

# The Auditor's Review

February 2026



Roses are red, violets are blue... West Virginia we love you!

## Division of the Month: Data Center (IT Division)

Behind nearly every paycheck, vendor payment, tax form, and many of the systems state employees rely on is the West Virginia State Auditor's Office data center team. In a secure, specially cooled environment, they manage the servers that support our office and key state operations, with backup power systems in place so critical services remain online even during planned or unexpected outages.

This office houses our web servers and the print operations that produce every state check in West Virginia. Before the implementation and wider use of the state purchasing card, the team regularly printed up to 100,000 checks in a single week to meet the state's payment needs. At full capacity, the team can print around 150 checks per minute and has processed roughly 250,000 checks in a short period when the state needed it most. In a typical week today, they print about 10,000 checks, and they also print all of the state's tax forms, making this operation a central hub for how public funds are documented, distributed, and tracked. As the state increasingly uses the purchasing card and other modern tools, the team continues to balance legacy systems with new technology to keep payments and forms moving efficiently and securely.

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Deputy State Auditor for the Purchasing Card and Travel Division Amy Lewis nominated Director of Application Development Lou Ann Fauver for this month's Bravo. That endorsement from a peer meant the most to Fauver, who has spent more than three decades serving the West Virginia State Auditor's Office with quiet expertise and steady leadership.

Originally from Handley in eastern Kanawha County, Fauver holds a bachelor's degree from West Virginia Institute of Technology, a master's degree in information systems from Marshall University, and a postgraduate accounting certificate from West Virginia State University.

Over 35 years in IT, Fauver has worked across programming, database administration, cybersecurity, and major statewide initiatives. She has seen the office transition from main-frame systems to client-server applications to modern web platforms. "No two days have ever been exactly alike," she said. "Every day is a different problem to solve."

Among her proudest accomplishments is the extensive modernization of the Land Division system following Senate Bill 552. The project connects multiple agencies, vendors, financial systems, and public-facing tools, handling intricate calculations and processes that impact counties and taxpayers statewide.

Outside of work, Fauver is known for her Captain America collection, a nod to being born on the Fourth of July. She also collects antique office equipment and is a self-proclaimed cat person with five feline companions. She is happily married and together they have four daughters.



A small fraction of Fauver's Captain America Collection displayed in her office.

## Why We're Proud to Call West by God Virginia Home 10 reasons we love West Virginia

**Postcard views on regular drives-** We get used to seeing gorges, river valleys, and ridgelines every day on the way to work or a ballgame, but the truth is, most places don't get this kind of backdrop as their normal.

**Close-to-home getaways-** In a lot of states you plan a whole weekend to see what we can get to after work: a national park overlook, a quiet trail, a river view, a local show, or a new spot to eat. You can almost do all of these in a day here and still be home at a reasonable time.

**Events that still feel local-** Fairs, festivals, Bridge Day, and small-town parades actually feel like community, not just another crowded line of strangers. Rush hour that isn't Elsewhere, people lose hours every week sitting on packed interstates. Here, a "busy day" usually just means a few extra cars at the light on your way to work or dinner.

**A culture of pitching in-** Checking on a neighbor, holding a door, waving from the porch, or stopping to ask if you need a hand. Here, people still smile back on the street and look out for each other without making a big deal of it.

**Food that tells you where you are-** Pepperoni rolls, ramps, and family diners. One doesn't need a GPS to know you're in West Virginia; you just have to look at the table.

**Life at a human speed-** Other states sell "slow living" as a trend; here it's just Tuesday. Sunday drives, no gridlock, and enough breathing room to enjoy your day.

**Real four seasons (for better or worse)-** Snow days, spring mud, lightning bugs in June, and crisp autumn air in October. You can feel the year change, not just read about it on a weather app.

**Stories in almost every town-** Old company stores, historic downtowns, Harpers Ferry, mine sites, and old rail lines are just the start. West Virginia's full of small quirks and big stories that give the state a deep, one-of-a-kind culture you don't really find anywhere else.

**People who keep it honest-** West Virginians are straightforward in the best way. The kind of people who will shoot you straight, hold the door, and mean it when they say they're glad to see you. Our pride isn't performative; it's a deep, steady loyalty to this place and its people, and saying "West by God Virginia" is our way of putting a little exclamation point on that pride every time we talk about home.

### New Faces at WWSAO



**Anastasia Ramsey**, our newest team member, joins the West Virginia State Auditor's Office as a tax clerk, bringing enthusiasm and a strong desire to grow within the office. Originally from a small town in Fayette County, she now resides in Kanawha County and is proud to call West Virginia home.

She holds an open teaching degree from BridgeValley Community & Technical College and values the educational foundation it has provided. Over the past several years, she has gained experience in a variety of roles, but says none have felt as welcoming and comfortable as her current position. She appreciates the steady pace of the job and is excited to continue learning and advancing her

career here.

She enjoys spending time with her son and their beloved cow cat, Chungus. Applying to the Auditor's Office was an intentional step toward building a stable and comfortable home life for her family while pursuing professional growth.

And when it comes to coffee, she keeps it consistent, a Butter Pecan iced coffee with three creams and three sugars from Dunkin' every morning!

## Division of the Month: Data Center (IT Division) *cont.*

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The nature of their work means that success is often measured by what the public never sees: systems that do not go down, payments that are not delayed, and data that is not lost. Every process they manage has a direct connection to taxpayer confidence and trust in state government, even if most West Virginians will never step foot inside the data center or see the equipment they oversee. By focusing on reliability, security, and precision, the team helps ensure that the financial operations behind the scenes live up to the standards of transparency and accountability that the Auditor's Office sets in public.

Collaboration is also a key part of their role. The data center team works closely with other divisions inside the Auditor's Office and with partners across state government to coordinate large print runs, support system upgrades, and troubleshoot issues before they become disruptions. Whether they are preparing for a major statewide mailing, supporting technology change, or adjusting to new payment processes, they operate with a shared goal: making sure West Virginia's financial systems work smoothly for the people who depend on them.

Their work reflects the Auditor's Office commitment to modernization as well as stability. As new tools, payment methods, and security requirements emerge, the data center team is on the front line of implementing those changes in a way that still protects taxpayer dollars. They help bridge the gap between traditional paper-based processes and digital systems, showing that government can be both dependable and forward-looking at the same time.

Data Center Manager Neil Legg has served in the State Auditor's Office for 30 years, joining right after high school and earning IT certifications along the way. Together, Neil and his team bring more than 90 years of experience within the Auditor's Office, combining deep technical expertise with an understanding of the rhythms of state government, payroll cycles, vendor payments, and tax seasons. Their work is largely behind the scenes, but it is essential to how West Virginia pays its people, its partners, and serves its taxpayers, helping the Auditor's Office fulfill its mission to protect taxpayer dollars and keep public funds moving reliably where they are needed most.

## This Month in WV History

**On February 1, 1910**, a subsidiary of the C & O Railroad purchased the resort at White Sulphur Springs, now known as the Greenbrier.

**On February 3, 1865**, the West Virginia Legislature passed an act abolishing slavery in the state.

**On February 17, 1863**, the West Virginia constitutional convention adopted the Willey Amendment, providing for gradual emancipation.

**On February 18, 1969**, UMW coal miners went on strike to protest the absence of black lung benefits.

**On February 20, 1995**, the West Virginia State Senate adopted a resolution designating the Golden Delicious as the official state fruit.

**On February 25, 1889**, an act establishing the West Virginia National Guard was approved.

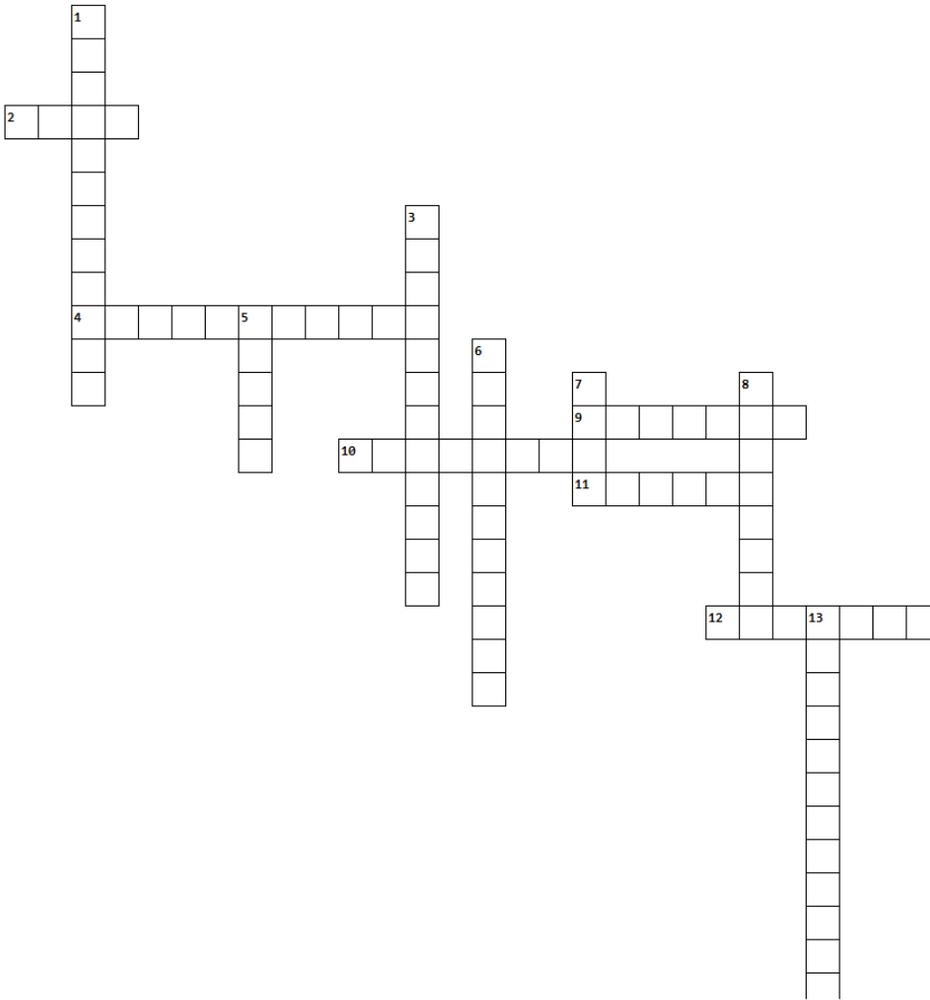
**On February 26, 1972**, a Buffalo Mining Company impoundment dam collapsed, killing 125 people and leaving thousands homeless.

**February 27, 1912**, the steamer H. K. Bedford sank in the Ohio River near Waverly.



Steamboat H.K. Bedford, which sank in the Ohio River near Waverly, West Virginia,

# The Auditor's Review Crossword



**Across**

- 2. 22nd Auditor of West Virginia
- 4. Mountain range runs through this region
- 9. Chief financial watchdog of the state
- 10. University located in Huntington
- 11. Number of divisions within the State Auditor's Office
- 12. \_in your step and you're on a \_

**Down**

- 1. State Song
- 3. Principle promoted through WV Checkbook
- 5. The process of reviewing financial records for accuracy
- 6. Online transparency portal that shows how tax dollars spent
- 7. First major industry in West Virginia
- 8. State bug
- 13. State Flower

Click on the cross word to complete it or copy and paste the link in your browser (Password: WWSAO): <https://crosswordlabs.com/embed/the-auditors-review-crossword>



Stay up to date!



## TRIVIA



In 1928, North America's largest alluvial diamond was discovered during a backyard game of horseshoes in a small West Virginia town. What is the name of that diamond and which town was it found in?

Email your answer to:  
[communications@wvsao.org](mailto:communications@wvsao.org)

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