



Clay County Free Press

Home of the Clay County Golden Delicious Apple

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Clay Middle Stuns Crowd with Buzzer-Beater on 8th Grade Night

Clay Middle School's boys' basketball team delivered a night to remember, capping off 8th Grade Night with a thrilling 43-42 overtime victory that came down to the final heartbeat.

Before tipoff, Clay honored its eighth graders — Izyck Bishop, Gunner Dobbins, Mason Hall, Levi Hughes, Ryder McMillion, and Trenton Parker — and the game that followed proved a fitting tribute to their time on the court.

The contest was tight from the start. Clay edged ahead of Walton Middle School at halftime with a slim 14-13 lead and carried momentum into the third quarter, extending the advantage to 26-18 by the end of the period. The Walton tigers battled back in the fourth, however, forcing a 34-34 tie at the end of regulation and sending the game into a three-minute overtime.

Overtime was pure drama. After McMillion calmly knocked down two free throws, Clay still found itself down 42-40 with eight seconds remaining, setting up a final inbound from its own side

of midcourt. What followed was a perfectly executed sequence: McMillion inbounded the ball to Parker, who quickly found Dobbins. Dobbins then dished to Brayden Odell. Standing three feet behind the three-point line, Odell launched the final shot with 1.6 seconds remaining. As the buzzer sounded, the ball dropped cleanly through the hoop, sealing a stunning 43-42 win for Clay and sending the home crowd into celebration.

The dramatic finish was a reflection of the work Clay has done under head coach Jeffrey Krauklis, whose preparation and leadership have helped the team continue to grow and compete in close games throughout the season.

McMillion led all scorers with 18 points, while Parker added 10, Dobbins scored 8, and Odell finished with 7, including the unforgettable game-winner. McMillion and Hall led the team on the boards, controlling rebounds at both ends of the floor. Parker and Dobbins were anchors on the defensive end, applying constant pressure and delivering key



Eighth graders group picture.

stops down the stretch, with Dobbins also leading the team in assists. Bishop pro-

vided relentless effort and tough defense throughout the night, playing a key role

CLAY MIDDLE cont. on page 7

This Week in the House of Delegates



WV Legislative Photography, Perry Bennett.

For the week ending Jan. 23, 2026

The West Virginia House of Delegates finished its first full week of the 60-day regular legislative session with seven House Bills having passed the full Chamber and been sent to the West Virginia Senate for deliberation.

"Nearly all our Delegates told us they wanted to double down on putting West Virginians to work because the best way we can fix so many other problems in our state is to help put as many West Virginians as possible to work in good-paying jobs," said House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay. "These legislators have been consistent, focused and they have been hard at work having the necessary conversations to move these bills forward."

Many members of the House took time Wednesday during Trades Day at the Legislature to celebrate the success of the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional Degree (STAND) Program. The program allows those who complete their apprenticeships to apply their on-the-job and classroom training toward college credit. It was created during the 2024 legislative session and funded during the 2025 session. The West Virginia Building and Construction Trades received the national Construction User's Roundtable Workforce Development Award for the program back in November and shared it with the House of Delegates this week.

"What we're seeing right now is a lot of young people are going straight into college," said Delegate Evan Worrell,

R-Cabell, a sponsor of the STAND Program. "They're amassing a large amount of debt and then coming out still trying to find a job with whatever their degree program is.

"We have a slate of bills this year that sends a clear message of what we're here for, and that's to support workers, support fair competition, support local jobs and also making sure that we ensure accountability when taxpayer dollars are on the line."

The full house passed House Bill 4007, related to industrial access roads, Jan. 23, with only a few dissenting votes. The bill would update the 25-year-old program to account for inflation, doubling the amount of money a county or municipality could request within one year for industrial access road construction to help projects get completed faster.

House Bill 4008 also passed the full House Jan. 23. It is another measure aimed at flexibility for communities to cultivate right-sized and responsible economic growth in every corner of the state. 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.

The last day to introduce bills is Feb. 17, and 798 bills have been introduced in the House. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight March 14.

Panthers lose a tough one to the Eagles



Joel Elliott scores two points the hard way.

Williams crowned 2026 Homecoming Queen



Cadence Williams – 2026 CCHS Basketball Homecoming Queen.

See story on Page 8

BOOKED



REGIONAL JAIL MUGSHOTS

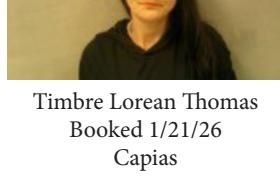
BRAXTON COUNTY



Dwayne Carson Stevens
Booked 1/20/26
Incest, sexual assault third
degree

Jeremiah Scott Walker
Booked 1/19/26
Capias

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Jennifer Ellen Meadows
Booked 1/23/26
Drug delivery resulting in
death, failure to render aid

Timbre Lorean Thomas
Booked 1/21/26
Capias

CLAY COUNTY



Jason Robert Neal
Booked 1/22/26
Violation of personal safety,
violation of protective order,
harassment, petit larceny



Daniel Eugene Vaughan
Booked 1/25/26
Obstructing an officer, war-
rant

NICHOLAS COUNTY



Cameron Mitchell Holcomb
Booked 1/21/26
Driving suspended, DOP,
possession with intent,
defective equipment, grand
larceny



Scott Lee Long
Booked 1/21/26
Family court Capias



Governor Morrisey resolves local road maintenance issues

By Rocky Osborne

The residents of the community of Elkhurst have their road added to the official Highway Map for Clay County thanks to advocacy by Governor Patrick Morrisey's Office. It's refreshing to have a meaningful response from a public official.

Rocky Osborne received an email in January of this year from Jeffery Price, Senior Transportation Realty Agent WVDOH / District One confirming that the road CR 16/25 is extended to Elkhurst following the former railroad grade.

The addition of this road to the map is necessary for the local Department of Highways to maintain the road. This section of roadway was deeded to the DOH in May of 2024 and the necessary paperwork finished to place it on the map was completed on August 7, 2024. For some

reason the final step was not completed under Governor Justice's administration. Rocky wrote Governor Morrisey in June of 2025 to ask his office to expedite this process as the local DOH had refused to do maintenance on the road. Governor Morrisey responded within a week directing the DOH to complete maintenance on the road.

Rocky checked in with the new District One Head, Travis Knighton, in December 2025 and received the documentation from Jeffery Price that the road was already added to the map and would be added to the public version at the end of March.

Thanks again to Governor Morrisey, Stephen Rumbaugh, Secretary of Transportation, Jeffery Price, and Travis Knighton of the Department of Highways for your joint efforts to resolve this issue for the folks who depend on this access.

Big Otter Elementary releases A/B Honor Roll

2nd Grade - Linda Jarvis

A Honor Roll:
Hailie Cline
Reese Gill
Solomon James
Jaxon Jones
Zaiyn Koch
Liam Morris
Carter Myers
Harper Nutter
Adalyn Salisbury
Sadie Siers
Kaylee Smith
Zoey Stricker
Stephanie Thompson
Case Titus
Aviana Tully
Enzley Vaughan
Rylan Whittington

B Honor Roll:

Lincoln Gross
CJ Jarvis
Moriah Nuckols
Kylie Persinger
Noah Runion
Natalie Young

B Honor Roll:

Kaylee Gill
Owen Paxton
Michael Hyatt
Sawyer Williams
Noah Garvin
Brentlee O'Dell
Harwen Newsome
Clay Miller
Kyson Lambey
Kynlie Persinger
Ginger Duffield
Aaron Taylor

4th Grade - Cory Stricker

A Honor Roll:
Madeline Montville
Cameron Schoonover
Landrum Gregory
Jett Wilmoth

B Honor Roll:

Rose Billups
Aaliyla Young
Aerolyn Moore
Eli Nichols
Hunter Holstein
Brantlee McClain
Vaida Walton

5th Grade - Dustin Vaughan

A Honor Roll:
Iris Miller
Mollee James
Lacie Tanner
Cheyenne Bays
Ellayna Brown
Emma Stephens
Harper Faulkner
Kash Kincaid
Kinsley Duffield

B Honor Roll:

Brooks Burge
Benzley Champ
Jaxon Stutler

5th Grade - Jamie Smith

A Honor Roll:
Zoey Raynor
Kinslie Murphy
Cattie Boggs
Shailah Koch
Tripp Sears
Katelynn Hensley
Michael Gill

B Honor Roll:

Trevor Coffman
Oaklynn Tanner
Katie McCourt

Leighla Rose
Jace Stutler
Kolyn Murphy

Jacob Sears

3rd Grade - Brandi Pierson

A Honor Roll:
Ilyavae Boggs
Gannon Cummings
Natalee Fulks
Rebecca Hanshaw
Darryn Helmick
Adalynn Hensley
Lavaiah Lesher
Graceyn Marks
Hadley McGlothlin
Addisan O'Dell
Terran Raynor
Anna Sears
Lacey Tanner

B Honor Roll:

Coleton Black
Rose Duffield
Jasealynn Harold
Rebecca Moore
Adalyne Myers
Makynlee Myers
Payton Rhodes

4th Grade - Dylan Vaughan

A Honor Roll:
Adalyn Boggs
Lanie Goe
Kathryn Hanshaw
Abigail Hamblin
Gabe Warren
Jessie Cadle
Kendra Taylor
Chase Siers

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Answer

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

Answers

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

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POSTMASTER:

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It's Not A Mess, It's My Creative Décor**By Dr. James Snyder**

The greatest joy I have every morning is not only getting up but also stepping in my office. I step inside, pause for a moment, and look around at all the books on my shelves. I have almost 10,000 books. And yes, I read every one of them. Well, except for commentaries and dictionaries.

I love looking through all my books, and most of them, I know where I got them. Every once in a while, I'll take one down and spend some time reading it. What would I do without my books?

If you saw my desk, you would not be able to find it. My desk is such a mess of papers and folders, my laptop, and other things. But I love every bit of it.

When I retired, I had to have a room built at the back of our house for my office. I think it was one of the best things I've ever done. Walking into that office is a wonderful experience for me.

Some days, I look at all of the books that I have written and remember working on that manuscript. I have over 30 books at the present time.

Every once in a while, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will come into my office while I'm working. She will step in, pause, look all around my office and then say, "What a mess you have."

I will look up to her with a big smile on my face and reply, "Where do you see any mess?"

With sort of a grunt in her voice, she says, "Just look all around this office. It's a mess everywhere. I don't know how you can work in this environment?"

"It's not a mess," I respond to her, "it is my creative décor."

I'm sure she's never heard that phrase before, especially coming out of my mouth.

Several times, I walked into her Craft Room and noticed how pristine it is. When I walk in, I get a bit dizzy, and I'm not sure how to get out. Such organization is not my cup of tea.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is known for her organizing skills. If you want something organized, call her.

I caught her once in my office trying to organize some things. I had to gently calm her down and walk her out of my office and set her in her chair.

My philosophy is, if you can't find something, you don't need it. And if you need something, you'll find it.

I can tell how many times I couldn't find what I wanted at that time. I have learned to stop looking for it and get back to work. When I do that, all of a sudden, I find what I need. I'm not sure how that works, but in

my office, it works.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I do not have to have everything organized. And the word "messy" is not part of my vocabulary.

Often, I will ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "What do you mean by messy?"

Oh, she will go on a long tirade explaining to me what she considers messy. I listen, but I do not comprehend what she's saying. Messy is a part of me.

Not too long ago, while she was in her Craft Room, I peeked in and said, "Would you like me to organize your Craft Room?"

She stared at me for a moment and then said, "I think I'm quite all right here. There is nothing here that you can do to organize this room. Just go to your messy office and get back to work."

I chuckled all the way down the hall towards my office. What would her room look like if I organized it? I'm pretty sure she would not be able to find anything she needed for any of her crafts.

Whereas in my "messy office," I can find anything I want. If I can't find it, I don't need it. And if I don't need it, I'm not going to worry about it. Life can bring you a lot of lemons, but I would rather have ice tea.

Sometimes, as I walk around in my office looking at my library, I see a book I haven't seen for a long time. With great delight, I go to my chair and begin reading it.

All the books in my office have created a beautiful display that I enjoy every day. Since my retirement, I can go in and out of my office as I please.

Recently, both The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I had the flu. All week I wore my pajamas when I went into my office. I could go in and out as I pleased, dressed as I pleased.

As I was sitting in my office, thinking about this, I was reminded of a verse of scripture that addressed it. The Apostle Paul said, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

According to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, my office may be a mess. That's not the important issue. The thing that must be organized is my service to the Lord. That is the only thing that is crucial in my everyday life.

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.

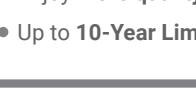
Treasurer Pack announces continuing participation confirmations now being accepted for Hope Scholarship students**Deadline to Renew Existing Applications is June 15**

State Treasurer Larry Pack, who serves as Chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board, announced Continuing Participation Confirmations (CPCs) are now available for current Hope Scholarship students wishing to continue their participation in the program during the 2026-2027 school year.

"We have seen a record of number of students utilize the Hope Scholarship Program and are continuing to see numbers increase as the program opens," Treasurer Pack said. "In addition to welcoming new students, we have made great programmatic strides since this time a year ago and we feel confident that we are in the best position our program has ever been in. Our goal is simple: make it easier for families to find the education that meets their unique needs. I want to encourage all currently participating families to submit their confirmations for their child as soon as possible before applications for new students open on March 2nd."



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CPCs will be accepted through June 15 in the Hope Scholarship online portal. If a student fails to submit their CPC by the June 15 deadline, their application would be considered a new application subject to a lower funding amount for the 2026-2027 school year. In addition, any carryover funds in the student's account would revert back to the state.

Students continuing participation in the program will have to demonstrate current proof of West Virginia residency. The full list of acceptable residency documentation can be found in The Hope Scholarship Parent Handbook.

Approved CPCs will be updated to a status of Conditionally Eligible in the online platform. In early July, the Hope Scholarship Board staff will review all Conditionally Eligible students to ensure that the required academic progress reporting for the 2025-2026 school year has been recorded by the student's county board of education and will update their status to Approved for the 2026-2027 school year.

Hope Scholarship applications for new students for the 2026-2027 school year will be available on March 2.

New applications for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year are being accepted through February 28 to receive 25 percent funding.

The Hope Scholarship will open to all school-age children residing in West Virginia beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year.

More information on the program is available at www.hopescholarshipwv.com.

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HAZEL

Home Country**Slim Randles**

It just happened, you know? One of those serendipitous coincidences that occur when planets line up or you foolishly store oily rags together. It just ... happened.

Ardis Richardson was looking through the Soup 'R Market for an egg beater for her mom. Not the electric kind. The turn-the-handle kind. She picked one up and tried it out, causing the friendly little metallic whir that good egg beaters make. What was serendipitous, however, was Anita Campbell not six feet away in the next row thumping pumpkins. As Anita thumped and Ardis whirred, they got in time with each other and Sarah McKinley was checking out kitchen timers and gave one a friendly ding. This got the thumper and whirrer going even more enthusiastically and caused the market's owner, Annette George, to walk over to the three percussionists, grin, and pick up a brand-new stainless steel funnel, purse her lips, and begin to blow a blues tune on it. It was okay, since she owned the store.

Annette, it turns out, played trombone back in high school.

While she was bluesing and Anita was thumping and Sarah was dinging and Ardis was whirring, a kind of blissful harmony began and filled the vegetable aisle with music.

When they finally stopped, and between gales of laughter, Annette said she could put a regular trumpet mouthpiece in the funnel and get a better tone. Anita said not to say anything to her husband, Dud, as he thought his accordion playing was the only music in the family.

They agreed to get together each Wednesday afternoon and practice until they got good enough for a concert.

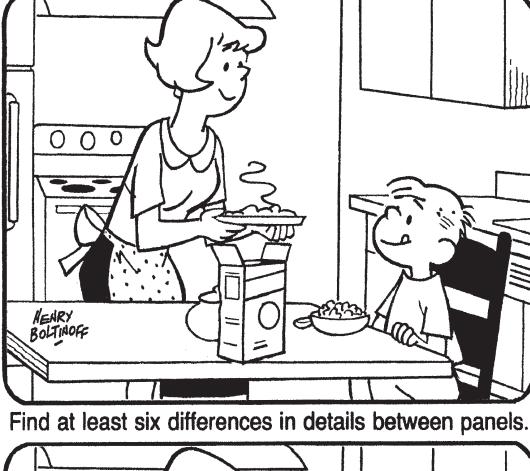
But they never did.

Serendipity just ... happens ... in its own good time.

Brought to you by Slim's latest book, *Whimsy Castle*. Now available wherever you find really good books.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTONOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

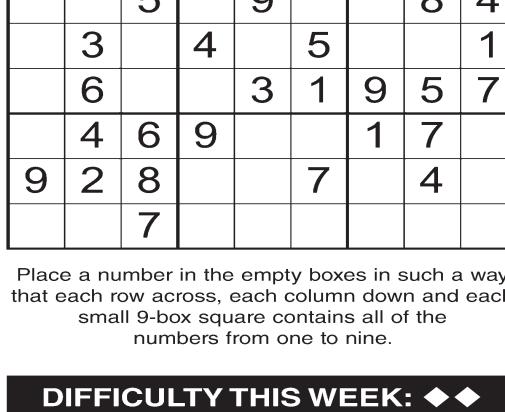


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3. Collar is missing. 4. Bumper is missing. 5. Refrigerator handle is lower. 6. Stove hood is wider.

Differences: 1. Back of chair is different. 2. Box is different.

Weekly SUDOKU



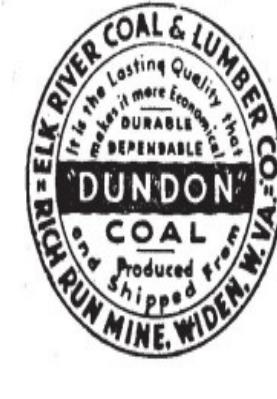


THE WIDEN NEWS

The people who think alike
should vote alike.

"DUNDON" RED ASH COAL

Where all think alike, no one
thinks very much.



December 1958

THE WIDEN NEWS

WIDEN, WEST VIRGINIA

H. L. BEATTIE

MANAGING EDITOR

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

PEARLE D. WILLIAMS

VICTOR B. SHINGLER

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Widen Woman's Club Holds Christmas Party

The regular monthly meeting along with the annual Christmas Party of the Widen Woman's Club was held on Thursday evening, December 11, 1958 in the Legion Hall. Mrs. Ruth Butcher, President conducted a brief business meeting. Devotions were lead by Mrs. Leo Lykins of Dille. Miss Hazel Baughman, Finance Chairman, gave a report on the Bake Sale and Bazaar, held December 6th, and a report on fruit cake sales which was conducted by Mrs. Ronald Brown.

Mrs. Robert Osborne gave a report on the District Convention held at Fayetteville, W. Va., on October 11, 1958.

Two piano selections, "White Christmas" and "Winter Wonderland" were played by Miss Dawne Carol Backus. "The Widenettes" a local ladies quartette (Mrs. Ed Mullins, Mrs. Edgar Donohue, Mrs. Mrs. Joe Truman and Mrs. Cecil Butcher) sang some lovely Christmas selections. Mrs. B. E. Taylor, Music Chairman, accompanied the vocal group.

The Hall was beautifully decorated in keeping with the Christmas Season. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. Richard Manning; Chairman, Mrs. Robert Osborne, Mrs. Melvin Conner, Mrs. William Patton, Mrs. E. B. Gray and Miss Tressie Bailes to the following members: Misses Hazel Baughman and Leola Mick, Mesdames Ronald Brown, Cecil Butcher, Eugene Frame, Farrell Henderson, Joe LaCorte, Leo Lykins, DeForest McMillion, E D. Moyers, Edward Mullins, Joe Potasnik, Carmel Ramsey, Adam Roberts, Vera Shaffer, Richard Shelton, Bill Sizemore, B. E. Taylor, Scott Williams, Larry Kitzmiller, George Kitzmiller, James F. Dorsey, Howard Bragg, Henry Shaffer, Sam Shelton, Earl Donohue and Howard Shaffer.

Substitute Post Office Clerks Are Needed

The Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, U. S. Post Office, Charleston, West Virginia, has announced an examination for Substitute Clerks and Substitute Carriers for the following Clay County Post Offices: Clay, W. Va. and Widen, W. Va.

Applicants need not reside with in the delivery area of these post offices. Applications will be accepted from both residents and non-residents.

No specific experience is required, but all applicants must pass a written test. Persons interested in taking this examination may secure a copy of the announcement and application form from any of these offices, or from the Executive Secretary, Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Room 114A, Post Office Building Charleston, W. Va.

Applications must be received on or before January 24, 1959.

Widen Bank Distributes Christmas Saving Funds

Mrs. D. L. McMillion, Cashier, Bank of Widen, has announced that Christmas Savings Fund Checks in the amount of \$13,843.67 were mailed on December 15, 1958. This was a nice windfall for those members of the Christmas Fund who set aside an amount each month during the year.

She also announced that the bank had in its savings account alone \$99,255.47, making the Bank of Widen one of the strongest little banks in the state.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND CONCERT

Widen High School Band presented a Christmas Concert December 18, 1958 at the Y. M. C. A. Auditorium at 7:30 p. m. A very interesting and varied program was presented to a large audience.

The concert was the first large concert the Widen High School Band has given and all those atten-

Widen High School Band Concert Held Dec. 18

ding were thrilled by the skill and showmanship displayed by the members of the band. Mr. Gerald Simmons, Band Director, spent many long hours of hard work with the band in preparation for

The National Anthem Frances Scott Key
March Storm King Walter Findlayson
Black Knight Overture Clare Grundman
The Syncopated Clock Leroy Anderson
Trumpet Voluntary Henry Purcell
Trumpeter's Lullaby Leroy Anderson
Gypsy Holiday Overture Clifton B. Barnes
March Trombone King K. L. King
My Fair Lady (Selections) From the Broadway production
"My Fair Lady"

Orville Greathouse, 58, Dies of Heart Attack

Orville Greathouse, 58, of Ivydale, died Friday, December 12, enroute to a Charleston Hospital after suffering a heart attack. He became ill Wednesday. Mr. Greathouse was employed by the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company at Widen and had been for the past 36 years.

Surviving are his wife, Laura; four daughters, Mrs. Sylvia Hathaway of Eau Gallie, Florida, Mrs. Icie Patton of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Mrs. Goldie Morris of Norfolk, Virginia and Mrs. Opal Boggs of Madison; two sons James E. of St. Albans and Donald Greathouse of Charleston; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Evalena Ward of Ivydale and Mrs. Joann Street of Lakeland, Florida; two stepsons, Lantie Friend of Elkview and Cecil Friend of Ivydale; and 21 grandchildren. Services were conducted at 10:30 a.m. Sunday in the Ivydale Methodist Church by Rev. Glenn Phillips and Rev. Carl Morris. Burial was in Sunset Memorial Park at South Charleston. Clay Mortuary in Clay was in charge of arrangements.

The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.

"You have not lived a perfect day, even though you have earned your money, unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you."

this program.

A new set of kettle drums recently purchased for the band by the Band Boosters Club were on display and were used for one of the selections on the program. The program was as follows:

The National Anthem Frances Scott Key
March Storm King Walter Findlayson
Black Knight Overture Clare Grundman
The Syncopated Clock Leroy Anderson
Trumpet Voluntary Henry Purcell
Trumpeter's Lullaby Leroy Anderson
Gypsy Holiday Overture Clifton B. Barnes
March Trombone King K. L. King
My Fair Lady (Selections) From the Broadway production
"My Fair Lady"

IT STARTED WITH HIS BIRTH

Widen School News

Some things that designate

Christmas

Are plain to see

Like the bright lights and

Santa Claus

And gifts on the Christmas

tree.

But all of these things mean

nothing

Without the true meaning

you see—

The birth of our savior, Jesus,

Who died on far Calvary.

Many children are brought into

this world

Thinking Christmas means

only one thing—

To give and receive lots of gifts

And have a community sing.

They never know of the real gifts,

The frankincense, myrrh, and

gold

That were brought to Him by the

Three Wise Men

As in the Bible is told.

They lose sight of the meaning of

Christmas—

Peace and good will on earth.

Keep each Christmas holy, and

remember—

It started with His birth.

It is far better to say, at the close of life, "I have lived," than merely, "I am ninety."

Much is said about what Americans stand for. Equally important are the things Americans won't stand for.

VMT
vacations

SAVE \$250 ON ALL TOURS!

MORE THAN 50 GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE



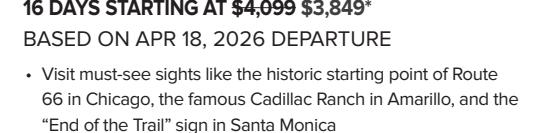
MUST BOOK BY 3/31



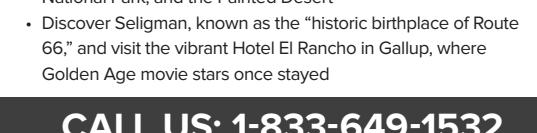
MUST BOOK BY 3/12



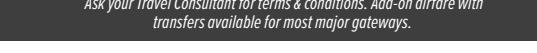
MUST BOOK BY 3/12



MUST BOOK BY 3/12



MUST BOOK BY 3/12



MUST BOOK BY 3/12



CHURCH DIRECTORY



A

ALTA CHURCH OF GOD
Sunday Night Services
6:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 PM Everyone
is welcome! **Pastor: Paul E.**
Young

B

BELL CREEK
COMMUNITY BAPTIST
CHURCH
NO Scheduled Services
At This Time

BELL CREEK
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
Dixie
Tuesday Night 6:00 PM
Thursday Night 6:00 PM
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM
PM Pastor: Lee Holiday
(304) 632-1135

BETHEL BAPTIST
CHURCH of Adonijah.

Preaching from K.J.V. Bible
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Morning 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening 7:00 PM
Thursday Evening 7:00 PM

BETHEL COMMUNITY
CHURCH, Porter Creek Road,
Bomont, WV

Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Night Service
7:30 PM

Thursday Night Service
7:30 PM

Everyone welcome!

Pastor: Junior Davis

BICKMORE BAPTIST
CHURCH located at Bick-
more on Fola Road

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Wednesday evening services

7:00 PM

Pastor: Ralph D. Lane

BIG OTTER BAPTIST
CHURCH OF IVYDALE
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Preaching 11:00 AM

Wednesday prayer service and

Bible Study 6:30 PM **Pastor:**

Danny Richardson

BIG UNION BAPTIST
CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Worship Service 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening Service 1st,

3rd and 4th

Sundays Preaching 6:00 PM

Wednesday Night Prayer &

Bible Study 7:00 PM

2nd Sunday Communion

Service 6:00 PM

Pastor: Pete Shaffer

BLUE KNOB CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Preaching 11:00 AM Everyone

is Welcome!

BUFFALO VALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday

School 10:00 AM Worship

Service 11:00 AM Sunday

Evening Service

6:00 PM

Radio Broadcast, Sunday

Morning 9:00 AM. WCWV

Summersville

Everyone Welcome **Pastor:**

Doug Newell IV

BURKE MEMORIAL
METHODIST CHURCH in

Procious. Across Camp Creek

Bridge on the left. Preaching

Every Sunday

9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Bible Study every Wednesday

7:00 PM **Pastor: Jerry Chandler**

C

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF
LIZEMORE

Prayer Service and Bible Study,

Tuesday 7:00 PM Regular

Service Sunday Nights at 7:00

PM

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Sunday Evening Service

7:00 PM

Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

Come and worship the Lord

with us.

Everyone Welcome!

Pastor: Michael L. Holcomb, Sr.

CLAY COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Sunday Night Service

7:00 PM

Wednesday Night Service 7:00

PM. Everyone welcome.

Pastor: Dean Rogers

H

CLAY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM
Worship 11:00 AM.

Everyone is Welcome!

Pastor: Wilma Dobbins

CLENDEENIN UNITED
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Preaching
6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:30 PM

Pastor: Fred Walker

CLIO COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Sunday Night Preaching 7:00

PM

Wednesday Worship

7:00 PM

Everyone welcome.

Pastor: George Stickland

COLD SPRINGS GOSPEL
TABERNACLE, Upper Fall-

ing Rock, Clay County

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM

Sunday School 11:30 AM

Sunday Evening Service

7:30 PM

Tuesday Evenings 7:30 PM

Teachings from the King

James Bible

Everyone welcome!

Pastor: Darris Barker

CORNERSTONE
INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

CHURCH, Rt. 3, Newton

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

Sunday Night Service 7:00

PM

Wednesday Prayer Service/

Discovery Clubs 7:00 PM

Pastor: Roy Huffman

E

ELK RIVER BAPTIST
CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Preaching 11:00 AM

Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

Saturday Night 7:00 PM

Pastor: Bruce Cook

F

FAIRVIEW BAPTIST
TEMPLE

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Pastor: Bret Wiley

FAITH MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

Dutch Ridge Laurel Road

Sunday Service 6:00 PM

Tuesday Service 6:00 PM

Everyone Welcome!

Pastor: Brother B. J. Evans

Associate Pastor: **Lee Roy**

Anderson

FAITH MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

Bomont, WV

Sunday Service 10:00 AM

and 6:00 PM

Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

Sunday Night Service

6:00 PM

Pastor: Nick Bird

Phone 304-548-6665

FLAT FORK
MISSIONARY BAPTIST

CHURCH

Wednesday Prayer & Bible

Study 6:00 PM

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Sunday Worship 11:30 AM

Pastor: Chris Johnson

FOLA MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Preaching 11:00 AM

Sunday Night Service 7:00 PM

Wednesday Adults Bible Study

& Kids for Christ 7:00 PM

Pastor: Daniel Tanner

G

GAULEY BRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 AM

Junior BYF/Senior BYF

6:00 PM

Sunday Evening Worship

7:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study

7:00 PM

Wednesday Kids/Children/

Youth 7:00 PM

CALHOUN MIDDLE

In the win. In the junior varsity contest prior to the varsity matchup, Clay picked up a hard-fought 14-12 overtime victory. River Schoolcraft and Ryder James led the scor-

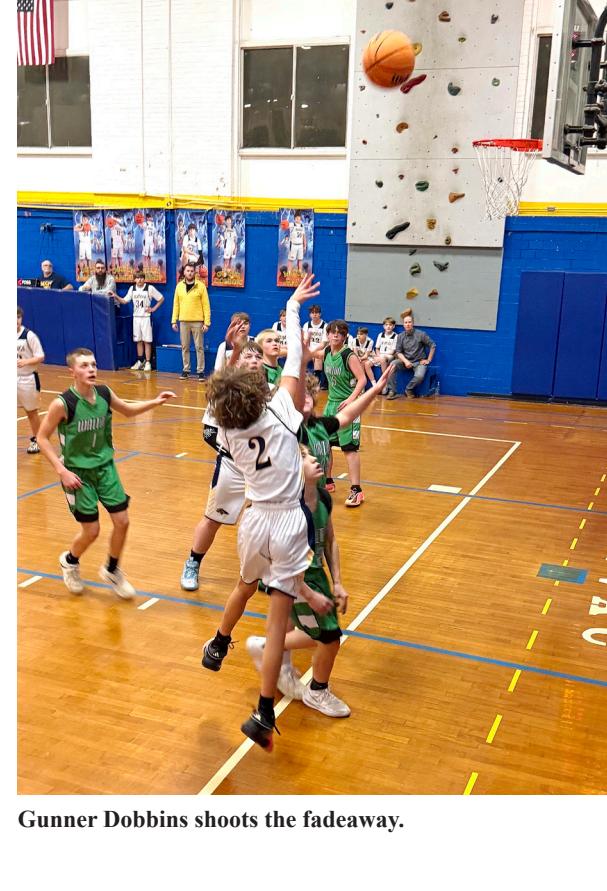
ing for Clay, while Ahxton Hallick and Kayson Fugate turned in standout defensive performances, helping limit Walton's scoring and secure the win.

Following the two exciting victories, Clay now turns

its attention to the week ahead, with games scheduled against Webster and Richwood. If 8th Grade Night was any indication, fans are in for more excitement as the season continues.



Brayden Odell hits game winning shot.



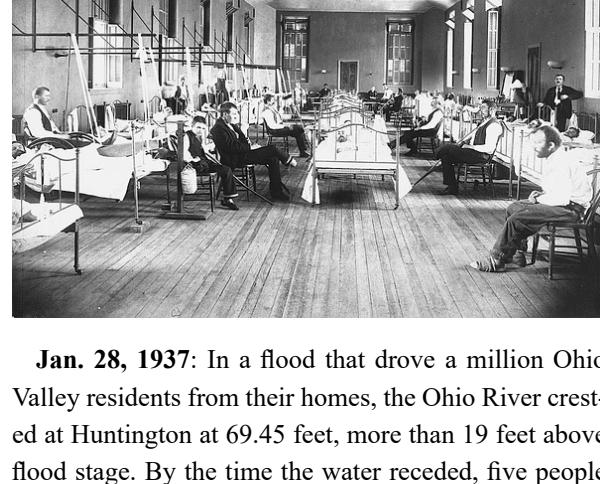
Gunner Dobbins shoots the fadeaway.



Trenton Parker looks for an open shot.

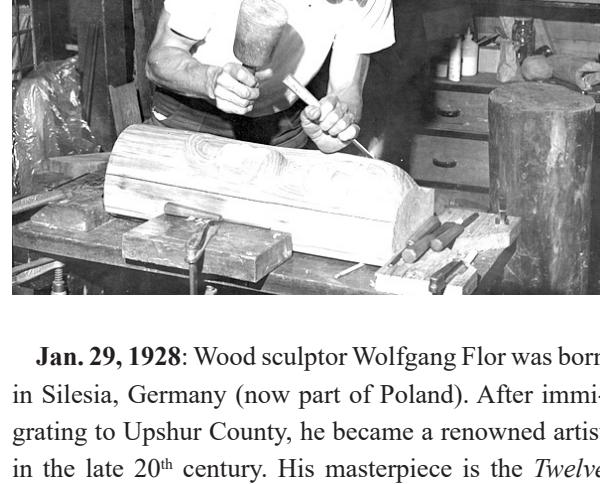
THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

Jan. 28, 1902: Miners Hospital No. One opened at Welch, with a young Dr. Henry Hatfield as president. The legislature had passed a law requiring state hospitals for those engaged in dangerous occupations, and eventually three hospitals for miners were built in different sections of the state.



Jan. 28, 1937: In a flood that drove a million Ohio Valley residents from their homes, the Ohio River crested at Huntington at 69.45 feet, more than 19 feet above flood stage. By the time the water receded, five people were dead, and the city was in ruins. Parkersburg, Ravenswood and Point Pleasant also were badly damaged.

Jan. 29, 1903: The great rhododendron was designated the official state flower of West Virginia, after being recommended by the governor and voted on by public school students.



Jan. 29, 1928: Wood sculptor Wolfgang Flor was born in Silesia, Germany (now part of Poland). After immigrating to Upshur County, he became a renowned artist in the late 20th century. His masterpiece is the *Twelve Apostles* in Wesley Chapel at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Jan. 30, 1818: Nicholas County was created by the Virginia legislature from parts of Greenbrier, Kanawha and Randolph counties. The county was named for Wilson Cary Nicholas, a Virginia governor and U.S. senator who lived from 1761 to 1820.

Jan. 30, 1895: Mingo County was created from the southern part of Logan County. Mingo is the youngest county in West Virginia.

Jan. 31, 1878: Educator William Woodson Trent was born in rural Nicholas County. He served as state superintendent of schools from 1933 until 1957.

Jan. 31, 1922: Movie and television actress Joanne

career included more than 40 films. Her brother, singer and TV host Peter Marshall, was also a West Virginia native.



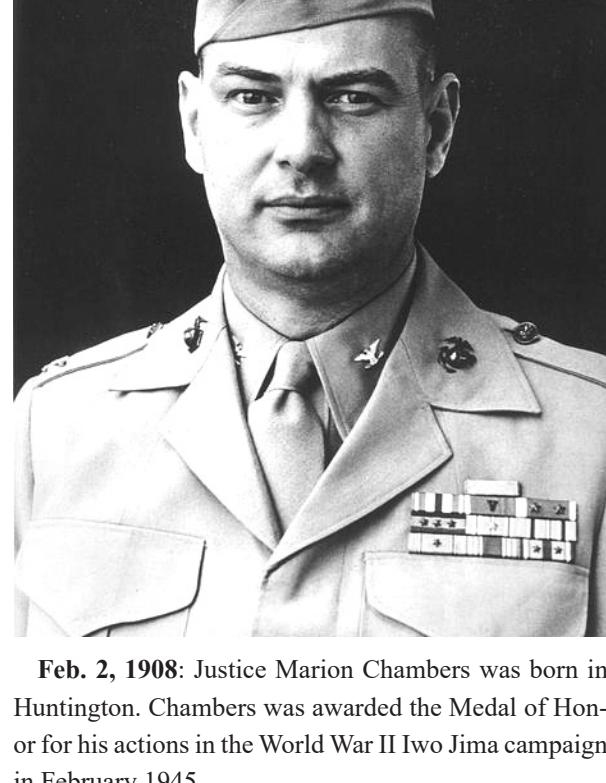
Jan. 31, 1945: Sergeant Jonah Edward Kelley of Mineral County was killed in action while leading his squad against German positions during World War II. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "superb courage."

Feb. 1, 1832: Education reformer Alexander Luark Wade was born. Wade reorganized rural Monongalia County schools to require progress through eight prescribed levels with a graduating exercise and receipt of a diploma. Wade's system worked so well it was copied in other counties and states.



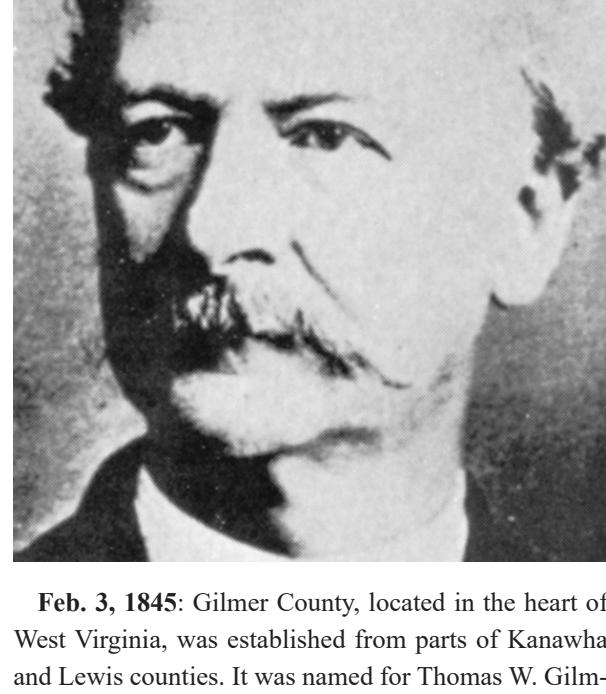
Feb. 1, 1901: Frank Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of World War I, was born in Missouri. Buckles purchased a farm in Charles Town in 1954 and

continued to live there until his death in 2011.



Feb. 2, 1908: Justice Marion Chambers was born in Huntington. Chambers was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the World War II Iwo Jima campaign in February 1945.

Feb. 3, 1825: Confederate General William Lowther Jackson was born in Clarksburg. He was one of at least three Southern officers to bear the nickname "Mudwall."



Feb. 3, 1845: Gilmer County, located in the heart of West Virginia, was established from parts of Kanawha and Lewis counties. It was named for Thomas W. Gilmer, a governor of Virginia.

Feb. 3, 1923: WVU broadcast announcer Jack Flemming was born in Morgantown. He was the long-time "Voice of the Mountaineers."

Feb. 3, 1961: The West Virginia legislature passed a resolution adopting "The West Virginia Hills" as an official state song. Prior to the adoption of "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "The West Virginia Hills" was the best-known of our four official state songs.

Panthers have tough time at the nets against the Eagles

By Allen Hamrick

Since the beginning of the month the Panthers have played some great basketball, losing only one match to Buffalo mid-month. They defeated Richwood twice along with Gilmer and Roane. This past Friday night they faced their rival - the tough Eagles of Braxton County. Panther JV came out swinging to open the night. They would set the pace for the rest of the night, and it was a fast one with plenty of defense and offense. Lathan Brown was nothing short of outstanding on defense as he stole the ball and crammed the net with points. The whole team played like it was their Final Four game, and when it was all over Panther JV sent the Eagle team packing and licking wounds by the score of 54-48.

With the Panther Varsity, it is non-

stop action from the opening buzzer to the final whistle. The Panthers came out swinging and held their own in the first period. They kept the game close, trailing by a mere six points at the end of the period. After that, the Eagles went on a run, and by the half, they were up 36-19. As with all Panther games, they are full of heat from the get go - calls seemingly being called and not called on both sides of the coin and a civil war ready to erupt at any time. The game, however, went on, and the Panthers struggled to get the ball in the net. Fouls were adding up on both sides. By the end of the 3rd period, the Eagles were up on the Panthers 54-30. Panther defense picked up the pace in the 4th, but the deficit was too big, and the Panthers couldn't catch the growing gap in the score. When it was over, the Panthers took

the loss by the score of 36-64. The Panthers will have a three-game road trip this coming week, weather permitting, at Calhoun, Nicholas and Riveswood. Come out and catch a game.

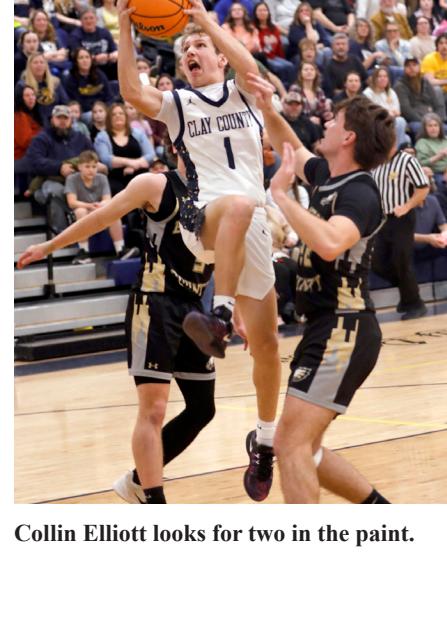
Friday night was also the time to crown the 2026 Basketball Homecoming Queen of CCHS. The CCHS cheerleaders, dressed in their finest, got busy lining up in formation to welcome the new queen to the court and her cheering fans. Cadence "KK" Williams was crowned the 2026 queen by principal Angela Nichols. Her escort was Eli Metheney and crown bearer was Lunta Atanoa with her escort Ezekiel Ataonna. Williams will no doubt be a queen that represents the school well. Congratulations to Queen Williams and the rest of her court. Freshman Princess was Autumn Rapp with escort Collin Elliott. Sophomore Princess was Peyton Johnson with escort Joel Elliott. Junior Princess was Jada Stricker with escort Blake Coleman. Senior Princess was Jaeci Nottingham with escort Kaden Fitzwater.



Lathan Brown racks up two after a steal.



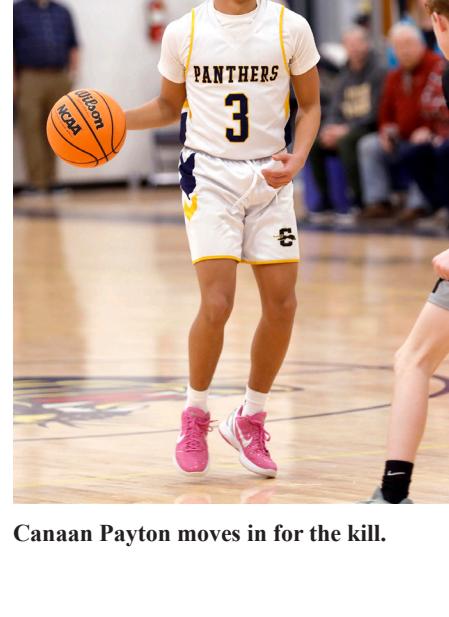
Michael Foster gets two in the paint.



Collin Elliott looks for two in the paint.



John Paxton runs the hundred after the steal.



Canaan Payton moves in for the kill.

Lady Mustangs fall to the Lady Bears

By Allen Hamrick

To update the Lady Mustangs' season, they met their Waterloo week before last as they came face to face with a juggernaut when they took on the Lady Bears of Summersville. In their first meeting this season, the Lady Mustangs lost a close match to the

Lady Bears. So, the Lady Mustangs were out for blood since the game was coming to their home turf. However, it was game on for the Lady Bears. The Lady Mustangs fought hard, but buckets were as hard to get as a thousand-dollar bill. The Lady Mustangs tried to keep it close, but the Lady Bears were

bent on a notch in the win column. It looked like the Lady Mustangs had a chance, but they missed some opportunities to get points on the board as time ran out in the game. When the smoke cleared, it was the Lady Bears on top 46-27. These two teams could possibly meet again this season if the basketball

bounces right, and it will be a game you won't want to miss. The Lady Mustangs rebounded, beating Fayetteville 32-30 later in the week in a nail biter. With just five games left in the season, the Lady Mustangs should have a good chance at a title. Come out and catch a game.



Layla Stewart looks for 3 points.



Jordan Holcomb looks for 2 points.