



The Braxton Middle School Knight basketball team took top honors in the four-team Christmas Tournament they hosted last week.

## Knights Varsity Capture 1st in Christmas Tourney

By Shirley Shuman

BCMS boys took first place in the four-team basketball tournament the middle school hosted last Friday and Saturday and added a win at Richwood earlier this week. They defeated Geary and then Calhoun to win the tournament. Pleased with his team's success, Coach Drew Taylor said he is "very proud of [the team's] second half efforts" but added, "We need to come out early and make more effort from the get-go."

In the first round of the tournament, the Knights went up against Geary and dominated from the beginning. At the end of the first quarter, Brax-

ton led 22-0. Here Coach Taylor emphasized that his starters did not play after that quarter. "The whole bench rotated in the game and we led 32-5 at halftime," he said. Braxton won that game 55-15. The coach continued to explain that from the beginning of the third quarter, all the jv players which had been brought up played.

Braxton's second game was against Calhoun for the tournament championship. Coach Taylor referred to Calhoun as "a very athletic team" and indicated that it provided challenge for his players. In that game, the Knights were down 16-5 at the end of the first quarter

in which they shot 2 for 15. After the first quarter, with the coach admonishing his players to show "hustle and effort," the Knights went on a 19-6 run and were up 24-22 at halftime.

In the third quarter, the Knights extended their lead "to as much as 20 points at some times" and were up by 17 going into the fourth. All bench players and all junior varsity players got in the game in the fourth. Braxton won 56-43. Coach Taylor pointed out that he was pleased his players "shared the ball and improved their shooting" for the win.

Braxton defeated Richwood 48-22 in the team's other game last week. "They messed up and missed a plethora of layups in the first quarter and were up only 14-8 going into the second," the Knights' coach pointed out. The team still struggled in the second quarter but "forced turnovers led to easy buckets," Coach Taylor said. At halftime, the Knights were up 27-15.

In the second half, the team tightened their defense and held Richwood to 7 points. Coach Taylor emphasized that the press worked, and his team had a lot of easy baskets off turnovers. In the fourth quarter, players from the bench and jv players took to the court.

Braxton played Gilmer Tuesday night. Their next game is home against Buchannon Upshur on Jan. 27.



Brady Toler (Left) and Braeden Godfrey were named to the All-Tournament Team. See additional action photographs of the games on Page 6 of this issue.

## Joseph Shaw Retires After 21 Years of Military Service

Joseph J. Shaw retired May 27, 2022 after 13 years of government service which followed 14 years of maintenance support at United States Army Aviation Applied Technology Directorate (AATD) from 1995 and 21 years of active-duty military service supporting Army aviation.

Shaw's career culminated as the government maintenance lead with experience on multiple test aerial platforms (both fixed wing and rotary wing) such as C-12, T-34, OH-58D, CH-47, UH-1, and AH-1.

Shaw was a subject matter expert on a variety of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) projects such as the Vigilante, R-Max, Switchblade, A-160, LEM-V, etc. starting in the early 2000's

supporting development of emerging technologies such as flight control systems, sensor development and integration, manned-unmanned teaming tactics, and autonomous capability development.



Colonel Tom Bryant (Left) presenting Joseph Shaw with his retirement award recognizing his distinguished military career.

tics, and autonomous capability development.

Shaw is originally from Sutton and is the son Betty and the late James Shaw.



Cody Dobbins



Raven Friend



Kassidy Heavner

## Braxton Natives Complete Student Teaching for GSU

Three students have completed their student teaching internships for Glenville State University (GSU) during the Fall 2022 semester.

Cody Dobbins of Gassaway, West Virginia completed his student teaching in Health and Physical Education (PreK-adult) at Braxton County High School with John McElwain and at Burnsville Elementary School with Kelly Waggoner. Maureen Gildein and Dr. Gerda Kumpiene were his GSU supervisors. He is the son of Steve and Heather Dobbins of Gassaway. Dobbins graduated from Braxton County High School in 2018.

Raven Friend of Exchange, West Virginia completed her student

teaching in Elementary Education (K-6) and Multi-categorical Special Education (K-6) at Flatwoods Elementary School with Danielle Berry and at Pleasant Hill Elementary School as the Clinical Teacher of Record. Dr. Gerda Kumpiene was her GSU supervisor. She is the daughter of Rodney and Angela Friend of Exchange. Friend graduated from BCHS in 2019.

Kassidy Heavner of Burnsville, West Virginia completed her student teaching in Elementary Education (K-6) and General Science Education (5-9) at Burnsville Elementary School with Jessica Vandernick and at Braxton County Middle School with Tina Knight. Dr. Erin Brum-

baugh, Larry Baker, and Dr. Ashley Kooker were her GSU supervisors. She is the daughter of Richard and Lisa Heavner of Burnsville and graduated from Braxton County High School in 2018.

Senior teacher education students take part in an internship during their final semester at GSU. At the conclusion of their internship students must complete a presentation illustrating their mastery of the Interstate New Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) standards as well as the standards of their particular area of study.

For more information about the Teacher Education Program at Glenville State University, contact (304) 462-4119.

## Braxton Magistrate Report

### Magistrate David Singleton

December 14: Grant S. Sizemore of Hurricane, expired MVI, dismissed proof provided; Matthew Todd McKinney of Gassaway, possession with intent to deliver, conspiracy, preliminary hearing waived, transferred to circuit court.

December 15: Cindy Robin Legg of Duck, domestic battery, domestic assault, warrant issued, bond set at \$1500 personal recognizance; Matthew C. Legg of Duck, domestic battery, domestic assault, warrant issued, bond set

at \$1500 personal recognizance; Dakota M. Tinney of Flatwoods, no registration, dismissed proof provided, expired MVI, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Ayla Rebecca Simons of Gassaway, possession with intent to deliver, conspiracy, preliminary hearing waived, transferred to circuit court.

December 17: Geraka Kay Marks of Glenville, possession of marijuana, violation of bond, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$3000 cash only; Michael Washington of Sutton, domestic battery, domestic

assault, warrant issued, bond set at \$3000.

December 19: Eric Antonio Frier of Milwaukee, WI, possession with intent to deliver x2, conspiracy, prohibited person in possession of a firearm, warrant issued, bond set at \$25,000 cash only; William Ferrell Conley of Orlando, conspiracy, dismissed, state does not have enough evidence to prosecute.

December 21: Ryan D. Duckworth of Exchange, domestic battery, domestic assault, warrant issued, bond set at \$1800 cash or surety.



Rotarians presented BCMH Lab Staff with a Christmas present last Wednesday. (L to R) Rotarian Sissy Price, Lab Staff - Amy Frame, Tabatha Baldwin, Lauryn Javis, MyKaela Wine, Jennifer Bourn, Rotarian Suzie Steele and Dylan Johnson.

## Rotary says Merry Xmas to WVU's BCMH Lab Staff

The Braxton County Rotary Club made Christmas a little brighter for the laboratory staff of WVU Medicine's Braxton County Memorial Hospital. On Wednesday, local Rotarians delivered a new refrigerator for the staff's break room as well as a supply of snacks, coffees and teas.

"Kim Frazier and her staff have made the Blood

Screenings that we hold semi-annually a huge success. With their assistance and guidance, we have been able to bring this valued service to thousands of area residents, providing life-saving early warning information at a discount price," said Dylan Johnson Rotary President.

"We learned of the need for the refrigera-

tor as the small one they were using wasn't adequate. Some years ago, we purchased a Keurig system for the staff and the snacks, coffees and teas hopefully will make their long hours serving the citizens of our county a little easier."



# Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs

Merry Christmas! By the time you read this week's column, it will only be a few days before we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In the meantime, it's looking increasingly likely that we may have a cold Christmas weekend with some snow on the ground for the holidays.

Congratulations to all the Winter 2022 graduates from Glenville State University. Commencement ceremonies are the culmination of academic work and an important time to celebrate years of determination and accomplishments. I have attended many GSC commencements and watching the family members and friends of the graduates in attendance is a joy to witness. Best wishes for success for each member of the graduating class, both at GSU and all our state universities.

For those of you following the great turn of events at the Gassaway Kroger throughout the past few weeks, the ongoing work inside and outside the store is transformational, and business is booming. Senator Manchin was set to visit the store for a second time in less than a month last Friday morning, along with the Kroger corporate CEO. Unfortunately, important bills in the U.S. Senate necessitated his being in Washington to vote. The event will be rescheduled for January. I'm looking forward to watching the continuing positive changes unfold, along with an excited and loyal customer base. Investments like this can be a catalyst for other businesses looking to locate or

expand into central West Virginia.

Speaking of investments, in the past couple of years, the Legislature has moved to make over 1 billion dollars in state and federal funds available for broadband deployment to underserved and unserved areas. Braxton and Gilmer Counties will begin to see substantial movement in the new year to that end. If your area is unserved, that's easy to determine by examining the FCC maps. Likewise, it is important for those with slow or undependable service to take the necessary steps to check your internet speed and submit the findings. This will help our WV Development Office and our U.S. Senators make certain the data on FCC coverage maps is updated with accurate data. All too often, we have found major errors in federal maps. Moreover, those will substandard and undependable service are paying their hard-earned dollars annually for the promise of fast and dependable service. We want to make certain that we leave no one behind because the mapping was not correct. If you have substandard internet service, go to the FCC website at: <https://www.fcc.gov/Broadband-Data/consumers>

Even if you have service and a neighbor or friend is unserved, please check the maps on their behalf. Later in 2023, each state will receive at least \$100 million (or more) for the broadband served and unserved.

Kelly Workman at the WV Development Office is the go-to contact on broadband for our State. Kelly stated in a recent article that she believes the draft FCC maps overstate available coverage and that verification by residents in rural areas will prove that point. It may mean the difference between getting \$100 million under current FCC maps and as much as \$600 million with corrected data. Let's work together to maximize the dollars for central West Virginia so everyone that wants to be connected is connected with the fastest and most dependable service possible.

To continue on the tele-

communications front, Frontier submitted its long-awaited action plan last week to the WV Public Service Commission. This was a condition imposed due to the ongoing investigation by the WVPSC into inadequate telephone service, including long waits in resolving issues and outages.

The plan submitted includes these points:

- reducing extended outages on its copper network to a more reasonable level
- reducing the increased number of customer complaints to a more reasonable level
- reducing battery-related issues, including ensuring batteries in remote terminals are kept in working order
- addressing installation of new batteries to resolve current issues in its service areas

Frontier also acknowledged the need to upgrade existing copper to fiber optics. However, any Frontier customer and employee knows that the company needs to provide the manpower and resources to repair, upgrade, and maintain the decades-old copper wire infrastructure that is in place until fiber can be installed. When Frontier provides their dedicated and skilled workers with the materials and resources to make repairs for the long haul, then we can have a landline phone system that our residents deserve. I hope the PSC holds the corporate execs accountable for implementing these necessary changes.

Finally, this week I want to thank everyone that sent cards, emails and social media messages conveying their birthday wishes to me on Sunday. I'm always amazed at how slow the years go by when you're younger, but the years pass exponentially faster as the birthdays increase. I'm thankful for being blessed these sixty-seven years with faith, family, friends, and health as we celebrate Christmas and move into the New Year.

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](mailto: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. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas!

Until next week, take care.

# Obituaries

Carol Sue Stanley

Carol Sue Stanley, 71, passed away on December 13, 2022 at United Hospital Center, Bridgeport, WV.

She was born on July 13, 1951, in Sutton, WV the daughter of the late Charles & Annis Juanita Carpenter Given. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by; grandson, Joshua Sawyer; sister, Linda Cox; brothers, Charles M Given, infant brother, David Given.

Carol was a manager of housekeeping and dietary for Braxton County Memorial Hospital before retiring after 34 years of service.

She is survived by her husband, James Stanley; son, John David Roby of Corley, WV; daughter, Anita A Davis (Shane) of Weston, WV; brother, Gary Lee Given of French Creek, WV; sisters, Judith Adams of Sutton, Martha Cutlip of Gassaway; granddaughters, Jessica Wells, Tori Lucas; great grandchildren, Savannah Wells, River Lucas.

Funeral services were held 1:00 pm, Friday, December 16, 2022 at Greene-Robertson Funeral Home, Sutton with Rev Jason Allen officiating. Burial followed at Braxton Memorial Cemetery, Airport Rd Sutton. Friends called noon till time of service at the funeral home.

Greene-Robertson Funeral Home is humbled to serve the Stanley family.

Online condolences may be sent to: [greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com](http://greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com)

Margaret Catherine Byrne Mazza

Margaret Catherine Byrne Mazza, 93, of Mount

Vernon passed away on December 8, 2022 at the Ohio Eastern Star Home in Mount Vernon. She was born on January 4, 1929 in Gassaway, West Virginia to the late George Coble Byrne and Margaret Heater Byrne.

Maggie was most proud of becoming a Registered Nurse in 1967. In recent years she continued to help others by volunteering at Knox community Hospital and her church where she was affectionately known as

the "Cookie Lady".

Margaret is survived by her children, Cathy (Bob) Berkowitz of Miami, FL; John (Barbara) Mazza of Eatonton, GA; Grandchildren Matt Berkowitz (Carla) and Annie Trachtenberg (Jordan); Great grandchildren Emile Berkowitz, Levi Trachtenberg and many nieces and nephews, all who have fond memories of Maggie and Babe's Mt. Vernon farm and home.

In addition to her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Albert "Babe" Mazza on September 12, 2008 and her two brothers, Dr. John Byrne (1988) and Benjamin Byrne (2006).

The immediate family will have a private graveside service on January 14, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Mound View Cemetery Rev. Ross Slaughter, First Presbyterian Church, officiated. An open house reception followed at Mazza's restaurant from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Mount Vernon First Presbyterian Church or Knox Community Hospital Foundation in Margaret's memory.

To share a memory or send the family an expression of sympathy visit [www.snyderfuneralhomes.com](http://www.snyderfuneralhomes.com)

The Snyder Funeral Homes are honored to serve the family of Margaret Catherine Byrne Mazza.

Charles Carson "Bud" Miller, Jr.

Charles Carson "Bud" Miller, Jr., 87, of Webster Springs



passed away on December 13, 2022 at his home.

Born November 20, 1935, he was the son of the late Charles Carson, Sr. and Lenore Frances (Rotruck) Miller. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Timothy Miller; great-grandson, Tyler Miller; sisters: Sally Sanders and Nancy Simmons; brother-in-law, Joseph Quinn Sanders; sister-in-law, Marian Miller; and his half-sister, Mary Lou.

Bud was a retired railroad foreman credited with 55 years of service beginning while he was in the Naval Reserves. He was a collector of all things, especially enjoying railroad artifacts, antiques, and vintage cars.

If you needed something, guaranteed Bud could find it amongst his treasures. He loved the outdoors, especially 'Camp' where hunting and fishing were some of his favorite hobbies. He also enjoyed reading and spent many late nights with a western in hand. Bud was a dedicated community member serving the Main Street Committee and St. Anne's Catholic Church, where he attended. He was always willing to lend a helping hand, after all, he was a master fixer of all things. He was a doting 'Pap' who held the greatest love for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Left to cherish his memory is the love of his life, his wife of 67 years, JoAnn; children: Steve Miller of Charleston, Jeff (wife, Connie) Miller of Keyser, Melody (husband, Joe) Adams of King George, VA, Michele (husband, Jeff) Snyder of Accident, MD, Shawn (wife, Carrie) Miller of Pilot, VA, and Andy (wife, Dalila) Miller of Webster Springs; daughter-in-law, Adola Miller; brother, William Kerry Miller; sister, Linda Jane (husband, William) Parrish; half-sister, Katherine; brother in law, Bill Simmons; twelve grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn his passing.

Services to celebrate Bud's life were held 10am, Saturday, December 17, 2022 at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Webster Springs with Rev. Mr. Raymond Godwin officiating. A graveside service followed at 3:00pm at Potomac Memorial Gardens, Keyser. Friends joined family for visitation 6-9pm, Friday, December 16, at Dodd & Reed Funeral Home, Webster Springs.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.doddreedfh.com](http://www.doddreedfh.com). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Webster Springs Main Street.

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

Larry Paul Helmick

Larry Paul Helmick, age 71, of Weston, WV,



passed away on December 12, 2022, at Stone- wall Jackson Memorial Hospital in Weston.

He was born June 29, 1951, in Braxton County, WV, a son of the late Ed and Irma Knight Helmick.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in

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OBITS

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# Obituaries

## OBITS

*Continued from page 2*

death by his wife, Sue Riffle Helmick; one son, Shannon Helmick; one stepson, Michael Smallwood; one grandson, Darren Goodrich and two sisters, Dorsey Brown and Judy Fincham.

He is survived by two sons, Robert Helmick of Springfield, OR and Dave Helmick and wife Nicki of Weston, WV; one daughter, Teresa Bosely of Weston; one step son, Doug Moore and wife Amy of Buckhannon, WV; one daughter-in-law, Addie Helmick of Buckhannon; and one sister, Brenda Stewart and husband Paul of Burnsville; one brother-in-law, Jerry Brown of Exchange, WV; grandchildren, Conner and Noah Moore both of Buckhannon, Kristen Smith of TN, Allan Smallwood of AL, Haley Mar and husband Johnathan of Weston, Alexis Kelley and husband Matthew of Clarksburg, WV, Cassandra, Desiree and Elizabeth Helmick all of Buckhannon, Dakota Goodrich of NC, Tiffany Goodrich of Glenville, WV, Adam Brinegar of Morgantown, WV, Madison Brinegar of Martinsburg, WV, Crystal Conrad of Burnsville, WV, Jamie Singleton of Copen, WV and Nic Singleton of Burnsville; several great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Helmick served in the U.S. Air Force. He had many interests, but most of all he loved his family dearly.

Therefore, in lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to be made to his sister Brenda Stewart who is currently battling cancer, The address for donations is PO Box 153, Burnsville, WV 26335.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.polingstclair.com](http://www.polingstclair.com).

Poling-St. Clair Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

### Connie Ruth Dodrill

Surrounded by loved ones, Connie Ruth Dodrill, age 79, of Sutton, West Virginia, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 13th, 2022.

Connie was born in Braxton County, WV on January 22nd, 1943 to Frederick Hayden Gerwig and Avis Ruth Gerwig of Exchange, WV. After graduating from Gassaway High School, Connie attended Glenville State College where she graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. In 1967, Connie married Carl Dotson Dodrill, Jr. They had one son, Carl Dotson Dodrill, III who passed away in February 2004.

Connie dedicated her professional life to teaching elementary school students in Ohio and West Virginia. Connie is remembered lovingly by her many nieces and nephews for her quiet spirit, gentle voice, and playful nature, tucking learning into games and fun into everyday tasks.

After retiring from 25+ years in elementary education, Connie enjoyed the slower pace of quilting, crafting, and traveling with her husband Carl.

Connie was predeceased by her son, Carl Dotson Dodrill III, her husband, Carl Dotson Dodrill, Jr., her parents, Fred and Avis Gerwig, her brother, Charles Gerwig, and her parents-in-law Reverend Carl Dodrill, Sr. and Ethel Dodrill. She is survived by her sisters, Brenda Jarvis and Carol (John) Wallace, brothers Gary (Polly) Gerwig

and Mark (Candy) Gerwig, sister-in-law Judy (Charles) Gerwig and 10 nieces and nephews and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews. Her family and friends will deeply miss her.

Her funeral service were 1 P.M. Saturday, December 17, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV with Pastor John Osbourne officiating. Burial followed in the Frederick Gerwig Memorial Cemetery located on Tom’s Run Road in Braxton County, WV.

Visitation was two hours prior to the service at the funeral home in Gassaway.

Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at [www.roachfuneralhome.com](http://www.roachfuneralhome.com).

### James Edward Kniceley

James Edward Kniceley, 60, of Buckhannon, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at Ruby Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family.

Jimmy was born in Clarksburg, WV, on January 4, 1962 the son of the late Robert Junior Kniceley and Freda Gay Williams Kniceley. In addition to his parents, Jimmy was reunited in Heaven with two brothers, Charles Kniceley and Howard Kniceley.

Jimmy was a 1980 graduate of South Harrison High School. And was a Christian by faith.

He enjoyed playing bingo, going to his nieces and nephews sporting events and taking them hunting and fishing. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family and friends.

Forever cherishing their memories of Jimmy are two sisters, Gladys Kotrys and husband Mike of Freedom, NY and Amy King and husband Richard of Clarksburg, WV; two sister-in-laws, Donna Kniceley of Weston, WV and Debra Kniceley of Jane Lew, WV; several beloved nieces and nephews and several bonus nieces and nephews.

Jimmy will be deeply missed by all who loved and cared for him.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm on Monday, December 19, 2022 at Greene-Robertson Funeral Home, Sutton with Rev. Terry Layton officiating. Burial followed at Newville Cemetery, Newville, WV. Friends called noon till time of service at the funeral home.

Greene-Robertson Funeral Home is honored to

be serving the Kniceley family.

Online condolences may be sent to: [www.greene-robertsonfuneral-home.com](http://www.greene-robertsonfuneral-home.com)

### Stephen Paul Stalnaker

Stephen Paul Stalnaker, 70, of Clay passed away on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at home.

He was born December 23, 1951 in Roane County to the late Deward Lannon and Pauline Maudd Moore Stalnaker.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers; David L. Stalnaker and Geary W. Stalnaker.

Steve graduated from Clay County High School. After high school, he served his country as a United States Vietnam Navy Veteran. After his time in the Navy, he spent many years in the Army National Guard. He loved his country and was patriotic. For most of his life he was a meat manager at several stores in the state. Steve was a Christian by faith and loved the Lord. He was an avid fisherman and spent much of his time on a lake fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Misty Truman Goodwin-Stalnaker; sons, Jason and Brayden; daughters, Stacy, Sarah, Haylee and Isabella; brothers, Gerald I. (Barbara) Simmons, Deward “Evans” (Maria) Stalnaker, Charles “Chuck” (Patricia “Pat”) Stalnaker, Andrew J. (Hazel) Stalnaker; sister-in-law, “Sue” Stalnaker; several grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

In keeping with Steve’s wishes he was cremated and there will be no services.

Special thanks to HospiceCare, Inc. for their compassionate care of Steve.

Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway.

Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at [www.roachfuneralhome.com](http://www.roachfuneralhome.com).

### Donna Faye Sears

Donna Faye Sears, 68, of Duck passed away Sunday, December

11, 2022 at WVU Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown, WV.

town, WV.

She was born July 29, 1954 in Charleston, WV to the late Roy and Wanda Roush Strickland.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her sister, Patty Kuhl.

Donna loved her family and her family was her heart. She had many unofficially adopted children that visited her home often and sought her out for guidance. She was a good listener and interesting conversationalist. Donna would help anyone in need. She always thought of herself last. You could often find her with her Kindle reading. Donna was talented in and enjoyed crocheting, needlework, and doing various arts and crafts. She was a Christian by faith. She will be deeply missed.

She will be forever remembered by her husband of 42 years, Emory “Pat” Sears; son, David Sears; daughter, Amanda Morrison; grandchildren, Seth Sears and Ashlea Morrison; and sister, Tammy Burgett.

Donna’s funeral was 12 Noon Friday, December 16, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway with Reverend Johnny Conrad officiating. Interment followed in the Moore Fork Cemetery, Big Otter.

Her visitation was one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to help with her funeral services, Roach Funeral Home, 708 Braxton Street, Gassaway, WV 26624.

Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at [www.roachfuneralhome.com](http://www.roachfuneralhome.com).

### Denzil Ray Wine

Denzil Ray Wine, 90, of Burnsville, WV passed away on December 15, 2022. He was born on August 27, 1932 to parents

Melvin Wine and Etta Singleton Wine. He was preceded in death by his parents; son: Jack Daniel Wine; daughter: Daytona Wine; brothers: Elmer Wine, Melvin “Junior” Wine, Letcher Wine and Jerry Wine.

He is survived by his companion of 35 years: Sandra Allen; daughter: Veronica Wine; brothers: Lewis Wine (Mary) and Grafton Wine (Patricia); sisters: Rita Cochran (Bill), Susie Wyant (Don) and Havonda Wine and many nieces and nephews.

Denzil was a Veteran serving in the United States ARMY. He retired from the IBEW and worked as a lineman. Denzil was a Christian by faith. He loved spending time with family and working in his yard.

Service will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 1:00 PM at Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation, 378 Flatwoods Corner Road, Flatwoods, WV. Friends will be received two hours prior to the service from 11:00 AM—1:00PM. Pastor Harold Frances will be officiating the service.

Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the family of Denzil Wine.

### Janet Marie Irons Taylor Swecker

Janet Marie Irons Taylor Swecker, 79, a resident of the Pheasant Run Community and formerly of Valley Head passed from this life Thursday, December 15, 2022, at home. She had been in declining health.

Janet was born on Wednesday, October 13, 1943, at Poe Run in Randolph County, a daughter of the late L. Willard Irons and Ruby Evelyn Wilmoth Irons. She was twice married, first to Stanley L. Taylor at Pheasant Run on December 21, 1963. He preceded her in death on November 13, 1995. Second to Charles Keith Swecker at Porterwood, on March 20, 2004, who preceded her in death on April 17, 2021.

Left to cherish Janet’s memory are children, Tracey Lea Elza and husband, Bill, and Connie Janelle Cope of Kerens, Keith Swecker of MI, Jennifer Swecker of Martinsburg, a special son Robert Champ, and wife, Lisa of Weirton, son-in-law Dirk Pritt of Philippi, nine grandchildren, Nick Gidley and companion, Chelsea Haines, of Parsons, Hunter Elza and companion, Trinity Bever, of Kerens, Levi Elza and wife, Tina of Clarksburg, Ashley Long and husband, Zach, of Hendricks, Skyler Lamb of Parsons, Kiona Daniels and husband, Doug, of Mill Creek, Elijah Lenhart of Martinsburg, and Kody and Kayla Champ of Weirton, six great grandchildren, Zachary Long Jr., Johnny Elza, Avery Decker, Vera and Aurora Daniels, Greyson Charlton, and she was eagerly awaiting the arrival of Emersyn Rae, in-laws, Brenda Shaffer and husband, Mike, DeDe Bunnell and husband, Randy all of Parsons, Ed Isner and wife, Sharon of Bridgeport and John Isner and companion, Jeanne Rockwell of Kerens, Colleen Jarvis of Sutton, and Hilda Gardner Dayton, OH, several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Preceding Janet in death besides her parents and husbands was a brother, Alvin Irons, a special daughter/niece, Jacqueline “Jackie” Irons Pritt, whom she raised as her own, and in-laws, Lena and Hershel Isner.

Janet was a graduate of Parsons High School with the Class of 1961. She had been employed by Lamberts Chevrolet, Kingsford, Head Start, Deb’s Donuts, Elkins Recreation Center, Randolph County Magistrate Court from which she retired. Janet was a charter member of River-


Please turn to  
**OBITS**



**Merry Christmas**

*Appalachian Timber Services, LLC*

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(304) 765-7393



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

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**Chad Lancaster DDS**  
715 Elk St, Gassaway, WV 26624 (800) 834-4610



# Another Coyote Down

By: Jeanette Riffle

I was scrolling through my news feed on my lap top and saw my cousin, Ian Stewart, with his coyote. He wants to have a full body mount done of it. I remember years ago of seeing a pretty red fox done like that by someone, and it was standing on a log. Those coyotes need thinned out. There are too many and they like to come out of the hills and kill small pets in yards. Another relative of mine got a bear. We got a Christmas card from my niece, Angela Mitchel, and her family. It was a collage of pictures of her son, Kraden. One of the pictures was of him standing by a huge black bear that was hanging from a front end loader of a tractor. Bear meat is good. Someone gave us a loin of a young bear one time and we fixed some for our son and granddaughter when they were home. My brother, Roger, was here having dinner with us, too. We sliced

and pounded it, rolled it in flour and fried it like deer steak. Brownded it on both sides, seasoned it with salt and pepper and a couple tablespoons of bacon grease in the oil. I steamed it down until tender with a little water. We had it with mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, and a loaf of homemade yeast bread. Our son said he didn't know why people didn't just fill their freezers with that stuff. He really liked it. The bacon grease flavored it good. I heard that it is really expensive anymore to tan the hide for a bear skin rug, though.

Things have been pretty busy here lately but we are almost ready for Christmas. Our church, Rosedale Baptist, had a nice Christmas program Saturday night and there was a good turn out. It looked like between 110 to 120 people there. Cars were parked everywhere up and down the road and in all the parking spaces around the church. Refreshments

## So Many Gifts

By: Joseph J. Mazzella

I was sitting on a long, black, folding medical table. Beside me was a woman in scrubs talking about the cold change the weather had taken recently. A radio in the corner was playing Christmas music even though it was still weeks away. I took a sip from the bottle of lemonade I had brought with me so I wouldn't get dizzy. I looked around at all the other people laying back on their medical tables too. Each one of us had a needle in our arms with a long tube running down from it filling a plastic bag below. Each one of us had come to give a precious gift to help others, make the world a

better place, and perhaps even save a life.

It was the local blood drive and I had driven 12 miles across snowy roads to get there. I tried never to miss one even in the wintertime. In spite of all the time it took I felt blessed being able to give this gift back to others. I had been given so much in this life: a loving family, many friends, sweet adorable pets, a comfy home, and enough money to meet my needs. Every day my prayers always included the words: "Thank you God for my life." The gifts I had been given felt wonderful, yet the one thing that brought me more happiness than anything else was giving something back. You see, in this life nothing brings

were served in the basement after the program. The new addition comes in handy for the overflow of people, now. We will have church Christmas morning but not that night. I hope our son and granddaughter can make it down from Michigan. They are planning on coming Friday before Christmas. We pray for safe travels for all those trying to get home to be with loved ones. The long range weather forecast doesn't look too good. I hope it changes. When my husband worked for General Motors and we lived in Michigan, it was sometimes hard to get home in winter and I remember a time when it took us 14 hours to get back home. We were allowed to use chains in WV but they had to come off over in Ohio. That trip usually only took about 8 hours. We were so stressed that it took a while to get rested up.

I will close for this time. Everyone continue to be safe and stay well. May the good Lord bless and keep you in his care!

you as much joy as taking your place in the great circle of Love that God created for us all. In this circle you receive and you give until it all becomes one. The more you give back, the more you get in return. The more love you let flow from your heart, the more love flows into it from above.

There are so many gifts you can give in this life too: a smile, a kind word, a few dollars, a hug, a caring letter or e-mail, and even a pint of blood. Each one of them is priceless and precious. Each one of them brings a little more Heaven into your heart. Each one of them makes God smile. May you fill your life with giving them. May you fill your life with Love.

## OBITS

*Continued from page 3*

view Chapel Church and attended Point Mountain Union Mission Church. She started playing piano in church at 11 years old and was well known for her piano playing ability. Janet sang with her parents and brother in the gospel group, "The Irons Family". After her parents and brother passed, she continued singing with her children. She was the original piano player at Riverview from its opening until moving to Valley Head in 2004. Janet also played for Valley Head Community Choir. She left a great legacy for her family of a Christian woman and touched so many lives.

Visitation were held at the Hostetler Funeral Home on Monday from 3 pm to 8 pm. Funeral services will be held from the funeral home chapel on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 1 pm. Pastor Connie Gainer and Rev. Marshall Williams will officiate, and interment will follow at Parsons Family Cemetery at Shavers Fork.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Janet Swecker, please visit our floral store.

### Bradley Earl Hacker

It is with great sorrow that the family of Bradley Earl Hacker, age 45, announces his sudden passing in Morgantown, West Virginia, on December 8, 2022. Brad was in the arms of family as he took his final breath and went home to be with the Lord. The son of Earl and the late Sue Hacker, of Tornado, West Virginia, Brad was born on July 29, 1977, in Charleston. He was the youngest of three siblings and baby brother to Stacy Mobley, of Hurricane, and the late Lisa Rice-Carney, of Tornado.

In his early years, Brad was very much his mother's greatest joy. Sue loved him with all her heart and the two were inseparable. His smile lit up her world and their bond was unmistakable. As a youngster, much like his mother, he developed a real love of fishing and of basketball. In fact, they shared a fondness for UNC that would last both their lifetimes. Unfortunately, Brad faced the loss of his mother in 2004, and as with his entire family, the void she left could never be filled.

While he was a notable "Momma's Boy," Brad and his father spent many days under the sun making memories as he learned about the love of the outdoors. His dad will forever hold dear the days of first hunts, from squirrels to his first 8-point buck, and father-son outings, such as Boy Scout camp. The two spent countless days fishing and practicing archery and bringing home trophies from tournaments around the state.

Later in life, Brad developed a love of snowboarding and jet skiing. But perhaps his biggest passion was in playing golf. He and his dad spent many an hour trading jokes, making bets, and sharing stories on courses near and far. After his graduation from St. Albans High School in 1995, he attended Marshall University before his love for golf became a greater focus. Brad was a real natural at the sport and his passion for it led him to a golf academy in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. What began with a few lessons from his father on the local course became Brad's greatest joy in life and an interest they would forever share.

Brad's siblings often talked about the boy that would tag along to a friend's house, whom they would have to walk home. He always wanted to be with them and didn't want to be left out. He loved music and cars, was always laughing, and found it hard to be serious for too long. After losing their oldest sibling, Lisa, in 2019, Brad was an incredible support and loyal brother to Stacy as the family faced another loss and further hardships.

Brad was preceded in death by his mother, Sue Hacker, and sister, Lisa Rice-Carney, both of Tornado. He is survived by his father, Earl Hacker; sister Stacy Mobley; brother-in-law Ted Mobley; nieces Bella Mobley and Abby Rice; nephews Nick Rice (Brittany) and Parker Mobley; and great-nephew Kasey Rice. Brad was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend. His passing has left a hole in all who loved him. However, the family rests in the knowledge and promise that Brad, upon his passing, was most assuredly reunited with his mother and sister in Heaven. They also rest in knowing that they will all be reunited one day as each is called home by Jesus Christ, Our Savior.

The family has chosen to honor Brad in a private family memorial to be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you may instead honor Brad's life by making a donation to the West Virginia Innocence Project at <http://www.innocenceproject.org/>.

You can visit Brad's trib-

ute page at [bartlett nicholsfuneralhome.com](http://bartlett nicholsfuneralhome.com) to share condolences or memories with the family.

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Ave., St. Albans is honored to serve the Hacker family.

**Jessie Duane Parsons**  
Jessie Duane Parsons, 76 of Macfarlan, WV; departed this earthly life in the morning hours of Monday, December 12, 2022 at his residence following an extended illness.

He was born August 17, 1946 in Lockney, WV; son of the late Delbert and Geneva Harris Parsons.

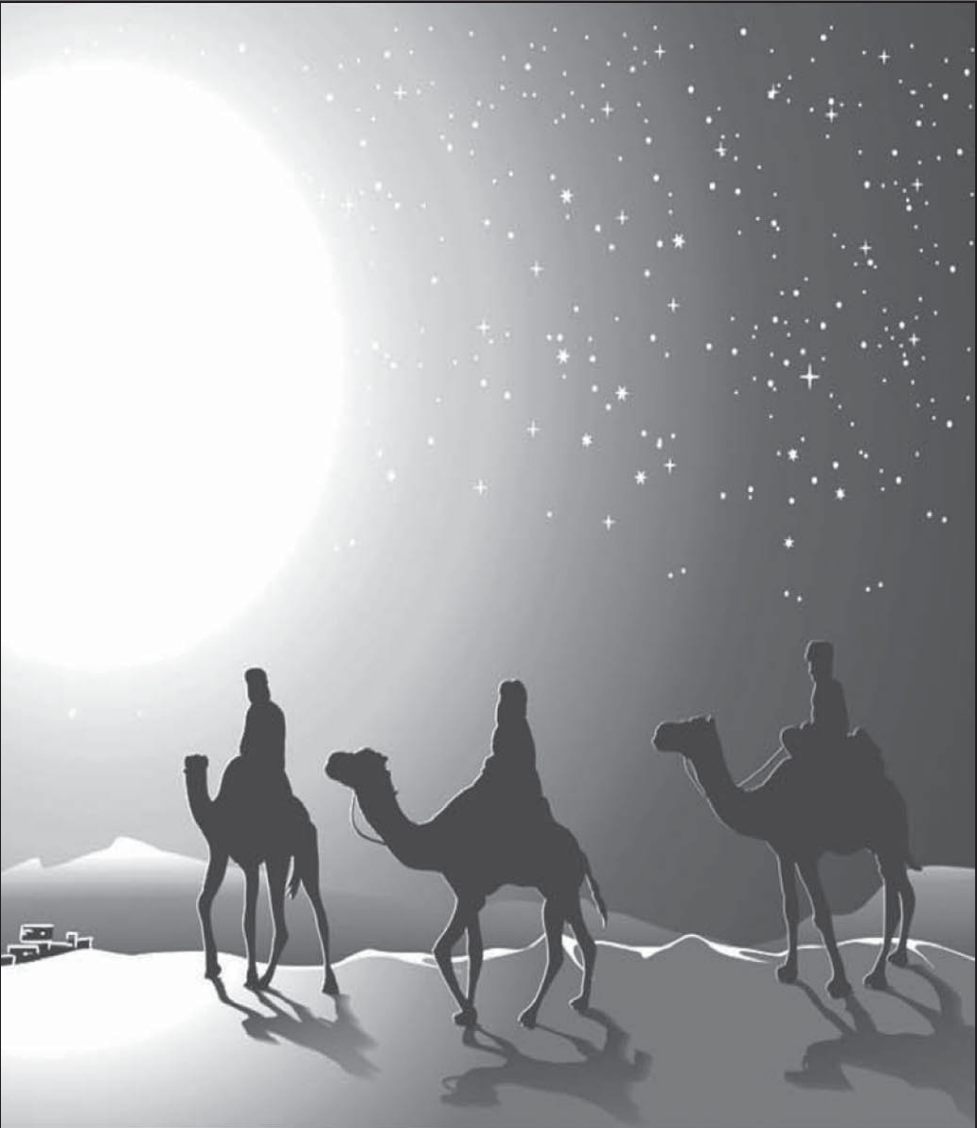
Jessie is a veteran of the United States Army, having served his country during the Vietnam War. He worked as a laborer for the Ames Corp., a tool manufacturer in Parkesburg, and is a Methodist by faith. Jessie attended church when he was able at the Macfarlan Community Church and in his spare time he enjoyed living the quiet life in the West Virginia hills, working on and enjoying classic cars, and spending time with family and friends.

Surviving are 2 children DeAnn Collins and husband Kevin of Cox's Mills, WV; and David Roberts and wife Jodi of Cross Lanes, WV; 2 grandchildren, Katelyn Rada-baugh and Kyle Collins, and 1 great-grandchild, Kolsten Collins, 6 sisters, Madeline Duskey of Tanner, WV; Kay Peters and husband John of Norman-town, Greta Peters and husband Paul of Norman-town, Wanda Accord of Beckley, WV; Cora Kimes of New Haven OH; and Trish Kniceley of Arnoldsburg, WV; former wife/ caregiver, Linda Parsons of Macfarlan, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many other wonderful family and friends.

Along with his parents, Jessie is preceded in death by 7 siblings, Hallie Minney, Lenora Miller, Pearl Parsons, Eddie Parsons, Harry E. "Jack" Parsons, Chester Parsons, and Steven "Bub" Parsons.

A funeral service will be conducted at the Ellyson Mortuary, Inc., 2 Vanhorn Drive, Glenville, WV; 26351 at 1:00 PM; Saturday, December 17, 2022 with Pastor Jim Huff officiating. Burial will follow in the Collins Community Cemetery in Stumptown, WV; with Full Military Honors provided by the United States Army and the Lewis County Honor Guard. Friends will be received from 11:00 – 1:00 Saturday at the mortuary in Glenville.

Ellyson Mortuary, Inc., is honored to assist the family of Jessie Duane Parsons with burial arrangements.



May your home be warm.  
Your holidays be grand,  
and may your heart  
be held gently  
in the Lord's hand.

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Central West Virginia Aging Services

101 2nd St, Sutton, WV 26601

Greene Robertson Funeral Home

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more than a  
thought away.  
for as long as  
there is a memory.  
They live in our  
hearts to stay.

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# BCMS junior varsity boys go 1-1 for the week

After losing to South Harrison on Dec. 13, the junior varsity Knights won at Richwood to put their record at 3-2 for the season.

This score was tied late in the fourth. Then came a call reversal which changed the course of the game. The foul was originally called on South Harrison but officials changed it and charged the Knights with the foul. South Har-

## Braxton County Senior Center December Food Menu

Menu subject to change due to food availability. 2% milk served with each meal.

Monday 2 Holiday. Center Closed. Tuesday 3 Roasted Pork Loin, Boiled Cabbage, Cornbread, Spiced Apples, New Years Celebration. Wednesday 4 Garlic Tomato Shrimp Pasta, Garlic Bread, Honey Glazed Carrots, Fruit. Thursday 5 Chicken Noodle Soup, Spinach, Crackers, Fruit. Friday 6 Cornish Pasti, Peas, Dinner Roll, Garden Salad, Fruit. Monday 9 Sausage Biscuit with Gravy, Hash Browns, Fruit. Tuesday 10 Pork Riblet on Bun,


## 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. Concessions will be available for purchase. No Alcohol Permitted at any event. The Braxton County Jamboree is Handicap-Accessible.

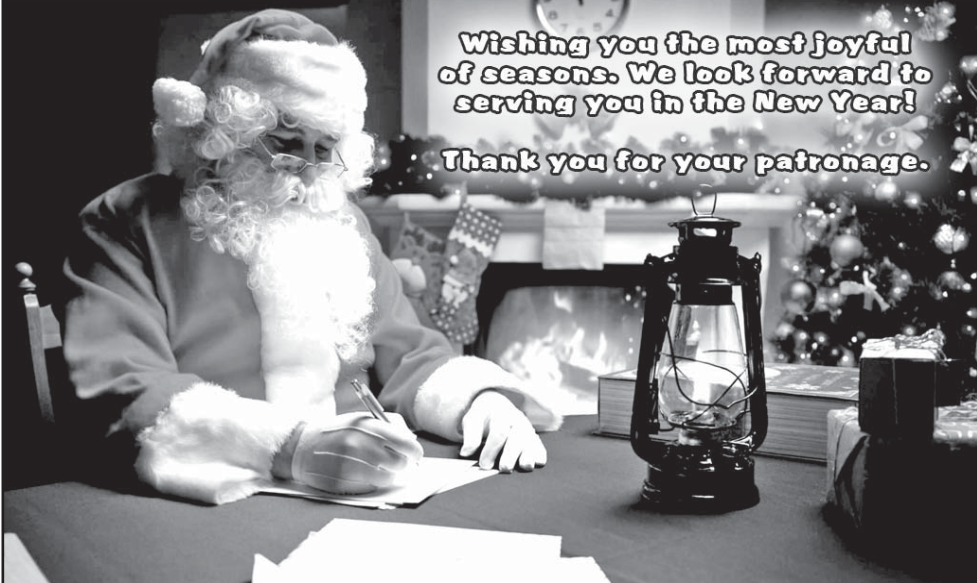
Attention: Due to the weather Braxton County Jamboree will be closed December the 23rd.



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*He's making a list, and checking it twice!*

Knights' coach noted that his team "played great defense and hustled on both sides of the court."

The Knights' 33-10 win over Richwood came on Dec. 19 at Richwood. McQuain again led Braxton's scoring, this game with 10. Coach Long said that his team "played well on both

## Young Knights wrestlers compete in B-U middle school duals

Last Saturday, the BCMS wrestling team finished 1-4 in the Buckhannon Upshur Middle School tournament. The Knights defeated Doddridge 58-6 for their only win, but Coach Duane Williams pointed out that his team lost by only one point---43-42, to Taylor County Middle School due to criteria.

Leading the way for the Braxton team, Jackson Wyne and Colton Putnam

offense and defense against Richwood." He noted that the Knights moved the ball well and scored more consistently in that game. The defense was also consistent and high pressure the whole game, according to their coach. "The high level of defense for this age group has been outstanding," Coach Long said. He added, "The boys are improving

more on their great defense and are starting to get more consistent with

## The Christmas Letter

**Written by: Sue Herwat**  
**Date written 12-12-1996**  
**from unpublished book**  
**Unexpected Treasures**

My dear child,

I'll bet by now, you are really beginning to wonder what you will be getting for Christmas. Well, I am beginning to wonder also. I am glad you have a Christmas list. Everybody should have a dream!

However; Christmas is about the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is about how Jesus was born in a manger in a stable, many years ago in Bethlehem. He was born to die, and take our sins away. Christmas is a time for giving, and should not be thought of as a time for receiving big elaborate gifts.

Individual scoring for the Lady Knights against South Harrison and Richwood		
Player	South Harrison	Richwood
Brooklyn Paletti	8	8
Aubrey Mowery	8	6
Makenna Robinson	5	2
Avah Mollohan	5	9
Rylan Criner	5	10
Zoey Keenan	0	2
Jade Chapman	0	2

individual shooting and not turning the ball over on offense."

## BCMS junior varsity boys go 1-1 for the week

were 5-0 for the day. Finishing at 4-1 were Brady Pierson, Mason Smarr, and Sean Foster. Landon Mays was 3-2 for the day. Coach Williams added that Bailey Minney, Skylar Duckworth, and Cameron Fleshman also scored points for their team.

Evaluating what he has observed among his wrestlers, the Knights' coach said, "I am seeing a lot of improvement out of first-year wrestlers Bailey Min-

ney, Cameron Fleshman, Greyson Hess, and Landon Rose." He noted that these wrestlers "are all working hard to improve their skills and are competitive every time they step out on the mat." He added, "I expect big things to come from them" and pointed out that Minney "has set the standard for the first-year wrestlers, posting a 4-4 record so far this season, with two of her wins by pin."

tage of these blessings, will make Christmas much more meaningful. Opening our hearts and minds up to the needs of others, will make Christmas a time of remembering the true meaning God intends for Christmas to be enjoyed, and treasured as. Something very special happens when so much importance is placed upon giving, and helping those whom we may, or may not be aware of, as being less fortunate as we are.

It seems the things we feel are so important for us to have, do not really have the same values as they originally had.

May all of Gods' love you feel, radiate and be transmitted outwardly, to embrace all who come within your reach as you travel through life. As you wrap Christmas gifts, sing Christmas songs, and help to decorate our Christmas tree, may the true meaning of this blessed season remain in your heart always.

May the idea of it being more blessed to "give than to receive," have a particularly warmer special meaning now, more than ever before. Remember, a special part of inner happiness is giving, not necessarily receiving.

Merry Christmas to you, my dear child, May your life always be touched enough by what God has given you, that you and your life will shine in a special way for all to see!!

With love always,  
Mom.

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*Merry Christmas*

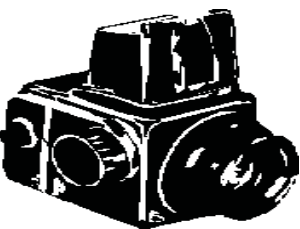
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**Our family at Stockert Funeral Home wants to wish your family a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year**

378 Flatwoods Corner Rd, Flatwoods, WV (304) 765-5371





Photos courtesy  
of Janet Six

# A Photographic Look at...

## Knights varsity boys have success on basketball court



Braeden Godfrey blocks the shot of a Calhoun County Player.



Brady Toler goes up for 3 points for the Knights in the Christmas Tournament.



Remington Huffman defends the net against a Calhoun player.



Jack Lowther puts 2 points on the board for the Knights.



Ashton Stewart shoots for 3 points for the Knights during the Christmas Tournament.



Landon Hart goes up for 2 points for te Knights.

## Lady Knights score wins over South Harrison, Richwood

By Shirley Shuman

In home games last week, the Lady Knights defeated South Harrison 29-19 and Richwood 39-5. Coach Matt Pritt said that

the win over South Harrison was “a nice team effort.” He added, “The girls didn’t shoot well, but their defense made up for it.” The coach pointed out

that some of the girls were in foul trouble early, and that fact hurt the team. He also noted that the sev-

eral turnovers the Lady Knights had were due to bad passing.

Of the win over Richwood, Coach Pritt said, “The girls played an excellent game.” He emphasized that the players

“passed the ball very well, limited turnovers, and played solid defense.” He also said that Rylan Criner played well on offense and Makenna Robinson had several steals which led to easy baskets.



Rylan Criner puts 2 points on the board for the Lady Knights.



Avah Mollohan fights to keep possession of the ball. Photos by Janet Six.



Jade Chapman takes the ball away from the Lady Jack.



Brooklyn Paletti goes up for 2 points for the Lady Knights.

Individual scoring for the Lady Knights against South Harrison and Richwood		
Player	South Harrison	Richwood
Brooklyn Paletti	8	8
Aubrey Mowery	8	6
Makenna Robinson	5	2
Avah Mollohan	5	9
Rylan Criner	5	10
Zoey Keenan	2	
Jade Chapman	2	



Assistant Coach Nick Long, Evelyn Post, Head Coach Drew Taylor.

## BCMS Knights Basketball Note of Gratitude

The Braxton County Middle School Knights Boys basketball coaches and team members would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Evelyn Post for her recent donation in the amount of \$3,000 for the purchase of new Nike travel suits for the team and coaches. On December 14th, Evelyn met with Head Coach Drew Taylor and Assistant Coach Nick Long (not pictured Coach Tyler Toler) to present them with this generous donation. Mrs. Post is a huge supporter of our team as well as all youth in Braxton County and we are blessed to have her support.





# LEGAL NOTICES

Braxton Democrat-Central, Page 7  
December 22, 2022



## WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service ([www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com)) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until 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](http://www.bidx.com). The West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

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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:  
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Norfolk, VA 23510  
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Ankrum kmh 12-15 1-05

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**For more information, contact:  
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