BOOKED REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS | P.2

Clay County Free Press
Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple
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Clay County Commission Gets a New Look

By Gary Lee Stuber

The Clay County Commission met for its first regular July meeting on Monday July 13 with all three commissioners in attendance. Commission President Joyce Johnson and Commissioner Duane Legg were physically present, while Commissioner David Schoolcraft was present by telephone. Shelia Stone, County Clerk, was present as recorder.

Continuing the Summer trend, the meeting was mostly routine county business, but one thing was notably different when you walked into the room. The commission chamber had gotten a makeover. In the nearly ten years I have been reporting on these meetings, first for CAEZ of WV, Inc. and then for the Clay County Free Press, I have seen a number of small changes. The coffee pot and refreshment stand disappeared ages ago. Gone later on were the copiers. Relics from a bygone era. But entering into the chamber this Monday I was totally stunned. New carpet. More. New chairs in four and a half rows. Gone are the old benches which were probably there from the days the New County Courthouse first opened. I knew the courtroom upstairs had gotten new carpet and chairs as a result of water damage from a leak in the roof. It had been covered by insurance.

So before the meeting even started, I asked the commission and Commissioner Johnson replied, "There was enough insurance money to cover both rooms with the quote we got." So Christmas came early this year. After the meeting I went upstairs and got Circuit Clerk Claressa Hanshaw to let me into the courtroom so that I could take photos, and you too can see this amazing new courtroom look.

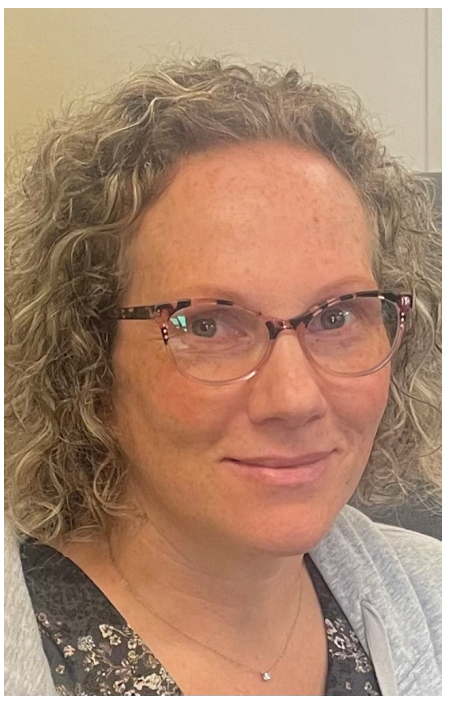
Among the routine business at this meeting the commission approved: minutes from the previous meeting, minutes from the Clay PSD and the financial report, bills, purchase orders, budget revisions, erroneous assessments as provided by the Assessor, fiduciary appointments as presented by the County Clerk, including appointments of administratrix, last wills and testaments, affidavits and waivers of final settlements of estates.

The commission appointed Renee Holcomb to the Clay County Solid Waste Authority and approved the hiring of Erica Woods as an Assessor office temp.



Commission room





Amanda Bevins



Clay County Commission courtroom

While Terry Martin was not present, the commission approved a Big Otter/Nebo/Walker Road Extension Resolution invoice for a little over $106K. They also approved the Salary Schedule for all Elected Officials. This is a big deal. For a number of years now, county employees haven't gotten a raise of any kind because of the outstanding jail bill.

The commission heard a request from Amanda Bevins of Bevins Recycling Inc. to expand their business into salvage and perhaps industrial waste. "Bevins Recycling Inc. requests the support and approval from the Clay County Commission to begin accepting ferrous metals at a new Maysel location which will be an expansion project of recycling efforts currently in operation." Amanda continued, "By broadening the organizations material acceptance from non-ferrous materials, we support the efforts to reroute recyclable, industrial waste from residential and commercial properties. Our current operations have already removed hundreds of tons of recyclable waste, improved the landscape and supported economic and tourism development in our county. We appreciate the consideration of the Commission." The Commission took up the matter for consideration.

Clay county residents will get their real and personal property tax notices some time after the fifteenth of this month. 2027-2027 Dog tags are already available and the Rabis Shot clinic sponsored annually at the courthouse will be scheduled sometime in September or October. Watch for details.

The next Clay County Commission meeting will be on Monday July 27 at 9:00 a.m.



Big Otter Elementary's New Baseball Field

The new baseball field at Big Otter Elementary School is complete! Thank you to Wiseman Construction Company and Chuck Moore of BBL Carlton Contractors for completing the construction on the baseball field. The new field was funded by Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw and Senator Glenn Jeffries. This project would not have been possible without funding and support from these individuals and companies. Thank you for your support! Big Otter Elementary students are excited to start the new school year with a new baseball field!

Summertime river bassin' and the great outdoors

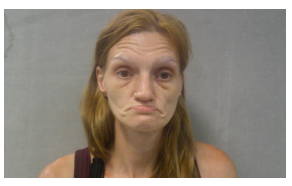


Don't overlook a summer storm for big river bass. Allen Hamrick Photo

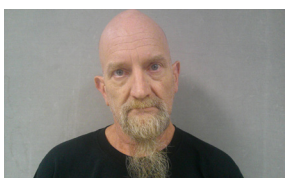
See story on Page 7

BOOKED REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

CLAY COUNTY



Kristin Dawn Johnston
Booked 7/17/2026
CAPIAS



Joseph Frank Murphy
Booked 7/14/2026
CAPIAS, Bond Revocation

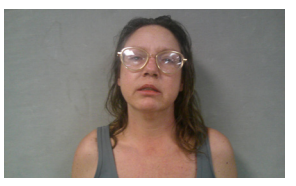


Maxamillion Tyler Pozzie
Booked 7/17/2026
Child Support

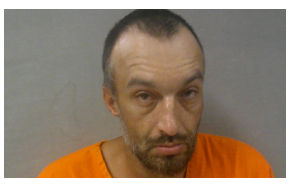
BRAXTON COUNTY



Christopher Shawn Butler
Booked 7/13/2026
Home Confinement Violation

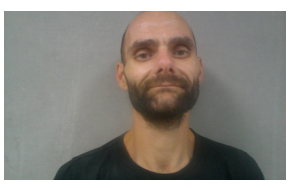


Shanda Renae Davis
Booked 7/18/2026
CAPIAS

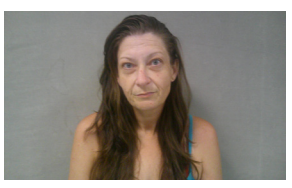


Casey Lee Gregory
Booked 7/16/2026
Domestic Assault, Domestic Battery

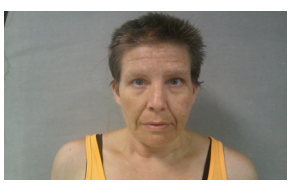
BRAXTON COUNTY



Christopher Lee Nottingham
Booked 7/13/2026
Assault, Disorderly Conduct, Obstructing an Officer, DOP

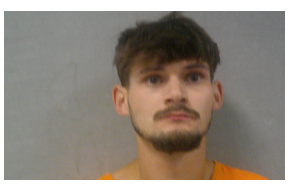


Hannah Marie Short
Booked 7/18/2026
CAPIAS

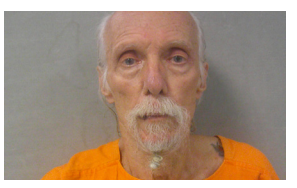


Sarah Beth Stump
Booked 7/15/2026
Burglary daytime break w/o entering, Malicious Assault

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Colton L. Willard
Booked 7/17/2026
Disorderly Conduct, Domestic Assault, Assault

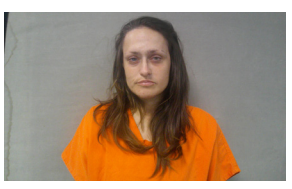


Stewart Lee Cales
Booked 7/15/2026
Brandishing, Disorderly Conduct, Obstructing an Officer, Fingerprint Refusal

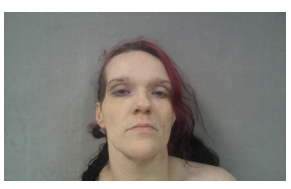


Zackary Austin Hall
Booked 7/15/2026
Family Court CAPIAS

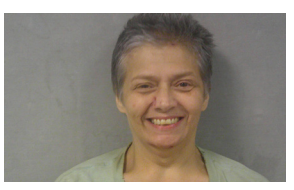
NICHOLAS COUNTY



Nerissa Lynn Johnso
Booked 7/16/2026
Possession of a Controlled Substance, Conspiracy to Commit Possession with Intent to Deliver



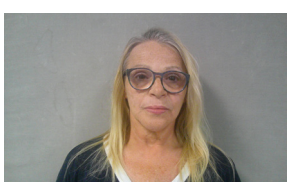
Jennifer Trudy Malcomb
Booked 7/16/2026
Grand Larceny, Burglary



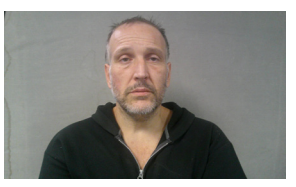
Rhonda Kay McClung
Booked 7/16/2026
CAPIAS



Nicole Lou Petrey
Booked 7/16/2026
CAPIAS

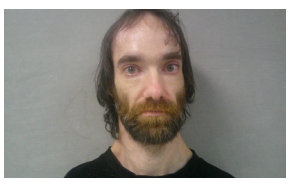


Lisa Sue Rose
Booked 7/14/2026
Probation Violation, Possession of a Controlled Substance



Richard Edgar-Calvin Spinks
Booked 7/16/2026
Possession of a Controlled Substance, Conspiracy to Manufacture a Controlled Substance

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Mathew Evan Shafer
Booked 7/16/2026
Grand Larceny, Burglary



Debbie Marie Springer
Booked 7/17/202
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.

Attention Clay Panthers: The 60th Class Reunion for Class of 1966 will be held at the Clay Middle School on September 18th, from 4p.m. to 8:30pm, with dinner served at 5:30 p.m. Cost is $35 per person. RSVP Judy Dobbins, 623 Paxton Rd. Procious, WV 25164.

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

2026 Statewide Back-to-School Event for Students with Disabilities!

We Still Have Spots Available!

Registration is still open for the 2026 Statewide Back-to-School Event for Students with Disabilities!

Everyone is welcome to attend this FREE event! Registration is only required for students with disabilities (Pre-K through 12th grade) who would like to receive:

- A backpack filled with school supplies
- A $25 gift card for school supplies
- A $25 gas stipend (thanks to the generous support of The Benedum Foundation)

A child does not need a confirmed diagnosis, an IEP, or a 504 Plan to qualify. If you have concerns about your child's learning, speech, behavior, hearing, vision, physical abilities, developmental delays, or other disabilities, we encourage you to register.

The event will feature exhibitors from across West Virginia offering valuable resources, information, and services for individuals with disabilities and their families. Come meet organizations, ask questions, and discover programs that can help your family succeed.

Remember: The event is open to everyone. Registration is only for students with disabilities who would like to receive the backpack, gift card, and gas stipend.

This is a statewide event.

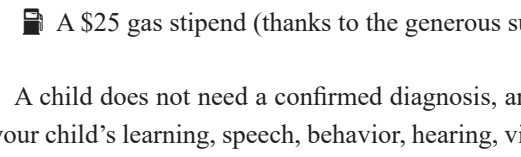
Spots are limited, so register today!

304-766-4624
www.wvsilc.org



CALL 833-974-2676

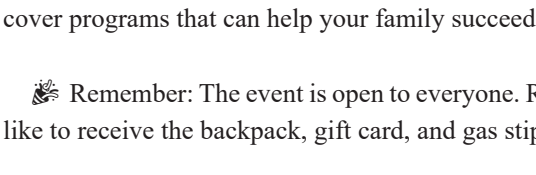
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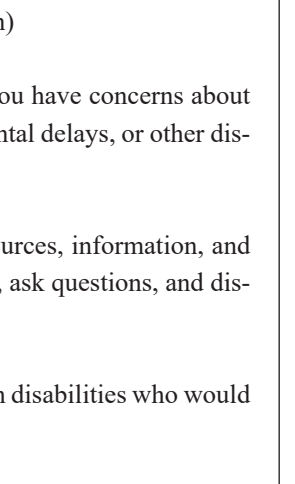
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After All, A Penny Is A Penny

Dr. James L. Snyder

As I was leaving the post office, I hurried across the parking lot to get to my vehicle. As I usually do, I kept my eyes focused on the ground as I walked to my vehicle.

Then, I saw it. There it was in all of its stunning beauty. I stopped for a few moments to look at it, and then bent over and picked it up. It was a penny. That's right, one cent.

I couldn't wait to get home to show it to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She knows how much I love collecting pennies. Of course, I have other coins as well, but it's so great to walk in a parking lot and find a Penny.

Walking in the front door of the house, I shouted, "Honey, I'm home. You'll never guess what I found today."

She shouted back at me, "Let me guess. You found a penny in the parking lot."

Quite stunned, I replied, "How did you know?"

"Well," she said, "I knew you were going to the post office which has a large parking lot and you always find a penny in the parking lot. So I really wasn't guessing I just knew what you found."

I walked into the kitchen where she was and showed her the penny I found at the parking lot. With a great smile on my face, I said, "Isn't this penny beautiful?"

"You do know," she said, "that a penny is only a penny?"

"I know a penny is a penny and I've been collecting them for years."

She wasn't really impressed with my obsession with coins. I had a fairly large coin collection, and I can always add to it, even if it's just a penny.

I tried to explain to her that 100 pennies equal one dollar, and even if it's just a penny, collecting them is about enjoying the small wins and the simple pleasures in life, which I believe everyone can appreciate.

What I find intriguing about pennies in a parking lot is that they don't cost anything. These tiny treasures bring me simple happiness, and I enjoy the feeling of finding something free and unexpected.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is one of those BOGO shoppers, and she's quite proud of how she can really get bargains. When you buy one and then get one free, that means they're half the cost. Anytime you can save money is okay with me.

I spent some time in the afternoon looking at my collection of pennies. I knew all of the parking lots where I found a penny. I've been on vacation and found a penny in a parking lot. I can't tell you how much pleasure I get just looking at these pennies I found. Pennies that cost me nothing, I like.

There was that one time when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came home and said, "You'll never guess what I found today. I found a quarter in the Publix parking lot." Then she laughed most hysterically.

She came into my office, where I was working, held up that quarter, and said to me, "See, a quarter is much more than a penny." All she talked about that day was the quarter she found in the parking lot. A quarter equals 25 pennies. Duh!

I knew what she was doing, and I congratulated her on her wonderful findings for the day. I know that quarter will be used in her BOGO shopping. Believe me, I was happy for her.

Once in a while, I'll find a quarter or a nickel or even a dime, which brings me great pleasure, I can assure you.

I know these parking lot findings are really that valuable. But, as I tell The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, they're all free. And that makes them special to me.

This will never happen, but one day I would love to find a $100 bill in a parking lot. That thrill of surprise would make my day, and I'd be eager to share it with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Since the government has stopped producing pennies, maybe one day my collection will be worth a lot. Until then, I appreciate how my frugal habits, like saving pennies, reflect a wise approach to life and money.

My father passed his frugal attitude down to me. Because of that, I have a great deal of respect for coins like pennies. I believe it's not how much you make in life, but how much you spend. A friend won a million-dollar lottery. Within two years, he was bankrupt.

Another attitude of my father was that it's not how much you make, but how deep in debt you are. And I've been very careful over the years not to get into debt. I don't need the best of things or the latest; just what I can afford.

One of my favorite Bible verses is 1 Timothy 6:10. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Many people misunderstand this verse and use it out of context. Money is not the problem; the "love of money is the root of all evil." I need money to live, but I must realize that there is more in my life than money.

A Four-Legged Friends

Joe Mazzella

It was the first school dance during my freshman year at college. I didn't have a date but decided to go anyway. It was fun for the first hour. I danced to all the fast dances, joked with my friends, and drank a lot of punch. As the time wore on, however, I noticed the couples dancing to all the slow dances and started to feel an ache and loneliness deep inside of me. After a while I walked out into the night air and sat down on the steps outside the building wondering if I would ever find love.

As I sat there I heard the click of nails on concrete. An old hound dog mix was walking up to me. He had a red collar on but no tag on it. I asked him who he belonged too but he just sat and looked at me with sad, sorrowful eyes. He looked so pitiful that I laughed in spite of myself and gently started to pet his head. After a while he gave me a happy, panting, doggy smile and we just sat together in the darkness enjoying each others company. Finally I told him that he'd better head home. He looked at me with understanding and started off down the street. I smiled as I watched him go then turned the other way and started walking towards my dormitory. And as I did I noticed that I felt a little less lonely and a little more loved.

I have learned a lot since that night over 40 years ago. I learned that love isn't something you find, it is something you do. Love isn't something you seek, it is something you share. I learned that God Loves each and every one of us and God's greatest wish is for us to Love each other as well and join in the dance of life here.

And whenever I feel a little lonely in this life I remember that time when God sent me a four-legged friend to lift my loneliness and warm my heart. And I send a little "Thank You" up to Heaven for all of the furry angels in this world and the love they give us.

Home Country

Slim Randles

It's a rare treat to have old Jasper Blankenship come down from the diggins to stock up on supplies. And he favored us with stories at the Mule Barn this bright morning over coffee, too.

"Well, Doc," Jasper said, "you're right. I wasn't always a miner. Back during The War I had a job in the city at one of the big war plants, you know. I was a security guard and watched the gate. In those days, there was this one carpenter who just gave me the fits. He'd come out the gate at the end of the day with a wheelbarrow full of sawdust. I always stopped him and poked around in the sawdust and never found anything, but I just knew he was stealing something."

Jasper took a sip of coffee. "Well sir, four five years ago I was wetting my whistle up north a ways and this guy walked in and I knew him from somewhere so I struck up a conversation with him. Turns out he was this same carpenter guy who was wheeling that dang sawdust out the gate every afternoon. I knew this was my chance, as so many years had gone by since we both worked there.

"I told him I always knew he was stealing from the plant but could never find it in all that sawdust. I said it was a long time ago, so would he mind 'fessing up to it, just to satisfy my mind?

"He just grinned at me. So I got another round for us, and he seemed friendlier then. So I tried again. 'Come on, pardner,' I said, 'I know you were stealing something there. What was it?'"

Jasper grinned. "He smiled at me and said, 'Wheelbarrows.'"



Governor Morrisey Announces More Than $11M Investment to Expand Virtual Care and Deploy Mobile Health Clinics to Underserved Communities

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Governor Patrick Morrisey today announced more than $11 million in new funding opportunities through the state's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) to expand access to healthcare across West Virginia. The investments are part of more than $145 million in Rural Health Transformation Program funding opportunities announced to date and will strengthen virtual care, expand mobile health services, and help connect more West Virginians to the care they need close to home.

"Improving West Virginia's health means making it easier for people to access quality care before small health problems become bigger ones," said Governor Morrisey. "These investments will help providers reach more patients, improve health outcomes, and connect more West Virginians with the care they need to live healthier lives and return to the workforce. That's good for our families, our communities, and our economy."

This investment allocates approximately $2.4 million to help local clinics set up and expand online care options, supporting the technology, training, and systems needed to offer virtual doctor visits that fit smoothly into daily operations. At the same time, nearly $9 million is designed to support deploying and operating mobile health clinics. These mobile clinics connect directly to larger medical centers to bring primary, specialty, and mental health services straight to rural neighborhoods, including through online care options.

Together, these efforts will seek to improve continuity of care, reduce avoidable emergency department visits, and address both digital and geographic barriers to access, giving providers new ways to reach patients and provide more flexible options for receiving care.

"Virtual care works best when it strengthens, not replaces, the relationship between patients and their providers," said Secretary of Health Dr. Arvin Singh. "At the same time, bringing care directly into communities allows us to intervene earlier, shift toward prevention, and better meet patients where they are."

Eligible applicants may access the active solicitations through the state's procurement and grants management system at wvOASIS.gov. Interested organizations are encouraged to review the full material packet for detailed eligibility requirements, submission instructions, and key deadlines.

OBITUARY



Barbara Gail Jones

It is with a heavy heart and great sorrow that our beloved, Barbara Gail Jones, passed away on July 11, 2026, in her home. She passed away peacefully in her husband's arms.

Though she has entered her eternal home, she leaves behind a legacy of love that will be carried on by her loving husband, Norman Lee Jones. She was a remarkable mother and grandmother who gave selflessly and loved unconditionally to 5 children and 15 grandchildren.

Until reunited in heaven she leaves behind Jeremiah and Jay Jones along with their children, Madison and Allison; Leslie and Joey Ryan along with their children Chloe, Elias, and Adria; Daniel Jones along with his children, Ellie, Dallas, Donovon, Davion, and Piper; Amanda and PJ Johnson, along with their children, Paul Wesley, Christian, Avery, and Mason; and Casey and Tom Albright along with their child, Mia.

Barbara was a faithful and, loving wife, daughter, sister, mother, and grandmother who reflected Gods love through her kindness, compassion, and unwavering devotion to her family, friends, and those that knew her. She loved as Christ taught us to love with patience, kindness, forgiveness, and grace.

She dedicated many years to healthcare, caring for others with kindness and compassion. She also spent time at Tudor's Biscuit World, proving she could brighten someone's day with either exceptional care or a great biscuit.

As we celebrate her life, we honor the love, faith, and memories she leaves behind. Though she will be deeply missed, we find peace knowing she is home with the Lord. Her beautiful smile will continue to shine through those that loved her, and her memory will forever remain in our hearts.

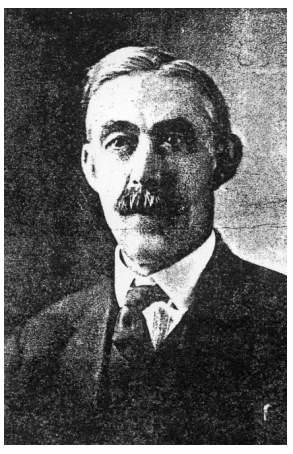
Funeral Servies will be held at 12:00 Noon on Saturday July 25, 2026, at Stevens & Grass Funeral Home, Malden. Burial will follow at 2:30 PM at Jones Memorial Gardens, Rock Camp in Clay County.

A visitation with family and friends will be held one hour prior to the service.

The online guest book can be accessed at www.stevensandgrass.com.

This Week in West Virginia History

July 29, 1873: Malcolm Malachi "Mack" Day was born. As sheriff of McDowell County, he claimed that God had called him to enforce Prohibition, even arresting an uncle and his own son.



July 29, 1900: Musician Don Redman was born in Piedmont, Mineral County, and then graduated from Storer College in Harpers Ferry. He was a multi-instrumentalist whose innovative arrangements for jazz greats laid the foundation for the big band era.

July 29, 1915: Camp Good Luck, the world's first 4-H encampment, began at Elkwater, Randolph County.

July 29, 1918: Novelist Mary Lee Settle was born in Charleston. Her experiences in West Virginia, World War II and life abroad shaped her writing, including the National Book Award-winning *Blood Tie*. She is best known for the *Beulah Quintet*, a five-novel series tracing four centuries of West Virginia history.



July 30, 1973: The Frederick Hotel in downtown Huntington closed to transient trade. After it was built in 1905, it was touted as the most elegant hotel between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

July 31, 1932: Actor Theodore Crawford "Ted" Cassidy was born in Pittsburgh but was raised in Philippi. He was best known for his role as Lurch on *The Addams Family*.

Aug. 1, 1866: The earliest recorded match game of baseball in West Virginia history was played in Wheeling, with the home team losing 45-12 to a club from Washington, Pennsylvania.

Aug. 1, 1921: Baldwin-Felts detectives shot and killed Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers as they approached the McDowell County Courthouse in Welch. As Matewan's police chief, Hatfield had assisted the United Mine Workers' campaign to organize Tug Fork miners. The assassinations set in motion an armed miners' march ending with the Battle of Blair Mountain.



Aug. 1, 1940: Justice Franklin Cleckley was born in Huntington. In 1994, he became the first Black justice to serve on the West Virginia Supreme Court. The Supreme Court once referred to Cleckley's handbooks on evidence and criminal procedure as "the bible for West Virginia's judges and attorneys."

Aug. 2, 2009: Golfers Sam Snead and Bill Campbell became the first two inductees into the West Virginia Golf Hall of Fame.



Aug. 3, 1897: Fire destroyed much of downtown Lewisburg. The town rebuilt and evolved into a hub for one of the state's major farming regions and a center for education and the arts.

Aug. 3, 1907: Harley Orrin Staggers Sr. was born in Keyser. Staggers served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 32 years.

Aug. 4, 1824: John Jay Jackson Jr. was born near Parkersburg. Jackson was a prominent judge who became notorious among those trying to organize labor unions in West Virginia. He blocked an effort by Mother Jones and United Mine Workers leaders to organize the miners of northern West Virginia.

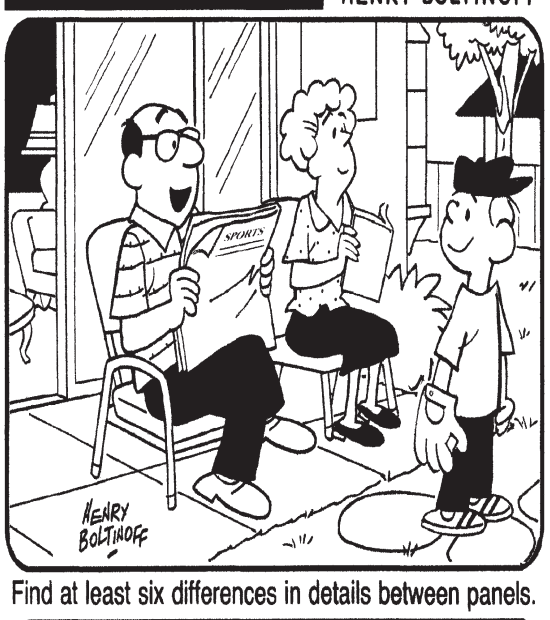


Aug. 4, 1897: Musician William Jennings "Billy" Cox was born near Charleston. Cox, known as the "Dixie Songbird," ranked as one of West Virginia's premier country music vocalists and songwriters during the 1930s.

Aug. 4, 1930: Lewisburg set the record for the state's hottest temperature ever: 112. Six years later, Martinsburg would tie it.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Collar is missing. 3. Arm is not showing. 4. Lamp is larger. 5. Window is added to house. 6. Back of chair is smaller.

Super Crossword

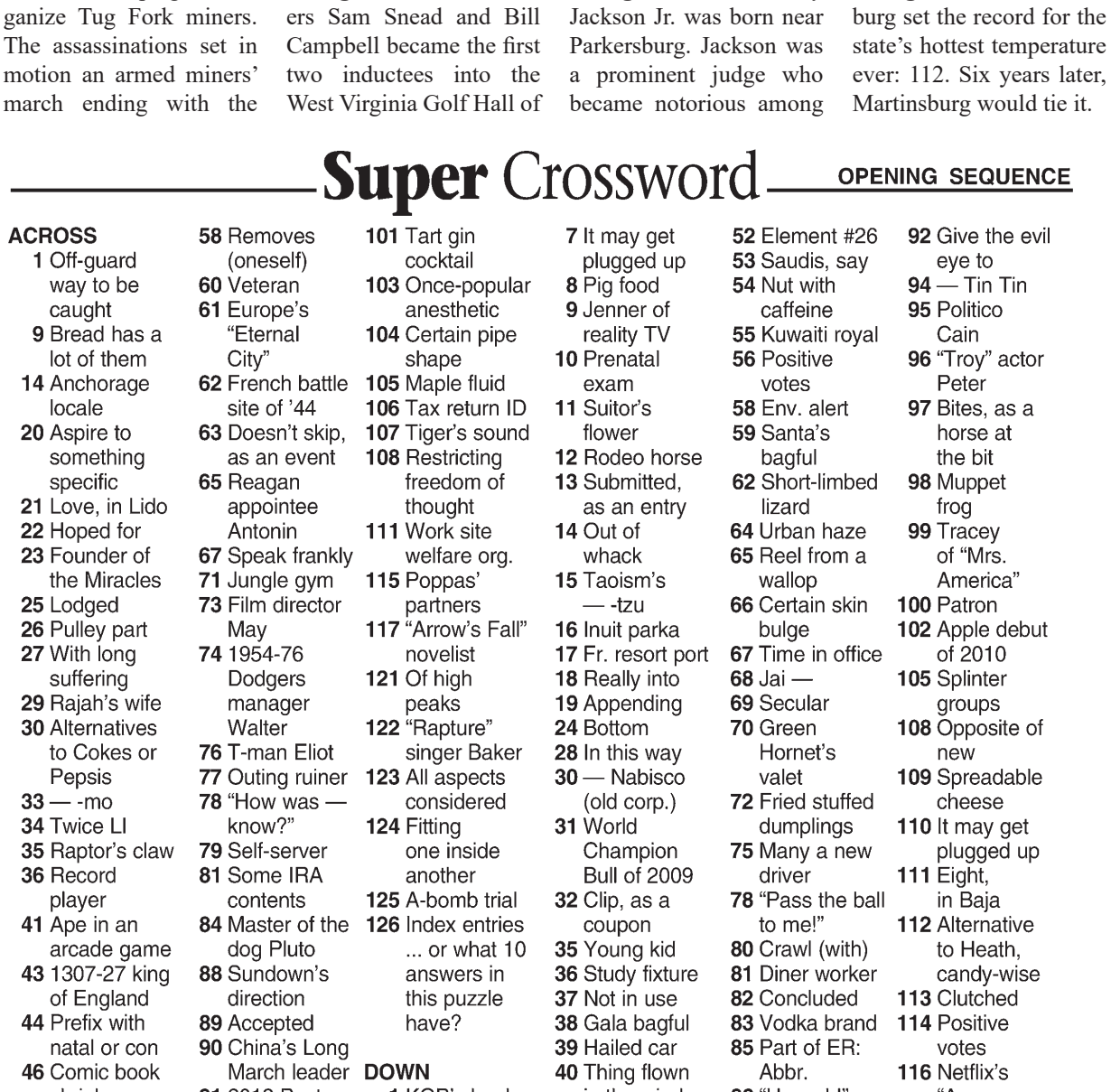
OPENING SEQUENCE

ACROSS

1 Off-guard way to be caught
9 Bread has a lot of them
14 Anchorage locale
20 Aspire to something specific
21 Love, in Lido
22 Hoped for
23 Founder of the Miracles
25 Lodged
26 Pulley part
27 With long suffering
29 Rajah's wife
30 Alternatives to Cokes or Pepsis
33 — -mo
34 Twice LI
35 Raptor's claw
36 Record player
41 Ape in an arcade game
43 1307-27 king of England
44 Prefix with natal or con
46 Comic book shriek
47 Thick deli cut
48 This, in Baja
50 Olduvai Gorge pale-ontologist
57 Beer cask
58 Removes (oneself)
60 Veteran
61 Europe's "Eternal City"
62 French battle site of '44
63 Doesn't skip, as an event
65 Reagan appointee Antonin
67 Speak frankly
71 Jungle gym
73 Film director May
74 1954-76 Dodgers manager Walter
76 T-man Eliot
77 Outing ruiner
78 "How was — know?"
79 Self-server
81 Some IRA contents
84 Master of the dog Pluto
88 Sundown's direction
89 Accepted
90 China's Long March leader
91 2012 Best Director Lee
93 Alternative to Match or OkCupid
95 It's pushed in an ice rink
101 Tart gin cocktail
103 Once-popular anesthetic
104 Certain pipe shape
105 Maple fluid
106 Tax return ID
107 Tiger's sound
108 Restricting freedom of thought
111 Work site welfare org.
115 Poppas' partners
117 "Arrow's Fall" novelist
121 Of high peaks
122 "Rapture" singer Baker
123 All aspects considered
124 Fitting one inside another
125 A-bomb trial
126 Index entries ... or what 10 answers in this puzzle have?

DOWN

1 KGB's land
2 Lost clown fish of film
3 Sitting on
4 Stir to life
5 Go gray, say
6 Singer Acuff
7 It may get plugged up
8 Pig food
9 Jenner of reality TV
10 Prenatal exam
11 Suitor's flower
12 Rodeo horse
13 Submitted, as an entry
14 Out of whack
15 Taoism's — -tzu
16 Inuit parka
17 Fr. resort port
18 Really into
19 Appending
24 Bottom
28 In this way
30 — Nabisco (old corp.)
31 World Champion Bull of 2009
32 Clip, as a coupon
35 Young kid
36 Study fixture
37 Not in use
38 Gala bagful
39 Hailed car
40 Thing flown in the wind
41 Scooby- —
42 Wiggling fish
45 Otherwise
49 "Still I Rise" poet Maya
51 Until this time
52 Element #26
53 Saudis, say
54 Nut with caffeine
55 Kuwaiti royal
56 Positive votes
58 Env. alert
59 Santa's bagful
62 Short-limbed lizard
64 Urban haze
65 Reel from a wallop
66 Certain skin bulge
67 Time in office
68 Jai —
69 Secular
70 Green Hornet's valet
72 Fried stuffed dumplings
75 Many a new driver
78 "Pass the ball to me!"
80 Crawl (with)
81 Diner worker
82 Concluded
83 Vodka brand
85 Part of ER: Abbr.
86 "Huzzah!"
87 Cinch — (trash bag brand)
89 Sister station of Flix, in brief
92 Give the evil eye to
94 — Tin Tin
95 Politico Cain
96 "Troy" actor Peter
97 Bites, as a horse at the bit
98 Muppet frog
99 Tracey of "Mrs. America"
100 Patron
102 Apple debut of 2010
105 Splinter groups
108 Opposite of new
109 Spreadable cheese
110 It may get plugged up
111 Eight, in Baja
112 Alternative to Heath, candy-wise
113 Clutched
114 Positive votes
116 Netflix's "Anne With —"
118 Opposite of NNW
119 Install, as tile
120 "How cute!"



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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Puzzle Answers Page 2

THE WIDEN NEWS

"DUNDON" RED ASH COAL

The people who think alike should vote alike.

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.

March 1957

League And Company Sign New Contract



The Bargaining Committee of the League is seated on front row and includes from left to right, Secretary Harold Dawson, Ernie Acree, Attorney John Ray, Vice President H. L. Beattie, League President Lanty S. Facemire, Lloyd Butcher, Jr., Atty. Victor Ross, Doyle Waggoner and Treasurer Joe Truman.

In a joint announcemet by Lanty S. Facemire, president of the Employees' League of Widen Miners, and H. L. Beattie, vice president of Elk River Coal and Lumber Company, Widen News has been advised of the signing of a new wage agreement between the company and the labor organization.

The old contract which expires on March 31 this year, has been in effect for two years, which is also the term specified in the new agreement. Incorporated in the new contract are the increased wage benefits agreed to during the life of the old pact, including the ten cents (10c) per hour increase effective April 1, 1957.

Twenty-Five Make High School Honor Roll

Second Semester, First Period 1956-57

Seventh Grade: Mrs. Sizemore

"A"

None.

"B"

Kathaleen Miles	3.25
Gary Graham	3.06
Ronald Holmes	3.00

Eighth Grade: Mr. Matheny

"A"

None

"B"

Margaret Shaffer	3.31
Eugene George, Jr.	3.31
Karen Mick	3.25
Virginia Nettles	3.19
Robert Baughman	3.06

Ninth Grade: Mrs. Osborne

"A"

Lillie Mae Nash	3.75

"B"

Karen Donohue	3.20

Tenth Grade: Mrs. Griffith

"A"

None

"B"

Carolene Miller	3.25
David Hamrick	3.25

Eleventh Grade: Miss Woods

"A"

Lillian Dodrill	3.82
Joan Truman	3.56

"B"

Helen Ellis	3.25
April Manning	3.08

Twelfth Grade: Miss Bailes

"A"

Dorothy Ashley	4.00
Gayle Butcher	3.80
Karl Butcher	3068
Relda Jean Nettles	3.68
Lois Rapp	3.67

"B"

Mary Hellen Mullins	3.45
Betty Chapman	3.40
Helen Mae Sigman	3.40
Charlotte Smith	3.35
James Given	3.26
Lois Sigman	3.08
Patsy Gibson	3.07

League President Is Pleased With Contract



Employees' League of Widen Miners President, Mr. Lanty Facemire, spoke to the men briefly, declaring his belief that the bargaining committee had helped write the best contract ever written, paying the highest wages in the history of bituminous coal mining.

IRA EAGLE RETIRES



At the conclusion of Mr. Beattie's address, he presented Mr. Ira Eagle, who was celebrating the occasion by beginning retirement after nearly 35 years employment with the Company.

Randall E. Strickland

SUMMERSVILLE—Randall Emmit Strickland, 41, a lifelong resident of Dille, Clay County, died late Friday in a Washington, D.C. hospital of Bright's disease. He had been ill about six months.

Mr. Strickland was an employe of Elk River Coal and Lumber Company at Widen for 23 years.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth; two sons, Gene E. of Birch River and Roger at home; two daughters, Janet and Norma, both at home; his stepmother, Mrs. Rosalie Strickland of Akron, Ohio; one brother, Buell of Dille; four sisters, Mrs. Bernice Jarrett of Charleston, Mrs. Audra Blankenship of Barberton, Ohio, Mrs. Katherine Bruce and Mrs. Lucille Sears, both of Windham, Ohio.

Bill To Close Beer Joints On Sunday

On January 22, Delegate Luke E. Terry of Berkley County and Delegate J. C. Cruikshank of Clay County introduced jointly House Bill Number 134, which has for its purpose the closing of all beer establishments from midnight on Saturday night until seven o'clock on Monday morning.

FOURTH OF JULY COMING

Scott Williams, general mine foreman, has been appointed general chairman for the annual Fourth of July celebration at Widen this year, according to an announcement from H. L. Beattie, president of Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Club, co-sponsor of the affair. Assisting Mr. Williams as sub-chairman will be Mr. E. R. Ketchka, chief mining engineer..

More complete details, with other appointments to the various committees, will be published in the April issue of Widen News.

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West Virginia Wesleyan College to Keep Governor's School for the Arts through 2030

BUCKHANNON, West Virginia — West Virginia Wesleyan College will continue to inspire the state's next generation of artists after being selected to host the West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) for another three-year cycle, extending the partnership through 2030.

The College first hosted GSA 2014-2016, and GSA returned in 2024 for a three-year cycle. The announcement marks a continued partnership between the College and one of the state's premier educational enrichment programs for talented young artists.

Dr. James Moore, West Virginia Wesleyan College's 20th president, came to the College in 2006 as Director of Jazz Ensembles, where he built one of the most vibrant collegiate jazz programs in the region. Today, that jazz program is under the direction of Adam Loudin '07, who studied under Moore and is continuing the tradition.

Moore said, "We are thrilled and honored that we have been trusted with another three years of this amazing program. This College has always been one that's valued the arts, and it's what brought me here in 2006 as a young faculty member. We see the value in these students and know that they need to be supported by an institution that understands that the contributions of artists are among the most valuable to society. West Virginia Wesleyan College is most certainly that place."

A transformative, free-of-charge program, GSA invites current sophomores interested in expanding their artistic talents and experiences in digital art/media, creative writing, dance, instrumental music, studio art, theatre arts, and vocal music to apply. The State of West Virginia covers the costs of the program.

The announcement comes at a time when West Virginia Wesleyan College continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to the creative and performing arts. This fall, WVWC will welcome approximately 60 students in creative and performing arts, including several who attended the Governor's School for the Arts in 2024. Overall, WVWC has welcomed more than 160 creative artists across the last three incoming cohorts, and 11% of students study creative arts.

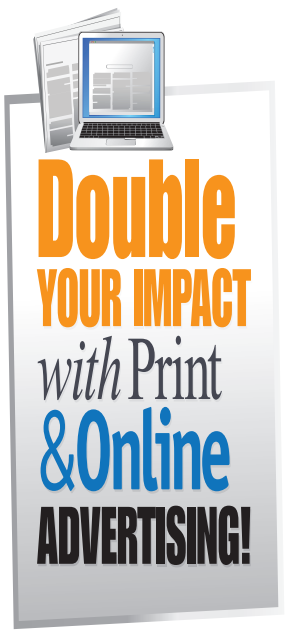




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LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Cabana V Properties LLC
Plaintiff
v. Civil Action No. 26-M08C-00013
Stanley W. Ratliff, et al.
Defendant

The object of the above entitled action is to evict Defendant Stanley W. Ratliff from the property commonly known as 1497 Ossia Road, Duck, WV 25063 after Foreclosure by Cabana V Properties LLC.

And it appearing by an affidavit filed in this action that Sheriff's Officer has failed to establish personal service on Defendant Stanley W. Ratliff after three attempts.

It is ordered that Stanley W. Ratliff do serve upon Scott Bass, magistrate, whose address is 225 Main Street, P.O. Box 393, Clay, WV 25043, an answer or other defense to the complaint filed in this action on or before 30 days after the first publication, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against Stanley W. Ratliff at any time thereafter. A copy of said complaint can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court - Clay County Magistrate Court.

Trisha Triplett
Magistrate Court Clerk

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until August 11, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
007	2024080007	S308-004-0 00	STBG-0004(213)D	ASPHALT PAVING CORTON-MAYSEL New Procious **COUNTY:** CLAY

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for $500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

LEGAL

(2025-C-000192 - CLAY COUNTY - ABRAHAM OSBORNE)

To: KENNETH E NOTTINGHAM, HEIRS OR ASSIGNS, HEIRS OF KENNETH NOTTINGHAM, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, KENNETH NOTTINGHAM, 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 UNION **MAP** 15 **PARCEL** 0005 0000 0000

You will take notice that ABRAHAM OSBORNE, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2025-C-000192, located in UNION District, .48 AC JACKS BEND LOT 33 SUR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of NOTTINGHAM KENNETH E, 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, 2024. ABRAHAM OSBORNE requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after January 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before December 31, 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 - 18446.	$	106.35
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 - 18606.	$	33.35
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	113.69
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	658.78
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	$	419.68
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**1,331.85**

You may redeem at any time before December 31, 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 July 6, 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

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until August 11, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
010	2025080012	S308-79-39.97 00	NHPP-0079(107)D	RESURFACING BIG OTTER-SERVIA RD 39.97(0.1 MI W WV 16 (EXIT 40 OP)) - MP 43.86(2.5 MILE W CO 11(EXIT 46 OP) **COUNTY:** CLAY

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for $500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.



Looking for fun… try the river

By Allen Hamrick

The great outdoors, whether it be on bikes, kayaks, ATV's, going fishing, hiking or whatever gets you outside, are just beyond your front door. Most people these days are looking for something to get them away from their normal and are looking for an adventure or a ride. Many set out to take on whatever route, trail or waterway they feel will be their escape from the mundane, especially now as the heat and humidity have driven most indoors. People are finding a way to beat the heat and the boredom and still stay safe in the process.

One of the local trails to enjoy is Route 30 that runs through Lilly's Fork and Jim Young along the Clay County and Nicholas County line. This is a route littered with obstacles that can test mental and physical endurance to the limits. This road was initially used by people who settled in this area years ago as well as by logging companies and mining companies that have ceased operations, for the most part. It is roughly a 14 mile stretch that begins in Nicholas County and snakes through the hills ending in Dundon in Clay County. Many use it for ATV riding as well as biking, which is a physically demanding sport and a great way to get fit if you want to lose a few pounds. The Elk River provides many opportunities for kayaking that are as exhilarating as any other waterway in the state.

If you're anything like me, though, you love the challenge of looking for the bucket mouth bass in rivers especially the Elk. The Elk meanders through the mountains with plenty of bends, deep water and shoals. There is enough cover for fish to hide and for you, the fisherman, to hunt, and one of the best ways to get to them is in a fishing kayak or john boat. With the heat index running high enough to melt the worms in your tackle box, lake fishing gets a bit sluggish, so you turn to the one place that doesn't seem to change - rivers. On rivers, the swifter water allows for more oxygen than still water lakes; in fact, the water is a bit cooler, as well, so bass will stay more active if you know the places to look for them.

Science shows that in rivers bass do not take great journeys and tend to stay on their porch in their own neck of the woods. When the sun is high, bass like the 10 to 15 feet levels which is still a shallow depth for fish. River bass love the current making them creatures of habit and a lot easier to find. I will share some tips and tricks that have helped me get on top of some good bass.

Number one for me is to find an outside bend in the river that has fallen trees or stumps. This is a perfect place for bass to hide out, watch the food go by and grab what they want. The current in the river also eats away at the banks creating hideouts, which in turn creates breaks in the current. Breaks in a current are where bass like to camp out, especially if that break is a treetop with current moving through it. Retrieving a spinner bait real slow is a good tactic, but the method that I have the most success is the tried-and-true pig and jig. Texas rigging a tasty plastic worm just under the treetop is also a good choice.

I have found that a side creek or tributary is also a perfect place for big river bass. When the river rises, bass tend to go up the side creek and stack up in a deep pocket of water before the river goes back to normal and they return to the main river. Not all bass behave this way, but there are many that do. If you time your trip right as the water comes down, sneak up into some of the creeks and into deep pockets, and you might just find a cache of bass. Otherwise, many bass seem to hang around the deepest part of the river below the feeder creek. Again, one of the best strategies for me is a jig and pig, either swimming or jumped off the bottom. Carolina Rigs are also a good choice for the situation. So, don't overlook tributaries, no matter how big or small.

To get the best possible outcome from your fishing on the river, you must understand current and how it relates to bass. Man made structures like bridges and drainpipes on the Elk River are great places to fish, especially drainpipes or spill ways after a rain. An overflowing stream brings plenteous good food to the bass table and sometimes sparks a feeding frenzy. If you're skilled enough to get to a feeding frenzy, the best place to fish is downstream of the main boil because larger fish will feed off the scraps. When it's over, cast out that Carolina Rig with a three- or four-foot leader and a small worm, and sit back and reel them in.

The Elk River can be a bit finicky and doesn't like giving up its bigger fish, but knowing some good tips will turn the tide in your favor. It doesn't take a tackle box the size of a toolbox either. Bass on the Elk are not picky eaters; whatever floats by that looks good they will eat, especially if it's crawdad or worm related. So, get out and beat the heat, find you a nice shady outside bend with some cover and start reeling them in.



It's hard to crowd a jig and pig. Allen Hamrick Photo



Swimming a fire tail pumpkin seed is a sure bet in deep holes. Allen Hamrick Photo



Don't forget to find your trail in the wilds of West Virginia. Allen Hamrick Photo

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