



# Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



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## Jennifer Garner makes a special stop in Clay County

By Jeffrey Krauklis

Charleston, WV native, actress, early education advocate, and Save the Children board member Jennifer Garner made a surprise visit to Clay County last week. She arrived at the Clay County Schools Auxiliary Gym around 9 a.m. on Nov. 21 where she joined representatives from the Mountaineer Food Bank, the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Save the Children, Clay County Schools' Communities in Schools team, and several Clay County High School students to help package meals for the Extra-Mile food delivery program.

After taking time to pose for a photo with every person in attendance, Mrs. Garner joined the Extra-Mile team to deliver meals throughout the county.

Her next stop was Clay Elementary School, where she visited the Save the Children In-School Literature classroom led by teacher Rebekah Holcomb and aide Cherri Burdette. There, she observed and participated in a literacy lesson with several enthusiastic Panther Kindergarten students. Together, they practiced vowel sounds and learned how to write both the upper- and lowercase letter "I." Ms. Garner cheered on each child, celebrating every correct answer with genuine excitement. While every adult in the room recognized her instantly, the students simply saw someone who loved learning just as much as they did. Only years from now will they realize that they spent half an hour learning alongside one of the most beloved and recognizable West Virginians in history.

Following a game of Roll and Read to wrap up the lesson, Ms. Garner took a short walk down the hallway, where Assistant Principal Mistie Legg and School Psychologist Felisha Nutter presented her with a Clay County gift basket filled

with local favorites—including items from Ordinary Evelyn's, TC Treats, Legacy Foods, a CCMS blanket, and a CCHS hat.

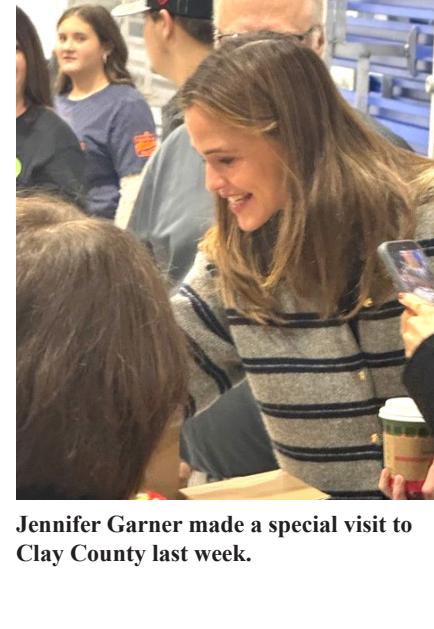
To conclude her visit, she participated in a round-table discussion with Mrs. Holcomb, Principal Jacee Huffman, Clay County Save the Children Director Crystal Gibson, and other Save the Children representatives. The group discussed the successes of the In-School Literature program, the after-school and summer learning programs, and the continued impact these opportunities have on Clay County students. Ms. Garner also shared her ongoing commitment to advocating for early learning across West Virginia, especially in rural communities where school often serves as a safe space and critical support system for children facing difficult circumstances.

Clay County Schools would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Garner for spending her morning making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and families, and for highlighting the incredible organizations working together to support our community. Today, our students and staff didn't see her as Elektra, Jenna Rink, or Sydney Bristow—they saw her as a proud West Virginian dedicated to ensuring our children have the same opportunities as students anywhere in the country.

We also offer sincere thanks to the Mountaineer Food Bank and the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation for their continued support. And finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to Save the Children—without their tireless efforts, many of the transformative programs offered throughout the year simply would not be possible.



Jennifer Garner spent part of the day helping package meals for the Extra Mile food delivery program.



Jennifer Garner made a special visit to Clay County last week.



Garner is pictured packaging meals.

## Braxton/Clay Master Gardeners plan upcoming program series, recognize contributions to community over the year

The Braxton/Clay Master Gardeners have announced that the upcoming WVU Extension Master Gardner Program series will run from Jan. 9 until May 15, 2026. Classes will be held every Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. This Program helps residents better understand horticultural and environmental issues through community engagement in gardening and beautification projects at schools, parks, public institutions, community organizations, and location throughout the state. Contact your county Extension Office and ask about the training program.

Congratulations to the Braxton/

Clay WVU Master Gardeners for their contributions to our local community over the last year:

- 1,013 volunteer hours with AVG value/volunteer hour \$34.79, for a total value of \$35,242.27

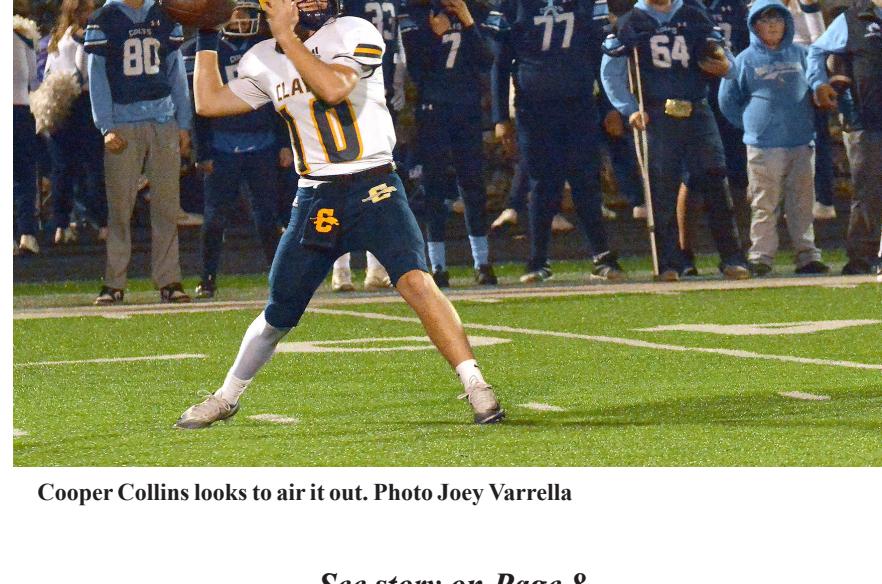
- 388 educational hours

- 16 active members

- 26 different projects

Please join the Braxton/Clay WVU Extension Office to congratulate Ms. Patricia McPherson who was recently selected as Master Gardener of the Year on November 12. Pat is recognized for her exceptional contributions through teaching and leadership to the Master Gardener Program.

## Panther football season ends in second round of playoffs



Cooper Collins looks to air it out. Photo Joey Varrella

See story on Page 8

## Medicare Questions?

**Peak Health is here to help.**

Stop by for a **FREE**, one-on-one meeting with a licensed insurance agent during the upcoming Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP).

[PeakHealth.org/Medicare-Events](http://PeakHealth.org/Medicare-Events)



## PeakAdvantage MEDICARE PLANS

Brought to you by:



H8947.2026.03.0084\_M

# BOOKED



# REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

## BRAXTON COUNTY



Hailey Christina Barnett  
Booked 11/23/25  
Possession with intent, child neglect with risk of death or injury, conspiracy, weapon prohibition/person in possession of deadly weapon

Christopher Shawn Butler  
Booked 11/23/25  
Prohibited person with firearm, child neglect creating risk of bodily injury or death (x2), conspiracy to commit drug related charge, possession of controlled substance



Krystal Kay Carpenter  
Booked 11/23/25  
Obstructing an officer, DUI



Kevin Ray Curry  
Booked 11/24/25  
Destruction of property, burglary, attempted arson



Bobby Joe Dennison  
Booked 11/21/25  
Destruction of property



Nathin Joshua Garlitz  
Booked 11/19/25  
Domestic assault

## BRAXTON COUNTY



Joshua Matthew Richardson  
Booked 11/21/25  
Home confinement violation

Charles Edgar Workman  
Booked 11/19/25  
Wanton endangerment involving a firearm, unlawful assault



Robert Allen Brown  
Booked 11/23/25  
Domestic assault, interfering with emergency communications, domestic battery



James Randolph Dunlap  
Booked 11/23/25  
Harassment



Kayla Michelle Hamner  
Booked 11/24/25  
Conspiracy



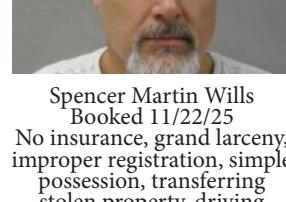
Ashley Nicole Harlow  
Booked 11/18/25  
Day report violation

## NICHOLAS COUNTY

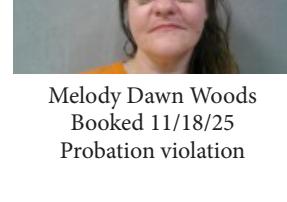


Ryan Alan Stone  
Booked 11/19/25  
Probation hold

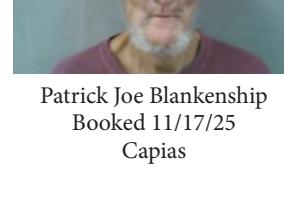
Tani Danielle Weaver  
Booked 11/24/25  
Possession of controlled substance, conspiracy to commit drug related charge



Spencer Martin Wills  
Booked 11/22/25  
No insurance, grand larceny, improper registration, simple possession, transferring stolen property, driving suspended



Melody Dawn Woods  
Booked 11/18/25  
Probation violation



Patrick Joe Blankenship  
Booked 11/17/25  
Capias



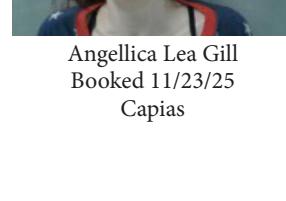
Larry Dale Cobb Jr.  
Booked 11/19/25  
Domestic violence (third or subsequent offense)

## CLAY COUNTY

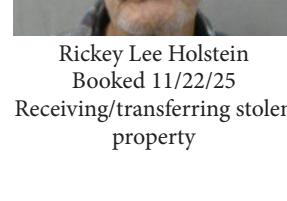


Wanda Julieann Coulter  
Booked 11/17/25  
Petit larceny

Robert Lee Deal Sr.  
Booked 11/22/25  
Petit larceny, receiving or transferring stolen goods



Angellica Lea Gill  
Booked 11/23/25  
Capias



Rickey Lee Holstein  
Booked 11/22/25  
Receiving/transferring stolen property



Cassandra Carin White  
Booked 11/23/25  
Child neglect with serious injury, conspiracy to commit a felony, sexual abuse first degree



## Puzzle Answers

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

### Super Crossword

#### Answers

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

## Big Otter Elementary honors Veterans



Students and staff at Big Otter Elementary School honored Veterans during the school's annual Veterans Day Program. Students sang songs, read poems, and shared their stories about their "Great American Heroes."

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## SAVE \$155 12 HOLIDAY WINES + BONUS GIFTS



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

The Birch River PSD will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 9, at 9:00 AM, at the PSD Office in Birch River.

The Clay County WIC office located at 452 Main Street in Clay is open to serve the public every Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## THIS WEEK IN

## West Virginia History

**Nov. 26, 1952:** A blaze on the evening before Thanksgiving at the Huntington State Hospital killed 14 patients, with three more patients later dying from their injuries—making it the deadliest fire on record in West Virginia history. Huntington State Hospital is known today as the Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital.

**Nov. 26, 1861:** The Constitutional Convention of 1861-63 was convened in Wheeling. The convention provided the foundation for state government in preparation for statehood.

**Nov. 26, 1953:** Politician Shelley Moore Capito was born in Glen Dale, the daughter of future congressman and governor Arch Moore. In 2001, she became the second woman ever to represent West Virginia in Congress and, in 2015, the first woman from the Mountain State to serve in the U.S. Senate.

**Nov. 27, 1848:** African American educator Wil-

liam H. Davis was born. As a teacher of Black children in Malden, his most famous student was Booker T. Washington. In 1888, Davis was nominated as an independent candidate for governor—to date, the only Black person so honored in West Virginia history.

**Nov. 27, 1933:** Daniel Boardman Purinton, a faculty member and president of West Virginia University, died. He was an early and strong supporter of co-education.

**Nov. 28, 1864:** In a local skirmish north of Moorefield, Rosser's Confederate cavalry and McNeill's Rangers rebuffed a raid by Union Col. R. E. Fleming and spared the South Branch Valley from destruction. The battlefields are part of the Middle South Branch Valley rural historic district.

**Nov. 28, 1890:** Colonel Hubbard W. Shawhan was born in Kentucky. As West Virginia's first official State Forester and first director of the state

Conservation Commission, Shawan oversaw the purchase of 102,000 acres of mountain lands and the development of the state's first parks and forests.



**Nov. 29, 1921:** The actress Dagmar was born Virginia Ruth Egnor in Lincoln County. Her acting career took off in 1950 when she was hired to be on NBC's "Broadway Open House," the network's first late-night television show.

**Nov. 29, 2001:** Writer John Knowles died in Florida. Knowles, born in Fairmont, attained literary fame in 1959 with his first novel, *A Separate Peace*.

**Nov. 30, 1796:** Brooke

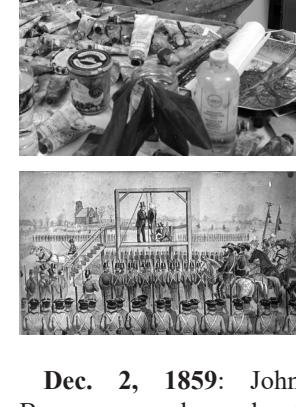
County was established under an act of the General Assembly of Virginia. The county was formed from part of Ohio County and named in honor of Robert Brooke, governor of Virginia.



**Nov. 30, 1865:** Hymnist Ida L. Reed was born into a Methodist family near Philippi. She wrote some 2,000 hymns, some of which have remained quite popular, such as "I Belong to the King."

**Dec. 1, 1936:** Artist Ellie Schaul was born in Massachusetts. Since moving to West Virginia in 1956, she has been one of Appalachia's most enduring artists.

**Dec. 2, 1945:** Betty Ireland was born in Charles-



and parimutuel betting. The Jefferson County complex contained 22 buildings and included 12 stables.



**Dec. 2, 1945:** Betty Ireland was born in Charles-

ton. In 2004, the Republi-

can was elected secretary

of state, making her the

first woman elected to the

executive branch of West

Virginia state government



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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6. Earring is different. 4. Collar is different. 5. Pocket is added to coat.

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## TIRE MANAGERS SPECIAL

### TIRE SALE

MASTERCRAFT COURSER CXT-275-7018 10PLY \$245.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT STRATUS HT- 275-65-18 TR \$184.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT STRATUS HT 275-65-18 TR \$139.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT QUEST PLUS 265-65-18 TR \$155.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT STRATUS HT 255-65-18 TR \$129.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT COURSER TRAIL 245-60-18 HR \$154.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AP 265-70-17 TR \$129.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT COURSER TRAIL 265-70-17 TR \$149.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT SRT TOURING 225-65-17 TR \$109.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT QUEST PLUS 225-65-17 HR \$124.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AS 225-60-17 HR \$99.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT GLACIER TREX 225-60-17 TR \$129.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT STRATUS AS 215-60-16 VR \$79.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT COURSER QUEST 215-60-16 VR \$95.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT GLACIER TREX 195-65-15 TR \$89.99 EA.

MASTERCRAFT COURSER QUEST 195-65-15 HR \$94.99 EA.

### ATV-UTV TIRES

CARLISLE 489 25-8-12 4 PR \$109.99 EA.

CARLISLE 489 25-10-12 4 PR \$114.99 EA.

### LAWN TIRE

CARLISLE TURF SAVER II 20-8-8 2PR \$54.99

POWER KING WING 25-8-12 6PR \$109.99 EA.

POWER KING WING 25-10-12 6PR \$129.99 EA.

POWER KING TERROROK 26-11-14 8 PR \$144.99 EA.

### TRAILER TIRES

MASTERTRACK UN 203 205-75-15 8 PR \$74.99 EA.

MASTERTRACK UN203 225-75-15 8 PR \$79.99 EA

### LAWN TIRES

HI-RUN TURF 15-6-6 2 PR \$34.99 EA.

WANDA TURF 16-16.50-8 4PR \$39.99 EA.

### MISCELLANEOUS CAR TIRES

MULTI SUPREME TOUR CSX 245-60-18 TR \$139.99 EA.

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KELLY EDGE AS 205-55-16 VR \$105.99

ALL PRICES ARE CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE MOUNT & BALANCE.

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PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH AVAILABILITY.

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### 2014 JEEP CHEROKEE

**White**, awd, automatic transmission, air conditioning, tilt steering, alloy wheels, am/fm radio, cd player, power doors/locks & cruise control.

**\$9,499.00**

### STORE HOURS

M-F 6:00AM-6PM

SAT 7:00AM-6PM

SUN-CLOSED

### TIRE SHOP

MON-SAT 8AM-5PM

SUN-CLOSED

### OFFICE HOURS

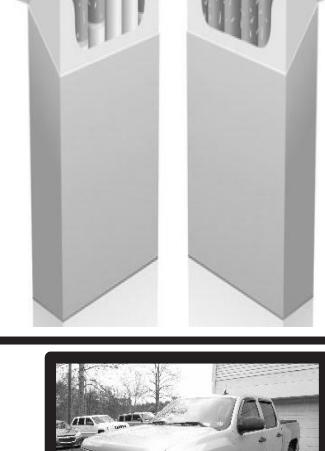
M-F 8:00AM-5:00 PM

SAT-9:00 AM -2:00 PM

SUN-CLOSED

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## CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

**2018 Ford Explorer-Auto, 4WD, Many Options, Tan**

**\$19,999.00**

**2018 Toyota Highlander-V6, Auto, 4WD, 3rd Row Seating, Has Many Options, Blue**

**\$18,999.00**

**2018 Ford F-150-V8, Auto, 4WD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Silver**

**\$18,999.00**

**2018 Dodge Caravan-All Seats, White**

**\$4,999.00**

**2017 Ford Explorer-3rd Row Seating, Many Options, Silver**

**\$13,999.00**

**2017 Nissan Rogue-4Cyl, 4X4, Tilt & Cruise, Gray**

**\$4,999.00**

**2016 Dodge Journey-Auto, 2WD, A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Red**

**\$8,999.00**

**2016 Jeep Patriot-4cyl, Auto, 2WD, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Blue**

**\$7,499.00**

**2016 Nissan Rogue-AWD, Many Options, White**

**\$7,999.00**

**2016 Nissan Rogue-4Cyl, 4X4, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, White**

**\$6,999.00**

**2015 Dodge Ram 1500-4DR, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Black**

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**2014 Nissan Xterra-4WD, Auto, A/C, Power Doors/Windows, Gray**

**\$9,999.00**

**2014 Jeep Cherokee-AWD, Many Options, White**

**\$9,499.00**

**2014 Chevy Malibu-Auto, Many Options Including A/C, Tilt & Cruise, Blue**

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**2013 Chevy Spark-4Cyl, Auto, 4DR, Blue**

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**2015 Ford F-150-4DR, A/C, Tilt & Cruise, White**

**\$9,999.00**

**2012 Kia Soul-4Cyl, Auto, Very Clean, Black**

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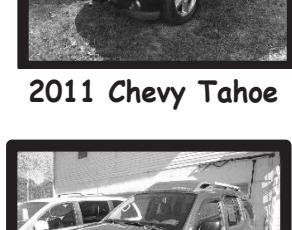
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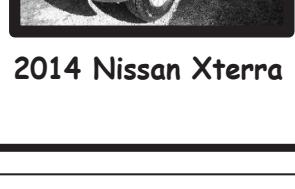
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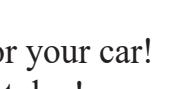
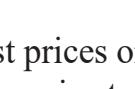
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# Treasurer Pack Releases 2026 Legislative Priorities

*Calls on Governor and Legislature to focus on tax cuts and education*

State Treasurer Larry Pack today released a set of policy priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session.

"As the state's chief financial officer, we have a duty to levy advice to the Governor and Legislature on sound, financial policy. We believe all the priorities that we will lay out will keep the size of our state government in check, remove burdensome regulations, advance education freedom and reduce the tax burden on our citizens. By following this roadmap, I guarantee we can make West Virginia a better place to live, work and raise a family," Treasurer Pack said.

#### Top Policy Priorities:

**Defend the Hope Scholarship:** With the Hope Scholarship set to expand to universal eligibility for the 2026-2027 school year, Treasurer Pack vows to work against any effort that limits access to the program.

**Eliminate the State Income Tax on Tips**

**and Overtime:** Treasurer Pack is calling on the Governor and the state Legislature to join President Donald Trump by passing legislation to eliminate state income taxes on tips and overtime. President Trump championed a policy at the federal level that would allow workers to deduct overtime and qualified tips from their federal tax return.

**Increase Local Control of Schools:** To provide flexibility through local control, Treasurer Pack is asking for the passage of the following: loosening of timelines and requirements of Reduction in Force (RIF) and transfer of personnel and greater autonomy on how the state portion of the school aid formula can be spent. This includes additional dollars for special education students.

**Prioritize Teacher Pay:** As it was done five times under Governor Justice, Treasurer Pack is asking the Governor and

Legislature to fund a teacher pay raise to help make West Virginia competitive with neighboring states. Treasurer Pack is asking for the minimum starting salary for all teachers should be set at \$50,000. For any teacher making above \$50,000, they should receive an additional \$2,000. This should be implemented on July 1, 2026.

#### Other Priorities:

**Unclaimed Property Consumer Protection Bill:** As the administrator of the Unclaimed Property Program in West Virginia, it is the Treasurer's duty to help return lost and abandoned property back to our citizens. Treasurer Pack will introduce legislation that aims to protect rightful owners' unclaimed property benefits and prevent increasing predatory practices by out of state companies that seek to take advantage of West Virginia citizens.

**Constitutional Term Limits:** Treasurer Pack is again pushing for a constitutional amendment that would prevent any individual serving in the office of Secretary of

State, Auditor, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, or Attorney General for more than three consecutive terms to ensure politicians serve the people rather than themselves.

"It is clear, West Virginia has and will continue to have a population problem unless we do something about it. Therefore, we must do more in our power to attract young people and families to the state," Treasurer Pack said. "That is why I am calling on the Governor and Legislature to prioritize policies that spur economic growth."

Last session, Treasurer Pack advocated for the continuity of government during the transition of constitutional office holders, for repealing an outdated program in the Treasurer's Office that was obsolete, and for securing the full funding amount for the Hope Scholarship program, which his Office oversees.

The 2026 Regular Legislative Session will begin on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

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## LEGAL

#### Clay County Commission

#### Job Description - Janitor

**Location:** Clay County Courthouse & Judicial Annex

**Reports To:** Clay County Commission

#### Position Summary

The Janitor is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness, safety, and overall appearance of the Clay County Courthouse and Judicial Annex. This position ensures that all offices, restrooms, hallways, and public areas are kept clean and orderly to provide a safe and welcoming environment for employees and visitors.

#### Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Sweep, mop, vacuum, and clean floors in all areas of the Courthouse and Judicial Annex.
- Empty trash and recycling containers and replace liners as needed.
- Clean and disinfect restrooms, including toilets, sinks, mirrors, and floors; restock soap, paper towels, and other supplies.
- Clean and dust furniture, fixtures, windows, doors, and other surfaces.
- Maintain cleanliness of entrances, hallways, stairwells, and public areas.
- Clean and maintain the break rooms, meeting rooms, and offices.
- Perform minor maintenance duties such as changing light bulbs, replacing ceiling tiles, or reporting repair needs to County Commission.
- Ensure janitorial closets and storage areas are kept clean, organized, and secured.
- Maintain inventory of cleaning supplies and notify County Commission when reordering is necessary.
- Unlock and secure buildings as needed; ensure proper security procedures are followed.
- Perform snow and ice removal from entryways and walkways as needed.
- Assist with setup and cleanup for meetings, hearings, and special events when requested.
- Follow safety and sanitation policies and procedures at all times.

#### Qualifications

- High school diploma or equivalent preferred.
- Prior custodial or janitorial experience preferred, but not required.
- Ability to perform physical tasks such as lifting up to 50 pounds, bending, reaching, and standing for extended periods.
- Knowledge of proper cleaning techniques, use of cleaning chemicals, and safety precautions.
- Dependable, trustworthy, and able to work independently with minimal supervision.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and professionalism within government facilities.

#### Work Schedule

This is a **full-time position** with standard weekday hours. Occasional evening or weekend work may be required for special events or emergencies.

#### Application Process

Applications may be obtained from and submitted to:

#### Clay County Clerk Office

Clay County Courthouse

246 Main Street

Clay, WV 25043

Deadline is December 5, 2025

Clay County Board of Health voted on November 3, 2025 to make changes to Clay County Board of Health's Environmental Fee Schedule. Proposed changes will add two new fees - temporary tattoo permit and temporary body piercing permit fees to the schedule at \$75.00 each. There were no other changes made to the fee schedule. The full current schedule can be viewed at [www.cchdwv.org](http://www.cchdwv.org). These changes are scheduled to take effect February 1, 2026. Any comments regarding proposed changes are to be mailed to: Clay County Health Dept; Attn: Board of Health Chair; PO Box 36; Clay WV 25043. All comments must be postmarked by: December 5, 2025

## LEGAL

#### Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Clay County Clerk's Office at P.O. Box 190, 246 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043-0190. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Clay County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 or 44-3.

Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.

Publication Date: Thursday, November 27, 2025

Claim Deadline: Monday, January 26, 2026

ESTATE NUMBER 835

APPOINTMENT DATE 11/18/2025

ESTATE NAME: WILLIAM LAWRENCE ABBOTT

AFFIANT: TERESA L COLEMAN

509 FRIENDSHIP DR

MATTHEWS NC 28105-5830

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# Panthers get trampled by the Colts

By Allen Hamrick

The 2025 season for the CCHS Panther football team ended on Friday in the second round of Class AA playoff games against the Colts of Philip Barbour. Rain settled in for this game which gave advantage to the team that could hold onto the ball. It was the first time the Panthers have been in the second round of playoff games in quite a few years, and the hope was that they would move on to unmarked territory. However, they had to get past Philip Barbour Colts.

It was not meant to be. The Panthers couldn't carry the same offense as they had in their last five games where they scored a total of 199 points. The Colts only allowed the Panthers one TD in the matchup which came late in the game. The Colts capitalized on nearly all the Panther turnovers, and by half, the game was all but unreachable for the Panthers as the Colts led at 56-0. By the time the white towel was thrown on the Panther season, the Colts had defeated the Panthers 69-7. This was not the game the Panthers expected, but even the best can be bested.

What a season it was, though! The Panthers lost only three games in regular season and finished 7-3 overall. This was a season that was full of action down to the last minute of each game. There wasn't a game this season where the Panthers didn't give full measure to their level of play; they went out and gutted it out on every down. They are a gang of brothers that left all they had on the gridiron, and they can hold their heads up for a season that will not be forgotten too soon in the hearts of football fans. Next season they will be back and will have good talent for the 2026 season.

With that, fall sports have come to a close and time has ushered in the win-

ter sports of basketball and wrestling for the 2025-2026 season. So, break out the field jackets, mukluks and hand warmers because it's time for some hard-court basketball and bone crushing wrestling. The Lady Panthers are gearing up and will hopefully get back on the winning side of the ball. They will have speed and strength under the glass. They have some veterans returning to the dance floor as well as some new blood coming off a great season from CCMS that will definitely make a difference in Lady Panther Basketball this season. The Panthers are coming off a pretty good season from last year and hope to renew the fire. It looks as though they will have the speed and perhaps will bring some power back under the hoop.

New head coach Jeffrey Krauklis will be whipping the Mustang team into shape for their first game against Braxton. He should be able to bring all his knowledge to the floor and get the boys back into championship form. The Lady Mustangs will be attempting to relive the glory years and bring the title back to CCMS; they definitely have the talent to get it done. Basketball fans from all over the county will be there to root on the Panthers, Lady Panthers, Mustangs and Lady Mustangs in their bids for basketball glory.

The CCMS Mustang wrestling dynasty is back on the menu for the 2025- 2026 season. Tyler Dorsey will once again be the head coach and hopefully get the Mustangs back to the mat glory they are used to. Once again, the CCHS wrestling team under Coach Jamie McDonough will make war on the floor with attitudes that rival those of the famed Navy SEALs. Coach McDonough will bring his form of high intensity workouts to the practices. So, get geared up, it's nearing winter and the season's sports are heating up.



Joel Elliott was trying to go yard. Photo Joey Varrella

## Thanksgiving Day - A Time of Remembrance

By Allen Hamrick

Thanksgiving Day is traditionally the day we give thanks for the things we have and for bloated stomachs when the last taste of turkey and ham are gone for another year. But keep in mind it's not always about the food. The story of Thanksgiving has been handed down through the generations of families and has changed over the years to represent the times we live in. The ideal of Thanksgiving has been dressed down like the turkeys we eat.

In the past, people relied more on family and neighbors for survival. Turkeys had to be hunted and bagged by the best hunters, not fought over in Kroger coolers loaded with turkeys frozen so hard they take days to thaw. It was a time when a biscuit and gravy was enough because Thanksgiving was more about being thankful for the things that matter the most - windows of opportunity that open and close from the time we are born to the time we die and the life we have while those windows are open is what we should be thankful for. Blessings are not based on the amount of wealth we accumulate but the wealth that no value can be placed on.

When society erodes, simple things like home, family, and spiritual wellness take second place to power and excess. This creates a type of crisis that ultimately changes our way of thinking to believe the only thing to be thankful for is what we have accumulated no matter how it was gained. The ultimate measure of the life we have, while we have it, is a place of



It's the things that matter most to be thankful for.

reprieve and respite that we retreat to when people, the job or life fail us. It is the incalculable value of the human spirit capable of love and charity. It is the echoes and shadows, the rise and setting of a day, the very breath we breathe, the self-worth, the sieges of

hope that were never lost - those are what we truly need to be thankful for.

When the quiet space where the lengthening shadows of our life draw closer to our final destination, the echoes of power that are nothing but whispers in a once thought institu-

tion or the millions gathered will matter anything beyond the grave but what was left behind: hope, charity, love, family and home. Keep these in remembrance when you enjoy the bounty that is set before you. Happy Thanksgiving!

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