BOOKED REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS | P.2

Clay County
Free Press
Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple

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Two Clay County students earn Golden Horseshoe award



The Golden Horseshoe is a long-standing West Virginia tradition dating back to 1931 that honors eighth grade students who excel in West Virginia history. This year, the following students from Clay County earned the Golden Horseshoe award:

-Brody Pierson, Clay Middle School

-Courtney O'Brien, Clay Middle School

About Golden Horseshoe:

A high point of the eighth-grade year is the chance for a student to become a Knight of the Golden Horseshoe. The name refers to the golden horseshoes given to the early explorers of West Virginia. In 1716, Alexander Spotswood, Governor of the Virginia Colony, felt the land west of the Allegheny Mountains needed exploring.

He organized a party of roughly 50 men who pledged, "Sic jurat transcendere monte," which means "Thus he swears to cross the mountains." Governor Spotswood presented a small golden horseshoe to those who crossed the mountains into Western Virginia, beginning the Golden Horseshoe tradition.

This tradition was revitalized in the late 1920s through West Virginia Clubs thanks to The West Virginia Review editor Phil M. Conley. In late 1929, Conley presented his idea to State Superintendent of Free Schools William C. Cook who wanted the state Department of Education to promote academic study of the state. Superintendent Cook expanded Conley's idea by honoring the highest-achieving students with a state award. In 1930, roughly 2,736 clubs were organized with more than 48,000 students as members. During the first Golden Horseshoe ceremony in 1931, 87 students from 46 counties were honored as Knights of the Golden Horseshoe.

This program honors students who excel in the study of West Virginia. Since 1931, roughly 15,000 eighth-grade students have received a golden pin symbolizing their understanding of West Virginia's heritage.

The Golden Horseshoe Award is unique in its statewide recognition of academic achievement. Each year, roughly 22,000 eighth-grade students study a comprehensive West Virginia curriculum. This curriculum exposes students to the history, geography, economy, and government of the Mountain State. We use the Golden Horseshoe Award to honor "all-state" West Virginia Studies students.

Winning eighth-grade students are honored during a one-day ceremony held in Charleston. At least two students from each county, one from each charter school, and one from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind are selected for the award. The other 110 honorees are selected based on each county's eighth-grade population. The honorees can also tour the State Capitol and West Virginia Culture Center while in Charleston.

The high point of the Golden Horseshoe Ceremony is the induction of the students into the Golden Horseshoe Society. The State Superintendent of Schools dubs students a Knight of the Golden Horseshoe Society with a tap of a sword on the shoulder. Each student receives a Golden Horseshoe pin and a place within a continuing tradition.

Grand opening for new Clay County business set for June 20

The Tiny Sparrow, Art Studio & Happy Place, formerly located in Gassaway, has moved into the old Nebo Post Office building. Owner and artist Quincy Potasnik is excited to plant roots in her neck of the woods. "This is the perfect place for the Studio to nest. The quaintness and charm of our little town of Nebo sets the perfect stage for that artsy, rural-eclectic vibe."

Alongside the Studio, Potasnik is also opening up a new shop: The Molly Moocher, Goods & Goodies. Named after the famous mystical mushroom, the shop will feature local handmade merchandise, gifts, baked goods, and consignment items. It will also carry supplemental goods like fishing accessories, camping needs, and select food and drink to cater to guests at Walker Creek Farms and Cabins.

The Nebo Post Office was part of the Nebo General Store, owned for decades by the beloved Wavie Mollohan Starcher. Simply known as "Wavie's," local folks used the building as a gathering place, often standing for an hour, drinking a cold pop, and discussing the recent goings on of the neighborhood. Potasnik recalls visiting her grandparents, Ted and Marlene Potasnik, on weekends when she was a child. "Grandpa would let my sister and me walk to the store, no money in hand. We'd load up on pop, candy, chips, Vienna sausages…whatever fancied our taste buds at that moment, and we'd put it on his tab. He never once got onto us for running up his account."

Potasnik hopes her shop and studio will live up to how Wavie represented her business. She also wants to help support local businesses like Pizzas & Cream and Walker Creek Farms by encouraging her own customers and students to take advantage of what these business have to offer. "Wavie always had an inviting feel to her. Her smile was the best! I want my shop to be just as welcoming for all who enter. It's about meeting new people, having great conversation, and making memories. It's about neighbors and family and friends. That's my goal."

The Grand Opening will be Saturday, June 20 from 3 to 5 p.m. Cake and punch will be served along with a drawing for free paint classes. Stop in and check out what the store has to offer!

The Molly Moocher will be opened Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will have updates on its Facebook page. It is located at 9484 Big Otter Highway, Nebo, WV 25141, at the mouth of Nebo Walker Road, "Tanner Holler," in the old Nebo Post Office Building.

Events at the Studio will be posted on Facebook and Instagram under The Tiny Sparrow, Art Studio & Happy Place. The Studio will also be available for birthday parties, bible studies, or any type of gatherings. For more information, call or text 304-549-8203.





Annual Senior Nutrition Center Picnic held at Maysel

By Gary Lee Stuber

Every year in early summer the Senior Nutrition Center hosts an annual picnic for Clay County Seniors. The event is free and is usually at Maysel Park. This year's caterer was Legacy Foods, and the menu included tender southern fried chicken or steak and potatoes, sides of green beans, boiled potatoes, roll and butter, pasta salad, and garden fresh salad with Legacy Food's own special Italian dressing. For dessert there was a selection of cookies, brownies, sheet cake and watermelon.

While there was no official count, as many seniors did not know there was a register sitting on a table upon their arrival, but I counted more than 70 seniors who attended the event this year. Food was prepared and served by Legacy Foods owner and operator Duane Legg, who is also a Clay County Commissioner. To his credit the food was generous and more than enough to feed this hungry crowd. What was left was taken back to the Senior Center and was put in individual transportable foam carriers and delivered to the homes of those seniors who were not able to attend in person.

Tables were set up inside the vo-ag building because of the threat of inclement weather. The day and atmosphere were just fine, and the storm never materialized. Tables and chairs were set up in rows and people sat where ever they felt comfortable. There was live music up until the food was served.

The entire staff of the Clay Senior Center were there to serve food in the cafeteria style serving line and they did so both generously and with a smile.

In the crowd were many of the faces of seniors seen daily at the Clay Senior Nutrition Center, in Clay, but there were many more new faces. Many of these were in wheel chairs, brought to the event by caregivers. It was a fun time for all. Thank you Clay County for the love you extend to your seniors.

PICNIC cont. on page 3

Panther football is back in the headlines



Jaden Morris shows why he was selected for the North-South Best of the best game.

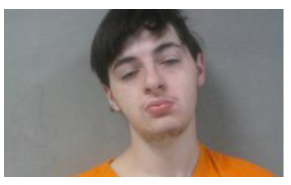
See story on Page 7

BOOKED REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

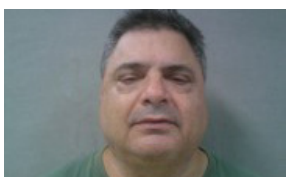
NICHOLAS COUNTY



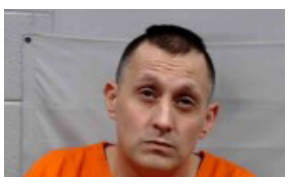
Erica Sue Crites
Booked 6/10/26
Breaking without entering, brandishing a deadly weapon, obstructing an officer



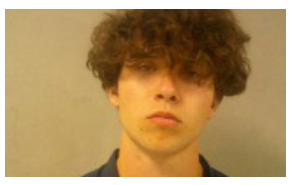
Kendrick Levi Dodrill
Booked 6/11/26
Possession of controlled substance, Capias, shoplifting



Mark David Frontino
Booked 6/9/26
Capias



Tyler James Hesson
Booked 6/12/26
Capias

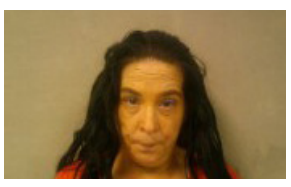


Evan Matthew Morris
Booked 6/14/26
Aggravated DUI, speeding, no proof of insurance, expired registration

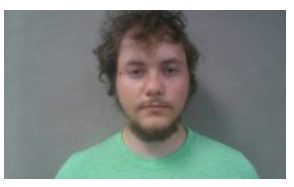


Justin Shaw Thompson
Booked 6/14/26
Domestic battery

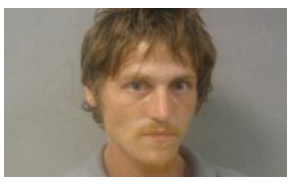
BRAXTON COUNTY



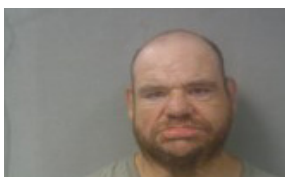
Tammy Jean Ables
Booked 6/8/26
Possession of meth, possession



Skyler James Barker
Booked 6/8/26
Driving suspended third, no proof of insurance



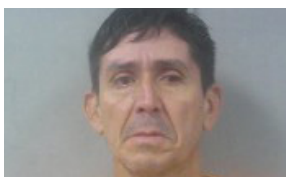
Charles Edward Dennison
Booked 6/12/26
Trespassing, possession



William Dale Freeman
Booked 6/13/26
Petit larceny

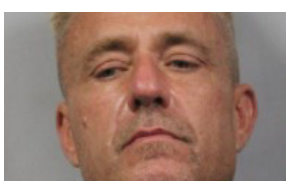


Sandie Hicks
Booked 6/9/26
Trespassing, indecent exposure

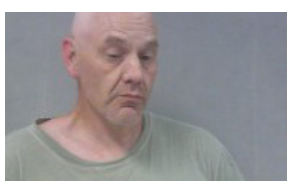


Josder Jose Lava Valecillos
Booked 6/13/26
DUI

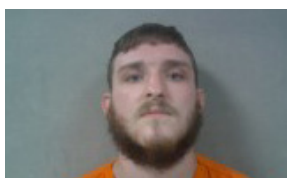
BRAXTON COUNTY



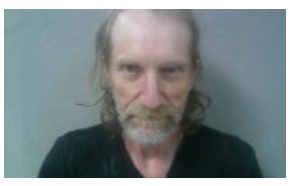
Michael Brian McCallister
Booked 6/14/26
False info regarding sex offender registry, Capias for felony



Richard Daniel Miller
Booked 6/12/26
Domestic assault, DUI, joyriding, driving suspended

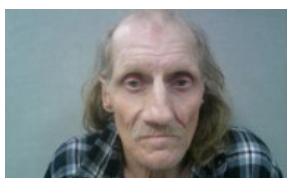


Mason Bouie Sigman
Booked 6/8/26
Obstructing an officer, domestic assault, domestic battery, petit larceny, conspiracy, robbery

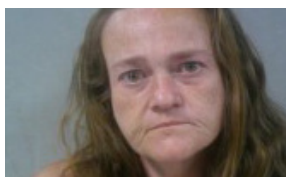


Howard Douglas Stout
Booked 6/13/26
Driving while license suspended/revoked

CLAY COUNTY

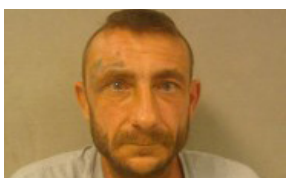


Ronald Keith Blankenship Jr.
Booked 6/9/26
Breaking and entering other than dwelling



Samantha Michelle Brown
Booked 6/9/26
Petit larceny, trespassing

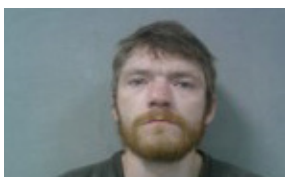
CLAY COUNTY



Joseph Adam Cummings
Booked 6/13/26
Domestic assault, domestic battery, strangulation, fleeing on foot, obstructing an officer



Rachelle Dawn Duffield
Booked 6/12/26
Petit larceny



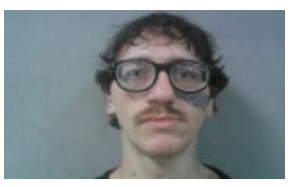
Joseph William Gill Jr.
Booked 6/9/26
Breaking and entering other than dwelling



Roger Dale Rogers
Booked 6/10/26
DOR/DUI



Levi Ernest Siers
Booked 6/13/26
Driving revoked for DUI



Henry Earl Stutler Jr.
Booked 6/10/26
Possession of deadly weapon

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Governor Morrisey appoints Erin Hunter as West Virginia Insurance Commissioner

Governor Patrick Morrisey has announced the appointment of Erin Hunter as Commissioner of the West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner, effective July 1, 2026. Hunter will succeed Commissioner Allan L. McVey, who is retiring after nearly a decade of service to the state.

"Erin Hunter has spent more than a decade serving West Virginians through the Offices of the Insurance Commissioner and has earned a reputation as a knowledgeable and effective leader," said Governor Morrisey. "I am confident she will build on the agency's strong foundation, and I thank Allan McVey for his years of dedicated service to the people of West Virginia."

Hunter joined the Offices of the Insurance Commissioner in December 2012 as Legal Regulatory Counsel and steadily advanced through the agency's leadership ranks, serving as General Counsel and later Deputy Insurance Commissioner. During her tenure, she played a key role in regulatory oversight, legislative initiatives, and agency operations while helping guide insurance policy affecting consumers and businesses across the state.

A graduate of West Virginia University, Hunter earned bachelor's degrees in Political Science and English before receiving her Juris Doctor from the West Virginia University College of Law.

McVey was appointed Insurance Commissioner in 2017 and later served as Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Administration before returning to lead the agency in 2021. His retirement becomes effective June 30, 2026.

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Deadline to apply is June 26, 2026.
For more information, contact:
Elk Conservation District
304-765-2535
ecd@wvca.us

Clay County Free Press
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Life Is Not a Soap Opera

By Dr. James Snyder

When I was young, we did not have a TV in our home. My parents did not think it was important, so we listened to the radio instead. I love the Saturday morning radio shows, Popeye the Sailor Man, particularly.

Then something big happened that changed our lives. On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. This event changed everything for us.

My father was really concerned about the news, so he went out and bought our first TV. It was black-and-white, but he wanted to stay up to date on the news about the President. The news was on almost all the time.

It also changed my mother. She had two close friends from church that would get together and talk for hours. I never understood what they were talking about, and what I heard didn't make sense to me.

As time went on, I finally figured out they were discussing soap operas on TV. My mother started watching these shows with passion. When her friends came over, they would talk about the latest drama on their favorite soap opera. Even when they met in church, a soap opera was one of the topics they talked about.

I'm not sure which soap opera was her favorite, but she followed two or three of them very closely. She and her friends treated these shows as if they were real life.

The soap operas were on when I was at school, so I never got to watch them with her. Even if I had the chance, I'm not sure I would have wanted to watch them with her. If I had to choose between one of her soap operas and Popeye the Sailor Man. It would be an easy choice, I would choose Popeye.

People must have pretty boring lives if they watch soap operas so passionately every day.

As I got older, I realized that many people think their lives are like a soap opera. They think they're living in a drama every day.

After I got married, there was a popular TV show called "Dallas" that I never watched. I had more important things to do than watch a soap opera.

I remember everyone asking, "What happened to J.R. Ewing from Dallas?" This question was everywhere for a long time. I do not understand why people were so interested in a character that was not real. As far as I know, we never got an answer to that question.

I know some people, even in my family, think their lives are like a soap opera. They have so much drama in their lives that I wish there were a switch that I could turn off.

When I was young, I realized that life is real. I wish I could make my life into a soap opera with a happy ending, but thankfully, it's not like that.

Sometimes I make situations more dramatic than they need to be because I don't know what else to do. But that doesn't help the situation I'm facing. If my life were a soap opera, I would be able to change the channel to something more fun, like the Three Stooges. My life is more like theirs than any soap opera.

This year, my wife and I will celebrate 55 years of marriage. I never thought I'd live long enough to see this day. I'll be turning 75 just before we celebrate our anniversary.

I can honestly say that in those 55 years, I have not had a single bad day, and that is because I have been married the whole time and not single.

Yes, we have had our dramatic moments, like when my wife first introduced me to broccoli. That was a soap opera day for sure.

Another dramatic day was when my wife told me she was pregnant. I was not yet 21, and I didn't know if I could be a father.

It took me a while to work through that soap opera drama, but I finally did when our first daughter was born. I just did not know what other drama was coming my way as a father.

We ended up having two girls and a boy, and that was just the beginning of the drama-just have a bunch of grandkids come over for a party and you will see what I mean.

People often wonder why older people have gray hair. The answer is simple: the more grandkids and great-grandkids you have, the grayer your hair will get. Believe me, I'm proof.

Soap operas and real life differ because soap operas are carefully scripted and planned. They even redo scenes multiple times. In real life, there is no script, and every day is a surprise without a repeat. If only I could write my own scenes, I might handle things better. Also, you don't get to redo a scene.

Reflecting on this I remembered what The Apostle Paul said on this subject.

1 Corinthians 2:11-12, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

My life is not a soap opera, but a life of reality through the Holy Spirit, who is always real.

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

A Single Bowl Of Dog Food

By Joe Mazzella

It was a hot summer's afternoon several years ago. I was sitting at my kitchen table addressing a letter when I saw a stray dog wander into my backyard. He was a reddish mix of several breeds and was severely underweight. I could see the ribs and backbone sticking out of his skin. He looked like he hadn't eaten anything in weeks. I walked outside and tried to call him over. He approached me shaking with fear. I spoke calmly to him and then went inside and filled a bowl with dog food and another with water. When I came back outside I set the bowls down and backed away. He smelled the food and devoured it with joy. Then he started to down the water with the same gusto. I gently reached over and petted his head for awhile. Then I went back inside to grab a leash and hopefully bring him into the house. I planned to give him a bath and then take him to the vet. But in the minute it took me to grab the leash he was gone.

I gave myself a hard time about that for a long while. I went over what I did wrong and wondered if I should have tried to leash him first and feed him second, or if I should have spent more time winning his trust before going in for the leash. In the end, though, I had to accept that the dog was gone and no amount of regret was going to bring him back.

God did teach me one thing, however, from what happened that day: "You can't save everyone." All you can do is your best. Sometimes the dog will run away. Sometimes the person will reject or ignore your act of kindness. But that doesn't mean you stop loving, giving, sharing, or being kind. That is what God put us here to do.

Sometimes in this life all you get to do is give a single bowl of dog food to a stray dog, or share a single act of kindness with a stranger. But it is enough. Each act of Love is priceless in God's eyes. And in the end all of those acts add up to make your life. Make it a beautiful one.

Home Country

By Slim Randles

Recently we left Emily of the fantastic cheekbones and Dewey the accident prone, happily locked together in a kiss after Dewey stumbled over a root.

"Emily," Dewey said, "I have a confession to make to you. I don't have a neurotic fascination with manure."

"You don't?"

"No." He kissed her again and they both smiled. "It's my business. I supply fertilizer to people's gardens. That's what I do. When I told you I was in manure, I meant the manure business. They call me the fertilizer king, actually."

She smiled. "Wow! That's wonderful! I was a bit concerned about falling for a guy who had a … thing … for manure. You know. But it's what you do!"

They kissed again.

"But won't this mess up your doctoral thesis? I thought that was why you wanted to see me. Your tape recorder and all that …"

"Dewey," she said. "I have a confession to make to you, too. I'm not writing a doctoral dissertation on you. I don't want a doctorate. I want you."

His index finger reached up and traced each delectable cheekbone gently, and she smiled at him some more.

"I want you, too," he said. "But there is something else I need to confess."

"There is?"

"Yes. You see, I have little … accidents. I'm kinda clumsy. I'll try really hard to do something right, but the next thing you know the truck's in a mud hole or a cow's in a tree, or I've vaccinated Dud for blackleg, or …"

"I'll have to hear about that cow one of these days."

"Anyway, I wanted you to know."

"Isn't that why we're lying here on the shoulder of the road, kissing and smiling and why I have a rock in the small of my back?"

"Yes."

"I kinda like it, Honey."

They tried to pull apart to get more comfortable but something held them together. They both looked down at the fishing fly that had joined their shirts together. It was that stonefly nymph on a number 6 streamer that Marvin Pincus tied to help Dewey find a girlfriend.

Sometimes there's magic on a warm spring night.

Brought to you by corral shovelers everywhere. They have no advertising money, but they just want to be remembered.

PICNIC

Continued from Page 1



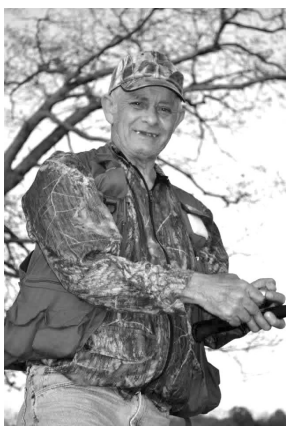
Duane Legg puts out food





Live music

Obituary



Gerald Collins

Gerald Wayne "Dickie" Collins, 78, of Ivydale, died Friday, June 5, 2026, at his home.

He was born March 14, 1948, in Charleston, the son of the late Arthur G. and Melissa O'Dell Godbey Collins.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sisters, Ruby Collins, Sylvia Wine, Betty Smith, Sharon Collins and Hazel Brewer; brothers, Braden Collins, Junior Collins, Clifford Collins and Roy Collins.

Gerald retired as a school bus driver for the Roane County Board of Education.

He was a member of the Laborers International Union of North America Local #1353, Charleston, and a former volunteer for the Newton Fire Department. He was of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Betty J. Boggs Collins of Ivydale; daughters, Betty Denise (James) Siford of Clendenin, Debra (Rusty) McKinney of Ivydale, Donna (Donnis) Faircloth of Pikeville, Tenn.; grandchildren, Dustin Mullins of Chattanooga, Tenn. Nathan (Samantha) Mullins of Clendenin, Jadia (Brian) Mitchem, Brooklyn McKinney, Arabella Faircloth and Donnis Faircloth; great-grandchildren: Aubree and Isabella Mitchem, Olivia and Adelyn Mullins and Malea Ligeralde; brothers and sisters: Ruth Burdette of Sissonville, James (Barbara) Collins of Newton, General (Elvie) Collins of Spencer, Reba Streber of Newton, Leonard (Connie) Collins of Newton, Anna Collins of Liverpool, Roger Collins of St. Marys, Rondall (Patsy) Collins of Spencer and Mike (Diane) Collins of Newton; fur baby, Bear.

His pastimes included hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time with his family. He also enjoyed dirt track racing, reruns of Gunsmoke, Walker Texas Ranger and the Three Stooges.

Visitation was from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 9th at John H. Taylor Funeral Home, Spencer, with Rev. Dean Rogers officiating. Burial was in King-Kirkhart Cemetery, Newton.

This Week in West Virginia History

June 17, 1813: General Thomas Maley Harris was born at present Harrisville. He rose to prominence after the Civil War, when he served on the military commission that tried conspirators who acted with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

June 17, 1916: The West Virginia High School Athletic Association was organized at Charleston with 11 charter members. Its name was changed to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission in 1955.



June 17, 1961: A Wayne County bridge was named in honor of TV newsman David Brinkley. The bridge's condition had become a news item during the 1960 presidential primary; state officials closed the bridge, repaired it, and invited Brinkley to return for the ceremony officially naming it the "Brinkley Bridge."

June 18, 1937: Jay Rockefeller was born in New York City. He served as West Virginia's 29th governor from 1977 to 1985 and in the U.S. Senate from 1985 to 2015.

June 18, 1944: *It's Wheeling Steel* aired its last program. A half-hour musical variety radio program that drew upon talented Wheeling Steel employees and families, the show ran eight years and was broadcast nationally.

June 19, 1905: Senator Rush Dew Holt was born in Weston. At 29, Holt was the youngest person ever elected to the U.S. Senate, earning him the nickname "Boy Senator." Since the Constitution sets 30 as the minimum age for senators, Holt had to wait until his birthday in June 1935 to take his seat, nearly six months into the 74th Congress.

June 19, 1909: Oak Park, an amusement park in Preston County, opened. The park was an easy ride from Morgantown and helped fill up trains on weekends and holidays. On one summer day in 1909, 14 trains brought more than 4,000 people to the park.

June 20, 1861: Francis Pierpont was unanimously elected governor of the unionist Reorganized Government of Virginia, which sat at Wheeling until West Virginia entered the Union two years later.

June 20, 1863: West Virginia became the 35th state. Arthur Boreman was the state's first governor.

June 20, 1932: The West Virginia capitol was officially dedicated. Construction had begun in 1924.

June 20, 1963: On the 100th birthday of West Virginia, President John F. Kennedy made his last appearance in West Virginia. Speaking at the state capitol in a pouring rain, he said, "The sun does not always shine in West Virginia, but the people do."



June 20, 1970: The play *Hatfields and McCoys* opened at Grandview State Park amphitheater. Written by Billy Edd Wheeler with music by Ewel Cornett, the show joined *Honey in the Rock* as a regular summer offering.

June 20, 1974: The *Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight* statue was unveiled at the state capitol. Designed by Fairmont native Fred Torrey and sculpted by Bernie Wiepper of Charleston, it depicts Lincoln walking the halls of the White House on New Year's Eve 1862, pondering whether to make West Virginia a state.

June 21, 1920: Wheeling Steel Corporation was organized when La Belle Iron Works, Whitaker-Glessner Company, and Wheeling Steel & Iron Works combined. In the 1920s, Wheeling Steel employed more than 17,000 workers and ranked as the nation's third-largest steelmaker.



June 21, 1959: Musician Kathy Mattea was born in South Charleston but grew up in nearby Cross Lanes. She rose to country music stardom in the 1980s. Since 2021, she has hosted the *Mountain Stage* radio program.

June 22, 1926: Earl Oldgebay died in Cleveland. He was one of West Virginia's most successful industrialists and a generous benefactor.

June 22, 1949: Artist Paula Clendenin was born in Cedar Grove, Kanawha County. She has earned national acclaim for her paintings, richly colored, textured shapes that merge West Virginia's mountain landscape with mystical and spiritual symbols.

June 23, 1944: A tornado struck Shinnston and surrounding areas, killing 103 people and injuring hundreds more.

June 23, 1952: The Toledo Mud Hens moved to West Virginia's capital city, making the Charleston Senators part of the Class AAA American Association for the first time.

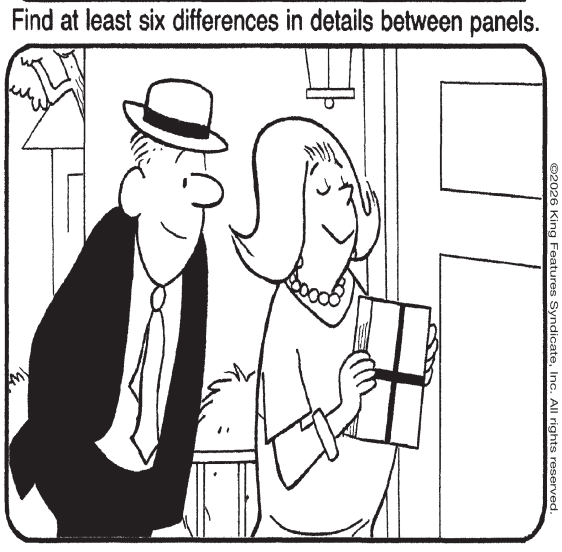
June 23, 2016: Eight inches of rain fell in a 12-hour period. The Meadow, Cherry and Elk rivers, as well as Howard Creek, flooded downtowns and The Greenbrier resort, killing a total of 23 people.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Box is larger. 2. Tie is longer. 3. Railing is different. 4. Hat is larger. 5. House is wider. 6. Jacket sleeve is longer.

Weekly SUDOKU

	4						3	6
3			9	4				7
	2	7		5	6	4		1
	7				4	2	6	3
6			1					9
	8		6		3	1		
	6				8			4
4				6	7			2
2		5	4	3	9			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 — "LO AND BEHOLD!"

ACROSS

1 Police dept. alert
4 Celtics, on scoreboards
7 Like messy beds
13 Beard go-with, for short
19 French department head
21 Got ready, with "up"
22 Epithets
23 Refreshing a web page that has detailed contract wording?
26 Half a quart
27 Meadowland
28 Navigate
29 It might make you red in the face
30 Annual bebop music festival in Sri Lanka's capital?
34 Discontinue
36 That girl
37 It might make you red in the face
38 Unbroken
39 Basketball-stuffing pros taking part in a zigzag ski race?
44 "C'mon, do me this favor"
47 Fountain in Rome
48 Spoil
49 Writer Ferber
50 Visualize
52 "—, vidi, vici"
54 Sheriff Taylor's son
58 Dol. units
61 Becoming less energetic at the disco?
66 Barbie's little sister
69 "I won't — word"
70 Male bud
71 D.C.'s land
72 Having a boss who will only communicate with you by singing?
78 Boxer Laila
79 Wanted-poster abbr.
80 "Let — already!"
81 IRS probes
82 Technique of kneading bivalve mollusks before cooking them?
87 Big inits. in fashion
88 Watering aid
89 Rescue
90 Big inits. in fuel additives
92 This, in Lima
96 "Golly!"
99 Dog tether
102 Maligns
105 Girls' shirts worn as part of a classroom dress code?
110 Province west of Sask.
111 "Nope"
112 — kwon do
113 Born as
114 Strauss opera performed correctly in every detail?
117 Europe-Asia border river
119 Tree yielding chocolate
123 Zodiac feline
124 Actress Teri
125 Repainting all your yuletide ornaments black and white?
131 Prairie canine
132 Taken illicitly
133 ID attached to luggage
134 Unfurled, e.g.
135 Trunks
136 That girl
137 Hurly-burly

DOWN

1 Spring mo.
2 Got ready
3 Native of Belmopan
4 Officer patrolling an area
5 Condition with rituals, in brief
6 Ben and Jerry of comedy
7 "Roots" actress Leslie
8 After-tax
9 — -jongg
10 War god
11 Masterful
12 Falco of TV
13 Breastbone
14 Gratuity
15 Razor option
16 Trite phrase
17 "Taxi" actress Marilu
18 Acid-alcohol compounds
20 "Happy Days" cool guy, with "the"
24 Natal lead-in
25 Requirement
30 Agree (with)
31 Yoko of art
32 Deli classic
33 Rowing blade
35 Genetic ID
40 — Strauss
41 Pizza cooker
42 Very valuable vase
43 Ray of McDonald's
45 Vanzetti's old partner in crime
46 Actress Thompson
51 Israeli airline
53 "— happy to!"
55 Second-century pope
56 Map extra
57 "By Jove!"
59 Kind of wave
60 Japanese watch brand
62 Olive of old comics
63 "Which — Up?" (1977 comedy film)
64 Orderly lineup
65 "— ordo seclorum" (phrase on a dollar bill)
66 Break to bits
67 Verizon, e.g., in brief
68 Pseudonym
73 Salary limits
74 Depot: Abbr.
75 Trendy Aussie boots
76 Bards
77 Did nothing
83 Toy brick brand
84 Galleria
85 2004 Chevy debut
86 Football Hall of Famer Junior
91 Military units
93 Mexican miss
94 Mine railway
95 Tennis star Arthur
97 Untold eras
98 Voted in
100 Boise-to-Vegas dir.
101 Witch's spell
103 Gore and Hirt
104 Heat-vs.-Suns matchup, e.g.
105 Wall plaster
106 Drive-in restaurant server
107 Cry from a town crier
108 Sunlight ray
109 Hair parlors
115 Cartoon pic
116 Tardy
118 Jungle cat
120 Put in a role
121 Regarding
122 Stench
126 Holy Mlle.
127 Raised rails
128 Co. bigwig
129 Cheering cry
130 Many an intl. charity



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Puzzle Answers Page 2

THE WIDEN NEWS

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February 1959

High School

Educational Movies shown during the month of February:

Date	Name of Movie	Teacher
5	Oliver Wendell Holmes	Bailes
6	Combat American	Leeson
9	Biography of the Unborn	Stover
24	Great Lakes Highway of Commerce	A. Hathaway

Grade School

8	Ohio and its Mineral Resources	Graham

Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Leeson....

1958-59

Mr. Hathaway's sixth grade won the Attendance Banner for the 5th month with a percentage of 97.60.

The eleventh grade won for the High School with a percentage of 98.08.

Congratulations 6th and 11th graders!

Percentage Of Attendance

Mr. Leeson	Grade	11	98.08
Mr. Hathaway	Grade	6	97.60
Mrs. Hathaway	Grade	8	97.32
Mr. Jackson	Grade	5	97.24
Miss Graham	Grade	3	97.12
Mr. Krise	Grade	9	97.10
Mr. Matheny	Grade	10	96.70
Mrs. Bragg	Grade	4	96.57
Mr. Stover	Grade	7	95.77
Mrs. Griffith	Grade	12	95.00
Mrs. Elliott	Grade	2	94.23
Mrs. Butcher	Grade	1	90.12
Miss Ashley	Grade	3	90.00

Miss Linda Bays Wins School Honors



Miss Linda Bays, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gene R. Bays, has been named student of the month at St. Albans Junior High School.

Linda is a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Acree of Swandale, and Mr. and Mrs. Max Bays of Florida. Linda's mother was the former Miss Jean Acree of Swandale and was a member of the 1939 graduating class of the Clay County High School.

ROYAL COURT PRESENTED AT HOMECOMING GAME

Miss Judy La Corte was crowned "Miss Widen High School III" during the half--time ceremonies at the Homecoming Game between Widen and Troy on Friday, February 13.

The queen, escorted by Jimmy Manning, wore a lovely red chiffon waltz - length gown, with tiny rhinestone straps and a balloon skirt. Her black-strap heels complimented the gown.

Miss Carolene Miller was the Senior Class princess. She wore a stunning gown of black lace over pink taffeta, with pink lace on the bodice. Her escort was Pete Gibson.

Miss Judy Sigman, the Junior Class princess, was escorted by Robert Baughman. Judy wore a party dress of pink lace over pink taffeta with a large bow in the back. She wore pink strap heels.

Miss Virginia Nettles, the Sophomore Class princess, wore a pink princess style dress covered with silver net, with pink chiffon around the shoulders and hanging in streamers down the back. She wore black patent leather heels. Her escort was Glen Salisbury.

Miss Drema Dodrill, freshman princess, wore a green party dress with quarter-length sleeves and a gathered skirt. It was set off with a lovely pair of white satin heels. Her escort was Tommy Persinger.

Miss Mary Jo Morris as Eighth Grade princess, wore a red rayon dress with quarter-length sleeves and a gathered skirt; her pumps were black suede. Her escort was Roger Baughman.

Miss Brenda King, the Seventh Grade princess, looked very pretty in her dress of pink lace over pink taffeta. She wore a pair of pink pumps to match. Her escort was Cleveland Brooks.

The two co-captains, David Wilson and David Hamrick, crowned the queen and presented her with a lovely bouquet of white mums, courtesy of Minnich Florists of Gassaway, West Virginia.

The Mistress of ceremonies was Miss Rosa Gibson. She wore a lovely blue sleeveless dress with a round neck line and gathered skirt.

The Widen Buffaloes gave the ceremony a finishing touch by defeating Troy 74-68.

LITTLE TALKS WITH BIG THOUGHTS

Looking at the falling snow, I felt as bleak and depressed, as the heavy gray sky. Then, an old memory of my childhood passed before my eyes.

There were the group of us, ,coasting on a hill, that was gradually becoming bare. All of a sudden it started becoming bare. All of a sudden it started to snow. One little boy, took off his cap and throwing it into the air shouted, "Three cheers for God. He is making it snow."

With the simple faith of children, we screamed our cheers.

Smiling, I thought, God can't answer all our prayers. Particularly if they contradict each other. This is His answer to many a child's prayer. Mine can wait.

CARD OF THANKS

The family of William T. P'simer wishes to express their thanks to the personnel of the Clay Funeral Home and Rev. Jesse Hamrick, officiating Minister, for the consoling words and the many considerations given us during the passing of our loved one. Thanks to those who sent flowers, the ones who sang and the many friends who called.

Daughters:
Mrs. Corley Frame
Mrs. Orval Mollohan
Mrs. Jennings Brown
and families

DISCOVERY OF COAL

Coal was first discovered in West Virginia by John Peter Sally in 1742 when he made an exploration trip across the Allegheny Mountains and discovered an outcrop on Coal River in Boone County.

NOTICE

We regret to announce that R. G. Elliott, a supervisory employee for Elk River Coal and Lumber Company in various capacities for some years has deemed it necessary for matters of health, to resign his position here. Mr. Elliott plans to reside at Dundon, West Virginia and go into business for himself in a capacity which may keep him closely connected with Elk River.

H. L. Beattie
General Manager

NOTICE

We take this method to thank our friends and neighbors and all those who sent flowers and those who did so many acts of kindness and sympathy during the time of the death of our father and grandfather, Mr. Hugh Wood. We also Wish to thank the Clay Funeral Home.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings Wood
& Children

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Atom X



Live pro wrestling takes over the Spencer Armory on Saturday, July 11

SPENCER, WV – Route 33 Wrestling will continue its 2026 season with its third live pro wrestling event of the year, hosted at the Armory on Main Street in Spencer.

The last event saw the Mountain Pass Medal both claimed and cashed in by The Neon Enigma, a Rt33W newcomer who subsequently left the event with the Wild & Wonderful WV Championship. The May show also introduced The Gold Standard, a faction consisting of JMD, Stelman Maguire, and current Rt33W Open Weight Champion, Michael Anthony

"We had a few unexpected twists and turns at our last event," said The Boss Lady, owner and director of Route 33 Wrestling, "I am interested to see how things continue to develop on July 11."

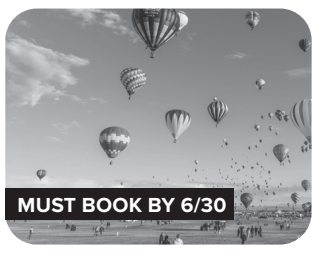
The card will also feature the return of The Runway (Calvin Couture and Tyler Klein), who will once again face off against the Rt33W Tag Team Champions, Grappling, Inc.

Tickets to Rt33W LIVE on July 11 are available now at Route 33 Wrestling's Facebook page, and at Groves Auto Service in Arnoldsburg. Supplies are limited. Admission will also be available at the door starting at 6 p.m. on July 11. Doors open at 6 p.m. with a 7 p.m. bell-time. Kids 5 and under enter free.



About Route 33 Wrestling, LLC:

Founded in 2017 by stuntwoman and actor-combatant Jessi McCumbers (aka. "The Boss Lady"), Route 33 Wrestling is a 100% woman-owned and -run pro wrestling company located in the heart of Spencer, WV. Route 33 Wrestling's core goals are to make quality live sports entertainment accessible to all, and to put the "professional" in "professional wrestling." For more information, please visit us at: linktr.ee/route33wrestling



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LEGAL

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

TO: Louis Richard Koch, Respondent
DOB: 8/27/1982

Magistrate Court Case No. _____
Family Court Civil Action No.: 26-DV-15

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 it to notify Respondent of the PROTECTIVE ORDER prohibiting the above-named Respondent from having contact with certain individuals. This Order may affect property and other rights of the Respondent. Violating this Order may subject the Respondent to criminal sanctions. The Respondent is strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of this Protective Order and Petition from the Circuit Clerk of the county listed above.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

It appearing by evidence duly taken in this action that you could not be found in or that you have left the State of West Virginia, you are hereby notified of the ORDER referenced above, a copy of the Petition and Order may be obtained at the Clay County, Circuit Clerk's office. This PROTECTIVE ORDER will remain in effect until July 2, 2026.

A Final Hearing is scheduled for the 2nd day of July, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. before the Clay County Family Court.

Issued this June 11, 2026

Clarissa Hanshaw
Clerk of the Court

LEGAL

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: The marriage of: Clinton DeMoss, Petitioner and Nicole DeMoss, Respondent

Civil Action No. 26-D-23

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE.
THIS IS A PUBLICATION BY CLASS II LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT.
To the Above-Named Respondent:

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that Nicole DeMoss is a non-resident of the State of West Virginia or has an unknown address. It is hereby ordered that Nicole DeMoss serve upon Clinton DeMoss, petitioner, whose address is 684 Twistabout Rd, Procious, WV 25164, an Answer, including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to the Petition for Divorce filed in this action on or before 7/30/26. If you fail to Answer the Petition for Divorce, a judgement may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

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

Entered by the Clerk of said Court 6/12/26.

Clarissa Hanshaw
Clerk of the Court

LEGAL

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

To maintain necessary clearances for safe and reliable electric service, Appalachian Power Company plans to manage vegetation along the Jarrett/Queen Shoals portion of its 34.5-kilovolt distribution system in Kanawha and Clay counties in WV. On or about June 15, 2026, contract crews will begin to trim and remove trees and brush and apply herbicides along our rights-of-way. Work will be done in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines and consider factors such as tree species, growth characteristics, line voltage, etc. In unmaintained or undeveloped areas cuttings will remain on site to minimize soil disturbance and to promote biodegradation.

Rights-of-way in this area involved in the program are: Rt. 119 S., Queen Rd., Queen Shoals Rd., Camp Creek Rd., Falling Rock Rd., Pugh Fork Rd., Cold Springs Rd., Holcomb Ridge, and surrounding areas.

Representatives will attempt to personally contact resident property owners at least seven business days prior to working on their property. Specifics regarding your property may be discussed at that time. If you are a nonresident property owner and have questions regarding our right-of-way maintenance, they may be directed to:

Appalachian Power Company
Forestry Department
404 29th St. W
Charleston, WV 25387
304-746-2663

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 26-0469-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) 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



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Panther football players excel to close out their careers

By Allen Hamrick

The 2025 CCHS football season was one to be proud of, for sure. The Panther team went to the playoffs and nearly made it to the top. Four of the Panther players took a big step from the local football scene to statewide all-stars. These players represent the absolute toughness of the Panthers and earned historic spots at the most prestigious postseason games… the WV All-Stars BACF (Battle against Cystic Fibrosis) and the WV North South game.

The BACF game is an all-star game that pits the best graduating seniors from West Virginia against the best graduating seniors from Ohio. This was the first time in school history that players from Clay were selected for the event. Those players include Jaxon Brown, Jamie Grose and Christian Bryant. All three played defensive line, and Jaxon also punted. All three played key defensive roles grounding the WV defensive team and stifling the Ohio offensive team. When the smoke cleared it was WV all-stars over the Ohio all stars 26-7.

While the BACP part of the Panther team set their place in history, the other Panther player is just warming up for his run for gold. Jaden Morris will suit up for the Southern team at the WV North South game where the best players from across the state are pitted against each other. Morris will travel to South Charleston for a week of training and team activities before the big game on Saturday, June 20th. This is a well-deserved final run for a player who gave so much every game to the Panther uniform. Jaden's dominant defensive skill and tenacious play didn't go unnoticed by the play makers; he is a testament to the grit and determination of CCHS football.

Whether they cooked on defense at the BACF game or are just getting warmed up for a final time to butt heads at the North-South game, these four players have proven that CCHS football can compete with the best anywhere and at any time. Congratulations to these four players.



From left to right are Jaxon Brown, Jamie Grose and Christian Bryant

Counting down to 250 years: sparking the flame of revolution and the Appalachian heritage

By Allen Hamrick

As we get nearer to July 4, 2026, and the 250 years young anniversary of our country, we stand at a true milestone. No other country in existence at the time ever gave the USA much of a chance to survive in its first years as a country, but people who seem to have had it all way underestimated what a ragamuffin bunch of people would do to gain freedom. We have heard about the price for freedom many, many times from classrooms to campfires. Regular citizens, farmers, merchants, tradesmen and lawyers dared to imagine a world where they could govern themselves. I believe we should look at the summer of 1776 and what it was actually like, both in Philadelphia as well as the rugged hills of the Appalachians in what we now know as West Virginia.

We often picture the signing of the Declaration of Independence as a stoic even with high strung politicians and smug officials, but that's not entirely true. These men were under intense pressure and just signing their name made them outlaws to the most powerful country on earth. To sign would mean their deaths as well as that of any who backed them. July 2, 1776, was the actual day those brave men parted the seed corn with England, and July 4, 1776, was the date they all agreed on the wording and sent it off to be printed. Since there was no form of communication other than people on horses, it took even longer than that for word to reach people that had spread around the country… probably weeks.

However, before the ink was dry at the printing press, here in Western Virginia men were already gearing up for what they knew was coming. These Appalachians were filled with fiercely independent and free-spirited people who had a large disdain for royalty. Most of the time battles were fought in the bigger cities or areas close to them, but not all. We have all heard the phrase, "Make a bee line to the door." Interestingly enough, that might have originated in 1776 from what was called the Bee Line March. General Washington desperately needed reinforcements to surround the British in Boston. To answer that call a unit of a hundred plus men from the Eastern Panhandle stepped up. Keep in mind that at the time our part of the country was all rugged frontiers. All these men took with them was the clothes on their backs and Pennsylvania long rifles, some of the deadliest and most accurate guns of the time.

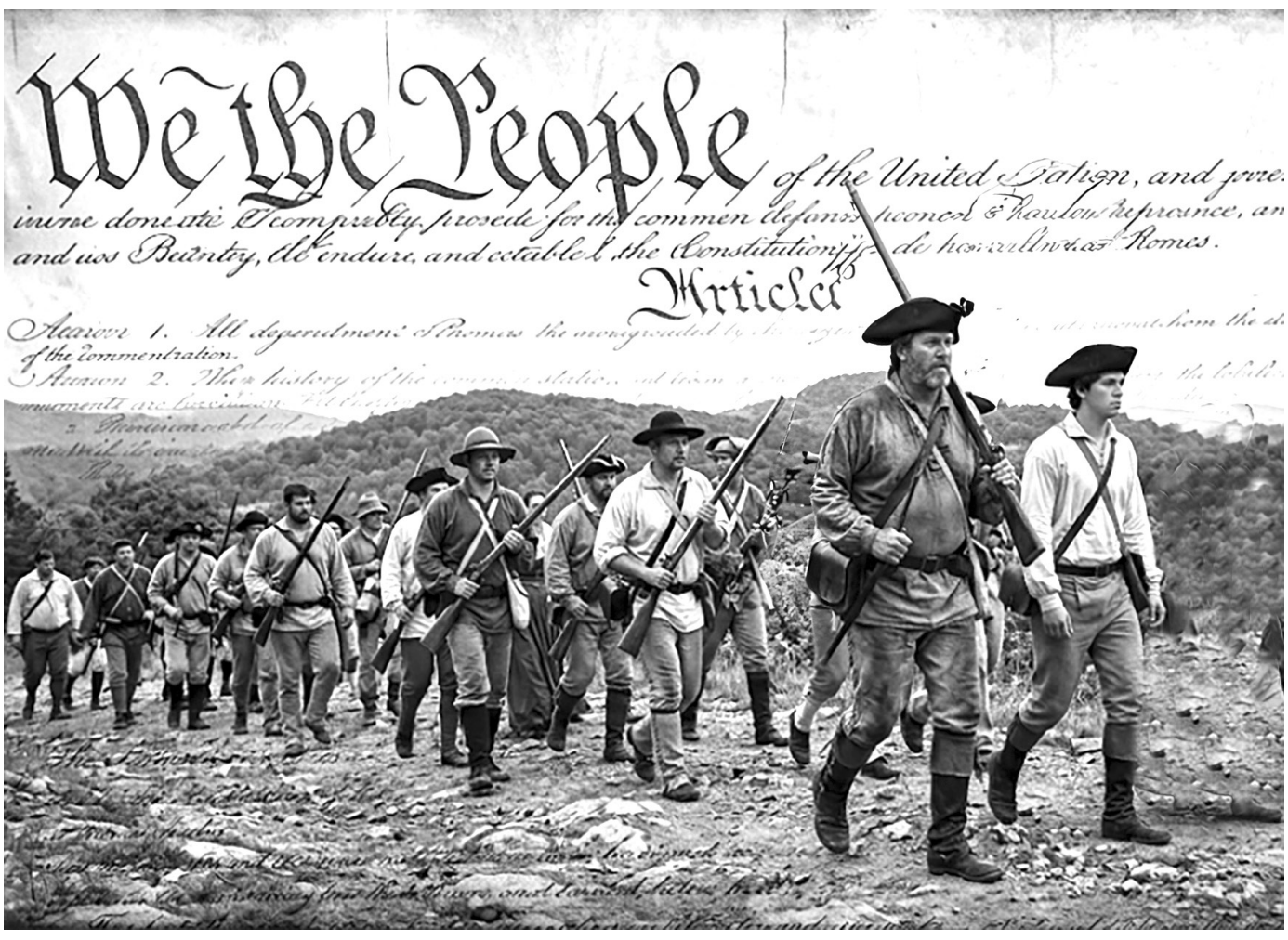


Photo depicts the Bee Line March of the mountain men of Western Virginia.

It took those men just 24 days to go 600 miles; folks, that's marching and running 25 miles a day with no roads. It was reported that George Washington was moved to tears at the sight of such patriots and what these mountain men accomplished. Here in Clay the land was still a wilderness, and it would be decades before those like Sinnett Triplett and David McOlglin settled here. The families that eventually moved into this region were cut from the same cloth as those patriots, and many of them had families involved in the revolution.

When we all gather for fireworks in a couple of weeks, let's remember we are not just celebrating a date but are celebrating the regular people, from statesmen to the pioneers, who carved out a civilization here in the Appalachians. We should remember and celebrate those who believed that liberty was worth fighting for. I challenge you to read the history of the Bee Line March, it is a great account of people just like you and me who went well above the call of duty to defend our lands. As a matter of fact, Morgan's Grove just outside of Shepherdstown is considered by the US Army as its birthplace because of this event. Check it out; be educated about your heritage and proud of your ancestry.

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