

## Little Birch Elementary Holds Open House

Students and families were provided a warm welcome back to school at Little Birch Elementary. Time was provided to meet teachers, locate lockers, scan the new PBIS store. Students were also able to receive a new haircut and school supplies before enjoying food and fun in the gym. Parents and guardians were provided training for online platforms and received important updates for the new school year. Principal Grace Wine would like to thank Community in Schools Coordinator Penny Carr for her planning and organizational efforts, as well as Erica Samples from The Works, Heather Mack from Crown & Glory, and Amy Morrow from Amy's House of Hair who shared their time and talents to help students look and feel their best as they return to school. Little Birch Elementary would also like to thank State Farm, True Vine, the Southern Baptist Church, and our volunteers who made this event possible.



Staff, students and parents enjoyed a host of fun activities.



Amy Morrow of Amy's House of Hair gets a student ready to take-on the new school year.



Terrell Ellis, President of Terrell Ellis & Associates, Executive Director of Advantage Valley, and West Virginia, Program Manager for the Braxton County Development Authority, holds a copy of the plan of recommendations and opens the meeting to the public.

## Plan Recommendations of Economic Opportunities of the Elk River Water and Rails for Trails for the Town of Sutton

**By Fernando Rodriguez**  
The Braxton County Development Authority, the Elk River Trail Foundation, and members of the WV Rails-To-Trails Council, sponsored a well attended meeting held at the Sutton Fire Department Annex on Tuesday August 23, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to present and gather feedback on a plan of recommendations for the Town of Sutton to benefit from the tourism which will result from the Elk River Trail.

The Elk River Rail and Water Trail will attract users to Clendenin, Clay, Gassaway and Sutton. Currently, the Elk River Rail-Trail has 28 miles open for use to cyclists, hikers, and equestrians, with boat and fishing accesses along the trail. Future plans will extend the rail trail to 54 miles.

The plan, developed by Downtown Strategies, "an environmental and economic development consulting firm that strengthens economies, sustains healthy environments, and builds resilient communities," will identify business development, marketing, enhanced access to the trail, and community improvements

that will facilitate the growth of the economies of communities along the trail, in this case, specifically Sutton.

Joey James, Principal member of Downtown Strategies and multidisciplinary researcher specializing in sustainable economic development, and Brennan Williams, Community and Economic Development Planner for Downtown Strategies, previewed the plan as it was projected on a screen for all to see. The goal of the plan is to develop strategies to secure revenue from the increase in tourism revenue resulting from visitors to the proposed increase access to the Elk River from Sutton, as well as recommendations for new businesses in the area and improvements to the town to make it more attractive to visitors.

Terrell Ellis, President of Terrell Ellis & Associates, Executive Director of Advantage Valley, West Virginia, Program Manager for the Braxton County Development Authority, and so many other hats, is the hard-working orchestrator and link between all the organizations involved in this project. Terrell presented information

on the Fostering Advantages for Start Ups & Entrepreneurial Resurgence in WV (FASTER WV), an organization which provides small business owners access to markets, financing, and education.

As soon as the plan is completed, it will be available at the BCDA Website <https://www.braxton-county-wv.com/> and the Elk River Trail Foundation Website <https://elkrivertrail.org/>

For more information visit <https://elkrivertrail.org/> <https://wvtrailtrails.org/> <https://www.braxtoncountywv.com/> and <https://wvbusinesslink.com/2022/07/22/faster-wv-boosting-entrepreneurship-startups-and-business-expansion/>

## Rosedale Man Confesses

It is not often that someone voluntarily confesses to a crime; but that is exactly what happened earlier this month when Billy Clifford Lacy, 35, of Rosedale contacted Senior Trooper J.R. Garrett of the Sutton Detachment of the West Virginia State Police.

Lacy told Trooper Garrett that he wanted to "turn himself in for committing a crime." According to the criminal



complaint, Lacy explained to the trooper that he had sent a photograph of his genitalia to a juvenile female. He also confessed that he had kissed and fondled the teenager. Lacy further confessed that he had solicited photographs from the victim.

Upon completion of his investigation, Trooper Garrett charged Lacy with sexual assault in the third degree, Sexual abuse by a

parent, guardian, custodian, or person in a position of trust, and distribution and display to minor of obscene material. If convicted Lacy faces over 20 years in prison and fines of up to \$35,000.

Billy Lacy was arraigned before Braxton County Magistrate David R. Singleton where we was placed on a \$50,000 bond. Lacy was remanded to the Central Regional Jail in lieu of that bond, where he remains at press-time awaiting further court appearances.

## Gassaway Man Charged With Providing Fentanyl

Deputy A.L. Groves of the Braxton County Sheriff's Department has charged a Gassaway man with providing an illegal drug to a 65-year-old female who had to be hospitalized due to the overdose. On Thursday August 18 Deputy Groves responded to call of a possible overdose on Taylor Knob Road. Upon arrival the office encountered a 33-year-old male subject exiting the bathroom of the residence with a piece of tin



foil in his hand, the female victim and first responders.

Deputy Groves notices a white powdery substance on the foil and ask the man what it was. That man, identified as David Joshua Williams of Nicholas Run Road, Gassaway, told the officer it was fentanyl. Williams later confessed that the woman had requested the drug and that he had provided it.

Williams was charged with delivery of a con-

trolled substance. If convicted, he faces 3 to 15 years in prison and up to a \$50,000 fine. Williams was arraigned before Magistrate Marva Crouch who is filling in for Braxton County Magistrate Beth Smith. His bond was set at \$50,000.

Williams remains in the Central Regional Jail in lieu of that bond, pending additional court appearances.

The 65-year-old female was transported to Braxton County Memorial Hospital for treatment. No additional information has been released.

## Braxton Magistrate Report

**Magistrate Beth Smith**  
August 16: Jacob Keeling of Left Hand, battery x2, warrant issued, bond set at \$2500 personal recognizance; Aranda Keeling of Left Hand, battery x2, warrant issued, bond set at \$2500 personal recognizance.

August 17: James E. Case of Cowen, no proof of insurance, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Lora Mae Jarvis of Left Hand, battery x2, warrant issued, bond set at \$1500 personal recognizance; Bobby Lee Greenleaf of Frametown, no seatbelt, no contest plea, fine assessed and paid; David P. Ruble of Mineral Wells, failure to maintain control, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Johnny Bennett Martin of Ivydale, grand larceny, dismissed, conspiracy, dismissed, state does not wish to pursue charges; Megan Arthella Duffield of Ivydale, possession of controlled substance, dismissed, defendant is currently in rehab per court order.

August 19: Steven Harold Evans of Sutton, driving suspended-3rd offense, false informa-

tion to trooper x2, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$2500 personal recognizance; Joseph Bradley Thayer of Roanoke, domestic battery, dismissed, obstructing an officer x2, dismissed, possession of controlled substance, dismissed, prohibited person in possession of a firearm, dismissed, victim refused to cooperate with state; Ashley Lynn Simmons of Gassaway, shoplifting, dismissed, defendant paid for items; David Joshua Williams of Gassaway, delivery of controlled substance, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$50,000 cash only.

**Magistrate David Singleton**  
August 16: Mindy Marie Anderson of Frametown, no seatbelt, no contest plea, fine assessed and paid; Emilee Ann Putman of Duck, driving suspended, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Sai S. Katragadda of Cary, NC, speeding, no contest plea, expired registration, dismissed proof provided, fine/court costs assessed.

August 18: Zachary D. Fonner of Bridgeville, PA, speeding, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid.

August 19: Eric George Patrick of Frametown, defective equipment, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Mac Bailes of Sutton, improper disposal of solid waste, not guilty plea.

August 20: Billy Clifford Lacy of Rosedale, sexual assault-3rd degree, sexual abuse by parent, guardian, or person of trust, distribution and display of

obscene matter, warrant issued, bond set at \$50,000 cash or surety; Cary Ethan Coffman of Sutton, possession of controlled substance, obstructing an officer, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$1500 cash or surety; Christopher Wayne Hoffman of Napier, possession of controlled substance x6, dismissed, another individual admitted to committing the crimes defendant was charged with.

August 22: Sarah Beth Balcourt of Sutton, driving revoked for DUI-3rd offense, bringing contraband into jail, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$15,000 cash only; Jakob D. Harman of Elkins, speeding, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid; Keisha Loraine Thomas of Reedsville, possession of meth, guilty plea, shoplifting, dismissed per plea, credit for time served of 41 days, fine/court costs assessed.

August 23: Casey Sabrina Wilson of Glenville, possession of meth, no operators, no insurance, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$3000 cash or surety; James Jordan of Ireland, no seatbelt, guilty plea, fine assessed; Amber N. Dyer of Sutton, driving revoked for DUI-3rd offense, preliminary hearing waived, transferred to circuit court; Tyler Bruce Belt of Dille, destruction of property, dismissed; Keith Edwards Meadows of Rosedale, fleeing from officer x3, dismissed.



Suzanne McGowan of Sutton, Sutton Councilwoman Beth Atkins, and Lois Cole of Gassaway, listen as Terrell Ellis offers information and answers questions.





SHS Class of 1967

# Sutton High School Class Of 1967 55th Year Reunion

The Sutton High School Class of 1967 got together for their 55th year reunion on July 2, at We're Family Park, Inc. A delicious meal was prepared and served by Country Girls Catering, thank you Debbie Hamric and Amy Hamrick. Classmates present were Darrell and Sally Hays Browning; Shelia Hoover and George Calkins; Leland Rhodes; Kathleen Coombs; Marsha White and Ralph Lloyd; Karen James and Smokey Connor; Charlotte Stout and Jay Chidester; Judy Simmons and David Singleton; Evelyn Jean Simmons Wright; Madeline Frame Hurst; Jane Dyer; Susan Mollohan Luncford; Glen and Jennifer Belknap; Charles and Margaret Knight; Arden and Pam Freeman; George and Peg Loyd; Butch Facemire; Thomas B. Gillespie; Gary Hamrick; and Patty Barnes.

Also, present were Donna Hyer Coombs, Class of 1966 and her sister Annie Harris; Kay Herndon Bowyer, Class of 1968; Lela Mae Posey Brady, Class of 1968; and Alan Brady. Madeline Frame's daughter and grandchild were present also.

Even with all the rain showers throughout the day an enjoyable time was had by all.

# Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs

Last week brought some rapidly rising water and localized flooding in areas throughout central West Virginia. I traveled extensively in Braxton and Gilmer Counties last week to check on the scope of the damage. While out, I encountered multiple DOH crews and working to clear storm debris and repair the damage. I appreciate the efforts of our highway maintenance workers and likewise appreciate their response in getting our roadways open after flood-related events.

In recent years, situations are occurring with increasing frequency where there has not been coordination with DOH in placing mis-matched and undersized pipes and culverts. It usually works properly for a while, but eventually the flow can get restricted; a blockage forms; and land, business, or residential flooding results. Coupled with the ever-increasing erratic weather patterns, it's a problem that is costly to correct.

One recent local situation required a special vacuum truck to be brought in from Pennsylvania to clear obstructions from mis-matched drainage pipes impacting Flatwoods Elementary and residents nearby. Hopefully, this will resolve the situation. Meanwhile, I'm recommending to the administration and the DOT that they consider purchasing one or two of these specialized vehicles for use by DOH statewide, when needed. I believe it would

be a good investment in protecting property damage and dangers to residents and businesses.

It was great to visit with my friend and former House of Delegates colleague, U.S. Senator Shelly Capito last Tuesday morning during a meeting at Mountaineer Food Bank. Her son, Del. Moore Capito, currently serves in the House with me and it's always great to catch up on family. Moreover, I appreciate her willingness to listen and act on concerns on the Federal level that impact our citizens here in central West Virginia.

Jean and I spent last Thursday on the road in Glenville and then over to Normantown, Stumptown and on to Rosedale before heading home. It was great to spend time with Glenville Mayor Dennis Fitzpatrick and folks downtown. Also, we stopped by the Gilmer Senior Center to spend some time with Director Sally Mathess, her staff, and many seniors in attendance. I hope I didn't distract anyone from the bingo game as I checked on the availability of an extra hot roll from the kitchen. I'm looking forward to heading over to Glenville in the next few days to spend more time and for a GSU on-campus visit.

Congratulations to my long-time friend and BCHS Class of '74 graduate, Kim West, on the recent announcement by Glenville State University that she will be inducted into the Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame in October. This is a well-deserved honor. Her out-

standing athletic accomplishments at Glenville State; her great career as a teacher, coach and athletic official have earned the respect and appreciation of students, athletes and her colleagues throughout the region and state. Congratulations, Kim!

Finally, school is already underway in most counties, with a few late-starting county school systems beginning this week. I'm deeply appreciative of our public school teachers and administrators for their dedication to the students. I also want to thank our school service personnel for all they do to enhance and enrich the lives of our kids. From the bus drivers that start and end the school day with our kids; the cooks that take such good care of their nutritional needs; the classroom aides that assist in educating our kids; the custodians that maintain our school facilities; the school staff that interact with our kids each day. Everyone in our schools plays a part in creating a positive learning environment.


Looking back on Jessica and Justin's school days, some of their best memories include not only teachers, but all the school service personnel that took such good care of them. Going back even further, all the teachers and school support personnel I had many years ago had a profound positive impact on my school days. In short, education begins when you board the bus in the morning and ends when you step off. Then, it's up to parents, grandparents, or other family members to encourage, assist and prepare them for the next day. I'm thankful for having a host of positive role models growing up, providing me with valuable life lessons.

Now that the session has concluded, please contact me at my home office at: 151 Park Street, Gasaway, 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 ISAACS IN CONCERT

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**AUGUST  
26TH  
7PM**

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LIVE STAGE**

**BRING A LAWN CHAIR OR LISTEN IN THE PARKING LOT ON 96.7 FM**

Opening by The Putnam Family

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IS  
FREE**

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## KIDS AGES 6 MONTHS & UP ARE ELIGIBLE FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION.

+ + +

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really sick with COVID-19.


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WEST VIRGINIA  
Department of  
**Health & Human  
Resources**

## Attention Braxton County Families



*Come out to the first home Eagles Football game  
of the season and have the opportunity to see  
several county organizations.*

## "Soaring Into A New School Year"

*A Community Connections Event*

*August 26, 2022 from 5-7 PM  
at the Braxton County High School parking lot*

*Tables will be set up by several community  
organizations, including Braxton County Coalition,  
City National Bank, as well as Braxton County Schools  
Title I and Community In Schools Coordinators.  
Information will be provided about resources  
that Braxton County offers*

*Come enjoy a hotdog and get a chance to win a  
Family's Season Pass to  
Eagle Football Games or a T-Shirt.*

*Come see what Braxton County has to offer!*



# Obituaries

## Velma R. Cowger Bender Jordan

Velma R. Cowger Bender Jordan, 88 of Hacker Valley went to her Heavenly home on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 following an extended illness. She was born September 3, 1933 on Lick Run, near Hacker Valley, to Ernest and Effie Hamrick Cowger.

She was Treasurer of the Hacker Valley Senior Citizens and a faithful member of the Hacker Valley Baptist Church where she had taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and was Church Treasurer. She knew God and made sure her children and grandchildren knew him as well. Velma was an excellent cook and grew one of the largest gardens around, canning everything she could. She was fun and fun loving; telling jokes, playing in the rain, and enjoying her family spending time with her and with each other at her home.

She is survived by four sons: Edward (Brenda) Bender of Chesterfield, VA, Ernie Bender of North Chesterfield, VA, Marvin (Rebecca) Bender and Andrew (Heather) Bender both of Hacker Valley; six daughters: Linda (Dewayne) Mayle of Clarksburg, Geretta (Wallace) Pugh of Hacker Valley, Connie (Tom) Clark of Charleston, Renita (Bobby) Crowe of South Chesterfield, VA, Joan (Frankie) Williams of Hacker Valley, and Desta (Dalton) Harvey of Frederick, MD; daughters-in-law: Alice Bender of Hobbs, NM and Betty Bender of Belington; two step-sons: Rodney (Terri) Jordan of Lewisburg and Randall (Vickie) Jordan of Hacker Valley; one brother, Emery Cowger of Nutter Fort; three sisters: Vauna Cogar of North Canton, OH, Vada Barnett of Mogadore, OH and Anetha Woods of Buckhannon; 38 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; her special little friend Coco; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends to mourn her passing.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Jearl Curt Bender; second husband, Edward Jink Jordan; sons, Herbert Bender and Ervin David Bender; daughter, Mary Mills; son-in-law Jeff Mills; two grandsons, TJ Clark and Landon Levi Garrett, III.

The family would like to thank WV Hospice of Buckhannon for their special care during the last ten months as well as our sister-in-law, Heather Bender, who was her caregiver for the last few years.

Friends joined the family for visitation on Friday, August 19, 2022 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and on Saturday, August 20, 2022 from 11:00 to 1:00 at Hacker Valley Baptist Church. Funeral Services to celebrate Velma's life were held at 1:00 PM on Saturday at the Church with Pastor John Elbert and Pastor Ed Groves officiating. Interment followed in Cutlip Cemetery, Hacker Valley.

For the safety of everyone, the family requests facial coverings be worn during all services. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.doddreedfh.com](http://www.doddreedfh.com).

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

## Garland D. Hall

Garland D. Hall, 85 of Hugheston, formerly of French Creek, passed away on Monday, August 15, 2022 at Sanctuary of the Ohio Valley.

He was born January 20, 1937 in Removal to the late Okey F. and Nora Ware Hall and was a United States Army Veteran.

Garland enjoyed gardening, woodworking, and owned and operated Jerry Run Grocery for 12 years, a job he thoroughly enjoyed.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Veda Ireda Brown Hall; son Garland D. Hall, Jr.; brother Gordon R. Hall; and sisters Lors Hall and Dorothy Isenhardt.

Garland is survived by his sons Theron Roger Hall and John Glenn (Shawna) Hall; grandchildren Cody Hall, Harlan Hall, and Clarice Hall; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends to mourn his passing.

Friends may join the family for visitation on Sunday, August 21, 2022 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at Dodd & Reed Funeral Home. Funeral Services to celebrate Garland's life will be held at 6:00 PM at the Funeral Home with Pastor Chris Cosner officiating. Military Honors to follow.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.doddreedfh.com](http://www.doddreedfh.com).

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

## Doris Hope White

Doris Hope White, of Webster Springs, WV, went to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, August 15th, 2022 due to a short illness.

She worked at Webster County Memorial Hospital under Dr. Paul Bennett and Dr. Robert Mace for 30+ years until she decided to retire. She was also a long time member of the Webster County Woodchopping Festival Committee and a member of the First Baptist Church of Webster Springs where she absolutely loved singing in the choir. She enjoyed watching any and all sports, especially her Webster County Highlanders and West Virginia Mountaineers.

Doris was preceded in death by her husband Hale (Bud) White; parents Paul and Phyllis Hull; and brother Frank Hull, all of Webster Springs.

She is survived by her daughters Kathy (Jack) Tonkin and daughter Kelli (Charles) Cochran of Webster Springs; son Jeffrey (Jodie) White of Lebanon, Tennessee; brothers Tom Hull of San Diego, CA and Bill (Anna) of St. Albans; step-son Larry (Marilena) Tracy of AZ; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; along with many nieces and nephews.

Per her last wishes, cre-

mation has taken place and a graveside service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Doris and her family request that donations be made to the First Baptist Church of Webster Springs or to the Webster County Woodchopping Festival.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.doddreedfh.com](http://www.doddreedfh.com).

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

## Dana L. Stalnaker

Dana L. Stalnaker, 91, of Talcott gained his heavenly reward; his faith is now sight; on Sunday August 7, 2022 at CAMC General Hospital following a short illness.

Born August 1, 1931 at Braxton County, WV he was the son of the late Samuel and Lula Underwood Stalnaker. He served his country during the Korean War as a Corporal with the First and Third Armored Divisions. Worked as an orderly for the Weston and Hinton Hospitals, former insurance salesman and factory worker. A former charter member of the Greenbrier Valley Rural Fire Dept. After his graduation from Seminary in Kentucky he served as Pastor for Steer Run Baptist Church until 1966 when he was called to be the pastor of the Rollynsburg Baptist where he served until the Lord called him home. Preacher Stalnaker enjoyed gospel music, singing in the quartet at church functions, watching westerns, reading Louis L'Amour books and spending time with his family, church family, friends but especially his grandchildren. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his wife Eleanor Stalnaker; great grandson, Aiden Jackson; siblings, Marvis Rollyson, Viril Stalnaker, Virlin Stalnaker, Kelsie Stalnaker, Irene Jarvis, Opal Jarvis and Thurl Stalnaker.

Those left to cherish his memory include two sons, Mark S. Stalnaker of Newport News, VA and Matthew A. Stalnaker and wife Jamie of Hinton; grandchildren, Rachel, Stephen, Emily, Rebecca, Daniel, Luke, Brooke, and Bruce Jr.; great grandchildren, Avah, Mila and Alexander.

Funeral services were held 12:00 pm Thursday August 11, 2022 at the Rollynsburg Baptist Church with Pastors Don Bean and Joe Collins officiating. Burial followed in the Talcott Cemetery. Friends may call from 6-8 pm Wednesday August 10, 2022 at the Rollynsburg Baptist Church at Talcott. Family will served as pallbearers.

## Neil Thomas McPherson

Neil Thomas McPherson, 35, of Orlando, WV; (Oil Creek Community) departed this life suddenly on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at his home on McCauley Run Road.

He was born February 25, 1987 in Weston, WV; son of Jerry McPherson of Orlando, WV; and Kathy Venable Cummings and husband George of Luray,

VA. Neil is a graduate of Luray High School in Luray, VA; and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Virginia Tech University. He was previously employed as the Director of the Senior Employment program at Central West Virginia Aging.

Neil was an animal lover and leaves behind 2 beloved dogs, Sweetie and Peanut. He loved basketball and Virginia Tech and West Virginia University sports. As an adult, Neil returned to West Virginia where he enjoyed cooking, gardening, and canning. He enjoyed a wide array of music from Casting Crowns to Dave Matthews, and was a Christian by faith.

Neil's passion in life was helping others and he was always thinking of ways to give back. He was open about his own struggles and helped many by always having a kind heart and listening ear. When you think of Neil, celebrate the good memories you have of him and remember that life is short and fragile.

Along with his parents, Neil is survived by sisters, Lindsay Raeburn and husband Brett and Marisa Cummings, niece, Lennon Cummings, nephew, Porter Raeburn, and grandmothers, Louise Fultz and Mary Lee McPherson.

Also surviving is a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and many other wonderful family and friends.

Neil is preceded in death by his grandfathers, Franklin Venable and Thomas A. "Tom" McPherson.

A funeral service was conducted at the Ellyson Mortuary, Inc., 2 Vanhorn Drive, Glenville, WV; 26351 at 1:00 PM; Wednesday, August 17, 2022 with Pastor Tony Conrad officiating. Burial followed in the McPherson Cemetery near Burnsville. Friends were received from 11:00 - 1:00 Wednesday at the mortuary in Glenville.

In lieu of flowers the family request memorial contributions be made to the Tom McPherson Athletic Scholarship Fund at Glenville State University or simply check in with a friend regarding their mental health.

Ellyson Mortuary, Inc., is honored to assist the family of Neil Thomas McPherson with arrangements.

## Melissa J. (Hamrick) Williams "Missy"

Melissa J. (Hamrick) Williams "Missy", 45, of Buckhannon, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, August 19, 2022 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon.

Born October 23, 1976 in Richwood, she was the daughter of Rick Cutlip of Webster Springs and the late Victoria (Hamrick) Hanna and her husband, John.

She was an active member of Rebekah Lodge #91 of Hacker Valley and the Northern Webster County Improvement Council and countless other activities.

Left to cherish her memory are her loving husband of 20 years, Travis Williams; sons: Issac Hamrick, Carter Williams, and Trey Williams; fathers: John Hanna and Rick Cutlip; brother, Chad Hanna; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends to mourn her passing.

Missy was preceded in death by her mother Victo-

ria Hanna.

Services to celebrate Missy's life will be held 1pm, Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at Dodd & Reed Funeral Home, Webster Springs, with Pastor Ty Farlow officiating. Friends may join the family for visitation two hours prior to the funeral service.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.doddreedfh.com](http://www.doddreedfh.com)

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

## Linda Carol Eads

Linda Carol Eads, 78, of Duck, WV passed away on August 18, 2022. She was born on August 14, 1944 in Sutton, WV to parents Bert and Vada Duffield Eads.

## Gassaway Church of Christ New Bible Study

Starting September 7th, 2022 the Gassaway Church of Christ will begin a study of the book of Revelation. Tentative time will be 7:00 p.m. so some who work day shift will have time to attend. The class teacher will be Charles Brady and we'll look forward to dealing with most if not all these questions:

1. Who is the author of Revelation? 2. To whom was the Revelation addressed? (Who was it written to?)

3. Is the language of Revelation different than much of the rest of the Bible, and why? 4. Was it (Revelation) also a book

Linda was preceded in death by her parents; brother: Bud Spencer; sisters: Charlotte Agrabrite, Barbara Bostic, Lillian Taylor and Sally Butcher.

She was a Baptist by faith. Linda enjoyed quilting, reading and loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by her children: Daniel Ramsey (Becky Westfall), Penny Ramsey, Trisha Ramsey (Gregg McFarland), Pam Lake (Rick), and Donna Conrad (Donald); brother: Dennis Eads and sister: Violet Hardway; 12-grandchildren and 12-great grandchildren.

Linda's wishes to be cremated are being honored by her family. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the family of Linda Carol Eads.

given by Jesus Christ? 5. Why is it important to understand what the book really means? 6. Is it future events or mostly what has already happened?

We'll look at the time written, the many different events with such beings as different beasts, a leopard, a mother with child, a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, and something applied to so many, without proof, the number 666. I hope I've appealed to your interest and we want to share with you what can be found there. Please come and share your thoughts with us and know it is not a mystery, but instead, a Revelation.

## St. Thomas Church Sale September 3rd

The ladies of St. Thomas Church will hold a multi-family yard sale at 624 Kanawha St. in Gasaway on September 1st and 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on September 3rd 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lots of items including a bed, roll-top desk, TV cabinet, dresser,

kitchen table and 4 chairs, other furniture, queen-size comforter set, weed-eater, grill, kitchen supplies, antiques, toys, children's desks, and men's, women's and children's clothes plus plenty of baby clothes and too many other items to mention are available for sale.

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**Sutton Moose Lodge 825 donations totaled over \$63,000**

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# Dog Tails: Stories from 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



Phoenix was found on a farm as a stray in a hay field and the land owner took her home for a week. He brought her to us because

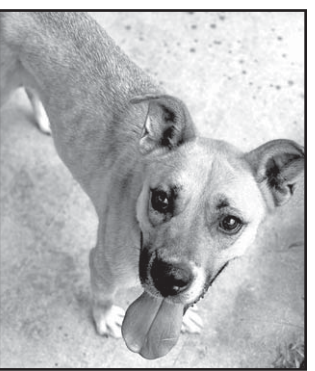
he could not keep her, and he paid her adoption fee for her future adopter. We know that Phoenix is friendly with other dogs but hasn’t been around kids or any other animals while he/we have had her. She walks well on a leash. We’re guessing her to be one to two years old weighing about forty pounds. Phoenix loves all the butt scratches and attention she can get. She gravitates more to people than dogs so we call her a “people dog”. When she gets really happy she gets low to the ground with her front legs stretched out and bounces.



Rascal This sweet boy is ten months old. His momma is a Great Dane and we can’t be sure the breed of the father. He has lived mainly outdoors and was very timid when he came to the shelter but he is warming up to our staff quickly. This guys hasbeen around children and is very gentle, do not jump up at all. He is also dog social and has been around chickens and rabbits as well.



This handsome chunk is Charley! Notice his cute little punk rock Mohawk. He was the third dog dumped on Tom’s Run Rd. He seems to be about as friendly as they come! He just lumbers around smiling and panting and asking for pets. He seems to get along great with other dogs too. He walks on a leash and isn’t a big barker here either. He’s shorter in stature but a thick boy, around sixty pounds



Chelsea is our second intake of the pack of dumped dogs on Tom’s Run Rd. She is a cute female mixed breed around two years old. This girl is an all-around excellent dog. We checked for a spay scar and don’t see one. She will be spayed before leaving the shelter though. She is around fifty pounds but could use some weight put on. She tries to get attention with her paws but is slowly learning to keep her paws on the floor. She’s just a lover, and also very dog social, walks on a leash.

BCAS 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.

These free spay surgeries must be scheduled by the voucher recipient at Central WV Animal Hospital.

# This Week in West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

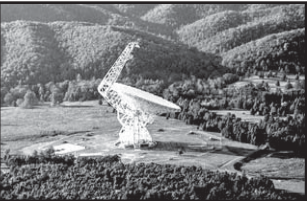


Aug. 24, 1918: Louis Bennett Jr. died of injuries sustained when his plane was shot down by German anti-aircraft fire. Bennett, with 12 combat kills, was West Virginia’s only World War I fighter ace.



August 25, 1903: Soprano Susanne Fisher was born in Sutton. Fisher was the first West Virginian to sing at the Metropolitan Opera.

Aug. 25, 1921: Miners began to arrive at Blair Mountain near the border of Logan and Boone counties. Sheriff Don Chafin, a hated symbol of anti-unionism in southern West Virginia, met them with a combined force of deputies, mine guards, civilian volunteers, and others.



Aug. 25, 2000: The Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope was dedicated. It is the world’s largest fully steerable radio telescope.

Aug. 26, 1863: Union and Confederate forces collided in what became known as the Battle of White Sulphur Springs. The next morning, with ammunition nearly depleted, Union Gen. William Averell decided to retreat to his base without accomplishing any of his objectives.

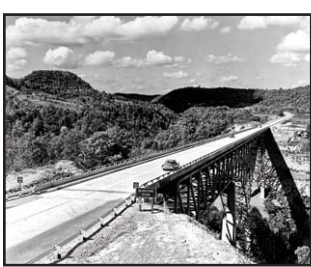
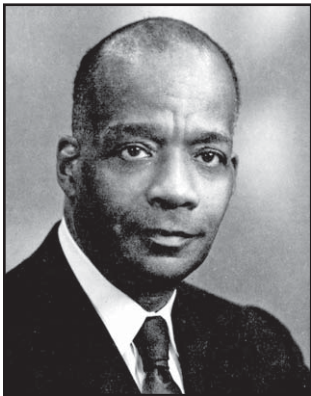


Aug. 26, 1918: Mathematician Katherine Johnson was born in White Sulphur Springs. For 33 years, Johnson worked for NASA doing calculations for manned space flight, including the Apollo 11 moon landing. In 2015, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



Aug. 27, 1902: Mary McClain was born Mary Smith in Huntington. McClain was a blues legend who performed at Carnegie Hall, the White House, the Apollo Theatre, and the Cotton Club.

Aug. 28, 1900: Harrison H. Ferrell Jr. was born in Chicago. Known as “the Dean” to generations of students, he was professor of German, 1928–66, at West Virginia State College (now University) and served as dean and in other capacities from 1930 until 1970.



Aug. 29, 1952: A groundbreaking ceremony was held in Mercer County to mark the beginning of construction of the West Virginia Turnpike. Initially, most of the turnpike was just two lanes because officials believed revenues would be too low to finance four lanes.

Aug. 30, 1862: Confederate raiders under the command of General Albert G. Jenkins attacked and occupied Buckhannon, where they captured 20 prisoners and 5,000 stands of small arms.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. For more information, contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

# BC Sheriff’s Department 2022 School Zone Notice

The Braxton County Sheriff’s Department Will increase patrols in school zones this Fall.

“Please help us protect our children by slowing down in school zones!”

Sheriff Lou DellaMea

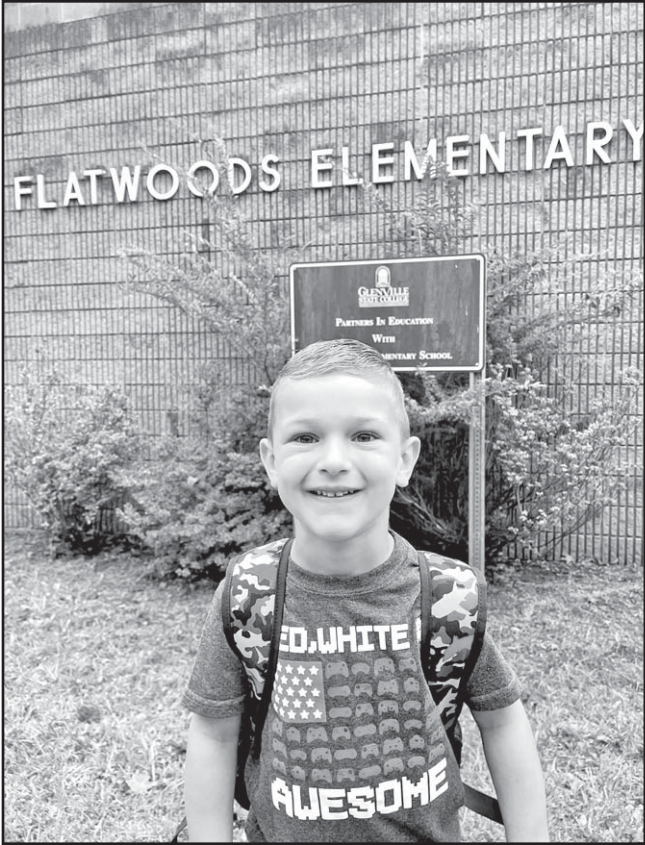
# Braxton County Students Head Back To School



Hattie Jo Shaver started Pre-K this year!

# Sutton High School Alumni meeting

The Sutton High School Alumni meeting scheduled for August 25 has been rescheduled for September 8 at the Braxton County Senior Center pavilion at 6:00 pm. Please bring a lawn chair.



Four year old Finley Dakeman ecstatic to start his first day of Preschool at Flatwoods Elementary



Kyson Dean is four years old and is in Preschool at Sutton Elementary.



Sisters, Halle and Maci on there first day back to school.



Evan Crosby, 2nd grade, Davis Elementary

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NO 3D



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Division of Highways  
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service ([www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com)) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until October 18, 2022 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
003	2020000382	S304-5/10-0.67 00	STP-0510(005)DBC	STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT BURNSVILLE T-BEAM BR 0.01 MI S CO 1 - 0.04 MI S CO 1 COUNTY: BRAXTON

BRIDGE: 11699 CONCRETE SLAB ON FABRICATED STEEL GIRDER  
SPAN(S): 1 STRUCTURE STEEL:  
DBE GOAL: 5 % OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.  
REMARKS:  
Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must submit electronically with their bid a Proposal Guaranty Bond for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.  
The West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on [www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com).  
The West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.  
8-25 9-1b

## Leanna Blakenship Named Mountaineer Food Bank Food Banker of the Week

This week the Mountaineer Food Bank is highlighting Leanna Blakenship!

Leanna has been employed with the food bank for just under a year and works as a produce packer in our warehouse. Leanna also assists other departments in the warehouse as needed.

In her free time, Leanna enjoys trail riding and competing in local horse shows or barrel races. She also enjoys spending quality time and sight-seeing West Virginia with her husband Robert and daughter Jody.

Thank you, Leanna, for all you do for the Mountaineer Food Bank.



Leanna Blakenship

## Buried In The Back Yard

By: Joseph J. Mazzella

I love old stories, parables, and fables. They say so much with so few words. They reach right into your heart and mind and shine the light of truth.

One of my favorite of these stories is of an old farmer. He was constantly worried about his farm, his health, and his family's security. This made him frustrated, fearful, angry and upset. He often took this out on his family as well. One day plowing in his back field his plow hit a chest full of gold coins. He was shocked

by his sudden good luck and wondered what he would do or buy with his new wealth. In the end he decided to bury the treasure again and save it. It would be his security in times of hardship. Over the years he never dug up the gold or spent a single coin of it. Knowing it was there, however, caused a change in him. He was no longer worried or fearful. Instead he became peaceful and happy. He was kind to his sons and loving to his wife. He gave to charity and helped his neighbors. His whole life became a gift of love. The

entire community was amazed at the change in him.

Finally on his deathbed he gathered his sons together to tell them the secret he had kept to himself all of those years. After he peacefully passed away his sons went out to the field to dig up the chest of gold coins. When they found it, though, it was empty. Someone had discovered it and stolen the gold long ago.

What all of us in this life need to see is that our true security isn't buried in our backyards but buried deep in our hearts and souls. Gold is temporary. God is eternal. He loves us all so much and He is here to support us and walk with us throughout our entire lives here. Why worry then? Instead dig up your treasure of love within and share it with everyone. You will only grow richer and the inheritance you leave will last forever.

### Fire wood.

Larry Knight

I am a little late but here goes. Myself and others will miss the presence of Roger Brooks in our daily lives. When looking at the numbers of people that came to his memorial service, at shelter #3 at Burnsville Lake, he had a lot of friends and knew a lot of people. To me Roger was a fine person. When in need of help Roger was ready and willing to lend a hand. I knew Roger many years even before he worked as a student aid at Burnsville Lake. Roger was (1) of (2) students the first two to hold this mostly weekend and holiday job. Roger was as everyone knows an employee of the I79 interstate maintainance crew. After retiring from the highway crew Roger was an employee at the Burnsville Marina. His job was to adjust the anchor cables

as the water rose and fell. Roger will be missed by many, farewell my long time friend.

As we march toward the colder months of the year my collection of firewood continues to grow. As the outside temperature hovers around the low to mid 90 degrees it is hard to get in the mood to collect firewood. I hope to have enough wood on hand by the middle of October to last through the winter. I cut firewood all year long but it is a must that I be in good shape come late October. Late October is when I officially open squirrel season, even though the DNR says it is already in. What is also in is ticks, blow flies, chiggers, deer flies and the temperature is way too warm to hunt anything but a cold drink of water. I have often said I would rather cut firewood when

## Time To Plant Fall Crops

By: Jeanette Riffle

I was talking to my youngest brother, Brent Stewart, recently, and he said he got his turnip seeds planted and he was wishing for rain. I wish we could give them some of our rain. It has rained almost every day. Thunder rumbled all night long in the distance last night and woke us up this morning right over top of the house. Lightning flashed and the rain picked up. Things had settled down and cleared off though by the time we got ready to go to church. The sun even came out later. I did the Drive In Church this morning because the elevator is down and I can't climb all those steep steps to get up into the church. Just tune into 101.9 FM and hear what is going on inside. That sure has come in handy. We had visitors from Ohio today and there were other visitors there, too.

We saw State Road workers out digging ditches and cleaning up

messes from flood waters this past week when we went to Spencer. We saw several trees that had uprooted and had fallen in the road. Those had been cleared out of the way. There were a lot of them. So much rain causes muddy banks and trees uproot and fall. One day this past week, we heard a commotion up at the road and we saw a State Rd. truck hauling a damaged culvert. Hubby said they were probably taking it somewhere to be used for scrap metal. Culverts got clogged up and some were damaged in that recent flood that I wrote about. I saw on FB where some areas got almost three inches of rain. Those that live up on a hill don't have to worry about flooding. Water drains off but those of us down in a valley get high water. It's a good thing Hubby didn't put in a garden this year. It would have been a lake. Some people are telling me they had to dig their potatoes early because some of them were rot-

ting in the ground. They have to be put somewhere to dry and then put in a potato bin. My parents had a big potato bin in the cellar and it would be clear full and heaped up with potatoes and some white sweet potatoes. I remember the squirrel suppers with mashed potatoes and yellow squirrel gravy. White sweet potatoes and fodder beans, biscuits, squirrel and gravy, applesauce made from the Early Harvest apples, was one of my favorite meals. My Stewart grandparents had an apple orchard and there were enough apples to share with us. We don't eat squirrel anymore, though. Sometimes the taste changes when we get older.

Until next time, enjoy the last of the garden. Some people gather in the last of the crops and grind them up into chow chow, a pickled relish recipe that is good with brown beans, fried potatoes and cornbread in the fall and winter.

Take care and God bless!

## BRRC hosts 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament

3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, September 3rd, beginning at 10:00 am, hosted by the Birch River Ruritan Club.

Cost is \$10 per team. Cash payout for 1st and 2nd place. Remaining proceeds to benefit the Birch River Fire Department. Location: Ruritan Lot across from GoMart.

For early registration and additional information, contact: Greg Frame (304) 481-7267.

You may also register the day of the event. Please arrive by 9:45 am to register.

You may also register the day of the event. Please arrive by 9:45 am to register.

## Flatwoods Monster Fest Sep 9 & 10

The Annual Flatwoods Monster Fest to be held in Flatwoods West Virginia on September 9th from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. and the and September 10th from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

There will be a parade, music: by the Kowboyz, Lincoln County Cloggers parade and show, Paw Patrol, Face painting, Balloons animals, Flatwoods Monster, and much more.

Come out and enjoy! For Information call 304-678-7334.

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A black and white illustration of a woman with styled hair and a pearl necklace, looking at a newspaper. The newspaper has several 'HELP WANTED' advertisements. One ad for 'REPAIRS' shows a man with a wrench. Another ad for 'DECORATORS' shows a man with a paintbrush. The woman's hand is pointing at the 'DECORATORS' ad.



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**Come on out and enjoy the day with your family at the**  
**Braxton County Emergency Services Safety Fair!**

## A black and white illustration of a woman in a black dress and hat, pointing her right arm towards a glowing dress hanging on a hanger. The dress on the hanger is a short-sleeved, knee-length dress with a plaid pattern. The woman is wearing a black dress and a matching hat, and she has a confident expression. The background is a simple grey gradient.

**501 Main Street Sutton, WV**

### Dry Cleaning

Pants	8.95
Skirt	8.95
Coats/Blazers	8.95
Suit	17.90
Dress	17.90
Blouse/Shirt	8.90
Sweater	9.50
Heavy Coat (Hip Length)	19.75
Heavy Coat (Long)	22.75



### Laundry

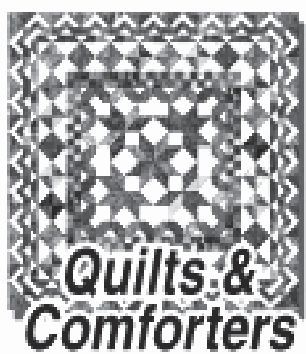
	Shirts	3.55
	Pants (Extra Heavy Starch + 1.00)	9.40
	Wash and Fold	2.05 Per Pound (10.25 minimum charge)

Linens

Comforter (Full/Queen)	36.50
Comforter (King)	41.50
Quilt	23.00

(Down Filled + 5.00)

***Extra charge for silks, beads,  
leather trim, down filled, etc.***





# Why I Ride



fernando@bcn-news.com

## Riding safely and sensibly



**Safe bike, full protective gear. I walk my talk.**

A number of individuals I have spoken to are under the impression that riding a motorcycle is easier than driving an automobile. Based on the numerous factors that riders must process in a brief period, I will not dignify that statement with an argument. The obvious difference between automobiles and motorcycle accidents is that the chances of dying resulting from a motorcycle accident are greater than those resulting from a motor vehicle accident.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) states that in 2020 there were 1.37 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for motor vehicles; According to the National

Safety Council, in 2020, for motorcycles, there were 31.64 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). This statistic alone should serve as supportive evidence for motorcycle riders to learn to ride defensively and increase their awareness of the riding environment. Inexperienced riders increase the chances of being at fault in causing an accident, or single-vehicle accidents, as it is termed. To wrap up this section, the chances of dying resulting from a motorcycle accident are about 30 times higher than in a car. Motorcycle accidents have an 80% injury or death rate, while car accidents are at about 20%. I have seen statistics being

manipulated to blame motorcyclists for causing their accidents and therefore promoting the sport of motorcycling as too dangerous and something to stay away from. The reality is that an overwhelming number of motorcycle accidents are caused by another motor vehicle. In other words, what difference does it make whether one wears a helmet for protection when you are going to die when you get plowed into by a motor vehicle that claims did not see you or cared. Be aware that the majority of collisions happen when an oncoming vehicle is turning left in front of you.

So, forget the other guy. I am going to share some things to do to prevent an accident. In my 50+ years of intermittent motorcycle riding, I have been involved in one serious accident, and it was due to road conditions, one that I was blessed to escape with extraordinarily little damage to me. The bike was totaled. More on this in another column.

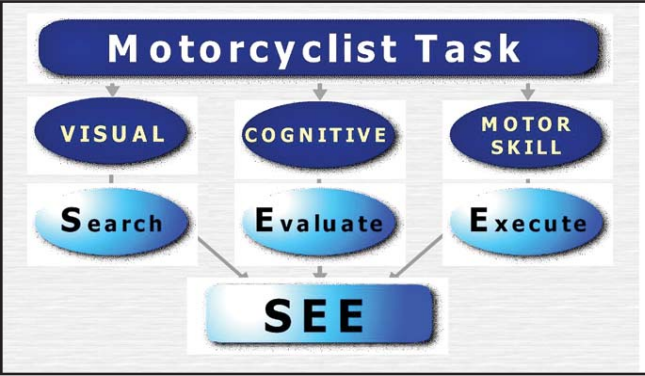
BTW, all the above writing is not meant to scare you into giving up motorcycling, on the contrary, it is meant to inspire you to become a better rider and to encourage you to support the increasing of motor vehicle drivers' education dealing with sharing the

road with motorcycles.

The first issues to consider is maintaining a safe motorcycle and wearing proper riding attire. I covered in detail in a previous column about preparing for a long ride. Check the Braxton Democrat Central, August 11, 2022 edition.

Now you are riding your bike, what do you do? Scanning is what I consider crucial in defensive riding. Driving safety manuals recommend looking ahead 12-15 seconds around you, and a 2-second following distance between you and the car in front of you. For motorcyclists, I recommend a 2-second scan of your riding environment to be able to react. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation recommends the SEE strategy to make safe decisions and handle risk. SEE stands for Search, Evaluate, and Execute. As we ride, we need to constantly be running this program in our heads. In the Search phase, one identifies potential threats and risks coming up. In the Evaluate phase, one prioritizes the upcoming hazards in order of gravity and closeness. Here you must also decide which options you have for managing each risk. In the final phase, Execution, you perform the decisions you have made with smoothness and precision. Some of the possible actions to manage potential risks include getting the attention of other drivers with your horn and/or your lights, adjusting your speed, and adjusting your position.

Other interpretations of the SEE system include Start, Envision, Execute; Slow, Evade, Escape; and Scan, Escape, Enter. Adoption of any of these disciplines will be crucial in



SEE Diagram



**2016 BMW accident. You can see the hole after a blind curve that I attempted to avoid and crashed on the upper left side of the picture. I overcompensated and my front wheel hit the pavement/dirt and flipped twice, leaving me headfirst in the ditch. You can see the tracks in the dirt.**

your riding defensively and safely.

I believe, and urge you, to focus on the two issues aforementioned. In addition, here are other influential suggestions:

Know your motorcycle laws. Motorcycles have use of the complete traffic lane, for example.

Know your abilities, stay in your comfort zone. Practice slow speed and emergency maneuvers.

Choose a motorcycle that you can easily handle. Know your bike and how to use it.

Take a safety course. This will also save you money on your insurance.

Assume that you are invisible to others on the same road.

Check the weather before heading out.

Obey traffic rules, use your signals, ride the speed limit, and make yourself

visible. Use hand signals in addition to turn signals. Avoid blind spots.

Ride in the correct tire track. On a two-lane road, ride on the left tire track. Never in the middle.

Avoid distractions.

Educate your passenger if you have one.

Don't drink and ride.

Rest before you ride.

Always put your left foot down. Your right foot can stay on the foot brake to warn those behind you.

Be courteous to other drivers and riders, especially truck drivers.

Keep the riding light and make it a safe and fun event.

Tell your friends about my column. Again, I urge you to write me with questions and suggestions. Use the editor@bcn-news.com until further notice. Thank you for reading this column. Peace.

# On the Other Side of the Mountain



**Verena Bunyan**

**By Verena Sava**

This week's column will not be about gardening or farming, it is only the opinion of an old farm woman. Some folks of the male persuasion might feel a little offended, but it happened often to me as a woman, so welcome to my world. I grew up in an era that was totally male dominated. Nobody found anything wrong with it. I was perfectly in agreement, this was the way society functioned. My family lived with my grandparents for the first 6 years of my life. We all lived in harmony in the upstairs quarters of their business, a restaurant. They also ran a general store on the side. We moved to the adjacent county when I came of school age, my father wanted me to attend school in the county he worked. We spent little time upstairs in my grandparents' house, patrons and customers were our constant companions. It was a very happy time. Remember when we are children, the reality we experience is what life seems to be. I thought everybody lived in a restaurant and people were kind with you. After we moved away, I still spent every Saturday afternoon (there was school on Saturday morning in CH) and Sunday, all school vacations at the restaurant. I

helped by removing empty dishes and bottles, sweeping floors, playing with patron's kids. At 15 I started to wait on tables. I guess that raised some concerns for my father, because he decided to have the "talk" with me.

You have to know, I was very innocent, carefree, and well protected by everybody. It was so awkward at this time to talk about sex, while nobody dared pronounce the word, the same as one did not dare to say that a woman was pregnant, a big no-no, instead we said, she was in other circumstances. The "talk" went pretty much along those lines. "You have to know that all men are predators, and you have to be prepared to stand up for yourself. Never behave in manner that could encourage a man, be modest. Stay away from trouble! Never put yourself in a dangerous position!" What was implied with his message was that I should look as unattractive and undesirable as possible. Men had no responsibility, and it was all up to women to protect themselves. My father was a very respected and reasonable person, but this was the reality at the time.

After high school I had 4 options, marrying a good provider, becoming a legal secretary, a nurse, or a

teacher. I had other plans. I wanted to attend a famous hotel management school, so I could be in charge, travel and find adventure. A woman in hotel management was unheard of at that time and my father wanted me to get away from the restaurant business, so I ended up in college to become a teacher. I loved teaching. I had become independent, lived in a different county, had my own apartment. I traveled extensively all over Europe, spent 4 weeks in the former Soviet Union for religious research purposes, lived one year in Paris. I met people from different backgrounds, different cultures and I met men that did not fit into my father's description. In my mid-twenties I met Greg, a guy who was intelligent, had an exquisite sense of humor, was inquisitive and interesting. He was not only respectful towards me, but towards all people he encountered. Of course, the surroundings were perfect for kindling a love affair, a romantic town in Italy. After our 4 months together, Greg had to return to the US. We kept a long-distance relationship for nearly one year by writing to each other. It started to look like we were in tune with each other, but I wanted to see Greg in HIS environment, so I planned a trip to the US. I was good friends with the town's physician and his family. I got a call from his office to discuss his daughter's (one of my 4th graders) school performance. I stopped on the way back from school and my friend went right to the core of his concern. He told me Christine was happy with school and the reason for seeing me had to do with my trip to the US. He was unsure if Greg and I would marry and he did not want me to ruin my life

by coming home pregnant, so he gave me a prescription for birth control pills that I could tear up or fill.

All this long introduction leads to the focal point of this writing. Birth control and added later, legal abortion, was the first options that gave women some control over their lives. The playing field in the sexual realm was leveled out. It is sad that it happened in this area first, but it was liberating. Women were able to explore their sexual needs without fear of getting pregnant. For men once a sperm wiggles its way to the egg, the job is done. Men's bodies don't change, they stay exactly the same, while the woman's hormonal system starts to change. Her whole body prepares for the pregnancy, and these are only the physical changes. Being pregnant has a great emotional impact. Some women feel happy and hopeful about the growing new life in their body, others don't. Pregnancies can be normal, but sometimes serious, life-threatening health concerns might prop up during the pregnancy, fears about giving birth and staying well surface. There are emotions that have to be dealt with, like when a woman learns that the baby is handicapped, maybe even seriously handicapped? Does she have to give up her job to take care of a healthy or needy baby? Does she have to drop out of college or university? Maybe she will have to bring up a child on her own? I am sorry, but the sperm donor never faces these problems, and this is the reason that I don't want any man, a good man, a male supreme court judge, a male governor, or the pope to make decisions that belong to us only. When we own property, we can decide to live on it, lease it, sell it, so why would it

be different with our bodies? We are not subservient to men. We own our bodies, we make the decisions and not anybody else. No sperm donor owns us, we are independent, and this is why ending the right to an abortion is so detrimental to women. I never think that women are better than men, we are biologically very different in the field of reproduction. If a woman wants to bring the pregnancy to term, she should get all the support she needs, so does a woman who for any reason wants to have an abortion. I looked up the statistics on sexual violence. Every 68 seconds a woman is assaulted in the US. One in every 6 women has been a victim of attempted or completed rape. Every day 510 people are victims of sexual violence in our country. Alito, Kavanaugh, Morrissey, Steele, and their ilk, should concentrate their efforts on their own gender and not invade our most personal, private spheres. I don't want to go back 80 years to an all male dominated society, nor 150 years according to Alito and his cronies who pursue a personal ideology and vendetta towards women, who not only forbid an abortion but want to put women who do so in jail.

There are many women who celebrate Alito's ruling. Abortion has many opponents for many reasons, religious, guilt, insecurity. It is an extremely complex issue. I want to add this, that we are still stuck in the past century when it comes to gender attire. Men wearing suits and a tie have an immediate recognition of authority, competence, and superiority. We women don't have any clothes that imply such privileges. When women run for political office, they are often ridiculed and criticized about

their clothes. We have to realize that a coat and tie only give the impression of competence, but it is only a convenient cover for some people who lack any morals, are lying, cheating, are intellectually challenged, but look perfectly credible and trustworthy in their "uniform". Case in point, some of the conservative justices lied during their confirmation hearings, saying they would never challenge Roe v. Wade. I have many male friends. We talk about family, grand-kids, art, music, politics, gardening and food. Greg and I have been married almost 53 years. We overcame many challenges, worked hard and we still keep some of the original romanticism going.

Just heard that our governor does not want people to vote on abortion, he thinks that the decision belongs to Morrissey and the legislature. No, it belongs to us women!

When it comes to freedom, Morrissey wants freedom for parents to send their kids to the school of their choice without any accountability and taking away money from public schools to pay for it. We always have the freedom to send the kids to alternative private schools, but just like with the purchase of a car, we have to pay for it. Nothing is free in this world. Morrissey does not extend freedom to women to make their own decisions about their bodies. He wants to enforce his authority and possibly put them in jail for their insubordination. Morrissey is only one of many men, and, sorry to say, some women in power who use their position to impose their personal, discriminating, demented ideologies on us, that are harmful to many people for many different reasons.



# BCMS Knight Annual Punt, Pass, and Kick competition



Braeden Godfrey had the highest with a total of 134 yards.

The Braxton County Middle School Knights participated in the annual Punt, Pass, and Kick competition this past Saturday morning, August 20 at the practice field behind the middle school.

Each member of the Knights team had three attempts for each category, punt, pass, and kick. The longest yardage for each was then recorded. At the end of the fundraising event, the total yardage of each event was added together.

Braeden Godfrey had the highest with a total of 134 yards. Next was Aidan Pritt with 131 yards. Pritt also had the longest kick of the day at 55 yards. Ryan Stalnaker rounded out the top three with 130 yards total.

The longest punt of the day at 51 yards went to Logan Payne. Kyler White had the longest pass at 42 yards.

The Knights hold this event every year to not only raise funds for the program, but to showcase the skills of the players.

Landon Mays prepares to pass the ball gaining yardage for his fundraising efforts.



Aidan Pritt had the second highest total with 131 yards and longest kick at 55 yards.



Ryan Stalnaker rounded out the top three with 130 yards total.

Photos by Janet Six

## BCMS football team has 1 of 26 players returning



With 11 out of this year's 26 players---five of them starters last season, returning, Knights' coach James King appears to look forward to a good season. The coach is also pleased at the number of boys who have come out. "We started coming up last year, and we have even more this year," he noted.

Returning starters include Trevar Edgerton, offensive and defensive lineman; Remington Huffman, quarterback and outside linebacker; Hunter Short, running back and outside linebacker; Braeden Godfrey, wide receiver and cornerback; and Ryan Stalnaker, linebacker. All are eighth graders.

Other returning eighth-grade players include Deklan Meadows, Tyler White and Jackson Wyne. Logan Payne, Cody Culverhouse, and Chase

Hamner are returning seventh graders.

"Really good speed" is one of the team's strengths Coach King named. Experience is another even though he has only six returning starters. The coach explained that many of his players "have played for several years," referring to the Redskins' program.

Perhaps the biggest strength the coach sees this year is just that: Strength. Explaining that the middle school "finally has a weight room," Coach King attributed a big improvement in the physical strength of individual players to that addition. "The weight room opened last February," he noted, "and every kid on my team has been in the weight room since February." He continued to give an example of the positive results of having the weight room available and his players' dedica-

tion to using it. "No one on our team weighs over 200 pounds," he said. "Still, I have eight kids who have deadlifted over 200 pounds."

One area in which Knights' coaches need to work is substitution on offense. "We need to improve on that," King said. "We're also working on discipline and the players' adapting to the start of school."

Among the Knights' skill players, the quarterback is back along with "several other players who can throw the ball and many who can catch it." He did say "the quarterback is pretty well set." He added, "With several really skilled players, we have definite decisions to make, including who's starting where."

Unfortunately, the Knights' scheduled scrimmage has been cancelled because of double booking by the other team. Coach King is trying to schedule a scrimmage but has not yet been successful. Nonetheless, he is "looking forward to this season and hoping hard work pays off."

The Knights begin the season with a home game against Trinity September 1.

## Knights XC teams perform well at Autumn Classic

*Braxton Middle School girls place fourth in the meet*



In their first meet of the season, Braxton Middle's cross country ran well. Coach Robert Lloyd is "happy to say that [they] have both a girls' and a boys' team again this year." He is working with six girls and eight boys this season. For Saturday's race at St. Marys, Braxton boys numbered only three because the remaining runners weren't eligible at the time. Two girls and one boy earned medals by placing in the top 20. The girls also earned a fourth-place team award for Braxton.

Coach Lloyd, noting the girls "were up first with a full team com-

peting," added, "They gave everything they had and finished in fourth being edged out by West Fairmont by only one point." Out of 94 girls running, Mackinzey Anderson placed 11th, and Leah Payne came in 13th. Anderson finished the 3K race in 13:31.24. Payne's time was 13:36.82

Out of the three boys running for the Knights, Holden Lloyd secured 16th out of 106 male runners to earn a medal. He ran the 3K in 12:37.07. Coach Lloyd pointed out that none of the three boys who ran Saturday had ever competed in a cross-country meet. "To say that I'm

proud of them would be an understatement. They ran hard and never gave up," their coach said. He also noted that most of the runners who weren't yet eligible "still came out to cheer on their teammates."

Members of Braxton's girls team are Reece Carpenter, Leah Payne, Mackinzey Anderson, Chelsea Payne, Audrey Duckworth, and Emily Whitney. Holden Lloyd, Joal Ransbottom, Ira Ransbottom, Raidyn Davis, Nathaniel Mollohan, Brody Prince, Noah Spaulding, and Jamie Spurlock make up the boys' team.

Coach Lloyd emphasized his philosophy in coaching the team. "No matter how my teams finish each meet, the only thing that matters is they give it their all. Every meet from now on is just another practice day, and we plan to take full advantage. Our goal is to earn another championship, whether it be the girls or the boys, for both our community and our school."

The Knights' next meet is the Chick Fil-A-sponsored meet at Beckley Stratton Middle School next Saturday.



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### SCHEDULE

AUG 26	LINCOLN AT BRAXTON
SEP 2	WEBSTER AT GILMER
SEP 10	BERKELEY SPRINGS AT BRAXTON
SEP 16	BRAXTON AT EAST FAIRMONT
SEP 30	BRAXTON AT LIBERTY (HARRISON)

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