

County to Observe Veterans Day this Friday

Central WV Aging Services has announced that Ray Clifford Strader will be the Parade Marshal for the annual Veterans Day Parade which will be held on Friday November 11th at 11 a.m. in Gassaway. Parade lineup will begin at 10 a.m. A luncheon will immediately follow the parade at the Braxton County Armory. Anyone planning to attend the luncheon should RSVP with the number attending by calling Shelly at (304)765-3668.

CWVAS has also released the name of the Veterans’ Luncheon keynote speaker for this year. It will be Sergeant First Class Chris Shortall. Sgt. Shortall is a 2001 Graduate of Braxton County High School and has 22 years of service in the Army National Guard.

He holds Military Occupational Specialties in Combat Engineer, Horizontal Construction Engineer, Carpentry-Masonry Specialist, Military Police and Human Resources.

Sgt. Shortall has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, 6 Army Commendation Medals, 4 Army Achievement Medal, Combat Action Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

He is currently the recruiter and career counselor for Braxton, Gilmer, Calhoun, and Clay Counties.

Ray Strader was born May 21, 1932 on Road Run Road in Orlando, WV. His parents were Linzy and Mae Strader. He had 12 siblings and now lives on Happy Hollow Road, Orlando. Ray attended Grade School at Orlando

and went to Burnsville High School where he graduated in May 1951. Mr. Strader married Jean (Stalnaker) St5rader on June 03, 1953 and was married for 60 year5s, 6 months, and 6 days. Ray and Jean had two sons Alan and Mark Strader, eight grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Ray joined the army in January 1953 and was discharged in January 1955. He was sent to Fort Hood Texas for Basic Training. After five days of Boot Camp, he was sent to the Motor Pool to teach the men how to drive jeep up to 70 mm Tanks. He had to teach 37 men how to drive because there were only three of them that could drive. Ray states that when they hit the firing range, it was total chaos. No one knew how to do anything. After they fired the first round the Division Commander asked Ray where he had learned how to shoot. Ray told his Commander from shooting squirrels. After that, this became Ray’s job for the next two years. He would teach others to drive a jeep and handle firearms. He was also given night duty that lasted four months. Ray said that he had to qualify on all of the weapons in the division. His score was 800 and he qualified in the top on the 70 mm with a score of 773.

After being discharged, he worked two years in Clarksburg and took classes in Industrial Electronics. He then went to work in Pittsburgh for a Steel Mill where

he worked for 37 years. During that time he did many different jobs including line foreman and line keeper. After the mill closed, he worked at the Pittsburgh Airport as a Security Supervisor. The Airport later moved to a different location and Ray stayed long enough to set up the security machinery at the new Airport location. Immediately after, Ray retired and resides in Orlando, WV.

Ray is now an member of the American Legion Post #33 (Braxton). He joined in 1994 and continues to be active serving in different capacities. He has been the Commander of the American Legion for over twelve years ad currently serves with the Color Guard assisting with funerals for Veteran.

For more information regarding the Veterans Day Parade and reception contact Shelly at (304)765-3271 or e-mail sflint@frontier.com.

Following the parade, a special dedication ceremony will take place on the Courthouse lawn at 2:00 p.m. A plaque will be unveiled to honor Braxton County native and Department of Natural Resources Officer Wesley C. Frame Jr. who was killed November 10, 1978 while stationed in Monroe County. In Honor of Officer Frame, a Gassaway High School graduate and U.S. Navy veteran, the West Virginia NRP Officers Association commissioned the memorial marker that will be dedicated on the Braxton County Courthouse square.

Amendments Fail; Godwin, Dittman Elected

All four Constitutional Amendments on the November ballot failed to gain voters support in Braxton County as they did statewide. In the county’s only contested races Lisa Godwin won reelection to a second term on the County Commission, while Lori Dittman will be the new representative for this area in the House of Delegates.

The county recorded a good turnout for a mid-term election according to the County Clerk’s office. A total of 1043 registered voters took advantage of the early voting period, while an additional 2377 went to the polls on Tuesday, November 8th. Fifty-seven more participated by casting an absentee ballot.

In Braxton County and Statewide, voters handed the legislature a resounding defeat in rejecting all four proposed Constitutional Amendments. Vote totals strongly indicated that citizens did not want the legislature to have additional powers.

Locally, Amendment 1 which would have given the Senate final word on any impeachment proceeds, fell by a vote of 2,240 against the change

with only 1,025 in favor. Unofficial statewide totals from the Secretary of State’s website show

Voters reject all 4 Amendments

Lisa Godwin wins reelection

Lori Dittman takes House of Delegates

267,693 voted against the amendment with only 195,193 in favor.

Amendment 2 gained the most discussion and the highest vote total. That amendment would have taken tax revenue from the county governments and the school system. A total of 2,500 Braxton County voters opposed the measure with only 854 were in favor. Statewide, 307,343 voted against Amendment 2 while 168,704 supported it.

Amendment 3 would have allowed churches to incorporate. Locally 2,171 opposed the change while 1,088 favored it. Statewide total indict 209,787 were against and 251,797 favored the proposal.

Amendment 4 would have given the legislature the final say-so over

rules, regulations and policies set by the State Board of Education. Only 1,111 Braxton voters favored the change while 2,199 opposed it. Statewide, 274,171 opposed the amendment, 199,330 supported it.

In the local race for County Commission Lisa Godwin won reelection to a second 6-year term with 1,825 votes. Challenger Gary Herndon received 1,203 unofficial votes.

With long time Delegate Brent Boggs decision not to seek reelection, Lori Cowger Dittman will now represent Braxton and a portion of Gilmer County in the House of Delegates 63rd Delegate District. Dittman outdistanced her opponent, Kevin Carpenter with 2,482 votes to Carpenter’s 937.

In the US House race Carol Miller won local with 2,278 votes to Lacy Watson’s 837. Miller prevailed district wide.

Bill Hamilton ran unopposed for the Senate seat representing the 11th Senatorial District.

County Clerk Sue Rutherford and Circuit Clerk Susan Lemon also were unopposed in their bids for reelection.

Braxton Included in Rural Partners Community Network

U.S. Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito recently announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is establishing two Rural Partners Community Networks in West Virginia to help provide resources for rural communities to create good-paying jobs, strengthen local infrastructure and boost economic development. The West Virginia Pioneer Community Network, sponsored by Glenville State University, will serve eight counties, including Braxton and the Southern West Virginia Community Network, sponsored by the West Virginia Community Development Hub, will serve twelve counties.

“I’m pleased USDA is establishing The West Virginia Pioneer Community Network and the Southern West Virginia Community Network to help expand access to critical economic resources for our rural

communities,” said Senator Manchin. “The Rural Partners Community Networks announced today will boost economic development across our great state and identify opportunities that will help create good-paying, long-term jobs and bolster local infrastructure. I look forward to seeing the positive impacts of the Community Networks, and I will continue working with the USDA and their federal partners to ensure our rural communities across the Mountain State have access to the resources they need to thrive.”

“Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to make sure that resources remain available to our communities to create opportunities for our residents to succeed. Today’s announcement will build on that momentum by supporting a network of individuals in 20 West Virginia counties tasked with helping communities navigate resources, such as those I helped include while negotiating and crafting the bipartisan infrastructure law. I look forward to seeing this support advance efforts that lead to success, growth, and economic stability across West Virginia,” Senator Capito said.

“I’m incredibly excited that USDA Rural Development will be the lead federal agency to coordinate the Rural Partners Network (RPN) initiative in West Virginia. At Rural Development, we are advocates for, investors in and partners to rural com-

munities and the RPN initiative is an extension of that promise. The initiative provides a collaborative, all-of-government, approach to building local capacity and reducing the barriers to obtaining federal resources in twenty distressed and historically underserved counties across West Virginia,” said Ryan Thorn, West Virginia State Director for USDA Rural Development. “The RPN initiative is a testament to the Biden Administration’s commitment to creating new opportunities from the bottom up while building economically diverse and more resilient rural communities. I look forward to seeing the positive impact that it will have in our local communities and for our state.”

The Rural Partner Network (RPN) provides support to rural and underserved areas across the country to expand access to critical economic resources. The West Virginia Pioneer Community Network is sponsored by Glenville State University and will serve Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Nicholas, Roane, Webster and Wirt counties. The Southern West Virginia Community Network is sponsored by the West Virginia Community Development Hub and will serve Boone, Fayette, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

Braxton Magistrate Report

Magistrate Beth Smith
November 6: Sarah B. Balcourt of Sutton, driving revoked for DUI, warrant issued, bond set at \$1500 cash, surety, or 10% to the court.

November 7: Joseph Lewis Mollohan of Davenport, IA, possession of meth, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$3000 personal recognizance; Laddie Dean Nichols of Frametown, failure to register, warrant issued, bond set at \$10,000 cash only.

Magistrate David Singletoin
November 1: Kendal Jo Jones of Gassaway, cell phone violation, no contest plea, no proof of insurance, no contest plea, expired MVI, no contest plea, fines/court costs assessed and paid.
November 2: Gloria

Ann Yeager of French Creek, forgery & uttering, warrant issued, bond set at \$5000 personal recognizance; Aidan Betsil of PA, speeding, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid.

November 3: Bryonna Lee Schartiger of Craigs-ville, transporting contraband into jail x3, warrant issued, bond set at \$15,000 cash only; Shawn Michael Meador of Summersville, transporting contraband into jail, warrant issued, bond set at \$5000 cash only.

November 4: Aaron Baughman of Webster Springs, speeding, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Jonna R. Rollins of Cowen, receiving stolen goods, warrantless arrest, bond set

at \$2500 personal recognizance; Candace Jean Conrad of Linn, receiving stolen goods, false information to officer, warrant issued, bond set at \$2500.

November 5: Casey Ray Hudson of Burnsville, assault, battery, warrant issued, bond set at \$1500 personal recognizance; Amber N. Dyer of Sutton, conspiracy, warrant issued, bond set at \$5000 cash only; Teresa Ann Mathis of Burnsville, receiving stolen property, obstructing an officer x2, possession of marijuana, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$2500 personal recognizance.

November 7: Teresa Ann Mathis of Burnsville, fugitive from another state, transferred to circuit court.

Study Says Elk River Trail Will Provide Huge Economic Benefits

In pursuit of its mission to promote economic development along the trail corridor, Elk River Trail Foundation partnered with the Braxton County Development Authority to commission a \$75,000 study to recommend steps to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the trails and develop “trail town,” recreation-based economies around them. The results of the

study are astounding.

Key strategies identified in this report include:

- Development of nearly 70 new businesses over the next 10-years.
- Construction of key infrastructure to promote the flow of people between the Trail System and Trail Towns.
- Marketing of the Trail System and Trail Towns through existing and new outlets.

- Adoption of local policies designed to help with visitor attraction and small business development.

Implementation of these and other strategies included in this report is expected to cost just over \$4 million over the next 10 years. However, the economic impact associated with new tourist activity in Sutton, Gassaway, Clay, and Clendenin is much

Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs

As I write this column on Sunday evening, I'm thankful for many things in life. One blessing for which our family is exceedingly grateful is my parents. On Monday, November 7, Mom and Dad celebrated their seventy-second wedding anniversary. Now in their 90's, they stay positive every day, as they confront health struggles with dignity, always giving thanks. Happy Anniversary!

I want to thank everyone for the community's concerns and willingness to step up to support our local Kroger employees and local Kroger store. Thus far, Kroger has not been responsive to our pleas to reconsider its closure plans. However, I urge everyone to continue their efforts. Simultaneously, we cannot wait to see if Kroger will respond to find an alternative that will meet the needs of providing competition and convenience for all the counties and citizens that Kroger now serves. Corporations like Kroger, Walgreens and others are making it more difficult for rural areas to attract and retain residents. The Federal government should put mega-merger transactions under the scrutiny of regulators and examine what the impact is on rural American and our hard-working citizens.

Next week, the Legislature travels to the eastern panhandle's Cacapon State Park for the final on-the-road interim meetings for 2022. The last time we were a Cacapon for interims was about a decade ago. Since then, the park has undergone a major renovation while Jefferson, Berkley and

Morgan Counties continue to benefit from the proximity to the DC beltway. As their population soars while most of WV declines, it's not surprising that more delegates and senators from the area have led to a lopsided number of leadership positions from the area. All meetings are open to the public. Here's the schedule for next week:

Sunday, November 13, 2022

1:00 PM Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability Rumsey Room

1:00 PM Select Committee on Infrastructure Washington - Fairfax Room

2:30 PM Joint Committee on Government and Finance Washington - Fairfax Room

4:00 PM Joint Standing Committee on Education The Pines Opportunity Center Berkley Springs, WV

4:00 PM Joint Standing Committee on Gov. Organization Washington - Fairfax Room

Monday, November 14, 2022

1:00 PM Joint Standing Committee on Finance Rumsey Room

1:00 PM Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary Washington - Fairfax Room

2:30 PM Joint Committee on Natural Gas Development Rumsey Room

2:30 PM Joint Committee on Health - Agenda Washington - Fairfax Room

4:00 PM Joint Standing Committee on Energy Rumsey Room

4:00 PM Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability Washington - Fairfax Room

with Braxton County Development Authority, Clay County Business Development Authority, the Kanawha County Commission, Advantage Valley, and other organizations to identify prospective entrepreneurs to take advantage of the opportunities identified in the report. Advantage Valley, through its FASTR WV program, will instruct budding entrepreneurs in all aspects of starting and running a business.

The ERTF encourages

SHS Alumni Banquet

Sutton High School Alumni Association new officers and volunteers are working on the SHS Alumni Banquet scheduled for July 1, 2023 at Braxton County High School.

We are working on getting "Contact People" for each class so that we can mail information out to each of you relative to

making your reservations for the banquet. We need your help.

If you are the contact person or know of that person, please send a message to ralphandmarsha@frontier.com or send a note to Marsha Lloyd at P.O. Box 644, Sutton, WV 26601.

Thank you so much.

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

1:00 PM Joint Commission on Economic Development Rumsey Room

1:00 PM Commission on Special Investigations Washington - Fairfax Room

2:30 PM Joint Committee on Pensions and Retirement Rumsey Room

4:00 PM Legislative Oversight Committee on Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority Rumsey Room

4:00 PM Joint Committee on Children and Families Washington - Fairfax Room

To conclude this week, we enjoyed celebrating the fourteenth birthdays of our youngest grandchildren, Kenzie and Carson, last Saturday evening. During the evening of the birthday celebration, the family discovered that Jean has a previously undisclosed and unknown talent that had not emerged as we near our forty-fourth anniversary in January. Despite her admitted lack of athleticism, she can throw an axe with accuracy, even though it travels through the air like a wounded duck. I knew she was competitive, but this was a hit with the grandkids and all those in attendance. "Grammy" stole the show.

If you need assistance, 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 email address is: Boggs34@gmail.com

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.

everyone to review the full report and to share it with anyone interested in pursuing an opportunity along the trail system and with anyone who wishes to help implement the plan. ERTF can be contacted at elkrivertrail@gmail.com. The full report is being posted on their website, www.elkrivertrail.org.

Elk River Trail Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation formed in 2020 to support the Elk River Trail - a 93-mile long rail trail along the Elk River from Clendenin, Kanawha County, through Clay County, to Gassaway in Braxton County. The trail will be owned and operated by the WV Division of Natural Resources as a state park. The trail includes an 18-mile rails-with-trail section located entirely in Clay County that will offer rail rides or peddle cars for visitors. In 2022, ERTF also became the sponsoring entity for the 102-mile Elk River Water Trail running from Sutton Dam at Sutton in Braxton County through Clay County to Charleston in Kanawha County.

Obituaries

Vernon Murphy Jr.

Vernon Murphy Jr., 89, of Birch River, went home



to be with his Heavenly Father on November 4th, 2022. He was born December 17, 1932 near Dille

(WV), the son of Vernon Murphy Sr. and Tressa Dix Murphy.

He grew up in the Dille area and attended Nicholas County schools, graduating from Nicholas County High School in the class of 1950.

After graduation he was a steelworker in Ohio and Pennsylvania until he enlisted in the US Marine Corps in January 1953. He spent four years as a Marine, attained the rank of sergeant, and received an honorable discharge in January 1957.

While serving with the Marines he completed his freshman year of college, attending night classes at Florida State University. After military service he attended Glenville State College and earned a bachelor's degree in 1960. He later earned a master's degree from West Virginia University and completed additional graduate studies at Marshall University. While attending WVU he was inducted into the Phi Delta Kappa education honorary.

He began a career in education as a teacher at Widen High School in 1960. He was a teacher and the basketball and baseball coach at Walkersville High School from 1962 until 1966, and then served as physical education director for Webster County schools until 1973. He accepted a position as Director of Guidance at Braxton County High School in 1973 where he remained until retirement in 1988.

After his retirement he was co-founder and manager of the widely known Bluegrass Connection Music Store in Birch River.

He was married in 1958 to Anna Mae Johnson of Herold, WV. They were the parents of two sons, Michael Vernon and Mark Alan.

Vernon was a member of Birch River Baptist Church. He was a charter member and retired chief of the Birch River Fire Department, and also served as an EMT with the rescue squad and ambulance service.

He was a charter member and president of the Birch River Ruritan Club and past president of the Birch River PTA. He was a coach for little league and pony league baseball for the youth of Birch River.

Vernon was an athlete, a member of his high school football team, and played independent league baseball and basketball in the central West Virginia area. He enjoyed

hunting, fishing, team sports, NASCAR and dirt track racing. He loved bluegrass and traditional country music and had many friends among bands and musicians.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 54 years, Anna Mae, brother Charles Doy Murphy, and sister Opal Jones.

He is survived by sons Michael (Debbie) of Clarksburg MD and Mark of Birch River; Grandsons Cody (Samantha) and Luke Murphy of Summersville and Matthew (Bri) Murphy of Frederick MD; granddaughter Amanda (Nick) Lamont of Herndon VA, step-granddaughters Kelly (Tim) Martin of Pasadena MD and Katie (Ryan) Hill of Damascus MD and step-grandson Patrick Wetzel of Clarksburg MD, great-granddaughter Penny Murphy of Summerville and great-grandson Maxwell Lamont of Herndon VA, step-great-grandsons Jacob and Joshua Hill of Damascus MD, sister Joy Browning of Dille, several nieces, nephews, and cousins, and special family members Kathy and Larry Browning of Strange Creek.

Funeral service will be held at 11 am Saturday, November 12th, at the Greene-Robertson Funeral Home in Sutton with the Rev. James Murphy officiating. Burial will follow in the Keener-Wood Cemetery in Birch River.

Friends may call from 6 to 8 pm Friday, November 11th, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Birch River Baptist Church, Birch River WV 26610, or the Birch River Fire Department, PO Box 183, Birch River WV 26610.

Greene-Robertson Funeral Home, Sutton is honored to be serving the Murphy family.

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

Ashley Ann Williams

Ashley Ann Williams, 31, of Uppergrade, passed



away on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown

following a brief illness.

Born April 27, 1991 in Summersville, she was the daughter of the late David Lee Williams and Rebecca (Chambers) Peyatt. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her grandparents: James Leroy and Goldie Chambers, and Rosalee Williams; and her uncle, Lawrence Chambers.

Ashley was a 2009 graduate of Webster County High School. She enjoyed spending time with her family, whether it be camping, fishing, swimming, or just taking a Sunday drive. Ashley loved listening to music. She had recently begun reading the book of Revelation in her Bible.

Left to cherish her memory are her mother, Becky (husband, Duane) Peyatt of Uppergrade; daughter, Adalee Paige Gilles; brothers and sisters: Toby Williams and Shayla Williams, both of Cowen, Brielle (companion, Alex Morland) Williams of Craigsville,

Brennan Williams of Rainelle, Dustin (companion, Katie Carpenter) Williams of Grassy Creek, and Cody Williams of Uppergrade; and her companion, Gary Lee Simmons; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends whom she loved dearly.

Graveside services to honor Ashley's memory were held 2pm, Friday, November 4, 2022 at Odd Fellows' Cemetery, Cowen with Pastor Doug Martin officiating.

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

Adams-Reed Funeral Home, of Cowen, is honored to be serving Ashley's family.

Carol Ann Ray

Carol Ann Ray, 88 of Cowen passed away



Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at Webster Nursing and Rehab Center. Carol was born February 4, 1934 down Givens Run and was the daughter of Pete and Cora Holcomb Barbe. Along with her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Virgil Ray, son Roger Ray, siblings; Golda Ruth Barbe, Elva Wilma Barbe, Minnie Merle Barbe, Erma Clarita Barbe, David Napoleon Barbe, Pauline Virginia Barbe, Twila Bernardine Barbe, Ruth Utt, Kay Matthews and Waitman Barbe.

Carol was a Christian by faith and had attended Cowen Baptist Church. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Carol enjoyed cooking, camping, quilting, watching the Grand Ole Opry, especially watching Roy Acuff. During family gatherings and holidays Carol enjoyed taking pictures and camcorder videos of her family.

Surviving are her children; Judy Lynch of Webster Springs, Ronnie Ray of Cowen, Terry Ray of Uppergrade, Craig Ray, Randall Ray both of Cowen and also Rod Ray and his wife Shawna of Princeton; 11 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren; sisters, Betty Werner and Monnie Cogar and also a brother, Charles Barbe; several nieces, nephews and a host of children that she had babysat and cared for throughout the years.

Service were 2:00 PM, Sunday, October 30, 2022 at Adams-Reed Funeral Home with Pastor Keith Williams and Pastor Craig Williams. Burial was at West Virginia Memorial Gardens, Calvin. Friends joined the family for visitation two hours prior to the service at the funeral home on Sunday.

The family would like to give a special thank you to all the staff at Webster Nursing and Rehab Center for all their special care for Carol over the last several years.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to the Webster County Nursing and Rehab Activities Department PO Box 989 Cowen, WV 26206

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

Adams-Reed Funeral Home, Cowen is honored to be serving the Ray family.

Please turn to

OBITS

The Braxton Democrat-Central

Published every Thursday by

Quality Printing & Publishing, Inc.

DBA/ Braxton Democrat-Central

501 Main Street

Sutton, West Virginia 26601-1349

USPS 063-480

Ed Given

Janet Six

Jennifer Lloyd

Jeanine Given

Publisher

Office Manager

Layout & Design

Circulation Manager

Phone: (304) 765-5555 Fax: (304) 765-2754

e-mail: editor@bcn-news.com; jennifer@bcn-news.com

Subscription rates for 1 year in county, \$17.00; Out of county, \$23.50; Out of state, \$35.50; Cannot accept subscription for less than six months. Senior Citizens with Golden Mountaineer Cards may deduct \$1.00 from yearly rates.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: BRAXTON DEMOCRAT-CENTRAL, 501 MAIN STREET, SUTTON, WV, 26601.

PHONE: (304) 765-5555 (304)765-5193

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Flatwoods Elementary School fourth and fifth graders host Living Wax Museum

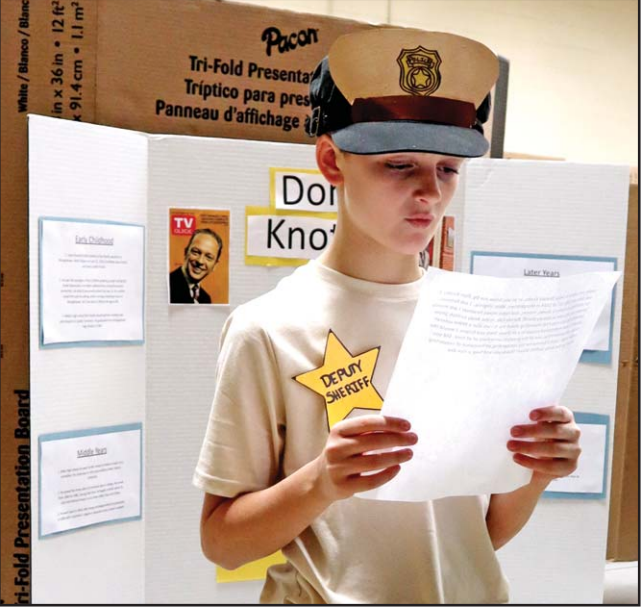
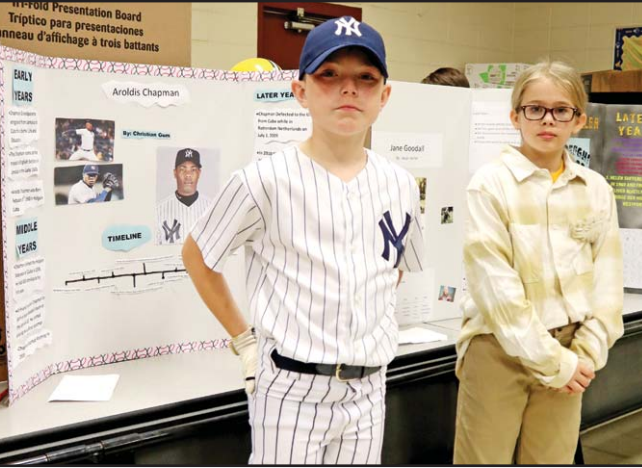
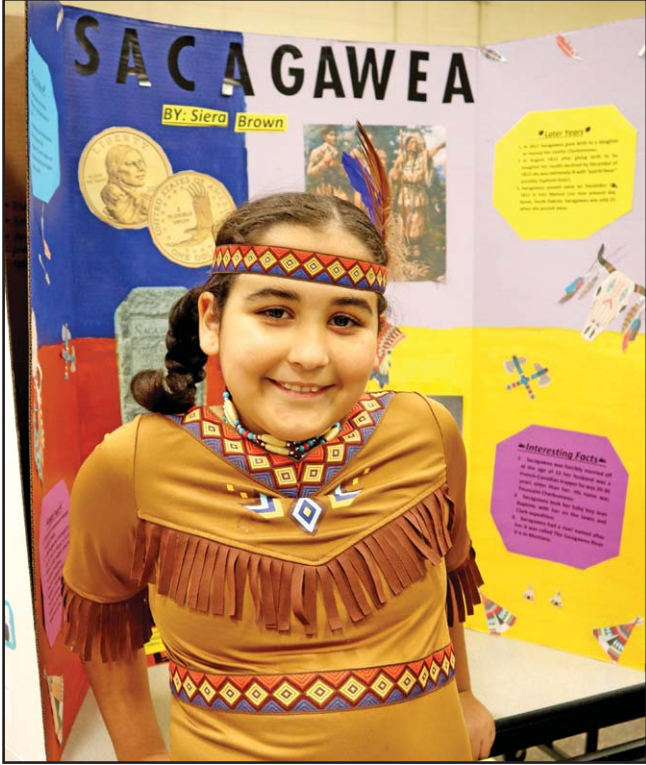
On Tuesday, November 1, Flatwoods Elementary fourth and fifth grade students hosted a Living Wax Museum. Students dressed up as part of their presentation.

5th Grade – Jaime Currence & Patricia Dean: 1. Korbin Andersen – Jesus, 2. Olivia Arden – Annie Oakley, 3. Collin Baldwin – Aaron Rogers, 4. Sophia Bush – Michella Kwan, 5. Greeley Coen – David Beckham, 6. Allyanna Cogar – Pocahontas, 7. Kaleb Dempsey – William Shakespeare, 8. Ryleigh Deusenber-

ry – Rosie the Riveter, 9. Charles Fisher – Don Knots, 10. Addyosn Foley – Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 11. Layleh Frame – J.K. Rowling, 12. Brooklyn Given – Maria Tallchief, 13. Ella Groff – Helen Keller, 14. Christian Gum – Aroldis Chapman, 15. Benton Hatmaker – Wayne Gretzky, 16. Jazlyn Jarrell – Jane Goodall, 17. DaKarson Kirby – Martin Cooper, 18. Kirra Laurentus – Amelia Earhart, 19. Bailee McCourt – Cleopatra, 20. David McCourt – Kobe Bryant, 21. Bryer Nay

– Neil Armstrong, 22. Blake Pritt – Walt Disney, 23. Raygan Riley – Princess Diana, 24. Paisleigh Rowe – Dolly Madison, 25. Landen Shanabarger – Patrick Mahone, 26. Kenzlea – Rachel Carson, 27. Trevor Sligar – Michael Jackson, 28. Haley Sniffin – Dolly Parton, 29. Jack Steiger – Lewis and Clark, 30. Elijah Westfall – Elvis Presley, 31. Noah White – Aristotle. 4th Grade – Jennifer Armbula: 1. Braden Arden – Davy Crockett, 2. Austin Brown – Henry Ford, 3. Siera Brown – Sacagawea, 4. Kinzley Buckhannon – Queen Elizabeth, 5. Kinley Crites – Queen Victoria, 6. Bentley Dean – Wilson Bentley, 7. Allison – Johann Bach, 8. Logan Pullin – Mil-

ton Hershey, 9. Ryan Farmer – Jackie Robinson, 10. Mahealani Fisher – Eleanor Roosevelt, 11. Branton Gibson – Lane Frost, 12. Alexader Given – Daniel Boone 13. Brooklyn Hale – Betsy Ross, 14. Kenrick Jones – Jeff Kinny, 15. Emylee Jordan – Abe Lincoln, 16. Bowden – Marco Polo, 17. Kendall Mollohan – Steve Erwin, 18. Allison Parks – Rosa Parks, 19. McKynlie Rose – Albert Einstein, 20. Owen Rowe – Donald Trump, 21. Maxwell Scher – Harry Houdini, 22. Hadley Smailes – Mothe Teresa, 23. Wesley Smith – Napoleon Bonaparte, 24. Jennings Watson – Babe Ruth, 25. Cooper Wells – George Washington, 26. Kaleb Westfall – Theodore Roosevelt.



Sutton Public Library continues Cans For Canines BCAS fundraiser

Sutton public library extends its thanks to the community for the continued support of the Cans for Canines project.

Started in June 2021, it has raised more than \$1,400 for the Braxton County Animal Shelter to date.

This ongoing program encourages community members to save their aluminum cans and drop them off at the Sutton Public Library.

We are only able to accept aluminum cans at this time; aluminum foil and steel soup cans are not accepted for recycling at this time.

Volunteers clean and sort the cans into bags and deliver them to Coffman's Metals for recycling.

One hundred percent of the funds raised are donated to the shelter.

Please keep collecting



Cans can be dropped off at on the parking ramp at the Sutton Public Library.

for a good cause! The cans you might otherwise toss could provide several meals and vet care for a shelter dog. Cans can be left anytime in the designated aluminum recycling bins outside the li-

brary or in the bins on the ramp, even after hours.

If you have any questions or your business or organization would like to match a month's contribution, contact the library at 304-765-7224.

Carl E. Sizemore celebrates 90th Birthday

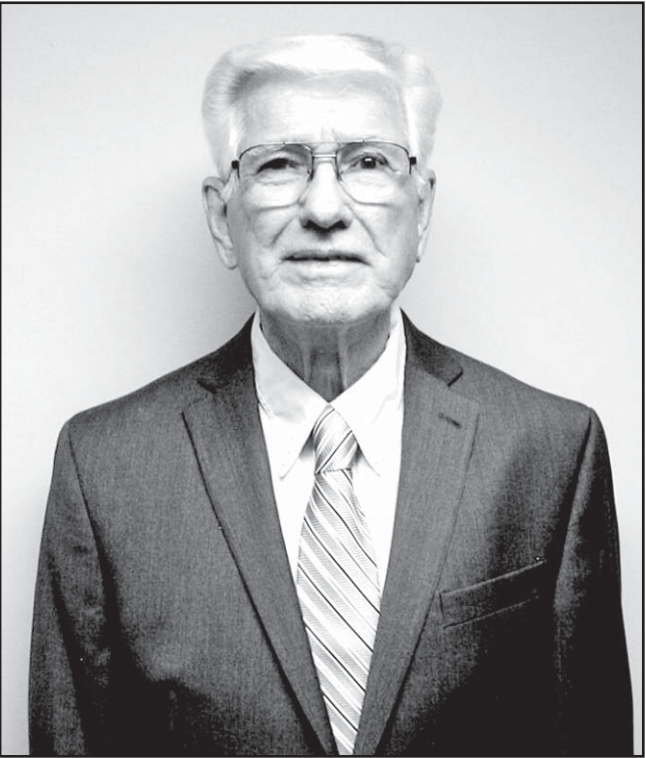
Carl E. Sizemore of Mineral Wells celebrated his 90th birthday on October 30.

He is the son of the late James C. Sizemore and Elsie Dell (Wine) Sizemore. He graduated from Burnsville High School in May 1951 and enlisted in the Marines in October 1951. He served with the First Marine Air Wing, VMF-311 stationed at Pohang, South Korea during the Korean War.

He attended West Virginia Tech and graduated from Glenville College.

He and his wife Muriel have four children: Carla Mauser (Bernie) of Sutton, W.Va.; Carol Dobson (Butch) of Mineral Wells; Carl II (Rowena) of Mineral Wells; and Jeff (Kim) of Blythewood, S.C. They have eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

He worked at Kaiser Aluminum in Ravenswood, Shell Chemical in



Carl E. Sizemore

Belpre, Borg-Warner/GE in Washington, W.Va. He retired from GE in 1991. He then worked for Apex Engineering.

After retiring he and Muriel enjoyed traveling to Europe, Australia, New

Zealand and many trips to the beach with the family.

Carl is a member of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church in Mineral Wells.

The family had a birthday celebration for him.

Stone Run 4-Hers have reorganization meeting

The Stone Run 4-H Club had their reorganization meeting on Sunday evening, October 23, at 5:30 PM at Holly Gray Park. Casey Armentrout called the meeting to order with Ethan Brown leading the Pledge to the Flag and the 4-H Pledge. All present repeated the Pledges.

Old Business: Discussed the Achievement Evening which was held at the Council Circle at Holly Gray with the making of s'mores, singing of songs and awards. Every-

one enjoyed the evening.

New Business: Upcoming dates to remember: Officer's Training will be November 7, at 6 PM at BCHS. Livestock Bowl meets every Tuesday after school at BCHS until the competition at Canaan Valley on December 3.

Jr. Leaders meet one Wednesday a month at BCHS.

Club unanimously agreed to retain the same officers as the 2021/2022 year. Those being: President-Casey Armentrout;

Vice-President-Ethan Brown; Sec/Treasurer-Olivia Arden; Game/Song Leader-Zeb

Arden; and Health-Eliot Armentrout. Club Leaders-Marie Armentrout and Linda Brown.

Discussed things to do in the upcoming year: Baskets for Shut-ins will be after Christmas; Working Dog Demo in Feb. or March; others to come.

Next meeting will be before the Officer's Training Workshop at BCHS at 5 PM on November 7.

Strange Virus

By: Jeanette Riffle

What in the world is this upper respiratory thing that everyone is getting? Some are getting really sick with it and others are just getting a light case. My husband has been sick for two weeks but is slowly getting better. He is still hoarse and coughing. He went on the roof to seal up a leak this past week and took a back set. He was weak and it made him sweat and he had no strength in his legs when he came down off that ladder. He was only fevered one evening and I had him take a couple aspirin. That broke the fever. I just had a light case of it and mine didn't last long. I drank organic Throat Coat Tea with honey and that stopped the coughing for me. I wasn't as congested as him. There are so many sick people in our church and everyone seems to have the same thing. Attendance has been down

the past two Sundays. I Googled RSV to see what it was and the symptoms lined up with this stuff. It is especially hard on young children and the elderly.

Our weather was wintry for a while and then turned warm like Indian Summer. We had temps in the low 80's today. Our son called a couple nights back and their weather is about like here, except their highs are in the 70's. They get high winds coming in off those lakes, though. Most of the time the wind stays up in the hills here. He has heard of the RSV in Michigan but no cases of it in the suburb where he lives.

The menu changes when cooler fall weather

Always Blessed Connection November pantry schedule

Always Blessed Connections Co will only be open one day, Friday November 18th from 1pm to 3pm with the retail and USDA foods. We do offer

emergency foods. Reach out with a phone call or text should you or someone you know have a need in between our open pantry days.

JOG Feline Spay/Neuter assistance remains available

Just One Generation cat rescue was started in 2013 in response to the severe feline overpopulation in Braxton County. Our initial emphasis was on the Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) of feral cats as well as to facilitate the spay/neuter of domestic cats. Adoption of ownerless cats and kittens came later, and was incorporated with the program because there was no place else for these animals to go. After ten years of placing ownerless cats and kittens, the number of potential homes in the area has been reduced.

This past Sunday, we transferred seven healthy, social kittens to an out-of-state rescue after unsuccessfully trying for several weeks to find local placement. It is obvious that the community will never be able to adopt its way

out of the overpopulation problem.

Just One Generation recognizes our limitations of being able to continue placing animals through our adoption program, and we will be refocusing our resources and efforts on spay and neuter services.

This past year, we worked with the Braxton Co. Commission to submit a grant proposal to the WV Dept of Agriculture for spay/neuter funds. We were awarded \$7,360 contingent on our matching this amount with \$3,200. of our own money.

During the time that the grant monies were available, March 8-Oct. 31, 2022, we helped to spay/neuter 187 felines, 39 of which were feral and 46 of which were done at no cost to residents meeting low-income grant guidelines. All of the

grant monies have been spent, and we are unable to provide additional no-cost services.

However, Just One Generation will continue to offer low-cost spay/neuter services for individuals or families who would otherwise not be able to afford the procedure, or who might experience financial hardship as a result.

The cost for area residents is \$45 for either a spay or neuter procedure, which also includes the mandatory rabies vaccination. This program will continue as long as vet slots and/or funds are available up to Dec. 31, 2022. We will re-evaluate our ability to continue this program at that time.

For additional information or registration, please call Diane Ratliff at 978-317-1941.

Bleeding Fingers and Band-Aids

By: Joseph J. Mazzella

It was the middle of winter some 30 years ago. I was a young father with 3 little children counting on me. My college education, however, wasn't helping me to find a good job in our depressed area. My work as a substitute teacher had dried up and now I was working in a saw mill for just above the minimum wage. As I got ready to go to work I wrapped band-aids around my fingers and put more in my pockets. Cutting and stacking lumber for 8 hours a day had caused my fingers to split and bleed at their tips in the cold, dry, winter air. I looked in the mirror and sighed. Then I walked down to my car in the snow and hoped it would start.

That day at work was harder than normal. We were short handed on workers. The machines

kept breaking down. And we had to rush to catch back up as the lumber stacked up. On top of it all the heaters in the building weren't working and we could see our breath as we spent hours chopping, stacking, carrying, and packaging the hard wood flooring to be shipped out.

When the work day finally ended I walked wearily toward the time clock, took off my work gloves and inspected my aching fingers. The splits were worse than ever and I had bled through the band-aids again. I tried to straighten out but my bad back cramped up as I did. I don't think I had ever felt that tired, hurting, and sad before. I started my car and drove back home. I looked at the snow and blinked back tears. I wondered how long I could keep doing this, if things would ever get any better, and why life was so hard.

I tried to put a smile on my face as I opened my front door but instead one appeared naturally. My daughter ran up to me, yelled Daddy!,, and wrapped her little arms around my neck. I lifted her up and my heart exploded with Love. My tired body didn't feel so tired anymore. My aches and pains disappeared into her hug. And the joy in my heart chased the sadness away. In that moment I knew I could continue on and that things would get better. In that second I remembered again that I was her for Love. I kissed my little girl's cheek, held her tight, and thanked God for my life as hard as it was.

I think we all have bleeding fingers and band-aids in our lives here. But with God and Love we can make it through them all. After all, work may give us a living, but it is Love that gives us a life.

OBITUARIES

Continued from page 2

Connie Gail

Halstead Brown

Connie Gail Halstead Brown, 73, of Duck passed away on Monday, October 31, 2022 at Braxton County Memorial Hospital, Gassaway, WV.

She was born in Sissonville to the late Vincent Halstead and Ova Phillips Halstead.

Connie was a homemaker and loved taking care of her cats and dogs. She enjoyed watching TV and socializing on the phone. When she was not at home, she liked to dine out with her family and shop at K-Mart.

She is survived by her husband, Bufford Lynn Brown, of Duck; two daughters, Lori Cook and husband, David, of Liberty and Misti Silva of Cross Lanes; four grandchildren, Cody Rose and wife, Rachele, of Liberty, Justin Fields of Winfield, Kelsey Silva of Sissonville, and Sabrina Silva of Cross Lanes; and two great grandsons, Wyatt and Ryder Rose; stepdaughter, Ressie Phillips and husband, James of Summersville.

Her funeral service was 1 P.M. Thursday, November 3, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway with Reverend Danny Richardson officiating. Burial followed in the Baughman



Cemetery, Dille.

Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

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

Norman Edward

Nottingham

Norman Edward Nottingham, 90, went home to be with the Lord on October 31, 2022 at Clay Health Care Center surrounded by his family. He was born on September 23, 1932 in Servia, WV to the late Raymond and Darlie Nottingham. He attended Gassaway High School and graduated in 1950.

Norman served his community as a deacon at Villanova Baptist Church in Duck, WV and as a Braxton County Commissioner from 1989 through 1996. He was also an original board member of the Braxton County Memorial Hospital, a charter member and former president of the Servia Volunteer Fire Department, and a member of Strange Creek Masonic Lodge No. 130. He was co-owner of Nottingham's Store in Duck from 1971 through 1991 and farmed all of his life.

He is survived by: beloved wife of 70 years, Rosalie (Hall) Nottingham, two daughters, Lois (Rocco) Milanese of Craigsville, WV and Brenda (Charles) Wright

of New Martinsville, WV. He was a much-loved "Papaw" to four grandchildren: Erica (Cory) Craft of Uniontown, PA, Alex (Alicia) Milanese of Craigsville, WV, Jared (Katie) Wright of New Martinsville, WV and Jennifer (Eric) Piekarski of Paden City, WV and five great-grandchildren, Anthony and Joey Craft, Aubrey Milanese and Oakley and Meadow Wright.

He was young at heart, enjoyed spending time with his family and was always coming up with creative ways to entertain the grandkids. He loved farming, going to church, playing Friday night pinochle, the NY Yankees and eating Rosalie's delicious cooking.

Norman's visitation was 6 to 8 P.M. Friday, November 4, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway.

His funeral was 11 A.M. Saturday, November 5, at the funeral home with Pastor Joseph Truman officiating. Interment with Masonic Graveside Rites followed in the Sugar Creek Cemetery, Gassaway.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to Servia Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 141, Duck, WV 25063.

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

The family would like to express sincere thanks to Clay Health Care Center for their compassionate care of Norman.

Why I Ride



Bring the Bling and pimp your ride



Proper riding position makes the long rides much more enjoyable. Knees hugging the gas tank, bent at 90-degrees, arms relaxed and in control.



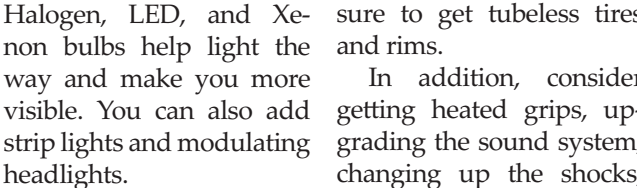
Engine and saddlebags guards like these on my 2016 BMW will avoid costly repairs in case you lay the bike down.

3- Change your handlebars. The handlebar and seating position determine the relative angle of one's torso while riding. In *Motorcycle Ergonomics* by David Tong, "It is best to have handlebars that place one's hands below shoulder height, but above the knees for best comfort and control at normal speeds. The handlebar should allow one's wrists to fall at a natural angle to afford a straight wrist angle for maximum steering leverage, as well as a secure and fatigue-free hold for long hours on the road. Extreme handlebar types (ape hangers, clip-ons, etc.) can be quite uncomfortable." Get clutch and brake levers that allow adjustments to your grip.

4- Change your foot pegs. Regardless of your body type and size you're going to want to remember to grip the frame of the bike while riding with your thighs on and off to give yourself better stability and to take the weight off your other extremities occasionally while riding. Your knees should rest against the tank while your feet rest on the foot pegs at a 90-degree angle. The "Standard" or "upright" riding position is generally accepted as being the most comfortable one on average across all shapes and sizes of riders because it's a neutral one. It places the least strain on any joints and places the spine in a natural position of rest. You can always add highway pegs if you want to stretch your legs on long interstate hauls.

5- Get a windshield. You will thank me for this one. Having one makes a giant difference while riding in the rain, and keeps you bug-free and warmer at night.

6- Improve the lighting. Beef up the headlight, turn signals, and rear brake and riding lights. The new



7- Get a new set of pipes. Find a unique sound for your bike while improving performance and looks.

8- Get custom rims and wheels. Find out if you can change the size of your wheels and choose a cool-looking set of rims. Make



Stretched brake lever and longer shift lever, along with lower foot pegs help long-legged riders ease the strain on joints.



Custom brake and clutch levers with many adjustments.



A clear plastic shield protects the headlight assembly from breakage. On the Beemer, the headlight assembly costs about \$1,100!

On the Other Side of the Mountain

By Verena Sava

I always think that we live a fairly safe life, considering that we use tractors, chainsaws and power tools, and can be run over by a stampede of a herd of animals. We think we have some degree of control if we don't engage in reckless behavior. What we can't control are the weather and substances that circulate around in the environment that could cause harm. PFAS (there is a complicated scientific term for them) are chemicals that are manufactured and used around the world. They are made to resist grease, oil, stains, heat and water. They are found in cleaning products, waxes, paints, food packaging (microwave popcorn bags, some pizza boxes, food containers for take-outs), firefighting foam, non stick pans, carpets, water proof jackets, tampons, and beauty products (eye liners, sunscreen, shampoo). Humans and animals can be exposed to PFAS in the air, soil and water. It persists in the environment and in our body for decades. They don't break down easily, if at all, therefore gaining the nickname "forever chemical". It causes increases in cholesterol levels, it changes liver enzymes, increases kidney and testicular cancer, decreases response to vaccines in children, increases risk of high blood pressure and eclampsia in pregnant

women, decreases infant birth weights, disrupts hormone production, causes thyroid problems and obesity. It is suggested that we should read labels on beauty products and avoid the ones that have the word "floro" as an ingredient.

Fish and shellfish are highly contaminated (from water), but so is canned food (lining of the cans) and any animal product from animals whose water source was polluted or the pastures were contaminated. You may wonder how pastures and hay fields could be polluted by these chemicals. It occurs when the farmers use sewage sludge and contaminated compost.

We always thought that deer meat would be the healthiest meat you could eat. They live in the wild, eat brush, grass, leaves and never come in contact with chemicals. Maine was the first state to test deer for levels of PFAS. The water of a well was also tested in Maine and the test results showed PFAS 100 times higher than advised as safe. I wonder, as do people who do this research, how turkeys and farm animals are affected? If we were to ingest PFAS only from hunting or farm animals, it might not be of such concern but they found their way into every corner of our lives, in food, clothing, furniture, cleaning products, there is no way of knowing what our

levels are and what threat they pose to our health. My question is also if physicians who encounter the health problems caused by these chemicals ever test patients for their PFAS levels?

How can we avoid higher levels of these chemicals in our body and in our environment? There is no easy and convenient answer. PFAS are common place, everywhere, hard to avoid. Try not to buy non stick pans, look for PFAS free water resistant clothes, when picking up fast food, bring your own containers (if allowed), use more glass containers for storage than plastic.

I am not a hunter but I like being outdoors. When talking to people who perceive hunting as a passion, I can fully understand their enthusiasm. We share the love of the outdoors, walking through the woods and fields, observing wildlife, squirrels, deer, bear tracks, turkeys, various bird species, feeling the brisk autumn air, but the added excitement for the hunter is the stalking, the eventual catch of the prey with the gun or bow and arrow. I guess some hunters go for nimpressive rack, but this does not create any feelings of awe in me. I am a meat-eater and I approve of hunting and if we were not to have our own meat, I would probably learn to shoot, telling everybody else to keep a safe distance! Neighbors

always hunted on our farm. I feel more comfortable if somebody lets us know that they are on our land. Me being uneasy with handling a gun, I transfer those feelings to others, maybe I give the illusion of a doe walking on her hind legs!

Gene Davis trapped and hunted on our farm. He usually just informed us that he would be there. For me he was the exemplary individual of a hunter. He did not have a 4 wheeler, he walked. He knew the terrain of our land, he knew the boundaries and he knew when we put the animals on pasture and at what time we picked them up. He knew what he was doing.

Today most people drive partly on access roads, then veer into the woods where scarce vegetation makes access easier. The hunting takes place in a relatively small area. Some hunters have established cameras weeks ahead of hunting season to see patterns of appearances of wild life. When we picked up animal feed at the feed store, I was surprised to see pallets of products to attract deer, molasses, all kinds of salt blocks, specialty licks, grains, especially corn, something called Buck Bourbon, Apple crunch, buck or doe urine and so on. It is recommended to have trail cameras installed to watch the activity at the bait centers.

With Gene Davis, the deer had a fair chance to

challenge their assailant and to escape. Gene had this knowledge and the skills to interpret the behavior of his targets. He was fully integrated, part of the life in the woods. I guess the hunting world changed like everything else. It is a different era, a different approach to hunting. I wonder if attracting deer with bait is as satisfactory as outsmarting them?

Gene and his wife Mona were part of the solid foundation of the social Bays Road community. Their door was always open. They organized huge family reunions and invited neighbors and friends too. Gene plowed the road in winter so that everybody at the end of Bays Rd could walk or drive out. Things have changed, not only in hunting patterns.



Turkeys fighting



Deer, just 2 of the other 18.



VETERANS DAY
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Happy Veterans Day

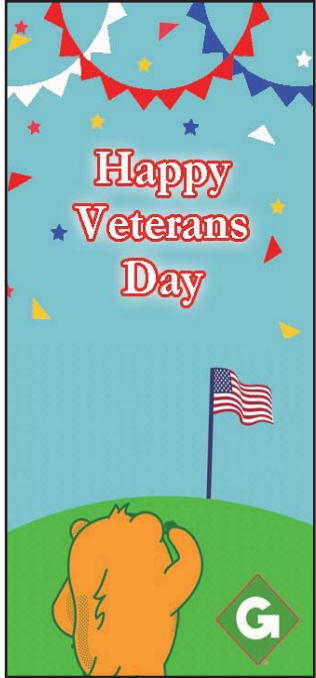
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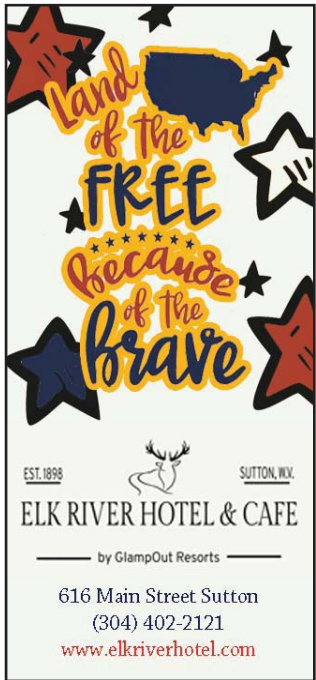


Happy VETERANS DAY!

#THANKYOUVETERANS



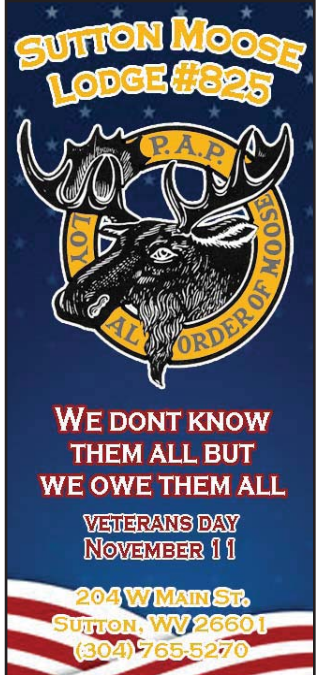
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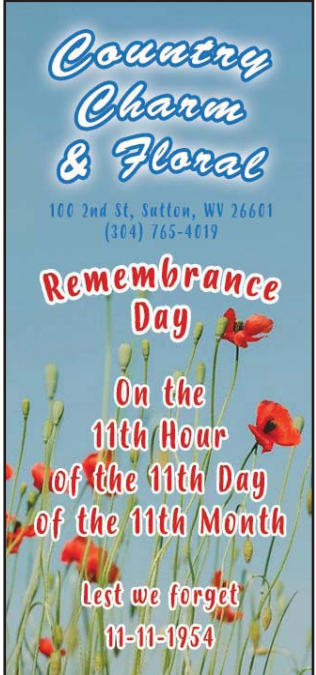


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Lest we forget 11-11-1954



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Little General EXXON

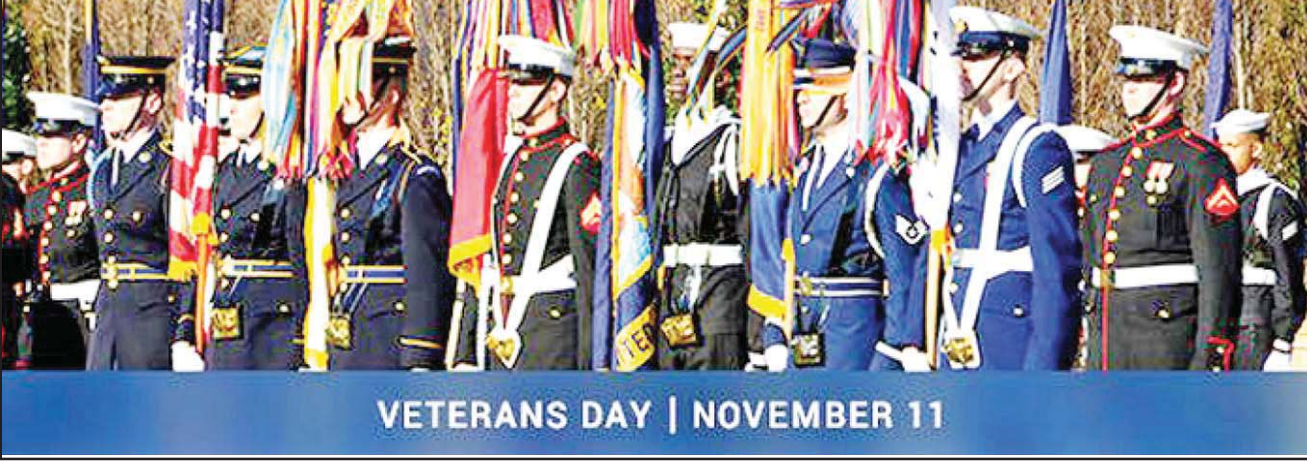


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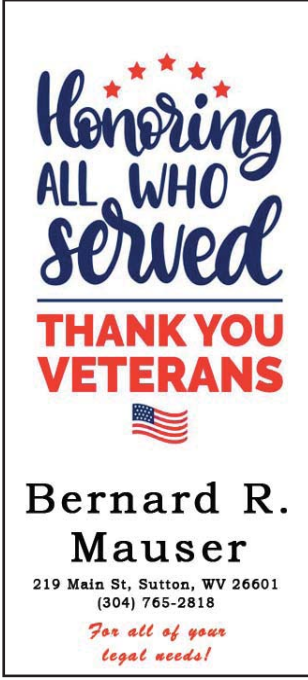


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