

Blustery birdwatching



More than one cardinal stopped by Raquel Lagunes’ birdfeeder in Clay to sneak a few tasty treats on Sunday after the storm. Their usual food sources are buried deep, so the cardinals and other birds forage at feeders as they can. Year around residents who don’t fly south for the winter, their bright colors help them stand out against the snow cover.

KENTUCKY

FROM PAGE A6

At 14:27, Kentucky's Mo Dioubate soundly rejected a driving layup by Acuff and then turned his back to the court to flex for the camera. Official Doug Show assessed another T.

At 14:11, Shows nailed coach Mark Pope with yet another technical for arguing about a no-foul call.

On its next possession, Billy Richmond slammed home a dunk to cap a technical-driven 6-0 run to give Arkansas its first lead. Pig-sooie could be heard echoing in the Ozarks.

Three technicals in 38 seconds, two of them bogus, could be enough to knock Kentucky off its axis, as it might fuss and flounder its way to a double-digit loss, coaxing back fears UK might miss the NCAA

Tournament in March.

It's not hyperbole to argue the fate of the season rested on what transpired next. Fourteen minutes to determine the fate of the next 35 days.

Then it happened, a stunned boxer struggling off the mat. Kentucky outscored Arkansas 34-25 over that final 14 minutes to escape with an 85-77 victory, the best win of UK's season, possibly the most important of Pope's two-year career as coach.

"What I love about that stretch is the guys' fight and determination," Pope said. "Even with the three techs happening back to back to back, I felt like it was coming from exactly the right place in our team that we are searching for. That core of fight and undaunted competitive spirit. It just overflowed a tiny bit."

The impressive victory

was Kentucky's sixth conference win, putting it among the top four in the conference as it heads into what is ranked as the most difficult schedule in America over the final nine games. It includes the likes of Tennessee, Georgia, Auburn, Vanderbilt, league leader Texas A&M and two games with defending national champion Florida.

That's a lot of potential wells to fall down and certainly more than a few mule kicks to the head.

"We're on a journey," Pope said. "It might not be the journey that anybody anticipated, but I love it. I'll tell you, I've never coached a team like this. To be dead and buried like we were, and to take all the heat these guys have been taken, and then to just keep saying, 'You know what? Doesn't matter. We're coming back, man, we're coming back.'"

GOP

FROM PAGE A3

“Take any aspect of education and consider that salaries require more,

the cost of a school bus — that requires more dollars, the cost of eggs requires more dollars. Everything requires (more), and at the end of the day, our students are the ones who are losing out,” she said.

“And so I am hopeful that as we go through the budget process, that both the Senate and the House will continue to consider public education as a top priority, but also backing it up with dollars.”

BOE

FROM PAGE A1

Elementary, was the spotlighted student. He led the crowd and board in the Pledge of Allegiance and then was presented with a certificate by Superintendent Aaron Harrell.

Board members Amanda Coomes and Venita Murphy each read the nominations for the 1WC Employees of the Month. Coomes presented the classified employee award, honoring Clay Elementary's lead custodian Lisa “Granny” Beckner. Murphy presented the certified employee award, honoring Kerrie Utley, a kindergarten teacher at Providence Elementary. Both Clay Principal Courtney Noel and Providence Principal Rachel Wingo were on hand to concur with the award winners from their respective buildings.

Harrell then recognized the board members for the part they play in Webster County Schools. As January was board member appreciation month, district leaders honored them before the meeting with a small reception.

“Thank you for your service,” Harrell stated, addressing the members. He commended them for their student-centered work. “Your questions help sharpen and define the work that we do.”

“I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Clay district and to work together as a team for the entire district,” Chairman

Tim McCormick stated.

Board Member Venita Murphy added, “It is an honor to serve.”

Both McCormick and Murphy have served on city and county school boards for a number of years. Board Member David Asher stated that he had learned a lot in his year of service on the board, and from the open dialogue he has had with district leaders.

“I appreciate the openness to communicate,” he stated.

While it is not often that there is someone from the community present to speak with the board, the special called meeting was an exception to the norm. Rachel Hubbard, a WCMS social studies teacher, spoke and commended every aspect of district leadership – the board, superintendent, and principals – for supporting curriculum development and teacher training in Webster County.

“This district invests in its teachers, and the students benefit from that stability,” Hubbard stated.

Harrell also spoke about the last Leadership Alliance meeting, which took members into the Dixon campus on “an eye-opening opportunity” to see what school is like in 2026.

“This was the meeting I was most excited about having,” Harrell explained.

Members saw aspects of normal campus life, including reading and math lessons and student transitions throughout campus.

“It was even the day after a snow day,” Harrell stated of the “normalcy” of the

group’s tours. Members heard about instruction, safety and food service within Webster County Schools during their visits.

“Mrs. Sue stole the show,” Harrell stated, indicating that members enjoyed the Chinese food served at the school.

Board Chairman McCormick, who attended the Leadership Alliance meeting as the board’s representative, commented that he had a positive experience seeing classes in action. He echoed Hubbard’s earlier comments, noting the positive impact a district-wide curriculum has for students.

“One can’t tell the difference between instruction at Clay, Seebree, and Dixon anymore. It took a long time to do that,” McCormick stated. The impact, he added, was that students who moved from school to school would enter middle school not being behind their peers.

Harrell updated the board regarding the ongoing efforts toward the district mowing plan. Sealed bids for that work are due by Friday. Harrell stated that three to four entities had verbally expressed interest.

The board approved, without opposition, measures related to the KETS offer of assistance (\$21,000) and the SFCC Construction offer of assistance (\$18,000). These offers were discussed at length during the working session in January. These dollars are earmarked for technology and construction for priority areas, respectively.

HISTORY

FROM PAGE A2

were formidable. They would later be studied at

the French War College prior to World War I and attract international military attention. However, his actions during and after the war made him one of the most controversial

figures in a complex period of our country’s history. The harsh hate, galvanized in battle, made reconstruction and healing a complicated and lengthy process.

WEBSTER

FROM PAGE A2

Ledoux
GED (GED Test Center):
0 tests taken
Pearson VUE Certified

Test Administrator: Amy Sauls
This report was prepared by: Amy Sauls Class D Coordinator/Program Administrator
Total population: 167
Webster Co. inmates: 36
Union Co. inmates: 20
State inmates: 101

MONTHLY REVENUE FOR DECEMBER
State billing: \$136,023.66
Union County billing: \$28,980
House Bill 556 revenue: \$26,178.00
Total: \$201,351.87



Ola W. Crawley



Mrs. Ola W. Crawley was an active member of the Zion Temple A.M.E. Church in Madisonville, and it was through her work there that she impacted other church members across the state.

Crawley was the organist for the local church from her teenage years, never accepting pay for her service. Through that commitment, she became the Kentucky Conference Director of Christian Education, second vice-president of the General Convention, president of the Convention President's Council, secretary of the Christian Endeavor, and president of the Stewardess Board.

She strove to teach the generations that followed, both in Sunday School and public education.

Crawley graduated high school locally, then

continued her education through Atkinson College in Madisonville and Kentucky State College in Frankfort. She completed her degree work at Fisk University in Nashville, Ind., Indiana University, and Evansville College.

She was a teacher for 51 years before retiring at the end of the 1969-70 school year. She instructed her pupils in English, music and drama, and also filled the role of librarian.

Her service earned her a recognition day at Zion Temple in 1970.

