Then he grabbed one end of the big, heavy bag and helped her load it into her trunk. She smiled and thanked him. He smiled back and tipped his hat to her and I wondered if that hat was pulled down low so as to hide the halo underneath it. Then he straightened himself and walked into the store with a steadier step than before. I could see too a happiness in his stride that I didn’t see earlier. I think it came from the joy his kindness brought him by being an angel to another.

Aesop said: “No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.” I agree. Each act of kindness is precious. Each act of kindness is priceless. Each act of kindness shares our love and joy and connects us with Our Father in Heaven. Each act of kindness, goodness, and love we share brings out the inner angel that lives within us all. Yes, I do believe in angels both seen and unseen. And I believe that each of us can be an angel in this world if we choose.

Home Country

**Home Country
Slim Randles**

“Wonder what the count is today,” said Herb. “Sure is hot.”

We sipped simultaneously, as is our wont, and stared at our friend. “What count would that be?” asked Steve.

“The BTU count, of course,” said Herb. “Those are British thermal units, you know. It’s how heat is measured.”

Leave it to Herb. There doesn’t appear to be any coffee-drinking topic that Herb can’t make completely obscure.

“I was just getting used to the difference between Fahrenheit and Celsius,” our cowboy, Steve, said.

“I always eat my Celsius with peanut butter on it,” said Doc.

“Doc made a joke!” Came the coffee-counter chorus. That was unusual because Doc was considered by most of us as the chief justice of the supreme court of darn near everything because of all the initials after his name.

Windy Wilson got up slowly and stiffly, walked over to the phone sitting on the cashier’s counter, and dialed a number. He nodded and came back to the other members of the world dilemma think tank.

“97,” he said, taking a sip,

“97 what?”

“Degrees. Right now. Outside. According to that girl’s voice on the hotline number I called.”

“Fahrenheit?”

“Don’t know,” Windy said.

“Kelvin?”

“Kelvin who?”

“Rankine?”

“She didn’t say. Just a recordin’ on the phone, you know...”

“Number of British thermal units?”

“I don’t care how they do it in Britain,” Windy said.

“Hotter right here, anyway.”

“Might be Celsius,” said Herb.

Doc looked up from the depths of his coffee, “Not without peanut butter it isn’t.”

Some onlookers just enjoy a short stack and try to figure out what we’re talking about. It could become a passion or trend or something.

Looking at the thermometer? When ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.

Monday’s Here but Sunday’s A-Coming

By Dr. James Snyder

For many years, even before I became a pastor, Sunday was always a very special day. I lived in a rural community in Pennsylvania where they had what they called the “Blue Laws.” No business was open on a Sunday, but churches were full.

In those days, Sunday was focused on church, gathering as a congregation, and worshipping the Lord.

Then came Monday.

Monday is the beginning of a new week. That means I need to get everything in order and get ready to do what needs to be done for the week.

Recently, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to my office on Monday and said, “Are you ready for the week?” Then she walked away laughing, knowing that Monday was my most difficult day of the rest of the week.

After the best day of the week comes this day, which is very difficult for me.

I looked at my calendar and couldn’t believe I had so much work, which made me realize how Mondays can leave me feeling overwhelmed and questioning the simplicity of my retirement.

For me, Monday is hard to get started. After a wonderful weekend, I now have to get back in the saddle again and get into my routine. I guess as you get older, it’s hard to get back in your routine after taking a day or two off.

As I was pouring coffee into my cup, she said, “Well, at least you got something done today,” Then burst into laughter, making me realize even my coffee breaks are a comedy show, at least for her.

I slowly walked back to my office and got seated behind my desk. As I took a sip of coffee, I thought of all the stuff I needed to do this week. Why is it that on Monday, you have to start the week all over again?

A thought jingled in my mind at this time. What if I don’t do anything today? After all, I am retired, so I do have charge of my time.

I leaned back in my chair and thought about what I could do today if I weren’t working in my office. For the life of me, I couldn’t think of anything to do. Looking at my desk, I saw everything I needed to do this week.

Even if I take Monday off, I still have to do the work that is needed for the week. That means my Tuesday is crammed with catch-up work. The only catch-up I like is on my hamburger.

I took a deep sigh, leaned back in my chair, and said to myself, “Self, you gotta get to work and Get’er done.”

I can’t remember the time I really listened to myself. I’m not sure today is going to be that time.

APPEALS

edged the bleak state of West Virginia’s foster care system, saying it has “cycled through inaction, bureaucratic indifference, shocking neglect, and temporary fixes for years,” he ruled it didn’t present issues that could be resolved by a federal court. Instead, he said the remedy was for voters to elect different representatives if they’re unhappy with the state government’s response.

But in the opinion released Thursday, the appeals court disagreed with Goodwin’s take. It found that not only were these issues redressable by the federal court, but that the case sufficiently demonstrates ongoing injury to the kids in West Virginia’s foster care system.

In the appeal, the state Department of Human Services argued the plaintiffs didn’t sufficiently show that the

After some deep thought, I decided to get started. I looked through my desk to make sure I had a list of everything I needed to do this week. As I piled that list on the desk, I was amazed at all the work I had to do.

Looking at it, I couldn’t help but think of how much work I was doing during the week.

Just as I was putting it all together, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to the office. She said, “You do know that you have a doctor’s appointment on Thursday.”

Of course, I didn’t, and that changed everything I was working on today. All those doctor appointments eat up a lot of my week. I personally don’t like going to the dermatologist because they always get under my skin.

Now I needed to reshuffle my week to fit in my doctor’s visit, proving that Monday’s chaos is as unpredictable as a sitcom plot twist.

Before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage left I asked an important question, “I don’t have any more doctors appointments this week do I?” She replied in the negative, which was a great relief to me.

Throughout the years, I have learned that my Monday determines my schedule for the entire week. If I screw up on Monday, I’m going to have a bad week for sure. And I know that from personal experience.

If I get Monday’s work done today, the rest of the week will be more doable. The harder I work on Monday, the easier the rest of the week will be. If I slack on Monday, I’ll have a terrible week ahead of me.

As much as I enjoy Sunday, I don’t enjoy Monday. But I do know that my Monday will prepare me for the Sunday that’s ahead. I’ll get to work, no matter how long it takes, and finish Monday as best I can.

Nothing is more satisfying then finishing the week in the positive. That’s my goal, and I’m getting close.

Thinking on this, I was reminded of what the Apostle Paul said. “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16).

I must confess that I often procrastinate. Every time I do, it costs me and makes me look like a fool. Paul encourages us to “redeem the time.”

Solomon understood this when he wrote, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

This is my challenge every Monday as I start a new week.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

Continued from Page 1

reforms they asked for would address the problem. But the appeals court disagreed.

“Measures reducing caseloads for workers, enforcing strict time limits on initial evaluations, and requiring the state to hire more employees if necessary are all likely to result in quicker foster placement as well as greater attention and treatment for each child in the system,” the judges wrote. This, they said, would alleviate some of the suffering the lawsuit argues kids in the state’s care have endured.

Now, the lawsuit will go back to Goodwin. The lawyers for the foster kids requested the appeals court assign the case to a different judge, but that request was denied.

Treasurer Pack reminds families to apply for Hope Scholarship before full-funding deadline closes for 2026-2027 school year

Families Must Apply by June 15 to Receive 100% Full-Year Award Amount of \$5,435.62

State Treasurer Larry Pack, who serves as Chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board, is encouraging more families to apply for the Hope Scholarship Program before the application deadline for full-funding closes one week from today on Monday, June 15 for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Applications are available online at www.HopeScholarshipWV.gov.

“Every child deserves a shot at a bright future – and that’s what the Hope Scholarship offers. We’ve already seen exponential growth in applications since expanding eligibility to all West Virginia children in grades K-12 for this upcoming school year,” Treasurer Pack said. “My team is excited to welcome new students to the program because at the end of the day, this is all about empowering parents and students to find the education that fits their unique needs. We encourage West Virginia families to submit their applications by June 15 so they can receive the full award amount.”

Treasurer Pack announced in March that existing private school and traditional homeschool students who have not previously been eligible for the Hope Scholarship Program are now eligible to apply to participate in the State’s Education Savings Account program that provides funding to students exercising

school choice in lieu of attending public school full-time.

So far, 25,675 students have started applications for full funding of the Hope Scholarship Program for the 2026-2027 academic year. Of the 25,675 applications, 13,298 are returning Hope Scholarship recipients who submitted their Continuing Participation Confirmations and 12,377 are new students who applied for the program. There are currently 14,549 active participants (applications in Approved status) for 2025-2026.

A student application submitted within the following dates will receive the associated level of Hope Scholarship funding:

March 2-June 15: 100% of Hope Scholarship annual award amount.

June 16-Sept. 15: 75% of Hope Scholarship annual award amount.

Sept. 16-Nov. 30: 50% of Hope Scholarship annual award amount.

Dec. 1-Feb. 28: 25% of Hope Scholarship annual award amount.

Current Hope Scholarship students who wish to renew their participation in the program during the 2026-2027 school year have until June 15 to submit their Continuing Participation Confirmations.

The Hope Scholarship award amount varies each school year depending on the amount of state aid funding per pupil provided to county boards of education for public school students. The scholarship amount for the 2026-2027 school year is \$5,435.62. Scholarship funds will now be distributed on a quarterly basis.

Families who participated in the Hope Scholarship Program during the 2025-2026 school year are encouraged to complete the Hope Scholarship Parent Satisfaction Survey that was emailed to them last month by June 30, 2026.

For more information on the Hope Scholarship, visit www.HopeScholarshipWV.gov.



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*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Benefits reduced first two years. Insurance Policy LV70 (ID: LV70ID; OK: LV70OK; TN: LV70TN). 6236-0625

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

June 10, 1775: The Berkeley County Rifle-men were organized by Capt. Hugh Stephenson of Shepherdstown, in response to a call for Revolutionary War soldiers by Gen. George Washington.

June 10, 1921: Labor leader Daniel Vincent Maroney was born on Cabin Creek, Kanawha County. Maroney served as international president of the Amalgamated Transit Union from 1973 to 1981.

June 11, 1769: Journalist Anne Newport Royall was born in Baltimore. At 17, she moved to Monroe County. She later traveled across the country writing candidly about politics, people and places, all controversial for a woman journalist in the early 1800s.

June 11, 1819: Abolitionist Eli Thayer was born in Massachusetts. In 1857, he founded the town of Ceredo, Wayne County, to encourage the growth of free labor communities in the South. His efforts faced strong political opposition and financial problems, and the project never grew as he had hoped.

June 11, 1866: Architect Elmer Forrest Jacobs was born in Preston County. His work can be seen particularly in downtown Morgantown, in residential South Park and on the West Virginia University campus. Most of his Morgantown buildings are now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

June 12, 1771: Frontiersman Patrick Gass was born in Pennsylvania and later relocated to Brooke County. Gass joined the Lewis & Clark Expedition in Illinois Territory and kept a daily account of the exploration. His journal, published in 1807, was the only complete published account of the expedition until 1814. Gass is buried in Wellsburg.

June 12, 2006: Robert C. Byrd became the longest-serving U.S. senator in history. He served in the Senate from 1959 until his death in 2010. His record was broken in 2013, by Congressman John Dingell, a Michigan Democrat, but Byrd still retains the Senate record.

June 13, 1861: The Second Wheeling Con-

vention began in the federal courtroom of the Wheeling Custom House. This convention declared the Confederate state government in Richmond illegal, created a Reorganized Government of Virginia loyal to the United States, elected Francis Pierpont governor of Virginia, and called for the western counties to be formed into a new state.



June 13, 1928: Mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. was born in Bluefield. In 1994, Nash was honored with the Nobel Prize in Economics. He was the subject of a best-selling biography, *A Beautiful Mind*, which was later made into a movie.

June 14, 1912: Botanist Elizabeth Ann “Betty”

Bartholomew was born in Wheeling. Bartholomew was instrumental in building the dried plant collection at West Virginia University from 30,000 to 140,000 specimens, and she initiated a 2,000-plant seed collection.

June 14, 2025: The Wheeling area was hit with a deadly flash flood causing widespread damage and killing nine people.



June 15, 1876: Attorney and civil right activist T. G. Nutter was born in Maryland. The first Black delegate from Kanawha County, he helped establish public institutions for Blacks, crafted an anti-lynching law, and, as state leader of the NAACP,

sued counties in the 1950s for not integrating their schools quickly enough.



June 15, 1880: Musician “Blind Alfred” Reed was born in Floyd County, Virginia, though he spent most of his life in southern West Virginia. He composed and recorded some of the most creative topical country songs on Victor Records between 1927 and 1929.



June 15, 1963: The Cass Scenic Railroad took its first passenger trip during the state’s Centennial celebration.

June 16, 1842: Margaret Agnew Blennerhassett, wife of Harman Blennerhassett, died in poverty in

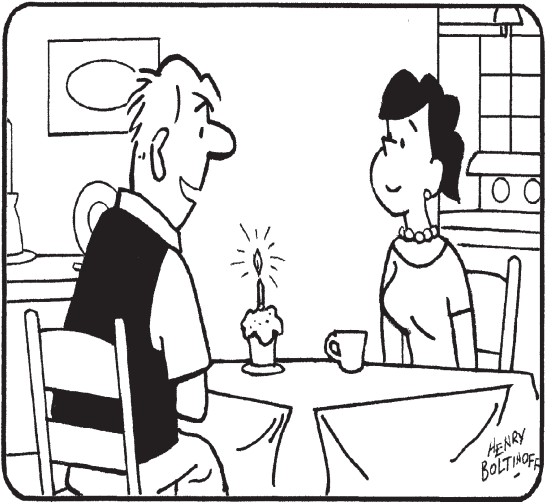
New York City. She lived from 1800 to 1806 in a grand 16-room mansion she and her husband had constructed on an Ohio River island near present Parkersburg. She and her son, Harman Jr., were reburied on Blennerhassett Island in 1996.

June 16, 1900: Perhaps West Virginia’s greatest naturalist, Maurice Brooks was born in Upshur County. He served as a professor of biology and wildlife management at West Virginia University from 1938 to 1969. The first alumnus to receive an honorary doctorate from WVU, he wrote two classic nature books: *The Appalachians* (1965) and *The Life of the Mountains* (1969).

June 16, 1964: The Grafton Monster allegedly was first spotted by journalist Robert Cockrell (1946-2022) beside Route 119 near Grafton. His write-up of the event sparked such a tourism frenzy that the local newspaper blamed it on “spring fever” and requested visitors to go home. No sightings have been confirmed since.

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.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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 “Lili”
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

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128										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

In The Mail Box ..

Dear Sally,

Well, its' like summer outside, and that finds me in school wishing I were out. I hear that we get off two and a half weeks early this year. If that were only true, I believe I could stand it for the next three months.

Boy! do I have something good to tell you. Brace yourself: Widen won a ballgame. We won over Troy 73-68. Everyone was so proud of the team, and Dave Hamrick's 41 points sure did add to the score. We nearly tore the gym down and I think we had a good reason. I think the one we have to thank for winning the ballgame was Coach Stover, and we appreciate it. At the halftime the Student Council had the coronation of Miss Widen High III, Judy Lacorte. (You girls that are fashion-minded should have seen Judy's gown. It was shocking pink and had a balloon bottom with rhinestone straps. I thought it was very pretty).

I wish to thank Mrs. Griffith for the Dramatics Club assembly last Wednesday. I think all the kids really appreciate it after the dull assemblies we usually have. There was a play, a pantomime, which was very funny, and a mind reading act. It all ended with a song "Old MacDonald."

Widen acquired a new teacher, Miss Eakle, by the unfortunate accident to Miss Bailes. We hope she will be better soon. We really miss her.

Oooooops! Caught again. . .
Love,
—Coed.

Dear Joe,

If the groundhog didn't see his shadow this year he was either drunk or blind, because a lot of people sure saw their shadows!

We had an English instructor injured in a freak accident near her home at Enoch, West Virginia, which is located approximately five or six miles below the school at Widen. The injured person was Miss Tressie Bailes. She fell 20 feet from a cliff. In the fall she fractured her back and broke the bone in her leg in three places. Miss Virginia Eakle of Sutton is substituting for Miss Bailes until she is able to return to school.

This month we had the coronation of Miss Judy LaCorte, the queen of Widen School. Miss LaCorte was escorted by Jimmy Manning, who is a senior also. The queen was crowned "Miss Widen High III," by the captains of our basketball team on February 13, 1959. The coronation took place in the new community building at the half-time ceremonies.

Last night was another loss for the Widen High Buffaloes on the basketball court. We lost to Cowen's Bulldogs by a score of 75 to 44, but the boys sure played very good ball on the floor and on the boards.

Some places on basketball trips you find very good sportsmanship but on one of our trips recently, we found a group where fans showed the poorest sportsmanship that I have ever encountered. There are a few bad sports in every town. I will admit, but never before have I seen a whole gymnasium full. Let's try to be good sports always!

Well, Easter is next month, so I'll say "so long" until then, and I can give you a run-down on all the new Easter duds. Happy Valentine Day!

See you,
Yul Flip

STUDENT-OF-THE-MONTH



MISS JUDY LaCORTE

Miss Judy LaCorte, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe LaCorte of 26 Kanawha Street, has been chosen student-of-the month for February.

She is an active member of the senior class, president of Student Council, captain and drum major-ette of the band.

SPORTS

BUFFALOES BREAK LOSING

STREAK—DEFEAT TROJANS

Widen broke a 40-game losing streak by defeating Troy Trojans February 13, 1959, with a score of 73-68, at home.

Troy jumped off to an early lead, but Widen soon took over and stayed ahead by a 9 to 10 point margin throughout the game.

Dave Hamrick was high point man with 41; Kyle Barnette had 12 points; Dave Wilson 9 points; Charles Lewis and Ronald James scored 6 points each. High scorers for Troy were Somerville with 37 points and Royster with 10 points.

Score by quarters:

Widen	18	23	15	17	73
Troy	24	9	15	20	68

WALTON TROUNCES WIDEN

Widen Buffaloes lost their second game to Walton on February 11, at Walton. The score was 64 to 57. Score at the end of the first quarter was 12-15. Widen led until the last quarter. Dave Hamrick was highest scorer for Widen with 32 points; Dave Wilson got 15 points; Charles Lewis and Kyle Barnette scored 4 points each and Dave Shaffer 2 points. High point men for Walton were Chandler with 26 points and Abbott with 22 points.

Score by Quarters:

Widen	12	23	14	8	57
Walton	15	11	14	24	64

Judy was taken into National Honor Society in her sophomore year and has been an honorary member of Dramatics Club for several years.

She was chosen by the students of Widen High School to represent them as Miss Widen High III at the Homecoming Game with Troy February 13.

Judy attended Camp Horseshoe this last summer sponsored by the Widen Woman's Club. She plans to attend Marshall College, in Huntington, after graduation.

Judy's main favorites are: Person—Tom; color—blue—food—spaghetti, and pizza, and song—"Tragedy."

BULLDOGS NIP BUFFALOES

Widen Buffaloes were defeated by six points when they visited Tanner, January 27, 1959. The final score was 71-77. At the end of the first quarter Widen was ahead 24-20. Dave Hamrick was high point man for the Buffaloes with 45 points; Dave Wilson had 5 points; Charles Lewis made 5 points; Dave Shaffer scored 4 points; and Ronald James hit for 2 points. The highest scorers for Tanner were Greenleaf with 32 points and Mahaney with 28 points.

Widen	24	11	14	22	71
Tanner	20	18	20	19	77

Widen Seniors To Present "Ghost Tales"

"Ghost Tales," a three act play by LeRoma Rose Greth will be presented by the Senior Class of Widen High School April 24.

The play centers around Teenagers, Polly and Marty Peters, sister and brother, who are left alone while their parents go to pick up a cousin who is coming for a visit.

Polly, who has ambition to be an opera singer, is expecting a theatrical agent from New York, who unfortunately believes Polly to be glamorous twenty-year-old, who lived with a famous vocal teacher — Polly persuades Marty to pose as the teacher.

Cousin Linda arrives unexpectedly, accompanied by her ghost. The ghost moves around and keeps things in an uproar. The theatrical agent arrives and stays all night, too! Polly, Marty and friend Nancy enlist Linda's aid to capture the troublesome spirit. Mr. and Mrs. Peters return and think the children are playing a game. Sounds like fun? It is.

The cast includes Judy LaCorte as Polly Peters; Dave Hamrick, Marty Peters; Judy Shaffer, Nancy Dean; Carolene Miller, Mrs. Beatrice Peters; Jimmy Manning, Mr. William Peters; Carol Neal, Sue, the maid; Joyce Workman, First Linda; Rosa Gibson, Second Linda; Dave Wilson, Mr. Lambert; and the Ghost.

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LEGAL

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA

TO: Magistrate Court Case No.:
Erica Joy Moore Respondent
1848 Bell Creek Rd.
Dixie, WV 25059
DOB: 06/23/1982

Family Court Civil Action No. 26-DV-14

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
(PROTECTIVE ORDER / HEARING DATE)

1. The object of this suit is to obtain protection from the Respondent.
2. The object of this publication by Class I legal advertisement is to notify Respondent of the PROTECTIVE ORDER prohibiting the above-named Respondent from having contact with certain individuals. This Order may affect property and other rights of the Respondent. Violating this Order may subject the Respondent to criminal sanctions. The Respondent is strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of this Protective Order 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 the Petition and Order may be obtained at the Clay County, Circuit Clerk’s office. This PROTECTIVE ORDER will remain in effect until June 18, 2026.
A Final Hearing is scheduled for the 18th day of June, 2026, at 10:30 AM, before the Clay County Family Court.
Issued this 06/02/2026

Clarissa D. Hanshaw

Clerk of the Court

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

Clerk of the Court

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



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LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON

CASE NO 26-0412-WS-PC
WEST VIRGINIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY
Petition for consent and approval of main line extension multipliers, excess usage leak adjustment rates, and exemption from certain provisions of Water Rule 7.5.5. and Sewer Rule 7.4.5.
NOTICE OF FILING
On April 8 2026, West Virginia-American Water Company (WVAWC) petitioned for the Commission to (i) modify the main extension multipliers that determine customer contributions for water and sewer line extensions; (ii) increase the leak adjustment rate for water customers from \$1.28 to \$1.38 per thousand gallons, and (iii) increase the leak adjustment rate for sewer customers from \$2.10 to \$3.84 per thousand gallons. The petition is on file with and available for public inspection at the Public Service Commission, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia, and online at the Commission’s website.
The Commission will receive public comments through 30 days from date of this Order dated June 4, 2026. All written comments should state the case name and number and be addressed to Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Public comments may also be filed online at http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/onlinecomments/default.cfm by clicking the “Formal Case” link.

LEGAL

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

Appalachian Power plans to maintain a portion of its power line rights-of-way in West Virginia through the aerial application of registered herbicides. Weather permitting, the program will begin on or about June 15, 2026.
Questions about the program or information about sensitive areas near the power lines listed below, such as springs, wells, streams, lakes, ponds, orchards, crop areas, gardens, pastures, meadows, year-round dwellings, public recreation areas and Christmas tree farms, may be directed to the company by calling toll-free 1-800-642-3622. Maps showing the location of rights-of-way to be maintained are available for review upon request.
Right-of-way maintenance agreements between Appalachian Power and landowners are available to landowners who prefer to accept responsibility for clearing the right-of-way crossing their property instead of the company’s aerial application of herbicides. The agreement compensates the landowner by an amount equivalent to the cost of aerial herbicide application, provided the work meets Appalachian Power’s specifications. Landowners desiring to enter right-of-way maintenance agreements with Appalachian Power should call the toll-free number above.
Herbicides to be used have been extensively tested and are registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. They are imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, fosamine, triclopyr, aminocyclopyrachlor and aminopyralid. All applications are performed by certified applicators.
Rights-of-way involved in the program are:
CLAY COUNTY
Belva-Clendenin 46kV - A 27-mile transmission line on wood structures beginning at the Belva Station off Vaughn Road south of Vaughn, running north, passing the mid-points of Greendale, Bickmore and Hartland and ending at the Jarrett Station off Reamer Road in Clendenin.
Bickmore-Frank’s Branch 138kV - A 5-mile transmission line on wood structures beginning at the Bright Coal Station off West Virginia Route 16 near Bickmore, running east and ending at the Frank’s Branch Station off Vandalia Strip Mine Road north of Bickmore.
Board Run-Thorofare Creek 138kV - A 9-mile transmission line on steel structures beginning at Thorofare Creek, running north and crossing Pipe Lane, continuing north near Clendenin and ending at the Elk River crossing near Thorofare Creek Addition.

APPALACHIAN POWER

An AEP Company

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON

CASE NO. NOIR APCO and WHEELING 26A
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and
WHEELING POWER COMPANY,
Notice of intent to File General Base Rate Case.
PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES and HEARING
On April 6, 2026, Appalachian Power Company and Wheeling Power Company (Companies) filed a Notice of Intent to file a general base rate case (NOI).
On April 16, 2026, the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (Commission) issued an Order in the above-referenced proceeding regarding the NOI (Order), stating that the Commission had considered whether there is any alternative that could:
• extend the timing between general base rate cases,
• levelize and moderate the magnitude of future rate increases and
• incentivize the Companies to control costs, while allowing the Companies to timely recover reasonable and prudently incurred costs.
As an alternative, the Order authorized the Companies to increase their existing base rates pursuant to a “limited inflation-based revenue adjustment,” effective June 1, 2026, provided the Companies agree to withdraw their NOI; and not file a base rate case on or before June 1, 2027, subject to the Companies agreeing to Commission conditions.
The Companies accepted this alternative and its conditions. On April 23, 2026, in accordance with the Order, the Companies filed an affidavit of an authorized corporate executive wherein the Companies: (1) agreed that they have reviewed the Commission’s Final Order entered on March 31, 2026, in Case No. 25-0310-E-P and will proceed with the securitization authorized therein, unless otherwise ordered; (2) agreed to file a motion to withdraw the NOI; and (3) agreed not to file a West Virginia base rate case prior to June 1, 2027. Thereby satisfying the Commission’s conditions and allow the inflation-based rate adjustment to base rates become effective on June 1, 2026.
On May 29, 2026, the Commission extended the effective date to July 1, 2026, after proposal by Commission Staff and acceptance by the Companies. Once effective, the proposed inflation-based rate adjustment to base rates will:
• increase the Companies’ residential and commercial base rates by 4.0 percent, and
• increase the Companies’ industrial base rates by 2.5 percent, excluding Special Contract rates,
resulting in an overall base rate increase of 3.5 percent, or approximately \$40.1 million annually.
The impact of the inflation-based rate adjustment to base rates on an average monthly bill by customer class is:

	(\$) Increase/ (Decrease)	(%) Increase/ (Decrease)
Residential	\$5.12	2.77%
Commercial	\$11.32	2.57%
Industrial	\$2,797.00	0.99%
Other	\$0.00	0.00%

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may experience increases that are greater or less than the average. A residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month would experience a monthly increase over current rates of \$4.84, or 2.74 percent.
The Companies filed with the Commission updated Tariff Sheets reflecting the above-described Inflation-based rate adjustment and resulting revised base rates, effective as of June 1, 2026 (now suspended). A complete copy of the Companies’ tariffs, as well as a representative of the Companies to provide information requested concerning them, are available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at any of the offices of the Companies.
The Commissioners will hold a hearing in this matter on June 9, 2026, in the Howard M. Cunningham hearing room at the Commission headquarters at 201 Brooks St., Charleston, West Virginia, beginning at 9:30 a.m.
Copies of the Companies’ tariffs are also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.
Anyone desiring to protest or comment should file a written comment prior to July 1, 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.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and
WHEELING POWER COMPANY

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Forty-three years of music and education come to a finale

By Allen Hamrick

Every town has landmarks that tell the story of its past - the buildings, the old growth trees that have stood the test of time, the legacies that people leave behind. For the last 43 years, Doug and Tracy Wayne have dedicated their lives to educating the youth of this county. They are one of our community’s most enduring landmarks not made of stone or wood but made of rhythm and melody. They are two extraordinary educators who are responsible for instilling the art of music in the thousands of students who have entered their classrooms.

Tracy Wayne, who semi-retired last year, concluded her career back where it started – Clay County Middle School, the school on the hill. This must have been a bittersweet moment for her knowing that she would be entering the next phase of her life with so many young voices waiting to be nurtured. She was an exemplary choral music teacher and always brought her best to the table. Now, at the conclusion of this school year Mr. Wayne has followed her footsteps. Doug Wayne has spent over four decades behind the conductor’s baton and his stepping down marks the end of an era.

These two giants of the music educa-

tion world spent a lifetime shaping the soundtrack of this community. To measure a combined career of over 80 years in music education is to look far beyond the awards on the wall or the precision of the concerts. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne’s success is measured by the thousands of students who first learned how to breathe, listen, and play and sing under their watchful eyes. They did not just teach students how to read notes on a page but to feel music and turn their music into art. Students came to understand how a collection of instruments and voices could come together and communicate as one.

These two dedicated teachers did more for the CCMS and CES music departments than any article could ever capture. They took many clumsy beginnings and turned them into great music. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne were dedicated to their students and their music, and to spend over forty years helping children discover the joy of music stood in harmony with their dreams.

Their combined career will be considered a legendary run that should never be forgotten. The CCMS music department was a synchronized unit. Mrs. Wayne taught choir just next door to Mr. Wayne, and she did not just help students find their voices but integrated instruments into the

mix allowing students to broaden their talents. This created a multi-layered experience for their students. They turned the music department into a sanctuary for students, a place where generations of students found a home, a purpose, and a passion. They are a rare and beautiful couple who shared the blending of their talents to uplift a community of students and help them realize their talent.

The band and choir rooms are now silent, and the future of the CCMS music department will be in the hands of someone new. As interviews are held to replace the music education position, candidates will have a definite high expectation of shoes to fill. Doug and Tracy’s poetic sense of responsibility to enhance music through the hearts of students will never fade with the bells of their retirement. Mr. and Mrs.



Tracy Wayne directs the choir.

Wayne, your music will play on through the alumni who will pass their music down to their own children and thus continue your legacy.

Looking back at the trail they blazed over time is to see a landscape changed because they were part of it. The thousands of students they taught are now scattered across this USA and the world. These people now carry the music within them, and it will always be a quiet reminder to them of the couple who made that possible. The Wayne baton may be permanently lowered and the final chords sung, but the song they started will be sung for generations to come. Thank you for the music and the dedication of your many years of service to the youth of this county. We hope that the next chapter in your life will be full of the best music you have ever created.



Doug Wayne directs the band.

CLAY TSA

Clay High winners were:
First Place: *Biotech Design* - Alivia Gilliland and Cadence Williams; *Children’s Story* -Ariel Dobbins and Lillian Starcher; *Debating Technology Issues* - Sophia Berberich and Camryn Williams; *Future Technology Teacher* - Juliann Gallaher; *Geospatial Technology* -Jaxon Brown, Alivia Gilliland, and Roxy Schoolcraft; *Prepared Presentation* - Sophia Berberich; *Robotics* - Alex Holcomb and Canaan Payton; *STEM Mass Media* - Ariel Dobbins and Hannah Gandee; and *Tech Problem Solving* - Alivia Gilliland and Cadence Williams.
Second Place: *Animatronics* - Brooke Cliver and Cora Weaver; *Data Science & Analytics* - Jaxon Brown; *Debating Technology Issues* - Hannah Gandee and Parker Taylor; *Chapter Team* - Jaxon Brown, Alivia Gilliland, Juliann Gallaher, Cheyenne Adkins, Sophia Berberich and Camryn Williams; *Digi-*

tal Video Production - Ariel Dobbins and Lillian Starcher; *Extemporaneous Speech* - Parker Taylor; *Logo Design* - Cheyenne Adkins; *Music Production* - Jaxon Brown; and *Water Bottle Rockets* - Cruz Cottrell and Mckinley Mahan.
Third Place: *Children’s Story* - Adrianna Belt; *Fashion Design* - Abigail Grandon, Brooke Cliver and Cora Weaver; *Forensic Science* - Presley Shamblin and Lillian Starcher; and *Music Production* - Abigail Grandon, Brooke Cliver and Cora Weaver.
At Cedar Lakes, state officers for the 2026-2027 school year were also elected: Juliann Gallaher will be State President and Lillian Starcher will be Sergeant-at-Arms. Ariel Dobbins is the outgoing State President and Juliann Gallaher is outgoing Sergeant-at-Arms. Additionally, Jaxon Brown won the Most Outstanding Member Scholarship for excellence in his TSA events

throughout his high school career.
Five Clay High students were also honored with awards in the TSA Achievement Program Pathways to Excellence. It encourages TSA members to engage in the areas/categories of service, leadership, STEM immersion, and personal/professional development. Students participate in activities in these areas and are able to earn sequentially a bronze, silver, and gold award. Impressively, Alivia Gilliland, Jaxon Brown, Juliann Gallaher, Lillian Starcher and Presley Shamblin each earned all three - bronze, silver and gold achievement awards.
Ms. Ramsey is very proud of these students for not only being successful in competition, but for their success in their behavior too. They are carrying on a strong tradition set by TSA students over the past decade. Ms. Ramsey would also like to thank Mrs.

Lindsay Schoolcraft, Ms. Elizabeth Galaher, Mr. Barry Payton, and Mrs. Luella Dancy for their time and hard work helping students with projects or serving as chaperones along with the parents, grandparents, and family members who help make sure the students’ projects are complete.
They say it takes a village to raise a child, and the same can be said about TSA. It takes a community to bring success and CCMS and CCHS students are fortunate to have that community support. This success would also not be possible without the support of the administrations at Clay County Middle School, Clay County High School, the Clay County Schools Administrative Staff and the Clay County Board of Education. We thank you! The School Board will recognize the students for their achievements at the next Board Meeting to be held on June 16, 2026.



Ariel Dobbins and Hannah Gandee



Camryn Williams and Sophia Berberich



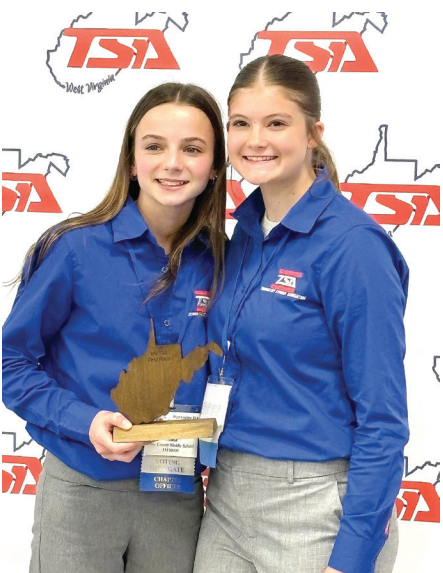
Roxy Schoolcraft



Alex Holcomb and Canaan Payton



River Schoolcraft and Gunner Dobbins



Marissa Atha and Layla Stewart



Kinley Ramsey and Addy Jones



Lyla Titus



Silas Corwell



Juliann Gallaher, Alivia Gilliland, Jaxon Brown, Madeline Nguyen, Presley Shamblin and Lillian Starcher

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STK# U13961 | 14,324 MILES | RETAIL: \$32,185 | SAVE \$2,917

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STK# 17534 | 23,645 MILES | RETAIL: \$31,595 | SAVE \$1,600

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STK# 426084B | RETAIL: \$37,995 | SAVE \$6,496

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STK# 17526 | 11,526 MILES | RETAIL: \$31,995 | SAVE \$3,997

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STK# U14129 | RETAIL: \$34,658 | SAVE \$5,052

2020 JEEP GLADIATOR RUBICON



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2025 FORD EXPLORER ST-LINE



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STK# U13934 | 37,060 MILES | RETAIL: \$42,165 | SAVE \$3,886

2025 FORD EXPLORER ACTIVE



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STK# 800210 | 13,654 MILES | RETAIL: \$41,126 | SAVE \$2,171

2017 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD LT 4D CREW CAB



NORTHSIDE DRIVE PRICE \$41,999

STK# 426264A | 56,786 MILES | RETAIL: \$45,999 | SAVE \$4,000

2024 GMC SIERRA 1500 ELEVATION 4D CREW CAB



NORTHSIDE DRIVE PRICE \$42,601

STK# 126265A | 72,115 MILES | RETAIL: \$44,995 | SAVE \$2,394

2023 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 ZR2 4D CREW CAB



NORTHSIDE DRIVE PRICE \$46,505

STK# U14010 | 68,586 MILES | RETAIL: \$51,875 | SAVE \$5,370

2025 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L SUMMIT



NORTHSIDE DRIVE PRICE \$53,995

STK# 426278A | 16,806 MILES | RETAIL: \$60,675 | SAVE \$6,680

2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD LTZ 4D CREW CAB



NORTHSIDE DRIVE PRICE \$54,011

STK# 126243A | RETAIL: \$60,525 | SAVE \$6,514

2024 FORD F-150 LARIAT 4D SUPERCREW



NORTHSIDE DRIVE PRICE \$55,144

STK# U14038 | 8,528 MILES | RETAIL: \$62,925 | SAVE \$7,781

2025 FORD EXPEDITION ACTIVE



NORTHSIDE DRIVE PRICE \$57,556

STK# U13826 | 11,305 MILES | RETAIL: \$61,885 | SAVE \$4,329

2025 FORD EXPEDITION PLATINUM



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