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Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple

Thursday, December 19, 2024

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 (CCHĎ)

-Clay Family Support Center

-Clay County Commission

-Clay County Soccer League

VolunteerClay is actively seeking more organizations to join the platform. Nonprofits, 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. 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.

The state school board on Wednesday sures in West Virginia after county superintendents repeated a similar problem: student enrollment is rapidly declining and causing financial distress.

Seven schools throughout Clay, Presapproved another round of school clo- ton, Wetzel and Wood County will close in the next few years. Impacted stu-

SCHOOL BOARD cont. on page 3

County Commission discusses OpenGov and towing rotations CLAY



Jacob Lindroth and Skylar Wotring 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.

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



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



NICHOLAS CTY.

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



Daniel Dwayne Quinn Booked 12/13/24 Probation violation

CLAY COUNTY



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

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.

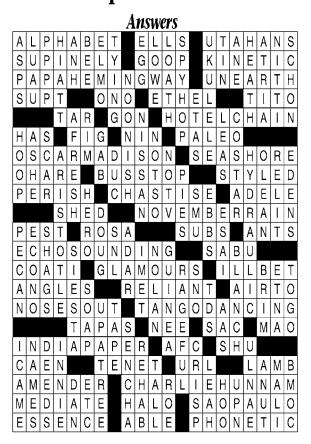
Puzzle Answers

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	τ	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 –



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, 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

Barry Cunningham (JT settling countless esris (Miranda), Matthew 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 prop-

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

Cunningham, of all Clay Countians tives, and other elected officials. She and her Tackett), David Mor- tates, obtaining grants 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 fam-

16, 2024, at Wilson-

Smith Funeral Home,

Clay, WV with Pastor

Michael Spurlock. The

visitation was one hour

prior to the service

7:00 P.M.,

December

held at

Monday,



Sheila June 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 graduof 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; den 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

from 6:00 pm to 7:00 Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com

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

Clay County Free Press

Sarah Richardson: news@claycountyfreepress.com

ADVERTISING

Debra Smith: debra@mountainmedianews.com

Subscriptions subscriptions@claycountyfreepress.com

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Michael Showell, Publisher

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A Haunting Memory

By Joseph Mazzella

At this festive time of the year when November turns to December and Christmas approaches, I am always haunted by a memory. It is a memory that hurts my heart and stabs my soul. Yet, I embrace it each year when it returns for the lesson it teaches me.

It happened almost 20 years ago. My children were all teenagers. I had long abandoned trying to guess what they wanted for Christmas and instead each year took a long car trip to a shopping mall. There I handed them each cash and allowed them to pick out exactly what they wanted. This year I had even put aside an extra hundred dollars to pick myself out a few gifts but as I walked the length of the mall I could find nothing that

As we finally got in the car to leave I started to drive out to the main road. That is when I saw her, a homeless woman holding a sign asking for help. She looked much older than her age. She was dressed in a torn, threadbare coat. Her gray hair was matted and tangled. Her face was chapped from the winter wind. But the thing that struck me most was her eyes. She had the saddest eyes that I had ever seen. I pulled over the car, took the hundred dollars I hadn't spent and had my daughter give it to her. She looked at us in disbelief. Then I pulled away and drove on, looking at her in my rearview mirror grow smaller and smaller in the swirling snow.

What troubles me the most about this memory is the knowledge that I could have done more and I should have done more to help her. I feel no pride in what I gave her. I only pray each time I remember this that she found help and was able to find a home again. I pray that she feels God's Love in her heart and that her eyes are no longer sad but instead sparkle with joy. I know too that one day I will see her again if not in this life then in the next. And when I do, I will ask her forgiveness for driving away that day.

A Surprised Pre-Christmas Gift Special

Dr. James L. Snyder

Like everyone, I enjoy the Christmas holiday from beginning to end. It's my favorite time of the year. The most important thing is the family gathering in the cel-

I enjoy everything about Christmas except that I'm not so fond of Christmas shopping. That is not something I enjoy. Compared to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, who is the Queen of cash registers, I am not qualified to do shopping.

Perhaps I got it from my very frugal father. He could squeeze a nickel so hard that the Buffalo would scream. I take after him a little bit. I don't want to buy anything that I don't need. So, Christmas shopping for presents is low on my list of things to do.

Buying gifts for people is a challenge for me. I don't even know what gift I like. If I want something, and if I can afford it, I buy it. However, I don't know how to get gifts for family members.

Mostly, I don't know how to get a present for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage because she has everything she needs. And for me to find out one thing that she needs for Christmas would be a miracle in and of itself.

Something happened this week that encouraged me in this line. I got a pre-Christmas gift that I was not ex-The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was using a

paper cutter for her Christmas card work in my office. All of a sudden, I heard her groan in agony. She doesn't do that unless something terrible happens. She walked out carrying one of the paper cutting boards. I asked what was going on, and she told me that

it broke while cutting some paper. "I'm just going to throw it away and use another

board." "Wait a minute," I said, "maybe I can fix it for you?" It took her a while to calm down from hilariously

laughing at me. Then she said, "What, you fix something?" and continued laughing. I thought that this was a good time to catch her in something. She graciously handed me the cutting board and showed me where it was broken. But it wasn't actu-

and it was almost impossible to put it back in. That's why the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage gave up and was ready to throw it away. She didn't have time to work on that project.

ally broken. One of the levers popped out of its socket,

She handed it to me, walked away snickering, and I began looking at the little board, trying to figure out

I have a stellar reputation for being unable to fix any-

thing. Sure, I can fix some of my writing projects, but outside of that, I am no Mr. Fix-It Man.

I thought about this for a while, thinking it would be an excellent opportunity to challenge that image of me. What would happen if I could fix this little cutting board and hand it back to her?

Looking at that cutting board, I didn't know where to start. You have to know where to start in order to fix something, and I needed to figure out how to begin this Thinking to myself, I saw this as a great opportunity

for me. So I struggled, looked at the board from front to back, and tried to understand how it worked. I came close to giving up. I saw one of the levers that had popped out of the socket, so I needed to figure out how to pop it back in.

I couldn't see anything broken on the board, so I didn't

understand how it came out. According to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, she let it fall; when it fell, one lever popped out. After fiddling with it for several minutes, I suddenly saw how it could be fixed. I was surprised at myself. But with a little twisting and turning, I could pop that lever

back in where it belonged. When I did that, the board was back to normal. I'm not sure I was. I was so happy I didn't know what to do, and I certainly didn't want to sing. But I called The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and said, "Oh, my dear. Would

you please come in here for a moment?" She showed up quickly, and I handed the cutting board back to her and said, "I fixed it for you so now

you can continue using it." She looked at me, then at the board I had just handed her, and in a low tone, she said, "How in the world did

you fix that?" Getting an early Christmas present is a very wonderful thing. I could not have gotten a better one than this.

As I was musing over this great gift, I couldn't help but think of the greatest gift in the world.

The verse that came to mind was John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Christmas is the celebration of God's greatest gift

coming into the world. During this illustrious celebration, I do not want to forgot what God's gift has done for me. The gift from God is "everlasting life" that comes to those who believe in Him.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamessnyder51@gmail.com, website www. jamessnyderministries.com

SCHOOL BOARD

dents will be moved into already-existing

"Most towns die after a closure of a high school," said Charles Goff, mayor of the town of Hundred in Wetzel County. He spoke to board members in Charleston ahead of the vote. "[Towns] lose incorporated status, lose elected officials in town, and it leads to fire departments closing and town charters being revoked. That includes losing EMS. We are an hour away from the hospital, and fire and EMS are crucial in our community."

There has been a wave of proposed school closures this year as counties are faced with budget holes spurred by student population loss. West Virginia's overall population is declining. Roughly 4,000 students left public schools this year; some of those students left to attend private and charter schools or to be homeschooled.

Under the current school funding formula, counties receive state funding based on the number of students.

Fifty-three schools have closed in the previous five years, and counties this year have proposed or been approved to close 25 schools. In November, the state school board voted to close or consolidate six schools in Kanawha County as the district has lost thousands of students over the last few years.

"It's a difficult time and the problems

that ... counties are facing are financial and it's bringing us to this day," said Debra Sullivan, a state school board member. "We need to focus on strengthening our public school system."

More than 10,000 students statewide opted this year to use the Hope Scholarship, the state's broad education savings account program that gives roughly \$4,400 per student in taxpayer money to families to use for private school, homeschooling and more.

Wood County has more than 300 students using the Hope Scholarship this year, which meant the district didn't get \$1 million in state funding because those children were no longer counted in the enrollmentbased formula. In Clay County, dozens of students are using the scholarship, equating to \$157,000 in state funding no longer available to the county.

Several members of the West Virginia Board of Education have called the GOPheavy Legislature to revise the state's school funding formula. Governor-elect Patrick Morrisey, a Republican, said he plans to expand school choice in the state, where the vast majority of students in the poor state attend public schools.

"The state needs to revise the funding formula for these schools. It hasn't been done for years and years," said state school board Vice President Victor Gabriel. "We

just don't have the people and money, and it's getting worse. Every time we lose students we lose dollars."

Counties are required to keep balanced

"We're a poor county, so we have to live within the state aid formula. We reduced our personnel by about 10% last year, 26 [people]. That includes positions that were paid for by COVID dollars," Clay County Superintendent Philip Dobbins told board members.

The board voted to close Clay County Middle School, the county's only middle school, due to declining student population and the age of the building. Sixth grade students will attend the elementary schools; seventh and eighth grade students will attend Clay High School. It will take effect at the end of the 2026-27 school year.

The county has less than 8,000 people, down from 10,000 a few years ago, and there has been a 31% decline in students since 2016. More

"That's several million dollars we're down. That's significant," Dobbins said.

Superintendents say school closures necessary for finances

Like Dobbins, superintendents from Preston, Wetzel and Wood said funding woes were the driving reason for the closures. Some of the schools that will close need millions of dollars in repairs that don't make sense for older buildings.

Wetzel County Superintendent Cassie Porter said the closures of Hundred High School and Paden City High School were necessary as the county's population continued to decline. The district has lost 800 students.

She said her district couldn't offer the rigorous courses needed at all the high schools in its current situation.

"Our test scores rank very, very low. We need to pull our resources together, in our opinion," Porter said.

Several parents, students and community members attended the meeting to voice opposition to the closures.

Austin Hayes, a freshman at Hundred High School, said his small school had offered him a chance to participate in many different learning activities. He asked the

board to reconsider closing his school. "Just this year, I was part of the cu-

lineering team that got first in the state. In

a larger school, these opportunities would be much harder to come by with more students vying for limited spots," he said. "At Hundred, every student gets a chance to

Cont. from Page 1

The board voted to consolidate Hundred High School into Valley High School. Paden City High School, which already faced a possible temporary closure due to environmental concerns, will be consolidated into Magnolia High School.

In Preston County, schools Superintendent Brad Martin said Fellowsville Elementary School in Tunnelton has seen a 50.8% decrease in student enrollment over the last 10 years. There are 59 students enrolled in the school this year. The school needs \$2 million dollars in repairs; Martin said that closing it would save around

County-wide enrollment is down with a decline in local coal mining jobs, Martin said, spurring a drop in state funding for schools. County residents opted not to approve two different excess levies that could have provided extra money.

"Based on this year, the district will be required to eliminate 12 professional positions and 16 service positions. We made substantial cuts in positions last year," Martin said.

Fellowsville will be consolidated into South Preston School at the end of this school year.

The board also approved consolidating Rowlesburg School, an elementary school also in Preston County, into Aurora School at the end of this school year due to a drop in students and the price tag of building maintenance.

Fairplains Elementary School in Wood County will be closed and merged into Martin Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

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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.



Dec. 18, 1842: U.S. Senator Nathan B. Scott was born. By 1900, Scott had become one of West Virginia's four richest and most powerful men.

Dec. 18, 1864: General Harry Hill Bandholtz was born in Michigan. Bandholtz was commander of the federal troops that intervened to end the West Virginia Mine Wars in

Dec. 18, 1816: Lewis County was formed. It was named for Colonel Charles Lewis, killed at the Battle of Point Pleas-



Dec. 19, 1794: A 40acre tract of George Clendenin's land was selected as the site of Charleslater 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 circuitriding 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 Morrisey was born in Brooklyn and then grew up in Edison, New Jersey. Beginning in 2012, he was elected to

ACROSS

1 NATO has a

special one

for spelling

over the radio

out words

9 Architectural

13 Provo people

wings

20 In a lying,

faceup

position

21 Sticky stuff

energy

Ernest

25 Dig up

27 Yoko of

28 Singer

Waters

30 Puente of

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31 Road coater

34 Weed B- --

36 Marriott, e.g

39 Doesn't lack

42 Often-dried

44 Diarist Anaïs

46 "Caveman

diet"

133

136

for novelist

26 Apt. overseer

music and art

23 Moniker

22 Kind of

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





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



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 unionsponsored flag-salute ceremonies at the plant.

CLEAR

COMMUNICATION

90 Hat edge

91 Italian peak

is Lomé 94 Lava or Dial

96 NFL scores

102 Some small

batteries

green tea

104 Japanese

109 Monikers

110 Skillful feats

building

116 Arm bones

119 Like giraffes

Remini

123 "Sometimes

you feel

124 African natior

is Bamako

125 Coll. hotshot

127 Football's

Marino

128 Lister's abbr.

whose capital

like —'

121 Emmy winner

111 Navel type

112 Fixed-up

114 Brittle

108 "Veni," translated

99 Stymied 100 Sticky stuff

92 African nation

whose capital

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF





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

Weekly **SUDOKU**

Super Crossword **57** Dot on some **108** Very thin

transit maps 59 Gave a coif 60 Suffer ruin

62 Admonish 65 "Hello" singer 66 Cast off skin

Roses hit

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 DOWN

ballroom moves 47 Messy room-103 Spanish bar mate on "The appetizers

Odd Couple" 105 Born, to Luc 51 Dune locale 106 Plant pouch 56 Chicago hub **107** — Zedong

material for book pages

113 Steelers' gp. 115 Mu — pork 117 Normandy

city 68 1992 Guns N' 118 Doctrine 120 Internet ID 70 Extermination 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 ietters of eight answers in this puzzle

1 Deadly vipers 2 Island feast 3 Musical mark for "extremely

softly" 4 "Drive South" singer John

5 Le Duc — (1992-97 president of

Vietnam) 6 Nectar lover 7 Sailors' saint

8 Knotting up 9 Ovum 10 Actor Rob

12 Whale's half-rise out of the water 13 Island guitar

11 Averse (to)

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

74 Show filmed at 30 Rock 75 Hebrew

72 Thick

49 French

noble

homework

52 Operated by

pressure

53 Brand of fat

substitute

54 Ignited anew

55 Blissful sites

58 Bakery buys

61 Hoagie

63 Coll. in

64 Wanes

Dallas

67 Football's

Flutie

69 Hollywood's

Morales

70 Praline bit

carpets

in adspeak

71 Cut-rate,

time, perhaps

water under

50 Rule for

month **79** Daytime nap

80 "How Your Mother"

81 Pitcher Ryan

82 African nation whose capital

is Conakry 84 Boil briefly

88 — -Caps

130 Caviar source 87 Very angry

131 "Yoo- —!"

132 1995-2006 TV channel

13 18 3 20 21 22 25 6 26 28 30 9 31 32 33 34 35 36 38 3 6 40 43 3 47 50 54 60 62 66 68 6 73 71 72 75 78 83 2 5 6 8 4 91 Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way 93 95 96 that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the 98 101 numbers from one to nine. 103 105 106 107 104 **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆ 108 | 109 | 110 | 111 112 113 115 121 123 | 124 119 ♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging 126 129 127 | 128 130 131 | 132

♦♦♦ HOO BOY! © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

134

137

135

138



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 Scoool 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 atended Marsball 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 disussions 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

SEVERAL WIDEN PATROLMEN

Several members of the Widen

School Safety Patrol are making

plans to travel to Washington, D.

C., on May 9th to join with thous-

ands of other patrol members

from all over the U.S. in their an-

nual tour of our nation's capitol.

The young people from Widen will

be accompanied by Mrs. Gertrude

Reynolds, sixth grade teacher, and

Members of the Widen Safety

Patrol are: Franklin Davis, Cap-

tain; T. G. Griffith, Lieutenant;

Walter George, Lleutenant; San-

dra Williams, Licutenant; Patrol-

men composed of members from

the 4th, 5th, nd 6th grades are:

Sharon Baughman, Jean Dodrill,

Brenda King, Janice Triplett, Jan-

et Eagle, Shirley McClain, Diane

Adkins, Ronald Conner, Beth

Butcher, Joyce Dorsey, Keith Sig-

man, Carol Hamrick, Keith Jones,

Lois Keen, Charles Mullins, Rich-

ard Gibson, Robert Lee Edwards,

Corlisa Miles, Albert Adkins, Lu-

ther Young, and Cleveland Brooks.

sponsor of the patrol group. .

TO YISIT WASHINGTON



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."

This Is Your Life

This is your life Miss -? You were born July 14. 1940. You started 40 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.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

Who are you?

This is your life Mr.?? You were born at Charleston W. Va., November 9, 1940. You have a very likeable persoanlity; 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", Fata 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.

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 \$2 points and Russell Butcher and Paul DeMoss followed with 20 and 6, respective-

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.

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 entroll at Widen High School next fall are: Robert Ashley, Milton Persinger, Joyce Butcher, Jean Butcher, Barbara Coen and Larry Casto.

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 Merill 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

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

Dr. C. E. Campbell

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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

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

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

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 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.

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



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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 (\$100,000,000). The

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. Dolbens, Superintendent

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LEGA

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. Bevill, 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. Bevill, 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 Bevill, 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 CUSTO-DIAL AND PARENTAL RIGHTS TO SAID INFANT CHILD.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the Adult Respondents, Tiffant D. Bevill, 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 Cir-

cuit Clerk of Clay County, West Virginia, at the Clay County Court-house. 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





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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. 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.