

Clay County

Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



0 51497 13936 0

Volume 135 No. 11

Periodical Postage Paid at Clay, West Virginia 25043-0180

Thursday, December 19, 2024

\$1.<sup>00</sup>

## County Commission discusses OpenGov and towing rotations



The Clay County Commission from left to right are David Schoolcraft, Joyce Johnson, and Connie Kinder.



Jacob Lindroth and Skylar Watring of the WV State Auditor’s Office.

By Gary Lee Stuber

The regular meeting of the Clay County Commission was held on Dec. 9 at 10 a.m., and was relatively short and sweet. The commission took care of routine business first, approved minutes from the previous meeting, approved bills and a purchase order, approved budget revisions and waivers of final settlement, probated wills and last testaments, and fixed erroneous assessments before moving to other business.

The Commission heard a presentation from Skylar Watring and Jacob Lindroth of the West Virginia State Auditor’s office regarding OpenGov, a communications and reporting solution for every municipality in the state. The program is an extension of the state’s WVCheckbook.gov site launched by the State Auditor’s office to allow taxpayer transparency to see how their money was being spent. They now have this implemented in 50 of West Virginia’s counties and were inviting Clay County to participate.

Watring said, “This program will give every West Virginia municipality access to modern administrative software, which will greatly enhance their ability to operate effectively, make decisions, attract and retain a new generation of government workers, and dramatically enhance their ability to effectively communicate key data with citizens, while more easily achieving their communication objectives.” This is offered free from the State Auditor and they offered to help establish the program, train people in its implementation, and work out all the issues. The Commission agreed to look over the proposal and get back to them.

There was only one disagreement between Commissioners. It involved the new updated regulations of coun-

ty towing rotation listing. Both local towing companies were present for the vote. Fran King and Tracy Snyder were in the audience. Fran objected to an out-of-county towing firm being called recently when she stated she should have gotten the call, all parties agreed that was wrong and would not happen in the future, but that was not what the fireworks were about. Commissioner Connie Kinder read a state statute that said all commissioners would be notified and be able to craft new regulations and cited that she was never notified when changes were to be made. When asked about what the changes were between the old regulations and the new ones, Commissioner David Schoolcraft answered, “They are radically different. The old regulation language was so out of date that they needed completely rewritten.”

Connie Kinder countered with, “I am just seeing this eight page document now, without your meeting the state requirement as I just read, and you want me to approve this today? I haven’t even had the chance to read them.” She added, “I may only be a commissioner for the rest of the month, but I won’t be treated like I am not part of this commission today.”

Both Schoolcraft and Commissioner Johnson voted yes on the measure and it passed. There were no objections from the audience on the floor. Tow business owners Fran King and Tracy Snyder began a fruitful conversation between them that moved eventually to the hall. It appears they are working out any misunderstandings between them and look to more adequately cover the county well in the future. The next Clay County Commission meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 23, at 5 p.m.



## Clay County Launches VolunteerClay: A New Hub for Community Service and Impact

Clay County, WV CERT is proud to announce the launch of VolunteerClay, an innovative platform designed to connect residents with meaningful volunteer opportunities and help organizations across the county streamline their volunteer efforts. This project is made possible through grant funding from the Clay County Health Department and the Clay County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team).

VolunteerClay serves as a centralized hub where local organizations can share upcoming volunteer events, record service hours, and measure the collective impact of community contributions. It fosters collaboration, celebrates service achievements, and empowers residents to make a difference in their community.

Current organizations already on the platform include:

- Clay County, WV CERT
- Clay County High School (CCHS)
- Clay County Health Department (CCHD)
- Clay Family Support Center
- Clay County Commission
- Clay County Soccer League

VolunteerClay is actively seeking more organizations to join the platform. Non-profits, civic groups, and other community-focused entities are encouraged to reach out to be added. The platform allows anyone to post events, making it easier than ever to mobilize volunteers and promote community engagement.

Whether you’re a resident looking to give back, an organization in need of volunteers, or a leader eager to showcase community achievements, VolunteerClay is your go-to resource for making a difference in Clay County.

To learn more or to join the platform, please visit [www.volunteerclay.org](http://www.volunteerclay.org). Together, let’s make a lasting impact in Clay County!

## WV school board approves more school closures, counties struggling to fund public education

*The school board expects to vote on closing around two dozen schools this year due to the state’s rapidly declining student population. “Every time we lose students we lose dollars,” a state school board member said.*

By: Amelia Ferrell Knisely for West Virginia Watch, [www.westvirginiawatch.com](http://www.westvirginiawatch.com)

The state school board on Wednesday approved another round of school closures in West Virginia after county super-

intendents repeated a similar problem: student enrollment is rapidly declining and causing financial distress.

Seven schools throughout Clay, Preston, Wetzel and Wood County will close in the next few years. Impacted stu-

SCHOOL BOARD cont. on page 3

## Mustang basketball dynasty is on the move



Vanessa Cleavenger works the hoop. Allen Hamrick photo.

See story on Page 10

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

BRAXTON CTY.



John Shane Jenkins  
Booked 12/12/24  
Shoplifting third offense



Parris Diall King Jr.  
Booked 12/13/24  
Malicious assault



Brandon Doyle McCourt  
Booked 12/14/24  
Grand larceny, burglary  
(nighttime), conspiracy to  
commit a felony



Rafael Eugenio Soto  
Booked 12/12/24  
Failure to register as a sex  
offender



Kevin Allen Wingett  
Booked 12/14/24  
Obstruction



Thaddeus Cain Bailes  
Booked 12/14/24  
Capias

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Loyal Jay Clark Jr.  
Booked 12/10/24  
Bond violation



David Alan Cunningham Jr.  
Booked 12/10/24  
Probation violation



Justice Shane Davis  
Booked 12/14/24  
Domestic battery, petit  
larceny



Daniel Dwayne Quinn  
Booked 12/13/24  
Probation violation



Zachariah David Kelley  
Booked 12/12/24  
Failure to register as a sex  
offender



Tiffanie Danielle Stricker  
Booked 12/12/24  
Battery, assault, malicious  
assault, burglary

CLAY COUNTY

Three Judges Appointed to Mass Litigation Panel

Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia Chief Justice Tim Armstead announced the appointment of three circuit judges to the West Virginia Mass Litigation Panel.

Chief Justice Armstead, with approval of the full Supreme Court, has appointed Seventeenth Judicial Circuit (Monongalia County) Judge Perri Jo DeChristopher and Sixth Judicial Circuit (Cabell County) Judge-Elect Chad Lovejoy. The Chief Justice also reappointed retiring Fourteenth Judicial Circuit (Braxton, Clay, Gilmer and Webster Counties) Judge Jack Alsop, who will become a Senior Status Judge on Jan. 1, 2025.

Judge DeChristopher fills a vacancy left by the retirement of Ninth Judicial Circuit (Mercer County) Judge Derek Swope at the end of 2023. Judge Lovejoy replaces Twenty-First Judicial Circuit (Grant, Mineral and Tucker Counties) Judge Robert E. Ryan, whose term as a circuit judge ends on Dec. 31.

There is still one vacancy on the seven-member panel that will be filled in due time.

“I am excited about the appointment of the new

judges that Chief Justice Armstead and the Court have made to the Mass Litigation Panel,” said Mass Litigation Panel Chief Judge Gregory L. Howard, Jr. “The depth and diversity of these judges will enhance the panel’s ability to face any challenge in the coming year.”

The Mass Litigation Panel was created in 1996 to develop and implement case management and trial methods for mass litigation and is governed by West Virginia Trial Court Rule 26.

The panel consists of seven active or senior status circuit court judges appointed by the Chief Justice with the approval of the Supreme Court. Each appointment is for a term of three years and appointees can serve successive terms.

The other members of the panel are Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County) Judge Stephanie Abraham and Fourth Judicial Circuit (Wirt and Wood Counties) Judge Jason A. Wharton.

Judge DeChristopher was appointed to the circuit court bench by Gov. Jim Justice and took office Jan. 27, 2023. She was elected in May 2024. She is a graduate of West Virginia University and West

Virginia University College of Law. She is a former assistant prosecutor in Harrison and Monongalia Counties. She was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Monongalia County in 2016 and re-elected in 2020.

Judge-Elect Lovejoy was elected in May 2024 and will take office on Jan. 1, 2025. He is a graduate of West Virginia University and West Virginia University College of Law. He practiced law in Huntington (1997-2023), taught courses in the Legal Assisting Program at Marshall University Community and Technical College and has lectured on the use of technology in both the law office and courtroom. He served three terms in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

Judge Alsop is a graduate of West Virginia University and West Virginia University College of Law. He was a sole practitioner in Webster Springs (1977-1996) and served as the elected Webster County Prosecuting Attorney (1985-1989). He was chairman of the West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facilities Authority (1989-1996). He was appointed to the bench in 1996, elected in 1998 and re-elected three times.

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

OBITUARIES



Avis Elizabeth Starcher  
Moore

Avis Elizabeth Starcher Moore, 94, passed away peacefully at the home of her daughter on December 14, 2024. She was surrounded by family and friends. Avis was preceded in death by parents, Andy and Ethel Boggs Starcher, brother John Edgar Starcher, nephews, Jerry and Jack Starcher, and husband of 65 years, Carl Donnelly Moore. She leaves behind daughter, Vicki Moore Cunningham (Ira Morris), grandchildren,

Ryan Cunningham, Barry Cunningham (JT Tackett), David Morris (Miranda), Matthew Morris (Katrin), Joel Morris, and Rachel Regan, great grandchildren, Chance Cunningham Tackett and Nicole, Erin and Collin Regan, grandniece, Courtney Starcher, grandnephew, Matthew Starcher, and dearest friend, Becky Morris.

She entered the West Virginia Institute of Technology at 16 and finished her bachelor’s degree at Glenville State University. She first worked as a deputy in the Clay County Clerk’s office from 1953 to 1963 and then was elected Clay County Clerk where she served for 31 years.

Avis was a dedicated and passionate public servant committed to serving the welfare

of all Clay Countians settling countless estates, obtaining grants for the new courthouse and health department, overseeing primary and general elections, and conducting schools of election to train citizens to participate in the electoral process. Her legal understanding for recording deeds and property was renowned, helping to train many young lawyers about real estate law. She made hospitality a hallmark of the County Clerks’ office hosting legendary holiday dinners and providing coffee, cookies, and pie to all who came to record a deed or research property.

Avis treated everyone she met with dignity, kindness, and compassion and was a trusted friend of Governors, Senators, Representa-

tives, and other elected officials. She and her husband provided 82 years of public service to the people of Clay County. In 1994, Avis was presented with the Distinguished West Virginian Award by Governor Gaston Caperton.

Dedicated to her community and the people of Clay, her generosity and civic mindedness was well known. She was a woman of faith and a devoted daughter, mother, wife, grandmother, great-grandmother, mentor, and friend.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, December 19 at 2:00 pm. Friends may visit with the family from noon until 2 pm at the Wilson Funeral Home in Clay, West Virginia.

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



Sheila June King

Sheila June King passed away on December 12, 2024, in Charleston, WV.

Born: June 20, 1970, passed away peacefully on December 12, 2024, 6:30am, at CAMC Memorial Hospital, at the age of Fifty Four years, five months and twenty three days. She was the daughter of the late Kester Paul King and Emily June King, and was also preceded in death by her brother, Kester Paul King Jr. She was a graduate of Surrattsville High School, she was

a homemaker, a loving mother and grandmother, and she loved and cared for the people around her, she is survived by her son, Justin Alan Delwarte, three grandchildren; Caden Delwarte, Landon Delwarte, and Jaedon Delwarte, and Fiance; Ernie (Pat) Dawson, and dear friends; Ron and Chrissy Foreman. Loved by many and will be missed dearly.

Funeral service was

held at 7:00 P.M., Monday, December 16, 2024, at Wilson-Smith Funeral Home, Clay, WV with Pastor Michael Spurlock. The visitation was one hour prior to the service from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com)

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



# 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](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

the Battle of Point Pleasant.



**Dec. 19, 1794:** A 40-acre tract of George Clendenin's land was selected as the site of Charleston, later renamed Charleston. Clendenin, born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1746, was one of the first settlers in the Kanawha Valley. Through Clendenin's influence the Virginia Assembly authorized the formation of Kanawha County from parts of Greenbrier and Montgomery counties in 1789.

**Dec. 19, 1832:** The town of Ripley received its charter. It was probably named for Harry Ripley, a popular circuit-riding Methodist minister who drowned in Mill

Creek in 1830.

**Dec. 20, 1943:** During World War II, German fighter pilot Franz Stigler protected the heavily damaged B-17 bomber flown by Charlie Brown, originally from Weston, as it made its way from enemy territory back to England. The two war veterans met in 1990 and remained friends until their deaths.

**Dec. 20, 2002:** Grote Reber died. In 1937, Reber built the world's first parabolic radio telescope in his backyard. The Reber Telescope was moved to the National Radio Observatory at Green Bank in the 1960s and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

**Dec. 21, 1798:** Wood County was established by the Virginia General Assembly. It was named for James Wood, governor of Virginia from 1796 to 1800.

**Dec. 21, 1967:** West Virginia Governor-Elect Patrick Morrissey was born in Brooklyn and then grew up in Edison, New Jersey. Beginning in 2012, he was elected to

three consecutive terms as West Virginia attorney general before winning the gubernatorial general election in 2024.



**Dec. 22, 1928:** Radio station WMMN of Fairmont began operations as one of West Virginia's pioneer stations. For

nearly two decades beginning in 1935, WMMN was an important outlet for country and western music performers. The highlight of this era was the *Sagebrush Roundup*, a Saturday-night live-audience show that began in December 1938 and was broadcast weekly for nearly 10 years.

**Dec. 22, 1953:** An



empty gasoline barge tied to the Marietta Manufacturing dry dock in Point Pleasant exploded, killing six men. During World War II, Marietta Manufacturing had received the prestigious Army-Navy "E" Award for wartime production.

**Dec. 23, 1987:** Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme escaped from the Federal Prison Camp in Alderson. Fromme, who was

serving a life sentence for trying to kill President Gerald Ford, was captured two days later near the prison.

**Dec. 24, 1852:** The last spike was driven on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad between Baltimore and the Ohio River. The event occurred at Rosbys Rock near Moundsville. To mark the spot where the final spike was driven the following words were carved upon the rock: *Rosbbys [sic] Rock Track Closed Christmas Eve 1852.*



**Dec. 24, 1942:** The Committee on Fair Employment Practices ordered that Jehovah's Witnesses be reinstated to their jobs at Pittsburgh Plate Glass in Clarksburg. The workers had been fired for refusing to participate in union-sponsored flag-salute ceremonies at the plant.

**HOCUS-FOCUS**

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Boy's legs are longer. 2. Tree is moved. 3. Stocking is shorter. 4. Woman's leg is moved. 5. Belt is shorter. 6. Robe collar is different.

**Super Crossword**

**CLEAR COMMUNICATION**

**ACROSS**  
1 NATO has a special one for spelling out words  
9 Architectural wings  
13 Provo people  
20 In a lying, faceup position  
21 Sticky stuff  
22 Kind of energy  
23 Moniker for novelist Ernest  
25 Dig up  
26 Apt. overseer  
27 Yoko of music and art  
28 Singer Waters  
30 Puente of mambo  
31 Road coater  
34 Weed B- —  
36 Marriott, e.g.  
39 Doesn't lack  
42 Often-dried fruit  
44 Diarist Anaïs  
46 "Caveman diet"  
47 Messy roommate on "The Odd Couple"  
51 Dune locale  
56 Chicago hub  
57 Dot on some transit maps  
59 Gave a coif  
60 Suffer ruin  
62 Admonish  
65 "Hello" singer  
66 Cast off skin  
68 1992 Guns N' Roses hit  
70 Extermination target  
73 Civil rights icon Parks  
76 Hoagies  
77 Extermination targets  
78 Method of measuring ocean depth  
83 Boy actor in 1937's "Elephant Boy"  
85 Raccoon kin  
86 Alluring attributes  
89 "No doubt!"  
93 Trig topics  
95 Dependent  
97 —ground missile  
98 Barely beats  
101 Doing certain ballroom moves  
103 Spanish bar appetizers  
105 Born, to Luc  
106 Plant pouch  
107 — Zedong  
108 Very thin material for book pages  
113 Steelers' gp.  
115 Mu — pork  
117 Normandy city  
118 Doctrine  
120 Internet ID  
122 Symbol of innocence  
126 One revising something  
129 Portrayer of Jax Teller on "Sons of Anarchy"  
133 Act as arbiter  
134 Symbol of innocence  
135 Brazil's largest city  
136 Soul  
137 Amply skilled  
138 Apt word spelled out by the first letters of eight answers in this puzzle  
5 Le Duc — (1992-97 president of Vietnam)  
6 Nectar lover  
7 Sailors' saint  
8 Knotting up  
9 Ovum  
10 Actor Rob  
11 Averse (to)  
12 Whale's half-rise out of the water  
13 Island guitar  
14 "Sn" element  
15 Suffix with prop-  
16 Shrubland  
17 Sunny lobbies  
18 Mafia's Frank  
19 "Danke —"  
24 Around 12 p.m.  
29 Greek H's  
32 In a new way  
33 Backboard attachment  
35 Sentra maker  
37 Grasslands  
38 Actor sharing top billing  
39 Backboard attachment  
40 Tennis' Arthur  
41 Injury vestige  
43 Yak it up  
45 "That's false!"  
48 Pupil of Plato  
49 French noble  
50 Rule for homework time, perhaps  
52 Operated by water under pressure  
53 Brand of fat substitute  
54 Ignited anew  
55 Blissful sites  
58 Bakery buys  
61 Hoagie  
63 Coll. in Dallas  
64 Wanes  
67 Football's Flutie  
69 Hollywood's Morales  
70 Praline bit  
71 Cut-rate, in adspeak  
72 Thick carpets  
74 Show filmed at 30 Rock  
75 Hebrew month  
79 Daytime nap  
80 "How — Your Mother"  
81 Pitcher Ryan  
82 African nation whose capital is Conakry  
84 Boil briefly  
87 Very angry  
88 — -Caps  
90 Hat edge  
91 Italian peak  
92 African nation whose capital is Lomé  
94 Lava or Dial  
96 NFL scores  
99 Stymied  
100 Sticky stuff  
102 Some small batteries  
104 Japanese green tea  
108 "Veni," translated  
109 Monikers  
110 Skillful feats  
111 Navel type  
112 Fixed-up building  
114 Brittle  
116 Arm bones  
119 Like giraffes  
121 Emmy winner Remini  
123 "Sometimes you feel like —"  
124 African nation whose capital is Bamako  
125 Coll. hotshot  
127 Football's Marino  
128 Lister's abbr.  
130 Caviar source  
131 "Yoo- —!"  
132 1995-2006 TV channel

**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

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!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



# THE WIDEN NEWS



The people who think alike  
should vote alike.

**"DUNDON"**  
**RED ASH COAL**

Where all think alike, no one  
thinks very much.

March 1958

## H. M. Brawley To Deliver Widen High School Commencement Address

Harry M. Brawley, Director of public affairs for W.C.H.S. Radio and Television, and associate Professor of Political Science and Geography at Morris Harvey College will deliver the graduation address to the Widen High School seniors and guests on May 15th in the Widen Auditorium.

Mr. Brawley is a native of West Virginia. He was graduated from Charleston High School in 1927. He attended Marshall College. He Received an A. B. and an M. A. degree in political science from West Virginia University. He has done further graduate work at WVU and Duke Universities. He is a former teacher and principal in the Kanawha County Schools.

Mr. Brawley pioneered education by radio and T.V. in West Virginia. He is the producer of Radio Classroom, Television Classroom, Junior Town Meeting, Press Conference and special discussions and forum.

He is a member of State Library Commission and of the State Committee on Revaluation of General Property. He is a former District



governor of the Lions, District 29 W. He is an Elder in the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Brawley is a familiar figure to the students of Widen High School. He has conducted several Junior Town Meeting broadcasts from here.

He has chosen for his subject "Your Past Vs. Your Future."

### DOG REGISTRATION

Mr. W. B. Boggs, Assessor of Clay County has expressed his appreciation for the splendid cooperation of the people of Widen in the registering of their dogs.

Seventy nine dogs were registered by sixty seven persons. Of this number of dogs sixty were males, eighteen females and one spayed female. These dogs ranged in age from 6 months to eleven years, the average age being about two to three years.

### SPORT SHORTS

The senior boys went all the way to win the varsity class tournament. In their third game the seniors defeated the eleventh grade for the second time to close up the senior high half of the tournament. Carl Ellis led the way in the scoring line for the seniors with a total of 32 points and Russell Butcher and Paul DeMoss followed with 20 and 6, respectively.

The eighth grade won two exciting overtime games over the ninth grade to take the Junior High Championship.

Both teams will be proud to see their trophy with the name of their class engraved on it.

### IT'S RING TIME AGAIN

Oh! I like this one! Oh, not me, I like that one! Look at the one with the pearl set in it! I believe I like the one with the black set in it the best. Wow! look how big this one is! Looks more like a bracelet than a ring!

These and similar remarks were heard coming from the library on April 1, when the Junior Class picked their rings. They also ordered their invitations and calling cards. Mr. P. H. Hollandsworth, of the Merrill Company of Clarksburg, W. Va., was there to help them with sizes and to give some advice on what styles were popular. After a long and exciting hour, the Juniors finally decided on the swept wing style. Already, next year's seniors are all anticipating the arrival in the fall of these highly coveted symbols of seniorhood—the class ring.

### "CRAZY VIOLET" VISITS WIDEN SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

"Footlighters," Dramatic Club, presented a one act farce comedy entitled "A Crazy Violet," to the high school assembly on April 2. The story was about a weekend party and an unexpected guest with a mysterious bag. Messages tied round rocks are thrown through the window, warning the girls of a time bomb set to explode in a few minutes. Then it is discovered that there are two bags alike—which has the bomb? Which as Patsy's clothes?

In a hilarious moment of revelation—Carlotta's Aunt shows up bearing a fur coat as a birthday gift.

Characters were:

Mrs. Beulah Martin, June Lloyd Beth, Mary Hamrick Ruth, Joan Conner Patsy, Judy Shaffer Dot, Dawne Backus Carlotta, Ruby Lee Holcomb Myrtle, Lois Frame Violet Rae, Rosa Gibson

### SEVERAL WIDEN PATROLMEN TO VISIT WASHINGTON

Several members of the Widen School Safety Patrol are making plans to travel to Washington, D. C., on May 8th to join with thousands of other patrol members from all over the U. S. in their annual tour of our nation's capitol. The young people from Widen will be accompanied by Mrs. Gertrude Reynolds, sixth grade teacher, and sponsor of the patrol group.

Members of the Widen Safety Patrol are: Franklin Davis, Captain; T. G. Griffith, Lieutenant; Walter George, Lieutenant; Sandra Williams, Lieutenant; Patrolmen composed of members from the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades are: Sharon Baughman, Jean Dodrill, Brenda King, Janice Triplett, Janet Eagle, Shirley McClain, Diane Adkins, Ronald Conner, Beth Butcher, Joyce Dorsey, Keith Sigman, Carol Hamrick, Keith Jones, Lois Keen, Charles Mullins, Richard Gibson, Robert Lee Edwards, Corliss Miles, Albert Adkins, Luther Young, and Cleveland Brooks.

### This Is Your Life

This is your life Miss.....? .....? You were born July 14, 1940. You started school when you were 6 years old and have gone all of your years at Widen High School. You have a very keen sense of humor and this has won you many friends in school and out. You hold offices in your homeroom and in your club. Some of your favorites are: potato salad, "Twilight Time", swimming, red, Lincoln, Fats Domino. You have brunette hair, dark brown eyes and stand 5 feet 6 inches tall. Your ambition is to become a Secretary. Who are you?

#### THIS IS YOUR LIFE

This is your life, Mr. ....? .....? You were born at Charleston W. Va., November 9, 1940. You have a very likeable personality and a lop-sided-grin that gives you the appearance of a bashful boy. Some of your favorites are: chicken, girls, white chevrolet, "Lonesome Me", Fats Domino, you have black hair and dark brown eyes and stand 6 feet 1 inch tall. Usually you can be seen with a certain junior girl whom you seem to like. Your ambition is to get a job. Who are you?

Ruby Holcomb was the mystery girl last month and Willie Laxton was the mystery boy.

### SCHOOL OBSERVES

#### ORIENTATION DAY

For several years, eighth grade students from Dille have come to Widen to visit and learn something about our school in which they plan to enroll during their next school term. This year they were guests of the present eighth grade.

They heard a talk by the principal of Widen High School about classes, rules and procedures, extra curricular activities, attendance, testing, etc. On the morning of April 16, when they arrived at our school, they not only visited classes but attended a special assembly put on by the senior class and were luncheon guests of the school. They spent the entire day getting an idea of just what the Widen School work is like.

Those who plan to enroll at Widen High School next fall are: Robert Ashley, Milton Persinger, Joyce Butcher, Jean Butcher, Barbara Coen and Larry Casto.

## West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

### HEALTH/MEDICAL

DONT LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-844-592-5113

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-274-3943

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance — NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-405-3412 www.dental50plus.com/press #6258

### INTERNET/TV

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-736-4350

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET WITH EARTHLINK. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 844-230-3640

### MISCELLANEOUS

WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash

offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-249-3126

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-964-4167 today!

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-615-6411

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-295-2840

WE BUY 8,000 CARS A WEEK. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-844-640-0583

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-901-2301 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam

or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company - 888-217-5559 or visit www.Life55plus.info/wv

SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-803-1282

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators — the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty — 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-855-609-1433.

GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-368-9004 today

WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST, you want Omaha Steaks! 100% guaranteed and delivered to your door! Our Butcher's Deluxe Package makes a great gift and comes with 8 FREE Burgers ONLY \$99.99. Call 1-877-460-6356 and mention code 77318CKG or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe9637

**Dr. C. E. Campbell**

OPTOMETRIST

EXAMINE EYES FOR

GLASSES

BANK OF WIDEN BLDG.

Widen, West Virginia

LAST TUESDAY OF

**EACH MONTH**

OFFICE HOURS

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Clay County  
**Free Press**  
Home of the Clay County Delicious Apple

**Read your newspaper online**



**Visit**

**claycountyfreepress.com**

**and receive much more!**

*State & National News*

*14 additional newspapers in WV & VA*

*Over 40 editors, reporters & writers*



Place YOUR statewide ad today  
Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011



# Scholarship program established at West Virginia State University for Elementary Education Majors

With the generous support of the John and Ruth McGee Foundation, West Virginia State University (WVSU) is pleased to announce a new five-year scholarship program for elementary education majors.

The McGee Foundation has pledged a total of \$500,000 for the scholarship program, \$100,000 a year over the next five years.

“The McGee Foundation Scholarship will be life changing for the students who receive it,” said Dr. Kerri Steele, Dean of the College of Professional Studies at WVSU. “Most of our students juggle their studies with the need to work, but as they advance in the program, this becomes more challenging. They face competency exams at key milestones, rigorous experiential learning requirements, and ultimately, full-time residency

placement in their final year. The McGee Foundation Scholarship is designed to provide increased support as students progress in their studies, freeing them from financial concerns so that they can focus fully on preparing to become the qualified, dedicated teachers our West Virginia children depend on.”

The McGee Foundation Scholarships are designed to be awarded to high-need students from West Virginia who are pursuing careers as public school teachers. Scholarships will go to students with demonstrated need after all other federal and state assistance has been awarded.

Scholarship recipients may use funds to cover tuition, praxis exam costs, and other expenses related directly to completing elementary education degrees

and obtaining licensure as teachers. The scholarship selection committee will show a strong preference for applicants who intend to teach in West Virginia after graduation.

Scholarships will be awarded beginning in the fall 2025 semester.

WVSU has a highly-regarded teacher education program that has enjoyed continuous accreditation since 1963. From 2019 to 2023 WVSU graduates accepted 51 public school teaching positions in 14 West Virginia counties.

For more information about the application process and expectations for the scholarship, please contact Dr. Elisha Lewis, chair of the WVSU Education Department, at [Elisha.lewis@wvstateu.edu](mailto:Elisha.lewis@wvstateu.edu) or 304-204-4059.

# Secretary of State Mac Warner Reports 1,222 New WV Business Registrations for November

The WV Secretary of State’s Office registered 1,222 new businesses statewide during the month of November according to Secretary of State Mac Warner.

Wirt County led the state in the percentage of new business growth with a total of four new business registrations, a 1.79% increase. The Secretary of State’s Business Division reported that Wyoming, Clay, Doddridge and Pleasants County also experienced notable growth during the month.

Top five counties in new business growth:

1. Wirt County - 1.79% growth  
2. Wyoming County - 1.44% growth  
3. Clay County - 1.43% growth  
4. Doddridge County - 1.40% growth  
5. Pleasants County - 1.27% growth
- Counties that led the state in total businesses registered in November include Kanawha, Berkeley, Monongalia, Raleigh and Harrison.
- Top five counties in total businesses registered:
1. Kanawha County - 90 new registrations

2. Berkeley County - 83 new registrations  
3. Monongalia County - 80 new registrations  
4. Raleigh County - 52 new registrations  
5. Harrison County - 45 new registrations
- Statewide, West Virginia registered 13,496 new businesses in the previous 12-month period, from December 1, 2023, to November 30, 2024. Wayne County led all 55 counties with an 17.72% growth rate during the one-year timespan. To review county-by-county growth, visit our Business Statistics Database.

SAVE \$160

OMAHA STEAKS® WINE  
Powered by Laithwaites

12 HOLIDAY WINES

ONLY \$79<sup>99</sup>

+ BONUS GIFTS

Go to [GetOSWine.com/MBAGJF47](https://www.getoswine.com/MBAGJF47) or call **1.877.283.6687** and mention code **AGJF002**

Omaha Steaks Wine is operated independently from Omaha Steaks, LLC. Full terms and conditions online. Void where prohibited by law.

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!™

LeafFilter®  
GUTTER PROTECTION

Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters.

Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

20% OFF

+

10% OFF

Your Entire Purchase\* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!¹

Promo: 285

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION!

1-844-295-2840

USA

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

\* See Representative for full warranty details. \*One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. 1. Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 366920923, AZ ROC 344027, CA 1035795, CT HIC 0671520, FL CBC056678, IA C127230, ID RCE-51604, LA 559544, MA 176447, MD MHIC1111225, MI 262300173, 262300318, 262300328, 262300329, 262300330, 262300331, MN IR731804, MT 226192, ND 47304, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 13VH09953900, NM 408693, NV 86990, NY H-19114, H-52229, OR 218294, PA 179643, 069383, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VA 2705169445, WA LEAFNNW82292, WV WV056912.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Looking for someone to plow snow from the lot and shovel snow from the sidewalk for the Clay County Department of Health and Human Resources office in Clay, WV.

If interested, please contact  
Patty Martin at 304-872-0810

NEVER WORRY ABOUT POWER OUTAGES AGAIN.

Proudly manufactured in the USA

Gain peace-of-mind with the most powerful line of home standby generators.

Engineered with NGMax™  
for superior power and performance

When choosing a standby generator, check the specifications closely. Only Briggs & Stratton PowerProtect™ generators feature NGMax™ technology, delivering up to 12% more power on natural gas than the competition. For homes with natural gas, Briggs & Stratton is the ideal choice.

Industry-Leading Comprehensive Warranty for Years of Worry-Free Performance

Standard Warranty of 7 YEARS  
\$849 Value

Call 1-855-609-1433

BRIGGS&STRATTON ENERGY SOLUTIONS

GUARANTEED Life Insurance up to \$20,000.00

Modified Whole Life Insurance from Physicians Life Insurance Company

Cash to help pay funeral or other final expenses

Guaranteed acceptance ages 45 to 85\*

No medical exam, no health questions

Call for FREE Information  
1-888-217-5559  
or go to [life55plus.info/wv](https://life55plus.info/wv)

► You'll also get a FREE Final Wishes Planner!

\*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Benefits reduced first two years. Insurance Policy L770 (ID: L770ID; OK: L770OK; TN: L770TN). 6236

ANDERSON HEIGHTS APARTMENTS

2626 PROCIUS • MAYSEL ROAD • MAYSEL, WV 25133

304-587-2011 • TTY/TDD 771

ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS AVAILABLE  
DESIGNED FOR THOSE AGE 62 OR OLDER  
Handicap / Disabled Regardless Of Age

Electric • Air • Refrigerator • Range  
Water, Sewer & Trash Included  
Handicap Units Available  
On-Site Management / Maintenance  
Laundry Facilities

Income Limits Do Apply Rent Based On Income

Monday – Thursday 8 AM – 4:40 PM

Gateway Management Services, LLC  
Rental Office 304-587-2011  
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

HIGH STREET APARTMENTS

136 HIGH STREET, CLAY, WEST VIRGINIA 25043

304-587-2011

WEST VIRGINIA TTY/TDD 711

RENTAL OFFICE LOCATED AT  
ANDERSON HEIGHTS APARTMENTS  
2626 PROCIUS MAYSEL ROAD, MAYSEL, WV 25133

TWELVE (12) ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS AVAILABLE  
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED AND QUIET.

AMENITIES INCLUDE:  
ALL ELECTRIC  
REFRIGERATOR AND RANGE  
WATER, SEWER & TRASH INCLUDED  
LAUNDRY FACILITIES ON SITE

INCOME LIMITS DO APPLY  
RENT BASED ON INCOME  
PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED BY:  
GATEWAY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 8AM – 4:30PM  
FOR AN APPLICATION OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
CONTACT THE RENTAL OFFICE AT (304)-587-2011

CHLOE VETERINARY CLINIC

Walk ins for vaccinations and minor illnesses in dogs and cats.

CLAY BETWEEN  
SOUTHERN STATES  
AND DOLLAR GENERAL  
9 AM - 2 PM  
December 7th  
December 14th

MINNORA WV AT  
SEARS RUN RD  
AND Rt 16  
11 AM - 4 PM  
December 8th  
December 15th

CHLOE VETERINARY CLINIC  
MOBILE PET CARE

Please check our Facebook page and website for updates.

[www.chloewvvetinaryclinic.com](https://www.chloewvvetinaryclinic.com)

304-761-2879

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF SALE

Please take notice that The Board of Education of the County of Clay ("Board") has determined that the below-described real estate is no longer needed for school purposes and that beginning at 11 o'clock a.m. on the 4th day of January, 2025, at the former H. E. White Elementary School building located at 501 Bomont Road, Bomont, Clay County, West Virginia 25030, the Board will proceed to sell WITHOUT WARRANTY at public auction, subject to all the terms and conditions set forth in this Notice of Sale, and subject to chapter 18, article 5, section 7 of the Code of West Virginia of 1931, as amended, all of its right, title and interest in and to that certain real estate lot containing approximately 4.87 acres ("Property"), situate in Union District, Clay County, West Virginia, more particular described as follows:

BEGINNING at stake on the northeast bank of said Porters Creek at the mouth of a small drain flowing into said Creek from the northeast, in a line of the tract of which the property hereby conveyed is a part, thence with a line thereof down said Porters Creek N. 22 - 06 minutes W., 1,000.5 feet to the two hemlocks, a corner to the Bomont Church property; thence up the hill with a line of said Church property S. 86 - 23 E., 261 feet to a stake near a 14 inch black oak; thence around the hill S. 21 - 47 E., 817.2 feet to a 12 inch white oak standing about 20 feet northwest of a small drain; thence S. 50 - 58 W., 241 feet to the place of beginning, containing 4.87 acres, more or less, according to a survey made on the 15th day of February, 1950, by W. Herbert King, Engineer, and being a part of that certain tract of 85 acres, more or less, conveyed to Carl B. Young and C. M. Young by T. R. Hanson and wife by their deed dated the 29th day of May, 1946, and recorded in Deed Book 52, at page 261, in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Clay County; the said C. M. Young having conveyed his interest therein to the said Carl B. Young by deed dated the 3rd day of July, 1947, recorded in Deed Book 55, at page 547, in said Clerk's office.

Being the same property conveyed to the Board by deed dated February 22, 1950, from Carl B. Young and Lela W. Young of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Clay County, West Virginia in Deed Book 63, page 239. The Property is designated for tax assessment purposes Tax Parcel 91, Tax Map 13, Union District, Clay County, West Virginia.

The Property will be sold and conveyed by quitclaim deed, WITHOUT WARRANTY, "AS IS" and "WITH ALL FAULTS" and subject to any and all validly continuing and existing rights of way, easements, reservations, exceptions, restrictions, covenants, conditions, conveyances, encumbrances, liens, agreements, leases and other matters affecting the Auction Property.

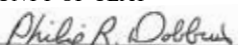
The sale will further be made subject to (a) such facts as might be revealed by an accurate survey and visual inspection of the Property, (b) the purchaser assuming and the quitclaim deed shall provide that the purchaser assumes all responsibility and liability for hazards associated with the Auction Property (whether past, present, future, known or unknown), including but not limited to, environmental, and (c) the purchaser indemnifying the Board for any loss, claims or demands arising out of or related to purchaser's use of the aforesaid right of way and easement area.

Bidding on the Auction Property shall begin at One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00). The Board reserves the right to refuse any and all bids and to adjourn the sale from time to time without any other notice other than oral proclamation at the time and place of the sale or any continuance or adjournment thereof. The sale shall be to the highest responsible bidder, but all bids are conditioned upon (a) the acceptance thereof by the Board at its first regular meeting following the auction, which acceptance by the Board may be withheld for any reason or no reason whatsoever, and (b) the below terms and conditions regarding the sale and its consummation.

The sale shall be made upon the following additional terms: Ten (10%) percent of the sales price shall be paid to the Board by the high bidder in cash at the time of the auction and the balance in cash is due simultaneously with the tender by the Board of the quitclaim deed, and such other terms as may be ordered by The Board.

In advance of the auction date, inquiries concerning the Property may be directed to Philip Dobbins, Superintendent of Clay County Schools, at (304) 587-1179.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
COUNTY OF CLAY

By:   
Philip R. Dobbins, Superintendent

## LEGAL

In accordance with Chapter 11, Article 3, Section 2a of the Code of West Virginia, I am notifying all real property and personal property owners of Clay County that for Tax Year 2025, all real property and personal property will be assessed at 60% of its current market value. This may or may not result in a general increase in the assessed value of your property.

Should you have any questions concerning the assessment of your real or personal property, you may contact this office at 587-4258, or you may come in the office and we will review your appraisal with you.

If, after a review with this office, you disagree with the appraisal of your property you may appeal the valuation to the Clay County Commission sitting as a Board of Review and Equalization, during the month of February.

Teresa Davis  
Assessor of Clay County

## LEGAL

### IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CLAY COUNTY THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY

IN RE: State v. S.Z.D. and Z.B., Case No. 24-JA-36-37  
In the matter of S.Z.D. and Z.B., and the unknown whereabouts of Tiffany D. Beville, Adult Respondent Mother of said Infants, Craig Allen Beeth, Adult Respondent Father of S.Z.D., John Dozer, Adult Respondent Psychological Father of S.Z.D. and Johnathan Bartsch, Adult Respondent Father of Z.B.

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

And

#### NOTICE OF ANSWER

To: **Tiffant D. Beville, Craig Allen Beeth, John Dozer, and Johnathan Bartsch.**

(The object of this action is to notify the Adult Respondents of an abuse and neglect petition herein filed so that said Adult Respondents may answer the same to protect their interest.)

You are hereby notified that an abuse and neglect and/or abandonment petition has been filed with the Circuit Court of Clay County, West Virginia, on the 14th day of November 2024, and assigned Case Numbers 24-JA-36-37, wherein it is alleged that the Adult Respondent Mother of the Infant Respondents S.Z.D. (DOB: 10/31/11), and Z.B. (DOB: 12/13/13), is Tiffany Beville, and that said Infant Respondents be placed in the custody of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, with said Infant Respondents remaining in the care, custody and control of the said Department since that time in accordance with WV Code §49-6-3. You are hereby notified that you have the right to answer said petition and you have the right to have counsel present at all stages of these proceedings and ALL PROCEEDINGS CAN RESULT IN THE PERMANENT TERMINATION OF CUSTODIAL AND PARENTAL RIGHTS TO SAID INFANT CHILD.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the Adult Respondents, Tiffant D. Beville, Craig Allen Beeth, John Dozer, and Johnathan Bartsch, shall appear before the Honorable Jack Alsop on the **18th day of January 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**, at the Clay County Courthouse, 246 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against them at any time thereafter, and termination of your custodial and parental rights may be ordered by the Court.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Clay County, West Virginia, at the Clay County Courthouse, Clay West Virginia.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

BY: Wayne King, Prosecuting Attorney Clay County, West Virginia  
Entered by the Clerk of said Court on the 11th day of December 2024.

  
Clarissa D. Hanshaw, Clerk of the Court



# Your Ad Could Be Here!

Call us at  
304-647-5724

# Never miss a *moment*

## BREATHE *easy* WEST VIRGINIA

Find a vaccine today!  
Flu, RSV or COVID-19



# Mustang basketball dynasty is on the move



Marissa Atha heads for two points after the steal.



Autumn Rapp looks for three points from the corner.

**By Allen Hamrick**  
The Lady Mustangs were all in for basketball this past week, taking the gold out of the tooth against both Richwood and Walton. They have proven they can belly up to the basketball bar and go on a feeding frenzy. They took Richwood on early in the week on the road - it was a great game if you like watching a team being stomped on like grapes in a barrel. Both teams opened on the hoop early in the game and were racking up points going hoop for hoop. Vanessa Cleavenger was getting the job done in no man's land under the hoop, earning six points for the Lady Mustangs. The Lady Mustang defense kept the floors hot and scrambling by not letting the Richwood girls take a breather. With a full court press, the Lady Mustangs must have felt like a straight jacket to Richwood as getting points after the first period was as difficult as catching a two legged catfish. In the end, it was the Lady Mustangs over Richwood with a score of Lady Mustangs 52, Richwood 20. Top shot hoop leader was Vanessa Cleavenger with 12 points in the game, followed closely by Marissa Atha with nine.

Next up for the Lady Mustangs was the Walton Lady Tigers who came into the game looking like they were going to give the Lady Mustangs a game, but looks can be and often are deceiving. When

the game started, Walton should have warmed up the white towel as the Lady Mustangs went to work on the full court press. A Lady Mustang full court press is like running into a yellow jacket nest with a wet chicken tied to your back. Those Lady Mustangs look like they could stop the flow of the river with their defense. Marissa Atha, Autumn Rapp and Gracie Cottrell destroyed any offense Walton tried to muster. The Lady Mustangs were racking up points under the boards with a great display of text book basketball. By the time the mercy buzzer sounded at the half, the Lady Mustangs were already up by the score of 29-4. After that, the game turned sour for Walton as the Lady Mustang defense went to work and never allowed another Walton shot to grease the net. In the end, it was the Lady Mustangs over Walton by the score of 47-4. The Lady Mustangs will take their show on the road to South Harrison where they will have to play solid basketball to win. Go Lady Mustangs!

The Clay Middle Mustangs have had the same kind of week as the Lady Mustangs - in your face basketball, the kind of games where you just want to sit back with popcorn and a box of M&Ms and add a couple of pounds to the mid section. The Mustangs took to the court with a whipping stick and started hitting the

hoops against Richwood on the road. Scoring started off slow but eventually got rolling as the Mustangs found the ducks on the rim. Richwood boys kept a good pace but let the game get away from them as Mustang defense got busy blocking the boards. In the end it, was the Mustangs over Richwood 36-22. Collin Elliott was top shot with 10 points.

Next up was Walton at home where Mustang defense took control and shut down the hoop for Walton as the Mustang offense got to work racking up points. Afterwards, the Mustang defense let up their hard nose play, gave Walton a brief look at the hoop and allowed them an early Christmas present of dropping 10 points before the half. Offense kept up the pace, and at the end of the half, it was Mustangs 33, Walton 10. It looked as though the basketball game would head to the emergency room for Walton as it went downhill from there. That was it - Walton couldn't match the Mustangs hoop for hoop the rest of the game, and the Mustangs won 59 to 14. Collin Elliot was top shot hitting for 16. The boys will be at home this week against the powerhouse South Harrison on Dec. 17. It may just be the first taxing test of their skills. Come out and support the athletes of all sports and cheer them on; it just might be the cure for the cold weather blues.



Gracie Cottrell hits from the top of the key.



Roxy Schoolcraft works under the boards.



Canaan Payton works the boards for two points.



Logan Adkins looks for three points.



Briar Dorsey hits for two points.



Jackson Stricker gets the lay up in heavy traffic.