



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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Thursday, July 9, 2026

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Clay celebrates July 4th and 250 years of Independence

By: Allen Hamrick

It was party time in the streets of Clay. July 4th came and went here in the county of Clay and all over the country, yet the celebration of 250 years of freedom continues.

Cookouts, fireworks, camping, boating and a street party much like a mini regatta that hit the streets of Clay were carried on in back yards, lakes and rivers as folks showed what true freedom is all about. Rightly so, too. We have reason to enjoy freedom, do we not?

Of course we do! The history of this country started long before 1776 and continues to evolve every day, sometimes good and sometimes not so good.

Clay County held its own early celebration this past Wednesday with a party in the streets and fireworks that filled the night sky. A great time was had by those in attendance as they danced into the night with music provided by local talent and filled their bellies with food from trucks and trailers and a new ice cream shop that was recently opened by Aiden Taylor and Issac Brown.

All the celebrating is much in part due to this country being the greatest country to live in because people have fought to keep it that way. So, when you see the fireworks representing the bombs in the air, remember what they truly symbolize.

Francis Scott Key was inspired to pen The Defense of Fort McHenry, otherwise known as The Star-Spangled Banner, when the British navy fleet attempted to bomb Fort McHenry and take over the town.

The people in the fort stood their ground, and the British were defeated. The actions of the Patriots when this country was formed were a thing of beauty. It is never over though; hope is the last thing that dies within its people.

Let's not let it die in this country. Keep in mind, as we celebrate our freedoms and take time to reflect on our country's history, America is a place where hard work, a strong mind and love of country and her people should be top on the list. Remember where you come from because it will light the path to your future.



CCHS & CCMS TSA at Nationals in Washington, DC

Clay TSA brings home national title and top honors

By: Stephanie Dobbins

The Clay County Middle and High School TSA teams recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to compete in the Technology Student Association National Competition. They earned the right to compete there based on their success at the WV State Competition held in March. At nationals, Clay Middle impressively won a national championship and earned top ten finalist honors in two additional events. For Clay High, five students were recognized for earning the Gold Achievement Award.

At Nationals, more than 10,000 students competed in over 70 events. Thirty-six states were represented, and students came from as far away as Germany and American Samoa to compete. The conference theme, Unity Through Community, aligned with TSA's competitions, activities and programs that provide members with enhanced exposure to topics in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); opportunities for personal and leadership development; and career awareness.

For the Middle School, Gunner Dobbins and River Schoolcraft won first place in Challenging Technology Issues. In this event, participants collaborate to prepare and deliver a debate-style presentation explaining opposing views of current technology issues. The topics for the event were (1) artificial intelligence and automation in the workplace, (2) cloning to generate human organs, (3) utilizing lab-grown meat as a substantive agricultural practice, (4) banning gas-powered cars by 2035, and (5) human microchip implants for medical records. Dobbins also earned Finalist Honors in two additional events, placing fourth in Career Prep and ninth in Community Service Video.

For CCHS, Jaxon Brown, Juliann Gallaher, Alivia Gilliland, Presley Shamblin, and Lillian Starcher were recognized for earning the Gold Achievement Award. To earn the award, the students engaged in enumerated activities relating to service leadership, STEM immersion, and personal and professional development.

Moreover, CCHS students Ariel Dobbins and Juliann Gallaher wrapped up their service as WV State TSA officers for the 2025-206 school year. Numerous WV TSA members also worked tirelessly to assist the Virginia TSA delegation as a co-host of the conference. For the upcoming year, Gallaher will continue her service as WV State TSA President and Lillian Starcher will serve as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Finally, Ariel Dobbins ran as a candidate for National



River Schoolcraft and Gunner Dobbins - National Champions in Challenging Technology Issues

TSA Treasurer. She gave a speech to thousands of TSA members and advisors, answered an impromptu candidate question on stage, and participated in a meet-and-greet, speaking with hundreds of students throughout the day about her proposed plans and platform. She campaigned relentlessly. While she unfortunately did not win the election, she represented CCHS and WV TSA very well. Her courage, leadership, and dedication throughout the campaign were a testament to her character and left a lasting impression on all who had the opportunity to hear her speak.

Jessica Ramsey is the TSA Chapter Advisor for the middle school and high school. She works tirelessly to help students prepare for their events, keeping them updated with contest rules and regulations, of which there are many, and staying after school throughout the year to supervise and advise while they work on their projects. She is also the chief TSA fundraiser, and she

Please see CLAY TSA on page 7

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.

BOOKED

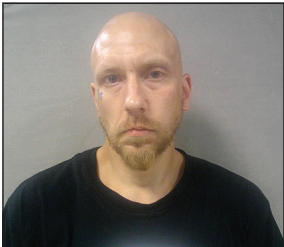


REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON COUNTY



Brayden Todd Wood
Booked 7/3/2026
Battery



Gerald Alan Adkins
Booked 7/4/2026
DUI, Possession of a
Controlled Substance,
Domestic Assault, Domestic
Battery

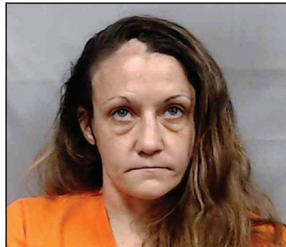


Shelly Ann Bostic
Booked 7/2/2026
DUI with child, Child
Neglect, Obstruction of
Officer



Tyler Hansen Scott
Booked 7/4/2026
Possession of a Controlled
Substance

CLAY COUNTY

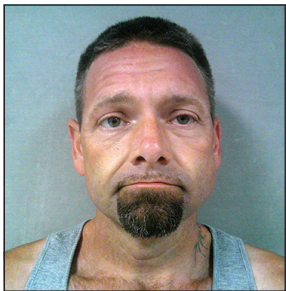


Aquayla Shay Fugate
Booked 7/2/2026
Drug delivery result-
ing in death; failure to
render aid, Manufacture/
Deliver sch I,II Controlled
Narcotic Substance, Felony
failure to appear, Failed
drug test



Felichea Dawn Smith
Booked 7/5/2026
Simple Possession

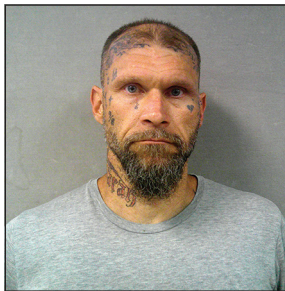
CLAY COUNTY



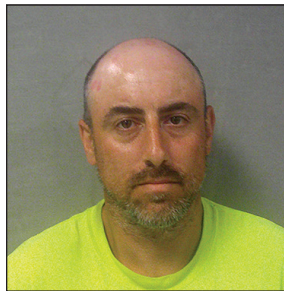
Jeremy Ray McCune
Booked 7/1/2026
Capias



Justin Wayne Taylor
Booked 7/6/2026
Grand Larceny



Richard Louis Koch
Booked 7/2/2026
Domestic Battery



Patrick Watman Summers
Booked 7/5/2026
Simple Possession

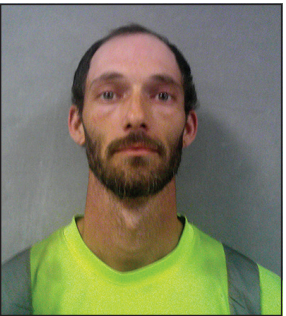


Patsy Ann Parsons
Booked 7/2/2026
Obstructing an Officer

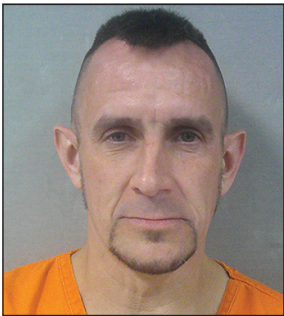


Tiffany Dawn Bevill
Booked 7/4/2026
Domestic Battery

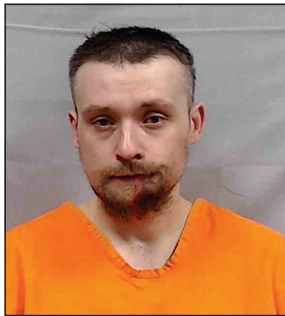
NICHOLAS COUNTY



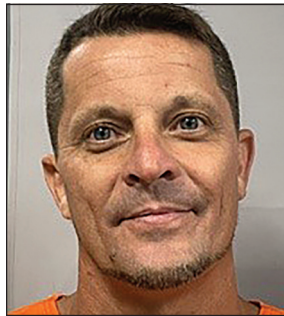
Brad Lee Adkins
Booked 6/30/2026
Capias



Jason Eric Bates I
Booked 7/2/2026
Domestic Assault



Jeffery Todd Adams Jr.
Booked 7/1/2026
Capias



Jeremy Allen White
Booked 7/2/2026
Probation Violation



Joshua Adam Ricottilli
Booked 6/30/2026
Capias, Obstructing an
Officer



Lori Dawn Carpenter
Booked 7/2/2026
Capias

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

OBITUARY

Charles Edward Bird

Charles Edward Bird, 101, of Lizemores, West Virginia, passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on February 14, 1925, Charles was the son of the late Robert Thornton Bird and Neva Nichols Bird.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of many years, Doris Hattie Price Bird, who passed away in 2018.

Charles is survived by his children: Jimmy Dale Bird; Debbie Ann Hall (Rick); Donna Kay Salisbury (Jerry); and David Edward Bird. He also leaves behind ten cherished grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, all of whom brought him great joy.

Charles proudly served his country during World War II and was honored to be the last living World War II veteran in Clay County, West Virginia. Following his military service, he devoted many years to working as a coal miner before retiring. He was a proud member of the United Mine Workers of America for 82 years.

A longtime amateur radio enthusiast, Charles was well known throughout the ham radio community by his call sign, N8ZJA. He enjoyed making friendships across the airwaves and remained passionate about the hobby throughout his life.

Above all, Charles was a devoted Baptist Christian whose faith guided him throughout his remarkable life. He lived with strength, humility, kindness, and an unwavering love for his family and community.

Charles lived a wonderful and colorful life spanning more than a century. His stories, wisdom, sense of humor, and steadfast character touched countless lives. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Funeral Service was held at 11:00 am on Saturday,



July 4, 2026, at Laurel Fork Missionary Baptist Church, Lizemores, WV with Jason Moore officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to the service from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Burial followed in Clay Memorial Gardens, Clay, WV.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com

Wilson Smith Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Bird family.

Wanda Lee Woodrum Coulter

Wanda Lee Woodrum Coulter, 89 of Clay, WV, was born on April 14, 1937, and passed away on July 2, 2026.

Preceded in death by her father, Jesse Ray Woodrum, Mother Goldie Leona Mason, mommy Helen Queen Woodrum, husband Dessie Lee Coulter, brothers: Earl Eugene Carney, Bobby Woodrum and Cecil Ray Woodrum; sisters; Norma Dean Bodkins, Helen Cales and Loretta Fay Stringer.

Survived by daughter, Patricia Lynn Coulter and daughter of the heart Jeanette Joy Pritt.

She was part of the Clay Community Church family since 1969, active with the post 4419, VFW Ladies Auxiliary for several years. She graduated from Clay County High School in 1955.



Funeral Service was held at 12:00 pm, Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at Wilson Smith Funeral Home, Clay WV with Wayne Litton officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to the service from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at the funeral home. Burial followed in the Sunset Cemetery, Bickmore, WV.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com



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Debra Smith: debra@mountainmedianews.com

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Home Country

Slim Randles

Steve, the cowboy on the board of directors of the Mule Barn truck stop’s philosophy counter and world dilemma think tank, swears on his coffee it happened. “Tourist guy got off the train the other day when I was down there picking up a friend,” Steve said. “He asked me if I was a real cowboy, and I allowed I probably was, because I wasn’t smart enough to get a real job. So he asked if I minded if he asked me some questions.”

Steve sipped his coffee. “I said, ‘Shoot’ and the guy says he wondered why we wore these big ol’ hats with the wide brims. So I explained to him they give us shade in summer and keep the rain and snow off our faces, and told him we could give the horse a drink by putting water in them.

“Then he thanked me and asked why we wore chaps. So I explained how they protected our legs from cactus and thorns, you know.

“He asked about wild rags like this one,” he said, touching the blue silk scarf around his neck. “I told him it filtered dust and we could tie our hats down with it in a high wind.”

“Sounds reasonable,” Doc said, “but I thought everybody knew that. Television and Westerns and all that.”

“Well, yeah,” Steve said. “Me, too. But I think this guy was from a city somewhere and didn’t watch TV or eat anything that ever had a pulse. Looked kinda puny. But he was real friendly.

“So then he asked me about saddle horns. Wanted to know if they honk. This guy was really green, you know? He wanted to know about ropes and spurs, all kinds of questions like that. I did my best to answer him, too. Finally he says, ‘Tell me why you cowboys always wear tennis shoes.’

“So I told him we didn’t want anyone thinking we were truck drivers.”

Even the truck drivers laughed at that one. Then they threw cracker packets at Steve.



Mobile Unit offers convenient lung care

Vandalia Health’s Medicine in Motion initiative includes a sophisticated fleet of mobile medical units designed to break down the barriers of geography and transportation – bringing essential care directly to people who need it.

Lung cancer is the most diagnosed cancer among West Virginia residents. When cancer is found early with low-dose CT screening, patients can more often undergo minimally invasive surgery and have less lung tissue removed.

Vandalia Health’s Mobile Lung Cancer CT Screening and Mobile Mammography units will be at Community Care – Big Otter, 797 Clinic Road Ivy-

dale, July 15, from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Vandalia Health Primary Care - Summersville, 702 Professional Park Dr. in Summersville July 21, from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

A referral is needed to make an appointment. Contact your local provider for a referral or schedule a visit with a primary care provider. Patients need to bring insurance information.

The Mobile Lung CT, funded by Aetna Better Health of West Virginia, is staffed by experts and equipped with the same state-of-the-art digital imaging technology as you would get at a Vandalia Health imaging facility for quick, convenient, accurate screenings.



UHC receives blanket donation from Jenkins Subaru and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

June marked Subaru Loves to Care month, Jenkins Subaru in Bridgeport has partnered with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) to bring warmth to cancer survivors being treated at the Cecil B. Highland Jr. & Barbara B. Highland Cancer Center at United Hospital Center (UHC). Through their generosity, more than 80 blankets were donated.

“It is during the most trying of times that a donation of kindness can make a meaningful impact,” said Meredith Williams, MPH, RN, OCN, director of Cancer Services at the Cecil B. Highland, Jr. & Barbara B. Highland Cancer Center at UHC. “Jenkins Subaru and LLS have been graciously donating blankets to UHC since 2016.”

Every three minutes in the U.S., a new patient is diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma.

As the treatment and rehabilitation process can often be long and arduous, blood cancer patients can be left feeling cold, confined, and in a weakened state. Thousands of Subaru owners and employees have contributed messages of hope throughout the Subaru Loves to Care initiative and are proudly continuing the tradition in 2026 to show support for their community members during an emotionally and physically challenging time in their lives.

“UHC and its staff are vital assets to the community and state. We are honored to team up with them again to bring love and support to cancer survivors,” said Matt Jenkins, general manager at Jenkins Subaru. “Jenkins Subaru and Subaru of America are once again happy to support this cause and make this donation possible.”

Entry Deadline Approaching for State Fair of West Virginia Competitions

LEWISBURG, WV-- Entry deadlines for the 101st Annual State Fair of West Virginia are quickly approaching, with livestock entries due by midnight on July 8, 2026, and Home, Arts & Garden entries due by midnight on July 15, 2026.

Complete rules, regulations, premium books, and on-line registration are available at statefairwv.com.

“We encourage everyone to get their entries in before the deadlines,” said CEO Kelly Collins. “Competitive exhibits are one of the traditions that make the State Fair so special, and we look forward to celebrating your hard work during the 101st State Fair.”

Each year, thousands of exhibits fill the fairgrounds, showcasing the talent, creativity, and agricultural excellence of West Virginians and exhibitors from across the region. Opportunities include livestock competitions for West Virginia 4-H, FFA, and Open Show exhibitors, along with a wide variety of Home, Arts & Garden classes featuring baking, canning, photography, fine arts, quilting, woodworking, floral design, agricultural produce, and much more.

The 101st Annual State Fair of West Virginia will be held August 13–22, 2026, in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

The State Fair of West Virginia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting agriculture, education, youth development, and family entertainment. A recent economic impact study found the Fair generates more than \$42.8 million annually for the state’s economy.

Follow the State Fair of West Virginia on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok for the latest updates, and join the conversation using #SFVW2026.

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

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MISCELLANEOUS

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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

July 15, 1886: Congressman Cleveland Monroe “Cleve” Bailey was born on a farm in Pleasants County. He represented West Virginia’s third congressional district for eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1945–47 and 1949–63.

July 15, 1915: The West Virginia Folklore Society was founded in Morgantown by John Harrington Cox, Robert Allen Armstrong and Walter Barnes.

July 15, 1988: Interstate 64 was completed when the final section between Sam Black Church and the West Virginia Turnpike was opened to traffic.

July 16, 1791: Adam Stephen, a physician and Revolutionary War general often credited as the founder of Martinsburg, died at his home in that city.

July 16, 1869: Philanthropist Michael Late Benedum was born in Bridgeport. He made a fortune in the oil and gas business but is best remembered for establishing the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

July 16, 1877: The first nationwide labor strike in U.S. history began in Martinsburg, after the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad cut worker’s wages. Federal troops soon put down the violence in Martinsburg, but the strike continued across the country for another 52 days.

July 17, 1775: Two months after the Revolutionary War started, Hugh Stephenson's 98-man rifle company left Shepherdstown, marched 600 miles in 24 daysand arrived in Cambridge to help defend Massachusetts.

July 17, 1861: The Battle of Scary Creek took place in Putnam County. It was one of the earliest battles of

the war and one of the first Confederate victories.

July 17, 1914: Singer Eleanor Steber was born in Wheeling.She made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1940.

July 17, 1921: Marcenia “Toni” Stone was born in Bluefield. She was the first woman to play professional baseball for a previously all-male team. In 1953, she joined the Indianapolis Clowns of the old Negro American League, replacing the team’s second baseman, Hank Aaron, who had just joined the National League’s Milwaukee Braves.

July 17, 1922: The Cliftonville Mine Battle took place east of Wellsburg, Brooke County. The gun battle between striking miners and sheriff’s forces left at least nine people dead.

July 18, 1776: Methodist bishop Francis Asbury first set foot in present West Virginia outside of Berkeley Springs. He worked extensively in what is now the Eastern Panhandle, preaching and lecturing almost every day, before continuing farther into western Virginia.

July 18, 1865: Samuel Cabell was murdered at his Institute plantation by either pro-Union or pro-Confederate sympathizers, depending on the source. His widow and mother of his children, Mary Barnes Cabell, who he had previously enslaved, inherited all his property, including the land on which today’s West Virginia State University was founded in 1892.

July 18, 1893: Spencer State Hospital opened. With its connected brick buildings, a quarter-mile in length,

the hospital was sometimes referred to as the longest continuous brick building in America. It remained in operation until June 1989.

July 19, 1850: Pope Pius IX established the Diocese of Wheeling, naming Richard V. Whelan as its first bishop.

July 19, 1863: A Confederate raid led by Gen. John Morgan came to an end on Buffington Island, near Ravenswood.The Confederates were overtaken by federal troops, local militia and three U.S. Navy gunboats.

July 19, 1946: Author Stephen Coonts was born in Morgantown. After graduating from West Virginia University and serving in the navy during the Vietnam War, Coonts became a best-selling action and adventure novelist with the 1986 publication of Flight of the Intruder.

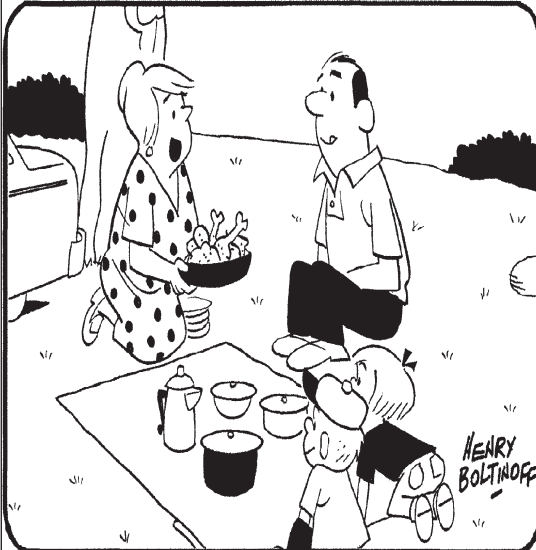
July 19, 1952: Novelist Jayne Anne Phillips was born in Buckhannon. After graduating from West Virginia University, her short stories and novels began receiving wide recognition. In 2024, she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her 2023 novel Night Watch, about a mother and daughter in West Virginia after the Civil War.

July 20, 2010: Carte Goodwin became the nation’s youngest sitting senator. Goodwin was appointed to fill Robert C. Byrd’s seat in the U.S. Senate following Byrd’s death.

July 21, 1924: Don Knotts was born in Morgantown. The comedy legend will be forever remembered for portraying Barney Fife on The Andy GriffithShow.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pocket is added to pot. 4. Leg is smaller. 5. Bush is moved. 6. Blanket is smaller.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Q2 REPORT

ACROSS

- 1 Pet plagues
5 Keg party dispensers
13 Iranian city with a 1,200,000+ population
16 Brainpower stats
19 Cries of awe
20 Having hay fever, say
21 Italian “a”
22 Bring to court
23 More proficient than anybody else
26 Tchr.’s union
27 Figure skating leap
28 Sauna setting
29 Photo lab blowup: Abbr.
30 Barbie or Ken
31 “He wouldn’t hurt —”
33 Fairly often
38 Kung — chicken
39 Extremist sect
40 Female graduates
41 Ball hitter in a certain court
47 Center or glottis lead-in
48 Old JFK jet
51 Tallinn locale
52 — Christian Andersen

- 53 She sang “Skyfall”
55 Grandma, in Italy
57 Sri Lankan monkey with a hatlike whorl of hair
62 Nosy sort
65 Yuletide poem opener
67 Skip out (on)
68 Business attire
69 French “the”
70 Dental buildup
73 Joked around
75 Cooler cubes
76 Competent
78 Gallivant
79 Doubt-free
80 Deep-seated
82 Cartoon short featuring a bird who was a precursor to Tweety
85 Lamp cover
88 Sheer
89 Goopy cheese
91 Designer with the fragrance Lucky Wish
95 Quaint suffix with poet
96 Reply to “Are you?”

- 99 Dropping extra work and “acting your wage”
101 Wicca’s realm
103 Jethro — (rock band)
104 Excavate
105 NHL team that became the Colorado Avalanche
111 Saintliness
113 Draws upon
114 Nutrition fig.
115 Debt memo
116 Tear apart
117 — Lady of Fatima
118 Algebraic statement graphed as a parabola
125 Bi- plus one
126 Poet’s dusk
127 Counterpart of digital (Var.)
128 Norway port
129 Kong, for one
130 1950s prez
131 Actor Clint
132 “Sheesh, close call!”

DOWN

- 1 Hitter Gehrig
2 Tiny particle
3 “Calm down!”
4 Suffix similar to “-ish”

- 5 Joan of folk
6 Letter after kay
7 English cathedral city
8 Necessary: Abbr.
9 Have faith in
10 Visibly awed
11 Relative of risotto
12 — -fi
13 Latin for “five”
14 A single block of sugar, say
15 Irate
16 Playground comeback
17 Subdue
18 Serta rival
24 Stage actress Hagen
25 Have a hunch
30 Genetic stuff
31 Vaulted church area
32 E-help pages
33 Sacred book of Islam
34 Suffix with form
35 Hanker (for)
36 Disloyal type
37 Seminal ‘40s computer
39 Goatee spot
42 Top-shelf
43 Pig’s noise
44 Doha locale
45 Pizza chain, informally
46 Atty.’s title

- 48 Costume spangle
49 Channel for excess water
50 Move like a seesaw
54 Govt. lawyers
56 “Shaq —!” (O’Neal memoir)
58 Lyft rival
59 Makes lighter
60 Sch. close to Harvard
61 Heady drink
62 Dental buildup
63 Disproves
64 Land specks in the sea
66 Bank bought by Chase in 2008, in brief
71 Financier Onassis
72 “Apollo 13” director Howard
73 Andrews of “Mary Poppins”
74 Failed to
77 Dallas-to-Nashville dir.
79 Assistant on iDevices
81 Uncluttered
83 In a — (very quickly)
84 — Dhabi (emirate)
86 Schleps

- 87 Deep blue dye
90 Dying rebuke from Caesar
92 Course part, in an eatery
93 Course part, in school
94 — Azalea (“Fancy” rapper)
97 Like built-up interest
98 Ordinary
99 Div. of an NBA game
100 “— Sera, Sera”
101 Drs. who deliver babies
102 Washerful
105 Sales target number
106 Seize illegally
107 Hair-raising
108 Pop diva Ross
109 Teensy bits
110 Thick cover
111 Item in a pod
112 Being pulled
116 Regretted greatly
118 End-of-proof abbr.
119 TV actress Charlotte
120 Dairy beast
121 Psyche part
122 Status —
123 Corrida cry
124 This minute

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17	18		
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69																						
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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.



**NOTICE
RALLY DAY**
Sunday, April 26, 1959
Widen Baptist Church
Special Singing and Preaching
All day services.

Mrs. Scott Speaks To Widen Woman's Club

The regular monthly meeting of The Widen Woman's Club was held in the Legion Hall, Thursday evening, March 5 1959, at 8 o'clock p. m.

Mrs. Cecil Butcher, Club President at the business meeting. Mrs. Marie Donohue was in charge of the devotions. An invitation from Gassaway Woman's Club was read inviting club members to be their guests at their regular club meeting on April 6th, 1959.

Mrs. John L. Henley introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. John Scott of Oak Hill, West Virginia. Mrs. Scott is a past president of Capitol District, a past treasurer of West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs and at present is Second Vice President of the West Virginia Federation. She is also a teacher in Collins High School of Oak Hill, West Virginia. The subject of her very interesting talk was "History of The General Federation."

After the close of the meeting delicious refreshments were served by the hostess chairman, Mrs. Carmel Ramsey and her committee Mrs. D. L. McMillion, Mrs. Charles Morris, Mrs. Dennis Triplett and Mrs. Charles Wilson to the following members: Mrs. Harold L. Beattie, Mrs. Cecil Butcher, Mrs. Melvin Gonner, Mrs. Paul Donohue, Mrs. E. B. Gray, Mrs. Farrell Henderson, Mrs. John L. Henley, Mrs. George Kitzmiller, Mrs. De Forrest McMillion, Mrs. E. D. Moyers, Mrs Robert Osborne, Mrs. William Patton, Mrs. Scott Williams, Miss Hazel Baughman and Miss. Leola Mick. Guests attending were Mr. and Mrs John Scott, Oak Hill, West Virginia.

Dr. Brown Recovering

Dr. C. N. Brown of Marietta, Ohio, who was for many years Company Physician for the Elk River coal and Lumber Company is recuperating at his home in Marietta following major surgery in Marietta Memorial Hospital.

Sportsman's Club Re-Elect Officers

The membership of the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Club at a recent meeting affirmed its confidence in the men who have headed the organization for the two preceding years by re-electing the same slate of officers for the third consecutive year. Those officers are President H. L. Beattie; First Vice President H. S. Williams; Second Vice President Corley Frame; Secretary Doyle Waggoner; and Treasurer Harold Dawson.

Under the leadership of these men, the club has come to the forefront as one of the leading sportsmen's organizations in the state. The recreation area on Buffalo Creek has been developed, with its swimming pool, playground, fish pond, tennis court, lodge, and archery course. In cooperation with the Employee's League of Widen Miners, the Fourth of July celebration has been one of the biggest in the state. The annual club banquet held near the holiday season is an attraction second to none, sufficiently attractive to bring in the past two years the governor of West Virginia and the mayor of Charleston as guest speakers.

Following the election of officers, the club met in a general business session and outlined its proposed projects for this year, centering mainly on further improvement of the recreation area with a view to making it more attractive to a larger number of people by further diversifying the facilities there.

Widen Rotary Club Elects New Officers

At its regular Thursday night dinner meeting on March 5, the Widen Rotary Club elected its officers for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1. The report of the nominating committee was accepted by the club as presented to the membership, with the following officers being designated: President, Harold Dawson; V. President, Thomas H. Mullins; Secretary-Treasurer A. S. (Shorty) Richardson. The results of the ele

ction were promptly reported to the district headquarters, and Shorty Richardson is now the proud possessor of a letter from the district governor congratulating the local secretary on being the first in the entire district to report the names of the new officers and to send in the club's fee for the district conference.

Marriage Announced

A marriage of local interest took place in Hernando, Mississippi, February 27, 1959, when Miss Jamie T. Butler of Memphis, Tennessee became the bride of Mr. George A. Hamrick, who is presently stationed in Memphis, Tennessee, and is in the U. S. Navy.

The new Mrs. Hamric is the daughter of the late James Kelly Butler of Memphis, Tennessee and Mrs. Davis Parks, Jr.

Mr. Hamric is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Hamric of Dille, West Virginia.

The marriage ceremony was held in the home of the Rev. C. H. Shutt, Pastor of Hernando Baptist Church with Rev. Shutt as the officiating Minister.

Mr. and Mrs Hamric are presently residing in Memphis, Tennessee.

Pre-School Visitors Day at Widen Schools

Mrs. Mary Butcher Will make a survey of Widen, Taylor, and Wilson Ridge sometime during the last week in March or the first of April to determine how many children will be eligible to enter school next fall.

Parents who will have children in school are cordially invited to visit the Widen first grade room from 1:00 to 3:30 P. M. of Friday, April 10, 1959. They are to bring next years first graders with them so that they may visit also. We are planning to have a doctor or health nurse come to school to talk with parents about immunizations such as, diptheria and small pox. These immunizations should be given during the summer months so that children will be ready to enter school when it starts in the fall. Birth certificates are also required by West Virginia state law, and parents are required to bring them with them on the first day the child enters school.

Clay Elementary Tournament Will Begin March 30th

The Clay County Principals Association, sponsor of the Annual Elementary Basketball Tournament, will open the playing for Clay County championship on Monday at 6:30 P. M. in the Clay County High School gymnasium, according to Bon Linkenogger, who made the announcement last week.

With the exception of Tuesday, games will be played each night at 6 o'clock, and on Saturday night the consolation game will be played at 7 o'clock and the finals at 8 o'clock.

Awards, which will be presented by County Superintendent Brooks Smith, include the winning team, runners-up, and medals to the members of the all-tournament team. The best cheerleaders will also receive awards. The presentation will take place immediately following the finals.

FIRST NIGHT OPPONENTS:

Fola vs. Clay
Widen vs. Brown
Hagar vs. Swandale
Dundon vs. Lizemore

SECOND NIGHT'S GAMES:

Valley Fork vs. Maysel
Dille vs. Ida

Elk View vs. H. E. White
Ivydale will play the winners in the Elk View-H. E. White game. Remember the dates—

The tournament will start on Monday night, March 30; will skip Tuesday, March 31, and will continue on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Finals to be on Saturday. All playing will start at 6:00 P. M.

Boys representing the various teams are very enthusiastic, and "We are looking forward to the best tournament we have ever had," Mr. Linkenogger said.

GOLDEN HORSESHOE Test will be given April 24, at the Clay County High School. Students taking the test may ride the school buses into Clay on that date.

New partnership brings \$150 million rare earth investment to West Virginia

By: Zachery Miller

RUPERT, W.Va. — Following a press conference last Wednesday, Secretary of State Kris Warner spoke to the Clay County Free Press and outlined plans for a \$150 million private investment in West Virginia's future through a new partnership involving Greenbrier Smokeless Coal Company of Rupert, Flash Metals USA of Houston, Texas, and AmForge Corporation of Washington, D.C.. The partnership will employ a patented process to extract rare earth minerals from millions of tons of coal tailings, which will be processed in Greenbrier County.

Rare earth minerals are essential to the production of everyday technologies such as cell phones and computers, but they are also critical to advanced technologies, modern energy infrastructure, and national security systems.

"While there has been a lot of talk about developing this technology, these companies have figured out how to do this, do it at scale, and turn a profit," Warner said.

Once fully operational, the Greenbrier County facility is expected to employ nearly 250 people. Additional commitments for infrastructure and mineral development investments are expected to

support project expansion and job growth throughout the state, however it is unclear if any aspect of the project will be developed in Clay County.

"Today we had county commissioners from Fayette, Nicholas, Summers, and Greenbrier counties here, knowing that we are going to have to call upon surrounding counties for the workers that are going to be needed to staff this facility," Warner said.

While the group plans to initially source material from permitted mine sites across West Virginia, mineral off-take agreements are already in place with suppliers in Greenland, Canada, and Cameroon. These agreements will allow the facility to process additional critical minerals from international sources.

"The big thing is, there is a national defense implication to this, so we're not depending on foreign countries. We are reshoring this here to America," Warner said, "West Virginia will take a national lead on extracting rare earth minerals from coal tailings, starting in Greenbrier County, and then expanding across the state," Warner said.

Despite its controversial history in West Virginia, coal slurry may prove to be one of the state's most unexpected

and valuable resources. Rare earth minerals will be extracted directly from coal tailings through a process that involves rapidly heating the material to approximately 1,800 degrees and then rapidly cooling it before the rare earth minerals

are separated.

Warner also applauded Drew Horn, chief strategy officer and co-founder of AmForge, for his expertise in rare earth minerals, and his role in developing the project in West Virginia.



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CLAY TSA
FROM PAGE 7

coordinates everything associated with trips to Cedar Lakes, WV, March for States, and to nationals in June. Her hard work and dedication are appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

Ms. Ramsey is the first person, however, to point out all the help she receives from the community. She wants to sincerely thank the many businesses and individuals who support TSA and helped with the trip to Washington, DC, for the national conference. They include CMI2, which donated \$1,000 to the organization and 3D-printed figures for various projects.

Additionally, many friends and family donated money, time and baked goods to support the team's effort. Ms. Ramsey wishes to thank everyone, including local businesses and community members who helped make the team's fundraisers a success by sponsoring students with the TSA logo fundraiser and purchasing baked potato dinners and meat sticks. Additionally, a special thank you goes to the chaperones who worked tirelessly to



Ariel Dobbins - WV State TSA President and National Treasurer Candidate.

help keep the kids safe while at the national conference -Beth Gallaher, Luella Dancy, Lindsay Schoolcraft, Cassie Titus, Bobby Brown, Phil Dobbins, Barry Payton, and Randy Holcomb – and to the parents who traveled to Washington, D.C., to support the kids.

Finally, she wants to thank the Clay County School Board and school

administrators for seeing the good that is the TSA program and for supporting the students and cheering on their successes. She is extremely appreciative of all the support the teams have received this year and every year. We could not do it without you!

Congratulations to Ms. Ramsey and her TSA teams. They represent the county well!



CCHS & CCMS TSA Chaperones - Cassie Titus, Beth Gallaher, Luella Dancy, Chapter Advisor Jessica Ramsey, Lindsay Schoolcraft, Bobby Brown, and Phil Dobbins.



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Gold Achievement Award Winners - Jaxon Brown, Liv Gilliland, Juliann Gallaher, Lilian Starcher, and Presley Shamblin.



TSA National Candidate Meet & Greet - Randy Holcomb, Ariel Dobbins, Barry Payton, Alex Holcomb, and Canaan Payton.

**Glenville State University
Earns National Recognition for
Preparing Future Elementary
Teachers in the Science of Reading**

Glenville, West Virginia—The undergraduate elementary teacher preparation program at Glenville State University has earned an A from the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) for how well they prepare future teachers to teach reading to elementary students.

The report, Teacher Prep Review: Decoding Progress in Reading Preparation, published on June 9, spotlights Glenville State University for meeting the standards set by literacy experts for coverage of the most effective methods of reading instruction. Specifically, this means the program is preparing aspiring teachers in all five components of scientifically based reading instruction, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary, and avoids many instructional practices that research has shown to be ineffective or counterproductive for teaching children to read.

A child's ability to read proficiently in the early grades shapes everything that comes next in school and in life, yet according to NAEP data, nearly half of fourth graders in West Virginia cannot read at a basic level. Teacher preparation is one of the most direct levers available to change that—but only if it is aligned to the research-based instructional methods that have been proven to help most students become successful readers.

Glenville State University is part of a growing group of teacher preparation programs nationwide helping transform how future teachers are trained to teach reading.

"Glenville State University's Teacher

Education Department is honored that the Elementary Education K-6; Early Education PreK-K Teacher Education Program has earned an "A" letter grade from the National Council on Teacher Quality for preparing future teachers in the Science of Reading," said Dean of Teacher Education and Professor Connie Stout O'Dell. "Pre-service teachers majoring in Elementary Education K-6 complete a series of reading courses focusing on the core components of scientifically based reading instruction. They also participate in hands-on experiences in reading instruction in local elementary schools. Our university is appreciative of the partnerships we have with our local elementary schools. These partnerships allow for practical applications of reading instruction for our pre-service teachers. Glenville State University Teacher Education is pleased with NCTQ's recognition and evaluation of its reading instruction for elementary education majors. It is exciting to be recognized for the work of our faculty and the content of our elementary reading courses."

"Every child deserves a teacher who has been well prepared to teach reading, and every teacher deserves the opportunity to enter the classroom ready to help students succeed," said NCTQ President Heather Peske. "Across the country, many teacher preparation programs still do not fully align with the science of reading, but Glenville State University is demonstrating what strong preparation can look like."



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\$30,163
72,955 MILES • RETAIL: \$29,588 • DOC FEE: \$575

2021 GMC SIERRA 1500 SLT

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2023 NISSAN ROGUE SV  \$21,570 53,953 MILES • RETAIL: \$20,995 • DOC FEE: \$575	2025 CHEVROLET TRAX 2RS  \$22,800 52,998 MILES • RETAIL: \$22,225 • DOC FEE: \$575	2025 KIA K4 GT-LINE  \$23,223 23,563 MILES • RETAIL: \$22,648 • DOC FEE: \$575
2024 CHEVROLET TRAX 2RS  \$23,708 25,127 MILES • RETAIL: \$23,133 • DOC FEE: \$575	2025 HYUNDAI KONA SEL  \$23,941 23,024 MILES • RETAIL: \$23,366 • DOC FEE: \$575	2025 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED  \$24,825 28,423 MILES • RETAIL: \$24,250 • DOC FEE: \$575
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2023 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER RS  \$25,172 37,354 MILES • RETAIL: \$24,597 • DOC FEE: \$575	2025 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED  \$25,188 29,251 MILES • RETAIL: \$24,613 • DOC FEE: \$575	2024 FORD ESCAPE ACTIVE  \$25,243 9,210 MILES • RETAIL: \$24,668 • DOC FEE: \$575
2024 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT  \$25,303 26,578 MILES • RETAIL: \$24,728 • DOC FEE: \$575	2023 GMC TERRAIN SLT  \$25,570 42,615 MILES • RETAIL: \$24,995 • DOC FEE: \$575	

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2025 FORD BRONCO SPORT BADLANDS  \$32,574 10,376 MILES • RETAIL: \$31,999 • DOC FEE: \$575	2024 JEEP GLADIATOR SPORT  \$34,360 26,074 MILES • RETAIL: \$33,785 • DOC FEE: \$575	2026 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT  \$34,808 13,263 MILES • RETAIL: \$34,233 • DOC FEE: \$575	2024 GMC SIERRA 1500 ELEVATION  \$36,352 79,328 MILES • RETAIL: \$35,777 • DOC FEE: \$575
2020 JEEP GLADIATOR RUBICON  \$35,570 75,194 MILES • RETAIL: \$34,995 • DOC FEE: \$575	2025 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON  \$40,370 19,356 MILES • RETAIL: \$39,795 • DOC FEE: \$575	2026 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA  \$42,570 12,556 MILES • RETAIL: \$41,995 • DOC FEE: \$575	



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