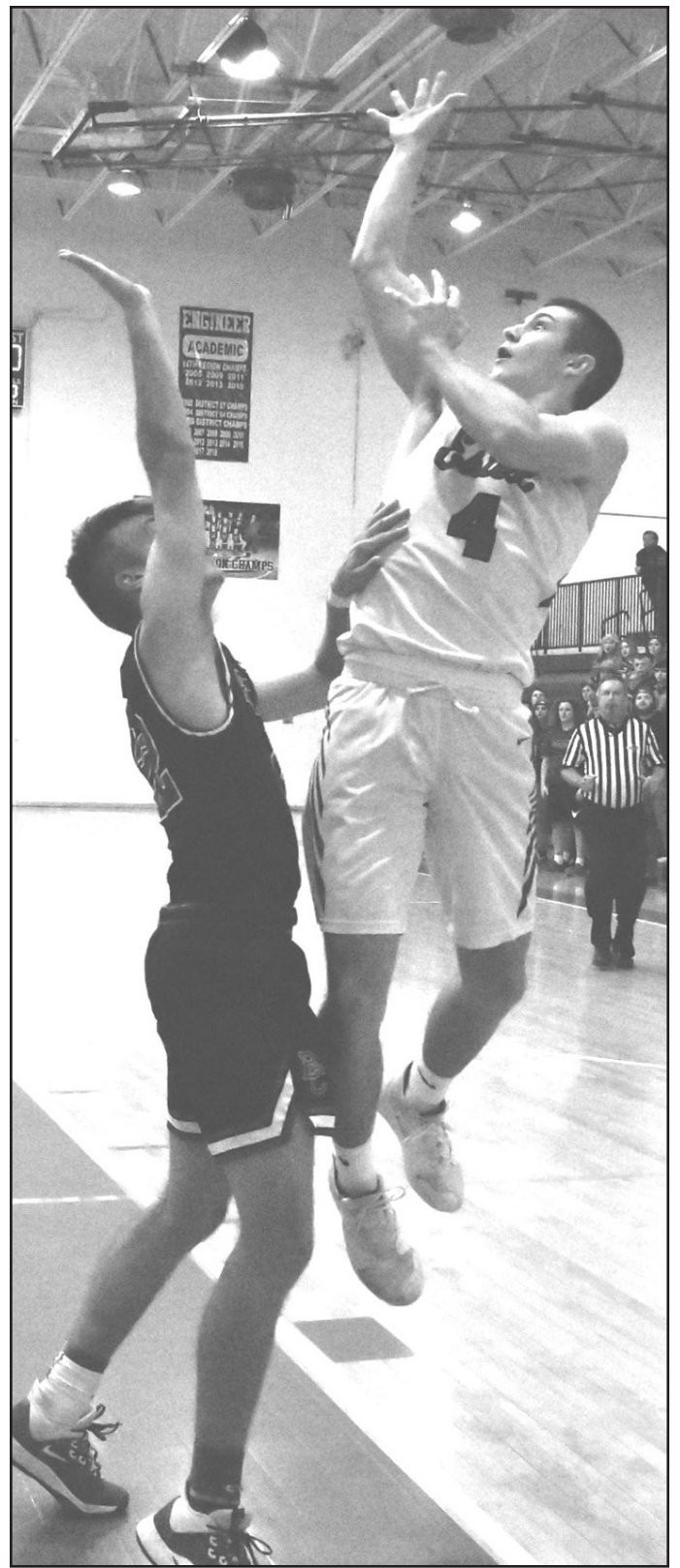




ABOVE: Estill County Engineers juniors Cobbe Click (#15) and Dyllon Long (hidden) guard the Bell County ball handler last week at ECHS. Estill led by as much as 10 points early in the game but Bell came back defensively in the second half and held the lead until near the end of the game before Estill picked up their defense and tied the game 55-all with 11.5 seconds to go. Estill's senior guard Joe Benton (photo at right on a different shot) got the nod and sank the ball to give the Engineers the lead with time running out for an Estill win, 57-55. This was Estill's second of three wins this season (Madison Southern, Bell County, and Bluegrass United) and were 3-2 before they opened 56th District play on Tuesday night against the Owsley County Owls in Booneville. Estill then plays in the Berea Tournament after Christmas. The Estill County Lady Engineers were also playing on Tuesday night in Booneville against the Lady Owls. The Lady Engineers are 2-3 after a 57-19 drubbing of Breathitt County's Lady Bobcats followed by a win over a very young Knox Central team, 56-55, at home. Estill is also young and talented with three seniors, three sophomores, two freshmen and four middle school players. The Lady Engineers play one more game before Christmas, at home on Friday against Bath County. Then, they will be playing in the Gateway Holiday Classic at Mount Sterling.



Estill Middle Engineers 2019-20 Boys Basketball

Jan. 2nd (Thurs) . . .Garrard County Away
 Jan. 6th (Mon).Rockcastle County Home
 Jan. 9th (Thurs)Clark-Moores Away
 Jan. 10th (Fri) . . . Jackson County Home
 Jan 13th (Mon) Model Home
 Jan. 16th (Thurs) Madison Middle Away
 Jan. 17th (Fri) . . . Jackson County Away
 Jan 23rd (Thurs). Farristown Home
 Jan. 30th (Thurs) Caudill Away
 Feb. 3rd (Thurs) Foley Home
 Feb. 8th -15th Conference Tournament
 Various Sites

Jeffersonville Mall

7750 Main Street
 East of Mt. Sterling in Jeffersonville
**Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday
 10:00am until 6:00pm**
 Several Vendors with Great Gift Items
 Our Christmas Village and Trains are
 Set up and running now. Come on Out!
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 clothing & furniture and much more!
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 <jimdennis63@gmail.com>**



Just Hunting by Steve Brewer

This being our last story for the year, I find the need to talk about my friend, Gary "Doomsday" Harper. Gary has moved off and left us now, but what some fun hunts we had together before he left.

The first turkey hunt we traveled together was to North Platte, Nebraska, hunting with Closman's Outfitters. Within eight miles of the motel, a blizzard hit. They close the highways out west when bad weather hits, but it was at our exit, so we made it in. It dropped from thirty-eight degrees to thirteen, in a matter of minutes. Needless to say, we never attempted to hunt on opening morning. The following morning wasn't much better, but we had no choice, drive a thousand miles one way, just to stay in the motel, or hunt. We chose hunting. Not long after first light, my guide had me on a nice Rio tom, and he was soon in our blind. We hunted in twenty-three degrees, 'till I filled my tags on a nice Merriam, around four in the evening.

But my mind wasn't much on my hunt, I have twenty plus "Grand Slams." This was Doomsday's first turkey hunt. I never learned his fate 'till well after dark when him and his guide came back in, turkeys two, Doomsday zero. Oh, well, I told him, we all miss. Seems the guide called in a tom from three

hundred yards, and the shot was missed at thirty. Oh well, that is hunting.

I was glad I never had to climb out of the warm bed the next morning. After getting stuck not once, but twice in snow drifts and missing another turkey, Doomsday and myself moved on to hunt Kansas. In twenty years of hunting the Little Creek Ranch, I had never gone into my second day of hunting. With Doomsday along, we went into the third day. I finally got a nice Rio. I heard Doomsday shoot and I knew he had his first turkey. We would hunt again that evening.

Now the winds in Kansas always blow, sometimes worse than others, but always blowing. It is nothing for sixty mile an hour winds; just pop up. I always triple stake my blinds. Doomsday on the other hand, was running and gunning and never staked his, so he could move fast. Problem is, I hunt mostly out of eighty dollar blinds, just in case a wind comes up, Doomsday had bought a new "Double Bull" costing around five-hundred dollars. Well between the morning hunt and the evening hunt, one of their windstorms came up. Yep, you guessed it. Doomsday's blind ended up on the other side of a six hundred acre ranch and has never been seen by Doomsday nor myself since. The rancher found it about a week later. Our plans are to hunt there next year, and he will get his blind.

Doomsday and myself hunted Maine for black bear and had a blast. My friend has moved but has gone to a place where he is getting to hunt our favorite animal, rabbit. He now has beagles and has invited me to head up north to hunt with him after Christmas. I plan on going.

This brings me to the close of our 'Just Hunting' for the year. Because I wear many hats this time of year, I try and do them all well. So unless my friends at the newspaper decide otherwise, I will say, 'see you the first week in January.' Please drive safely, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Real McCoy

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Estill Lady Engineers 2019-20 Girls Basketball

Dec 17	Owsley County A	6:00
Dec 20	Bath County. H	7:30
Gateway Holiday Classic at Montgomery		
Dec 27	Martin County A	8:00
Dec 28	TBA A	
Dec 29	TBA A	
Jan 3	Powell County H	7:30
Jan 6	Jackson City H	6:30
Jan 9	Western Hills H	7:30
Jan 11	West Jessamine H	2:30
Jan 17	Powell County A	7:30
Jan 18	Garrard County A	3:30
Jan 21	Owsley County H	6:00
Jan 24	Lee County H	6:00
Jan 25	Jackson City A	2:00
Jan 28	Model H	6:00
Jan 30	Nicholas County H	7:30

Estill County Engineers 2019-20 Boys Basketball

Dec 17	Owsley County A	8:00
All A Holiday Classic at Berea		
Dec 19	Menifee County A	6:30
Dec 20	TBA A	
Dec 21	TBA A	
Dec 21	TBA A	
Dan Swartz Classic at Bath County		
Dec 26	TBA A	
Dec 27	TBA A	
Dec 28	TBA A	
Jan 3	Powell County H	
Jan 10	Woodford County A	7:30
Jan 14	Southwestern H	7:30
Jan 17	Powell County A	
Jan 21	Owsley County H	8:00
Jan 24	Lee County H	
Jan 25	Letcher Co. Central H	2:00