

Upshur Couple Charged in Death of Two Infants

Braxton man charged with murder of wife

Pair originally From Braxton

A Buckhannon man and woman, originally from Braxton County, have been charged after police said a two-year-old child died and a one-year-old was seriously injured last month and has since died from those injuries. The pair arrested in connection to the deaths of two toddlers will likely face more charges.

Upshur County Deputies were called for an investigation at a home on Valley Green Drive in Buckhannon regarding an incident involving a child, according to a criminal complaint.

In a statement, 25-year-old Ciera Gillespie, the children's mother, said she left to go to the store around 6 p.m. on Nov. 28 and left three children with her boyfriend, 27-year-old Thomas Cunningham, the report says. A one-year-old infant was asleep in the bedroom while two other children, ages two and six, were still awake with Cunningham in the living room.

Gillespie told authorities she received a call as she was pulling into the driveway that something was wrong with the two-year-old child. As she went into the home, Cunningham reportedly handed her the child, and "his body was limp, with blood coming from his mouth and nose."

Deputies said Cunningham called 9-1-1, and an ambulance responded. Gillespie said as her and the ambulance were leaving the home, Cunningham ran out with the one-year-



Thomas Cunningham



Ciera Gillespie

old infant saying "there was something wrong with this baby also."

The two-year-old was later pronounced dead at Ruby Memorial Hospital, authorities said.

The report says deputies spoke with a doctor who told authorities that the two-year-old child's manner of death was a "traumatic injury consistent to 'shaken baby' and that the retinal injuries were the worst he had seen in 20 years." He also told deputies the injuries to the one-year-old were "significant" and also a result of "shaken baby," adding that "would have to be a violent trauma with immediate incapacitation."

In a separate statement at the WVSP Sutton detachment on Decem-

ber 1, authorities said Gillespie believed Cunningham was under the influence of a controlled substance by the way he was acting when she left the children in his care to go to the store.

Also, during an interview, Cunningham reportedly told authorities he had used a Percocet "to get high" while the children were in his care. Because Cunningham was the only person taking care of the children, deputies said they believe Cunningham maliciously and intentionally injured the one-year-old and caused the two-year-old's death.

Cunningham was arrested by the Upshur County Sheriff's Office and has been charged with child abuse resulting in injury and child abuse resulting in death. He is being held without bond at Tygart Valley Regional Jail.

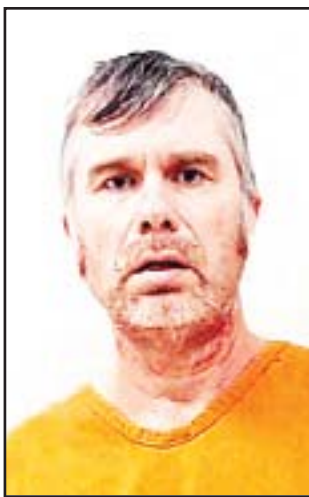
Gillespie was arrested by West Virginia State Police in Braxton County and has been charged with child neglect resulting in serious bodily injury and child neglect resulting in death. She is being held at Central Regional Jail on a \$200,000 cash-only bond.

Stephanie Warner, the grandmother of the two children told Channel 5 News the one-year-old child died about two weeks after the two-year-old died. She called what happened to the boys "horrible" and "unspeakable."

Poling - St. Clair Funeral Home is covering the cost of the children's funerals.

Magistrate Court records indicate that a man in Braxton County is charged with first-degree murder after officers found him at the scene of a woman's death on Monday, December 12. Braxton County Sheriffs Deputies and Troopers from the Sutton Detachment of the West Virginia State Police responded to the residence on Dessie Clem Road in the southern part of the county.

Two state troopers and two deputies responded to Dessie Clem Road and encountered a man armed with a knife standing next to a sport utility vehicle beside a woman covered in blood and unresponsive, the complaint said. Officers identified the man as Rodney Brian Dobbins, 48, who was holding a large kitchen knife, with blood appar-



ently on his hands and the body of the woman lying face down beside him.

Officers ordered the man to drop the knife, the criminal complaint says, he raised his hands and put the blade to his neck and attempted to cut himself. After several commands, the man dropped the knife and went to the ground

and laid on his stomach. He was then taken into custody. Dobbins was arrested Monday and charged with the death of his wife.

Family members told Channel 8 News in an interview that they had been seeking treatment for Dobbins' mental health issue since September, but he had not received satisfactory assistance. They also told the reporter that Dobbins had never exhibited any aggressive or violent tendencies.

Dobbins was arraigned in Braxton County Magistrate Court before Magistrate David Singleton on charges of first-degree murder. He is currently incarcerated at the Central Regional Jail without bond pending additional court appearances.

Braxton Magistrate Report

Magistrate Beth Smith

December 5: Joshua Thomas Casto of Cox Mills, domestic assault, dismissed, victim does not wish to pursue charges, destruction of property, dismissed, obstructing an officer, dismissed.

December 7: Kyle Chase of Frankfort, KY, cell phone violation, fine assessed; Michael D. Ax-tell of Webster Springs, speeding, driving suspended, not guilty plea.

December 8: Brynнан Fakourey of West Hamlin, improper window tint, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Kristen R. Cox of Sutton, speeding, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Brenton Duane Brown of Weston, expired MVI, no contest plea, fine/court costs as-

sessed; Sarah Stump, possession of meth, disorderly conduct, obstructing an officer, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$5000 cash or surety.

Magistrate David Singleton

December 12: Bryonna Lee Schartiger of Craigs-ville, contraband into jail x3, preliminary hearing waived, transferred to circuit court; Gordon Dale Davis, III of Youngstown, OH, fleeing with reckless indifference, preliminary hearing waived, transferred to circuit court; Brian Rodney Dobbins of Frametown, first degree murder, no bond.

December 13: Storm Allen Delaney of Craigs-ville, conspiracy, no contest plea, hunting from motor vehicle, no contest

plea, fines/court costs assessed; Douglas E. west of Rivesville, speeding, guilty plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid; Heather M. Smarr of Sutton, speeding, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Edward Wayne Wine of Flatwoods, expired MVI, no contest plea, improper registration, no contest plea, fines/court costs assessed; Megan Marie Haynes of Sutton, possession of meth, guilty plea, possession of meth with intent to deliver, dismissed per plea, conspiracy, dismissed per plea, 180 days of jail with credit for time served of 156, remainder suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs assessed.



Moriah Gioulis Scher, owner and Head Creative Designer at the Garnet Moon Boutique, now open on Main Street, Sutton.



Garnet Moon Boutique offers a wide range of creative and unique gift ideas. Come in and see!

A Garnet Moon Boutique Rises on Main St., Sutton

By Fernando Rodriguez

Come inside the Garnet Moon Boutique and be greeted by Moriah Gioulis Scher, owner and Head Creative Designer, probably sitting behind her worktable, busily creating a custom piece of jewelry to fill an order, or something new for sale at the boutique. You will also experience a visual load of beautiful jewelry and accessories, including necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings, cuff bracelets, sun

catchers, sterling silver and gemstone pieces, soaps, smudge sticks, tie-dyed clothing, and so much more.

Moriah, who studied Fine Art Photography at Savannah College of Art and Design, began creating jewelry while she was ordered to rest when pregnant with her first son. As her talents for jewelry making matured and her jewelry became popular, she began to sell the jewelry on Facebook and then Etsy. After a

while, Moriah yearned for a chance to open a boutique in Sutton. And thus, Garnet Moon Boutique was born, and Moriah added entrepreneur to her list of achievements. Moriah's mission is "to make beautiful Jewelry and share it with as many people as possible." Nowadays, she manages to juggle her responsibilities as a mother, a partner, a homemaker, an artist, and now a shopkeeper.

You will find some-

thing uniquely beautiful and special at Garnet Moon, and if you do not see it, Moriah will craft it for you using copper, silver, turquoise, and other gemstones. You will, for sure, enjoy compliments from your friends and family when you wear one of Moriah's pieces.

Moriah also carries Mary's K9 Bakery, LLC homemade dog treats and articles from a couple of local artists. Gift certificates are available. Get your Christmas

stocking stuffers. Give that special someone something beautiful and unique this Christmas. And remember: "life is too short to wear mass produced jewelry."

The Garnet Moon Boutique is located at 229 Main Street, Sutton, WV 26601. Now opened Thursdays & Fridays 11 am-5 pm and Saturdays 10 am-2 pm. Check our Facebook page for Holiday days and times changes [https://www.facebook.com/dark-](https://www.facebook.com/dark-roomjeweler695/)

roomjeweler Purchases may be made on our Facebook page or our Etsy store <https://www.etsy.com/shop/dark-roomjeweler695/>

Contact Moriah at Garnet Moon Boutique by calling 304-644-9850, email at mygarnetmoon@gmail.com, better yet, come to the store. Credit Cards, PayPal, and cash accepted.



Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs

The year is winding down and as I write this Sunday night, we're only two weeks from Christmas. Jean and I logged several hundred miles this week, traveling to meetings in Charleston, Parkersburg, Buckhannon, and Bridgeport; then back to Charleston and the Capitol office after church this morning. Our communities have held great Christmas parades, with residents and businesses all doing their part in sharing the Christmas spirit. The pandemic that has taken thousands of lives in our state over the past couple of years is still a threat, along with the flu and RSV respiratory viruses, but we're learning to cope, live, and work as safely as possible. I'm thankful for the availability of vaccines to provide more protection from life-threatening illnesses.

School safety for students, teachers and staff is one of the most important aspects of our daily lives. We know all too well the devastation that can occur when an armed and deranged terrorist invades school property, based on the ever-increasing deadly terrorist events in schools across the nation. That is why the statewide events of last Wednesday morning in West Virginia are concerning. A false report of an active shooter on the campus of various schools in eleven West Virginia counties sent law enforcement and school personnel into emergency mode. Parents and families of students and staff were understandably scared and stunned. The sophisticated hoax was coordinated to the point of also notifying medical facilities in the vicinities of the schools to falsely alert them to expect incoming casualties, thereby causing further alarm and confusion.

This unfortunate event should immediately be dissected by education and law enforcement officials

to find out the strengths and weaknesses of the response at each school and county targeted. It will provide valuable data for schools, first responders, medical facilities, and parents. Also, a preliminary analysis points to the benefit of having information available for the public in a coordinated and timely manner; first, for parents; then for the public, provided by those experienced in communicating with the media.

The FBI and Homeland Security personnel are working quickly to identify the source of these false reports. The only thing worse than putting parents, teachers, and communities through such an elaborate and premeditated hoax would be the real thing. Once the source of the hoax calls is identified, the maximum penalty for such actions must be imposed by the judicial system.

It should be noted that several of us in the Legislature attempted last session to divert a small portion of the surplus revenue specifically for safety improvement in our schools. We were blocked by the majority from making these funds available to harden our school infrastructure, especially at the vulnerable entrance points. School safety is more important than tax breaks for out-of-state corporations.

Meanwhile, the Capitol is undergoing the normal reshuffling of offices, furniture, electronics, and housekeeping in anticipation of the First Regular Session of the 86th West Virginia Legislature convening Wednesday, January 11. At that time, the Secretary of State will visit both chambers to officially certify the election results. Then, all members – new and returning – will be administered the oath of office and then officially begin their respective terms.

Then, after some constitutionally required house-

keeping measures, both the House and Senate will adjourn to await the State of the State Address by Governor Justice. At that time, he will deliver his proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 to the presiding officers and finance committee chairs. For the past several years, the State of the State has been anticlimactic, with no announcements of specific programs or initiatives. Instead, it has been short on details, focusing on the administration's accomplishments and usually an opportunity to make some major announcements. We will be hearing much more about his agenda in the weeks ahead. Based on the recent threats to our schools, the Governor should use his State of the State speech to put forth a bold plan for school safety, along with the funds needed for implementation.

The 2023 session will be filled with unknowns at this time and changes. Leadership is being shuffled, and the formal announcement from the Speaker of his new leadership team will emerge in the coming days. Meanwhile, look for quite a bit of tension between administration officials and the Legislature. Senate leadership remains upset with the Governor's work against Amendment 2 while Senate President Blair and Finance Chair Tarr were working toward its passage. It will be interesting to see the dynamics of the new session. DHHR restructuring will also be at the forefront.

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 our Veterans 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.

Judy's Garden Club youth activities

Judy's Garden Club focuses on youth activities which enhance youth awareness of our fragile environment. The students shown were the grade level winners of a contest that incorporate the phrases "Only you can prevent wildfires" or "Give a hoot, don't pollute" causing students to think about the effect their actions and those of others. Two certificates, one of which rewards the student with a free item from JGC display at the Sutton Farmers' Market in 2023, hopes to instill a love of plants, and a hand painted wooden ornament inspired by pollinators. These posters were submitted to WVGC for state level judging. Good luck to the entries!

JGC currently has a "Pollinator Design Con-



SES grade level winners for Judy's Garden Club poster contest" until Jan. 12 enlisting artistic skills to create a design that embodies the importance of pollinators. Beth Atkins, JGC Vice Pres., and Melissa Dennison, JGC member, Appalachian District, recently visited the BCHS art class inviting the students to submit a design. Details are available on the JGC Facebook page or contact Beth, Melissa or Pat McPherson, 765-7873 for more information. The

poster contest

contest is open to all ages. In the spring, Judy's Garden Club continues the tradition of distributing pine tree seedlings to county 4th grade students. Distribution involves a discussion on the importance of seedlings to the environment. Local students also experience pollinators firsthand with the community garden in Sutton, coordinated by Suzanne McGowan, JGC member and Braxton/Clay Master Gardener. JGC provides youth experiences to focus on the environment and their vital role.

Obituaries

Everett Lee Pritt

Everett Lee Pritt, 82, of Burnsville, WV passed away on Tuesday, December 6th, 2022 at his home. He was born in Burnsville on October 18th, 1940: son of the late Virgil Pritt and Elsie (Blake) Pritt.

Cherishing Everett's memory is his loving companion: Lillian Brown, two sons: John Clise and wife Rebecca of Weston, Matthew Blake and wife Erica of Burnsville, and Frank Brown and wife Haydee of Tillery, NC and three grandchildren: Aidan, Bradley and Desiree Blake and Destiny Brown. Fond memories will also be cherished by his siblings: Donald Pritt of Columbia Station, OH, Paul Pritt of Copen, WV, Mary Wine of Copen, WV and Carol Sumpter of Alabama and several nieces and nephews. He will also be remembered by two sister-in-laws: Betty Pritt and Lark Pritt. In addition to his parents, Everett was preceded in death by four siblings: Billy, Dennis and Jimmy Pritt and Helen Pritt.

Mr. Pritt was a retired coal miner with Stanley Consultants. He was a graduate of Burnsville High School with the class of 1959 and a member of the Braxton County Democratic Committee. Everett's hobbies included vegetable gardening, woodworking and carpentry. He will be fondly remembered by family and friends and especially his grandchildren who call him "Pap."

Family and friends gathered at the Hardman Family Funeral Home 730 N. Main Avenue Weston on Tuesday, December 13th, 2022 from 11am until 1 pm. A service in his memory was at 1:00 p.m. from the funeral home chapel with his son John Clise conducting services. Following services and at Everett's request, he was cremated. On-line condolences and life stories in memory of Everett may be expressed at hardmanfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Hardman Family Funeral Home of Weston considers it an honor and a privilege to serve the family of Everett Lee Pritt

Joann Malcomb

Joann Malcomb, 83 of Cowen went home to be with the Lord Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at her home. Joann was born May 27, 1939 in Erbacon to the late Walter and Rena Christenson Malcomb. She was also preceded in death by all five of her siblings.

Joann was a home health care worker for many many years. She was a Christian by faith and loved the Lord with all her heart; she enjoyed quilting, fishing, and camping. Joann was the matriarch of the Malcomb family and had recently become a great great great aunt which she was very happy of. Surviving are her nieces and nephew; Brenda (Rodney) McClung, Cindy Thompson, Denise Edmonds, Barb Karaastuary, Carol Yockers and Lonnie Wayne Malcomb; great niece, April Malcomb, great nephew Ronnie (Sheena) McClung; great great nieces, Alisha Hudkins and Brayla McClung; great great nephews, Blake Lynch and Kasen McClung and great great great nieces Amara Louise Mullins; and also a special friends Bill Bragg. Friends joined the family for visitation 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Friday, December 9, 2022 at Adams-Reed Funeral Home, Cowen. Pastor Craig Williams conducted a message at 7:00 PM and at the conclusion visitation continued. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.adamsreedfh.com

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

Derek George Taylor

Derek George Taylor, 78, of Ireland, WV, passed away on Monday, November 28, 2022, at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown.

He was born in Hinton, England, UK, on March 18, 1944, a son of the late Elsie Mary Taylor Eavis. Along with his mother, Derek was preceded in death by one brother, Martin Eavis.

Forever cherishing their memories of Derek's joking nature are: one daughter, Lizbeth Taylor of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; three siblings: Ruth Wolfe, David Eavis, and Mary Wilson all of England, UK; close friends and neighbors: Judy and Michael Cunningham, and their daughter, Vickie Mace and husband, Anthony all of Ireland; several nieces and nephews; his rabbit beagle, Susie; and the Greenhill Community who loved him and will miss him dearly.

Derek completed grammar school in Soham. He worked on the family farm to put himself through school. He spent some time working at the Cambridge Airport, traveled abroad, and in Bristol he helped design the nose for the Concord Jet. After traveling the world as an airplane engineer, Derek found his home in Ireland, WV, where he fit right into the Greenhill Community. He had a generous nature and would have shared anything he owned with anyone in need. Derek loved gardening, starting with his vegetables, then moving on to trees and flowers. He liked to go to yard sales, and collected all sorts of items. He was grateful for the closeness and all the assistance he received from his neigh-

bors. Derek's request for Cremation has been honored. A Private Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date.

We, at Clutter Funeral and Cremation located at 21 Elnora Circle in Buckhannon, are honored and privileged to serve the family of Derek George Taylor. Online condolences may be expressed at www.ClutterFuneral-Home.com.

Ruby Jean Stout Wayne

Ruby Jean Stout Wayne,



age 83, went to be with her heavenly father Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

She was born February 26, 1939 in Gassaway to the late Johnson and Ellen M. Carpenter Stout. Ruby was preceded in death by her loving husband, Dean "Sarge" Wayne; daughter, Regina Dee Parsons; son-in-law, Steve Parsons; and granddaughter, Kasey Lee Parsons.

She was a 1957 graduate of Gassaway High School. One thing is for sure Ruby loved her family with all she had and her family knew it. Ruby was a devout Christian and she loved to tell everyone about the Lord. She was a member and Lead singer at the Richmond Chapel Church. She also was a gospel singer for many groups including the Wayne and Stout Families. Ruby enjoyed singing and playing music and she was an avid bowler. She was a Mountaineer fan and rarely missed a game on the television. She enjoyed helping others and had a servant heart.

Ruby will be forever remembered by her sons, Martin (Sherryl) Wayne; Travis (Tammy) Wayne; daughters, Vanessa (Rich) Vaughan, and Teresa (Matt) Martin; brother, Lawrence Stout; grandchildren, Kim (Tom) Jenkins, Steven Parsons, Jr, Amanda (Jamie) Gum, Scott (Misty) Vaughan, Krystle (Chris) Morris, Trista Wayne, Brianna Miller, Mariah Miller, Indica Martin, Ronnie Helmick, and Dillan Helmick. She is also survived by her great grandchildren, Tressie Payne, Charlie (Tiana) Payne, Kasey LeeAnn Parsons, Cole Parsons, Hayden Gum, Ashtin Gum, Harry Hinkel V, Meia Miller, Freya Shaw, Odin Shaw, Garrett Morris, Natalee Morris, Charles "Sonny" Vaughan, Macey Vaughan, Aubrey Helmick, Aleah Helmick.

Her visitation was 6 to 8 P.M. Friday, December 9, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway.

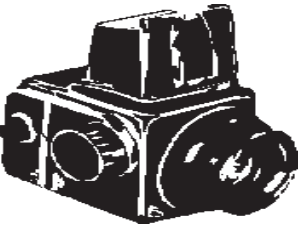
Ruby's funeral was 11 A.M. Saturday, December 10th at the funeral home with Pastor Rick Hart officiating. Interment beside her husband followed in the Upper Sugar Creek Cemetery, Gassaway.

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

Newton June Cowger

Newton June Cowger 76 of Diana passed away Saturday, December 10, 2022. Newton was born December 13, 1945

Please turn to



A Photographic Look at...

Town of Burnsville Christmas Parade



Ghost Busters (Burnsville Skate Park Commitee). Photos Courtesy of Janet Six and from the Town of Burnsville



Many businesses and town organizations lit up the street of Burnsville for the Christmas Parade.



Grand Marshal Brent Boggs.



Santa Claus made a special visit at the Burnsville Christmas Parade.



Even the smallest of snowmen enjoyed the parade.



Santa Claus visited with children after the parade.



Burnsville Citizens of the Year: Darrell Brown and Joe & Cindy Sprouse.



BC OES/911/EMS Thank You

The offices of Braxton County OES/911/EMS would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for the support they showed us during our Christmas Tree Lighting Event for the Community.

Braxton Health Care Center, Braxton County Coalition, Board members. Lisa and Andy Godwin, Heather Hardway, Sutton Moose Lodge 825, Harts Pro Hardware, Hashman Income Tax &

Book Keeping Services, Larry Craft Welding, Davis Gourmet Pick Ups, Wendy's Braxton Family Dentistry, Lloyd's Hardware, The Villa, Piccadilly Florist, A-1 Towing, Berry Fork Tree Farm, Braxton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Braxton County Sheriff's Office, Braxton County Health Department, Braxton County Maintenance Dept., Servia FD, Frametown, FD, Flatwoods FD, Rosa

White, Rick Reed, The 40 Something Cowgirls, The Shaver Sisters, Gassaway, UMC Choir, Pastors Jim Burrough, and Rodney England and Braxton Citizen News and the Braxton County Democrat. All those who donated coats, hats, and gloves. All the staff who worked hard to pull this blessed event off for the community.

We look forward to having this event again next year.

Friends of the Sutton Library Events and Thank You

Friends of the Sutton Library are a group dedicated to supporting the library financially and with enhanced activities, mainly for youth. Recently the "Reading is SNOW much Fun" float won first place in the Sutton Parade! The Friends created and accompanied the seasonal float along with young readers aboard! Bookmarks were passed to the crowd along the route.

The Friends of Sutton Library also paid for and hosted a program through WV Humanities Council, Voices from the Earth, with Ilene Evans as Harriet Tubman. Students at Flatwoods and Sutton Elementary Schools had prepared for and were appreciative of the program to learn about the trials, hardships and accomplishments of Tubman's life through Evans' portrayal. Several of the Friend's group enjoyed visiting with Ilene while treating her to lunch in Sutton.

In order to maintain funds, the Friends group participates in fundraising throughout the year. A big thank you to the Sutton Moose Lodge #825 in providing the opportunity for the group to raise funds. All the generosity from those who bought tickets to the dinner is so appreciated! Annually this fall "Moose dinner" and spring peanut butter egg sale provide most of the funds used for special activities and support at Sutton Library.

The Kroger Cares Program is another way the public provides funds for the Sutton Library. Simply choosing "Sutton Library" from the drop-down menu on the Kroger site allows for the library to benefit from purchases. The Sutton Library is grateful that the Kroger company offers this program, and that the Gassaway Kroger remains open!

Thursday, Jan.5 at 10:00 AM at the Sutton Library will be the next Friends meeting and if you are interested in joining this special group, please attend.



Youth on Friends float.



Ilene Evans as Harriet Tubman.



Thanks to the Moose# 825.

Chapel of Prayer Baptist Church

Invites you to attend our Christmas play

"Twas the Clash Before Christmas"

When the Country Parents and relatives come to the city to visit their son and daughter-in-law unexpectedly on Christmas Eve, all plans for a quiet peaceful Christmas are quickly changed.

When: Saturday, December 17th at 6:00pm

Where: Victory Mountain Baptist Campground

4828 Scotts Fork-Bonnie Rd, Exchange, WV

For More information contact

Pastor Ryan Skidmore at 304-689-6285

Hope to see you there

Refreshments will be served after the play.

Wild Boar Season

By: Jeanette Riffle

We somehow got on the subject of wild boars and wild pigs today and Hubby was telling me that two or three southern West Virginia counties have open season on wild boars. Men can go down there and hunt them. I remember Dad telling me that there were wild pigs in the woods when he was growing up. Farmers would turn their pigs out in the woods and let them eat acorns like the deer do nowadays.

Hubby told me that his Grandpa Riffle was hunting one time and got chased by a bunch of wild hogs and they put him up on a big rock. I think I wrote about that a few years back. They belonged to some farmer. Grandpa had to wait on them to go away. They finally left. No one comes in from hunting, telling about seeing any wild pigs these days but they see a lot of wild predators. It isn't safe to go in the woods without a gun. It wasn't safe in our

back yard a couple nights back. We were awakened in the middle of the night by our big dog barking, growling and fighting something. Hubby went on the back porch with a light and came back in and told me it was a coon. That fight went on all across the back yard and it was the worst fight Rascal has ever been in. It bloodied his nose and that really made him mad. Finally, it got to a tree and tried to go up several times but every time, Rascal pulled it right back down. When he would back up, that coon jumped on him. We didn't know how that was going to end, so Hubby had to go out and finish the coon off. Rascal needed help. We missed a couple hours or more of sleep that night with all those shenanigans and couldn't stay awake the next day. Thank God, we got a good night's sleep last night and we feel better today. I hope that dog will steer clear of coons after this but you never can tell about him. He is dif-

ferent than our other dogs were.

When he gets mad he is crazy. If something hurts him, he wants to hang right in there and kill it. You cannot call him off. If you try, he growls and acts like he would bite. I grew up with dogs but none of them acted like this one does. He barks and chases thunder like he thinks it is a big bad dog in the sky and he is trying to protect us. He barks and looks at the front porch when it rains. He is trying to tell us that it is raining out there. If he barks and growls, he is after a fox. If he howls with the bark, it is a coyote. There's a different bark for a deer.

We are slowly getting ready for Christmas. Still need to put the tree up and some decorations. We had to wait until we got some strength back from that virus. Until next time, please continue to be safe and follow the rules of the experts. There are still some evil viruses going around. We are hearing of flu every week. Take care and may the good Lord keep us in his care. God bless!

The Woman With the Sad Eyes

By: Joseph J. Mazzella

As November slides into December and the Christmas season starts each year, I still feel haunted by a pair of eyes. I saw them many years ago. I had taken my children on a long trip to a mall to do our Christmas shopping. Everything seemed to be on sale with bargains on all the stuff we bought. As we left I saw we still had over \$100 dollars left to save for the winter heating bills to come.

As we headed out along the side of the road right before the turn off, a woman stood. She was dressed in worn, threadbare clothes, and a dirty coat. She was holding a sign that read: "Home-

less, Please Help!" The thing I noticed the most about her, though, were her eyes. She had the saddest, loneliest eyes I had ever seen. I pulled over and took out all the extra money we had saved. I handed it to my daughter and she got out of the car and gave it to the woman.

Driving home I didn't feel proud or good or happy. I just wished I could have done more for that sad, homeless woman. I wondered too why in this world of plenty there are still so many homeless and hungry among us. All these years later I still wonder these things and I am still haunted by the woman with the sad eyes. I still pray for her and

hope that she is still alive. I pray that she has found a home and knows that she is loved. And I ask God to watch over her and be with her always.

What can we do to help the homeless, hungry and hurting in this world? Perhaps we just need to follow Jesus' commandment that we "Love one another." Perhaps it is as simple as that. Keep loving them. Keep giving. Keep caring. Keep doing what you can with what you have. Keep helping God day by day to make this world the place it was always meant to be. Then one day everyone will feel loved. Everyone will love. And everyone's eyes will shine with joy.



Photos by Kelsey McFarland, Clay County FFA Advisor

Braxton/Clay Extension Master Gardeners enjoy FFA Shiitake Mushroom workshop

On Thursday, November 10, 2022, the Braxton/Clay Extension Master Gardeners met at the Big Otter Volunteer Fire Department for a workshop on growing shiitake mushrooms. Clay County FFA officers presented information on growing and cultivating mushrooms to replicate natural growing conditions and then assisted with inoculating logs.

The logs were 6-8 inches round and about 3 feet long, with species including white oak and maple. Logs are cut then cured for approximately two weeks prior to drilling holes to inoculate with spawn plugs. The plugs were inserted using hammers and mallets, and then sealed with wax. The logs should be stored in a dark, moist location out of sunlight. The spawn will grow in the logs throughout the winter, and in spring, we'll hopefully see white mycelium

on the log ends. A flush of mushrooms can be encouraged by soaking the log for 8-12 hours to replicate typhoon conditions, and within 10 days, there will be the fruiting bodies of shiitake mushrooms.

After the conclusion of the workshop, the Braxton/Clay EMG had a business meeting and voted Dawn Lucas as the 2023 Braxton County Extension Master Gardener of the year. Awards were presented for volunteer service, with our local chapter donating the equivalent of over \$33,000

Join the Sutton Public Library as they wind down for Christmas Break with Trina Beall. On Thursday, December 22nd starting at 4:00 P.M. Trina Beall will be leading the class in an artsy Christmas tree craft and making delicious Coconut Bonbons.

in hours.

A new slate of officers was also approved as follows: President Vicki Pierson, Vice President Christi Boggs, Secretary Aine Slabaugh and Treasurer Suzie Legg. Master Gardener training classes are offered online in both spring and fall.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Extension Master Gardener, please contact the WVU Braxton County Extension Service at 304-765-2809 or the Clay County Extension Service at 304-587-4267.

All of the ingredients for the class and supplies will be provided. This is a free make and take event and everyone is invited to join, we only ask that you preregister with the Sutton Public Library or Trina Beall so we know how many to plan for.

OBITS

Continued from page 2

in Hacker Valley and was the son of the late Hillard and Lena Simmons Cowger. Along with his parents he was preceded in death by his wife Alma Cowger; brother, Denzil Cowger and a sister Lucealie Gillespie.

Newt was a jack of all trades, wearing many hats from working as a timber cutter to running heavy machinery on the strip mine and a mechanic. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, looking for ginseng and enjoyed classic country music.

Surviving are his son, Shawn Cowger; brothers, Columbus Cowger and Arnel Cowger; sister, Pauline Joran; two grandchildren, Jacob Cowger and Jessica Cowger; and also his longtime girlfriend Ruth Hines and her son Argul Hines.

Service will be at 2:00 PM, on Sunday, December 18, 2022 at Dodd & Reed Funeral Home, Webster Springs with Pastor Curt Davis officiating. Burial will follow at Harrison Cochran Cemetery. Friends may join the family for visitation two hours prior to the service on Sunday.

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

Dodd & Reed Funeral Home, Webster Springs is honored to be serving the Cowger family.

Jerry R. Kelley
Jerry R. Kelley, age 87, of Carleton, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at Medilodge of Monroe in Monroe, Michigan.

Born on August 6, 1935 in Fairmont, West Virginia. After high school he received a football scholarship at Glenville State College. He would later earn a degree at Wesley college.

While attending school, he married the love of his life, Mary Jane McPherson. They were happily married for 58 years until her passing in 2017. From this union, they produced 4 children; Robert, Deborah, Ronald, and Michael.

After serving in the Army ROTC, he was called to active duty during the Cuban Missile crisis. He later worked for Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, MI as a chemist. He retired after 34 years of dedicated service.

Jerry enjoyed life as an avid hunter, fisherman & athlete, participating in various sports. You could always catch him cheering on his favorite football teams from W. Va.

He was proceeded in death is his wife Mary Jane, daughter Deborah, both parents, and 2 brothers.

He is survived by his 3 children : Robert (Linda) Kelley, Ronald (Pam) Kelley, Michael (Laura) Kelley. Sister Joanne Simmons, 9 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held at Bobcean Funeral Home, Carleton Chapel on Monday, December 12, 2022 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Funeral Services were held at Bobcean Funeral Home on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 4:00 pm. Pastor Mark Blake officiated the service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Burnsville High School Alumni Association in Burnsville WV.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Jerry R. Kelley please visit our Sympathy Store.

Darlene Mae Rhoads
Darlene Mae Rhoads, 64, left this earthly world on November 30, 2022, and entered into the presence of our Lord as she was reunited in Heaven with her family that had gone before her. She passed peacefully in the comfort of her own home surrounded by her loved ones after a long courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Alliance, Ohio October 27, 1958 to Donald and Doris Smarr.

Darlene is survived by her loving husband David A. Rhoads of Alliance, Ohio, 5 children,

able at the Burnsville Public Library. Make sure to get yours early! We only have limited quantities available.

made peanut brittle. You can purchase a bag, which includes 2-6"ish rounds, for \$5. It tastes amazing! Brittle will be available at the Burnsville Public Library. Make sure to get yours early! We only have limited quantities available.

Ian Smarr (Tina Smarr), Melissa Mains (Donald Mains), Sharon Clark (Kevin Simms), David Rhoads II (Nicole Keller), Denielle Nelson (Brian Nelson), 17 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, 4 sisters, and 2 brothers.

Darlene loved playing bingo, cards, board games, and reading. But, most of all she loved spending time with family and friends. She will never be forgotten, and will always be in our hearts. She will be waiting at the pearly gates to greet us with open arms.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

Carolyn Sue (Anderson) Davis
Carolyn Sue (Anderson) Davis, 71, of Tioga passed away on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at Bowers Hospice House in Beckley.

Born September 23, 1951 in Upshur County, she was the daughter of the late Delbert Harman and Verla Agnes (Fox) Anderson.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Steven Davis and her daughter, Kelly.

She enjoyed watching classic criminal shows like Murder, She Wrote, Matlock, and Perry Mason. She especially enjoyed animals, specifically her dogs and cats, and watching the birds.

Left to cherish her memory are her sons: Kevin Michael Davis of Cowen, and Robert Davis of Tioga; grandchildren: Kayley Williams, Madison Williams, and Steven Michael Davis; sisters: Patty Hammons of Tioga, and Mary Lett of OH; seven nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn her passing.

In keeping with her wishes, no public services will be held.

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

Adams-Reed Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Davis family.

The First Southern Baptist Church of Sutton holds drive through backpack giveaway

By First Southern Baptist Church

Another successful Christmas backpack giveaway, with 250 backpacks given away.

We at First Southern Baptist Church are so thankful to be a part of such a large and special ministry.

Thank you to North Carolina Southern Baptist Church for providing the backpacks, Mark and Cindy Robison for the use of their property, Paula Carpenter, Brenda Naye, Lisa James, and Dennis Jarrell for coordinating the event, and all of our congregation members who helped in so many ways.

We are thankful that this outreach has been so successful for nearly a decade now.

Over that time span God has allowed the church to hand out thousands of backpacks and coats to the community.

Find us on Facebook @firstsouthernbaptist-churchofsutton or online at www.southernbaptist-wv.com.



First Southern Baptist Church of Sutton gave away 250 back packs at the Annual event.

BPL Peanut Brittle fundraiser

It's that time of year again! Burnsville Public Library staff, board and volunteers are working hard making our yummy, home-

made peanut brittle. You can purchase a bag, which includes 2-6"ish rounds, for \$5. It tastes amazing! Brittle will be avail-

able at the Burnsville Public Library. Make sure to get yours early! We only have limited quantities available.



Evel Knievel: Motorcyclist, stunt performer and entertainer.

Even those that do not ride have heard of Evel Knievel. Evel Knievel was in a class or category of his own. No one in motorcycling has come close to Evel's accomplishments, positive or negative. Sometimes it seemed he was consumed by a death-wish. Sometimes he came off as the most daring stunt performer that ever lived. Evel's relatively short life of 69 years is regarded by some as an impossibility, given the number of times he was injured, incapacitated, and came close to dying,

once being in a coma for close to a month, due to a serious accident while attempting to jump over the water fountains at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on December 31, 1967. I hold a great respect and admiration for Evel's reluctance to quit, in spite of all the injuries and the effects of alcohol on his body. It is said that he would take a shot of Wild Turkey before every jump and averaged a pint of whiskey and a six-pack of beer a day.

I do not have close to enough room to tell Evel's story, so I will write

down some facts and figures about the legendary Evel Knievel.

Robert Craig "Evel" Knievel was born in Butte, Montana on October 17, 1938. Always loved motorcycles. He stole a Harley Davidson when he was 13 and was often arrested as a teenager for stealing motorcycles and hubcaps. His frequent run-ins with law enforcement earned him the nickname "Evil Knievel," later evolving into "Evel Knievel."

Some of the motorcycles Evel used throughout his life were a Honda



CL 305 Scrambler which he rode in parades and in 1965 used for his first stunt jump over a crate of rattlesnakes and two mountain lions. He clipped the crate and sprained his ankle.

During 1966 and early 1967, Knievel rode a Norton 750cc then changed to a Triumph T120 Special 650cc, the bike he used for his infamous Caesars Palace jump. He normally used one Triumph for jumping and one for doing wheelies.

For jumps performed during 1969-1970, Evel was given two Laverda American Eagles to introduce the brand to Americans. This was a 500-pound bike and because of its weight was considered the most dangerous jump bike and most likely to cause injury in a crash.

In 1970, Knievel switched to a Harley Davidson XR-750, the bike with which he is best

known for jumping. In 1972, Harley Davidson equipped the HD XR-750 with an alloy head, thus reducing the weight of the bike and increasing its performance. Evel found his favorite bike. It was made of steel, aluminum, and fiberglass, and weighed about 300 pounds. It was also powerful and dependable. Knievel had the tank and rear fender painted red, white, and blue, the colors he would use throughout his career.

Evel Knievel would jump over anything, steadily increasing the number of vehicles and the distances jumped. He jumped over cars, buses, semis, delivery trucks, beer trucks, shark tanks, fountains, you name it, he jumped it. In 1975, Evel performed his longest jump; 133 feet over fourteen Greyhound buses, and surprisingly enough, he was not injured. His most famous jump was the at-

tempt to clear the Snake River Canyon in Twin Falls, Idaho on September 8, 1974, which resulted in his Skycycle X-2's drogue parachute deploying prematurely and spoiling the jump. It is said that the Skycycle actually made it to the other side, but the wind took the craft back into the canyon.

During his career, Evel broke 433 bones in his body, earning him a place in the Guinness Book of records for the most broken bones in a lifetime. The only unbroken bone in his body was his neck. He also had Diabetes Type II, and underwent a liver transplant due to damage from Hepatitis C.

Ironically, Evel Knievel died from Diabetes and Pulmonary Fibrosis on November 30, 2007, at age 69.

Visit the Evel Knievel Museum <https://www.evelknievelmuseum.com/#visit>

On the Other Side of the Mountain



Fermenting turnip in jar, gadget I use to shred turnip.

By Verena Sava

To say that the weather has been fickle almost all year long is putting it mildly, having vacillated wildly the past two months. We had heavy frosts already in November, while this last few weeks we had warmer temperatures, coupled with some showers which have woken up the day lilies from their winter dormancy. Some bushes have started to sprout. It seems that we could pasture the animals longer than usual, maybe the pastures were in good shape going into autumn, due to the excess of rainfall previously. We had a very wet

summer. We can make a comparison of swinging back and forth to the extremes in weather pattern to politics. Weather is capricious but politics and politicians are not just capricious, they add a generous amount of corruption to the mix.

We usually make quite a bit of sauerkraut since we eat a tablespoon of it raw, every day. Sauerkraut is a fermented food, loaded with probiotics. It enhances the health of the digestive system, balancing our gut microbiome. It is pleasant to eat, crunchy, only mildly sour. Besides sauerkraut, usually cooked with salted pork in my child-

hood, we also made fermented turnips, which we called "sour beets". They were as delicious as sauerkraut. I tried to make fermented turnips here every year. Turnips are easy to grow, and I came to believe raising them was unproblematic, simple, and trouble-free. What we "believe" is not always true. I seeded a fairly big patch at the beginning of August. They germinated well (plenty of rainfall), I thinned them out, weeded them and they grew well for some time then I discovered some wilted plants and found out that the roots had been eaten. Our biggest garden enemies, the voles, were at work. We sprayed the area with some spray that is disliked by voles. Greg adds to half gallon of water, one tbs of castor oil, one tbs soap, fifteen drops of peppermint essential oil, and fifteen drops of cedar essential oil. He mixes it well and sprays the ground. If voles love something, they don't give up easily. We should have sprayed the deterrent every 4 days or so,

maybe that would have helped. As the turnip bulbs increased in size, I checked again-wilting plants. This time they had cleverly hollowed out the entire bulb, just leaving an empty hull. Such work is masterfully done with perfection. Despite the damage, I had some respect for the voles' display of their wonderful engineering. Out of maybe forty turnips there were only about twenty left for harvesting. Better twenty than none at all. A few days later I wanted to start the process to prepare them for getting them fermented. Only two roots were what we expect from a turnip, perfectly white and when tasting it raw, very tender, the rest of them were mushy and the fleshinside was kind of a mud color, dark. I looked on the computer what could have gone wrong with this easy to grow vegetable. This was the moment that

my belief in trouble-free turnips was shaken. see here for all the horrifying details:<https://gardener-spath.com/how-to/disease-and-pests/turnip-and-rutabaga-diseases/>

They can suffer from many diseases, bacterial, Oomycete (water molds), fungal and viral. The information on the net recommended to ask for disease resistant seeds, since some of the diseases can linger in the ground for up to ten years, which would not help the instruction for a four-year crop rotation. Wild plants like shepherd's purse and wild radishes which are in the same family as turnips and rutabagas carry the destructive bacteria. I thought downy mildew was not much of a problem and could be treated easily with baking soda, potassium bicarbonate or Neem sprays., but apparently downy mildew can spread from the leaves into the root and cause

cracking.

A culprit for the brown, spongy consistency in our turnips might not be a disease but rather a deficiency of boron. A soil test can verify the lack of boron and Borax can be added to the soil.

After writing about turnips extensively I have to admit that the only way I like them is fermented or nibbling on a piece of raw turnip that is similar to a radish, eating them raw would not require raising a whole plot.

Sometimes it is hard to follow the news, it can be depressing to learn about our daily shortcomings as human beings, so I turn towards reading a joke or enjoying comments from comedians. Here is a recent one that made me laugh. You know how many people ignore the rules of driving a vehicle on the roads, so here is the comment: I love your car. It looks great! Does it have any turn signals?

Braxton County OES/911/EMS thank you

The offices of Braxton County OES/911/EMS would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for the support they showed us during our Christmas Tree Lighting Event for the Community.

Braxton Health Care Center, Braxton County Coalition, Board members. Lisa and Andy Godwin, Heather Hardway, Sutton Moose Lodge 825, Harts Pro Hardware, Hashman Income Tax & Book

Keeping Services, Larry Craft Welding, Davis Gourmet Pick Ups, Wendy's Braxton Family Dentistry, Lloyd's Hardware, The Villa, Piccadilly Florist, A-1 Towing, Berry Fork Tree Farm, Braxton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Braxton County Sheriff's Office, Braxton County Health Department, Braxton County Maintenance Dept., Servia FD, Frametown, FD, Rosa

White, Rick Reed, The 40 Something Cowgirls, The Shaver Sisters, Gassaway, UMC Choir, Pastors Jim Burrough, and Rodney England and Braxton Citizen News and the Braxton County Democrat. All those who donated coats, hats, and gloves. All the staff who worked hard to pull this blessed event off for the community.

We look forward to having this event again next year.

Celebrate Christmas with FSBC of Sutton

Celebrate Christmas with First Southern Baptist Church of Sutton, on Sunday December the 18th.

There will be Special music provided by The Faccemires's, and then we will round out the day with a covered dish fellowship dinner. Everyone is wel-

come to come out and join us.

The church is located on the hill above the Braxton County Senior Center.

Blue Christmas Service

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Unfortunately for some people, Christmas is NOT "the most wonderful time of the year". It is a painful reminder of what they have lost or never had. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has died. It may be a time that has always been dif-

ficult. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of limited finances, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone while everyone else is celebrating.

So, as we approach the longest night of the year, we are meeting together for prayers, scripture, and music that acknowl-

edge that God's presence is also for those who mourn, for those who struggle, and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Join us as we support each other on December 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM at Gassaway United Methodist Church located at 710 Braxton Street in downtown Gassaway.

Everyone is welcome.

BCSC December 15-30 Food Menu

Thursday 15 Chicken Enchilada, Pepper Strips, Black Beans, Rice, Fruit. Friday 16 Spaghetti with Meatballs, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Fruit. Monday 19 Chili, Sweet Potatoes, Cornbread, Fruit. Tuesday 20 Christmas Dinner Baked Ham, Sweet Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Dinner Roll,

Cherry Crisp. Wednesday 21 Baked Fish, Macaroni and Cheese, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit. Thursday 22 Pepperoni Roll, Tomato Soup with Cheese, Crackers, Fruit. Friday 234 Hot Dog with Chili, Tater Tots, Coleslaw, Fruit. Monday Holiday Center Closed. Tuesday 27 Hamburger steak with

Onion Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Spinach Casserole, Dinner Roll, Fruit. Wednesday 28 Breakfast Bake, Hashbrowns, Biscuit, Spiced Apples, Juice. Thursday 29 Chicken Parmesan, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Fruit. Friday 30 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Peas, Dinner Roll, Fruit.

BCMS varsity boys score impressive win over Clay

By Shirley Shuman

Playing at Clay, the Knights varsity won 49-32. Pleased with his team's efforts, Coach Drew Taylor gave a rundown of the game. The coach explained that his players "started out slowly and missed a few layups early on but rallied to finish the first quarter up 13-8" In the second quarter the Knights picked up the pace. They hit their jump shots, and the defense held Clay

to 4 points. The result was Braxton going into halftime with a 26-12 lead. Coach Taylor said that he made no changes at half-time but "preached intensity and effort." In the first three minutes of the third, the Knights scored 10 points. Halfway through the third, the coach took his starters out and used the bench the rest of the game. "The bench got a lot of playing time," he noted, "and they showed

a great deal of improvement. I was glad to see all six get substantial time on the court." Brady Toler with 18 points and Landon Stewart with 17 led the Knights' scoring. Ryan Stalnaker added 2, Deklen Meadows 2, Gavin Dean 3, Ashton Stewart 5, and Braedyn Godfrey 2. Coach Taylor said that he "was pleased to come out of Clay with a big win," and added, "Clay is always dif-

ficult to play." He did note that the Knights "still need improvement and that they make too many mental mistakes." Friday and Saturday, the varsity will play in the Christmas tournament which Braxton is hosting. The four teams participating are the Knights, Richwood, Geary, and Calhoun. Monday, Braxton will be at Richwood and Tuesday they host Gilmer.



Braxton County Youth Basketball President Jadyn Smith and Vice President Alicia McPherson attended the WVU game and skills clinic in Morgantown with young members of the league.

JV Knights' record goes to 2-1 after loss to Clay junior varsity

By Shirley Shuman

Clay Middle School's jv boys outscored the Knights' junior varsity 36-29 in Braxton's only game of the week. Knights' jv coach Nick Long pointed out that the game was tied 20-20 at halftime, then noted that his team just didn't play as well in the second half.

He explained that from the start, the Knights had trouble getting the offense going. "We turned the ball over a lot and didn't pass well," he said. "The defense as a team was great. They opened up a lot of shots, but we just didn't make them." In the second half, in addition to turnovers, the

coach pointed out that again the Knights had a lot of opportunities to score but missed some fundamental shots. "Defensively we continue to improve," Coach Long said, "and although it's coming along slowly, we are starting to get better at shooting consistently." Against Clay, Jackson

Lewis scored 16 points to lead the jv squad. Rayden Davis added 6, Hunter Short 3, Cohen McPherson 2, and Eli McCallister 2. Upcoming games for the junior varsity are a road game at Richwood Monday and a home game against Gilmer Thursday. The team played South Harrison last night.

Braxton County Youth Basketball League Youth visit WVU Coliseum

By Sheena White

On Saturday, December 10th members of the Braxton County Youth Basketball League attended the WVU basketball game. They had a skills clinic before the game that the youth attended. They had different stations where they worked with the kids. Wheelchair bas-

ketball, passing station, lacrosse, hockey, tag, couple relay races, football passing station, and soccer. The Braxton County Youth Basketball League were one of three teams that sold the most tickets to get a picture on the floor after the game. It was a Great day to be a Mountaineer.

Lady Knights lose to Clay Middle School in a home game



Avah Mollohan puts the ball up for 2 points. Photos Courtesy of Janet Six.

By Shirley Shuman

The Clay Middle School girls defeated the Lady Knights 23-16 on Braxton's home court in the only game they played last week. Coach Matt Pritt mentioned some rea-

sons for the loss. "We played really hard, but the shots just wouldn't fall," the coach emphasized. The Lady Knights were 7 for 47 in field goal attempts. Coach Pritt explained one of the reasons

for the lack of success in shooting. "We took too many outside shots," he said. In addition, the team committed 11 turnovers. The coach did say that he was "very proud of the girls' efforts on defense."

Jade Chapman scored 6 points to lead the Lady Knights, and Rylan Criner pulled down 9 rebounds. The Braxton girls' next game comes Tuesday when they host South Harrison.



Brooklyn Paletti shoots for 2 points for the Lady Knights.



Jade Chapman dribbles the ball back into Lady Knight territory.



Makenna Robinson drives the ball back down the court.



Aubrey Mowery shoots for 3 points for the Lady Knights.



Rylan Criner looks to make a pass to an open Lady Knight.



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Get the most up to date sports coverage. Check out the **Citizens' News** for Braxton County High School Eagles sports

and the **Democrat-Central** for Braxton County Middle School Knights stories, stats, and photographic coverage!



**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) 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 February 14, 2023 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
004 2020001077R1	S304-7-0.00 00	STP-0007(390)D	MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION ELK ST-CHAPEL RD +8 JCT CR 7 AND WV 4 COUNTY: BRAXTON

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. 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.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON
CASE NO. 22-0896-SWF-CN
BIONIC TIRE RECYCLING, LLC
a waste tire facility, Masontown, Preston County.
Application for a certificate of need to operate a waste tire facility in Preston

County.
NOTICE
On October 3, 2022, the Applicant, Bionic Tire Recycling, LLC., filed an application for a certificate of convenience and necessity to operate a waste tire facility in Preston County.
The Applicant's tariff would provide as follows:
Tires from individuals: (size 425 x

20 inches, or smaller)
Passenger Car Tires
\$1.50 per tire
Light Truck Tires \$2.11 per tire
Heavy Truck Tires \$6.02 per tire
Trailer/Dump-Commercial \$59.00 Per Ton
\$ 59.00 minimum
Tires larger than 425 x 20 inches will be priced by inspection at a negotiable rate.
The above rates are exclusive of applicable state and county assessment fees.
Assessment fees are charged per ton or any part thereof disposed.
DELAYED PAYMENT PENALTY
On all accounts not paid in full within thirty (30) days of the date of the statement upon which they first appear, a delayed payment penalty of ten percent (10%) may be added to the current amount unpaid. This delayed payment penalty is not interest and is to be collected only once for each bill where it is appropriate.
OPERATING HOURS
Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Anyone wishing to protest the above tariff change or to petition to intervene in the proceeding should do so, in writing, to the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323, within ten (10) days of the date of this publication.
BIONIC TIRE RECYCLING, LLC.
12-15 b

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ESCHATE FUNDS
The Estate of William J. Ankrum, deceased
The law firm of Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. is in possession of funds due to the Estate of William J. Ankrum, deceased. It is our understanding that the decedent left no immediate heirs. It is our intention to escheat the funds we are holding within sixty (60) days of this notice absent response from any prospective heir of William J. Ankrum's to Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. via U.S. Mail, telephone or email, as follows:
Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C.
Attn.: Kip Harbison, Esquire
580 East Main St., Suite 600
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 625-6787
RRDEPT@glasserlaw.com
Asbestos - Client (Railroad)-03617
Ankrum kmh 12-15 1-05

BC Jamboree New Year's Eve Dance

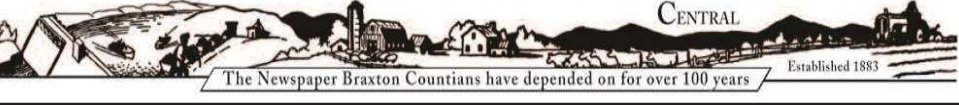
The Braxton County Jamboree will host a Jamboree New Year's Eve Dance on Saturday, December 31st. Doors will open at 6:00 P.M. and the show will start at 8:00 P.M. until midnight. Admission is \$8.00 a person and kids eight years of age and under are free. Concession stand will be open. No alcohol permitted. For additional information please call (304) 364-5577



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The Braxton Democrat



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12-27 p

HELP WANTED



HELP WANTED: Braxton Co. Senior Center is accept-ing applications for an immediate opening of an hourly RN position. A current, valid WV Driver's License, Registered Nurse license, and basic computer skills are required. This position may involve travel to multi-counties and to trainings. Must be friendly, motivated, like working with people, and able to multitask and work independently with a good work ethic. Provide a letter of application, resume or completed application specifying the job vacancy for which you are applying to the BCSCC Executive Director, 23 Senior Center Drive, Sutton, WV 26601. Position remains open until filled by qualified individual. Preference to those qualified individuals aged 60 or older in accordance with the Older Americans Act. EOE 12-13b

HELP WANTED: Looking for a reliable caring caregiver for elderly male in the Sutton area. Caregiving/medical experience a plus. Work with a caregiving team for 7pm to 7am care 2-3 weeknights a week. Please call 919-455-4597.
12-06 12-15p

HELP WANTED: Manufacturing Supervisor needed in Braxton County. Must be able to read blueprints, self-motivated, team leader, & 3 years' experience in the construction industry. \$55k-\$65k or based on experience. Full benefits. laston@rockwellvc.com or (724) 757-9326 11-22 12-15B

HELP WANTED: F/T General Laborer needed. Must be 18+ years old. Competitive wages. Medical, Dental, Vision benefits available after

waiting period. Drug Screen required. Call 304-587-2804 for more details. 11-22 12-15b



FOR SALE

IN BRAXTON

FOR SALE: 1.5 bath 3 bedroom, 2 air conditioners, gas heat, wood stove. 898 Sutton Lane Sutton WV, 26601 (304)765-7116 12-8 12-29p

CHRISTMAS TREES-Bug Ridge Tree Farm, choose & cut \$40/ea. Open weekends starting Dec. 3. Weekdays call first, 304-678-8875. 11-22 12-15p



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BRAXTON

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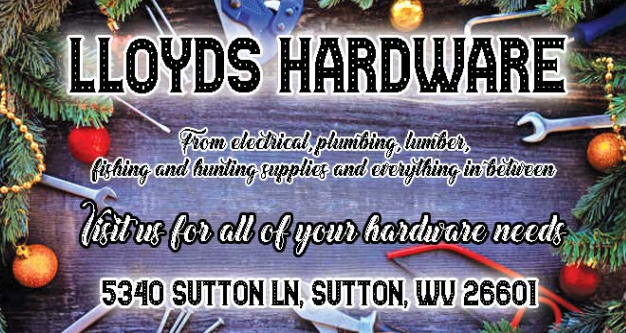
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