Break ins at Dundon

By Erica Kearns

On Monday, August 6 the Clay County Panther Immediate Football concession stand and equipment trailer at Dundon were broken into. The unknown suspects damaged the door to the equipment room and trailer as well as stole items from the concession stand including nine cases of pop, 2 boxes of candy and a box of potato chips. It appears the perpetrators were ex-

pecting to find cash or something of more value upon entering the premises. The damages to the facility are being repaired by the midget football league. Anyone with information should contact the Clay County Sheriff's Department or an office of the CCPIF. A reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Clay County Commission votes to fund repair of cupola on old Clay County Courthouse

By Erica Kearns

The Clay County Commission met on Thursday, August 9, 2012 in the courthouse for their bimonthly meeting. With the three commissioners present, the meeting opened with Jerry Stover requesting funds to assist in repairing the cupola of the old courthouse. Throughout the years, the dome has developed a leak that is potentially damaging to the rest of the building. Stover appeared on behalf of the Historical

Society to ask the County Commission, who owns the building, to contribute part of the funds necessary to repair the cupola before winter. The total cost of the project given by Paul D. Marshall Architects will be \$18,793.28. Through mitigation monies received from the D.O.H., membership fees and other funds the Historical Society was able provide \$15,000.00 of the repairs, which left the Commission to only pay \$3,793.28. The Commission voted unanimously to fund the remainder and to go ahead with the repairs on the archaic building.

Paul Miller, the Outreach Director for the WV Center on Budget and Policy Control appeared to present a potential resolution to the commission for their support of a possible trust fund for the state of West Virginia. Miller, along with co-worker Rick Wilson, spoke about the need to address budget deficits

that are expected over the next several budget cycles and the need to connect the dots between finding revenues and paying for the various programs and policies important to many West Virginians such as education and employment. He also discussed the Center's latest report on the Economic Diversification Trust Fund and how nonrenewable natu-

See "Clay County Commission" on next page

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

Tammy Marie Rose

The Clay County Board of Education met on August 6th at 6 p.m. Debbie Brown, Sharon Helmick, Allen Tanner and Tanya Price Taylor were all approved as new Teachers in Residence.

Frank Klemen was approved as this years Assistant Basketball Coach at Clay Middle School. Phil Dobbins was approved as a volunteer football coach at Clay County High School. Dave Woods was approved as a volunteer football coach at Clay County Middle School and Cindy Taylor was approved as a volunteer cheerleading coach at Clay County High School.

West test results were given and in general test scores were not good. The county struggles in math, English and science in most grades. On a high note 11th grade chemistry scores were high and credit was given to the high schools chemistry teacher Patty Coulter.

Six Clay County Graduates of NRCTC School of **Practical Nursing Pinned**

The Ninth Annual Pinning Ceremony of the New River Community and Technical College School of Practical Nursing was held on Saturday, July 21, at the Roland P. Sharp Alumni Conference Center at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, W.Va. Thirty graduates were awarded pins for completing the nursing program. Of the thirty graduates, six of the graduates were Clay County residents which included Kandace Dennison, Ivydale; April Knotts, Ivvdale; Elizabeth Morton, Indore; Lakisha Nottingham, Clay; and April Tanner, Duck; Jessica

Workman, Lizemores.

Joyce Egnor, RN, MSN, director of the nursing program, welcomed graduates, friends and family. Roger Griffith, dean of New River's Greenbrier Valley Campus extended greetings and introduced Dr. Harry R. Faulk, executive vice president and chief academic offer, who made brief remarks. Egnor then introduced Lt. Col. Daniel L. Shelford, BSN, RN, CEN CTN, EMT-P, risk manager and educator at Summersville Regional Medical Center, who delivered the commencement address.

The Board of education will be applying to FEMA to try and recover reimbursements for costs associated with the Big Otter Shelter that was set up due to the June 29 storm. The food used during the emergency was food slated to be used for summer school so they hope to get that funding back plus reimbursements for busing, water, employees and air conditioning. Prior to the storm on June 29th the Clay County School Systems had not had an insurance claim for the entire school year.

Redistricting was a big subject a few weeks back. A lot of parents spoke out against having to place their children in the school closest to them instead of the school of their choice. It appears those voices were heard loud and clear. Though they may have to redirect new preschoolers and kindergartners the rest of the children will stay put.

New accessible ramps have been ordered for Bradley field. Gravel has all ready been delivered and prep work started. They hope to have the ramps in place for the Panthers first home game.

House fire on Carr Street



This unoccupied house on Carr Street in Clay caught fire early Friday morning. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time.

An Interview with Hiram Lewis

By Tammy Marie Rose

The name Hiram Lewis his home in Procious back in June, but the truth is Mr. Lewis is no stranger to Clay County.

"I was born in Welch, West Virginia, but grew up coming to my family's camp at Elkhurst for weekends throughout the summers"

Lewis has deep roots with a small country church that was built in the year 1902. The land the quaint church sits on in Elkhurst was donated by his great, great, great grandfather, who is also his namesake.

"Hiram's wife, Rebecout the cobwebs, dusted the pews, and started ringing the bell every Sunday at 10:30 and 11:00. By the end of the summer, we had sixteen people attending on a regular basis. I left in 2003 when I was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Lewis feels spiritually attached to the church, but recent incidents have led him down another path, "I do know that it is the church that I feel that I spiritually belong to. But apparently I

have offended some that go made to look stupid; made to til a shooting took place at was to ring the bell. I cleaned me because of the shooting lieve a trial will take place." incident. But I know these things will all work out because there is power in that altar from the older folks who have passed away and I can feel that power that has been stored there for more than 112 years. And I expect a day of Pentecost, a revival of those saints that will be astounding."

Mr. Lewis, who faces the grand jury on charges of malicious wounding and wanton endangerment says "I acted in self-defense and I have the faith that anyone who looks at the facts of the situation will see that and justice will prevail. I should have never been charged. Just as King Jehoshaphat prayed and sought God when the great multitudes were coming against him, I will praise my God and stand my ground and I can rest knowing that my God will fight the battle for me. I don't believe the Honorable Prosecutor Jim Samples will take my case to the grand jury. And whatever demon acted through the Honorable Sheriff Randy Holcomb and the State Police to cause my arrest will be cast out or

there by speaking in spirit stutter and proclaim Jesus as was not a familiar one to ca helped seed eighteen and truth. And another indi- Lord. I don't believe a grand Clay County residents un- churches in Clay. My job vidual is apparently afraid of jury will indict. I don't be-

Since the shooting incident Mr. Lewis has been extremely candid on both social networks Facebook and Youtube. In retrospect, I asked him if he feels putting himself out there that way was a wise decision with a grand jury appearance lurking?

"If I remain silent, I will be doing the work of the devil. That is why he sent Mr. Bogart and a few others against me in the first place is to kill me, steal from me and destroy me. Silence me and keep me from casting seed. Keep me from praising His name. To make people afraid of me and to make people question the calling. The devil sent his legions to stop me from doing a mighty work for God. But God will deliver and the legions will be made my stepping stones." CARRY FROM **HERE**

Touching on the subject of James Tyler and Ark Mountain Adventure Camp, Lewis, had this to say, "I met him in November while hunting.

See "Hiram Lewis" on next page

Glenville State College to Offer Evening **Courses in Clay County**

Yards of the Month

Vance residence



King residence

This week's Yard of the Month winners are Tom and Priscilla Vance of Lizemore and JR and Angie King of Triplett Ridge. Congratulations!

Glenville, WV - Glenville State College will begin holding classes at the Valley Fork Education Center beginning on Monday, August 20th. Classes being offered include: Quantitative Business Analysis I on Mondays from 7:00-9:50 p.m.; Principles of Microeconomics

7:00-9:50 p.m.; Introduction to Business on Thursdays from 7:00-9:50 p.m.; and Principles of Marketing on Fridays from 7:00-9:50 p.m. All courses are three credit hours.

For more information or to register, contact the Glenville State College office of Off Campus Programming at offcampus@glenville.edu or (304) 462-6069.

Festival Forecast

By Lacie Pierson

A team effort - Local couple brings new edge to Apple Festival

on Tuesdays from 7:00-9:50

p.m.; Principles of Manage-

ment on Wednesdays from

Dawn and Russ Whiteley certainly manage to stay busy. After putting in their respective 40-hour work

weeks, they Clay County natives certainly have put in a golden effort in supporting this year's Clay County Golden Delicious Festival. For Dawn, that means getting organized and revved up for the Clay County Motor-

cycle Show, which will take place Saturday, Sept. 22, during the festival at the DHHR parking lot along Main Street in Clay. Registration will take place from 9 a.m. to noon that day, and the first 50 people to register will receive a free T-shirt. Registration is \$10 per bike, and the event will benefit the Santa's Helper program in Clay County, which provides toys, clothing, food and other items to underprivileged children in

Recently, Dawn was appointed to the festival's Board of Directors, but she has been



Dawn and Russ Whiteley

involved with the motorcycle show since its inception in 1996. That year, there were only about 10 bikes, but the show has boasted more than 100 bikes during recent fes-

tivals.
See "Festival Forecast" on page four

VH1 Save the Music Foundation donating instruments to Clay County Schools

By Tammy Marie Rose

The VH1 Save the Music Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring instrumental music education in America's

public schools, and raising awareness about the importance of music as part of each

child's complete education. Since its inception in 1997. the VH1 Save the Music Foundation has provided \$48 million in new musical instruments to 1,800 public schools and this year Clay County School systems will be receiving this amazing

According to Clay Middle School band director, Mr. Wayne, Clay County will be receiving between \$16,000 and \$30,000 worth of new instruments for this years band members.

the county.

Attorney no-show puts Clay County man's FOIA lawsuit in jeopardy

By Tammy Marie Rose

A Clay County man's Freedom of Information suit is on the brink of being dismissed as a result of his attorneys failure to show for a recent hearing.

Kanawha Circuit Judge Charles E. King, Jr. denied a motion by Michael Boggs to amend his suit against the Clay County Business Development Authority. The reason King denied the mo-

tion was due to the failure Karr failed to do that. of Boggs' attorney, David R. Karr, Jr., to appear in court on July 24 to argue why.

Records show Karr filed the motion on Dec. 9. The reason for it was to state with specificity the reason why the State Development Office was a defendant in the suit. During the hearing, Doren Burell, WVDO's attorney said the proposed amended complaint he received from

Court records show that Boggs, a former board member, filed suit against both the CCBDA, and the Clay County Commission in Clav Circuit Court in 2010 seeking to compel release of certain documents he requested under the state Freedom of Information Act.

Boggs has requested quarterly reports from 2008-2010

of itemized receipts and disbursements from the Authority to the Commission, and its annual reports during those same years of all its ac-

Boggs alleges in his suit that the Authority made decisions on how to spend money despite not having the minimal number of 12 board members as required by state

Historical Society meeting and annual picnic held August 1

Just preceding the annual picnic of the Clay County Landmarks Commission and Historical Society (CCLC&HS), August 1,2012, a brief business meeting was held in the (downstairs) computer room of the Clay Public Library. Present were Jerry Stover, Janet Boggs Crisco, Kent and Frances Boggs, James and Jane Bird, Dustin Bird, Evelyne McLaughlin, Jim Miller and Eloise Boggs.

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Stover. Approval of the minutes of the July, 2012 meeting, as published in the local newspapers, was postponed as was the treasurer's report.

The 2012 Golden Delicious Apple Festival: The two tables for display of items for the Festival. Final plans for Photo-Op 2 and for window displays are yet to

Jerry announced that our Secretary and Old Courthouse faithful worker, Kathy Fortner, is very ill. She would appreciate messages at her e-mail address. fortner@frontiernet.net and your prayers.

Evaluation of the Old Courthouse cupola repairs/ restoration and estimated cost was discussed. It was moved and seconded that the CCLC&HS contribute funds to cover part of the cost, taking monies from the general fund and from the preservation fund (which

Historical Society will have consists of donations from with larger pages, secure members and friends). The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

OFF THE RECORD

Jerry presented a certificate of lifetime membership in the CCLC&HS to Janet Crisco. Janet, who has been a member for many years and a faithful attendee and contributor to meetings of the Historical Society, is anticipating a move to Kansas

to be near her son. Dustin Bird gave a presentation of his recent work with restoring and reprinting the Hickory and Lady Slippers series. With technology not available 20 and 30 years ago, the new issues will be much improved,

binding, clearer photos, and more legible print. Individual issues are available by ordering: PO Box 72, Lizemores, WV 25125, or e-mail, Dustin@hlswv.com, or on the web www.HLSwv. com. Jerry gave a brief history of the series.

A pot-luck picnic lunch was enjoyed by those present and by library personnel. Among the pot- luck offerings was a pot of freshcooked half-runner beans brought by James and Jane Bird. They raised the beans in their garden from seed that has been maintained by a succession of gardeners for at least 80 years. That's 80 generations of beans!

Eloise Boggs, Recorder

Clay VFW Approaches 40th Anniversary

Clay Post 4419, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was organized November 19, 1972. Membership eligibility is determined by the United States Congress. Only veterans who have served on foreign soil during a period of war, in an actual combat zone, for at least 60 days, are eligible for membership. This post is the largest service organization ever organized in Clay County.

As a military services organization its purpose is four-fold: It serves veterans and their families in every possible way without cost or obligation. It promotes patriotism and Americanism in our community. It supports our local education programs for our young people. It supports all community programs in an effort to make our community better for all.

The VFW pursues these goals by assisting veterans with their VA claims, helping them to meet both their health and financial needs, and in all other ways that might help to make life better for everyone.

The VFW provides a DAV van to transport veterans to and from VA medical facilities. It provides a military funeral for anyone who has served our country in uniform. It coordinates essay writing contests in our schools, and participates in local festivals and community civic activities. It provides flags for schools, cemeteries, and places where the dis-

disposal of worn-out flags, as well.

The VFW Post home is available to local civic groups, churches, and other groups without discrimina-This fall. tion or cost. The VFW begins its 40th year of raising the American Flag at all home football games of Clay County High School. This is a remarkable record for any civic organization in any community.

The Clay VFW Post provides flag raising services and assists in any community dedication services, such as a bridge or building dedication, upon request by any civic group. Local memorial services are held annually by the Post. Other such services are provided upon request.

The post makes periodic visits in uniform to churches, nursing homes, and hospitals or other facilities as requested. The VFW stands ready to assist in any community emergency of whatever nature, always without cost or obligation. Each member has taken a solemn oath to defend The United States against all enemies, whomsoever. The fact that this obligation is always taken seriously is repeatedly demonstrated in many ways. The VFW is truly a "Service Organization.'

The commander of Clay VFW Post 4419, Jack Jones, is always willing to answer questions or consider requests. He may be reached at 304-587-4729 or 304-651-9242. We welcome all veterplay of an American Flag is ans to join our post who are needed, and takes care of the eligible for membership.

Hiram Lewis

Continued From front page

He lives on the gas well road that I took to my family's property where my son and I hunt. I talked to him and at Christmas, I knew he had run out of money and couldn't afford to have toys for the kids. So I gathered some of my son's old toys and we cut a Christmas tree down and had Christmas with James and his twins. Later, I would stop by every so often and check on him and witness to him. He would always credit the aliens for things happening in his life that were from God. I was just trying to be his friend and show him the love that is Jesus Christ.

Originally, I had planned to close my practice, move to my family's camp on the river while I built a cabin on my family's property adjacent to James' property on the mountain. James asked if I would represent him in his divorce and I asked him if I could store some of my things on his property for the move to the adjacent property once my cabin was built. We agreed to that arrangement. The Kaminski's moved to James' property in the spring and I started bringing them food and gas out of charity and began ministering to them also. I tried to give them a business model to help bring them financial support and they agreed to the plan, but they rejected the Christian aspects of the business, the marketing to youth groups. Eventually, they all rejected the word from me and I dusted off my shoes and withdrew any

financial support. Presently, I do not have a relationship or connection with James or the people there."

Mr. Lewis says he has given up his law career and turned to God. "I have decided to give up everything for my personal Lord and savior Jesus Christ. And with that decision I have been given everything. Money can't buy the blessing that God has given to me. And banks can cash the Kingdom checks that I get paid with. They can't cover them.

Everyone is welcome to become my friend on Facebook. I have been posting sermons that I've been delivering on Youtube, linked to my Facebook account so if anyone wants to follow me, just friend me on Facebook. I also have a Facebook page for my ministry, Elk River Ministries, Inc., and for the church, Paradise City Church. Feel free to like that page and keep up with the mighty works that God has in store.

Lewis' date to face the grand jury has yet to be set.

Clay County Commission

Continued From front page

ral resources such as coal, oil, and gas, can be turned into a source of renewable wealth for the future. The proposed fund would take 1/4 of the state's tax revenue and place it in an untouchable trust fund to draw interest which would later be used to fund state projects. The commission agreed to review the resolution before considering supporting it.

Action items approved of the previous meeting as of a letter to Sheriff Randy his law enforcement bud-August 3, 2012. Three

from the agenda included the approval of minutes well as assessments, bills and purchase orders, budget revisions, and the appointment of estate administrators and settlements of other estates. The commission approved the writing Holcomb in reference to his request of funding for get. James Dancy's employment with the Clay County Ambulance Service was terminated, effective Democrats and two Republicans were chosen to be the number of poll workers for each precinct during the November 6 General Election. An Emergency Absentee Voting Procedure was also adopted for the November election.

The meeting was adjourned, with the date for the next meeting being set for August 22, 2012.



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Letter to the Editor

To: Citizens and Officials of Clay County

16-month old child needs your help. The welfare and well-being of this child needs to be secure and stable. His current provider has gone to CPS and Lucy Cruikshanks and neither would attempt to investigate. This individual seeks custodial rights. Who is she to turn to? Why won't CPS investigate? Reports have been made, but that is it, still no case. This child needs to be protected. will someone please help?

Jim Frame

ourthouse I

Property Transfers:

7/30/12, Arlie & Rose Elswick to Bobby Thomas, Pleasant District, .42 Acres 7/30/12, William & Rozel-

la Hamric to Larry Hypes & Patricia Gibson, Pleasant District, 57.57 Acres

8/2/12, Elk River Railroad, Inc. to WVDOT, Division of Highways, Henry District, 5 **Tracts**

8/2/12, Mike Ross, Inc. & Waco Oil & Gas. Inc. to WV-DOT, Division of Highways,

Henry District, 2 Parcels 8/2/12, Clay Farm Bureau

to WVDOT, Division of Highways, Clay Municipality, 1 Parcel

8/2/12, Brenda Holcomb to Robert Townsend, Union District, 65.3 Acres

<u>Civil Suits – Magistrate</u> **Court:** 8/9/12, Bowen Dental As-

sociates vs. Clinton Blanton

<u>Magistrate King – Hear-</u>

ing Schedule for August 14, <u>2012</u>

1:00 pm, Bailey vs. Robert Stutler, Possession with Intent to Deliver

1:00 pm, State vs. Johnny Cottrell, Domestic Battery, Violation of DVP

Magistrate Boggs -Hearing Schedule for August 21, 2012

10:00 am, Hunt vs. Timothy Sears, Manufacturing a Controlled Substance