



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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Old courthouse

Landmark Committee Decides Old Courthouse Fate in Public Forum Vote

By Gary Lee Stuber

The Clay County Landmarks Commission met in a public forum to get public interest and comments in the disposition of the old county courthouse in the County Commission chamber of the new courthouse on Tuesday, June 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm. Four of the five Landmark Commissioners were in attendance. They were: Duane Legg, also a County Commissioner; Jerry Stover, also a part of the Clay Historic Society; Kristen Hanshaw, also accompanied by her husband Clay County's representative and WV Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw; Jo Anne Exline, accompanied by her husband retired printer and businessman Alan Exline; while Misty Turner, final commissioner was not present.

At 6:00 pm before inviting public comment, Commissioner Legg gave a public presentation with slides that not only gave a brief history of the historic building but gave a crash course in what the Landmark Commission has been up to, to map, document and assess the structure. He gave recommendations that the architect who had been contracted to make this assessment, presented to the board. These initial maps, surveys and assessments were already bid, and have already been fully paid out, any cost going forward would have be bid out.

Here is the proposed plan from the selected architect The Mills Group from Morgantown.

First, the building in structurally in better shape than expected. To make the building compliant, the water system, plumbing and electrical systems would require major upgrades as expected. A doorway through one stone wall inside would be the only structure inside that would need to penetrate a solid stone wall. All other walls and floors are wooden and would be restored to the extent they could be. To use the second and third floor (above the first floor basement) an outside elevator would need to

be attached to the building (in the back) and a fire escape (somewhere close to, but not on the front.) Proposed plans place it on the side opposite of the present parking lot.

Where possible any outside structures would be designed to reflect the original 1900 courthouse design: construction, fire escape built in ornate wrought-iron and, elevator to look like the stone presently comprising the rest of the building.

Where possible, lighting fixtures inside, any existing wooden structures and floors would be restored to their original look where possible.

Here's where the big differences come. The contractor suggested making the first floor a bed and breakfast. They had already completed a restoration in another county and said it was bringing in income for that county. The design included four AirBnB units on that floor. The basement has three open rooms that could be used for anything in the future, but the outside entrances on the sides could make them useful as a possible Clay County Welcome Center, tourist information stop, souvenir sales office or more. There are two conference room style offices on that level as well.

The upper floor is where things get interesting. The courtroom will be expanded out to its biggest available size, with bathrooms and a kitchen like area (a warming area for catering) is on the side of the building that has the fire escape. The big open, almost ballroom like event hall could be used for just that. Huge indoor events. Catered. Reunions, conventions, special Apple Festival events, even huge wedding parties.

Between bed and breakfast rentals downstairs, and the rental of the great hall, that should be enough to cover monthly power, water, heating, insurance, maintenance and the cost of a director to maintain a schedule for all of that.

Once this presentation was made, he opened the floor for public comments.

LANDMARK cont. on page 6

Clay County Farmers Market to host free tomato sandwich event on July 2

The Clay County Farmers Market invites residents and visitors to enjoy a free tomato sandwich and bottled water on Thursday, July 2, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., or while supplies last, at the Courthouse Square in downtown Clay.

The event is being held to celebrate the successful return of the Clay County Farmers Market following a short hiatus. Since reopening, the market has experienced strong community support and participation from local farmers, bakers, crafters, and food producers.

Visitors will have the opportunity to shop a variety of locally grown produce, homemade baked goods, handcrafted items, and other products while enjoying a complimentary tomato sandwich and bottled water.

The market is also proud to accept West Virginia Department of Agriculture Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program produce vouchers, helping eligible seniors access fresh, locally grown fruits

and vegetables.

This special event is sponsored by Clay Senior & Community Services. The Clay County Farmers Market is sponsored in part by Community Care and the Mountain Transit Authority, whose support helps make the market and community programs possible.

Market organizers encourage everyone to come out, support local vendors, and experience all that the Clay County Farmers Market has to offer.

Event Details:

- What: Free Tomato Sandwich & Bottled Water Day
- When: Thursday, July 2, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (or while supplies last)
- Where: Courthouse Square, Clay, WV
- Cost: Free

For more information about the Clay County Farmers Market, follow local community announcements and market updates.

Clay County Commission Meeting June 22, 2026

By Gary Lee Stuber

The Clay County Commission met for their second regular monthly session Monday June 22, 2026. Two of the commissioners were present: David Schoolcraft and Duane Legg. Commissioner Joyce Johnson, also the president was absent due to illness. The first act of the day was to elect a president, pro tem, so the meeting could continue. Both commissioners still make a quorum so they elected David Schoolcraft for the day. County Clerk Shelia Stone acted as recorder.

The largest part of the meeting was the usual county business, approving: minutes from the previous meeting, bills, purchase orders, budget revisions, erroneous assessments as presented by the Assessor, fiduciary appointments as presented by the County Clerk, including: appointments of administrators, administrators, last wills and testaments, and affidavits and waivers of final settlements.

They approved the WVCorp Renewal Proposal for 2026-2027 for the County just as they did for the Ambulance Service at the first monthly meeting.

They approved the Assessors 10% of dog taxes collection in the amount of \$113.20, and approved putting \$50,000 in a 7 month CD for the Ambulance Service.

As far as personnel goes, the commission approved the request of Clarissa Hanshaw to hire Krissie Walton as a part-time employee in the Circuit Clerk's office. They approved the Ambulance Service request to hire Michael Willis as a full time EMB-B. And they approved the BDA's request to remove a list of board members, including Laura McGinnis, Terry Smith, Mike Moles, Maria Moles and Michael Shamblin.

The commission reminded those present that the doors of the courthouse would be open next Saturday and the courtyard would be open for the public for Independence Day celebrations on June 27 (A week prior to the actual holiday) and that bathrooms would be available until Fireworks later that night. Vendors, musicians and more will line the streets and of course fireworks will be displayed after dark.

ter dark.

The commission then opened the floor to others and this reporter asked a question. What is the status of the old courthouse?

Commissioner Legg offered this response: "Tomorrow there is a public meeting here for input from the residents of the county and what they would like to see done up there. It has been digitally mapped. It has been surveyed. It has been drawn out. And we are now in the phase of deciding what to do with the building. If we want to redo the interior of it, or what. That is where we are at. Hopefully we will soon start on the necessary things that need done to make it usable for Clay County. It is not a fast process. It can be modified, but to make it useable for more than one floor it has to have an elevator and a fire escape. They have to be added to the outside of the building."

I offered that the Clay County Historical Society was hoping to turn part of it into a museum and the commissioner gave me an unexpected response.

"The historical society does not own that building," Commissioner Legg said, "And this is the mindset that has be, and has to do with everybody. That building has to sustain itself. Clay County citizens cannot be footing the bill to put in a museum, pay the power bill or whatever. What ever goes in that building has to pay for power, has to pay for heating, for water – just like your home." He mused: "A museum would never generate enough income to pay for it. If you think about it, other than historical artifacts, what is going to generate enough interest to draw people from outside of West Virginia." As citizens in the room sat quietly absorbing this, he was on a roll, so he continued: "Another instance is the Swinging Bridge down at Elkhurst. There are people who say 'Oh it would be such a great tourist draw.' I can't say that I have ever said, 'Hey. Let's drive six hours to go look at a bridge.' I understand it's a unique bridge, I've driven across it." And it always comes down to cost. "I don't know that the amount of money it would take to refurbish and maintain that

COMMISSION cont. on page 7

1776-2026: The continuing struggle for America's soul



It's not the politics, power or money...it's the people.

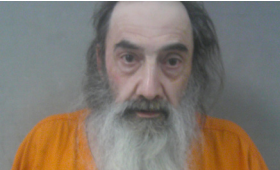
See story on Page 7

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON COUNTY



Jeffery Ferrell Cayton
Booked 6/29/2026
Obstructing an Officer



Dustin Cruce
Booked 6/27/2026
Fraudulent Use of an Access Device



Kassandra Ann Cruz
Booked 6/29/2026
Obstructing an Officer, Assault of Officer w/o Weapon



Su Robert Dempsey
Booked 6/29/2026
Possession of a Controlled Substance, Fleeing on foot, Conspiracy

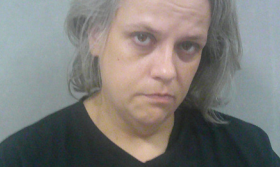


Eric Todd Nicholson
Booked 6/26/2026
Possession of Counterfeit or Unauthorized Device with the Intent to Defraud

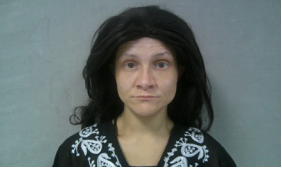


Sean Patrick Oconner
Booked 6/29/2026
DUI, Possession of a Controlled Substance

BRAXTON COUNTY

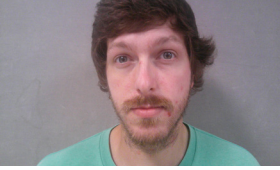


Lindsey Nicole Sartin
Booked 6/29/2026
Fleeing, Conspiracy, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Defective Equipment



Casey Sabrina Wilson
Booked 6/24/2026
Possession with Intent-1

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Tyler Creston Sartin
Booked 6/28/2026
Domestic Assault, DOP



Charles Adam Stotts
Booked 6/24/2026
Capias (Family Court)

CLAY COUNTY



Theodore Capwell
Booked 6/24/2026, DUI 2nd Offense, Refusal to Submit to Tests, Obstruction of Officer, Open Container, No Insurance, Expired MVI, Defective Equipment



Joshua Ryan Nottingham
Booked 6/25/2026
Capias

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Cameron Mitchell Holcomb
Booked 6/28/2026
Escape, Burglary, Grand Larceny



Timothy Aaron Legg
Booked 6/22/2026
Capias



Governor Morrisey Announces Clendenin Streetscape Project During Summerfest

CLENDENIN, W.Va. – Governor Patrick Morrisey joined Mayor Kay Summers and the people of Clendenin on Saturday during Summerfest, where he announced a \$450,000 Transportation Alternatives Program grant for the Clendenin Main Street Streetscape project while joining the community in commemorating the 10th anniversary of the devastating June 2016 flood.

“Ten years ago, this community faced one of the darkest chapters in its history, but the story of Clendenin did not end there,” said Governor Morrisey. “I was here during the flood recovery as Attorney General, and it’s been incredible to watch this community rebuild. The heart and determination of the people of Clendenin have transformed this downtown, and today’s investment will help build on that momentum for years to come.”

The Transportation Alternatives Program grant for the Clendenin Main Street Streetscape project includes federal funding and a local match. The improvements

will enhance downtown sidewalks, landscaping, decorative lighting, and other pedestrian amenities, helping improve safety while supporting local businesses, tourism, and continued revitalization.

Governor Morrisey reflected on his time in Clendenin after the 2016 flood while serving as West Virginia Attorney General, noting the remarkable progress the community has made over the past decade through determination, hard work, and local leadership.

“When tragedy strikes, West Virginians come together, rebuild, and emerge stronger than before,” Governor Morrisey said. “Clendenin is a powerful example of that spirit. It has been inspiring to watch this community rebuild, and I’m proud the State of West Virginia can help support its next chapter.”

Following his remarks, Governor Morrisey joined Mayor Summers in visiting local businesses, food vendors, and festival activities as Summerfest continued along Main Street.

Mollohan Family Reunion

The Annual Mollohan Family Reunion is just around the corner! It will be held on July 11th beginning around 11a.m. at the Big Otter Community Center, 3433 Big Otter Hwy., Ivydale, WV 25113.

The descendants of Nathan Curtis & Lillie Gertrude Boggs Mollohan and of Donnie Edward & Dona Kathrine Tanner Mollohan, as well as extended families and friends are welcome to attend. It is a “Covered-Dish

carry-in meal” and usually try to eat around noon.

Gifts are given for Oldest, Youngest, and Travelled Farthest to attend. Also have a gift drawing and have a variety of items to choose from.

Anyone who would like to donate items for the drawing are welcome to do so, and we are looking forward to catching up with relatives both near and far! See you there!

2026 Clay County Golden Delicious Belle nominations open

The Clay County Golden Delicious Festival Committee is accepting nominations for the 2026 Golden Delicious Belle. The nominee must be a resident of Clay County, who is at least 65 years in age. Your nomination letter should tell why you think the person should be named the 2026 Belle and must include a non-returnable photo to use for printing. All entries should include a contact person’s name, and phone number for the person providing the entry, as well as

the name and phone number of the person nominated. All entries must be received by Friday, July 24, 2026. Entries may be mailed to: CCGDF Apple Belle Nomination, Attn: Laura Scott, P. O. Box 752, Clay WV 25043, or can be dropped off at the Clay County Assessor’s Office at the courthouse. Or email with a photo attachment to clayapplefestival@gmail.com. The festival Board of Directors will vote for a winner during the August 2026 board meeting.

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Hourly

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Hourly

\$2,000
Appliance

\$1,000
Appliance

\$275
Hourly

\$1,200
Appliance

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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POSTMASTER:

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Bickmore Student Honored at National Leadership & Skills Conference

Career and technical students won one of the nation's highest awards at the National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC), held June 1-5 in Atlanta. An all-time high of 7,000 students competed in the 2026 SkillsUSA Championships at NLSC, which is the largest gathering of the future skilled workforce. A total of 1,224 gold, silver and bronze medals were presented to student winners in 115 hands-on career and leadership competitions across middle school, high school and college/postsecondary divisions. Many winners also received industry prizes, tools of their trade or scholarships. The competitors also received a Skill Point Certificate, an indicator of career readiness. Students can add this certificate to their employment portfolio.

* In West Virginia: Jaden Morris, from Bickmore and a student at Clay High School Vocational Department (Clay), was awarded the high school bronze medal in Electrical Construction Wiring.

* In West Virginia: Isabelle Conrad, from Birch River and a student at Nicholas County Career and Technical Center (Craigsville), was awarded the high school bronze medal in Early Childhood Education.

To be invited to the SkillsUSA Championships, students first had to win their state-level competition, demonstrating their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills. The national competition featured state champions vying for honors in competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance, public speaking and more. The next NLSC will be held June 21-25, 2027, in Atlanta. Learn more about SkillsUSA, the No. 1 workforce development organization for students, at www.skillsusa.org.

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Governor Morrissey Unveils Full America250 Celebration Schedule, Highlights Events Across West Virginia

Governor encourages families to celebrate America's 250th anniversary in Charleston and communities throughout all 55 counties

Charleston, W.Va. - Standing before the America250 Wheel at the State Capitol, Governor Patrick Morrissey today unveiled the full schedule for West Virginia's America250 Capital City Celebration and highlighted the many events taking place across the Mountain State as West Virginians prepare to commemorate America's 250th anniversary.

"America's 250th anniversary belongs to every West Virginian," said Governor Morrissey. "Whether you're spending the weekend at the Capitol Complex, attending a hometown parade, ringing bells at noon on Independence Day, or celebrating with neighbors in your own community, this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to honor the ideals that have made America the greatest nation in the world."

The four-day Capital City Celebration begins Thursday, July 2, and features free family entertainment, live music, historical exhibits, artisan vendors, guided Capitol tours, the world's tallest portable Ferris wheel, nightly "Liberty and Lights" projection shows, fireworks, and headline performances by ALABAMA, the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and The Marshall Tucker Band.

Governor Morrissey plans to attend multiple celebrations across all regions of the state.

The Governor also highlighted West Virginia's statewide America250 initiatives, including more than 50 county mural projects celebrating America's founding, the Statewide Bell-Ringing Initiative at noon on July 4, and community events taking place from the Northern Panhandle to the Southern Coal-

fields. The statewide mural trail will soon provide visitors another opportunity to experience America's 250th through the artwork created in communities across the Mountain State.

At the Capitol Complex, festivities begin Thursday at 5 p.m. with the opening of the America250 Wheel Midway Eats & Treats, the Artisan Market, Adventure Zone, History Hub, and guided Capitol tours. Throughout the weekend, visitors can enjoy live entertainment, interactive history exhibits, family activities, and nightly projection mapping on the State Capitol. Friday features ALABAMA in concert and a fireworks spectacular. Saturday includes the official America250 Ceremony honoring Gold Star Families, veterans, and active-duty service members, followed by a performance from the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra. The celebration concludes Sunday with additional family activities and a closing concert by The Marshall Tucker Band.

"We want families to create memories they'll still be talking about decades from now, just as many Americans remember our nation's Bicentennial celebration," Governor Morrissey said. "From Martinsburg to Matewan and from Weirton to Welch, there is an America250 celebration nearby. I encourage everyone to get out, celebrate our history, support their local communities, and be part of this historic milestone."

A complete schedule of Capital City Celebration events, along with a statewide calendar of America250 activities, is available at wv250.com.

OBITUARY



Kermit Cardell
"Mitch" "Grampy" Carr

Kermit was born on May 16, 1938, to Clyde and Ora Jane Carr, of Wallback, West Virginia. He was the sixth of seven siblings. He graduated from Clay County High School in May of 1956. Kermit married the love of his life, Caren Starcher, on May 30, 1958, and they made their home in Orrville, Ohio. They welcomed three children, Marci, Russ, and Rory.

Kermit spent most of his life in the great outdoors running around the wild mountains of West Virginia, as a boy, with his best friend, and cousin, Daris Carr. He worked for Ohio Carpenters until the family moved to Colorado, in 1970, where he was involved with many aspects of agriculture and farming. His heart was always in the shadows of the Appalachian Mountains, and so he built a home in West Virginia upon retirement in 1999. However, the lure of family brought him back to Colorado in 2014, where he settled in Brighton.

Kermit was delighted standing by a lake, quietly fishing, and enjoying peace, and later in life, he and Caren included many of the grandkids on their camping trips to the mountains. He was an excellent carpenter

and gardener. He raced dirt track stock cars and rode motorcycles. Kermit loved reading about, and watching, historical books and documentaries. He was passionate about his religious beliefs and faith in our Lord. His views on our government were very clear, and he engaged family members into lively conversations at every opportunity. Kermit was a proud member of the Masonic Lodge who cherished his years in this special brotherhood. He did enjoy a well-made, ice-cold red beer while watching his beloved Pittsburg Steelers or the Mountaineers!!

Kermit is survived by his bride, Shelda Carr; children Marcella (Mark) Bultje, Russell (Tammy) Carr, and Rory (Daphne) Carr; along with a special sister-in-law, Cathy Starcher. He

is also survived by nine grandchildren, Kyle, Nicole, Marshall, Tanner, Orry, Kevan, Deven, Reece, and Damien; and 13 great-grandchildren, Tyce, Tenley, Harper, Axel, Giselle, Poppy, Shepard, Maya, Gregory, Elliot, Lukas, Daelan, and Kenlee.

He is preceded in death by both parents; four sisters, Virena, Mae, Fay, Waneta; two brothers, Andrew and Fletcher; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Kermit will be celebrated in Colorado on August 30, at Russ's home, 222 Beldock Court, in Brighton, 11am-3pm, and in West Virginia on October 8, at the Little Laurel Missionary Baptist Church, Ivydale, 11:00am. Interment at Moore Cemetery following service. Lunch served at the Lake Wallback Picnic Area.

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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

July 8, 1894: Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photographer, Aegerter built both a studio and a darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement. The glass plate negatives survive today in several archived collections.

July 8, 1924: Rock 'n' roll pioneer Johnnie Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as "Roll Over, Beethoven." Berry's hit "Johnny B. Goode" was supposedly written as a tribute to Johnson.

July 8, 1961: Sutton Dam was dedicated by

Governor Wally Barron. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam for purposes of flood control, low-flow augmentation and recreation.

July 9, 1923: Singer Molly O'Day was born in Pike County, Kentucky. After becoming a child star on radio stations in Charleston, Williamson, and Bluefield, she helped pioneer solo female singing in country music. Later, she and her husband, Lynn Davis, dedicated their careers solely to sacred music.

July 9, 1942: An explosion at the Pursglove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in

an eight-month period.

July 9, 1989: Treasurer A. James Manchin resigned after being impeached. With a stock market downturn in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly \$300 million in investments for which he was responsible.

July 10, 1769: Physician Jesse Bennet was born. He performed the first successful caesarian section in America in 1794, on his own wife and without proper equipment and with no antiseptics. He later established a large practice in Mason County and served as an Army surgeon in the War of 1812.

July 10, 1889: Author and historian Boyd B.

Stutler was born in Gilmer County. He served as managing editor of the national *American Legion* magazine for 18 years and became one of the leading historians on West Virginia in the Civil War and John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry.

July 10, 1936: The temperature in Martinsburg reached 112 degrees. It tied the record for the state's hottest recorded temperature, which had been set August 4, 1930, at Moorefield.

July 11, 1861: The Battle of Rich Mountain was fought in Randolph County. Union troops under Gen. George McClellan defeated Confederate forces, helping to secure

northwestern Virginia (now West Virginia) for the North.

July 11, 1867: John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County. He served as the 15th governor of West Virginia.

July 11, 1976: Gov. Arch Moore dedicated the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston. The facility was built to showcase the Mountain State's artistic, cultural and historic heritage.

July 12, 2003: The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston opened to the public. It combines a modern performing arts center with a visual arts museum and an interactive science center.

July 13, 1861: The Battle of Corricks Ford took place in Tucker County. Confederate Gen. Robert S. Garnett was killed. He was the first Confederate general killed in the Civil War.

July 14, 1861: Union troops under Gen. Jacob Cox drove Confederate militia and cavalry out of town during the Battle of Barboursville. Union forces remained in control of Barboursville for the remainder of the war.

July 14, 1900: Gangster William George "Big Bill" Lias was born in either Wheeling or Greece. From the 1920s until his death in 1970, he was recognized as the leading organized crime figure in Wheeling.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Store windows are moved. 2. License plate is missing. 3. Bow tie is added. 4. Bumper is longer. 5. Coat is longer. 6. Hair is longer.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

RAISING A RACKET

ACROSS

- 1 Streisand of "Nuts"
7 President after Bush
12 Japanese soup
16 Beaker locale
19 Fanatic
20 Boo-boo
21 State of mind
23 "Can this be?!"
25 Color close to aqua
26 Leave shore
27 "I'm to blame for everything"
29 Mil. address
32 Nada
34 "— see!" ("Evidently!")
35 Events that break ground
36 Like K-Cup coffee pods
42 Two-word conjunction
44 Sol's Greek counterpart
45 Bangor locale
47 Built
52 2011 Steve Carell film
56 Puppeteer Lewis
57 Opera song
58 Gallery work
59 Fox hangouts
61 Nest eggs for srs.

- 62 Flanders on "The Simpsons"
63 Quick, sharp punches
65 Cocktail of bourbon, lemon and mint
68 Purse
69 Ross who ran against Clinton
70 — in the bud
71 It might consist of a dictionary, thesaurus and atlas
76 Pouches
78 Tic- — -toe
81 "You wish!"
82 They may get slammed
83 Dad on "Rugrats"
84 For takeout
85 Fail to remain calm
87 Annual mailing to the IRS
92 Baskers' goals, often
94 Birth-related
95 Home for French presidents
96 Lerner's musical collaborator

- 99 Kind of salute performed at military funerals
101 Cherubs, e.g.
105 Smartphone buy
107 Emulate
108 Mag bigwigs
109 Heroic fighter pilot of the 1940s
114 Sinister
117 Studios with easels
118 Question you might feel like asking after seeing nine key words in this puzzle?
123 Yellow turnip
124 Roast beef fast-food chain
125 Big brand of cosmetics
126 Water quality org.
127 Pack neatly
128 L.A.'s region
129 Pitfalls

DOWN

- 1 German auto
2 Spa sigh
3 Material in viral genes
4 Tiny pieces
5 Pro — (in proportion)

- 6 Post-workout feeling
7 Multivolume Brit. lexicon
8 Matzo — (Passover breakfast option)
9 In — (stuck)
10 Soft shoes, for short
11 Locations
12 Actress Marlee
13 Agenda unit
14 Stick around to see
15 Rig accidents
16 Doozies
17 Fully grown
18 Borscht base
22 Kind of lift for downhillers
24 Yalies
28 Mauna —
29 Waste barrel
30 Capital of South Dakota
31 Mounted to a backing for decoration
33 Big-eyed primates
37 Egyptian city with pyramids
38 Myrna of old movies
39 Spellbound
40 Roman 7
41 Finale
43 Plow pioneer John

- 46 "Mama" Cass
48 Orang cousin
49 Figure skater Lipinski
50 Epochs
51 Plate
53 Key near Q
54 Brewery kiln
55 Actor Sahay who played Lester Patel on "Chuck"
60 Lip- — (mouth the words)
63 Pantry container
64 Got older
65 Alternative to Mazola or Crisco
66 Charlemagne ruled it: Abbr.
67 Bro's sibling
68 Suit well
69 Orch. section with timpani, cymbals, etc.
71 Performs like Drake
72 Jacob's twin
73 Twain's Huck
74 Clamor
75 Hoodwink
76 Gets trite
77 "La Cage — Folles"
78 Muss, as hair
79 "I concur"
80 Chili dogs

- 83 Headliner
84 "Ciao 4 now"
86 Beat others in claiming something
88 Dojo surface
89 Old verb suffix
90 Remade musicals, e.g.
91 "Showdown" rock gp.
93 "Easy-peasy"
97 Polish capital
98 Start for Pen or dermis
100 Barely earns, with "out"
101 Informed (of)
102 Still in bed
103 Garbo of old movies
104 Singer Fitzgerald
106 Gyro wraps
110 Ship of myth
111 Sleek, in brief
112 "Fast Money" network
113 "Watermark" singer
115 A party to
116 Constellation next to Hercules
119 Oahu, e.g.: Abbr.
120 Atop, in odes
121 Scot's dissent
122 Raised trains

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THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike
should vote alike.

"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.



February 1959

Hunting Season To Begin October 3rd

A partial list of hunting and fishing seasons for West Virginia was released Monday by the Conservation Commission.

Opening dates for hunting seasons were set on the following:

Squirrel, ruffed grouse, turkeys, raccoons, opossums and skunk—Oct. 3 (daybreak).

Bobwhite quail, rabbit and hare, and ring-necked pheasant—Nov. 11.

Deer (firearms)—Nov. 30.

Black bear—Nov. 9.

Deer (bow and arrow)—Oct. 3. Red fox and woodchuck—continuous open season, except that no hunting with guns for any species of wild animal or bird will be permitted between Sept. 1 and day

break Oct. 3.

The commission said the above regulation does not affect a landowner's right to protect his livestock and crops from damage by wild animals.

Trapping Season

Opening dates for trapping seasons were set on the following:

Raccoon, opossum, skunk, mink, and muskrat—Nov. 11 (8 a.m.).

Beaver—Jan. 15 (8 a.m.).

The commission delayed until its April meeting decisions on closing dates, bag limits and a few other details of the hunting season. Printed copies of complete regulations are to be available about May 1.

Fishing Regulations

Fishing season and regulations for the year were announced as follows:

Trout (rainbow, brook, brown and kokanee)—April 25-Dec. 31. No size limit; daily limit 8 (only five from one impoundment); season limit 60.

Black bass (small-mouth, large-mouth and spotted)—year-round open season; no size limit; daily limit 8; season limit 60.

Other species (game and rough fish)—year-round open season; no size, daily or season limits.

Elk River was opened again to year-round fishing. Last year the section of Elk from Clendenin to Sutton Dam was closed on bass from April 30 to June 13, and a nine-inch size limit was imposed during the open period. There will be no size restriction this season.

Frogs (bull and green)—June 6 (8 p. m.)—June 20 (midnight). No size limit; daily limit 10; season limit 50.

On Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers bordering Kentucky, frog season will open from May 15-Oct. 31.

Rough fish (bow, snare, gig)—Year-round except May and June.

The commission said more than 600,000 trout—averaging better than 10 inches in length—will be stocked this year in 160 streams and impoundments across the state.

Lakes at Watoga and Cacapon state parks will not be stocked with trout, but the Ridge Fish Hatchery lake and the Hardy county trout pool will be stocked.

Greenbrier County's 164-acre Sharewood lake will be open to fishing for the first time, April 25, the announcement said.

The Naval Research Laboratory employs a radio tracking system known as "Minitrack" to track the earth-circling satellites.

In 1956, the Navy established radio stations in the Antarctic at Little America (KC4USA), McMurdo Sound (KC4USV), and Marie Byrd Land (KC4USB). The latter is the first radio station in history to be at the South Pole.

The American Flag was first officially displayed over Alaska when Russian troops lowered their flag and U. S. Marines hoisted the Stars and Stripes at Sitka on October 18, 1867.

Relief Committee Meets

Elk River Coal and Lumber Company employees were represented by Bargain Committeemen Carl Young, Lloyd Butcher, Jr., and James Triplett, along with League Treasurer Joe Truman, at the meeting of the Widen Relief Committee held in the Widen office at 11:30 A. M., Friday, January 23, 1959. The Company was represented by General Manager H. L. Beattie, Mine Inspector R. G. Elliott, Mine Superintendent H. S. Williams and Outside Superintendent G. D. Craft.

There were 20 new retirements from the ranks of the employees as of the first of the year. Comprising that group were Emerson Price, Branty Hickman, John Potasnik, Jesse Johnson, Curt Canfield, Ernest P. Chapman, Jennings Wood, Walker Henderson, Goff Grogg, Averal Rapp, Lakey D. Starcher, James H. Cook, Daniel W. Nicholas, Letcher Williams, Eddie J. Stump, Sherman Nettles, John Talbert, Edgar Walker, Hooper Wilson, and Jack Varner. Each of these men received \$200 as retirement for January and February, along with \$100 each paid to the previously retired 29 employees.

Ten employees received disability payments for the month, in addition to partial payments made to five new applicants. There were

fourteen men left on the sick list at the end of January.

The only change in the list of survivors receiving relief benefits was the removal of the name of Mrs. Lola Given following her remarriage on January 11. Otherwise, 37 widows and 69 dependent children received payments for January.

Two hundred twenty-eight employees had hospital or medical bills paid for them in addition to the regular list account at Charleston General Hospital. Fourteen of that number were either on the retired or disability list. These bills had been incurred at Charleston, Clay, Clendenin, Cowen, Gasaway, Gauley Bridge, Glenville, Montgomery, Philippi, Richwood, Summersville, Sutton, Webster Springs, and Weston, W. Va., and Middleport, Ohio.

The men who were laid off January 4 lost their eligibility for relief benefits as of January 15 and under the rules of the Widen Relief Committee had thirty days from the date of the lay-off (or until February 4) to submit any bills that might have been incurred through January 15.

Altogether, benefits were approved for 278 employees this month, or very nearly 50 per cent of those eligible, in addition to benefits paid to survivors of 40 deceased employees.

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AT ALL

ELRICO STORES

LANDMARK

Many with the Historical Society asked about the possibility of rooms for museums. Commissioner Legg suggested that the walls in the long hall on the first floor, even the AirBnB rooms could display treasured sealed relics and photos or paintings. Even suggested that between the windows of the great hall could do the same. And maybe, once income is established in the other portions of the building, some of those rooms in the basement could be used for that purpose. Same with people who asked about a permanent home for the VFW. One of the

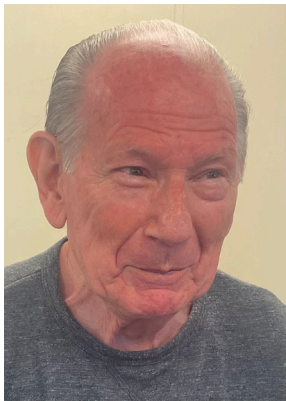
rooms might be available in the foreseeable future. Those present were very open to using those lower two entrance rooms for a Welcoming and Tourist Center. There were a few who suggested other business, such as bakeries or other commercial businesses, while others wondered outloud if an AirBnB was appropriate. And Commissioner Legg gave the numbers based on other such conversions, how just four BNB rooms on that floor would take care of future utilities on the site. As far as the major

renovations and repairs both inside and outside, these would need to be bid out based on what was proposed. Once there is an actual cost, grants and other funds would be sought. Out-right grants or matching ones, or whatever they needed to do. He was just looking for a place to start. He said, “This is a good start. If we bid this and down the road we see it isn’t working. We have a structure in place, and we make new plans.” He then asked for a show of hands of the people who were in the room who liked the idea as presented. There were barely two dozen people there. And while it is disappointing to see so few people in this county care about its history, its present and its future, there were at least two dozen people in this room who

genuinely cared. There was no need to ask for any hands voting against as the overwhelming majority liked the plan

they saw. The proposal as selected by a show of hands will now go out for bid. This could be

sometime in development, but at least the courthouse is getting the attention it so badly deserves.



Jerry Stover



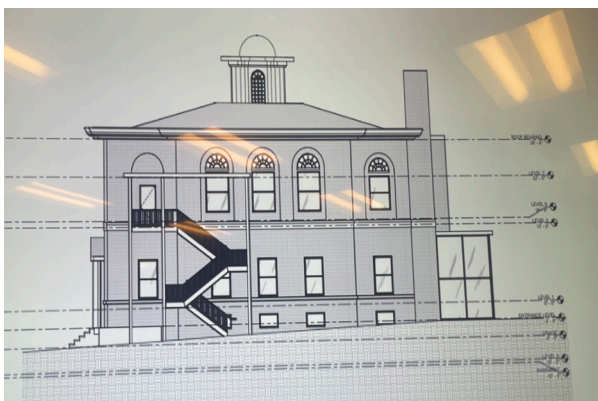
Jo Anne Exline



Duane Legg



Kirsten Henshaw



Side-facing drawing

Governor Morrisey Welcomes World’s Tallest Portable Ferris Wheel to the State Capitol for America250 Celebration

The 230-foot America250 Wheel will offer free rides throughout West Virginia’s four-day Capital City Celebration, July 2–5

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Governor Patrick Morrisey today marked the arrival and construction of the America250 Wheel at the State Capitol Complex. Standing 230 feet tall, the attraction is billed as the world’s tallest portable Ferris wheel and will serve as the centerpiece of West Virginia’s America250 Capital City Celebration, taking place July 2–5. “When America celebrates its 250th birthday, we want West Virginia families to celebrate together in a way they’ll remember for years to come,” said Governor Morrisey. “The Ameri-

ca250 Wheel is more than an incredible attraction. It’s a symbol of this historic milestone and another reason for people from across our state and beyond to come together in our capital city as we honor our nation’s past and look ahead to its future.” The Governor also reiterated that rides on the America250 Wheel will be completely free throughout the four-day celebration, ensuring families from all 55 counties have the opportunity to experience one of the signature attractions of West Virginia’s America250 festivities.

The wheel features 45 presidential-themed gondolas, each recognizing one of the individuals who has served as President of the United States. Riders will enjoy panoramic views stretching up to 14 miles across Charleston, the Kanawha River, and the State Capitol Complex. Each evening, the wheel will be illuminated by a custom LED light display alongside the Capitol’s nightly 3D projection mapping show. “The excitement is only beginning,” Governor Morrisey said. “With free concerts, family activities, spectacular en-

tertainment, and attractions like the America250 Wheel, we’re inviting everyone to celebrate this once-in-a-generation anniversary right here in the Mountain State.” The America250 Capital City Celebration will feature performances by ALABAMA on July 3, the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra on July 4, and The Marshall Tucker Band on July 5. Events at the State Capitol Complex will be coordinated with Charleston’s annual Sternwheel Regatta, with free shuttle service connecting the two celebrations throughout the holiday weekend.

LEGAL

(2025-C-000051 - Clay County - PATRICIA A. BOSTON)
To: HENSON LEGG, JUDY LEGG, JUDY LEGG, HENSON LEGG HEIRS AT LAW, JUDY LEGG HEIRS AT LAW, JUDY LEGG HEIRS AT LAW, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT HENRY MAP 9 PARCEL 0058 0000 0000
You will take notice that PATRICIA A. BOSTON, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2025-C-000051**, located in HENRY District, 43.87 AC HAYES TWO RUN SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of LEGG HENSON ETUX, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the April 21, 2026. PATRICIA A. BOSTON requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026 will be as follows:
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 5336. \$ 482.61
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number \$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025- 5412. \$ 385.42
Additional taxes with interest. \$ 0.00
Auditor’s Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest. \$ 209.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest. \$ 302.42
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest. \$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check. \$ 1,379.85
You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest. If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.
Given under my hand June 15, 2026
Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia
Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor’s Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000102 - Clay County - PATRICIA A. BOSTON)
To: HENSON LEGG, JUDY LEGG, JUDY LEGG, HENSON LEGG HEIRS AT LAW, JUDY LEGG HEIRS AT LAW, JUDY LEGG HEIRS AT LAW, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT OTTER MAP 18 PARCEL 0019 0003 0000
You will take notice that PATRICIA A. BOSTON, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2025-C-000102**, located in OTTER District, 27.49 AC WTS OTTER & ELK SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of LEGG HENSON ETUX, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of CLAY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on the April 21, 2026. PATRICIA A. BOSTON requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026 will be as follows:
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 10488. \$ 167.07
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number \$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025- 10635. \$ 97.28
Additional taxes with interest. \$ 0.00
Auditor’s Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest. \$ 209.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest. \$ 305.30
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest. \$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check. \$ 779.05
You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest. If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.
Given under my hand June 15, 2026
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Got Legals? Email Us!

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(304) 647-5724

Surviving the shadows of 250 years - the power of family

Allen Hamrick

Here we are in July of 2026, nearing the epic moment of the signing of the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago. The romantic thoughts of fields of patriots waving the flags of independence, hoisting muskets in the air and going toe to toe with the best fighting units merry old England could muster—were just that – thoughts. The reality was very much different. The time then was a banner moment for the people, driven to believe that independence was the key to happiness and freedom even if it cost the lives of everyone they knew. But was it? Beyond the powdered wigs of the political gentlemen and rich patriot landowners determining the fate of a nation were the people torn between loyalty to a crown or the uncertain choice to fight to make their own choices. At times their choices were clear, the very soul and spirit that made them who they were drove them to their own conclusions. Yet, others needed to be led. The true American spirit lay in those whose blood boiled at the thoughts of not being able to determine their own fate, hence the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Yet everything is not all black and white. We have been taught, have read of, have heard the ancestral stories, and there are ledgers, documents and manuscripts that all tell us the story of the nation’s beginning. Nearly half of the people who signed were lawyers and judges; others were rich merchants and plantation owners. So, it begs the question, did they do it to protect themselves and their fortunes and to ensure that this country’s new government, if they won, would be ruled by them and not the farmers and lower-class people? Considering that the taxes collected by England, along with political policies, directly affected them and their businesses, landowners like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson couldn’t expand their wealth in land west because of England’s rule. It boiled down to the wealthy class no longer wanting to be ruled by England; they wanted to rule for themselves and their own interests. In this way they could control the politics and the economy of the new United States of America and put their

own agenda at the forefront. However, one can argue that war wasn’t the best investment as some of the signers lost all they had and died paupers. Also, the people of those times thought differently - they truly believed that the country would be better off. This is largely because signing the Declaration of Independence was a death sentence if they lost. Seemingly, not much has changed since then. Millionaires make up our modern Congress, and they still use the American dream, freedom and liberty as sounding boards. Behind closed doors, these leaders make decisions that directly affect the working-class people in a way that will mostly benefit themselves. They are isolated from the daily financial issues that plague everyday Americans. The biggest difference between the leaders of then and those of today is that the wealthy people who signed the Declaration of Independence committed their own money and high treason to the cause. Had they failed, they would have been hanged by the neck until dead. Today, politicians never seem to face financial ruin for their poor choices. If a family didn’t like the politics of the country in the late 1700’s, they could simply escape to a frontier where they worked and lived by sweat. These pioneers built, lived and died on their own and on their own terms. Now, almost every aspect of daily life revolves around government policy; there is no escape to a frontier, that frontier does not exist. Poor decisions then would not have affected the population like they do now. One thoughtless or selfish decision or policy made by a group of politicians or people put in a position of power these days can wipe out people’s savings, jobs and homes anywhere in the world. If politicians have the desire to, they can enact a policy and decide all while that the working American foots the bill. Basically, the politics of 1776 risked it all, the politics of now risk nothing. So, did they do it for themselves or not? This is a question still debated over coffee and open flame. With that all being said, a week before the signing of the Declaration of Independence was chaos. The war was on and the British were attacking forts and

homes across two fronts. The Americans built a makeshift fort to guard Charleston Harbor and made it of Palmetto wood, a soft wood to be exact. The fort was manned by just a few patriots. Despite the hours and hours of British bombing, the fort stood because the wood absorbed the shelling instead of shattering. It was an American victory that beefed up the morale of the army. This was a victory that was made during Thomas Jefferson’s presenting his draft of the Declaration of Independence. Also, a plot to kill George Washington by those still loyal to the crown had been uncovered in mid-June 1776. From the mayor of New York to Washington’s own bodyguards, the plan to kill him was extensive. This is now known as the Hickey Plot, named for Thomas Hickey, a man who was among those Washington trusted most. Hickey lives in infamy as the first American soldier executed for treason. With so many different happenings leading up to the signing, one must remember that the war was already being fought, and devastation was everywhere. After many years of conflict, war finally ended, and the signing of the Treaty of Paris officially gave us our leave from the British. Once the war was over, the truth and new reality of the War for Independence soon became evident to the people. The only thing that seemed to change was where taxes were paid. Merchants’ ships still sailed into harbors but under a new flag. The economic leaders, loyalists and wealthy who didn’t lose their fortunes due to the war now dictated the future of the new America in much the same way they did before. Nothing changed, it just got worse. Regardless of the thousands of farms that laid in ashes, regardless of the thousands of patriot graves all along the fronts, the war had to be paid for, and it would cost the people plenty. No war would ever destroy the fundamental human nature of power, greed and politics, and the quest for power and land never stopped. This is a bitter reality often masked by a celebration. With the never-changing power play in politics, the idea that while the country had her revolution and realization that nothing would change human na-

ture for power, something else happened. We became a country free to determine our own fates as families and hard-working individuals. We had a blank slate - a messy one, but a place where people and not kings could dictate their own destiny however they saw fit. Americans now had rights and could fight for a way of life...at least until the changes that started during the 20th century. We inherited the dream so long ago, and it’s ours to keep or to lose. From 1776 to present day, all a person has to do is look at America’s history - it is full of both atrocities and greatness, innovations and inventions, and the very people who have a dream and a desire have the opportunity to make this country great. We can see the inheritance this week as the town of Clay has been getting all dolled up for this Wednesday’s celebration. Local crews have been sweeping, cleaning and pouring their hearts into getting ready for folks to enjoy themselves. We are a deep rural community, and for many, their lives are just like the ancestors of 1776 - you’re born, raised, leave the nest, find your niche, make a living, pay taxes and have children, and the cycle starts all over again. There will be plenty of festivities to enjoy and some great fireworks, I’m sure. Just like Clay, many communities across this great country will come together as one to celebrate the real beauty of this land and that’s her people. The American spirit is not about politicians nor the power hungry, money-grubbing greedy folks. The spirit of America is about the simple life of freedom and opportunity, and these ideas have made our country what it is today despite the daily attempts to destroy it by those who “know what’s best for us.” As long as the people who make this land great still come together and unify, the promise of a better country and a better life is still alive for future generations. The heartbeat of this country is found in the small and quiet efforts of people looking out for each other, building businesses, raising families and relying on the power of the American spirit. Where else can one do that? Only in America. Happy 250th Birthday America; you are still the greatest place on earth to live!



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COMMISSION

Continued from Page 1

bridge is worth it. At one point it was over 300K to restore that bridge and now it is over a million dollars. And has to be inspected every year. Clay County cannot afford it. We don’t have a 50% tax base, and not something we want to pursue.” From a purely financial point of view, I have to admit, Clay County cannot afford these: what seem “frivolous” things and I would have to agree with him. But. They are more than that. They are a part of history that got all of us here. Somethings, many would want to share with their grandchildren and great grandchildren. The Elkhurst bridge is the same

architecture as the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco on a smaller scale. It is only one of two remaining in the entire Eastern United States. It does make perfect financial sense to do nothing and let time and age eat all these things up. Last summer we lost the Henry Clay Hotel to a fire. If we knew that was going to happen would we have tried to stop that, come together to restore it? Or would we just have said, our children don’t need this, it doesn’t matter. Would we have lit the match ourselves to eliminate a problem? These are important issues to think about. The next regular Clay County Commission meeting is July 14, 2026.



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STK# 17500A 4D CREW CAB



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