

Former Braxton Attorney Jim Douglas has close call

Kanawha Family Court and former Braxton County attorney Judge Jim Douglas was injured Monday when a bullet struck a cruise ship he was traveling on in Portland, Oregon. According to an article published in Wednesday's Charleston Gazette, a bullet pierced thick glass on the Portland Spirit dinner cruise boat Monday night mildly injuring Douglas who was aboard the boat with longtime companion Phyllis Veith.

At around 9:30 p.m., as the ship maneuvered to dock, a bullet tore a sizable hole in thick glass on the other side of the ship from where Douglas and Vieth were seated.

"Where I was seated, a large, thick canvas curtain was almost touching my shoulder," Douglas told the Gazette in an interview by phone on Tuesday. "Just as we started that turn [to dock], I heard a loud pop. I heard one guy yell and a couple of women screamed. In my peripheral vision I saw the curtain move. Instantaneously, I felt a pain in



my right arm and tricep." Douglas had a bruise the next day but no broken skin.

Coincidentally, Douglas had penned an Op-Ed a couple of weeks ago for inclusion in the Gazette-Mail. It appeared Tuesday. He outlines violence perpetrated against judges all over the country and opines that family court judges in Kanawha County are even more vulnerable than their circuit judge colleagues.

The ship's owner said Douglas was not actually struck by the bullet. The slug, flattened by passing through the thick glass on the other side of the deck, and came to rest about 18 inches from his foot. Portland Police Officer Eric Brewer disagreed.

He said he believes the judge was hit by the bullet. "We found that the slug was a lot closer than we did some small, broken glass pieces," Brewer said. "He said he heard what sounded like a champagne cork popping, then he felt like he'd been punched in the shoulder. If that was the case, it probably wasn't glass. There was only a large glass piece on that side of the room."

Douglas seemed puzzled as to why the cruise line would want to blame flying glass. The boat owners aren't denying someone shot a bullet through the window. He was wearing a long-sleeved shirt. No glass cut him.

The judge said he did not fully appreciate the ordeal until he got back in his car afterward. "I didn't stage this," he said. "I think they're doing damage control. Playing it down is not going to solve the problem."

"I told those folks, 'I think I'm going to play the lottery.' They all said, 'No, I think you used it all up tonight,'" the Gazette article stated.



(L to R) Lori Dittman, Gracie Dyer, Lauren Pritt, Bailey Pritt, Commissioner Larry Clifton. Standing back (L to R) Commissioners Melvin Gum and Lisa Godwin.

Braxton's Gracie Dyer takes 1st in state competition Commission names Essay winners

The highlight of last Friday's Braxton County Commission meeting was the honoring of local and state winners of the County Commissioners Association of West Virginia's Essay Contest. Commission President Lisa Godwin recognized the local winners who included Gracie Dyer 1st place, Lauren Pritt 2nd and Bailey Pritt in 3rd place.

The local winners received cash prizes for their essays on the subject of how county government service its citizens. The prized were contributed by Commission President Godwin, her fellow commissioners Melvin Gum and Larry Clifton as well as Braxton Newspapers.

Executive Director of the County Commissioners Association of West Virginia Pat Cadle was on hand to recognize those who won on the state level. Gracie Dyer won first place in the state and received a \$500 check for her efforts. Both Lauren Pritt and Bailey Pritt were named honorable mention and received a check for \$50. All three are students of Lori Dittman's Braxton County Middle School class. Dyer's first place state win also netted Dittman \$500 to spend on classroom supplies.

Randy Sanders, President of the World Association of Marching Show Bands (WAMSB) Buckhannon Host Committee spoke with the Commissioners regarding tourism and economic impacts the 2023 world competition

will bring to the region when it is hosted in Buckhannon next year. "Braxton County's proximity to the weeklong event's epicenter means they will greatly benefit from the influx of the thousands of international visitors expected to be in attendance" said Sanders, president of the WAMSB 2023 Host Committee. "This competition will help generate an immediate economic impact that will be felt throughout Upshur and our neighboring counties. We want Braxton County to be involved in the opportunities that will be created." He requested that the County join their counterparts and cities of the Central West Virginia area in sponsoring the event. Sanders requested that Braxton County tribute \$10,000. President Godwin stated that the Commission would review their budget for later discussions.

Adi Facemire presented monthly reports on the activities of the Braxton County Drug Testing Center for April and May. She started the center had conducted 95 drug screening in April and a total of 107 in May. She added that three people had successfully completed the terms of their home confinement and had been released

In other business, the Commission approved the short form settlements as presented by the Fiduciary Supervisor for the following: Dixie L. Graff, Michael Lee Harper and

Izetta B. Ware. During the discussion of purchase orders for consideration, Sheriff Lou DellaMea requested that PO# 740 be changed to Sports Connection at a cost of \$595 per vehicle. The request was granted on a motion by Larry Clifton.

Global Science & Technology will provide the Assessor's Office a Dell Laptop, UPS Backup and a 5090 Optiplex at a cost of \$2,896.66.

Two purchase orders were approved for Casto and Harris. The County Clerk will purchase 5 Land Books at a cost of \$500.54 plus shipping. The Sheriff's Tax Office will pay \$3,024.63 for tax statements and envelopes.

Following a brief discussion, the Commission approved a lease agreement, contingent on the review of the Prosecuting Attorney, between ATC Ponderosa K LLC and the County for leased space on a radio tower in Burnsville.

Larry Clifton made separate motions that will result in internal budget revisions for the Assessor's office and internal budget revisions for stage government grant line being approved.

The Commission approved a request from the law firm of Bowles Rice to continue a hearing set for July 1 in the estate of Sussanna Rose for 30 days.

The Commission voted to go into executive session under Section 9-9A-4

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2022 WVU Parkersburg graduates include Burnsville resident

West Virginia University at Parkersburg awarded certificates and associate and bachelor's degrees to May 2022 graduates.

Graduates who attained a 3.50 to 4.00 grade point average (GPA) earned academic honors, as follows: 3.50-3.749, Cum Laude; 3.75-3.99, Magna Cum Laude; and 4.0, Summa

Cum Laude. The May WVU Parkersburg graduates include Braxton County resident, Kaitlyn Stalnaker, of Burnsville who received her degree in CAS, Child Development.

Established in 1961, West Virginia University at Parkersburg is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Academic

credits earned at WVU Parkersburg are transferable to any institution in the West Virginia higher education state system as well as other accredited institutions throughout the country. WVU Parkersburg is the only public community college in West Virginia accredited to offer baccalaureate degrees.

WVDOH Accepts Bids for Projects Including Braxton Roads

Contracts to install ADA-compliant curb cuts in 13 communities around West Virginia are among 14 projects included in a bid letting conducted by the West Virginia Division of Highways on Tuesday, June 14. Those projects included one Braxton County project, Servia to Burnsville Road guardrail replacement.

"This is the best of all worlds," said Greg Bailey, P.E., WVDOH Chief Engineer of Operations. "We're using federal dollars to meet federal mandates to provide needed access to people with disabilities."

Under federal law, the WVDOH is required to put in ADA-compliant curb cuts any time they pave a road that is bordered by a sidewalk. By putting in the curb cuts first, paving contractors don't have to worry about hiring someone to put in the ramps, and smaller contractors are able to get contracts to do the curb cuts. Bailey said the added efficiency has cut the cost of putting in ADA ramps by half.

Contracts let on June 14 include ADA ramps in 23 locations in Mid-

dlebourne and Centerville in Tyler County; 54 locations in the Cameron area in Marshall County; 163 locations in Harpers Ferry, Charles Town, and Ranson in Jefferson County; 49 locations in Parson, Davis, Thomas, Circleville, Franklin, and Brandywine in Tucker and Pendleton counties; and ADA ramps in Hundred in Wetzel County.

The WVDOH is reviewing the bids and hopes to award contracts for the following projects soon: Hundred ADA ramps (Wetzel County); Tyler County ADA ramps (Tyler County); Marshall County ADA ramps (Marshall County); Jefferson County ADA ramps (Jefferson County); Pendleton and Tucker County ADA ramps (Pendleton and Tucker County); US 19 four-lane upgrade, University Avenue (Monongalia County); Harrisville pedestrian and bicycle path (Ritchie County); District 5 guardrail repairs; District 9 guardrail repairs; Walton high friction surface treatment paving (Roane County); Davis Creek to Oakwood paving (Kanawha County);

District 3 guardrail repairs; Park Place traffic signals, South Charleston (Kanawha County)

Several factors are considered before awarding a bid, including whether a bid falls above or below the WVDOH Engineer's Estimate and by what percentage. Most projects are reviewed, analyzed, and awarded within a week of the bid letting, but the process can take longer.

When the Division of Highways has a project that is determined to be best constructed by a contractor, it is processed through the bid letting system. Lettings are held either once or twice per month and conducted through the Bid Express System online at www.bidx.com and handled through the Contract Administration Division.

Award of the contracts is made based on the recommendation by WVDOH's Awards Committee based on the results of that evaluation and approval by the Commissioner. Projects are typically awarded to the lowest bidder with all proper documentation in place.

Braxton Magistrate Report

Magistrate Beth Smith June 20: Brian Keith Louk of Burnsville, driving revoked for DUI-3rd offense, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$15,000 cash only.

June 21: Jeremy Ray Gray of Lizemores, possession of controlled substance x2-meth and marijuana, no contest plea, fines/court costs assessed.

Magistrate David Singleton

June 15: Coty Prunty of Burnsville, obstructing an officer, guilty plea, fleeing from officer, dismissed per plea, 180 days of jail with credit for time served of three days, remainder suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs assessed; Richard C. Barker of Huntington, expired MVI, dismissed proof provided, no proof of in-

surance, dismissed proof provide; Franklin S. Montgomery of Rosedale, driving suspended for general-2nd offense, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Michael Shawn Mace of Frametown, possession of meth, dismissed by motion of officer; Donna K. Dever of Gassaway, speeding, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Santino Augustine Cava of Bridgeport, possession of marijuana, dismissed, deferred sentence, court costs paid; David Michael Jarrell of Sutton, possession of controlled substance, guilty plea, improper registration, no contest plea, driving suspended, no contest plea, driving suspended, dismissed per plea, 90 days of jail, suspended and placed on eight months unsupervised probation, fine/court

costs assessed; Ryan N. Decanter of Tonawanda, NY, speeding, no contest plea, possession of marijuana, dismissed-deferred sentence, fine/court costs assessed and paid; Emily N. Bailey of Tonawanda, NY, possession of marijuana, dismissed-deferred sentence, court costs paid.

June 17: Krystal Kay Carpenter of Sutton, possession of controlled substance x2-meth and heroin, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$2500 cash, surety or to 10% to the court.

June 19: Najee Akeym Silva of Leavenworth, KS, obstructing an officer x3, trespassing, warrantless arrest, bond set \$5000 cash or surety.



Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs

As I write this week, it is that time of year that we, as West Virginians, celebrate the birthday of our State in 1863. For all our problems as a State, I believe they pale in comparison to the positive attributes of our beloved Mountain State.

West Virginians have a unique way of discovering others with West Virginia residency or roots, no matter where you may work or travel around the nation or world. And, with a minimal amount of conversation, we always find a common bond with friends, neighbors, or communities.

We need to always remember that whether by birth or choice – if you live here now, relocated here from another state for work or school, or moved away to pursue your career, you are now and will always remain West Virginians.

Another unique and special West Virginia academic tradition is for eighth-grade students in West Virginia to work toward earning recognition from the WV Department of Education as a knight or lady of the Golden Horseshoe. For 2002, the recipients of the Golden Horseshoe from Gilmer County and Braxton County are: Coleden Perry Gilmer Co. High School Anna Mason Gilmer Co. High School Joel Sigman Braxton Co. Middle School Alexis Knowlton Braxton Co. Middle School Adyson Conant Braxton Co. Middle School

This special ceremony is held annually in the WV Culture Center on the Capitol campus, with each recipient dubbed with the ceremonial sword by Dr. Clayton Birch, WV Super-

intendent of Schools. I am proud of each of these students who worked hard for the last four years in their knowledge of all aspects of West Virginia culture, history, geography, social and economic factors, state government and miscellaneous data.

The WV Dept. of Education website provides this overview:

This prestigious program takes its name from the golden horseshoes given to the early explorers of West Virginia. In 1716 the Governor of the Virginia colony, Alexander Spotswood, saw the need for exploration of the land west of the Allegheny Mountains, most of which is now West Virginia. The governor organized a party of about 50 men, all of whom adopted the pledge, “Sic jurat transcendere monte,” which means “Thus he swears to cross the mountains.” Governor Spotswood presented each member of his party with a small golden horseshoe to commemorate the bravery of those who crossed the mountains into Western Virginia, beginning the Golden Horseshoe tradition.

Also, each year a few West Virginians are awarded an honorary Golden Horseshoe. This year, I was honored to receive the award. I appreciate the honor of attending the ceremony to present the Golden Horseshoe to our local students. Congratulations to all the 221 recipients from across West Virginia and thank you to those who nominated me for the honorary award.

One of the highlights of the summer is always the WV Folk Festival in Glenville. After days of brutal heat and humidity

last week, last weekend offered outstanding weather and a great day for a parade, great music, arts and crafts from talented artists, and outstanding local food in downtown Glenville.

GSU President Mark Manchin, Speaker Roger Hanshaw and I enjoyed lunch on Saturday in the GSU Mollohan Center for the WV Folk Festival Belles and Junior Belles, where we presented them with tokens of appreciation for their participation in the event. Congratulations to Gilmer County Belle Linda Fisher Brannon; Braxton County Belle Patricia Drake; Gilmer County Jr. Belle Eliza Chesser; and all the Belles and Jr. Belles from around the State. Jean and I had a great time visiting with them; folks all along the parade route, and around town visiting with friends from throughout central West Virginia.

My hearty congratulations to the WV Folk Festival’s officers, Board of Directors and the many volunteers that make it a huge success each year. I’m very proud and appreciative of the privilege of representing Gilmer and Braxton Counties in the Legislature.

Next week, I look forward to seeing everyone at Gassaway Days.

Now that the session has concluded, please contact me at my home office at: 151 Park Street, Gassaway, WV 26624. The phone number is 304-364-8411. For those with Internet access, my legislative email address is: Brent.Boggs@WVHouse.gov

Remember to thank a Veteran every day for their service and remember our troops - at home and abroad - and keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Until next week, take care.



The Dobbins Family.

Dobbins Family Reunion



On June 18, 2022 the C.C. and Eunice Dobbins Family held their annual reunion at the homeplace. We always have such a loving, caring time and today we also celebrated Aunt Becky’s birthday (RIP). We had food, laughter, children playing and

just visiting with a lot of horse play as usual when we get together.

The following were present from several states who traveled to be with us. Picture taking is always tough because no one wants to stop talking long enough to pose!

The following were present- Laura and David Dobbins, Linda and Rodney Dobbins, Brian, Brianna and Ally Dobbins, Brandy, Issac and Grayson Starcher, Cassi, Coy and Camryn Bailey, Laura and David Dobbins, Peggy Dobbins Hoover, Ashley, Raleigh & Ryan Dobbins, Haley, Paisleigh and Randy Dobbins, Carolyn Dobbins Patrick, Billy Patrick and Caylee, Angie, Jason, Grace, Jayden and Spencer Lilly, Nicole, Robert and Aliya Wright, Cheryl Lilly, Dave Peters, June Crist, Bobby Lucas, Tori and Wyatt Lucas, Alisa and Dana Lucas, Amanda Morris, Danette Herman, Brenda and Hannah Evey, Brian Frase.

See you all next year!! A blessed time was had by all. We missed the ones who were unable to attend.



Marian Agostino, Secretary/Treasurer, Colleen Mahon, Pat McPherson, President, Beth Atkins, Board President, Christopher Marple, Main Street Coffee owner, and Ann Hart, Vice President.

Friends of Sutton Library Support Activities

Before gathering for their bimonthly meeting some members of the Friends of Sutton Library enjoyed items from the Main Street Coffee. Iced coffee and scones and other items were served to the group in a welcoming newly remodeled area with comfortable seating. Friends of the Sutton Library are a supportive group, the bonus here was the delicious products!

During their meeting the Friends discussed activities for the Big Foot

Event on June 25 where there will be books read aloud, scavenger hunts with prizes, and Big Foot “Poop” for sale all presented by smiling faces in the beautiful Sutton Library. Come visit from noon-4:00 and enjoy!

Other Friends supportive activities this summer are the Summer Reading Program for students on most Mondays at 11:00 in June and July. The theme of “Oceans of Possibilities” has been a success the last 2 weeks and a special culminating program

is being planned early in August! Also the Friends are supporting Little Libraries in the county, with one below the Sutton Dam and three more in various places later this summer. Take a book, read a book, leave a book, love a book! The Little Li-

Please turn to

Friends

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Magistrate...

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of the State Code to discuss a personnel matter at 9:36 a.m. When the meeting reconvened in regular session, Melvin Gum made a motion to approve the bills presented for payment with the exception of 3 invoices. Those invoices were for the Sheriff’s Law Enforcement division and consisted of 2 led Flashlight each at a cost of \$390.77 with orders places on June 6, 7 and 9. The total of the three invoices are more than what is allowed without a pre-approved purchase order.

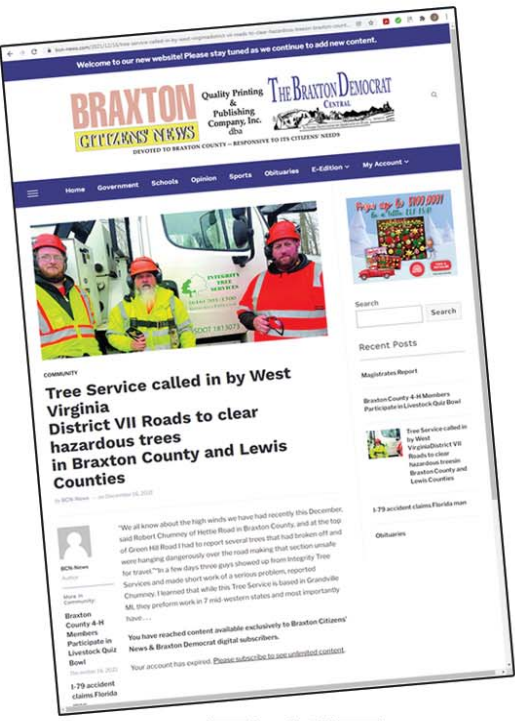
The final act of the meeting was the approval of the minutes from the Commission’s June 3 meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Braxton County Commission will convene on Friday, July 1 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Take a look who is making their debut on the World Wide Web!

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Obituaries

Gilbert P. Riffle

Gilbert P. Riffle, age 79, of Burnsville, WV passed away peacefully on June 16, 2022. He was born on November 17, 1942 in New London, Connecticut to the late Thelmer and Elsie Riffle.

He was a proud Vietnam veteran, having served as a soldier in the United States ARMY. He enjoyed hunting, commercial fishing, watching his favorite westerns on television, and spending time with his family. He loved his family immensely and had a close and special bond with his wife, children, grandchildren, son-in-law and daughter-in-law.

Left to cherish his memory is his loving wife of 46 years, Darlene Riffle; children: Ammie Hacker and Gilbert L. Riffle; grandchildren: Tyler Hacker, Anthony Hacker, Brooklyn Riffle, Mason Hacker and Carter Hacker; son-in-law: Jason Hacker; daughter-in-law: Misty Singleton and his little fur buddy Bentley, all of West Virginia.

He was a true hero to his family and will be greatly missed.

In keeping with Gilbert's wishes, he will be cremated. Burial will be held at a later date.

Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Riffle family.

Mrs. Dessie Ellen McElwain Miles

Mrs. Dessie Ellen McElwain Miles, 83, of Sutton, went home to be with her Lord on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at her residence.

She was born February 3, 1939 in Centralia, WV, the daughter of the late William & Della Hyre McElwain. She was also preceded in death by her husband, James Harold "Gib" Miles; sisters, Ruth Byland, Mary Mex; brother, Stanley McElwain; grandson, Nathan Davis; step grandson, Brandon Hughes.

Dessie was a loyal member of Stump Chapel Church where she was the clerk, a member of the choir, the assistant Sunday School secretary and treasure, head of the kitchen crew, secretary and treasure to the women circle.

She was known far and wide for her home-made hot rolls called "The Dessie rolls". Dessie loved spending time with Virgie Rose on Tuesday cleaning

the church. She was a avid WVU Mountaineer Fan.

She is survived by her sons, Randall Miles (Jaimee) of Cross Lanes, Thomas Miles (Chrystal) of Mt. Claire, WV; daughters, Sandra Hughes (Mike) of Winston Salem, NC, Cathy George (Tim) of Sutton; grandchildren, Tiffany Balis (Brian) of Exchange, Brittany George of Sutton; step grandchild, Jessica Hughes of NC; great grandchildren, Kaitlyn Balis, Kelsie Balis; great-great grandson, River Sigman; brothers, Jim McElwain, Ernest McElwain both of Ravenna, OH.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 am, Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at Stump Chapel Church, Tesla with Rev. Linn Schiefer and Rev. Teddy Legg officiating. Burial will follow at Hall Cemetery, Erbacon, beside her husband. Friends may call 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at Greene-Robertson Funeral Home, Sutton.

In lieu of flowers family suggest donations be made to: Stump Chapel Baptist Church Woman's Circle.

Greene-Robertson Funeral Home is humbly serving the Miles family.

Online condolences may be sent to: greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com

Gregory Shimko

Gregory Shimko, 72, of Ireland, WV passed away at home on June 16, 2022. He was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey on January 18, 1950 to parents George and Sophie Wadors Shimko who preceded him in death.

Greg moved to Ireland, WV with his wife, Dorothy, in 1979. He was a self-employed carpenter, a Catholic by faith, President of the Walkersville Fire Department and served on the finance committee at St Thomas Catholic Church. Greg enjoyed sitting on the front porch of his house near the river and enjoyed watching the water. He loved his wife, children and grandchildren and cherished spending time with them. Greg served his country in the United States NAVY.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Dorothy Brink Shimko; children: Peter Shimko, Daniel Shimko, Jesse Shimko and Sarah Shimko; grandchildren: Zoe Shimko, Sofia Shimko, Lucas Shimko, Alexander Shimko and Asher Triplett; brothers: Jon (Chick) Shimko, George (Woody) Shimko; sisters: Barbara Shimko Zawoysky and Kathleen

Shimko Kaelin.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation, Flatwoods, WV. Catholic Mass will be on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 11:00 am, a luncheon will follow, at St Thomas Catholic Church, Gassaway, WV with Father Thien Nguyen officiating. Interment will be at Falls Mill Cemetery.

Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Shimko family.

Helen Ruth Silvey

Helen Ruth Silvey, 85 of Cowen, formerly of Merced, CA, passed away on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at Summersville Regional Medical Center. She was born July 16, 1936 in Cherokee, NC to the late Walter and Jessie Pope Silvey.

She was a United States Air Force Veteran; a loving mother and grandmother; an avid reader and a nature lover. She loved shopping and enjoyed camping and the outdoors.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her daughters Shannen and Rhonda; brother James; and sister Caroline.

Left to cherish her memory are her son Kevin; daughters Deborah and Lisa; 10 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; and several other extended family and friends to mourn her passing.

In keeping with Helen's wishes, cremation has taken place and no services will be held at this time. She will be laid to rest with her family in California at a later date.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.adamsreedfh.com.

Adams-Reed Funeral Home is honored to be serving Helen's family.

Jason Emil McCumbers

Jason Emil McCumbers, 44, of Rosedale, WV passed away unexpectedly at his home on June 13, 2022 due to health complications from a long battle with addiction.

He was born April 4, 1978 in Spencer, WV to Kathy McCumbers and the late, Danny McCumbers.

In addition to his father he was preceded in death by his sister, Dawn McCumbers; grandparents, Eugene and Maxine Bennett and Stanley and Elizabeth Kowalski; and his favorite aunt, Rosie Bennett.

Jason was a beloved father to his seven year old daughter, Leah. He was also a son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend to many. He was a 1996 graduate of Braxton County High School. He enjoyed spending time with his daughter, listening to music, and hunting and fishing.

Besides Jason's daughter he leaves behind his mother, Kathy McCumbers; and sisters, Dannielle Lilly (David) and Nicole Cottrell (Richard).

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the family or to Roach Funeral Home, 708 Braxton St., Gassaway, WV 26624 to assist with his funeral services.

We appreciate your thoughts and prayers and ask that you also say a prayer for those still lost in their addiction and all the

families who love them.

Jason's funeral service was 1 P.M. Saturday, June 18, 2022 at Rosedale United Methodist Church with Pastor Larry Bennett officiating. Interment followed in the Mill Fork Cemetery, Rosedale.

Visitation was two hours prior to the service at the church.

Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at www.roachfuneralhome.com.

Johnson Leo Holsberry, Jr

Johnson Leo Holsberry, Jr., 83, of Cromwell, Connecticut, passed away Monday, June 13, 2022 after a long illness.

He was the son of Johnson Leo Holsberry, Sr. & Leone Beatrice Holsberry, of Rainelle, WV. John was a graduate of Rainelle High School, Class of 1957, served proudly in the United States Air Force, and received a degree in Education from Concord College in 1965. He was a lifelong member of the Rainelle United Methodist Church and was a founding member of the West Virginia Athletic Director's Association.

He is survived by his wife Janet DeVizio of Cromwell, CT, his children Johnson L. Holsberry, III of Morgantown, WV and Virginia L. Norris of Fairmont, WV., stepdaughter, Candice DeVizio of Cromwell, CT and five grandchildren: Michael J. Norris and Chad M. Norris, both of Fairmont, WV, and Lexi McArthur, Michelle McArthur and Jerry Teves, of Cromwell, CT.

He will be interred at Wallace Memorial Gardens in Rainelle, West Virginia, with a memorial service TBA.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations are made to the American Cancer Society in honor of the deceased.

Everett Lee "Zeb" Sharp

Everett Lee "Zeb" Sharp, 79, of Bolair, passed away after a sudden illness on June 12, 2022 at Webster Nursing & Rehab Center. He was born in Webster Springs on May 24, 1943, the son of Lee Roy Sharp and June Hamrick Sharp.

Zeb grew up in Webster County and spent his working life in Delta, PA, working for Whiteford Packing Co. When Whiteford closed, he ran a farm for several years.

He returned to Webster County in 2000. He loved to cut firewood, work on lawnmowers, hunt and ride his side by side. He lived a simple life and could fix anything with a pair of pliers and some tie wire.

Left to cherish his memory are his three daughters, Peggy Reynolds of PA, Sandra Lee "Sam" Granruth of Welch, WV and Sandra Cogar Young of Bolair, WV; his two brothers, Charles Sharp of WV and Edgar Sharp of MD; his two sisters, Edna Larmore of Bolair, WV and Eloise Sharp of Washington; 11 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews and extended family and friends to mourn his passing.

His house was always open to everyone. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Tammy Reyn-

olds; his long-time companion, Betty Reynolds; brother, Eugene Sharp; grandsons Jeremiah Reynolds and Jeffrey Cole Young; and son-in-law Jeffrey A. Young.

A graveside service was held on June 18, 2022 at 2:00 PM at Salem United Methodist Church Cemetery, 5042 Delta Road, Airville, Pennsylvania and he will be buried alongside his beloved, Betty.

Online condolences may be left to the family at www.doddreedfh.com.

Dodd & Reed Funeral Home is honored to be serving Everett's family.

Martha L. Vigus (nee) Currence

Martha L. Vigus (nee) Currence, Born June 15, 1941, Passed away June 15, 2022

She was born in W.V. to William and LaVon (Mick) Currence.

She leaves behind ex-husband/best friend Ron, children Mari-Lynn

(Marvin) Evans, William Fisher, Mona (Dean) Clevenger, Lisa (Jesse) Vigus-Pierson. grandchildren Zachary, Samantha, and Tyler. Great grandchildren Connor and Avery.

She went to Glenville State College and was also Miss Summersville.

She spent the rest of her life in Akron, Ohio where she managed multiple buildings and later retired from Pepsi Cola, although you never saw her without a Coke in her hand.

She was always willing to travel at the drop of a hat and loved reading true crime novels.

She was one of a kind with a sense of humor like no other and will be missed by all who knew her.

There will be no service per Martha's request. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Humane Society in honor of her beloved dog Bud and her many cats.

Jerrold K. Widener

Jerrold K. Widener, 80, of Hacker Valley, passed away on June 16, 2022 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon. Born September 2, 1941 in Braxton County, he was the son of the late Herbert and Hilda Fowler Widener.

He was meticulous in all of his affairs, always having things in order. He enjoyed the outdoors

and spending time with his family. To him, family was everything.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandparents Dee and Idena Widener; brother, Donald Widener, grandsons, Kirby Uhl and Zachary Raber; and great-grandson Caiden Bailey.

He is survived by his wife of just shy of 58 years, Mary Sue Whitney Widener; his five loving children, Debora Laws, John Widener, Marcelle (Henry) Raber, Mark (Rebecca) Widener, and Jerrold E. Widener; grandchildren, Jennifer (Nate) Brady, Erica (James) Anderson, Cody Helms, Sara (Justin) Raber, Joshua Raber, Matthew (Estrella) Raber, Daniel Reidenbach, Seth Widener, Benjamin Widener, Rachel Widener, Lilyanna Widener, Luke Widener, Ethan Widener, Jacob Widener, Liam Widener, and Isabella Widener; great-grandchildren, Jesse (Hanna) Brady, Justus (Caitline) Brady, Lewis Brady, Lucas Brady, James Anderson,, Leland Anderson, Abigail Anderson, and Piper Helms; great-great-grandchildren Mackenzie Brady and Ryan Brady; and many other extended family and friends to mourn his passing.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place. Private celebration of life services will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.doddreedfh.com.

Dodd & Reed Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Widener family.

Friends

Continued from Page 2

baries were fashioned at the Friends' request by the BCHS Construction class utilizing donated recycled materials.

This fall the Friends of Sutton Library will arrange a presentation by "Harriet Tubman" from the Humanities Council for several classes at Sutton and Flatwoods Elementary Schools. This presentation was previously planned and postponed during the pandemic. In the past "Sacagawea" and "Charles Schultz" presentations have been enjoyed through the Friends' efforts. Apple butter making and the annual Baked Steak dinner were also discussed for the fall.

Friends of the Sutton Library welcomes all who would like to work in support of the library activities, presenting children's programs and contributing to the community of Braxton County. Find more information at the Sutton Library or call Pat at 765-7873.

From the family of Wanda Bender

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral piece, If so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words

As any friends could say, Perhaps you were not there at all, Just thought of us this day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts, We thank you so much, Whatever the part.

Flatwoods Monster Fest

The Flatwoods Monster Fest will be held on Friday, July 1st from 1:00-5:00 P.M. Vendors, bring own table, Chairs and Tent, \$25.00 to setup. There

We would like to wish a special thank you to Randy Conrad, Dr. Lindsey and staff, Ruby Memorial MICU doctors and staff for all the care they provided in Wanda's last days. Sincerest gratitude also to Reverend Delmas Singleton and Stockert Funeral Home for all the kindness and support they showed in this difficult time.

Thank you all.

Sutton Moose Lodge 825
(304)765-5270

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On the Other Side of the Mountain



View from our mailbox.



Beebalm



Day Lily



Refractometer.

Burnsville Community Center Event Bookings

Are you looking for a place to host an event? If so, the Burnsville Community Center is available for bookings. Reasonable rates with or without kitchen. For more information or to book your event, please call 304-853-2605 Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

KMGH Cemetery Notice

Kanawah Memorial cemetery plots will raise Gardens of Heaters and to \$200. From the trustees.

Gassaway Public Library Summer Reading Program

Oceans of Possibilities activities Lunch Kits Provided dates: June 27, July 5, July 25, by Mountaineer Food Bank August 1. Time 11:00 a.m. Something for all age groups: Story Time / Exciting Ac- Toddler – 18 years of age

The weather pattern continues with periods of extremes, sometimes excessive rainfall, sometimes with unseen high temperatures for June.

The garden and the pastures are performing well, with unprecedented lush growth, good germination and abundance in production. No complaints so far. When it is very hot and humid, it sometimes makes it hard to spend many hours outside, doing demanding, physical work, like weed eating on a steep hill side in full sun, fixing fences in challenging terrain, or sawing up a dead tree that fell on the driveway or a fence. We are familiar with this kind of work, but the heat factor taxes our endurance and stamina.

Last week I wrote about using Bt sprays to control cabbage worms. Of course the same product is effective against corn borers, and web-caterpillars on blueberries. Actually, against any caterpillars that cause potential damage on our crops.

We tend to find all kinds of solutions to plant diseases and insect attacks. I have read several times that the “Brix-factor” plays a big role in plant health. Brix is a measurement of sugar, vitamin, minerals and other contents in plant juice which can be accurately determined with a light refractometer. It was invented by Adolf Brix in the first part of the 19 hundreds. It is primarily used by the wine, fruit juice and honey industries to measure the sugar levels of their products.

There are many vineyards in Switzerland along lakes and in the Rhone valley. They are privately owned, but nobody is allowed to pick grapes for wine production without the permission of the experts who test the grapes for the perfect sugar content to make the quality wine the region is known for. Once the optimal level (22 to 26 degrees) is registered, the region gets the go-ahead for picking the grapes that week, which is called locally “the leset”, translated “the picking”.

Brix levels are as important for garden plants as it is for grapes. The higher the Brix content, the better the flavor. Generally, Brix levels 12 degrees and above are ideal for vegetables. To explain the Brix indicator not using the metric system is to imagine about a quarter cup of water

which contains one thirtieth of an ounce of sugar, making this 1-degree Brix. So, 12 degrees would come close to a little less than half an ounce of sugar to a quarter cup of water. I hope I got this right! People who measure the Brix of their produce, extract juice from a plant by breaking down the leaves with a mortar and pestle method, then extracting a few drops with a garlic press. The refractometer only needs 2 or 3 drops to measure the sugar and mineral content. Brix levels and soil health are very closely related.

Plant sap contains sugar created by photosynthesis in leaves. The plant has the capacity to shuttle the sugar containing sap from its leaves to other parts of itself where it senses it might be needed. Some of the sugar that is manufactured during the day when photosynthesis takes place, is sent down to the root zone during nighttime. This is to feed the beneficial microbes that surround the plant’s roots, it is a perfect symbiotic relationship between plants and soil microbes. The microbes return the favor of receiving free food, by making nutrients available to the plant. I read that this special relationship between microbes and plants, including trees, has been in action for over 500 million years. 90% of all plants on our planet have this special unique management system. There are two mycorrhizae (fungi) that are important for growing. One forms a web-

like structure around the roots of plants, the other one penetrates the root system and becomes part of the cells.

The web-like arrangement is like an extension of the roots, possibly increasing the nutrient uptake up to 700 times. All soil microbes are important in biomass decomposition, mineral circulation, maintaining soil structure and making nutrients available to the plant. We can invite these beneficial soil dwellers by adding organic matter in the from of compost and mulch. Crop rotation encourages different microbes to populate our garden.

It is important not to think of microbes as fertilizer, but rather as the means of making fertilizer available to their hosts. There has to be a balance of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, as well as the right pH level in the soil to make everything work out well. The result will be a healthier plant, more resistance to frosts, drought conditions, diseases, insect attacks, better tasting, packing more vitamins and trace minerals, green crops looking darker green, tomatoes and peppers tasting sweeter. The yields should be higher too. If the soil is depleted by mismanagement, products that contain mycorrhizae can be applied, but always keep in mind that the soil inhabitants are always present where anything is growing, the plant and its friends are totally dependent on each other,

ever since the first plants started here on Earth. I find this extraordinarily wonderful! While I was looking into the symbiotic relationship of soil microbes and plants, the philosophical question was raised if it was a totally symbiotic connection or if there could be some dominance on one part. The answer always was that we don’t know yet.

Some weeks back I mentioned that brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, kales and cabbage) are the exemption to the symbiotic relationship described above. Sometimes these crops exude chemicals that will kill soil microbes. Apparently, blueberries also don’t need any soil companionship.

We are surrounded by nature’s abundance and beauty in WV and when you walk or drive through our green hills or are attracted by the beauty of a flower, remember it is all related to the mutual, beneficiary relationship between living organisms in the soil and the plants above it.

As I was writing this column I wondered If plants might be smarter than us. They seek each other out, they cooperate, while we reject anybody who is different from us, and we think that any problem can be solved with a powerful, military weapon. Of course, we don’t go back 500 million years, so maybe there is a glimmer of hope for improvement, an evolutionary change.

Dog Tails: Adoptable Dogs at the Braxton County Animal Shelter

Are you looking to add a four legged, tail wagging member to your family? Rescues from the Braxton County Animal Shelter are looking for their final “Furever” homes and are anxious to meet you.

There is a reason we call them man’s best friend. We can learn so many things from a dog’s behavior, personality, demeanor, resiliency, and most importantly, the willingness to provide their family members with unconditional love, loyalty, and companionship down to their very last breath. BCAS is open Monday through Friday from 10-3.

There is no charge to surrender a dog, but donations toward their care are appreciated. Adoptions are \$99.00 for male dogs and \$119.00 for female dogs, and include spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, parvo/distemper vaccination, kennel cough vaccination, flea treatment and deworming. No dog will leave the shelter unfixed and we are very willing to work with reputable 501c3 rescues.

Please call the shelter for vet pricing and ask for our adoption/rescue coordinator Megan at (304)765-2200



This sweet girl is **Sasha**, she is a five to six month old lab mix who weighs thirty-five pounds. She is already such a good girl! Sasha has the sweetest disposition.

She is great with small children, other dogs, and has been around horses. No cats for Sasha please. This smart girl knows sit, lay, come, shake and walks great on a leash. She’s only had accidents in the home when no one is around to let her out to potty.

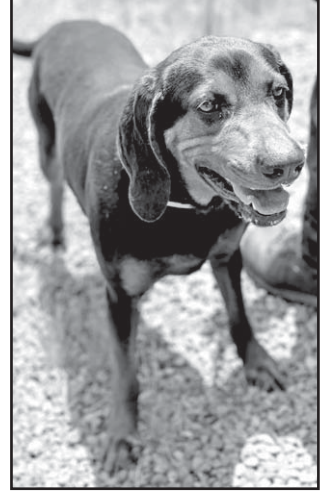


Molly is a five month old female Blue Heeler/Beagle mix. Molly is crate trained and has lived indoors before but still needs some work with house training as she has had accidents when no one is home. She has been around small children and other dogs but does not do well with chickens! Molly loves toys and playing with other dogs. This girl is very sweet and would make an excellent family companion.



Rowdy and Rascal These sweet boys are litter mates who are now ten months old. Their momma is a Great Dane and we can’t be sure the breed of the father of this litter. They have lived mainly outdoors and were very timid when they came to the shelter but they

are warming up to our staff quickly. These guys have been around children and are very gentle, do not jump up at all. They are also dog social and have been around chickens and rabbits as well. They love a good game of tug with a rope or toy.



Meet Josie, She is a four year old female Black and Tan who came to our shelter as a stray from the Burnsville city limits area. We believe she has only ever lived outdoors. She walks excellent on a leash and is in great physical health. She has dog tested great here in the shelter and is a very gentle personality. We think she would be good with children bc she does not jump up and is very laid back. Josie does have that hound dog howl but we don’t hear it often.

Braxton Co. Animal Shelter has been given the opportunity to provide five free dog spay surgery vouchers per month, to low-income Braxton County families. (One per household) These vouchers may be obtained by completing a Spay Assistance Application, which can be picked up and submitted at the animal shelter during business hours. Vouchers will be good for 30 days. BCAS reserves the right to deny financial assistance for any reason.

Braxton Manor

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Just One Generation: Kitty Korner

Just One Generation cat rescue was started in 2013 in response to the severe feline overpopu-lation in this area. Our initial emphasis was on the Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) of feral cats as well as to facili-tate the spay/neuter of domestic cats.

Adoption of owner-less cats and kittens came later, as was in-corporated with the pro-gram because there was no place else for these animals to go.

But, due to previous-ly made travel plans and family commitments, Just One Generation will NOT be available to take in new animals or to adopt cats and kittens during the months of June, July, and August 2022.

Our spay/neuter assistance program will continue during this time. If you have thoughtfully considered pet ownership, now-may be the time to add a feline friend to your family.

Our program cur-rently has multiple healthy, social cats and kittens that are available for a modest adoption fee, that includes im-munizations, deworm-ing, flea protection, as well as spay/neuter and rabies vaccine when the kittens are four months old.

Featured today are several cats and kittens waiting for homes of

their own.

They represent a few of the 14 kittens we cur-rently have ready for placement.

This group of 14 will be the last kittens we have available this season.

Our usual adoption fee has been reduced to \$40 each of two for \$65, which includes the spay/neuter/rabies vaccine at Central WV Animal Hospital in Gas-saway when they are 4 months old.

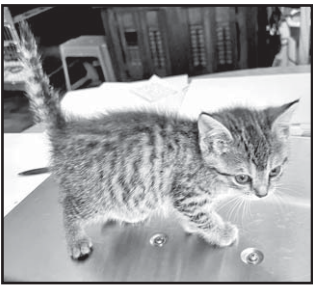
Additional photos of these and other available cats and kittens can be seen on petfinder.com by entering a search for CATS at location 26623 or on the Just One Gen-eration Facebook page. Contact Sally Stewart. as 304-364-4136 to ar-range a visit or for addi-tional information.



Layla: 9 week old long-haired female tor-toiseshell



Sunkist: 8 week old short haired orange tabby male



Happy: 8 week old short-haired brown tab-by female



Sundance: 10 month old neutered male, short-haired or-ange/white



Doc: 8 week old short-haired male silver tabby

This Week in West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia his-tory. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

June 22, 1926: Earl Olgebay died in Cleve-land. He was one of West Virginia’s most success-ful industrialists and a generous benefactor.



June 23, 1944: A tor-nado struck Shinnston and the surrounding area, killing 103 people and injuring hundreds more.

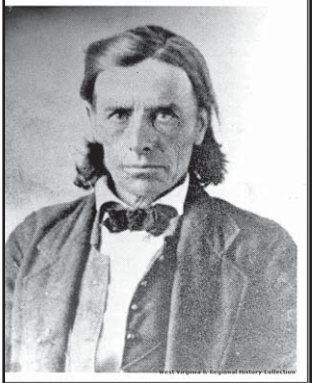


June 23, 2016: Eight inches of rain fell in a 12-hour period. The Meadow, Cherry and Elk rivers, as well as Howard Creek, flooded down-towns and The Green-brier resort and killed 23 people.

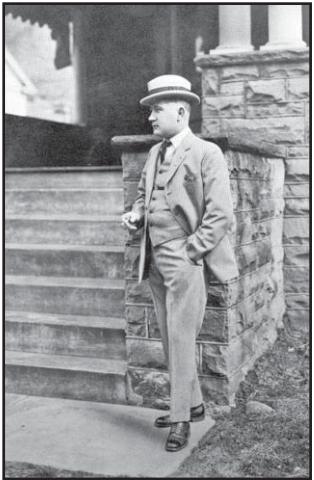


June 24, 1842: Au-thor Ambrose Bierce was born. Bierce found the

setting for some of his famous short stories in the mountains of Civil War-era West Virginia.



June 25, 1811: Bridge builder Lemuel Chenoweth was born near Beverly, Randolph County. His many bridg-es also included the ear-liest covered bridge at Beverly and the famous Philippi covered bridge.



June 26, 1887: Sheriff Don Chafin was born in Logan County. Chafin was a bitter foe of union organizers and, with financial support from coal companies, used his many deputies to keep labor organizers out of Logan County.

June 26, 1892: Pearl Buck was born in Hills-boro in the home of her maternal grandparents. She received the Nobel Prize for Literature for

The Good Earth.



June 26, 1936: Bas-ketball star Harold Ever-ett “Hal” Greer was born in Huntington. Greer was the first African-American athlete to play at Marshall College (now University). During his three-year college car-er, Greer scored 1,377 points and averaged 19.4 points per game.

June 27, 1897: Mus-ician Maceo Pinkard was born in Bluefield. Pinkard became one of the most successful songwriters of the 1920s Jazz Era.

June 28, 1936: Athlete Charles Louis “Chuck” Howley was born in Wheeling. How-ley played linebacker for 12 seasons for the Dallas Cowboys. He was named All-Pro six times and named to six Pro Bowls.

e-WV: The West Vir-ginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Vir-ginia Humanities Coun-cil. For more informa-tion, contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Wash Houses Part 2

By: Jeanette Riffle

Last week I wrote about my Grandmother Stewart’s wash house and my husband had a story for me. He remem-bers a wash house at the Shock log cabin that was even bigger than Granny’s. It had clothes lines to hang the laun-dry there on rainy days. Laundry was done with a wash board and two wash tubs. There was a fire pit outside to boil water and a dug well with a stone curb. Buck-ets of water were drawn up for the galvanized tubs. One for the soapy hot water and one for the cold rinse water. The laundry products were stored in the wash

house as well as clutter that needed a place to go. The wash board was used until electric came to Shock. What a job wash day was !

There was a table to cure meat on and deer were hung in there. There were 6 out build-ings. I remember the corn crib, two chicken houses, toilet house and Grandpa Riffle’s shack. I remember look-ing in the wash house one time and seeing a big buck deer hanging by it’s hind legs. There was a rope around it’s hind legs and tied to a rafter at the ceiling. The deer was hanging upside down. The wash house was torn down in



Pat’s Chats

By Pat Ridpath

Father’s Day is today, June 19. 2022. I saw in a recent paper that Fa-ther’s Day also began in West Virginia, as did Mother’s Day. I hope you will enjoy this poem I wrote long ago. If you remember my dad, I hope you will think of him when you read this. Many people who grew up in Burnsville, West Virginia, remember him, Harry Wiant, Sr. Many have told me he was their favorite teacher. He was my teacher in 8th grade for some class-es. I liked him, too. I used this poem last year, but as I reread it today, it brought me to tears. I miss him so much, and I also miss my broth-ers and sister who I lost almost all at once, it seemed. First Sonny Oct. 31, 2020, then al-most immediately I lost Sammy on December 15, the same year. I didn’t really recover from that before the time Mary Ann died a little over a year later, on Mar. 19, 2022.

MY LAUGHING DAD

My memory of Daddy as I was but a tot

Is mostly of his jok-ing and how he laughed a lot.

He kept us all in stitches, he’d laugh and giggle so

When he told an oft-repeated joke that we’d already know.

His laughter was con-tagious as measles in the spring.

How often we were laughing in my “remem-bering.”

I remember how when he would leave to teach school every day,

He’d kiss us on top our heads to miss oat-meat gone astray.

I also see his jaunty stride as homeward bound he came,

Whistling a merry tune that called us from our game.

We’d race to meet him, and we’d vie to car-ry home the mail,

And search the lunch remains for bites, and fight to hold the pail.

I always thought my dad could do just almost anything,

Like paint a house or fix a roof or mend a bro-ken spring.

I well remember why he said he bought a dav-enport

Was so he’d get us married off when boys would come to court.

If broken springs were gouging through there’d be no place to sit!

Daddy kept our child-hood bright with all his crazy wit.

He built a bathroom long ago to save us from the path,

But sometimes still a trail he’d make when we were in the bath.

My momma said it’d take five more to satisfy our “herd.”

And only once do I recall him say a naughty word!

That was when he was changing a closet into a doorway.

The hammer slipped and cut his eye and, oh! to my dismay

He cried in pain, a

later years ,as well as all the other old build-ings, to make room for a big double wide for the Gary Moore family.

We have had a cou-ple of nice cool days this weekend. What a blessed relief from that hot, humid weather that was more like the dog days of summer. I’ve had a lot of allergy sick-ness and have been in a lot under the AC. Did anyone see the straw-berry moon as they were calling it ? I saw it on FB and it did indeed look pink.

Until next time, ev-eryone stay as cool and comfortable as you can. The heat is supposed to come back.

Take care and God bless!

word that gave his little girl a shock,

And later he said it was not a word that I should mock.

Another incident I can recall so vividly once more

Is when I saw that great big boulder rolling toward our door.

My Dad was at our garden pump and saw that rock descending.

It bounced first this a way, then that, eyes fol-lowing its wending.

It finally stopped on a flat ledge, causing us no harm.

I was scared and so was Dad! Relief re-placed alarm!

I remember also plain as day the time the bees were mad

And started buzzing all around and then took after Dad!

I saw him pass the window, feet ‘way in front of head,

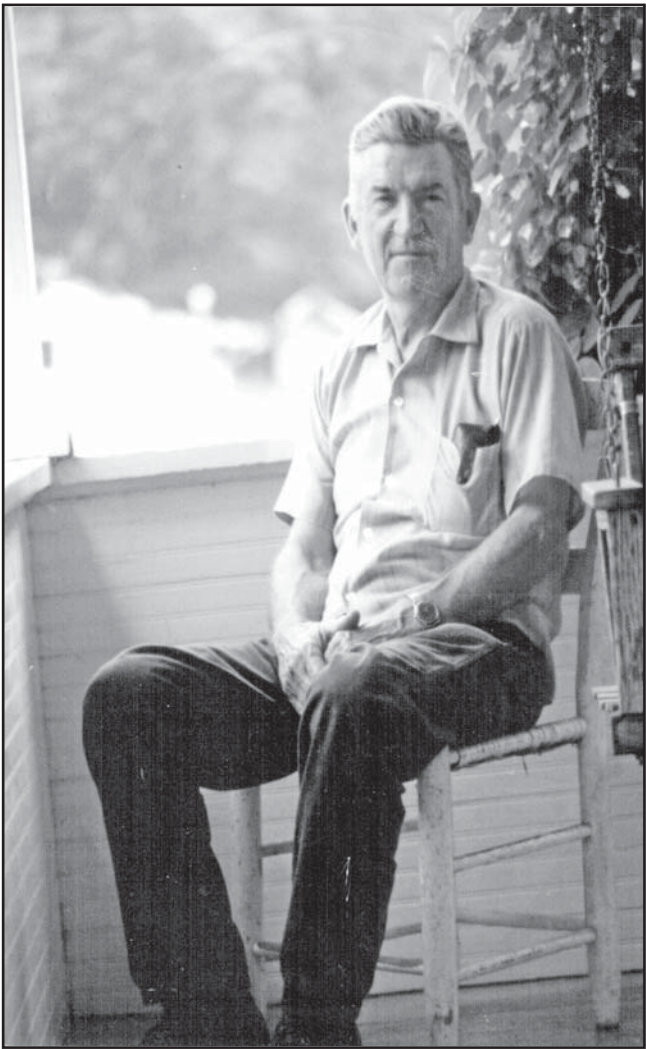
But by his yelp I knew that he was not the one who led.

My laughing Dad made life at home a hap-py place to grow.

How much I loved and honored him, I wanted him to know,

I hope for my own children the happiness I had

When growing up with my dear Mom and my sweet, laughing Dad. Maranatha



Harry Wiant, Burnsville, WV, School Teacher and world’s best dad.

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Dress	17.90
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Heavy Coats



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& Fold

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Comforter (Full/Queen)	36.50
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Extra charge for silks, beads,
leather trim, down filled, etc.



Quilts & Comforters

Meet a Mountaineer Food Bank Food Banker

This week, the Mountaineer Food Bank is highlighting Laura Phillips!

Laura is the Director of Community Programs at Mountaineer Food Bank. Laura has been an employee of the food bank for five years and stepped into directing the Community Programs Department at the Department's onset in July 2019. Laura graduated from Fairmont State University with a Bachelor's of Health Sciences. Laura started at the food bank as a member of the Agency Relations team before transitioning to Director of Community Programs.

Laura lives in Lewis County, WV with her husband along with their sweet daughter, Madison



Laura Phillips, Director of Community Programs at Mountaineer Food Bank.

Braxton County Soccer Club Announces Early Bird Registration

Braxton County Soccer Club's Fall 2022 Early Bird Registration opens June 17th until June 30th.

Registration is for age groups U4 to U12 (birth year 2019-2011.)

Through June 30th, there will be any early bird discount applied to each registered player. Registration cost for U4 players will be \$35. Registration cost for U6-U12 players is \$45 per player by using Promo code 91494.

After June 30th, Registration cost will increase, so don't delay.

To register, use the "sign up" button at the top of our Facebook page or this link: <http://clubs.bluesom->



Early bird registration runs through June 30th. braxtoncountysoccer.com

You will be required to upload a copy of the player's birth certificate and a photo of the player at registration.

Coaches: Please ask us about the Volunteer discount before you register your players.

If you have questions, please contact Lindsey Casto or Krystle Morris.

Steve Warren Service and Gospel Sing

It's that time again. Yes, Steve Warren of Cookeville, TN will be at the Clover Fork Singing Grounds in Orlando, WV on Friday July 8th at 7:00pm and Saturday July 9th at 12:00 noon.

Friday night Steve will sing a few of his hit songs and bring a message. Then

Saturday will be an afternoon of singing. Just take exit 79 off I-79 in Burnsville and follow the signs to Orlando.

There is shelter and plenty of seating, but you may enjoy sitting in your own lawn chair so feel free to bring it along. No admission charge. Rain

or Shine! So come and enjoy and evening and afternoon of fellowship with Us.

For more information about Steve Warren visit his website at www.stevewarrenministries.com. Contact Willie Shaver at 304-853-2418. See you there!

Flatwoods Monster Fest July 1st

The Flatwoods Monster Fest will be held on Friday, July 1st from 1:00-5:00 P.M.

table ,Chairs and Tent, \$25.00 to setup.

There will be music, games and food.

Vendors, bring own

The event will be lo-

By Larry Knight

The picture shows a barn that has been repaired. What is interesting is that it is a Mail Pouch tobacco barn. These barns were once popular along country roads. I guess you could say they were the first billboards in advertising. Mail Pouch chewing tobacco was once a popular cud in West Virginia. The mail pouch head quarters was in Wheeling West Virginia, the customers of the brand liked to use a product from their home state. Many an old timer would turn down an offer of another brand of chewing tobacco. Usually the comment was "too sweet". The original picture of a poke of Mail Pouch was a Mail Pouch on the side of the poke. Yes in this case a poke was not to punch someone it meant a package of chewing tobacco. An interstate buyer would say give me a poke of mail pouch tobacco. The price could sometime influence the sale of a poke of any brand. Most brands had 3 oz in the bag or poke some only held 2 1/4 ounces. The barn painting came about by a tobacco company wanting to advertise their product. An agreement between the tobacco company and the barn



owner took place. The tobacco company usually agreed to make repairs to the barn wall then paint the advertisement on the wall for a fee paid to the barn owner. The barn was usually located in an area where there were people that used tobacco products. So the tobacco company killed two birds with one stone you might say by making a deal with the barn owner. The barn owner was going to win even if he did not chew tobacco. If the farmer grew tobacco then the company more than likely was going to help him out with the sale of his product and he was going to get something for the use of his barn wall. These old barn painters were great they done the same job where ever they went to paint. The size of the barn might change but the advertisement would

stay the same. I believe in the early 1960s the Mail Pouch tobacco company began producing a different product besides their original. The new product was called the sweetened or a product to attract new customers. The new poke was a some what sweeter product that appealed to new customers more than the original and the poke contained more chewing which made a good point for the user. Sadly things change and so did the barn painting this stopped about the 1970s. West

Virginia had many of them as well as the surrounding states. Sadly these old barns are becoming just a memory. The barn in the picture is gone nothing left but a picture and a memory. I can it seems still hear the words "give me a poke of Mail Pouch the sweet one".

Burnsville CEOS Club Holds Meeting

The Burnsville Community Educational Outreach Service Club (COS) met June 8th 2022 at the community building in Burnsville with Bobbi Bragg Hostess. The meeting was called to order by President Betty Carson with roll call and pledge to the flag.

For devotions Beverley Monroe read from one of Joseph Mazzella's articles from the paper.

Secretary/treasurer read the minutes from the previous meeting and gave an update on the good of the club. We did a bake sale after the Alumni Parade and would like to thank all of you for supporting our club. All the proceeds go back into the community and we appreciate your generosity. Thanks so much.

Some folks in the community were sent

cards and we hope you are doing better.

Members who attended the Weston Area Meeting said they enjoyed the day. This is the first time I have missed since I joined the club in 1997.

The Folk Festival is coming up and the Braxton County Belle is Pat Drake from the Burnsville Club. She will be in the parade on Saturday June 18th in Glenville with belles from all the counties. Past belles

from the Burnsville Club will be there also.

We didn't have a lesson this month and there were no committee reports. We discussed the changing of officers and ways and means. We also volunteer at the county fair that is coming up soon and sponsored a child to 4-H Camp.

The next meeting will be July 13th 2022 at the Burnsville Mayor's Office 10am. You are welcome to join us.

Class of 82 Reunion

Braxton County High School Class of 1982 will be holding their Class Reunion on July 2 at the 4-H pavilion at Holly Gray Park, Sutton. Come at 1:00, dinner at 4:00. Food will be provided, locals bring a

dessert.

Donations are accepted. If you have cornhole or instruments, bring them too.

Questions call Gloria Starcher at 304-644-1082 or Annette Merzouk at 910-398-0708.

8th Annual Elk River Summer Float registration



Sign up today, online registration ends on July 10th.

Come out and enjoy the 8th Annual Elk River Summer Float on Saturday, July 16th, 2022 beginning at the Sutton Dam.

This 5-mile float is the perfect trip for beginner kayakers or groups with varied skill levels.

Registration, check-in and gear drop starts at 9:00 a.m. at the dam.

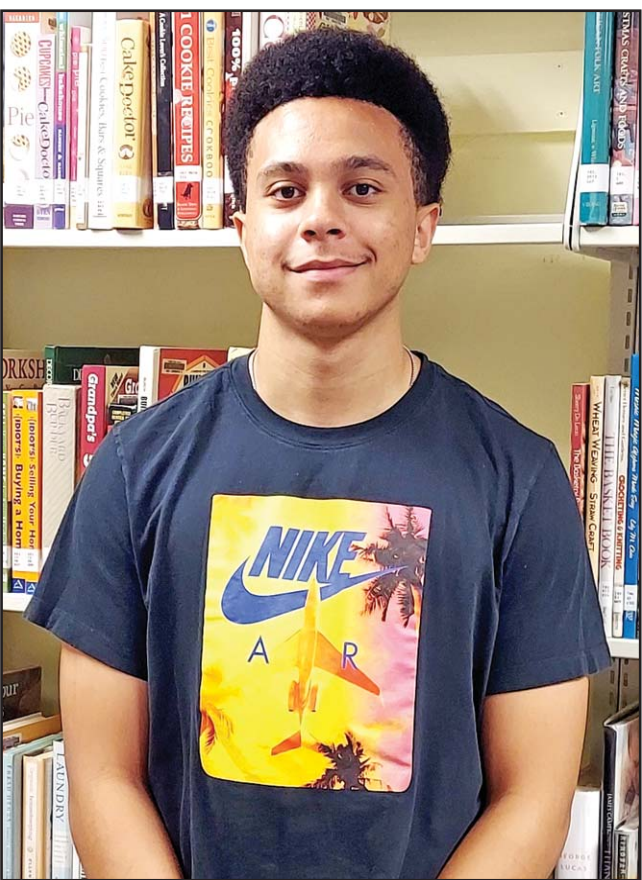
The float officially starts at 11:00 a.m. Come early to check-in, drop your gear, then drive to the Elk River Camp and RV to park your car and board the waiting shuttles

The shuttles will bring you back to the Sutton Dam to start your float.

Registration fee is \$20 per person which includes a free event shirt and shuttle service.

Day-of registration will be available, but event shirts will be first come, first served. Online registration ends on July 10, 2022.

Parking is permissible at the Sutton Dam, in the lot nearest to the dam. The lot furthest from the dam will be reserved for unloading passengers and gear only.



Camden, Tutor at Sutton Public Library.



Grace, Tutor at Sutton Public Library.

Sutton Public Library Offers Free Summer Tutoring

In partnership with the Braxton County Board of Education, the Sutton Public Library is offering free tutoring this summer for elementary through high school students during library hours.

Qualified tutors, Camden and Grace, are available to provide in-

dividualized assistance to students in a variety of subjects, and educational goals are up to parents!

Camden is a sophomore at WV Wesleyan College, majoring in Physics and Engineering and minoring in Psychology. He will be specializing in middle school and high school science and

math.

Grace has a B.A. in Art History and Anthropology. She will be specializing in reading, social studies, fine arts, and lower level science and math.

Tutoring sessions are flexible in time and day to best fit you and your child's schedule. If you

are interested in this service, please let the library know by contacting (304) 765-7224 during business hours for more information.

Library hours are: Monday: 8am-4pm, Tuesday: 11am-7pm, Wednesday: Closed, Thursday: 11am-7pm, Friday: 8am-4pm.

