



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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Science Fair winners announced

The following students placed at the Science Fair held earlier this year.

Elementary Winners:

- Energy Science (Individual):
1st Place- Singing Glass (Emmett Houseknect) CES
3rd Place- Which Battery will Last Longer? (Paisley Morton, Zoey Jennings) CES
- Energy Science (Group):
2nd Place- Solar Oven (Brynlee Peters, Zyair Nichols) CES
- Engineering (Individual)
1st Place- What is a Fluid Coupling? (Caitlyn Hensley) BOE
2nd Place- Rubber Band Car (Owen Paxton) BOE
3rd Place- Ping Pong Pick Up (Noah Garvin) BOE
- Engineering (Group)
2nd Place- The Science of Parachuting (Vance Hamrick, Brayden Street, Alexander Holcomb) CES
- Material Science (Individual)
1st Place- Do Colors Affect Physical Comfort? (Lyndsay Nichols)CES
2nd Place- What Brand Pop is the Best? (Ellayna Brown) BOE
3rd Place- Which Shape Melts Quickest? (Easton Laughlin) BOE
- Material Science (Group)
1st Place- What’s Poppin? (Jenna Paxton, Reagon Payton) BOE
2nd Place- Which Liquid Dissolves Skittles the Fastest? (Holley Ramsey, Nevaeh Ramsey) CES
- Physics
1st Place- What is a Hydraulic Lift? (Benzley Champ) BOE
- Animal Science
1st Place- Science With Sammie? (Kinslee Duffield) BOE
2nd Place- What Supplemental Feed do Deer Prefer the Most? (Jase Beck) BOE
- Chemistry (Individual)
1st Place- The Science Behind Fudge Texture(Harper Faulkner) BOE
2nd Place- What Milk Chocolate Melts the Fastest? (Cooper Bird) CES
3rd Place- Lemon Juice VS Vinegar (Zoey Raynor)



The first place winners (pictured) will be moving on to the Regional Science Fair.

- BOE
Chemistry (Group)
1st Place- Elephant Toothpaste (Leora Nine, Tessa Kiser, Nevaeh Jones) CES
3rd Place- Homemade Lava Lamps (Charlotte Elliott, Emma Nine) CES
- Earth & Environmental Science (Group)
3rd Place- Borax or Salt (Brystol O’Dell, Kinsley Taylor) CES
- Earth & Environmental Science (Individual)
1st Place- Erosion (Jett Wilmoth) BOE
2nd Place- Surface Tension (Iris Miller) BOE
- Medical Science (Group)
3rd Place- Flavor War (Savanah McMillion & Lila Duffield) CES
- Medical Science (Individual)

- 1st Place- We Eat Nails (Abigail Samples) CES
- Plant Science (Individual)
1st Place- What Liquid Make Grass Grow the Fastest? (Paisley Adkins) BOE
2nd Place- Will it Grow? (Adalyn Boggs) BOE
3rd Place- Strawberry DNA (Kynlie Persinger) BOE
- Middle School:
Plant Science: 1st Place: Will it Grow? (Sophia Boggs)
Earth & Environmental Science What Contaminants are in Local Waters?(Alex Holcomb, Tyler Holcomb, & David Samuels)
Chemistry- 2nd Place: Rainbow Rain (Hannah Gandee).



Keaton Patterson



Reagan King

Clay Elementary Students Shine in Forest Essay Contest

Two talented students from Clay Elementary, Keaton Patterson and Reagan King, recently made their mark in the statewide Forest Essay Contest. Sponsored by the Division of Forestry and Natural Resources at West Virginia University, the contest was part of Forest Products Week and aimed to highlight the vital role forests play in West Virginia’s economy.

The competition challenged students to write a 350-word essay exploring a tree in their backyard. Participants were asked to identify the species of the tree, note any signs of wildlife, and assess its health. Their essays not only showcased their knowledge of nature but also their creativity and observational skills.

Keaton Patterson earned a well-deserved second place for his essay. Keaton’s creative writing brought his observations of a very tall oak tree in his back yard. It also included some run-

ins with a squirrel he named, “Sandy.” He demonstrated a deep understanding of the importance of trees in providing food and shelter for wildlife. Reagan King secured third place with her insightful essay about a sassafras tree. Reagan’s essay told of her trips with her uncle to see this tree and taste the wood, which she says tastes like root beer!

Both students will receive cash prizes for their outstanding entries, while their teacher, Mrs. Gauding, will be awarded a gift card. “We are very proud of Keaton and Reagan,” says their principal Megan Starcher. This contest was a wonderful opportunity for them to connect with nature and showcase their writing talents. The Forest Essay Contest not only celebrated West Virginia’s forests but also encouraged students to appreciate the trees and wildlife in their own backyards.

Panthers take a hit at home; Mustang basketball dominates



Joel Elliot gets points on the board. Allen Hamrick photo.

See story on Page 10

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Joshua Caleb Bolen
Booked 12/16/24
Circuit court Capias



Stacy Marie Hughart
Booked 12/18/24
Violation of parole



Matthew Dale Jarrett
Booked 12/16/24
Sexual abuse first degree



Paul Michael McKinney
Booked 12/18/24
Probation violation



Jared Heath Smearman
Booked 12/18/24
Bond violation



Derek Brent Strickland
Booked 12/17/24
Home confinement violation

CLAY COUNTY



Nicholas Ray Davis
Booked 12/17/24
Destruction of property,
grand larceny, burglary



Bobby Edward Nichols
Booked 12/16/24
Failure to register as a sex
offender

Puzzle Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Big Otter PAX students named



Students at Big Otter Elementary are following the PAX Good Behavior Game and becoming role models for other students. Students show a positive attitude towards their classmates and teachers. Congratulations to the following students for being selected as the November & December 2024 PAX Leaders at Big Otter Elementary School!

Mr. Dustin Vaughan – 5th Grade – Jase Beck & Jenna Paxton
Mrs. Burns – 4th Grade – Ellayna Brown & Ty Thorne
Mr. Dylan Vaughan - 4th Grade - Tripp Sears & Cattie Boggs

Mrs. Pierson – 3rd Grade – Kathryn Hanshaw & Abigail Shamblin
Ms. Paxton - 3rd Grade - Aaliyla Young & Jessie Cadle
Ms. Jarvis – 2nd Grade – Courtney Duffield & Lacey Tanner
Ms. Douglas – 1st Grade – Kylie Persinger & Stephanie Thompson
Mrs. Collins – Kindergarten – Haven Huffman & Holdyn Billups
Mrs. Marks - PreK - Lincoln Vaughan & Phoebe Nichols
Mrs. Montgomery – PreK – Kendall Duffield & Addison Watkins

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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. 25, 1887: Folk artist James Tyree Rexrode was born in Pendleton County. He created a visual record of rural West Virginia life in the early 20th century. He died in 1976.



Dec. 26, 1917: Instrument maker Harold M. Hayslett was born in Putnam County. Hayslett's violins, violas and cellos have received awards for tone and workmanship, and are cherished by collectors and players alike.

Dec. 27, 1797: The county seat of Ohio County was moved from West Liberty to Wheeling.



Dec. 27, 1923: Businessman and Point Pleasant native Michael Owens, who revolutionized the glass industry through automation, died at age 64.

Dec. 28, 1879: Brigadier General Billy Mitchell was born in France. As chief of the Army Air Service, Mitchell ordered aircraft of the 88th Squadron to perform reconnaissance during the 1921 Miners' March on Logan.

Dec. 28, 1978: The last

trains ran on the Greenbrier Division, a branch line of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway. Unlike most C&O branches in West Virginia, the Greenbrier Division was not a coal-hauling line but served the valley's timber industry.

Dec. 29, 1861: Confederate soldiers burned most of downtown Sutton. The town slowly rebuilt but remained small until the local timber industry boomed in the 1890 to 1920 period.



Dec. 29, 1928: Humorist and political cartoonist James Frederick Dent

was born in Charleston. His talent for turning daily events into delightful anecdotes gained him national fame. *Reader's Digest* reprinted 194 items from his columns, and radio commentator Paul Harvey often used his work.



Dec. 29, 1970: John Denver and two friends completed the song "Take Me Home, Country Roads." Denver performed "Country Roads" in West Virginia on several occasions, notably for the opening of the new Mountaineer Stadium in Morgantown in 1980.

Dec. 30, 1901: McKendree Hospital started providing medical care in rural Fayette County. It was one of three hospitals established by the state in the fast-growing coalfields.

Dec. 30, 1917: The temperature in Lewisburg dropped to 37 degrees below zero. It is the coldest official temperature on record for the state.



Dec. 31, 1939: Larry Combs, one of the world's leading orchestral clarinetists, was born in South Charleston. He started studying woodwinds at age 10 and was principal

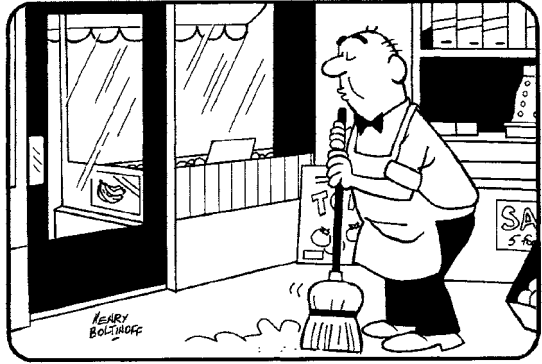
clarinetist for the Charleston (now West Virginia) Symphony Orchestra at age 16. He later served in the same role for symphonies in Montreal and Chicago and was inducted into the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame in 2009.

Dec. 31, 2007: Sara Jane Moore was released from prison after serving 32 years for trying to kill President Ford. Moore grew up in Charleston and later moved to California, where she joined left-wing groups and became an FBI informant. She spent part of her incarceration at the Federal Prison Camp in Alderson.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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ACROSS

- 1 Drag race vehicle
8 Schuss, e.g.
11 Stinging flier
15 Contributed
19 Halloween mask feature
20 Hoodwink
21 Falco of TV
22 Leave off
23 Tendency toward chaos
24 Fido's noise
25 * Star of the 1950s TV series "China Smith"
27 BLT seller
28 Naval forces
30 — Field (Mr. Met's home)
31 * Getting tired
34 Baby bird
38 Evergreen with red arils
39 Actress Polo
40 Stephen of "V for Vendetta"
42 Young moray, e.g.
43 Cowl wearer
45 * Hope when the situation is desperate
51 Mosque official
54 Scrooge portrayer Alastair

- 55 Minerals in thin sheets
56 * "Vanity Fair" novelist
61 "One World" musician John
65 Holders of frozen cubes
66 Girl in the fam
67 "Insecure" actress
69 — Hawkins dance
70 Astonishment
73 E'en if
75 Actor Bridges
76 Fathers
79 Auditing gp.
81 Was disgusting to
84 Deep desires
85 * Period superseded by automobiles
89 Ragtime pianist Blake
90 Aficionado
91 Large cut
92 * Three-part novel by Gertrude Stein
98 Green-light
102 Removal of restrictions, for short
103 RV refuge org.

- 104 Six-legged marchers
107 Suffix with Carol
108 How Alaska is populated
111 * Town crier's cry
116 Cab cost
117 "It takes two" dances
118 Agents, in brief
119 * "The Price Is Right" host
123 Happy dance
124 Net, as earnings
127 Ames' state
128 Saturate
129 Bullfight yell
130 Dissimilar
131 Legal equal
132 Brontë's Jane
133 Despite this
134 What the last four letters of eight key answers in this puzzle might be considered, cryptically

DOWN

- 1 Honorarium
2 Writer Rand
3 Lay in place
4 Tossed
5 "Relax!"

- 6 Of Swiss mountains
7 Playa del —
8 Climb up
9 Divided Asian land
10 Get by logic
11 Joins closely
12 Org. for cavity fixers
13 Thereafter
14 Counterparts of manis
15 Cousin of a chimpanzee
16 Poebler of "Baby Mama"
17 Fight (for)
18 Zeta follower
26 Pronounces
28 "Just my opinion," in a text
29 Supermodel Banks
31 Fitness locale
32 Early auto
33 Award for U2
34 All-time low
35 Creeping vine
36 Once called
37 Fido's threat
41 Intertwine
44 Tartan skirt wearers
46 Suffix with owl or wolf
47 Vardalos of Hollywood

- 48 Sierra, Yukon and Acadia
49 Trendy berry
50 Shells out
52 Boggy areas
53 Motorists' gp.
56 Very thin, as clouds
57 "It matters to me"
58 Escorted from outside
59 Org. with bag screeners
60 The whole — and caboodle
61 Fox-sighting cry
62 Jagged, as a leaf's edge
63 "When I Need You" singer Leo
64 Hopper of old gossip
68 Fake coins
71 Not fooled by
72 Previous to
74 Globe
77 Ergo
78 Japanese noodle type
80 In no danger
82 Playwright O'Neill
83 Links letters
86 Dangerous
87 Vetoing vote

- 88 Genetic stuff
89 Spider's hatching pouch
92 NFL goals
93 With it, in old slang
94 Lyricist Gershwin
95 Battle with spongy balls
96 "So funny!"
97 Light beams
99 Actress Alley
100 Even a single
101 "— haw!"
105 Regal seat
106 Playground fixture
109 Wipe clean
110 "Bad, Bad — Brown"
112 Delight in
113 Nimble
114 Big name in thesauruses
115 In a fitting manner
117 Small kid
119 Chip toppler
120 Fish spawn
121 She-sheep
122 Mug handle
124 Bit of word wit
125 Rap sheet abbr.
126 Boomer's kid

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
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127						128				129			130						
131						132				133			134						

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THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike
should vote alike.

"DUNDON"
RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.



March 1958

The Red and White Review

WIDEN SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL TERM — 1957-58

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CLASS EDITOR Reba Eagle
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Correspondence . . .

Dear Sally,

This is good-by until next year. I've enjoyed our correspondence immensely, and I hope you won't forget me during the summer.

I guess that you, too, are caught up in a mad whirl of activity. The last six weeks of school are too full and too busy to allow for enjoyment of them. It's only after everything is over that there is time to remember and favor the remembrance.

Play rehearsals are over—the play is a thing of the past. I hope those who saw it enjoyed it as much as I did taking part in it. The final feeling of accomplishment surely is reward enough for these continuous, time-taking, and often nerve-wracking rehearsals.

I must confess that there were times when I wished I'd never taken a part, but, of course, that was never a sincere wish. Actually, I loved "doing the play" and so did the rest of the cast.

There is no feeling in the world like that nervous anxious tenseness before the final performance of "Class Play" nor is there a like feeling for the hilarious released spirits in the performers when the curtain falls for the final time. Oh man!

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The election of the President and Vice-President of Student Council for 1958-59 will be held April 25. Those running for the office of President are: Judy La Corte, Junior; and Lillie Nash, Sophomore. Those running for Vice-President are: Ruby Holcomb Junior; and Lora Wilson, Sophomore.

At that time there will also be elected six Members-At-Large.

The candidates are as follows: Sophomores, Karen Donohue and Dawne Backus;

Activities are flitting by. The prom and graduation exercises are all that are left. Oh, No! Exams! Let's not talk about them, eh?

The prom should be a lovely affair. We've made plans for pretty decorations and were planning food—Good food! To top it all, the dance will be in the New Community Building and it in itself is "Cool".

Student Council elections are next on the agenda. We always have lots of spirit and excitement at that time. No, I'm not a candidate for anything, but I have definite opinions on what kind of officers we need, so I'll make up my own mind and I'll vote as I please.

That's the fought-for right of an American Citizen — and I'll fight for it too!

Summer vacation is well-earned this year. I, for one, need it. During the first week I intend to lie in the sun and soak up all the warmth that I haven't had this long cold winter.

Have a nice time this summer! I know I will!

Love,
Coed.

Freshman, Robert Baughman and Jane Gibson;
Eighth, Dave Shaffer and Gary Graham;

Seventh, Roger Baughman and Pat Manning.

Campaign speeches will be presented for and by the Candidates on April 23.

The Student Council sponsored a bake sale April 19 at the Y.M.C.A. They wish to thank everyone who contributed.

Clubs and Classes

FRESHMAN CLASS

The Freshman Class of Widen High School has selected its candidates for members-at-large, namely Jane Gibson and Robert Baughman. The student of the month nominated from our class was Terry Shaffer. The girls are looking very pretty in their Easter outfits and spring dresses. Feels very good to be in summer dresses again!

FOURTH GRADE

The Fourth Grade has a new boy. His name is "J.B." Butcher. He transferred from the Dille School.

The Fourth Grade gave an assembly program. The audience seemed to enjoy it. We enjoyed giving it.

We have already had our achievement tests. Now we know how smart we are.

SECOND GRADE

We enjoyed the spelling match with Miss Graham's Class last Wednesday.

Our room was gay with bright colored baskets last week. We want to thank our home room mothers for helping the Easter Bunny fill them.

Second Grade Wins Attendance

Miss Graham's second grade won the Attendance Banner for the 7th month with a percentage of 99.74.

The seventh grade won for the High School with a percentage of 99.72.

Congratulations 2nd and 7th graders!

Percentage Of Attendance		
Miss Graham	Grade 2	99.74
Mr. Reynolds	Grade 7	99.72
Mrs. Butcher	Grade 1	98.35
Mr. Pinney	Grade 10	98.21
Mrs. Reynolds	Grade 6	97.98
Miss Ashley	Grade 3	97.16
Mrs. Bragg	Grade 4	96.96
Mr. Jackson	Grade 5	96.90
Mrs. Elliott	Grade 2	96.84
Mr. Matheny	Grade 9	95.88
Mr. Boggs	Grade 8	95.60
Miss Woods	Grade 12	94.38
Mrs. Griffith	Grade 11	94.00

Judy Shaffer for Members-at-Large.

The Senior activities are drawing to a close. We presented our play on April 24, and we have begun our final plans for our trip to New York. We will leave on Wednesday, May 21, at 5:45 from the C&O Depot at Montgomery. We will travel through the State of Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, crossing the Hudson River and entering the State of New York. We will arrive in New York City at 9:20 A.M. on May 22. After we leave the depot we will tour lower New York. At 12:30 P.M. we will arrive at the Plymouth Hotel for our room assignment. The afternoon and evening will be open for independent activities. On Friday, May 23, we leave the hotel at 8:30 for a boat trip around Manhattan Island. At 2:00 P.M. we visit the NBC Studios. In the evening we will attend Radio City Music Hall.

On Saturday, May 24, we have the entire day open for shopping, etc. At 6:30 P.M. we leave by subway for Coney Island. On Sunday, May 25, we have the day open for our choice of what we want to do until 4:00 P.M. We pack our bags and get ready to head for Home. At 6:45 we leave New York. On Monday, May 26, we will arrive at Montgomery, tired but enriched with the travel experience and sights of the largest city in the world.

JUNIOR CLASS

Plans for the annual Junior-Senior Prom are under way. The dance will be held on Friday May 9, in the New Community Building.

The Juniors sponsored a Bunny-Hop in the school gym on Thursday, April 3, from 7:30 till 9:30. Tiny White bunnies carrying a number were placed on each guest and during intermission a door prize was presented to Dawne Backus, holder of the lucky number. The class netted \$9.75 on the dance.

The Junior Class is proud to announce its candidates for the annual student council election. They are: Judy La Corte—President, Ruby Holcomb—Vice President, and Joyce Workman and

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LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 24-0678-G-D
HOPE GAS, INC.

Application to change depreciation rates.

NOTICE OF HEARING

On August 7, 2024, Hope Gas, Inc. (Hope) filed an application to change depreciation rates (Application) pursuant to Rule 20 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Procedural Rules), 150 C.S.R. 1 and its general ratemaking authority under W.Va. Code § 24-2-3.

The Commission set a procedural schedule, including a hearing on the Application that will begin at 9:30 a.m. on March 26, 2025, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. The hearing set by the Commission's September 27, 2024, Procedural Order was cancelled.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene within 30 days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. All requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the request to intervene and comply with the rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Procedural Rules. The Commission will receive public comments until the beginning of the hearing. All written comments and requests to intervene should state the case name and number and be addressed to the Commission Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Public comments may also be filed online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/onlinecomments/default.com> by clicking the "Formal Case" link.

HOPE GAS, INC.

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. Bevell, 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. Bevell, 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 Bevell, 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. Bevell, 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
Clarissa D. Hanshaw, Clerk of the Court

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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*
Philip R. Dobbins, Superintendent



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Panthers take a hit at home; Mustang basketball dominates



Noah Collins looks to sink from the jumper.



Jacobcy Nichols gets two the hard way.



Michael Foster gets two in the paint.



Trent Gibson gets fouled on this layup.



Mason Sears demonstrates the semi hook shot.



Coach Holcomb received his award in 2013.

By Allen Hamrick

The Panther basketball team played their home opener against Midland Trail this past week. After losing their opener to Summersville, the Panthers were due a win. Starting his first season as head coach of the Panthers is Justin Holcomb who won coach of the year in 2013 for All Sports in WV after having a winning streak of 58 straight games. Coach Holcomb will bring with him a new look and style to the team. It will take some adjustment time, and only time will tell just how good the team will be under Coach Holcomb. Clay County basketball fans wish him and the team the best.

Looking to start the season off right on their home court, the Panthers were going to have a rough game to get it done. Midland Trail has a fast defense and an acrobatic team that can give you a game if you want it. The Panthers came out with all guns blazing and the game went into turbo action. Both teams were hitting the hoops and were staying pretty even with a slight edge going to Midland Trail who led 11-8 at the end of the first period. Both teams were zeroing in on getting their distance but also missing some good looks at the basket. The boys came out, bellied up to the B-ball Bar and were determined not to take a hit on the chin in front of the home crowd.

In the second period, the Panthers started really getting

in the paint and getting points the hard way. Joel Elliott started finding his range from outside the normal limits, dropping threes like a poker game. At the half, it was 25-23 with Midland Trail hanging onto a wishbone lead. The third period saw the Midland Trail defense step up their skirmish skills and put a damper on the bucket making of the Panthers. The Panthers shot the shots but couldn't get them to fall, and turnovers took the pin out of the grenade for the Panthers in the third. At the end of the third, it was Midland Trail up by seven points at 38-31. The Panthers would have to get busy in the fourth.

Seven points are not hard to overcome, but it would be if they couldn't stop them from scoring. In the fourth period, the Panthers cranked up the amps and were wearing out the hoop but so was Midland Trail. With minutes ticking off like a time bomb, the Panthers played fast paced basketball but just couldn't get the break on defense as Midland Trail went on to win the game 54-45. Nobody on the team crossed over into the double digits on scoring, but the top shots were Joel Elliott with nine and Noah Collins with eight.

This game was a strong home opener for the Panthers, but they will have to go to the drawing board before the next game and work out some bugs. Don't fret, they will get there. The season looks promising for the boys to play

well; there are a lot of games left. Next up for the Panthers will be Webster on December 30 where they will be on the road. The next home game will be against Gilmer on January 2, 2025. The Lady Panthers hope to break the ball and chain and get out of their losing streak at home against Poca on December 19th. Go Panthers!!

In other basketball news, the Mustang dynasty continues to dominate the hardwood, stomping all opponents into the polyurethane. Their last wins were big ones as the Lady Mustangs ground South Harrison into burger, beating them 36-10. They will play one more time at the Winter Classic on December 27th. The Mustang boys stomped South Harrison into grape juice Tuesday night beating them 45-28. Their next game will be on December 27th at Valley Middle. Come out and support the teams.

In other sports news, the LKC rankings have come out and congratulations go out to football players Jacoby Nichols, Ayden Brown, Noah Collins, Joel Elliott, Blake Coleman, James Grose, Jaxon Brown and Seth Robinson - they all received the 1st Team All Conference award. Also getting the 2nd team All Conference award was Jaden Morris, Kohan Ramsey and Christian Bryant. Receiving Honorable Mention LKC was Cain Atha and Kendrick Sutphin.

— Lew and Zeb's Old Fashioned Holidays —

By Allen Hamrick

Hey folks, its Zeb here drainin' some ink for ya. Here it is near time for old Claus to start slingin' all them gifts out of his sleigh fer all the little ones to enjoy. He is gona streak through the air dodging shotgun blasts, birds, and snow squalls all so our little ones can be content on Christmas morn. Kinda makes you wanna break out in song don't it? Now you know Bull Snort an Buford an Crybaby and Vixen...Bonehead an Pea Brain an Bucky an Shave Tail... but do you recall the most biggest bu-uck of all? Pucker the big lipped white tail had the biggest rack around, and if you ever saw him, you would wanna bring him down..... Well, at least that's the version sung around the pot belly at Pap's barber shop. This time of year, all the good that's in anybody tries its best to sneak out and become a part of the festivities. For some, that good is limited, if you know what I mean. Christmas is the only holiday of the year that lasts longer than the family dinner or get together. Its preparin' at its finest - cookin', cuttin' the tree, decoratin' the tree, hangin' lanterns, shoppin' and buildin'. Why, it lasts near a month. Don't forget the singin', local quartets to full blown choirs brave the cold and their health to bring the gift of music to the hills and hollers we call home.

Now I'll admit, some of them singers could calm storms with their sweet tunes, but others could rattle the ears on a concrete statue and make the moon plug its ears. Granny Dingle decided she would join one of the groups last year and offer her services to the needy. They decided their first stop was at Rood Dellar's grandmaw's house due to her being a hundred years old. She came out on the porch with coffee in one hand and her Bible in the other ready to hear the Christmas tunes of old. Granny Dingle opened up her wind pipes on Silent Night and hit a note that was so sour Grandmaw Dellar lost her hearin' and busted her coffee mug, while all 50 of Rood's goat herd stampeded and was head buttin' anything that looked like it was makin' that awful sound. Granny's kater wallin' sent ten people to the hospital with minor

butt cheek bruising. Needless to say, Granny has to sing but in her house under the floor boards facing the dirt.

Christmas always brings joy to our hills - deep snows, horse drawn sleigh rides by candle light, the finest cooks preparing their meals and the scent fills the air as it send a warm invite to all who smell it as it drifts through the valley. It's a good time to be alive. Dads are busy building toys declaring to their kids that they are helpin' Santa. From sleds to doll houses, smoking pipes to promises of a better year ahead, all gifts do not have to be bought; some of the best require just a sacrifice of time and thought spent on makin' somethin' special for the ones you love.

Over the years, there was a couple that in people's eyes was poor, but at Christmas he would cut the tree and she would prepare the meal. There were no presents but there were gifts, gifts that truly mattered. The man would get his neighbor who played the fiddle, and as he sawed the strings, the man would take his wife by the hand and dance into the night under the light of oil lamps. We don't see that these days as things that truly matter have fell prey to Amazon and Google, among others, and a whole new world has opened up for people to explore. For me I like the old one. Why, a person can just sit in a chair and do all their shoppin' with the touch of a finger. I wonder if it's the reason that folks have lost their touch with nature; without love there is no sacrifice just the need for more.

Ah, that's just me bein' a softy, I reckon, but round here we ain't lost touch with nothin'. We all like to get presents, and my favorite is my own meat loaf and my own bowl of cole slaw with no strings attached. Course I like a good pan of biscuits as well. There's lots of singin' and a ton of food and plenty of joy to go around. This may not be the normal for where you are, but it is here. Grandmas sit in special chairs and tell their favorite Christmas stories to all who listen, from little ones to big ones. Their stories fill hearts and minds with imagination with memories of times we only wish we could have been a part of. Some of the stories have a sack of



Granny Izzle caroling the blues.

wind tied to 'em, but they bring a smile to some much needy faces. One story was about a mule named Christmas Cleetus. It is a story that will wrap you in awe, but I'll tell it to ya some other time as my ink bowl is just about empty.

So, this Christmas, be sure to remember the true meaning of Christmas before it's gone into history books we no longer read. Sing yer songs in earnest and watch out for the goats. Give a gift that costs nothing but effort - light some candles, take a sleigh ride, send a card - experience Christmas the way it should be with charity and love. From all of us here in our neck of the woods, me and Pepper, Lew and Gracie, Pap and the rest of the crew, have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!