



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple

Volume 134 No. 30

Periodical Postage Paid at Clay, West Virginia 25043-0180

Thursday, July 27, 2023

\$1.00



Clay TSA Teams Shine at National Competition



Clay Middle & Clay High TSA teams at nationals in Louisville, Kentucky.



Juliann Gallaher and Ariel Dobbins, third place in STEM Animation.

The Clay County Middle and High School TSA teams recently traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to compete in the National Technology Student Association Competition. They earned the right to compete at nationals based upon their success at the WV State Competition held in March. Clay Middle came home with a third-place victory and a semifinalist distinction, while Clay High earned a top ten finalist honor and a top twenty-four semi-finalist spot.

At Nationals, more than 7,000 students competed in over 70 events. Thirty-eight states were represented, and students came from as far away as Germany to compete. The conference theme, A Legacy of Innovation, aligned with TSA's intra-curricular activities, competitions, and other programs that provide student members with opportunities for personal and leadership development, as well as enhanced education and career exposure in science, technology engineering and mathematics.

For Clay Middle, eighth graders Ariel Dobbins and Juliann Gallaher won third place in the nation in STEM Animation, following up their championship win last year. In this event, participants use computer graphics tools and design processes to communicate, inform, analyze, and/or illustrate a topic, idea, subject, or concept that focuses on science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, or some combination thereof. The theme for the event was "The Sun, Moon, Planets, and Stars: Patterns of Apparent Motion." They were tasked to define and describe apparent motion, apply it to the celestial bodies, and explain why the concept in astronomy is important today, all in the form of animation. Upon reaching the semi-finals based upon their animation and document portfolio, they presented their creation and were interviewed by contest judges. Impressively, Dobbins and Gallaher also reached the semifinals, the top 12 in the nation, in Challenging Technology Issues.

For the high school, Hunter Evans, Ilyauna Evans, and Cadence Williams were top 10 finalists in System Control Technology, and Jaxon Brown was a top twenty-four semifinalist in Data Science and Analytics. Moreover, CCHS students Taylor Adkins, Holt Dawson, Dylan McCumbers, Maddy Paxton, and Morgan Payton, and CCMS students Ariel Dobbins and Juliann Gallaher, were recognized as members of the Technology Honor Society.

Jessica Ramsey is the TSA Chapter Advisor for the middle school and high school. She works tirelessly to help students prepare for their events, keeping them updated with contest rules and regulations, of which there are many, and staying after school throughout the year to supervise and advise while they work on their projects. She is also the chief TSA fundraiser, and she coordinates everything associated with trips to Cedar Lakes, WV each March for States, and to nationals in June. Her hard work and dedication are appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

Ramsey is the first person, however, to point out all the help she receives from the community. She wants to sincerely thank the many businesses and individuals who support TSA and helped with the trip to Louisville for the national conference. They include CMI2, K&N Contracting, Inc., WV Paving, Inc., David Dobson, Cunningham Motors, Billy Deems and Ambassador Contracting, Brian Moore, Ferrebee Autobody, Maysel Community Church, Jack Bernardo, Clay Recycling, Ashley Rapp, Judy Scott, Amber Willis and Tam-



Cadence Williams, Hunter Evans and Ilyauna Evans, top 10 finalist in System Control Technology.jpg

do not go unnoticed. They include CMI2, K&N Contracting, Inc., WV Paving, Inc., David Dobson, Cunningham Motors, Billy Deems and Ambassador Contracting, Brian Moore, Ferrebee Autobody, Maysel Community Church, Jack Bernardo, Clay Recycling, Ashley Rapp, Judy Scott, Amber Willis and Tam-

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Free Pool Day hosted by Clay County Extension Services



By: Betty Holcomb

On Wednesday, July 19, the Clay County Extension Service, Clay FRM through their Healthy Grandfamilies program and Gambling Prevention from First Choice hosted a free pool day at the Clay County Pool.

Free admission was granted to all with door prizes and free healthy snacks. It was a day full of fun in the sun for all to enjoy. Many in the community took advantage of this free event, spending much needed time with their children and grandchildren while cooling off with a dip in the pool.

Thank you to all that made this event possible!



Clay County 4-H earns Honors



Pictured from left to right are Michael Shamblin, Patrick Boggs, Lydia Shamblin, Savannah Rhodes, and Natalie Remias.

Clay County 4-H'ers traveled to Jane Lew for the state 4-H land judging and homesite competition. More than 40 junior and senior competitors from Barbour, Clay, Harrison, Jefferson, and Monroe/Greenbrier counties competed.

Clay County 4-H took home honors, including 1st place team in both the homesite and land judging competition. Lydia Shamblin was 1st place individual in both Land judging and Homesite Evaluation. Patrick Boggs placed 3rd in land and

2nd in homesite, Savannah Rhodes placed 7th in land and 3rd in homesite and Natalie Remias placed 8th individual in homesite. The team qualified to compete in the 2024 national competition in Oklahoma City, OK. Congratulations!

For more information about this competition, including final team/individual results, visit <https://extension.wvu.edu/youth-family/youth-education/land-judging>.

Elk River Trail is getting new benches



Students work on the Eagle bench

SEE "Benches"

CONT. ON PAGE 8

BOOKED

CENTRAL REGIONAL JAIL

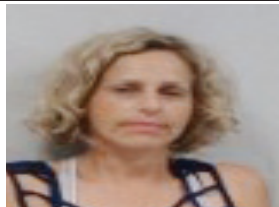
BRAXTON COUNTY



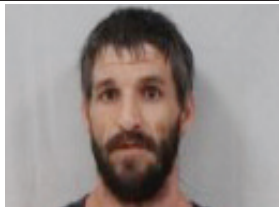
Carl Otis Dawson
Booked 7/24/23
Burglary



Jamie Russell Rhodes
Booked 7/17/23
Felon in possession of
firearm



Jennifer Ellen Kemp
Booked 7/20/23
Possession of meth



Paul Adam Sears
Booked 7/19/23
Obstructing an officer,
assault, trespassing asked
to leave

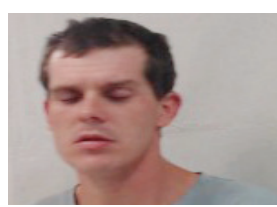


Michael Scott Wild
Booked 7/20/23
Expired MVI, possession
of meth, driving suspend-
ed, improper registration

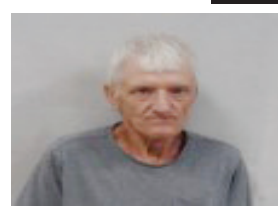


Julius Dustin Wine
Booked 7/20/23
Possession of controlled
substance, domestic as-
sault

CLAY COUNTY



Carey Ethan Coffman Jr.
Booked 7/17/23
DUI



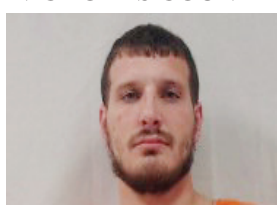
Glen Wesley Adkins
Booked 7/22/23
Warrant



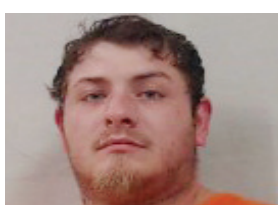
Steven Howard Duffield
Booked 7/20/23
Capias



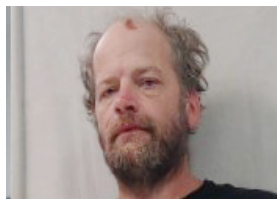
Matthew Duane Evans
Booked 7/22/23
No ins., fleeing w/ reckless
indifference, defect. equipment,
driving suspended, exp. MVI



Travis Mack Hammons
Booked 7/19/23
Probation violation



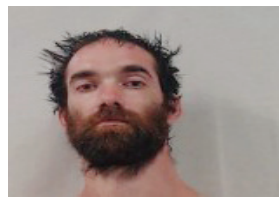
Tyler Nathaniel Lafever
Booked 7/19/23
Driving suspended



Samuel Todd Murphy
Booked 7/22/23
Conspiracy, robbery sec-
ond degree, grand larceny



Benjamin Michael Ruckman
Booked 7/21/23
Domestic battery, stran-
gulation



Matthew Evan Shaffer
Booked 7/19/23
Probation violation

Public Notices

• **Attention CCHS Class of 1953:** Are you interested in attending our 70th year reunion during the Golden Delicious Apple Festival on Saturday, Sept. 16 at CCHS? If so, please let Muriel Whaling Sizemore or Yvonne Hart King know soon. Muriel's address is 307 Price Street, Mineral Wells, WV 26150 and her number is 304-489-2958. Yvonne's address is 113 Center Street, Glenville, WV 26351, and her number is 304-462-7856. It's been at least 10 years since our last reunion, and we aren't getting any younger! See you in September?

• **Holcomb Family Reunion:** There will be a family reunion for the family of John and Mary Holcomb on Saturday, July 29 at 1 P.M. at the Middle Creek Baptist Church, Bickmore. All family and friends are invited to attend.

• **Billiards Tournament at Country Kitchen (6553 Big Otter Hwy, Ivydale)** on Saturday, July 22, starting at 8 p.m. Single elimination, winner take all, \$20 entry. 304-286-5600.

• **The Clay County Middle School afterschool program is still seeking donated sewing machines.** If you have a working portable sewing machine that you no longer need and would like to donate to a beginning sewist, please drop it off at the Clay County Library earmarked for the CCMS sewing class. The manual would be great to have with the machine. Please, include your contact information. In the case that the class is too small for the number of machines that may be donated, leave a note saying what you want done with it. Thank you in advance for your support!

• **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.**

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Puzzle Answers

Super Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

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

Answer

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

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"We Treat Others As We Like To Be Treated Ourselves." - Matthew 7:12

As If I Really Could

By: Dr. James Snyder

Have you ever had the feeling that you've been hoodwinked? You can't point out the specifics, but something deep inside suggests you have been.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I had a wonderful vacation at St. Augustine, one of our favorite places to go.

Something happened toward the end of our vacation that led me to suspect I was hoodwinked, but I couldn't unwind the situation yet.

The toilet in our bathroom had clogged, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went to the front desk to get a plunger.

She brought the plunger back to our room and for several minutes tried fixing our toilet. I heard her in there working on it, but she didn't seem to be able to fix it, which surprised me.

I walked by the bathroom, looked in, and said something stupid, "Can I help you with that?"

The problem with that question was the response from my wife. "Yes, you can. Come in here and see if you can unplug the toilet."

I had no expectation of fixing this problem; I just wanted to sound friendly. After a few severe plunges, all of a sudden, the toilet was unplugged and working perfectly.

Looking at me, my wife said, "Wow, you fixed it. You did a great job."

Not realizing or noticing the hoodwinked element of what she was saying, I smiled and responded, "I'm so glad I could help."

Driving home the next day, she mentioned several times that she was truly grateful for the wonderful job I did with the toilet.

After an hour of driving and listening, I sensed something was wrong. I could not put my fingers on it, but I felt something was wrong somewhere in the atmosphere I was living in. We returned from our trip, unpacked, and returned to our routine.

The next day about the middle of the morning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to my office and said, "I was wondering, could you come and help me with something?"

A leg on one of her tables needed to be replaced, and she could not unscrew the bolt that held it together.

Looking at me, she said, "Do you think you could unscrew that bolt for me?"

I have screwed up many things, but very few have I unscrewed. So I picked up the wrench, and after several minutes of struggling, I finally got it loose. I smiled at my wife and said, "There you are, my dear." Then I walked back to my office.

For the next several days, she called me to help her fix something, and most of them I could not fix. Maybe I can unscrew a screw or a bolt, but that's the extent of my fix-it ability. At supper that night, she smiled at me and said, "I still can't get over how you fixed that toilet on our vacation."

As she smiled at me, I saw some twinkle in her eye that caused me to think something was amiss. I'm not skilled in the hoodwinking business, but I was beginning to think that the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was. She is excellent in many things, and I'm beginning to understand that if anybody can hoodwink me, it is her.

Am I being hoodwinked? And if so, what do I do about it?

I had to think this thing through in developing a plan that would work. She can see through many things, so I had to develop something to the far right of her seeing ability. I devised a plan but did not think I could go through with it. After all, there would be a lot of plotting and, eventually, a drop or two of blood. But it might be worth it if I do it correctly. Not too long after, she called on me for another fix-it project. I had gone over this plot in my mind 100 times and was hoping it would work.

She appeared at the door of my office one morning and asked, "Can you help me fix something? I've been working on it all morning. I just cannot get it right." Then she flashed a smile at me.

I flashed a smile back and followed her to her latest fix-it project. She had a dresser on the back porch she was trying to fix. One drawer was stuck, and she could not get the screw out to enable the drawer to come out.

She handed me the screwdriver and said, "I just can't get that screw out."

I sighed very deeply because I knew that it was now or never. I bent over with the screwdriver to be a little bit out of her sight, and as I was working on the screw, I pinched my left thumb so that it would start to bleed, and then I yelled, "Ouch."

I turned around and showed her my bloodied thumb, and boy, was it painful. She looked at me rather frightened and said, "Come with me to the bathroom, and I'll fix your thumb." Some things are worth it.

I couldn't help but think of a verse in the Bible, "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing" (1 Peter 3:17).

Sometimes it is better not to correct something but rather "suffer for well doing." I'm still trying to learn that.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

THE BAPTIST CLASSROOM

Pastor Doug Newell, IV



Dawn Just Won't Do

In April 2020, I went to work, and the parking lot was practically empty. I missed the previous day and didn't realize we were instructed to work from home because of COVID-19: two weeks to stop the spread and all that. Later that day, I went to the restroom and washed my hands. As I stood drying, someone spoke up from the stall and said, "That was effective hand-washing -- 30 seconds." What do you say to that? I hadn't been complimented for washing my hands well since I was about two years old. It was surreal; while sitting in a bathroom stall, a grown man counted how many seconds I spent washing my hands, then felt compelled to comment on what he felt was a job well done.

For germaphobes, those years were the best of times and the worst of times. We know why it was the worst of times. But it was the best of times because there was a newfound respect and public conversation about the duty and benefit of cleanliness. I was OK with making hand-washing great again. In the days of Jesus, hand-washing was also part of the public discourse and a source of controversy. The Pharisees and Scribes had a tradition of washing up before meals. It was terrible to eat without washing your hands, and I mean scrubbing them down. I doubt they sang the alphabet song or Happy Birthday like the CDC recommends, but they did say that you had to wash from finger-tip clean up to the elbow. Your attitude about it mattered, too. John Gill, quoting from the Jewish writings, said, "he that despiseth washing of hands, shall be rooted out of the world; for in it is the secret of the Decalogue." So you better wash your hands, and you better like it!

It wasn't in the Old Testament, but tradition. Some traditions are good and even necessary (1 Corinthians 11:2; 2 Thessalonians 3:6). But some are downright wrong. Their value depends on who is handing the tradition down and for what purpose. Somewhere in the history of Israel, someone said that washing your hands was good. Then, washing up to the elbow was better. It got to the point where it was a requirement, and then, if you didn't do it, you were sinning. The tradition became law and had equal weight and authority with the Scripture in their view. Jesus said they were hypocrites, teaching their tradition as doctrine and laying aside God's law. To prevent defilement, they washed their hands. But you are not defiled before God by what you eat. We are dirty on the inside. Our hearts are wicked, and it's not what goes in that makes us unclean, but that which is already in our hearts has defiled us—our wicked hearts, where soap and water just can't reach. They redefined sin to be something they could handle. But our stains go deep, where nothing but the blood of Jesus can wash us clean.

What is Enough

By: Joseph J. Mazella

Ever since I was a boy I have been an avid reader. I have read and been touched by so many books from so many authors. I think it may be one of the reasons I started writing myself. I even enjoy hearing stories about other authors, because often they can teach us a lot as well.

I heard one such story the other day that really made me stop and think. Two famous authors, Kurt Vonnegut and Joseph Heller, were invited to a party given by a billionaire hedge fund manager at his home. As the host showed off his lavish mansion to his guests and bragged about the rare works of art he had collected, Vonnegut joked to his friend Heller that their host had probably made more money in a single day than Heller had earned from his most popular novel, Catch-22 over its entire history. Heller smiled back and said, "Yes, he probably has but I have something he will never have—ENOUGH."

What is enough? Our society tells us that nothing is ever enough. The messages and advertisements bombard us every day telling us to spend all the money we have and all the money we don't have to buy more and more stuff. The lessons of Heaven, however, teach us differently. They say that if our bellies are full from "our daily bread" then we have enough. If we have clothes on our backs to keep us warm then we have enough. If we have a roof over our heads to protect us from the cold, wind, and rain then we have enough. If we have people we love and people who love us then we have enough. And even if all of these things are uncertain or lacking, if we know that God loves us and we welcome that love into our hearts then we have enough.

Our loving Heavenly Father will always give us ENOUGH. It us up to us, though, to embrace it, welcome it into our hearts, and share it with the world. May you always do so.

Home Country

By Slim Randles

Doc isn't even sure why he did it. For days afterwards, people would talk about it, then smile and shake their heads and just say "Oh, that Doc..."

The whole thing came up on the spur of the moment. Doc and Mrs. Doc were planning to go out of town for a few days and needed several hundred dollars in cash, so Doc dropped by the bank to take it out.

He drew Ardis Richardson as his teller, after he wound his way through the bank's roped rat maze, and told her how much he needed.

Then, on an impulse, he leaned forward and whispered, "Ardis, I need that in small, unmarked bills, please."

"Unmarked, Doc?"

"My squirrel's life depends on it."

Ardis's mouth dropped open. That should have stopped Doc, but it didn't.

"They said if I wanted to see him alive again, the bills would have to be unmarked." She stared.

"Have you ever seen how cute he is when he sits up and eats a nut and his whiskers twitch? I mean, right now I can picture his big fluffy tail and those eyes ... those eyes.... Oh my..."

"Doc ... I didn't know," she said.

He nodded sadly. "I can hardly bear looking at his little squirrel bed, sitting there empty, and his squirrel food dish, with only half his meal gone. I really have no choice."

Ardis gave him the money. The sheriff came by Doc's office to make sure everything was all right. Mrs. Miller across the street from Steve's house sent a five-dollar donation to Doc to help rescue the squirrel. Pop Walker down at the Rest of Your Life home volunteered to get his gun and polish off every squirrel-napper in the county.

Doc, you see, doesn't have a squirrel.


Mrs. Doc thought this weekend away from home came not a moment too soon.

Sponsored by "A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right" by Slim Randles. <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=A+Cowboys+Guide+to+Growing+Up+Right>


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THE FREEPRESS
'50's and '60's

ROCK 'N' ROLL TRIVIA

What duo was considered the first "soul men?"

Answer to last week's Trivia: The first all white female group to have a #1 hit was: The Angels ("My Boy Friend's Back", Aug. '63) The Shirelles and The Dixie Cups were all black. The Fleetwoods were white but had a male vocalist.

WEST VIRGINIA



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Michael Showell, Publisher

The Clay County Free Press (USPS 116-660) is published weekly at 291 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia. Subscription Rate: In County, \$31.00, Out of County, \$36.00, Out of State, \$41.00. Periodical postage paid at Clay, West Virginia. Address all mail (subscription, change of address) to: PO Box 429, Lewisburg WV 24901 or call (304) 647-5724 or Fax (304) 647-5767. POSTMASTER Please give old address and your new address.

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to *toe-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* at www.wvencyclopedia.org.



July 26, 1942: Camp Washington-Carver was dedicated and opened to the public. The camp, located at Clifftop, Fayette County, was the first statewide 4-H camp for African-Americans in the country. The camp's Great Chestnut Lodge is West Virginia's largest log structure.

July 27, 1896: Clark Kessinger was born near Charleston. He was among the most prolific and influential fiddlers of the 20th century, and one of West Virginia's most important traditional musicians.



July 27, 1909: Coach "Dyke" Raese was born in Davis. He directed West Virginia University to its first major sports national championship, winning the 1942 National Invita-

tion Tournament in basketball.



July 28, 1915: Frankie Yankovic was born in Davis, Tucker County. Yankovic did more to popularize polka music than any other performer.

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 29-31, 1915: Camp Good Luck, believed to be the world's first 4-H club encampment, was held at Elkwater in southern Randolph County.

July 29, 1918: Novelist Mary Lee Settle was born in Charleston. Her literary reputation rests on the "Beulah Quintet," a sequence of five historical novels spanning four centuries.

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, 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.



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."

OBITUARIES

Jearl Joseph McCune, Jr.

Jearl Joseph "Joey" McCune, Jr., 51, passed away on July 10, 2023, in Lizemores, WV.

He was born on January 24, 1972, in Roane County to Jearl J. McCune and Sandra K. (Hickman) McCune.

He is survived by his parents, Jearl and Sandra; and his

wife, Camilla Amanda (Newland) McCune; daughter, Josie McCune; stepdaughter, Deanna Newland; and brothers, Jimmy, Tony, and Jason McCune.

He will be missed and loved by all who knew him.

Graveside service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July

18, 2023, at E.B. Morris Cemetery, Lizemores, with Pastor Shane Wynn officiating.

Online condolences may be sent to www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com.

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

Sports Quiz By Ryan A. Berenz

1. Eden Park, Sky Stadium and Forsyth Barr Stadium are all soccer/rugby arenas located in what country?

2. What former Major League Baseball player went by the unusual nickname "Pronk"?

3. Soccer player Andres Escobar, who was murdered in 1994 as retaliation for inadvertently deflecting the ball into his own net at the FIFA World Cup, played for what national team?

4. The National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum is located in what U.S. city?

5. Physician and Olympic decathlete Tom Waddell organized what sports event that first took place in San Francisco in 1982?

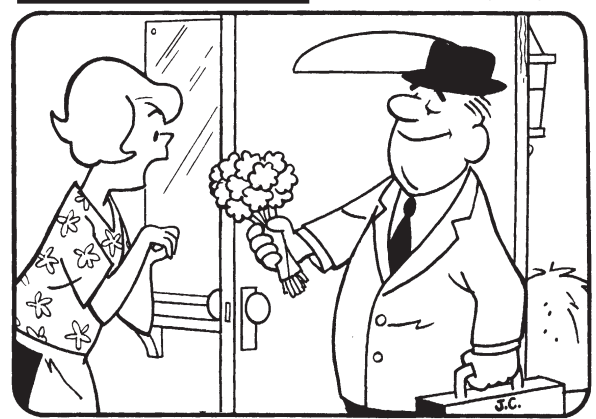
6. Name the NASCAR driver, winner of the 1992 Daytona 500, who was killed in a helicopter crash in July 1993.

7. Larry David provided the voice of what real-life sports team owner in the TV comedy series "Seinfeld"?

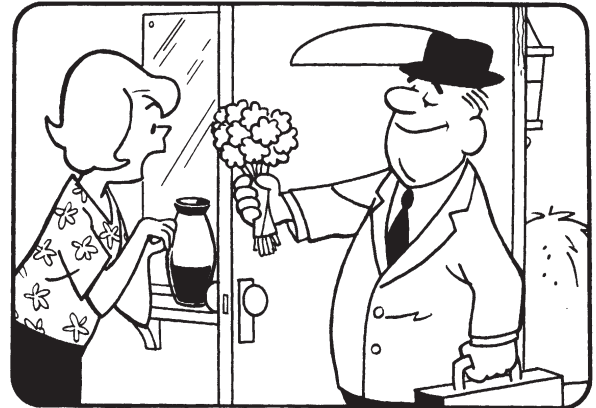
1. New Zealand.
2. Travis Hafner.
3. Colombia.
4. Oklahoma City.
5. The Gay Games (founded as the Gay Olympics).
6. Davey Allison.
7. George Steinbrenner.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hair is longer. 2. Vase is added. 3. Apron is removed. 4. Arm is raised. 5. Initials are missing. 6. Bush is taller.

Super Crossword

SHE'S OUT

ACROSS

1 Crux
9 Denver gridders
16 Butte relative
20 "Later!"
21 1990s Oldsmobile
22 "Downhill" star Novello
23 Going just the way one begged for it to go? [Curry]
25 Medieval peon
26 Scrawny
27 Former Common Market abbr.
28 35mm camera abbr.
29 Uruguay's — del Este
30 Tarzan actor Ron
31 Palme — (prize at Cannes)
33 "You could hear — drop"
37 Property appraiser
39 Rabbit action
40 Reputation as a great pilot? [Salonga]
42 "You're on!"
46 Be a snitch
47 Fleeceable females

48 Late-night host Jimmy's collection of TVs? [Zadora]
50 Kissing target
52 Martini liquor
55 Tire trouble
56 Leafy recess
57 Proscribe
58 Hot-air bath
60 Tokyo cash
61 Family guy
62 "Happy Days" actor Scott
64 Luggage-screening official, for short
67 Headline after a Harley stalls? [Meyers]
71 Waits on hand and foot
73 Not yet final, legally
74 Family guy
75 Lincoln-to-Topeka dir.
78 Surrounded by
79 '16 Olympics site
81 Group of sub-sub-athletes
83 Retort to "You weren't!"
84 Tear

85 Bit of change
87 Comparably dense to the one here? [Arden]
89 Bamboozle
91 "Later!"
93 Guaranteed-to-succeed
94 Weep while excavating fossil fuel? [Ortiz]
99 Ballplayer Ripken
100 It's turned to go in and out
101 Designer Saarinen
102 Buddhist sect
103 Rep.'s rival
106 Tools with teeth
107 "Angie" actor Stephen
109 "No more seats" abbr.
111 Mrs., in Madrid
112 Take — view of (frown on)
113 Cook another egg after cooking a dozen? [Tarbell]
119 French film theater
120 Demigods
121 Traditional Chinese drink

122 Saloon casks
123 Not too soft, as pasta
124 2014 Ben Affleck thriller that would make a good alternate title for this puzzle

DOWN

1 Cabinet wood
2 Ear-relevant
3 Twisted wit
4 Nape's place
5 "— found it!"
6 Female rabbit
7 Marine duck
8 R&B singer India.—
9 Valise, e.g.
10 Rival of LG
11 "Ex's & —" (Elle King hit)
12 Light bites
13 Bottom level
14 Exceed, as a proper limit
15 Bummed out
16 Treats badly
17 Nevertheless
18 In a sense
19 Kennel noise
24 Raleigh loc.
29 Certain toy dog, for short
31 Knucklehead
32 Sign of total acceptance
34 Longtime New Yorker cartoonist

35 March day to "beware"
36 Packers' org.
38 Tools with teeth
39 Go no further
40 League
41 Pueblo pot
42 Uncertain
43 Narrative
44 Like desks with sloping covers
45 Intrinsically
49 1930s-'40s pitcher Newsom
51 The "I" of ILO: Abbr.
52 Question asked while covering someone's eyes
53 Hotel cousin
54 "King" Cole
57 Singing group for lads
58 Verbalized
59 Get ripper
61 Arctic floater
63 French "here"
65 Crooner Neil
66 Unwillingness to yield
68 Cackling bird
69 Singer Amos
70 — Field (Mets' home)
71 Uber arrival
72 Pal, in Paris
76 Je ne — quoi

77 "To be," to Augustus
80 Cuzco native
82 "Behold," to Augustus
83 "— never fly!"
85 Tribal bunch
86 Holliday-Earp gunfight site
87 Docile
88 Lee of Marvel
89 Some ancient warships
90 Pen fillers
92 Dot in la mer
94 Dated music display case
95 Band gofer
96 Joining, as oxen
97 Fell in line
98 Light bite
102 Mark-leaving swordsman
103 "— know it!"
104 Set foot in
105 Taj —
108 "Look — now!"
110 Diana of "The Avengers"
111 China's — Xiaoping
113 Rx org.
114 Sweetums
115 Suffix with exist or differ
116 Philosopher Lao —
117 Half of twenty
118 Wide shoe width

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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THE WIDEN NEWS



The people who think alike should vote alike.

"DUNDON" RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.

June, 1957

These Former Widen Buffalo Baseball Champions Play Against Present Club



The "Old Guard" Stages Comeback

One of the main attractions for the big homecoming Fourth of July celebration in Widen will be the appearance at 2 P. M. on the baseball diamond here of the pictured (L.) champions of the King Coal League. These players completed a total of 27 games, losing only one game in the season.

Ray Ellis, (last on right) has played on the Glenville College team this past year.

Reading from left to right in the above photo they are: seated; Manager Emmett "Horsey" Wilson, catcher Bob Dorsey, left fielder Ralph Legg, outfield relief Carl Runnion, right fielder Ronald Talbert. Standing; shortstop Gene Ellis, first baseman Scott Williams, pitcher and center fielder Gene Cook, pitcher Credis Fitzwater, pitcher Charles Cook, and second baseman Ray Ellis.

These men will play approximately the same positions in the Fourth of July game, when they give the present Widen Buffaloes another opportunity to "take their measure," having defeated the youngsters in a previous encounter, by a 6-2 score, with Fitzwater and Cook on the mound.

Other championship players, not present when the picture was taken, and who will probably appear in the game are: Messrs third baseman Dan Tawney, Coleman Murphy, Harold Stump, Ed Ketchka and Mr. Rhinehart.

Former Auditor Now Treasurer

Mr. Lewis A. G. Martorano, one of the efficient crewman sent annually to Dundon by the Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery firm of auditors who look after that little matter for the Elrico Company, has been appointed assistant treasurer of the Birdsboro Steel Foundry and Machine Company at Birdsboro, Pennsylvania, and has assumed his new duties.

Enjoyed Class Reunion

Dr. and Mrs. Mendenhall attended the annual reunion of the class the week of August in Philadelphia. Dr. Mendenhall was the pinch-hitter here while away.

Makes Good

A letter received by Ye Olde from the Locke Manufacturing Company concerning a Widen man recently employed there will be of interest to all who know Harry Shaffer. Personnel Director Earl Blaylock of that firm says "Harry is doing a splendid job as an assistant in our shipping department and we are hopeful that he will be with us a long time . . . We are now the largest manufacturer in the wrought iron industry in the country today . . . We hope that Harry can be one of the candidates (for advancement) chosen when the next opportunity presents itself, as it is our policy to upgrade from within the organization whenever possible." (Congrats, Harry. Makes your parents and Widen look good. HCJ.)

Widen Boy In Middle East

Nathan Fort, seaman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Fort of 9 Fayette St., Widen, is serving aboard the dock landing ship US Spiegel Grove with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

During the crisis in Jordan last April, the Spiegel Grove shortened her visit to the Italian Riviera and proceeded with other ships to Beirut, Lebanon, where they stood by ready to evacuate Americans from the troubled area or render whatever assistance might be needed.

Husband Gets Captain's Bars

Friends of Mrs. James Reed (Helen Black) will rejoice with her that her husband has been promoted to the rank of Captain, stationed at Norton Air Base in San Bernardino, California where they make their home. Captain Reed is a former prosecuting attorney for Clay County until his enlistment in the Air Corps. They have two sons, Jimmy Jr., and Edward. Mrs. Reed's father, Parker C. Black, is a former principal of Widen High School and now occupies a similar position in Keyser, where he and Mrs. Black reside.

Official Bat Boys For Buffaloes



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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that an application for Operator Assignment has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) located at 47 School Street, Suite 301, Phillipi, WV 26416-1600 for permit number(s): S200409, S200599, S200697 held by WV RECLAIM CO, LLC, 2122 LEATHERWOOD ROAD, BICKMORE, WV 25019. This application will assign RANGE NATURAL RESOURCES, INC., 200 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 400, CLEVELAND, OH 44122 as an operator on the permit(s) named above.

Comments on the application shall be in writing and shall identify the applicant and application number and should be sent to the DEP at the address above. Comments received by 8/28/23, or thirty (30) days from date of publication, will be considered.

A copy of the application will be available until 8/28/23, or thirty (30) days from date of publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is available at:
http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/_dep/Search/ePermitting/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm
 The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries.
 DEP Telephone Number 304-457-3219

LEGAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Clay County Commission is accepting Statements of Qualifications from qualified persons or firms to provide architectural services for its Courthouse Annex which houses the E-911 center and will house the Sheriff's Offices, the Magistrate Offices and Juvenile Justices Offices, now located in the Historic County Courthouse. The Annex was upgraded in 2013 and housed the E911 Center prior to the June 23, 2016 Flood that decimated the County. The County will open the Annex to view on Friday, August 4, 2023 from 1 to 3 p.m. for any firm that may want to view the facility. A list of requirements will be available. The Commission is open to any ideas that could help the design.

Procurement of said services would be in accordance with Chapter 5G-1-3 of the WV Code. Interested persons or firms must submit 4 copies of all requested information to the Honorable David Schoolcraft, President, Clay County Commission, P. O. Box 190, Clay, WV 25043 no later than 12:00 noon, Friday, August 11, 2023 in order to receive consideration. The County Commissioners will serve as the selection committee.

- Proposals must include:
- 1) Experience of the firm with federal or state funded projects.
 - 2) Experience in architectural design and construction management of this type of project.
 - 3) Qualifications of personnel directly involved in the project.
 - 4) Related prior experience

This project is funded in part by the West Virginia Economic Enhancement Grant program administered by the West Virginia Water Development Authority.

The selected person or firm will be required to comply with all State of West Virginia design requirements, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to Records provisions, Architecture's Certification, and all other requirements as they relate to federal and state funded projects.

The County will afford full opportunity to minority business enterprises to submit a show of interest in response to this request and will not discriminate against any firm or individual on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin.

The Clay County Commission reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals. By David Schoolcraft, President, Clay County Commission.

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Technology Honor Society - Morgan Payton, Maddy Paxton, Juliann Gallaher, Ariel Dobbins, Dylan McCumbers, Taylor Adkins and Holt Dawson.

my Wilmoth. Many friends and family also donated money, time and baked goods to support the teams' effort. She wishes to thank all the individuals and businesses who helped make the teams' fundraisers a success by purchasing pool concessions, pepperoni rolls, baked potatoes, salsa and cookies. Additionally, a special thank you goes to the chaperones who worked tirelessly to help keep the kids safe while at the national conference -April Dawson, Philip Dobbins, Lindsay Schoolcraft, Beth Gallaher, Clare Dawson, and Barry Payton – and to the parents who traveled to Kentucky to support the kids. Finally, she wants to thank the county and school ad-

ministrators for seeing the good that is the TSA program and for supporting the students and cheering on their successes. She is extremely appreciative of all the support the

teams have received this year and every year. We could not do it without you!

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



Jaxon Brown, top 24 semifinalist in Data Science and Analytics.

As Utility Cost Burden Increases, WV Counties Look to Community Solar

By Nadia Ramlagan

Interest in community solar is on the rise, as a greater share of West Virginians' household incomes go toward utility bills.

Federal data show electricity rates are increasing in the Mountain State, and major utilities are proposing more rate hikes for next year.

Danny Chiotos, development manager for Chaberton Energy, explained community solar is emerging as an alternative.

"As a general rule, community solar generation subscriptions are subscribed to at a rate lower than the electricity that it is offsetting," pointed out. "If you're paying, say, 11 cents for your electricity now per kilowatt-hour, you can generally subscribe to a community solar facility at nine cents or 10 cents."

Community solar lets individuals, businesses and organizations buy a "share" in community solar panels -- usually anywhere between five and 60 acres per site -- and in exchange, receive a credit on their monthly electric bill.

Two bills introduced by West Virginia state lawmakers this year, Senate Bill 627 and House Bill 2159, would have made it easier to implement community solar projects.

Critics say solar farms take up space, and point out community solar users often are not eligible for state-based incentives.

Chiotos countered that state-level legislation is needed to ensure companies providing community solar can do so cost effectively.

"As a trend, we're seeing that there's increasing energy burden on homes," Chiotos observed. "Community solar is the best way to reduce electric rates in the face of the quickest-rising electric rates in the country."

At least 18 states nationwide have passed legislation changing how local utilities are regulated in order to approve community solar.

DHHR Addresses Stolen SNAP Benefits

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) reminds West Virginians participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of the heightened risk of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card fraud and stolen benefits. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and DHHR have recently received several reports of card skimming, phishing, or cloning scams to steal SNAP benefits.

DHHR is working with state and federal partners, SNAP retailers, EBT processors, and other industry experts to protect SNAP benefits and combat SNAP benefit theft.

"Card skimming can happen to anyone who uses a credit, debit or EBT card, including SNAP

participants," said Janie Cole, DHHR's Commissioner for the Bureau for Family Assistance. "SNAP benefit theft victimizes low-income individuals who rely on these benefits to feed their families, and it will not be tolerated."

Theft of SNAP benefits is punishable by federal and state law and can include imprisonment and financial penalties. If a recipient of SNAP benefits is convicted of benefit theft, penalties may also include being banned from participating in the SNAP program.

Through the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, DHHR can replace stolen EBT benefits due to card skimming, cloning or phishing, retroactive to October 1, 2022, and through

September 30, 2024. Replacement benefits cannot exceed the actual amount stolen or the household's benefit allotment amount for the two months immediately preceding the theft, whichever is lesser.

West Virginia residents who receive SNAP benefits and believe benefits have been stolen due to card skimming, cloning, or phishing, should contact their local DHHR office or contact the DHHR Customer Service Center at 1-877-716-1212 to file a claim. For a list of DHHR county offices and phone numbers, visit <https://dhhr.wv.gov/pages/field-offices>.

For more information on SNAP scams and tips to protect EBT cards and benefits, visit <http://dhhr.wv.gov/ebt/pages/snap-scam-alerts>.

West Virginia's Revitalization Program Now Accepting New Community Applications

The The West Virginia ON TRAC (Organization and Training for Revitalization and Capacity) program is now accepting applications from communities seeking assistance in community improvement and development. As a program under the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, ON TRAC aims to support towns in their endeavors towards economic growth.

To ensure a successful application process, community representatives are required to attend a complimentary application and introductory workshop. This mandatory workshop equips participants with effective techniques to enhance their chances of securing a spot in the limited ON TRAC program.

The workshop is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, conducted via Zoom. To register for the workshop, please contact Jennifer Brennan at 304-957-3971 or via email at Jennifer.L.Brennan@wv.gov.

ON TRAC offers a comprehensive range of resources to help communities stimulate economic growth, including evaluation, education, and networking opportunities. Communities selected for ON TRAC will receive specialized training in downtown or neighborhood revitalization, a thorough assessment of their strengths and weaknesses, access to an extensive online library of databases and resources, action-planning services, telephone consultation, scholarship and grant information, as well as technical design visits.

Governor Jim Justice commended the program, stating, "I think that ON TRAC is a vital initiative that empowers our great communities, providing them with the necessary tools and support to up economic development. Through evaluation, education, and networking resources, this program gives these communities what they need to thrive and revitalize their districts."

It is important to note that communities are required to participate in ON TRAC for a minimum of two years before becoming eligible to apply for accreditation as a Main Street community. Currently, West Virginia boasts 12 accredited Main Street Communities and 10 ON TRAC Communities, showcasing the success and impact of these programs in the state.

Main Street West Virginia, an integral program under the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, focuses on the revitalization of historic commercial districts by offering technical services, design assistance, and continuous training for board/committee members and program managers. Leveraging the National Main Street Center's Four-Point Approach®, Main Street West Virginia ensures a comprehensive approach encompassing organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring.

For more information about the ON TRAC program and the application process, please visit wvcad.org/infrastructure/main-street-wv-and-ontrac.

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Summer school woodworking class builds benches for Elk River Trail



Students work on finishing an eagle themed bench.

By Allen Hamrick

It has been a given in our lifetime that as we grow up we learn a few skills on the way to adulthood that ultimately give the confidence we need for bigger and better opportunities. It has been a standard from the early days of the pioneers that woodworking, blacksmithing, farming, fishing, fixing and critical thinking were all a part of the skills necessary for the youth of that day to learn. Simply because the future of that time was counted in days not years, and knowing these skills assured a young one would have a home and something to eat when they left to be on their own. Today, not so much; we can decide our own fates by simply figuring out what our career will be and doing it. The opportunities are endless, from opening a lemonade stand to being a brain surgeon; all a person has to do is work toward that end. These days, however, those skills that were taught long ago for survival have now become simply a choice you can learn or you don't have to. Learning these basic skills can still benefit the youth, whether they are used as a hobby or perhaps their future career as a professional home builder, for example.

The Clay County Schools summer school career and technical education exploration programs, under the direction of Dr. Michelle Samples, provide an opportunity for students to learn important skills in a non-traditional classroom setting. In the summer school program, participating youth can learn skills from woodworking to electronics, animal science to entrepreneurship, and basketball to art. Middle and high school students participating in the woodworking class are working with the new Elk River Trail State Park officials to build and install five new benches along the new trail. These benches are not just ordinary benches; these are eight foot themed benches that will give the user an extremely comfortable rest as they are using the trail.

Three benches have been finished over a three week period - the bear bench, the eagle bench and the massive ten feet train depot bench. The wood and materials for the project were provided by the summer school program as well as the State Parks Commission. The students have learned design, layout, and construction of the benches along with hands on tool use. Some of the students will participate in the installation of the benches this week, which includes digging the holes for the legs, setting them with concrete and finishing them. This will be labor intensive but rewarding knowing that people from all over will be enjoying their work. Summer school will end this week and the students involved did a great job of getting these three benches completed with the amount of work and art that went into the projects. These benches will definitely be a welcome site to the hikers and bikers on the trail for years to come.



Dennis Mullins helps with the art work.

CCPIF league getting ready for the Grid on August 5th



It won't be long before they will be at the barbecue.

By Allen Hamrick

With the dog days of summer in full swing and the earth hot enough to melt iron ore, a major thing on peoples' minds is fall. Fall means football is up and running, and in some ways, even though the air is hot and the humidity soaks you to the bone, deep down you feel the chill of fall and the first whistle ushering in the games. The CCPIF league and the 7 on 7's have geared up and will begin the opening of the seasons. Soon the katydids will sound off in the night, a slight chill will bite the air and it will only mean one thing, goodbye summer and hello fall sports. The CCPIF league has been hitting the fields getting set for their first action of the season which will be on August 5th in Wirt County.

They will have four home games this season so you will have plenty of chances to catch some action. Their first game is away at South Harrison on August 13th; you won't want to miss the action. The kids are working hard to be at their best.

Coaches this season will be: Flag- Bo Roat with Allen King, Jessica Roat and Tim Casto; C team- Gary Champ, Jakoby Nichols, James Grose, TJ Quinn, Josh Leftwich and Phil Nichols; B team- Jimmy Brogan, Mike Schoonover, Tony Massey, Jodie Roat and Meagan Samples; A team- Phil Dobbins, Billy Grose, Shawn Deta-

more, Bailey Boggs, Carli Caldwell, Caden Delwarte and Trey Corwell. The cheer coaches will be: B team cheer- Billie Tanner and Kylie Koch; C team cheer- Nikki Tolley and Brittany Compton; Flag cheer- Erica Smith and Chastity Morris.

Both the CCMS and CCHS football programs will be gearing up for their first scrimmages. This year promises to be a continuation of last year's season for the CCHS team; they will be fast on offense and defense. The boys seem to have a great attitude coming into the year. Many have hit the weights in the off season and individually trained to make sure they are ready for what is to be expected of them.

CCHS Volleyball lost a couple of big guns, and it will be interesting to see how they make changes in the team to compensate for those spots. Trust me, though they have some hit-

ters. The CCMS Volleyball team will be cranked to bring the championship back to CCMS, but it will take some top of the food chain play to get them there as there are some tough teams in their league. The cross country runners from CCHS and possibly CCMS will once again hit the trails. The CCHS team should be strong this year with returning runners from last season as well as some great runners from CCMS.

This will be a good season, I believe, for all the teams. They are working hard and have conditioned through the summer to enhance their skills. So, get out and support the teams this year. As soon as the schedules are up, I will post the first games of the season. Right now, though, get your lungs out of the closet because the CCPIF league will be hitting the grid. Don't miss out on watching some great action!



Come rain or shine, CCPIF will play.



Only known picture of Mott the Plott.

Lew and Zeb: Legend of Mott the frog eatin' Plott

By Allen Hamrick

Hey folks, Zeb here 'bout to scratch you out a tale you ain't gonna believe. Here in our neck of the woods, we like our food. Now, some like those critters from the big water that have to be imported here from Zeke's Freight. Zeke is a farmer who lives just outside of Waterbutt Holler, so named for its deep swimming hole at the forks of the hills. He uses his Oliver tractor and wagon to haul wood and lumber, but his big ticket item is haulin' fancy livin' folks up here their sea food so they can feel like they are sophisticated like them city folks. They don't eat at Lolie's Café and Eatery or Maude's diner; they only eat at Carmellyo's. It's a fancy, smug diner that has candles and a feller running around sawin' on a fiddle tryin' to make eatin' better, but I have my doubts. They also say they have the finest imitation steak and grittiest grits in the area, but I ain't never eat there so the rumors are strictly her say or him say.

The fancy pants place is ran by a flame haired gal called Carmello Van Smithachelli, or Caravan for short, who believes she has the only non stinkin' arm pits in the area. Her head is so high above where it's supposed to be that she has to be given a special weather forecast just for her head. She has accepted the self proclaimed crown to be the queen of the high society movement here in the hills. Her goal is to have all the wives, including ours, eating sardines out of one of her hands all the while she has the other hand digging out what money they have left. "Remember, pinky finger up ladies," she says as they enter her eatery.

Zeke's job is to keep her happy and get the sardines to Carmellyo's before too many of them thaw out. It is truly a dangerous job to take on the task of getting that fancy fish up in these hills. First off, he has to travel fast enough to keep the fish from thawing out. Soon as it does, every mountain lion, house cat, bobcat or fisher cat lays dibs on the thawing pile of sardines. All other animals run the other way when Zeke comes up the hill. The foul smell that fills the air is only for the fancy eaters, cats and buzzards. The cats came from every nook and cranny in the hills and nearly wiped out the supply during last week's sardine raid.

Most folks are fine with the cats at home, Maude's or Lolie's. With food like theirs, there is no way common folk would go anywhere else. On the menu at Maude's Diner is a local lunch favorite, mud sucker sandwich with sides, and at dinner it's the cluck a doodle doo meal, a sliced slab of chicken breast laying on a bed of tater pellets and gravy; it is lip smacking, cross yer legs eatin'. For the couple out for a romantic dinner, Maude throws in the wish bone for some after dinner wishing and teeth picking. At Lolie's, the menu is one of the hottest meals in the hills; it's called Jackass Scrapin' and is made up of a tongue and gut burnin' plate full of thinly sliced barbecued hog and steer meat sittin' on top of what she calls taters mammy. It's so called due to only Jackasses and goats have the stomach for it. However, every Saturday evenin' they come from all over to take on Jackass Scrapin'. Last Saturday, 12 went to the hospital for tongue burns and 16 to the fire department to get their stomachs put out with a hose.

The diners will never have one of the most loved dinners in the hills anymore and that's a big plate of bull frog legs fried to perfection. The hills used to be full of frogs, and they populated like grass until last year's Black Friday sale on hounds at Culpeper's Ridge. A huge plott hound called Mott got loose, and they ain't been nobody been able to catch that frog lovin' animal. Usually a frog will spit out some kinda nasty tastin' fluid that makes a dog wince, but Mott uses it like ketchup. So, Mott the Plott eats every pond and water source in search of the frog. None are safe nor ever will be until he is caught. The night critter sounds we all love to hear that usher in fall will be without their bass line - the bull frog. Those nights when you feel a squish on the bottom of your foot...gone. The days of belchin' after a meal of froggy legs...gone. There was an attempt to capture Mott by Pap's son Pip. Pip dressed in a frog Halloween outfit, set by one of the local ponds known to have giant bull frogs and waited. Before Pip knew what hit him, Mott had ripped off the frog skin covering and Pip fell into the pond. Scores of bull frogs came out of the water and jumped on Mott in an attempt to take him down once and for all - one final attempt to save themselves from being extinct. You could have heard them frogs screamin' death to Mott from miles away. In the little bit of time that it took for the frogs to realize that their weapon bag had only a tongue in it and Mott's had teeth, it was too late. No matter how many times they licked, it was over in a matter of seconds. Once again, Mott the Plott had won. There was no doubt that there would no longer be a frog leg dinner on the menu until...