



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple



Volume 137 No. 4

Periodical Postage Paid at Clay, West Virginia 25043-0180

Thursday, January 22, 2026

\$1.50

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Clay County Commission hears update on waterline extension projects, distributes funding to fire departments

By Gary Lee Stuber

The Clay County Commission met for the first regular meeting of January on Monday, Jan. 12. All three commissioners: David Schoolcraft, Duane Legg, and President Joyce Johnson were in attendance. Shelia Stone, Clay County Clerk, was present as recorder.

The first order of business was routine county business: Clay PSD Minutes and Financial Report, minutes from the previous commission meeting, bills, purchase orders, budget revisions, erroneous assessments as presented by the Assessor, fiduciary appointments as presented by the County Clerk. These include appointments of administratrix for estates, last wills and testaments, affidavits, and waivers of final settlements.

The commission gave permission to the Assessor to make corrections to the 2026 Land and Personal Property Books.

As far as hiring, the County Clerk requested that Audrey Thoman and Kayla Samples be placed as part time hourly employees. The commission approved it. They also approved Sheriff King's request that Allyson Goebel be hired part time. His request that Crystal Newell, Kaitlyn Preast, and Teresa Gill also be hired part time was tabled.

Terry Martin gave a number of financial updates. The Big Otter Nebo Waterline Extension Resolution is 70% complete and should be finished in May. The Grassy Fork Waterline Extension Resolution is 90% designed and they are presently working on easements and agreements. The Ossia Road Waterline Extension is currently in new grant application status for a HUD



The Clay County Commission.

Community Development Block Grant. The Clay County Judicial Annex continues to enter its final phase, and there was no additional news on the update of the Clay County 911 Congressional Directed Spending fund as there still is no federal budget awaiting approval. And finally, Terry introduced Sebrena Williamson as part of the Regional Council Staff.

The commission approved the distribution of the State of West Virginia's Fund #41 equally to all Clay County Fire Departments. \$4,490.62 to each department. Clay Volunteer Fire Department, Big Otter Volunteer Fire Department, and Lizenmore Volunteer Fire

Department. They can use the funds as they feel directed.

The commission hired a second janitor for the courthouse and annex: Evan Salisbury who will start January 20. They approved the hiring of Patsy Townsend as a driver for Clay County Ambulance Service.

And finally, the commission approved the recommendation of the County Landmarks Commission to accept the letter of interest from the Mills Group as the Architect and Engineers for the restoration of the Historic Clay County Courthouse.

The next regular commission meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 26.



Sebrena Williamson.

This Week In The House Of Delegates

For the week ending Jan. 16, 2026

Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates gaveled in for the second regular session of the 87th Legislature Wednesday, Jan. 14, eager to put in motion many of their proposals constructed in the months since the first regular session adjourned.

For one committee, there was no time to waste.

"Mister Speaker, your Committee on Education is ready to go to work,"

said Committee Vice Chairman De-

legate Joe Statler, R-Monongalia,

during Wednesday announcements.

"We will meet today at 2 p.m. in the House

Chamber for an analysis of the West

Virginia School Aid Formula."

The House Finance Committee

broke from its traditional early session

spate of scheduled state agency budget

hearings for a hearing on House Bill

4007, Relating to industrial access

roads, at 9 a.m. Thursday morning.

"Industrial access roads are impor-

tant to economic development, per-

iod," said Delegate David McCormick,

lead sponsor of HB4007. "This

program is part of the West Virginia

Business Ready Sites Program ini-

tially started in 1999, and a county

or municipality could request up to

\$400,000 for industrial access road

construction."

"What this bill does is doubles that

to \$800,000 to make up for inflation

and increased costs since that time,"

and it can be used just for construction of the road by the Department of Highways who administers this program."

House Bill 4008, also relating to the Business Ready Sites Program, advanced through the House Energy and Public Works Committee Thursday as well. The measure would expand the current grants to include 5-acre sites for grants of as much as \$75,000 in assistance, 20-acre sites for as much as \$100,000 and sites of more than 20 acres may be eligible for as much as \$250,000.

"I think this is going to give the Division of Economic Development more flexibility and more tools in their chest to get sites ready and foster in more businesses and create more jobs," said Delegate Jordan Maynor, R-Raleigh, the lead sponsor of the bill.

The newest member of the House, Delegate John Jordan, R-Beckley, took the oath of office Jan. 13 just a few hours after being appointed to fill the unexpired term representing the 42nd District, which is a portion of Raleigh County. Jordan, who serves as Lead Pastor of Calvary Assembly of God, was joined by his wife Stephanie for the swearing-in ceremony as House Clerk Jeff Pack administered the oath.

The last day to introduce bills is Feb. 17, and 483 bills have been introduced in the House. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight March 14.

Lady Mustangs turn up the defense against the Lady Knights



Layla Stewart drives in for two points.

See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Brandon Alen Dorsey
Booked 1/18/26
Petit larceny, harassment,
burglary

Zachary Logan Drennen
Booked 1/16/26
Capias



Nathan Ray Elliott
Booked 1/19/26
Domestic battery (third
offense)



Van Allen Mitchell
Booked 1/14/26
Fugitive from justice



Jeremy Allen White
Booked 1/13/26
Probation violation

BRAKTON CTY.



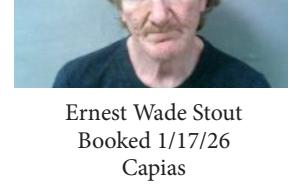
Shawn Wesley Jarvis
Booked 1/13/26
DUI

BRAKTON COUNTY

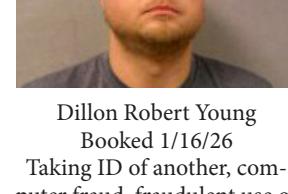


Jacob Dayton Lemon
Booked 1/17/26
Capias

Laura Ann Spencer
Booked 1/18/26
Tampering theft of auto,
DOP, possess of counterfeit
with intent to utter



Ernest Wade Stout
Booked 1/17/26
Capias



Dillon Robert Young
Booked 1/16/26
Taking ID of another, com-
puter fraud, fraudulent use of
access device

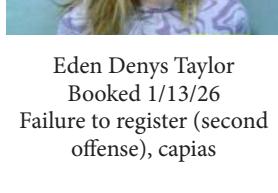
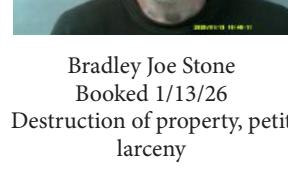


James Michael Morris
Booked 1/19/26
Possession of a controlled
substance (4 counts)



Jason Lee Padgett
Booked 1/13/26
Conspiracy to commit drug
related charge, possession
with intent

CLAY COUNTY



Bradley Joe Stone
Booked 1/13/26
Destruction of property, petit
larceny

Eden Denys Taylor
Booked 1/13/26
Failure to register (second
offense), capias

CLAY COUNTY



PSC at the forefront of promoting broadband expansion

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

One of the major issues the Public Service Commission has grappled with in recent years involves our effort to support the expansion in this state of high-speed internet service, commonly called broadband.

Because of the mountainous terrain of the state, broadband is often accessed through provider service lines strung on utility poles. Our Commission regulates those poles and what can be attached to them.

It is estimated that the state has more than 2.5 million poles, mostly owned by the two major power companies, but also by telephone carriers like Frontier.

We have been tasked with determining who, other than the pole owners, can attach their services to the poles owned by the power or telephone companies. And we are to properly interpret the Federal Communications Commission and state rules to determine who will pay the costs and what attachments can be made with those third-party attachment applications

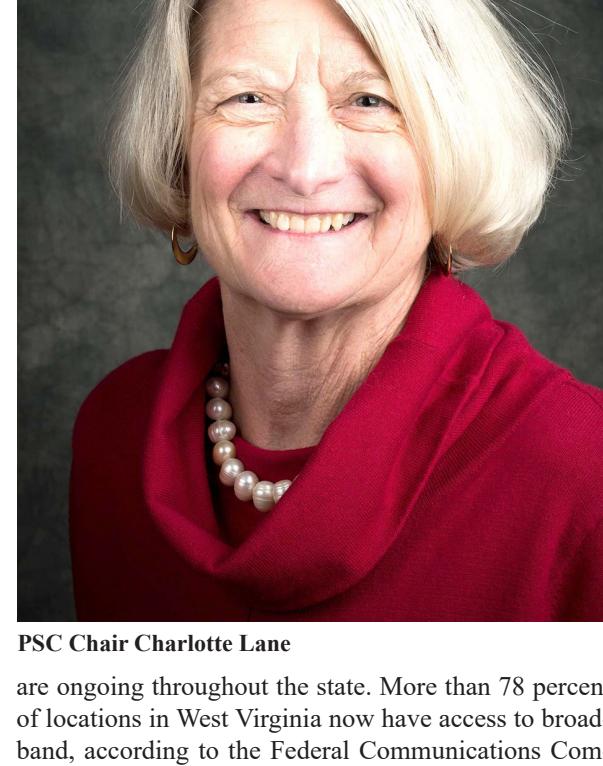
So, if you pay attention to what we do here, you will be hearing lots in the future about such terms as "broadband expansion," "pole attachments," and a panel we created to look into all this: "the pole attachment working group."

The Commission has a leading role in the pole attachment process. Our rules and our orders have declared who is going to pay for the various services.

Another major issue in all of this is the need to replace aging and weakened utility poles that are subject to inclement weather and environmental damage. These utility poles are critical to the delivery of essential services throughout West Virginia.

The Commission expects two reports detailing pole replacement and maintenance activities to ensure the money allocated for pole infrastructure is spent as intended.

Access to utility poles is imperative to the expansion of broadband in West Virginia. New broadband projects



PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

are ongoing throughout the state. More than 78 percent of locations in West Virginia now have access to broadband, according to the Federal Communications Commission, increasing from 65 percent in 2023. However, to reach 100 percent, West Virginia's pole attachment policies must be streamlined, and the pole distribution system must be sound.

Together, these two issues – pole attachments and the quality of the pole distribution system itself – are essential elements of the utility delivery system. The Commission is addressing these issues on behalf of all West Virginians.

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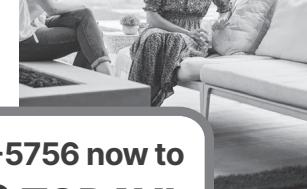
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PUBLISHER**Michael Showell, Publisher**

The Clay County Free Press (USPS 116-660) is published weekly at 291 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia. Subscription Rate: In County \$37.00; In-State \$47.00; Out-of-State \$50.00

Address all mail (subscription, change of address) to: P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call 304-647-5724 or Fax 304-647-5767.

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The Cat In The Tree

By Joe Mazzella

It was a lazy summer's day several years ago. I was walking my dog in the backyard when suddenly I heard, "Meow! Meow! Meow!" coming from the sky above me. I looked up and saw that my neighbor's fat, orange tomcat had gotten himself stuck near the top of my maple tree. I was a lot younger, fitter, and not as easily breakable back then so after I put my dog back in the house started to climb the tree to rescue the cat. Carefully I scooped him in one arm and gently made my way back down to the ground. As soon as I set my feet on the grass, though, the cat leapt from my arms and couldn't run away from me fast enough.

Several days later, however, when I was walking to my car I saw an orange blur run up to me and walk between my legs purring happily. I smiled and reached down to scratch the head of my new friend. And as I did I remembered the story of another cat. It was from the Aesop's fable of THE LION AND THE MOUSE that I used to read to my daughter when she was a little girl. In it a lion caught a mouse one day but instead of eating it, he kindly let it go because it was so small. Then several months later the lion was caught in a hunter's huge net. He roared in fear and anger but couldn't get free. And who should come to his rescue by chewing through the ropes of the net but the mouse. I especially loved the moral of the story: "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Kindness like Love is far more important than power, or money, or success. Kindness gives you joy. Kindness helps others. Kindness makes this world a better place. Kindness brings you closer to God. Be kind then. No act of kindness is too small. No act of kindness is ever wasted. Every act of kindness is priceless in God's eyes. Even rescuing a fat, foolish tomcat from a tree can make all of Heaven smile.

Home Country

Slim Randles

One of the problems Marvin Pincus discovered about running the Fly Tying Love Center here in the valley is that there appeared to be more fly tying than love counseling going on.

This particular morning he was whipping up a nice fluffy Adams dry on a number 12 and wishing everyone's love problems were as easy to solve as tying one of these. He realized he's a pioneer in the field of combining fly tying and romance solutions, but that doesn't mean he couldn't quietly hope for his neighbors to have more love problems. His advice had worked well with Dewey (a lead-wire-wrapped wooly bugger leading to the suggestion he showers before he asks a girl out on a date), and with Randy Jones (a pheasant-tail nymph and a Parmachene Belle sending him on his way to girlfriend happiness with Katie Burchell). But there were others out there. There had to be others.

Other advice counselors, the ones who just sat there taking notes, managed to find any number of unhappy potential love victims, but the Fly Tying Love Center was noticeably short of them at the moment.

"Marjorie," Marvin said over coffee, "maybe if I offered an incentive, you know? Some little extra that would bring them in for advice?"

"Like what, Honey?"

"Maybe taking some flies that I tied for them and making earrings out of them?"

"The men around here don't really take to wearing earrings."

"I mean, for the women ... you know. Women are the emotional ones who need love advice the most. Everyone knows that."

"How many clients have you had so far?"

"Well, two."

"Both of them were ...?"

"Men, true. But I'm not sure what I could offer the guys except the flies themselves to use to go fishing."

"That sounds good."

"And the earrings?"

"We could get you some of those fasteners for the earrings, and it would probably be a good idea to cut the points and barbs off them."

"Good idea."

"And I could wear a pair just to start the neighbor ladies talking about it."

"Yeah! Good idea! I'll tie you up a few right now."

"In that case," Marjorie told her husband, "I'm got the ladies club luncheon today and I planned to wear the red outfit..."

"Royal Coachman streamers on number fours! Honey, you're the best."

"X-X-X-X-X"

Brought to you by Strange Tales of Alaska, by Slim Randles. Available on the internet.

What It Was, Was a Coughing and Sneezing Contest

By Dr. James Snyder

The New Year started rather nicely for us. After all the exciting holiday activities, it was nice to settle into a more relaxed frame of mind. We had a whole week before us with nothing really to do and no place to go. What could be better?

I like it when there's not much to do, but The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a very opposite view. If she's not doing something in her craft room, she can't handle it.

However, some things have a way of changing.

Halfway through the first week of the New Year, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came down with flu-like symptoms. She was coughing, sneezing, and all that's associated with the Flu.

She was sitting on the couch with her eyes closed, and as lunchtime approached, I said, "Would you like me to make lunch today?"

She always makes lunch, and I thought this was an opportunity to help her out with the lunch plan.

She opened her eyes, looked at me very strangely, and then said, "Heavens no. I'm sick enough as it is, I don't need any more." She then got up, went to the kitchen, and began making lunch. At least I tried to help.

By the time she finished lunch, I started coughing and sneezing. My nose was running so much that I couldn't handle it. It was then that it occurred to me that whatever she had, she gave to me.

It wasn't long before both of us were sick, and I couldn't help but laugh at how our 'Flu' had turned us into a couple of couch potatoes. We were coughing, sneezing, and feeling miserable, but somehow, it made our start of the New Year memorable in a funny way.

I often wonder why they call it "Flu" when it never flies away. I want to say, "Whatever I had, it Flu away. But this Flu has a very exaggerated fascination with me. And of course, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

This went on for at least a week. For six days, I never got out of my pajamas. It was like I never got out of bed in the morning. I didn't have the energy to put on my work clothes, so I just stayed in my pajamas.

The only work I was doing was walking into the living room, taking a cup of coffee, and sitting down in my easy chair. It took a lot of work to get here.

Not only did I not change out of my pajamas, but The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage did the same. One thing was quite strange: she never left the house to go shopping. That was the real clue that she was sick.

We couldn't handle much activity, but then The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage invented some game for

us to play. She called it the "Cough and Sneeze Challenge." I never heard of that before, but I was in for it. I had nothing else to do, and there was no way I could stop from coughing or sneezing.

It was rather strange that I sneezed three times. I couldn't sneeze just once or even twice, but three times.

At the beginning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was far ahead of me in her coughing and sneezing. After all, she got this flu-like thing way before I did. But it did not take long for me to catch up with her.

We were sitting together in the living room, coughing and sneezing in turn. I would let her go first, and then I would follow not long after. I tried to be a gentleman about it, but pretty soon I was no longer in control of my coughing and sneezing.

She had a couple of hours ahead of me, but it wasn't long before I caught up.

After my last coughing and sneezing fit, I looked at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and said, "When will this game be over?"

She coughed and sneezed and then cleared her throat and said, "It will be over when one of us wins the contest."

I really didn't know what she was talking about or how to respond. It went on for five days, and each day seemed worse than the one before. We got up in the morning coughing and sneezing, and it continued throughout the day, and then we went to bed coughing and sneezing.

"I have an idea," I said to her, "if I surrender and let you win can we then call it quits?"

As soon as I said that, I went into the worst coughing and sneezing fit I had all week.

Laughing between coughing and sneezing fits, she said, "Are you really willing to lose this game?"

She knows that I don't like losing. But I've had a history of losing, and this would be a great time to keep losing. I wouldn't mind losing to this if we get it over with.

For the next half hour, we coughed and sneezed together as partners. Sometimes quitting is not an option.

In the middle of a sneeze, a Bible verse came to mind. "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing," (James 1:3-4).

Patience has a way of getting through difficult times.

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.

Treasurer Pack announces nearly \$1.5 Million in Unclaimed Property Funds returned during December

State Treasurer Larry Pack announced today his Office's Unclaimed Property Division returned nearly \$1.5 million worth of funds to individuals, businesses and organizations during the month of December.

"So far this Fiscal Year, my Office has returned more than \$12 million in unclaimed property money to our West Virginia citizens, and we're very proud of that as we enter 2026," Treasurer Pack said. "I encourage everyone to keep checking our unclaimed property data base because you never know if there may be unclaimed property funds in your name."

The Unclaimed Property Division returned a total of \$1,492,579 paid out across 1,444 claims representing 4,445 individual properties during the month of December.

Since the start of Fiscal Year 2026, which began on July 1, 2025, the Treasurer's Office has returned more than \$12,714,106 to rightful owners.

The State Treasurer's Office now has more than \$534 million worth of listings in its database.

For more information about the unclaimed property program or to find out if the Office is holding any money for you or your family, visit www.WVUnclaimedProperty.gov.

What is Unclaimed Property?

Unclaimed property can include financial accounts or items of value in which the owner has not initiated

any activity for one year or longer. Common examples include unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. (While the title includes the word "property," it does not however include real estate.)

West Virginia's unclaimed property laws protect the public by ensuring money and property owed to them is returned to them, rather than remaining permanently with financial institutions, business associations, governments and other entities. The Treasurer seeks to reunite the unclaimed property, including uncashed paychecks, stocks, or safe deposit box contents, with its owner.

Nationwide, nearly 33 million people in the United States – one in every 10 – are estimated to have unclaimed property available for them to claim.

How Can I Find Unclaimed Property in My Name?

West Virginians searching for lost financial assets can go to www.WVUnclaimedProperty.gov. In addition to finding property, the website will also help you track a claim.

A demonstration of how to use the Unclaimed Property search site is available on the Treasury's YouTube page, at: <https://youtu.be/K09yQ7YNKIE>.

To search for lost financial assets outside West Virginia, visit www.MissingMoney.com.

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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.



November 1958

Meet The West Virginia Governors

By The W. Virginia Industrial
and Publicity Commission
By The West Virginia Industrial
And Publicity Commission

West Virginia has had 25 governors since it became a state in 1863, including 13 Democrats and 12 Republicans, according to the State Industrial and Publicity Commission.

"Wood County leads the State with four chief executives," said the Commission, "three each for Kanawha and Marion counties, two for Fayette and Hampshire, one each for Upshur, Greenbrier, Ohio, Preston, Monongalia, McDowell, Harrison, Randolph, Raleigh, Wyoming and Tyler counties."

The Commission listed Arthur Ingram Boreman as the State's first Republican governor and John Jeremiah Jacob as the first Democratic chief executive.

"Seven governors were born

outside of West Virginia, including Arthur Boreman, who was born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania; William Dawson in Bloomington, Maryland; William Maryland in Johnson City, Illinois; William MacCorkle in Lexington, Virginia, and Albert Blakeslee White in Cleveland, Ohio," the Commission added.

It listed John Jeremiah Jacob of Hampshire County as the last governor under the first West Virginia constitution to serve a two-year term, and Henry Mason Mathews of Greenbrier County, as the first governor under the second constitution to serve a four-year term.

"Arthur Boreman was the only chief executive of West Virginia to serve six years in office, or three two-year terms, while Daniel T. Farnsworth served the

shortest period with a term of five days," the Commission added.

Here are the governors of West Virginia—25 of them—as recounted by the State Industrial and Publicity Commission:

Arthur Boreman (R), Daniel Farnsworth (R), William Stevenson (R), John Jacob (D), Henry Mathews (D), Jacob Jackson (D), Emanuel Wilson (D), Aretas Fleming (D), William MacCorkle (D), George Atkinson (R), Albert White (R), William Dawson (R), William Glasscock (R), Henry Hatfield (R), John Cornwell (D), Ephraim Morgan (R), Howard Gore (R), William Conley (R), Herman Kump (D), Homer Holt (D), Matthew Neely (D), Clarence Meadows (D), Okey Patterson (D), William Maryland (D), and Cecil Underwood (R).

Widen Relief Committee

The October meeting of the Widen Relief Committee was held at the offices of Elk River Coal & Lumber Company on Friday, October 24, 1958, with Billy Facemire, Carl Young, Joe Truman, James Triplett, and Lloyd Butcher, Jr., representing the employees, and H. L. Beattie, E. R. Ketchka, Scott Williams, and Darrell Wood representing the company.

There was no change in the list of retired men and \$100 each for the month of November was approved for Press Greathouse, Allen Hamric, Preacher Craft, Big Charlie Borash, Dod Neal, Nick Subrick, Walter McElfresh, Sam Hamlin, James R. Collins, Jink Lykins, Nim Woods, George Bowers, Frank Crider, Leo Capalba, Tom Ratliff, Bill Patton, Norman Rogers, Marvin Houghton, Ernie Starcher, Slim McDivitt, Willie Gibson, Byrne Wilson, Steve Felix, Harrison Rapp, Everett Vaughan, Ira Eagle and Joe Boggs.

Disability cases carried over from last month consisted of those of Richard Kelly, Herbert Thorne, Robert Perkins, Clarence Miller, J. A. McKinney, J. B. Holcomb, Ophie Hall, Theodore Johnson, Ardie Cox, Cecil Adkins, Bud Craft, and Curtis Morgan, of whom only the last named was able to return to work during the month. New cases approved were Earl Given and John Hutchison, both of whom are already back at work and John Chapman, James Hay-

good, and Mack Ellis, all of whom were still off at the end of October. Applications by Clarence Stover and Kermit Hughes were not approved because they were off less than one week from the date of application for assistance.

Survivors' assistance was approved for the dependent surviving members of the families of Ellis Strickland, Lee Acree, Cliff Atchinson, Bing Gibson, Dewey Asbury, Omer Wilson, Jim Rhodes, Fred Hoover, Theodore Griffith, Ova Casto, Ervin White, Clyde Graham, Everett Butcher, Early Gibson Tate Steele, Ivory Carter, Hale Dobbins, Stanley Pauza, Sullivan Woods, John B. Friend, Ellery Nicholas, Cecil Rose, Jeff McTheny, George Strickland, Randall Strickland, Woody Igo, Chelsie Bowers, George Johnson, Oscar Adkins, Bill Ray, Lanty Facemire, Don McCoy, Earl Hall, Marvin Shaffer, Hamilton Given, Everett Adkins, Okey Davis, Wade Dodrill, and Billy Ashley.

In addition to the cases at Charleston General Hospital, medical and hospital bills were approved at Charleston, Clarksburg, Clay, Clendenin, Cowen, Dunbar, Gassaway, Montgomery, Philippi, Richwood, St. Albans, Summersville, Sutton, and Webster Springs, W. Va., and Westbury, N. Y., for 208 employees, 15 of whom also received either retirement or disability benefits this month. Several small bills for one employee were not approved because they were incurred more than one year prior to the date they were submitted to the committee and one

larger bill was not approved because of the circumstances that made the hospitalization necessary. This was a case in which a severe beating reported to have been administered to a woman by her husband (an employee eligible for relief benefits) resulted in her being admitted to a hospital for extensive treatment and surgery. The committee by unanimous action refused payment in this instance.

Leaving one or more dependents off the exemption list for income tax purposes is one thing. Leaving them off your dependency card is another. When it comes time to pay income tax, all your dependents may be claimed. When it comes time to claim benefits, only those listed on your card can be considered. Be sure your card is correct and up to date.

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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, January 22, 2026

Claim Deadline: Monday, March 23, 2026

ESTATE NUMBER 855
APPOINTMENT DATE 01/13/2026
ESTATE NAME: PHILLIP CARL KEENEY
ADMINISTRATOR ANCILLARY
ADMINISTRATOR ANITA CRIST KEENEY
1127 VESTAL COURT
GREENEVILLE TN 37745-6705

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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, January 15, 2026

Claim Deadline: Monday, March 16, 2026

APPOINTMENT DATE 11/24/2025

ESTATE NAME: LOETTA MAE ADKINS
ADMINISTRATOR DELBERT SHERMAN ADKINS
3301 CRESMONT ROAD
CLAY WV 25043-9508

APPOINTMENT DATE 12/22/2025

ESTATE NAME: MARLYN CLYDE STARCHER
EXECUTOR JOEL F. O. RICHERT
5924 W. LYN HAVEN DR. SE
KENTWOOD MI 49512-9316

APPOINTMENT DATE 06/27/2025

ESTATE NAME: NORMA FAYE WALLACE
EXECUTOR EARNEST A NOEL
2990 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
CHARLESTON WV 25302-4502

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 01/05/2026

Sheila Stone
County Clerk
Clay County
P.O. Box 190
246 Main Street
Clay WV 25043-0190

LEGAL

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, the passing of Justice Tim Armstead, has caused a vacancy in the office of Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, article VIII, section 7 of the Constitution of West Virginia provides that if from any cause a vacancy shall occur in the office of a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Governor shall issue a directive of election to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law for electing a justice of the court in which the vacancy exists, and the justice shall be elected for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, section 3, article 10, section 3 of the West Virginia Code provides that where an unexpired term of office for a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals is for a period longer than two years, the vacancy shall be filled by a successor who has timely filed a certificate of candidacy, and has been elected in a non-partisan election and qualified to fill the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, at the time of Justice Tim Armstead's retirement, more than two years remained unexpired in the term of office for the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, PATRICK MORRISEY,

Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution of West Virginia and the laws of this State, do hereby proclaim and declare that the unexpired term of office for Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia shall be filled by the voters of West Virginia at the primary election to be held on May 12, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Ninth Day of January, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand "Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.

PATRICK MORRISEY

GOVERNOR

Seal of the State of West Virginia

By the Governor

Kris M. Mays

GOVERNOR

Seal of the State of West Virginia

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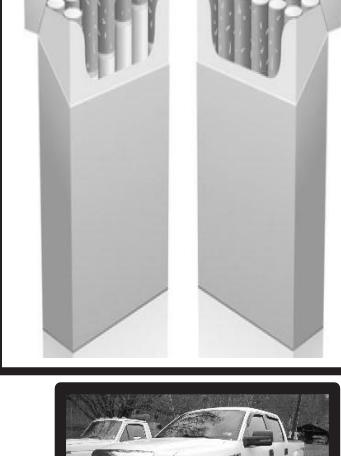
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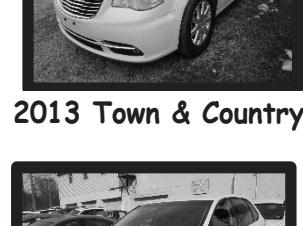
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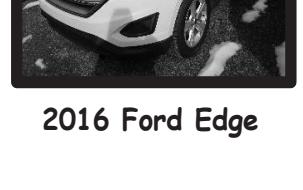
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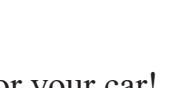
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Lady Mustangs defeat Lady Knights in a nail biter

By Allen Hamrick

To catch up on the Lady Mustangs' season - they met their archrivals this past week, the Lady Knights of Braxton County. When these two teams met earlier in the season, the Lady Knights caused the Lady Mustangs to have a Waterloo experience. This time, however, the Lady Mustangs were a juggernaut the Lady Knights couldn't handle. It was game on for the Lady Mustangs.

Every time these two teams meet, it promises to be a barn burner, and this game didn't disappoint. The Lady Mustangs turned on the defense, and the Lady Knights lost hope on a runaway

game quickly. The Lady Mustangs outstole, dribbled, shot, and rebounded the Lady Knights. With defense, you can expect a low scoring and tight game. At the end of the first period of play, the Lady Mustangs were up on the Lady Knights 11-9. Neither team could find the hoop much in the second period, and the score stood at 14-11 with the Lady Mustangs in the lead at the half.

For the rest of the game, both defenses pounded the courts allowing just a baseball score of points. When the smoke cleared on this nail biter, the Lady Mustangs got the win by the score of 20-18. The Lady Mustangs are on

a three-game winning streak going into this week where they will face Summersville on Tuesday night. You will

not want to miss this one. In the game it was Marissa Atha as top shot with seven points.



Addison Jones works defense in the paint.



Marissa Atha was unstoppable in the back courts.



Kinley Collins gets the steal mid court.



Kinley Ramsey looks for two points.

Panthers compete in Braxton Invitational wrestling tournament

By Allen Hamrick

The Clay County Panther wrestling team was on the road this past weekend at Braxton County High School to compete in the Braxton County Invitational. They faced some of the toughest competition of the year at this tournament. Forty teams went head-to-head, and most of those teams were stacked with ranked wrestlers, so to say it would be a tough road to the finals would be an

understatement.

With hours upon hours of preparation, focus and training under the belts, the Panthers were geared for a smack down and were ready to hit the mats running, but... A wave of sickness hit the team, and bad weather forced the Panthers to carry on with just a few wrestlers. However, when those few wrestlers hit the mats, other teams knew the Panthers were in the house. No matter where

CCHS wrestlers go and no matter if they are down in numbers, they are the ones to beat. With that being said, the wrestlers that represent CCHS give it one hundred percent plus some extra, and considering the caliber of wrestlers at this event, they did pretty well. The team was 22nd out of 40 teams, and Landon Delwarte placed 6th, Eddie Metheney placed 8th, Cameron Nelson placed 10th and Jaxon Gross placed 9th. The CCHS wrestling

team is not in the business of whining; they suck it up and move on to the next match, which in this case will be at Hoover this weekend. Hopefully all the CCHS wrestlers will be healthy enough to compete.

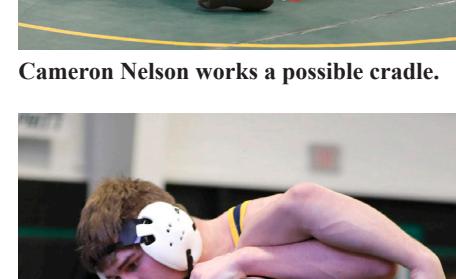
In other wrestling news, Lady Panther wrestlers Jayda Stricker and Zaiah Minger participated in the Cornelius Godfrey Memorial Tournament in Logan where Jada placed 5th and Zaiah placed 2nd.



Landon Delwarte gets the pin and the points.



Eddie Metheney pins the Braxton wrestler.



Cameron Nelson works a possible cradle.



Gabe Metheney works the cowboy.



Cade Hamrick looks for the pin.



Jaxon Gross works on a takedown.



L-R- Zaiah Minger and Jayda Stricker