



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



Volume 134 No. 45

Periodical Postage Paid at Clay, West Virginia 25043-0180

Thursday, November 9, 2023

\$1.00 0 51497 13936 0

Clay Family Support Center opens



By Carrie Truman

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the Clay Family Support Center in downtown Clay on Friday. The new organization will be beneficial to the community. They offer classes for children and adults, play groups,

support groups, and a food pantry, to name a few of their resources. Their goal is to reach and serve all families in Clay County no matter their circumstances, income, or lifestyle! You can reach them for more information at 304-587-4389 or find their Facebook page.

Big Otter students win PAX Good Behavior Game

Students at Big Otter Elementary are following the PAX Good Behavior Game and becoming role models for other students. These students show a positive attitude towards their classmates and teachers. PAX Stars

are rewarded with a certificate and a special lunch with their family. Congratulations to the following students for being selected as the October 2023 PAX Leaders at Big Otter Elementary School.



The winners per class are: Mr. Vaughan – 5th Grade – Sophia Boggs; Mrs. Burns – 4th Grade – Kayson Fugate; Mrs. Pierson – 3rd Grade – Lylah Grose; Mr. Vaughan - 3rd Grade - Kinsley Duffield; Ms. Jarvis – 2nd Grade – Kendra Taylor; Ms. Paxton – 2nd Grade – Adalyn Boggs; Ms. Douglas – 1st Grade – Anna Jackson; Mrs. Collins – Kindergarten – Case Titus; Mrs. Holcomb - Kindergarten - Sadie Siers; Mrs. Marks - PreK - Wren Burge; and Ms. Paxton – PreK – Jason Rhodes.

WV residents can get help navigating Medicare open enrollment

By Nadia Ramlagan for WVNS

With just a few weeks left until the end of Medicare open enrollment, experts in West Virginia say now is the time to compare current coverage to next year's plan, and make changes to avoid large out-of-pocket expenses.

Kimberly Taylor-Newsome, state program director for the West Virginia Aging and Disability Resource Center, said Medicare 'Part D' and Medicare Advantage plan details often change every year, so individuals should not assume they can rely on the same benefits.

"They can change their drug formularies, they change premiums, they can change deductible amounts, they can change the pharmacies that they work with," Taylor-Newsome outlined.

Taylor-Newsome pointed out resource counselors are available through the state's Aging and Disability Resource Center who can help people carefully review current coverage and compare plans. They can also

check to see if people qualify for other assistance to help save them money. Counselors can be reached Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 866-981-2372.

At a time when many of the state's older residents are struggling financially with inflation, Taylor-Newsome added not selecting the right plan could lead to more people foregoing needed medications and care.

"If you don't maintain your health, if you can't get your medications and the medical care that you need, you can't care for that other person," Taylor-Newsome stressed.

A recent KFF survey found people with Medicare are more satisfied with their health coverage compared to adults with other types of insurance. But cost concerns for monthly premiums and prescription drugs remain high, especially among people with disabilities who rely on the program.

West Virginia Delegation Send Letter to President Biden and FEMA Urging Disaster Declaration Approval

Representatives Carol Miller (R-WV) and Alex Mooney (R-WV) as well as Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) sent a letter to President Joe Biden and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III Administrator Maryann Tierney to approve the State of West Virginia's appeal for a disaster declaration. Residential areas in Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison and Kanawha counties have experienced great damage due to heavy rains and flooding in late August.

On the damage caused by flooding in Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison and Kanawha Counties:

As members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation, we write in support of Governor Jim Justice's appeal request for a major disaster declaration for the State of West Virginia after severe and numerous storms washed through our State causing widespread damage. Heavy rains caused damages by flooding, landslides, and mudslides in 5 counties throughout central and southern West Virginia from August 28, 2023 to August 30, 2023.

Persistent rains resulted in major flooding events in Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison and Kanawha Counties. As the heavy downpour of rains fell, areas surrounding rivers, creeks and small streams were

unable to absorb the excess precipitation causing flooding and residential damage.

On a request for a major disaster declaration to access federal disaster aid:

To access federal disaster aid, West Virginia Governor Jim Justice has made an appeal request for a major disaster declaration for the State of West Virginia, submitted October 25, 2023, under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5208 (Stafford Act). We respectfully ask that you carefully review the request that specifically outlines Individual Assistance for Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison, and Kanawha Counties as well as Hazard Mitigation statewide.

We applaud the tireless dedication of our State and local first responders, as well as the invaluable contributions of our neighbors and volunteers. Nevertheless, the demand for aid remains substantial, and we urge you to do everything in your power to make sure that our communities have the federal support they need to rebuild and recover. Therefore, we kindly request that you thoroughly consider the State of West Virginia's appeal for a major disaster declaration to address the enduring challenges our communities are facing.

Lady Panthers are the 2023 Sectional Champions



Your 2023 Sectional Champion - CCHS Lady Panthers. Allen Hamrick photo.

See Story on Page 8

Clay County Free Press

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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.

It's Not The Food, It's The Love

By: Joseph J. Mazella

When I was a little boy growing up I would always change out of my good clothes after church and run outside to play for a few hours. When I would come back inside the house would smell heavenly. It was my Italian Nana making our Sunday dinner. To call it a feast would be an understatement. There would be loaves of freshly baked Italian bread with butter. There would be mounds of pasta covered in red sauce slowly simmered for hours. Slow cooked with the sauce too would sometimes be meatballs, sometimes potatoes, sometimes chicken, sometimes steak or deer meat and most often a combination of them. I remember we would all gather around the old, metal dining room table. Then we would eat with smiles, laughter, and joy. I always felt so peaceful and safe there. We always left dinner with full bellies and happy hearts.

As I got older and became an adult myself, I tried to make smaller versions of Nana's Sunday dinners. I got the sauce

recipe from Dad and like a good Italian seasoned to taste. Often I would get very close to making a dinner like hers but it was never quite right. There finally came a point when I realized what I was doing wrong. I was trying to recapture a taste when what I really wanted to do was recapture a feeling. It wasn't just the delicious food that made those dinners so wonderful, it was also the feeling of love that was there. Nana always put her love into her cooking and always put her love into her life. Since then I have tried my best to do the same. No matter what I am cooking or what I am doing, I always try to season it with Love.

God loves us all so much and He wants us to share our love as well. God wants us to put our love into our cooking, our days, and our lives. Each day here can be a banquet of Love if we make it. Each day here can be a feast of Joy when we share it. The choice is ours. May you always choose wisely then and season each day of your life with love.



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THE BAPTIST CLASSROOM

Pastor Doug Newell, IV



Thanks to God

Have you ever noticed how often “rejoice” is used ironically? I looked at some headlines from the last week and saw several examples:

“Carb lovers rejoice!”

“Bitcoin Bulls, rejoice!”

“Rejoice! The iconic Ponce Krisy Kreme Returns.”

Interestingly, these ironic calls to joy center around money and food. Our society doesn't speak seriously about joy; when we do, it's about simple pleasures and the gifts of God in nature, but even then, with either a half-serious wink or a melancholy sigh, that joy is all too fleeting. We know it won't last, so we laugh.

I lived close to a Krispy Kreme donut shop in North Carolina and sometimes took my boys for breakfast on their birthdays. This shop had a window in the dining area to see into the kitchen, and you could watch the donuts come down the conveyor and get doused with glaze. It sure made us happy, but not lasting joy. I love the memory, but I miss those days. Donuts are a good gift from God (1 Timothy 4:1-5). So are children (Psalm 127:3-5). There is joy in the things of life (Psalm 65:11-12; 104:15; Jeremiah 33:11; Proverbs 23:24-25) because God is good, and everything was good when He created the world. But this world is cursed because sin entered, and death by sin. Joy in the natural, cursed world is often fleeting and sometimes hard to come by.

That's why the secular mind doesn't take joy seriously.

How, then, can Paul tell us always to be rejoicing? Christian joy does not come from a feeling within ourselves nor our present circumstances (2 Corinthians 6:10). Instead, our joy comes from the person and work of Jesus Christ, resting in the promises of God. The kingdom of God is not freshly glazed donuts but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Spirit (cf. Romans 15:17).

The call to always be rejoicing is a command of God. So many writers stress the “command” to rejoice and do so in such a way as to rob any Christian with a conscience of any joy they might have had. “Listen here, dirtdog, you are going to rejoice and you are going to LIKE IT!” Ok, it's not that harsh, but you get the drift. They seem to be sanctified by vinegar rather than grace. You don't find joy by pursuing joy. If rejoicing seems burdensome, it's because you are looking for it in the wrong place or perhaps looking at the right things in the wrong way. Joy comes from the person and work of Jesus Christ, resting in the promises of God.

Jesus Christ came as the last Adam to make all things new, to save His people from their sins. He will come again -- there'll be a new heaven and Earth, and King Jesus will dwell with His people in a New Jerusalem. There'll be no more tears, sorrow, or hurt, all the things that sin ruined, all the things that steal our joy. Hear this good news and rejoice.

I Don't Believe in Superstition...But

By: Dr. James Snyder

I don't believe in any of the superstitious nonsense that seems to be going around these days. Some people have a fear of numbers like 13 and 666. What in the world does a number have to do with anything?

When I am around people who are superstitious like that, I'm afraid I lean toward the naughty side and harass them a little bit. It's not my fault they're afraid of some number. But I believe I do have a responsibility to myself to take advantage of situations like that.

Not being superstitious, there are times I am slightly confused about life. Something happens that I don't feel I'm in charge of. I won't go to the superstitious side of the road because I don't believe in that. But sometimes, things happen that I really can't explain.

For example, the other morning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage entered the living room, where I was sitting on my easy chair drinking coffee. With a huge smile, she said, “I got you an Apple Fritter for this morning.” And she gave it to me, smiled at me, and then walked away.

Now, I'm supposed to accept this as normal? Absolutely not. There is no reason why she would bring me an Apple Fritter without something attached to it. For the life of me, I could not figure out what was behind this Apple Fritter. There had to be something because The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage never does anything without some reasoning behind it.

Not knowing what to do, I took a little bite of the Apple Fritter, which brought me to a wonderful place of enjoyment. I drank my coffee and ate my Apple Fritter, and my life seemed to be very spectacular at that time.

When I finished the Apple Fritter, I returned to normality and tried to figure out what was behind all of this. There had to be something behind it, and I could not figure it out.

At my stage in life, I wouldn't ask any questions because I never got the answer I wanted. I just decided to accept it and move on with the day.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went about the day as though nothing strange had happened. I decided to go along with her on that. After all, I don't know what is behind this.

The following day, I got up and got my coffee, went out to my easy chair in the living room, and started to sip it very carefully. Every morning starts great with a cup of coffee.

As I was getting situated, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walked in, and I saw in her hand another Apple Fritter. “Here, my dear, is an Apple Fritter. I think you'll enjoy this today.”

I possibly could process yesterday's Apple Fritter, but two days in a row was beyond my processing ability. Something is going on, and I have no idea what it is.

Being that as it is, I enjoyed that Apple Fritter to the last delicious crumb.

Again, nothing was said to indicate what was behind this Apple Fritter. I was getting a little itchy, and I wanted to find out what was going on. But I didn't want to sabotage my situation at this time. After all, an Apple Fritter is worth the pain.

The day went normal, and she never mentioned the Apple Fritter.

By the time we came to go to bed, nothing was said concerning that. It was just a coincidence, and I could not explain it satisfactorily.

Again, I got up the following day, went and got my coffee, and sat in my easy chair. In a few moments, in walks The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and in her hand is another Apple Fritter. Obviously, I did not get up this morning and was still in bed, sleeping and dreaming. This does not happen in real life. I was afraid to do anything for fear of waking up out of this dreamland.

“Here's an Apple Fritter for you this morning. I think you'll enjoy it today.” She smiled at me, turned around, and returned to the kitchen.

I held that Apple Fritter in my hand for a few moments, basking in its deliciousness, and then began to eat it slowly and enjoyably.

Three Apple Fritters in a row has to be some record. It's not that I can't handle an Apple Fritter because I can. It's the fact that someone is bringing these Apple Fritters to me who does not like Apple Fritters. Something is happening behind the scenes, and I'm anxious to find out.

The next day, the same thing happened. To have four Apple Fritters in a row is okay with me, but now I'm getting to be suspicious. What in the world am I missing here?

Not wanting to sabotage my good luck the last four days, I kept silent and enjoyed the Apple Fritter. Whatever is behind this, I may never know, but I will enjoy it for whatever it is worth.

I'm expecting the day when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, “Remember those Apple Fritters I gave you?”

I couldn't help thinking of a Bible verse, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9).

Sometimes, the best thing to do is NOTHING and let God have it.

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.

Home Country

By: Slim Randles

I think there must be autumnal reasons for Halloween being hued in orange and black. It's a fun time, a magic evening if you're a kid, and if you're a grandpa-type guy, like me, who gets to hand out the goodies.

But the colors of this sweet evening celebration are orange and black, and so is October. In another week or so, our deciduous trees will stand like skeletons against the gray skies of winter, but now we have the orange and black of fall.

It happens right about sunset each day. The sky turns that eternal burnt-umber orange and the remaining leaves and the baring branches of our trees fill the

evening with a holy filigree of contrast.

Oh, it's not something we need to do anything about. There's no need for picture taking or anything. But it's just something that we can step outside for ... look toward the west through the lacy pattern of black branches and for a moment, just a short moment, say to ourselves, “Isn't that pretty?”

If the paint store could sell me something that looked even close to that for the walls of the little cabin I have, I'd buy a gallon. Maybe two.

For the best in outdoor and Western art, check out artvincent@comcast.net.

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THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

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

Nov. 8, 1936: "It's Wheeling Steel," a half-hour musical variety radio program, debuted over WWVA in Wheeling. The program was an instant success with local audiences and later became a nationwide sensation.

Nov. 9, 1874: Matthew Mansfield Neely was born in Doddridge County. He was the 21st governor of West Virginia.

Nov. 9, 1952: The Huntington Museum of Art opened as Huntington Galleries. The museum is located on more than 50 acres in the Park Hills section of Huntington.

Nov. 10, 1777: Cornstalk, his son Elinipsico, and the sub-chief Red Hawk were murdered in captivity by enraged whites who blamed them for the recent killing of two white men. Cornstalk, a Shawnee leader who lived in what is today southeastern Ohio, had commanded

Indian forces at the Battle of Point Pleasant.

Nov. 10, 1861: A Confederate cavalry force of more than 700 attacked a Union recruit camp at Guyandotte in Cabell County.

Nov. 10, 1978: The New River Gorge National River was established by Congress. It was designated a National Park and Preserve in 2020.

Nov. 10, 1979: The last home game was played at Old Mountaineer Field at West Virginia University. More than 38,000 people attended the game, in which WVU nearly upset highly ranked Pitt.

Nov. 11, 1929: The Memorial Arch was dedicated on Armistice Day in Huntington. The Memorial Arch stands at the intersection of 11th Avenue and Memorial Boulevard. The arch pays tribute to Cabell County soldiers who fought in World War I.

Nov. 12, 1844: Henry Schmulbach was born in Germany.

Schmulbach became a leading businessman in Wheeling, buying Nail City Brewery in 1882 and becoming president of the German Bank, now WesBanco.

Nov. 13, 1879: Educator Elsie Clapp was born. Under her direction the community school at Arthurdale stressed education for real-life situations and revived traditional music to strengthen reading and writing skills.

Nov. 14, 1788: Kanawha County, named for the Kanawha River which flows through it, was created on this date.

Nov. 14, 1939: The Charleston Civic Orchestra gave its first concert at the Municipal Auditorium. The group changed its name to Charleston Symphony Orchestra in 1943 and in 1988 became the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Nov. 14, 1970: A chartered plane slammed into a hillside just short of Huntington's Tri-State Airport near Ceredo, killing all 75 of the passengers and crew. The victims included nearly the entire Marshall University football team, all but one of their coaches, and a number of fans.

THE FREEPRESS '50's and '60's ROCK 'N' ROLL TRIVIA

In Bobby Bare's single "Detroit City" (I Wanna Go Home), "by day he makes the cars," what does he do at night?

Answer to last week's Trivia: After spending the groceries and half the rent, Roger Miller

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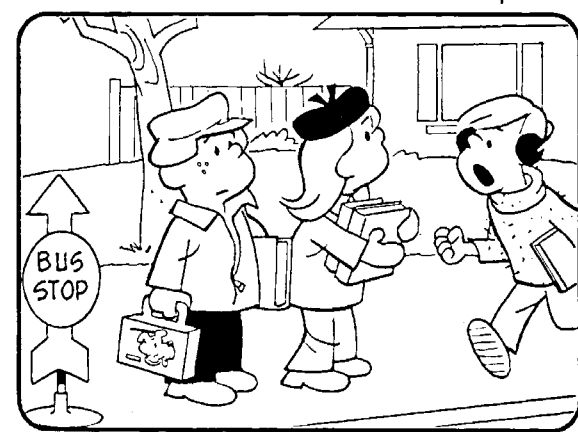


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is shorter. 2. Lunchbox is moved. 3. Jacket is opened. 4. Hat bow is smaller. 5. Purse is missing. 6. Arm is lower.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

GOLDEN STATE GIRLS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Requested
 - 6 Mass helpers
 - 15 Foil maker
 - 20 Empathetic declaration
 - 21 Steak lover, e.g.
 - 22 Lounges idly
 - 23 Italian developer of an educational method
 - 25 Third month
 - 26 "Two Years Before the Mast" star
 - 27 Film director Craven
 - 28 Family-style Chinese dish
 - 29 Body design, in brief
 - 30 The new girl on "New Girl"
 - 32 French painter of "The Horse Fair"
 - 36 Commotion
 - 38 The "N" of USNA: Abbr.
 - 40 "— never believe me!"
 - 41 Rap's "Dr."
 - 42 She played Abby Parker on HBO's "The Deuce"
 - 48 Cut with a light beam
 - 49 Continuously
 - 50 Cruel emperor
 - 51 Troop's group
 - 52 Partners
 - 53 Scenes
 - 54 Title sorority in a 1985 film
 - 56 Turkish cap
 - 57 French friends
 - 58 Smithereens
 - 59 Onetime rival of Steffi Graf
 - 65 Swimmer Thorpe
 - 66 Farm female
 - 67 Disfigure
 - 68 Calculus, e.g.
 - 69 Made in the manner of
 - 70 American Red Cross founder
 - 73 Therefore
 - 74 Fix, as a pet
 - 75 Frigid
 - 76 House pests
 - 78 Spirited
 - 79 Flub up
 - 82 Sense by touch
 - 84 Zeus' wife
 - 85 Singer Della
 - 86 Fencing sword
 - 87 She played Miss Ellie Ewing on "Dallas"
 - 90 Gore- (rainwear fabric)
 - 91 Herb in pesto
 - 92 Farm female
 - 93 FedEx competitor
 - 94 1996-2002 "Saturday Night Live" cast member
 - 97 Agra apparel
 - 100 Band's job
 - 103 Guarantee
 - 104 The, to Henri
 - 106 "Velvet Fog" vocalist
 - 109 Actor Falk
 - 110 Comedian with the 1990 HBO special "Cats, Cops and Stuff"
 - 114 Bel — (Italian cheese)
 - 115 Resistance to alternating current
 - 116 Hunter constellation
 - 117 RBIs, e.g.
 - 118 Engulfed by fire
 - 119 It can precede eight first names in this puzzle to form the names of California cities
- DOWN**
- 1 Get a lock on
 - 2 Milan's La —
 - 3 Gold purity unit
 - 4 St. Pat's land
 - 5 Bargain buy
 - 6 Home
 - 7 Advances, as money
 - 8 Vietnamese New Year
 - 9 Several
 - 10 Lay away
 - 11 Deep-voiced singer
 - 12 Siouan tribesperson
 - 13 "— out!"
 - 14 — Lankan
 - 15 Kind of nut
 - 16 Averse
 - 17 Criticized petulantly
 - 18 "No question"
 - 19 Some hardwoods
 - 24 Part of MLB
 - 28 Boxer Oscar de la —
 - 31 Curs' sounds
 - 33 Add while mixing
 - 34 Throat-clearing noise
 - 35 Flock of quail
 - 36 Dancer de Miller
 - 37 Puppies
 - 39 Boatloads
 - 42 Piece of tile art
 - 43 Zoo dweller
 - 44 Eyeball part
 - 45 India's Gandhi
 - 46 Be wobbly
 - 47 Fog or steam
 - 48 Lounge around
 - 52 Fishnet stuff
 - 55 Oven brand
 - 56 "Good" or "bad" dietary intake
 - 58 Bundle of joy
 - 60 Cry upon arriving
 - 61 Leading to something
 - 62 Drank like a dog or cat
 - 63 Go by
 - 64 Gives assent
 - 66 Speed-of-sound ratio
 - 67 Green stuff
 - 71 Paddy crop
 - 72 Like a tinny recording
 - 73 City of ancient Egypt
 - 74 Plants-to-be
 - 77 Tobacco plug
 - 78 Get set for surgery
 - 79 Test versions of smartphone programs, e.g.
 - 80 Vacant political position
 - 81 Oil, in slang
 - 82 High-speed
 - 83 A Great Lake
 - 87 Military post
 - 88 Scans again
 - 89 Artisans' club
 - 91 Rails in ballet
 - 95 Invited one
 - 96 Actress Page
 - 98 "Duck —" (Warner Bros. short)
 - 99 Zellweger of the screen
 - 100 Body part often pulled by an athlete
 - 101 "— buying it"
 - 102 "Hero" actress Davis
 - 105 Emailed junk
 - 107 General — chicken
 - 108 Other, in Oviedo
 - 110 More, in a music score
 - 111 Band blaster
 - 112 News svc.
 - 113 Vocalist Yokoyama

THE WIDEN NEWS



The people who think alike should vote alike.

"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.



October, 1957

Conservation Chairman Addresses Woman's Club

Mrs. Fleetwood L. Guthrie of Dunbar, Junior Chairman of Conservation and Natural Resources of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, was the guest speaker at the October 3rd meeting of the Widen Woman's Club held at the Legion Hall. Mrs. Guthrie gave a very interesting and informative talk using the theme "He Knows Our Needs."

The business session was presided over by Miss Hazel Baughman, president.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served by the members from Dille: Mesdames Leo Lykins, Paul Donohue, Cecil Butcher, D. F. McMillion and Newman Butcher.

Other members present were Mesdames Walker Henderson, Joe LaCorte, Richard Manning, D. L. McMillion, E. D. Moyers, Robert Osborne, Scott Williams, Charles Wilson, Marvin Shaffer, E. B. Gray, Eugene Frame, Robert Manning, Farrell Henderson, R. L. Dagle, H. L. Beattie, Ronald Brown, Melvin Conner and the Misses Tressie Bailes, Hazel Baughman, Emma Jo Sigman and Leola Mick.

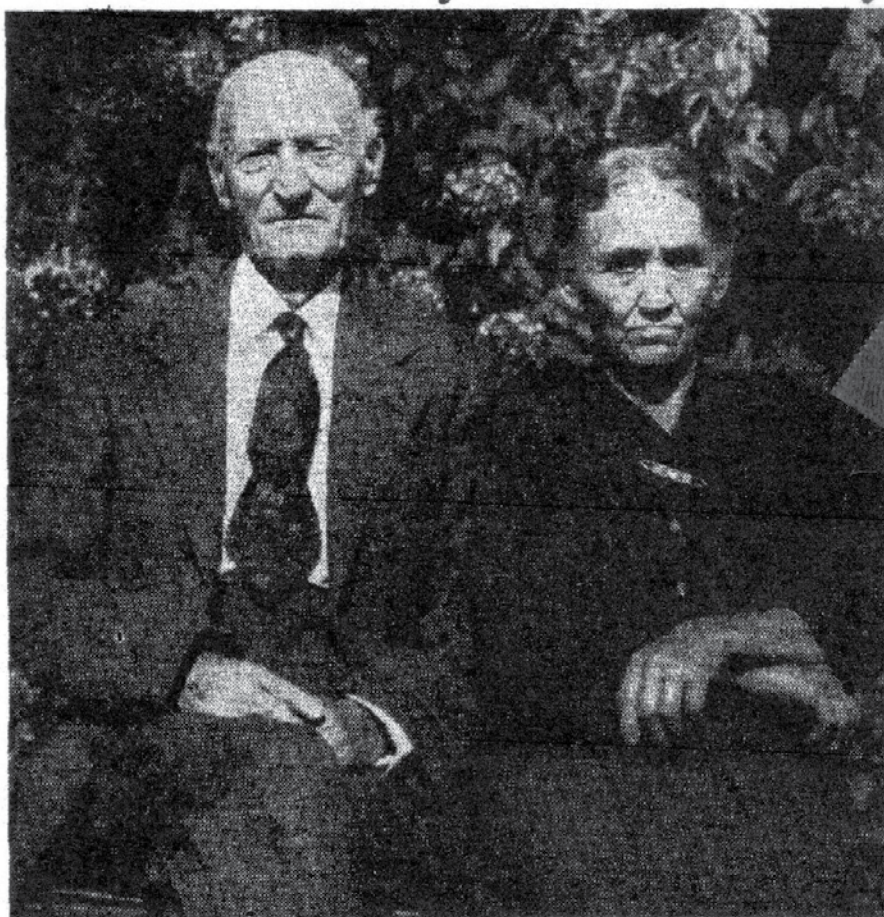
Mrs. Olive H. Bowyer Is Honored By O.E.S.

Mrs. Olive H. Bowyer, wife of the late Elmer O. Bowyer, assistant treasurer of the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company, has been installed as Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Jurisdiction of West Virginia, Order of the Eastern Star. Special ceremonies participated in by Francis Chapter No. 28 at the Municipal Auditorium in Charleston October 5th elevated this former Dundon resident to the highest office in the Order.

Worthy Grand Matron Bowyer has already begun the series of official visitations which will take her to every chapter in the state. She is joined on these visitations as often as possible by the Worthy Grand Patron, Mr. W. C. Mullins of Beckley.

Elk River Coal and Lumber Company's Dundon office comptroller, Earl Young's wife, Lenna, was honored also at the installation service by being appointed as Grand Installing Warder for the ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ross Bailes Celebrate Sixty-Sixth Anniversary



These two octogenarians who have reached the advanced ages of 84 and 85 years, celebrated their sixty-sixth wedding anniversary on Tuesday, October 1st at their farm home near Enoch.

Mr. Bailes is still actively engaged in doing the chores and necessary work about the house, and Mrs. Bailes does most of her own housework. Both are active also in the newly completed Antioch Baptist Church, in which Mr. Bailes is a Deacon and the Clerk of the Church. His father, Mr. John N. Bailes is a former Baptist Church minister and was a Veteran of the Civil War.

Mrs. Bailes is the former Martha Jane Hammond of Camden-

On-Gauley. The Bailes had a large family, two of whom are deceased, and six living children include; Dessie at home; Miss Tressie, English teacher in Widen High School; Mrs. Clarence Paxton (Strossie) of Rainelle; Alva O. Bailes, postmaster at Clay; Onas A. Bailes of Widen; and Mrs. Nina Scott of Arlington, Virginia.

The grandchildren and great-grandchildren are: James Rodney Bailes, freshman at Marshall College; Harold and Ross Bailes, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Bailes. Mrs. C. Larry Fox and their daughter Sharon. Mrs. James Sanford (Paula) of Arlington, Virginia. Mrs. Darrell Ellis (Joanne) of Parkersburg and their daughter

Carol Ann and son Steve Darrell.

As it was impossible for the entire family to be present for the actual anniversary date, it being on a week-day, the following Sunday the whole clan assembled for a day of visiting and celebration and double-anniversary good time.

BEST WRITERS—SEPTEMBER

First Grade — Mrs. Butcher — Mary Ann Harris, Frances Samples.

Second Grade — Mrs. Elliott — Jimmy Dorsey.

Second Grade — Miss Graham — Janet Tinney, Dawn Arbogast.

Third Grade — Miss Ashley — Connie Henderson, Roger Miles.

Fourth Grade — Mrs. Bragg — Linda Baughman, Daniel Wood.

Fifth Grade — Mr. Jackson — Ronald Dodrill, Tony Bego, Janet Eagle.

Sixth Grade — Mrs. Reynolds — Sandra Williams.

WIDEN SCHOOL BAND IN WALNUT FESTIVAL PARADE

The Widen School Band was one of over forty units comprising the very beautiful and colorful parade of the Roane County Black Walnut Festival, October 12, 1957. The parents and friends of the band members who went along to transport the members to the band were quite proud of the performance they gave. From all reports, Widen's band was one of the best dressed and neatest groups in the parade.

Widen School Band has made a great deal of progress since in was organized two years ago and with a little help from those who are interested in Widen having a good band, it could have one of the best small school bands in the state.

Mr. Gerald Simmons, band director, was very pleased that the band made such a good showing at the Festival.

Anyone interested in joining the Widen Band Boosters' Club and working with this group, please contact Mrs. Pauline LaCorte, President, or Mrs. Elizabeth Manning, Membership Chairman.

FOR SEPTEMBER

Judy Gibson and James (Smokey) Conner both of the seventh grade were selected as the best actress and actor for the month of September.

Both of these stars were members of the cast for the seventh grade minstrel show presented in the assembly, September 25th.

Judy will be remembered for her delightful monologues and James for his humor and poise as an end man.

Thanks Again!

Hey kids! Have you noticed the progress that the carpenters are making on our new gym? Isn't it just wonderful that we will soon have a place to play our home games instead of having to drive around the ridge to Clay to do so. Often the roads are slick with snow and ice and traveling is hazardous. I'll bet we'll have fun crowding into our new gym and having other people coming to our town for basketball games so that we can play host again. By the way, we have this new gym because the Elk River Coal & Lumber Company and the people of this town worked hard for it, so don't you think it's only fair for us to do our part in helping to keep it looking new and nice?

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PUBLIC NOTICE

• **Veterans Appreciation Dinner:** Boy Scout Troop 123 will host their annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner at Clay County High School on Sunday, Nov. 12, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to come, enjoy the food and fellowship, and say thanks to those who have served in our military. Veterans eat for free. Others are asked to make a donation to help cover the cost of the dinner. Please help spread the word to veterans that you know, and come out to show them your appreciation.

• **The Birch River PSD will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 14, at 9:00 a.m., at the PSD office in Birch River.**

• **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.

• **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!

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

Lady Panthers season ends at Regionals

By Allen Hamrick

The season ended this past week for the Lady Panther volleyball team and what a glorious ending it was. The Lady Panthers were in action at the sectional tournament where it would be determined who would move on to the regional level. In the first round, the Ladies beat Lewis County at home in three straight games in a best of five matchup. It was a nail biter as Lewis County was a tough nut to crack in the first two games coming out blow for blow with the Lady Panthers. However, they also had to deal cards with one of the best hitters anywhere in the form of Rylee Burkhamer. If her kill shots were clocked with a speed gun, her arm would have to be considered a dangerous weapon. In the final game of the set, Lewis County was ready for the volleyball nursing home and was sent home until next season. All the team did a great job of digging and killing all the while feeding the frenzy of the pit and fans. Match 1 - Clay 25, Lewis 20; Match 2 - Clay 26, Lewis 24; Match

3 - Clay 25, Lewis 11.

After winning that match, they had to go up against the Lady Raiders of Roane County for the Sectional title. It would prove to be one of the best matches I have seen on the floor. The Lady Raiders were good and ready to deal snake eyes to the Lady Panthers, but they underestimated the Lady Panthers just a little. The Lady Raiders of Roane County were bent on getting the plaque into their own trophy case, but they would have to dance the Lady Panther's two set boom first. However, they never got the chance to lead it. Beating a team with the talent that Roane has would be like cutting firewood with a 2x4. However, the Lady Panthers are equal with the best of teams when it comes to guns and grit. It was guns against guns, diggers against diggers and setters against setters. It was volleyball heaven for the fans as it was either feast or famine for the two teams from raising arms in joy to pulling ones hair out.

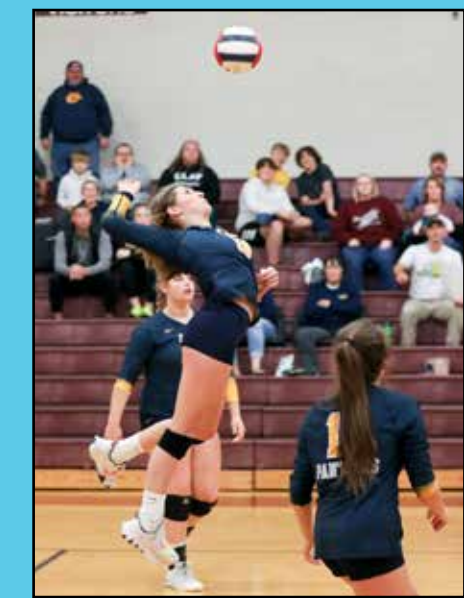
In the first game, the Lady Panthers took the wind out

of the sails of the Lady Raiders while shaking the floor like an earthquake and beating them easily 25-11. In the second match, the Lady Raiders come out serving up aces, and the Lady Panthers found them difficult to beat with a full house. Lady Panthers lost the next match 20-25. Then the matches became a place where the faint of heart couldn't exist. The games were intense, to say the least, and the sound was deafening. In the end, the Lady Panthers took down the mighty Ladies of Roane in the last two spectacular games in spectacular style, 25-20 and 25-22. This allowed the Lady Panthers a berth in the four team Regional playoffs at Phillip Barbour on Saturday. A win here would send them to the big dance at the state finals. However, it was not to be this year as the Lady Panthers went down in defeat. This is not a sad tale at the end of a spirited season for the Lady Panthers; they finished 18-13 and 3 on the season and are the 2023 Sectional Champions.

Congratulations to the Lady Panthers!



The after win celebration



Rylee Burkhamer knocking down the kill.



Lilly Goldizen getting the stuff.



Ilyauna Evans with the kill shot.



Gracey Champ with the side pick.

Season ends for the Panther football team

By Allen Hamrick

This season started off with the Panthers planning once again to make it to the playoffs, which is always the hope. The Panthers were coming off a big win last week against Summers County and were set to bring that momentum into the final game of the season against Braxton County. It was a great game and an offensive and defensive feeding frenzy for the Panthers as they held class on how to play football. The defense dominated the field holding the Eagles to just six Christmas

present points. Meanwhile, the offense simply pounded its way through the Eagle line and scored a whopping 49 points, defeating the Eagles by the score of 49-6.

The Eagles came into the game with the idea of simply running the ball down the Panthers' throat and getting their air show off the tarmac. As in all great plans, it just didn't happen; it may have looked good on paper but it was pounded down in Panther dirt. The boys did a whale of a job running the ball, but when you have a chance to use the air game, you use it. Once again the arm and sights of Noah Collins mastered the field of

play and found receivers down field.

BJ Williams was all over the field running and catching the ball, and Ayden Brown got to stretch his legs for some huge runs from the line. The offense and defensive lines of the Panthers did an enormous job opening and closing the gaps in their respective lines. The Panthers finished 8-2 on the season and just missed the playoffs. Congratulations to the Panther football team on finishing out the season with a win, and more than that, you earned respect and set the standard for the 2024 Panther football team.



BJ Williams catching the deep pass.



Noah Collins loading up.



Ayden Brown cutting through Eagle defense.