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Omnis Energy Marks Early Success With Clean Electricity Demonstration That Records Several World Firsts

In a world in which the loudest voices are pushing for the complete elimination of fossil fuels from the nation's energy portfolio, Omnis Energy is saying, "Not so fast."

The Goliath-David-like standoff between opponents of coal and those taking a different view of hydrocarbons took a significant turn in a new direction here in Pleasants County during the past week when the new owner of the Pleasants Power Station demonstrated its new, patented hydrocarbon-to-hydrogen clean energy power generation technology.

Leaders of the Morgantown, WV, based company see their revolutionary methods and efforts as an important step in transforming the view of coal and natural gas as merely dirty fossil fuels.

Used in a different way, Omnis Energy's technology could give coal and its hydrocarbon cousins a starkly different reputation as the feedstock of clean energy.

A group of several dozen people gathered in Pleasants County in the past week to witness the first large-scale commercial demonstration, where burning hydrogen became part of the fuel that produces electricity at the 1,300-megawatt plant that has been a key landmark in the Pleasants County landscape for almost 50 years.

It was the world's first generation of hydrogen-fueled, net zero power production.

The company purchased the decades-old hydrocarbon-burning power plant just a year ago from former owner Energy Harbor and ETEM and set about developing its first commercial-scale demonstration of Quantum H2 technology which reforms hydrocarbons to produce hydrogen and graphite and graphene.

Initially, natural gas is being reformed, but soon it will also include coal.

Ultimately, the hydrocarbons now fueling the plant will be totally replaced by hydrogen as its fuel source. The company has set an 18-24-month timeline for converting the plant from coal-fired to hydrogen-fired.

The audience last week included local leaders, West Virginia State officials, staff from the Federal Department of Energy and others.

"What an incredible day for Pleasants County," said Jay Powell, president of the Pleasants County Commission and a key advocate for the hydrogen conversion project as it represents a significant economic benefit to the local economy.

"We in Pleasants County are thankful to see the project this far along and we want to continue to give great appreciation to Omnis for all its investments and efforts and most importantly to our Almighty God for continuing to protect, bless and show tremendous favor to the Pleasants Power Station," Powell said in remarks he made at the Omnis Energy event.

The demonstration officials and industry leaders all witnessed a pilot line of equipment known as a module.

Ultimately, the plant will have 18 modules, made up of 2 Omnis Quantum Reformers each, to generate enough hydrogen to run the plant.

They will be located on a 12-acre portion of the plant's current site.

Once completed, the hydrogen extraction process is expected to capture 100 percent of any greenhouse gases produced and reduce carbon dioxide from coal fuel by 3.2 million metric tons per power plant, per year.

"ETEM bought the plant from Energy Harbor in late 2022 with the plan to tear it down. The plant ceased operations on June 1, 2023, but we were able to acquire it for the community and for it to be our first conversion project to hydrogen," Rich Hulme, president and chief operating officer of Omnis Energy, told visitors as they entered the plant.

"The community is very tied to this plant. We were able to restart it in late August 2023 and have appreciated the continuing support from the community we have received throughout the past year," he added.

The pioneering technology from Omnis will reform coal and natural gas to produce hydrogen that can then be burned in the power plant to make the steam that drives the turbines that generate the electricity.

Because the plant will use its reforming process to produce hydrogen on site, the costly storage of the hydrogen is not required.

Supporting the development of the hydrogen extraction technology is a nine-member advisory board with connections to five major universities nationwide. Among them are California Institute of Technology, University of Houston, Penn State, Texas A & M and the University of Texas at Austin.

Nansen G. Saleri, chairman of the Omnis Technical Advisory Board, said that the high temperature process takes a split second to produce hydrogen, which is then piped directly into the power plant as fuel. Reforming temperatures can reach 3,600 degrees Celsius.

"This is truly a special moment," Saleri said. "We are powering the green economy with the aim of becoming the pre-eminent force toward net-zero."

"This process breaks the assumption that fossil fuels and the green economy are mutually exclusive," he added.

In addition to the company's investment in purchasing the plant, it obtained a $50 million loan through the West Virginia Economic Development Office, which will be repaid in 2026.

The hydrogen-based clean energy transition effort is attracting the attention of investors nationwide, including global entrepreneur and philanthropist Tony Robbins.

Robbins travelled to Pleasants County from his home in Florida to witness firsthand the first demonstration of this breakthrough technology.

Robbins, who is best known as a #1 New York Times bestselling author, investor and life and business strategist, has provided more than $100 million in capital to help save local jobs and support potentially game-changing clean energy project in West Virginia.

"This hydrogen technology is designed to be truly net zero when it comes to emissions," Robbins said.

"Not even solar can claim that, since you ultimately have to make, use and dispose of the cells that make and store the solar power."

"Coal and natural gas will ultimately be seen as a clean energy source," Hulme said, adding that no greenhouse gases will be emitted in the use of hydrogen in the power generation process. "We hope our efforts can create a whole new perspective for the coal and gas industries," he added.

"We are all very excited about this process," said James Bailey, West Virginia's Secretary of Commerce.

"The future of Pleasants Power was not too exciting a year or so ago until Omnis talked about its technology and conversion of a coal-fired power plant. The future of this process is unlimited."

In coming years, Omnis Energy aims to retrofit existing power plants throughout the United States and beyond with its patented high-performance hydrogen burners to enable the efficient and clean burning of hydrogen fuel — thus eliminating millions of metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per retrofitted power plant per year.

Rich Hulme, president and chief operating officer of Omnis Energy, and Tony Robbins, global entrepreneur and philanthropist who has invested in the pioneering work at the local plant, discuss the stauss of the project prior to a demonstration Friday.

Simon Hodson, founder and chairman of Omnis Energy, said the successful demonstration of the new technology and clean energy production capability at the Pleasants Power Station was a decade in the making, but quickly accelerated during the past year.

Hodson says the company hopes to have the plant burning hydrogen full-time by the end of 2025.

"Currently, fossil fuels account for 80 percent of energy consumed and will not fall below 65 percent even under the most conservative forecasts in the foreseeable future" said Saleri, who has an extensive background as a leader in the global oil and gas industry.

He said that coal reserves in the United States are now estimated to be sufficient for 450 years.

"If we can cut that use in half, we will have 900 years of use left," he said.

Once up and running on a regular basis, and once the hydrogen has been extracted from coal and natural gas, the Pleasants Power Plant will have usable byproducts to sell in the global marketplace.

Among them is graphite, which is in high demand for batteries, steel manufacturing and enhanced composite materials.

Currently 80 percent of the world's graphite is produced in China with no significant production of graphite in the United States.

Graphene, another byproduct, is 200 times stronger than steel and is used for electronic circuits, solar cells, sensors and biomedical applications as well as liquid crystal displays (LCD's).

The plant is pursuing construction

See Omnis Energy page 2

Historic Firsts at Omnis

Demonstration of the patented Quantum H2 technology of Omnis Energy at its local facility resulted in five worldwide firsts, company officials say. At the world's first generation of hydrogen-fueled, net zero power products, the firsts recorded were;

- The first Quantum Reformer demonstration of commercially viable, ultra-high temperature Pyrolysis, achieving a 3,600 degree Celsius measurable, sustainable and oxygen-depleted.
- The first reforming of hydrocarbons to produce Quantum H2.
- The first hydrogen production with economics comparable to fossil fuels.
- The first production and immediate conveyance of hydrogen into a power plant to generate power.
- The first hydrogen production with no greenhouse gas emissions.

Distinguished West Virginian

Commission President Powell Recevies Governor's Highest Award

By John Armstrong

Jay Powell, president of the Pleasants County Commission, has been named a distinguished West Virginian.

The Wednesday, Aug. 7, commission meeting was abruptly recessed about 9:30 a.m. when more than 40 family, friends, state officials and co-workers overflowed the small room where the commission meets to see Powell receive the award.

The event was to present Commission President Jay Powell with the highest award the governor can bestow - the Distinguished West Virginian Award.

Gov. Jim Justice was scheduled to present the award personally to commissioner Powell but was unable to attend.

In his place State Sen. Eric Tarr, Finance Committee Chair (R-Putnam), State Sen. Donna Boley, Confirmations Committee Chair (R-Pleasants) and Del. Trenton Barnhart, Banking Committee Chair, R-Pleasants,) were on hand to present the prestigious award, which represents the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a person from West Virginia for outstanding achievement and meritorious service.

"This is the highest honor our governor can give to an individual in the state of West Virginia," Sen. Tarr told those at the ceremony.

Commissioner Powell was nominated for the award when his co-workers at the courthouse sent a letter to Gov. Justice stating why they felt he was worthy of this honor. The letter read:

"This letter serves to nominate Pleasants County Commission President Jay Powell for recognition as a Distinguished Mountaineer.

"Commissioner Powell embodies the values that the people of Pleasants County and West Virginia hold dear to their character and identity. These values include perseverance in the face of great adversity, staunch support of community, and commitment to civic duty that aims to preserve and promote our great state.

"Jay Powell is foremost a family man with deep ties to the community. He is an assistant coach for the St. Marys football team, helping the team make championship appearances. He serves as a youth leader for high schoolers. He also coaches his daughter's softball and basketball teams. Working in healthcare, Jay works with a local hospital and co-owns the Heritage Assisted Living facility with his brother. He is a deacon at the First Baptist Church in St. Marys, where he teaches Sunday School.

"Commissioner Powell has served Pleasants County since 2008. Throughout his tenure, he has sought to promote the success of Pleasants County and its citizens. Jay has pulled Pleasants County into the spotlight of affairs in West Virginia, bringing attention to issues that effect a largely unnoticed county. Particularly, his hard-fought successes in saving the Pleasants Power Station have served to benefit West Virginia and will likely protect Pleasants County from great hardship.

"Powell has spent nearly every moment of every day since the Pleasants Power Station's proposal for decommissioning to the

State Senate President Eric Tarr presented Jay Powell with the Distinguished West Virginian Award on behalf of Gov. Jim Justice Wrdnesday at the courthouse.

preservation the plant and secure its future operation. Between commission meetings, Powell can be found negotiating the future of the plant amongst power parties.

"Campaigning for support by the Legislature and the Governor, Powell has successfully coordinated efforts to invest in and convert Pleasants Power to a path of longevity.

"Outside of the task of preserving Pleasants Power, Powell has worked diligently to deliver services to the people of Pleasants County. The Commission has worked to revitalize the Pleasants County community, from investing in the renovation of our public parks and recreation facilities to incentivizing the establishment of businesses in the area.

"The work of county commissions tends to lack attention from the public despite their great responsibilities in serving their constituents. However, commissioner Powell has made sure that the work of the Pleasants County Commission produces a bright future for our county.

"Despite Commissioner Powell's successes in serving Pleasants County, he does not accept credit for his efforts. Instead, humility is Jay's signature. With each victory, he acknowledges God as the one who made victory possible. Working with Commissioner Powell is an honor and a lesson in modesty. Jay's mission is to serve his fellow man, and he does so without pause or praise.

"We hope this letter can highlight the qualities of a person that is worthy of distinction. Without Jay Powell, Pleasants County and the State of West Virginia would be missing one of its most active public servants. Jay is a shining example of civic duty and lives a life emblematic of the West Virginian principles of diligent work and triumph over hardship. "

An emotional and modest commissioner Powell said the most amazing thing about what was happening today was that his family had been able to keep it a secret from him about this surprise ceremony.

In addition to his wife Susan and three daughters, Caroline, Callie and Claire, all of Jay's brothers, Dave, Jimmy and Joe, were also on hand to see their younger brother honored as a distinguished West Virginian.

Being one of the assistant football coaches at SMHS, head coach Jody Mote brought his senior players to the ceremony to be on hand to see one of their coaches honored.

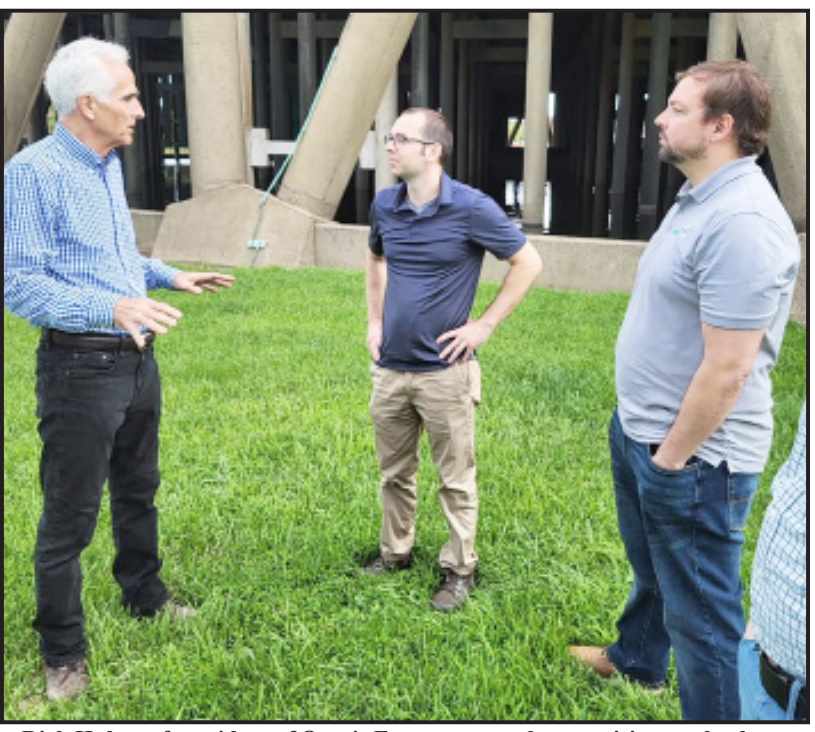
All of the courthouse staff and elected officials were also on hand as well as Bill Cole, former West Virginia Senate President, Simon Hodson, CEO of Omnis Fuel Technologies, and Richard Hulme, Omnis's president.

All three men spoke about the role commissioner Powell played in the decision to convert the coal-fired power plant to one retrofitted to generate electricity from hydrogen with the goal of producing power with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

When fully operational, the plant will produce 1.2 gigawatts of power generating capacity, enough electricity to sustain 1 million homes.

The plant formerly employed

Powell page 2



Rich Hulme of president of Omnis Eneryg, greeted every visitor to the demonstration. Among the guests were representatives of the U. S. Dept. of Energy.

Omnis Energy

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of a 20-inch, 28-mile-long pipeline to bring natural gas to the plant. The natural gas will be used as fuel for the reforming equipment, and also as feedstock for reforming into hydrogen.

Coal, the other feedstock material, will continue being supplied through existing sources.

"We are projecting that many new jobs will be created for each power plant we can convert to hydrogen," Hodson said.

That includes jobs created at industries that will use the power plant's byproducts.

Employment locally at the plant site remains steady with a staff of 135 currently, with expectations for that to grow significantly in the future.

By using existing infrastructure, the company's information says, the new process will not add costs to end-consumers of the hydrogen-generated energy, and businesses will also benefit through a lower-cost production of energy supplied to the grid.

"A year ago, our community went on a journey with Omnis as it purchased the power plant to convert the plant to hydrogen," commissioner Powell said.

"We've been able to witness Omnis taking a huge step towards this transition. To experience today's demonstration first-hand and watch the experts marvel at the technology was certainly an answered prayer. To hear a DOE (U.S. Dept. of Energy) expert tell me personally that this plant has the potential to be world changing was not only reassuring, but confirmation that the good Lord above appears to be up to something only He could pull off in such a short period of time," Powell added. "We all know there is a little way to go to retrofit this plant to hydrogen. However, today Omnis was able to demonstrate to the world in a tangible way its goals are more than just dreams and visions," Powell said.

"The gigantic investment towards converting Pleasants Power appears to be progressing rapidly towards changing the energy world forever."

From the PSC

By Charlotte, R. Lane, Chairman
West Virginia Public Service Commission

811 Day – Call Before You Dig!

Every Aug. 11 the calendar page reminds us to call 811 before digging.

WV811 is a free service that coordinates with utilities to locate underground pipes and wires before you put a shovel in the ground.

You are required by law to call 811 at least 48 hours before you excavate.

In our state, the One Call law is enforced by the West Virginia Damage Prevention Board (DPB). The Public Service Commission is designated as an active member of the DPB.

The DPB aggressively investigates every reported violation of the One Call law.

Anyone can report a suspected violation at www.WVDPB.com. Simply click on "Report Violation" and fill out the form.

A board member who represents WV811 will first check to see if a project ticket was issued for the work. If not, the report is forwarded to the full board for review.

The board will contact the parties involved and collect all the pertinent information. Then a determination is made as to whether there was a violation.

For a first offence, the violator will receive a letter that explains the law and the nature of their violation. They will be required to watch an instructional video and to pay a $25 fine. The goal is more to educate than to punish.

If there are repeat violations, the amount and nature of the penalties will increase. You may even be held liable for the cost of repairing the line.

At the top end of the scale, violators may be charged with a misdemeanor and fined up to $5,000 per incident.

If you do strike an underground utility line, call 911 immediately. Never attempt to make repairs to utility lines on your own.

Repairs that are not properly made and documented by the utility company can cause even bigger problems down the road.

Even more sobering is that fact that striking an underground utility line can cause severe harm to you or others.

Sure, it may inconvenience you and your neighbors if your service is interrupted. But damaging some facilities, such as natural gas lines, can cause serious injury, property damage, or even death.

It's always better to be safe than sorry, so always call 811 before you dig. It's the smart thing to do – and it's the law.

* * *

An idea is a point of departure and no more. As soon as you elaborate it, it becomes transformed by thought.

—Pablo Picasso

* * *

Pleasants Community Foundation
Foundation Thoughts

Better Together: Strengthening community by connecting people, resources and needs.

By Sheri Fleegle, Executive Director

SMHS Request for Proposals

In 2001, two SMHS alums started a fund with the foundation to support infrastructure and academic needs at St. Marys High School. Jane and Col. Tom Young created the SMHS Foundation Endowment to help their alma mater prior to construction of the new facility.

In 2022, the endowment funded a new sidewalk for the waiting area adjacent to Bill Hanlin stadium. Now the Youngs plan to help with an academic project.

I met with SMHS faculty this week to present a request for proposals. We are looking for creative ideas to supplement and expand the curriculum – things a teacher always wanted to do with a course but didn't have the resources for it.

The Youngs and a small committee will select the winning proposal, or proposals, from those submitted. I am anxious to see what our amazing SMHS teachers come up with, and how our county's students will benefit.

Jones Fund

The Jones Memorial SMHS Band Fund continues to help our schools' music programs. The advisory committee recently approved funds for the purchase of intermediate instruments and a set of steel drums for PCMS.

We also received requests for a marching baritone from SMHS and ukeleles and percussion instruments for BES.

The advisory committee hopes these additions to the county's instrumental music program will inspire budding musicians and help build the SMHS band program.

Scholarships – Again!

It's nearly time for college to begin and I'm still awaiting information from some of our scholarship recipients. The award packet presented at the spring awards ceremony contained the instructions for receiving the scholarship check, including a stamped thank you card to fill out and send back.

A few recipients have yet to complete these requirements. Remember, this is money in your pocket. It comes straight to you and doesn't offset any other financial aid.

Don't miss out.

Sharing is Caring.
Care to Share?

Have you made a gift to the Pleasants Community Foundation lately? Gifts are welcome – and needed – throughout the year. All gifts help to sustain the scholarship and other funds that support our youth and our community. And all gifts are tax deductible.

If you would like to contribute to any of the funds administered by our foundation, please send your donation to Pleasants Community Foundation, 309 Second St., St. Marys WV 26170. Be sure to note on the memo portion of your check which fund it is for.

If you want to discuss any of our funds or start one yourself, stop in the office, give me a call at 304.684.3082, or e-mail me at pcfoundation@frontiernet.net.

Bingo to Return to Belmont

Anyone interested in playing bingo is invited to the Belmont Community Building on Main Street on the second Thursday of each month starting in September.

The two hours fun for men and women requires players to be 18 or older.

The fee for playing will depend on the number of people who participate. It will be used to pay the $35 charge the city imposes for use of the building.

Players are asked to take a covered dish, hot or cold dessert or chips, for supper as well as a small gift for the prizes that costs $1 or more.

Coffee and pop will be furnished along with paper plates, silverware and cups.

Questions may be directed to Kay Templeton at 304.665.2858 or Dorothy Bills at 304.665.7002.

* * *

Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.

—Abraham Lincoln

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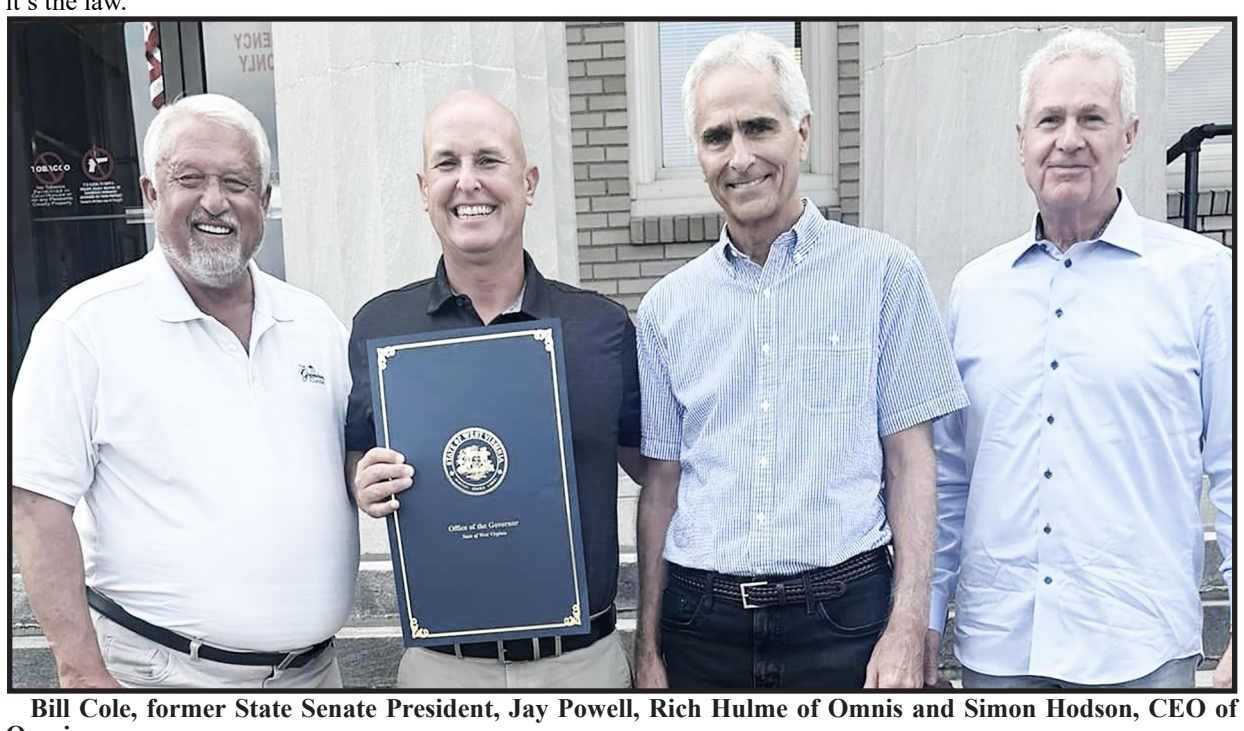

Bill Cole, former State Senate President, Jay Powell, Rich Hulme of Omnis and Simon Hodson, CEO of Omnis.

Powell

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approximately 160 workers. When the Omnis expansion is complete, the plant will need upwards of 500 employees to operate.

Omnis's patented technology, Ultra-High Temperature Omnis Quantum Pyrolysis (OQP), generates hydrogen fuel and utilizes the existing hydrocarbon (coal) supply systems to preserve jobs in current industries while generating additional employment in new clean technology markets.

Hulme said Omnis chose the coal-fired power plant in Pleasants County to convert to the company's first new hydrogen technology for a number of reasons, not the least of which was that Omnis felt wanted here in Pleasants County.

"The community has welcomed us here and the plant itself has been very welcoming and open and encouraging to us. The whole combination really just made this plant the best choice for us," Hulme stated.

Hulme also gave much of the credit to commissioner Powell as well as Gov. Justice for working tirelessly to make this conversion a reality.

"We have been excited about the opportunity to bring a new technology in converting coal to hydrogen and then using that hydrogen as a fuel source for this former coal plant. That's the plan here," Hulme stated.

From the files of The St. Marys Oracle

10 Years Ago - 2014

Warden Patrick Mirandy lifted a huge watermelon grown from seed in the gardens of the St. Marys Correctional Center. Officer Jamie Cupp has been instrumental in helping inmates maintain the successful gardens at the prison.

Aleta Cox will celebrate her 25th year of employment with The St. Marys Oracle and Pleasants County Leader Friday, Aug. 14. Aleta began working at the local newspapers in 1989. Her first job with the papers was working in the darkroom developing film, making page negatives for the newspapers and preparing pictures to be placed in the pages of the papers.

2014 Chiefs and Sags at Pleasants County 4-H Camp were: Seneca - Chief Alaina Duty and Sag Britani Chambers; Delaware - Chief Malee McGill and Sag Addie Lewis; Cherokee - Chief Derek Carpenter and Sag Jared Runnion; and Mingo - Sag Caitlin Meeks and Chief Amy Farson.

20 Years Ago - 2004

Two women were injured Sunday afternoon when their four-wheeler flipped over on Horseneck Road. According to the police reports, Tiffany D. McCoy, 20, of St. Marys, was operating a 2003 Artic Cat ATV at approximately 4:05 p.m. when she lost control, causing the ATV to flip over onto the roadway. Also riding the four-wheeler was Christina Shnell, 18, also of St. Marys.

Allegheny Power has employed helicopter contractor Aerial Solution Inc., to maintain portions of its right-of-way in Pleasants County through the use of an aerial saw

30 Years Ago - 1994

The Zoar Baptist Church of Rt. 39 would like to announce and welcome Rev. K. Scott Morehead of 417 Victoria Ave., Williamstown, WV as their new pastor.

Plans are being made for an alumni reunion for all past coaches and wrestlers that have been with the Pleasants County Pioneer Pee Wee wrestling team.

Kelsea Brooke Fickiesen celebrated her first birthday June 5 at her home with family and friends. They ate cake decorated with Barney and Baby Bop baked by Lynn Britton of St. Marys.

40 Years Ago - 1984

Fun, food and fellowship will be part of the seventh annual St. Marys Volunteer Fire Department ice cream social planned for Saturday, August 11.

Scout Troop 28 attended camp July 15-21 at Camp Kootaga in Wirt County. During the week, the 21 boys and five adults participated in many activities, and a total of 38 merit badges and 30 skill awards were earned by the scouts.

Mrs. Janet Bowie returned to her home on Rock Run after spending several months with her daughter, Dorothy Tice, at West Salem, O.

Mr. and Mrs. John Poling and Laura Ambrose stayed with the Campers Saturday night.

50 Years Ago - 1974

The PRT Vocational-Technical Center will offer a class in Production Sewing for juniors and seniors enrolled in the high schools of Pleasants, Ritchie and Tyler Counties.

In the Pleasants County softball tournament last weekend, St. Marys - after losing the first game to Colin Anderson Center - rallied to win four straight, and capture the county championship.

The July 12 meeting of the Arvilla 4-H Club was brought to order by President Roger Holmes, New and old business was discussed and games were played.

Janet Knight became the bride of Dr. Steven Selden at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, May 26, in the Liberty Hill Jewish Center, Baltimore, Md.

60 Years Ago - 1964

Spectators were treated to a "Holiday in Paris" at this year's Pleasants County 4-H Exhibit and Style Show held Friday evening at St. Marys High School.

Mrs. William Dimmick and children, Fred and Sue, left Sunday for New York, enroute to Bagdad. They will spend a few days in New York City and fly by jet to Bagdad to join Mr. Dimmick, who is an engineer with Sander and Porter Company, erecting a power plant for the Republic of Iraq.

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Gault last week were Mr. and Mrs. Gene Gault and children, Johnny, Jay and Elizabeth Ann, of Newark, Mrs. Evelyn Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Matthews and daughter, Kim of Wyandotte, Md.

Mrs. Jim Dearth entertained a few relatives at a birthday dinner, Sunday, in honor of her husband's and son, Billy's birthdays. Those enjoying the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dearth, Mrs. Cora Mott, Brady and Virginia Mott, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Holiday of Belmont.

70 Years Ago - 1954

John William Hammett of Belmont and Glen E. Mercer of St. Marys were elected to full six-year terms on the Pleasants County Board of Education and Harry E. Snyder, Democrat, and O. F. Lamp, Republican, were nominated as County Court candidates in the interest-arousing features of Tuesday's primary election.

Mr. and Mrs. Clint Underwood and son, Gary, are home from a week's camping at Freeport.

Misses Margerie Pemberton, Elsie Sweeney, Ruth and Ermalene Hart are leaving this weekend on a vacation to Cape May.

Robert Cooper, of this city, was elected treasurer of the Parkersburg District Methodist Youth Fellowship at last week's Older Youth Camp held at the Crossroads, Rt. 2.

Mrs. Hazel Hall returned home after visiting her relatives near Charleston.

Nazarene Church plans Dinner Saturday

St. Marys Nazarene Church will host a breaking bread dinner Saturday, Aug. 17, from 4-6 p.m.

The church is located at 1450 N. Pleasants Hwy., St. Marys.

Everyone is invited.

Some of the group in attendance at the presentation when county commissioner Jay Powell received the Distinguished West Virginian Award.