



Brady Toler lead the scoring against Buckhannon with 19 points and tallie 8 against Gilmer. (See additional photographic coverage on Page 6 of this issue.)

BCMS boys have outstanding wins in last two games

By Shirley Shuman

The BCMS boys’ varsity squad defeated both Gilmer and Buckhannon in recent play. The Knights began both games in much the same way and finished strong in both.

Although they started slowly in their 52-21 game against Gilmer last week, the Knights took command of the game midway through the first quarter and held a strong lead throughout the game. After three minutes of play, neither team showed much offense, and Braxton led 4-3. That lack of offense didn’t last long, according to Knights’ Coach Drew Taylor.

“After that point, we picked up the intensity of our defense which caused turnovers,” Coach Taylor said. As a result, the Knights went on a 13-0 run and went into the second quarter up 17-3. Braxton continued the strong defense and held Gilmer to single digits in the first half.

At halftime, the Knights led by as score of 27-8.

The coaches used more of their bench in the third quarter. Coach Taylor noted that after three minutes of the third, all of his players were rotating into the game. The Knights led 32-14 after three quarters, when the bench players took over and closed out the game.

Evaluating the game, Coach Taylor said that he was “very proud of our defensive efforts in that game and pleased with how we consistently made layups as opposed to previous games.” He added, “I was also proud of how balanced our scoring was.”

Against Gilmer, Ashton Stewart scored 14 points to lead the team. Other scoring included Remington Huffman with 2, Brady Toler 8, Landon Hart 8, Braeden Godfrey 5, Ryan Stalnaker 4, Gavin Dean 2, Deklan Meadows 7, and Eli McCallister 2.

The Knights scored a 41-29 victory over Buck-

hannon. Coach Taylor mentioned that once again the team started slowly but still held their opponent scoreless in the first quarter and were up 7-0 going into the second. Braxton’s defense stayed strong the rest of the first half although the offense was still slow, and they led 13-7 at halftime.

In an effort to motivate his offense, Coach Taylor “preached ‘Keep shooting’” at halftime. His efforts obviously worked as the Knights led 31-11 at the end of the third. The Braxton defense closed out Buckhannon’s comeback effort in the force and came away with a 41-29 win. Coach Taylor said he “was pleased defensively” but added, “We need more consistent starts.”

Toler and Stewart led Braxton scoring. Toler put in 19 points and Stewart added 10. Hart scored 6, Huffman 3, and Stalnaker 3.

In the next game, Braxton will host Summersville Jan. 5.

Commission Contributes to County Fire Departments

The Braxton County Commission gave the county’s seven fire departments an early Christmas gift at their regular meeting last Friday, December 16. Commission President Lisa Godwin outlined the terms of the donation. She stated that the Commission was very appreciative of how the county volunteer fire departments had stepped up during the pandemic in so many ways including helping the ambulance service. She went on to say that since the COVID crisis had also interfered with much of their individual fund-raising events for the past two years the Commission felt it was appropriate to contribute \$10,000 to each department from the American Revenue Plan (ARP) Lost Revenue Funding.

In making the contributions, the Commission laid out four broad categories which the funds were to be expended: Swift water rescue equipment; Technical rescue equipment; Extrication equipment or toward UTV’s to be used in rescue and wilderness fire/rescue operations. Any other

manner would have to be individually approved by the Commission upon request.

The meeting began with John Hoffman reviewing the written report of his agencies’ activities. That report showed 2,105 calls coming into Braxton Control. Those calls generated 647 emergency responses. Of those, 395 were for police agencies, 95 for fire department and 159 for EMS.

During the meeting the Commission read and approved three resolutions. The first will declare an end to the COVID 19 related State of Emergency at the end of December. The second resolution allocated \$250,000 of the county’s ARP monies to match a LWCF Grant for improvements at Holly Gray Park. The third was the adoption of the Commercial Dog Breeders Ordinance.

In other action, a motion by Larry Clifton approved the short form settlements for Jerald David Hoover and Ruth K Ricci as presented by the Fiduciary Supervisor.

It was also Clifton who made a motion to approve

the applications for correction of erroneous assessments for Creston Hacker, Sue Nuzum and Larry & Patricia Ware.

Commission President Lisa Godwin questioned the Sheriff about a bill from Mid-State Chevy for \$2,249.40 for routine service and 4 tires for a police cruiser. Action on that purchase order was tabled pending an explanation.

A request to appoint Megan Stout as county Animal Control Officer was tabled as information pertaining to the appointment had not been received for the Prosecuting Attorney.

Clifton introduced a motion to authorize the use of the county credit card to pay for fees and room rent for the West Virginia Association of Counties Convention in February. The registration fee is \$235 per commissioner, \$129 per night room reservation plus parking.

Laurel Petolicchio spoke to the commission concerning the Big Foot Festival set for the last Saturday of June. She re-

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Braxton Newspapers Announce Christmas Bonanza Winners

The final task before the Citizens’ News/Braxton Democrat-Central staff, began their Christmas holiday, was the selection of the winners of the annual Christmas Bonanza contest. Thanks to the generosity and support of the participating merchants five lucky area residents each received \$50 Go-Mart gift certificates.

The five winners selected were: Terry Dean of Heaters, Anna Dodrill of Little Birch, Christine Taylor of Gasaway, Argle Townsend of Napier, and Amanda Wine of Sutton.

Braxton Newspapers publisher, Ed Given, stated that, as in the past, a large number of entries were received during the contest period which encouraged local residents to shop at home. “It is always important to shop at home as locally owned businesses are the biggest contributors to our community. We would like to thank all those who participated in the event. We congratulate the winners and thank the fine merchants and business professionals who made the sweepstakes possible, particularly Go-Mart for partnering with us in this venture,” he added.

In addition to Go-Mart, the sponsoring merchants included:

Bad Axe Bistro, Mountain Laurel Country Store, Peoples Bank, Family Furniture, Mid-

State Chevrolet, Lloyds Hardware, Sutton Moose Lodge, and Little Caesars Pizza.



BN Production Manager, Jennifer Lloyd (Left) presents a \$50 gift card to Christine Taylor.



Jennifer Lloyd presents Amanada Wine with her prize for winning the Christmas Bonanza Contest.

Board of Education Holds Last Meeting of This Year

The Braxton County Board of Education conducted their last meeting of 2022 on December 20.

Superintendent Dr. Rhonda Combs gave a brief update on professional learning. She told the Board she has been visiting schools and even attended a couple of the Christmas programs and basketball games. Dr. Combs briefly touched on the issue with getting and retaining personnel.

Head Start Director Christina Bailey provided a policy council report on Head Start and conducted the board orientation on the program. She discussed the monthly meetings for the policy council and what was discussed at those meeting. Director Bailey also discussed meetings she attends concerning changes in legislation pertaining to the Head Start program. She reviewed the number of students in the her program and activities provided. She also discussed issues faced by students in getting to school and learning, including the af-

fects of poverty.

Under regular business the board approved the following consent agenda items on a motion by Dr. Kenna Seal: December 6 meeting minutes; transportation requests; treasurer’s report; payment of bills; and budget transfers and supplements.

Dr. Seal noted a clarification to the minutes. He also spoke about the payment of bills and the purchase of new furniture for the superintendent’s office.

The board approved the following professional and extra-curricular personnel recommendations on a motion by Larry Hardway: the retirement of Teresa Childers, principal, Burnsville Elementary School. the employment for Sheryl Grace Wine, principal, Burnsville ES, James Huffman, \$1 wrestling coach, BCMS, and Nathan Smarr, \$1 wrestling coach, BCMS.

Board President Evelyn Post questioned the position of the principal at Little Birch and the ef-

fect on student learning.

Dr. Combs said the position would be posted and hopefully a qualified candidate will be available to step in. She also discussed the need to increase staff at Little Birch Elementary for the student/teacher ratios being short by federal guidelines. She is working on clarification on when that will need to take place and will report back to the Board.

The fundraisers were approved as presented on a motion by Lisa Ratliff.

On a motion by Dr. Seal, the board approved permission to pay bills before the January 10 meeting to avoid late charges.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 10 at 6:00 pm. As always, members of the Braxton County community are encouraged to attend regular board meetings. Anyone wishing to speak as a delegate or with public concerns may do so by signing in up to 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

Braxton Magistrate Report

Magistrate Beth Smith

December 26: Timothy James Wilt of Weston, domestic assault, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$2000 cash or surety; Bryonna Lee Schartiger of Craigsville, contraband into jail x3, preliminary hearing

waived, transferred to circuit court.

Magistrate David Singleton

December 20: Jonathan David Smith of Frametown, DUI, dismissed, state does not wish to pursue charges; Sarah Beth Stump of Sut-

ton, disorderly conduct, guilty plea, possession of a controlled substance, dismissed per plea, obstructing an officer, dismissed per plea.

Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs

What a great Christmas season and the week leading up to Christmas Day! We had snow for the holidays, but it was one of the coldest on record in the past 40 years. The storm also brought down power lines in many areas and, as of this writing on Sunday evening, there are several thousand West Virginia homes that remain without electricity, including about one hundred in Gilmer and Braxton Counties. The high winds and extreme cold made it difficult and hazardous for Mon Power workers to restore service, but they made remarkable progress under adverse weather conditions.

In addition to Mon Power workers, we also owe a debt of gratitude to workers with all our public utilities; our first responders; health-care workers; our state DOH crews keeping roads treated under adverse conditions; and all workers – public and private – that are vital to keeping the economy running, despite the adverse weather and holiday weekend. That’s dedication that we should all recognize and commend. I’m sure they would have rather been home with family and friends.

I hope each of you enjoyed the season with family and friends, but the weather kept many families from traveling. I’ll admit that I’m less likely to stay in during the extreme cold than most, as I can vividly recall checking the thermometer while working in Cowen, Erbacon, Allingdale, Pickens and other railroad work locations through the years. It wasn’t uncommon for the mercury to drop in the -10

to -20 degree range from time to time. However, the railroad expected you to keep the trains running, regardless of weather conditions. In my old work car, I carried a section of cardboard behind the seat, cut to just the right size to place between the grill and radiator when temperatures became extreme. That kept the gas line from freezing and provided a little heat in the vehicle.

On that note, exercise caution this week, as the extreme freezing temperatures and rain in the forecast is likely to loosen and dislodge rocks, trees, slips, and slides along our secondary roads.

When the 2023 session begins in just a couple weeks, here’s an issue to watch. Over the past few years, West Virginia has settled lawsuits with several multi-billion-dollar corporations over opioid distribution methods and the addiction and death it has brought to our counties and communities. The sum that is available for appropriation is approximately one billion dollars. Cities and counties will receive a share of the funds, but the majority will be controlled by the State in a fund to address the opioid crisis over the long run. Let’s hope the funding is used to address the root causes of opioid abuse, addiction, and for better and more local treatment options.

It’s also likely that a significant amount to counties can be used for paying regional jail bills. Depending on the amount that counties will receive, it could free up a significant amount of funds currently budgeted to regional jail per diem

payments by counties.

It’s critical that the Legislature keep a firm grip on these funds and not allow the AG to dictate where or how it will be spent. It’s important to remember that the Legislature holds the power of the purse. They should not cede power to the executive branch or any constitutional officer on matters of budget and finance.

Finally, as we draw to the end of 2022, the New Year is beginning to loom large, like the light at the end of a railroad tunnel. It’s always exciting to anticipate what the coming year will hold for each of us, our families, our State, and nation. As my twenty-six years in the Legislature will be ending in the not-too-distant future, I’ll still be writing; still working to keep you informed and helping in any way I can. My focus in this off-time will be family: Jean, our kids, grandkids, and especially my parents, as we assist them during this difficult time when ang and health issues become more than they can handle on their own. Meanwhile, we’ll be keeping options open, as you never know what the future holds.

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. From our family to yours, Happy New Year!

Until next week, take care.

(Little) Cogar

Patricia Ann (Little) Cogar, 56, of Webster Springs passed away on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at Webster Memorial Hospital.

Born May 25, 1966, she was the daughter of the late Clayton and Louise (Perrine) Little. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Charles Edward Little; her stepfather, Harold Taylor, and brother-in-law, Bill Westfall.

She was very good at cooking and baking, and enjoyed doing that.

Left to cherish her memory are her children: Christopher Cogar of Diana, Vanessa (husband, Arden) Norman of Webster Springs, and Whitney (companion, Robert) Cogar of GA; brother, Forrest Little of Cherry Falls; sisters: Jacqueline Westfall of Diana, Mary (husband, Lorenzo) Jackson of KS,

Commission...

Continued from Page 1
quested permission to again use the Courthouse lawn and parking area. She also requested Police presence. President Godwin told her the Commission didn’t see a problem with the event but would need her to fill out the proper paperwork for action at a future meeting. She was also instructed to discuss the law enforcement issue with the Sheriff who was present at the meeting and indicated that would not be a problem and they would get together and discuss the details.

April Lloyd, Admin-

and Sharlie (husband, James) Butler of KY; companion, Kevin Cogar; and one expectant grandchild, whom she was excited to welcome.

In keeping with Patty’s wishes, she will be cremated and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

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

Carala Evonne Carr “Aunt Pretty”

Carala Evonne Carr “Aunt Pretty”, crossed over to be with her Lord and Savior December 19, 2022. She was the daughter of the late William E. Carr and Carmen Cox Zubricky and was born at Gassaway February 28, 1956. Carala was a Gospel believing Baptist by faith and a retired nurse.

She was also preceded in death by brothers William E. Wallace and William Neal Carr.

Surviving: Sisters Kimberly DeBolt (Robert) Canvas Mary Jo Monogan Georgia Aunt Pretty loved her nieces Jennifer McMillion and Julie Wallace, and her nephew John Wallace.

The loved ones of her life were her great niece Bryar Grave Redden and her two great nephews Ty Michael Redden and Drew Neal McMillion.

Her body was cremated. A memorial service will be held at a later date. The Waters Funeral Chapel in Summersville was in charge of arrangements.

Condolences: watersfuneralchapel.com

Pauline Ann Jones

Pauline Ann Jones, 80, of Ivydale, WV passed away on December 21, 2022. She was born on May 14, 1942 in Rome, New York to parents Alonza and Mary Piersall.

Pauline is preceded in death by her parents; husband: Robert “Bob” Jones whom she was married to for 47-years and brother: Kenneth Piersall.

Pauline and husband Bob went on many adventures together and enjoyed camping. She also loved playing bingo and spending time with family and friends. Pauline was a member of the Homemakers Club, Northern Star and a Christian by faith.

She is survived by her son; Eric Jones; daughter Kandace Dennison and husband Tim; grandchildren: Shania Jones, Ali-

son Jones, Eric Jones, John Smarr (Amanda), Stephanie Smarr, Heather Smarr-Moss (Travis), Elizabeth Dennison Wyant and Caitlin Dennison; great grandchildren: Killian Jones, Ryan Friend, Nicholas Friend, Jayden Smarr, and Kaydence Moss; brother: Bob Piersall and beloved dog and companion, Koda Bear.

The family would like to thank the staff at Clay Health Care Center, where Pauline was a resident, for their excellent care and compassion.

Service will be held on Thursday, December 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Pastor Daniel Tanner will be officiating the service. Visitation will be on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 from 4:00-6:00 PM. Burial will follow at West Virginia National Cemetery, Grafton, WV.

Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the family of Pauline Jones.

Stanley Scott Reckart

Scott Reckart 66, of Bruceton Mills, WV, passed away on Friday, December 16, 2022, at his residence. The son of Stanley E. and Pat-

sy Reckart, he was born on April 4, 1956, in Weston, WV.

A Veteran of the United States Navy, Scott enjoyed hunting, fishing and a round of golf. However, his greatest love was music. He was a musician and was happiest when he was strumming a tune.

In addition to his mother, Scott is survived by two children, Samuel and Olivia Reckart, of Bruceton Mills; and two sisters, Patti Radabaugh and Kimberly Bohon, both of Jane Lew, WV.

He was proceeded in death by his father and an infant son, Ryan Addison Reckart.

Scott’s request was to be cremated and to have no public service.

The Carl R. Spear Funeral Home in Brandonville-Bruceton Mills, WV, will be assisting the family with arrangements.

Aaron Labe Bennett

Aaron Labe Bennett, 79 of Glenville, WV; (Cam-

d e n Fl a t s) departed this earthly life on Monday, December 19, 2022

at the Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV; following and extended illness.

He was born November 12, 1943 in Normantown, WV; son of the late Dorsey and Thelma Conrad Bennett.

Aaron worked in the construction industry since he was 13 years of age until his retirement and was very proud of his trade. In his spare time, Aaron enjoyed hunting and spending time with family and friends and spoiling his grandchildren and great-grandchildren whenever possible.

On September 6, 1964 Aaron was united in marriage to Lenora Reaser Bennett with whom he was married for 58 years and who survives at their Camden Flats home.

Surviving are 2 sons, Dorsey Lee Bennett of Cedarville, WV; and Aaron Labe Bennett Jr., of Glen-

ville, and 3 siblings, Betty Montgomery, Ivy Burns, and Winnie Cunningham.

Also surviving are 3 grandchildren, Lisa Jean Hardman, Ian Jacob Bennett, and Ahnaleah Bennett, 1 step-grandchild, Anthony Harper, 2 great-grandchildren, Lucas Charles Hardman and Waylon Aaron Bennett, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and many other wonderful family and friends.

Along with his parents, Aaron is preceded in death by a daughter, Donna Jean Bennett, 3 sisters, Mary, Suzanna and Corrina, and brothers, Ezra, Cecil, Shirley, and Delnore.

Aaron’s request for cremation has been honored and a celebration of his life will be conducted by the family at a later date.

Ellyson Mortuary, Inc., is honored to assist the family of Aaron Labe Bennett with cremation arrangements.

Mary Susan Carr

Mary Susan Carr, 80, of Frametown, WV passed away on Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

She was born October 8, 1942 to the late Coy Benjamin Short and Ruth Elmore Short. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Grattan Carr; brother, Carl Short; and her son-in-law, Rocky King.

Mary Susan graduated from Gassaway High School. She was an employee of Kroger company for many years from which she retired. She was a Christian who loved the Lord. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, and cousin. Mary Susan was a strong, kind, and caring woman loved by all in the community. She will be greatly missed.

She will be forever remembered by her son, Ashley (Penny) Carr of Frametown; daughters, Leica King of Frametown and Christina Carr of Chagrin Falls, OH; grandchildren James (Erin) King, Casey (Jesse) Wood, Corey Carr, Stephen and William Hamm; great grandchildren, Jaycee, Joseph and Julian Wood and Laney and Levi King; brother, Terry (Shirley) Short of Upper Sleith; sisters, Janette McCourt of Upper Sleith and Oneda (Frank Ed) Schiefer also of Upper Sleith; and several nieces and nephews.

Mary Susan’s visitation will be 6 to 8 P.M. Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV.

Her funeral will be 11 A.M. Wednesday, December 28, 2022, at the funeral home with Pastor Robey Godfrey officiating. Her burial will follow in the Carr-Dickey Cemetery, Big Run Hill, Frametown, WV.

Special thanks to Mickey Priest for her compassionate care of Mary Susan.

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

Corky Griffith

April 19, 1939 - December 16, 2022

“Hey Jack!!” More than likely, this would have been your first interaction with Corky Griffith. He knew most everyone, *Please turn to*

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Obituaries

Denzil Brown

Denzil Brown, 78 of Rock Cave, passed away on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at his home. He was born April 10, 1944 in Braxton County to the late Glenna Brown and John Smith and was a logger and timber cutter.

He loved to hunt and fish; and enjoyed going to church at Canaan Community Church and Buckhannon Union Mission Church.

Denzil is survived by his wife Pam Tenney Brown; children Oliver D. Brown, Edith Bickel, Burna (Randy) Garvin, Della Brown, John Brown, Goldie Tenney, and Vickie Brown; step-children Ronda, Pam, Toby, Timmy and Tommy Finlen; grandchildren Mike and

Chris Bickel, Michelle Cutright, Shelly Brown, and Mikayla Holley; three sisters; one brother; and several extended family and friends to mourn his passing.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife Corabell Brown; second wife Della Bickel Brown; and brother Bill Brown.

Funeral Services to celebrate Denzil’s life will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 11:00 AM at Dodd & Reed Funeral Home, Webster Springs with Pastor Jerry Lee and Pastor Dennis Estes officiating. Friends may join the family for visitation from 10:30 till time of service at the Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Cogar Cemetery, Guardian.

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

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

Patricia Ann

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Nik Salvo of Frametown, Middle, Paul Gillespie, Commander, Johnny Tharpe of Sutton.

American Legion's Good Year

Commander Paul Gillespie of American Legion Braxton Post 33 reflected on 2022, "We experienced a good year. First, we continued our monthly meetings for veterans.

"We had a successful raffle to help up continue serving veterans and our community. We enjoyed the Veterans Day parade and dinner. Our member, Ray Strader, was the parade grand marshal.

"We enjoyed a Christmas dinner, courtesy of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and we inducted two new members.

"Our first monthly meeting in the new year will be Monday, January 2, 7 p.m. in the Braxton County Senior Citizens Center. All veterans are welcome.

We look forward to 2023 because of the support we receive from the good folks of Braxton County."



Ray Strader, Parade Grand Marshall

Dog Tails: Stories from the Braxton County Animal Shelter

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

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

There is no charge to surrender a dog, but donations toward their care are appreciated. Adoptions are \$149.00 for male dogs and \$169.00 for female dogs, and include spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, parvo/distemper vaccination, kennel cough vaccination, flea treatment and deworming. No dog will leave the shelter unfixed and we are very



willing to work with reputable 501c3 rescues.

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

Lem (black and white male) and **Lia** (tan and white female)

These siblings are 13

week old pit mixes looking for a brand new, loving forever home. They are very sweet, affectionate and playful and will likely be bigger dogs

Thank you for being kind to animals and as always, thank you for supporting our furry friends!

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, French

Fries, Coleslaw, Fruit. Wednesday 11 Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Corn Pudding, Dinner Roll, Fruit. Thursday 12 Open Face Turkey Sandwich, Stuffing, Green Beans, Fruit. Friday 13 Pepperoni Roll, Tomato Soup with Cheddar Cheese, Crackers, Fruit. Monday 16 Holiday. Center Closed. Tuesday 17 Chicken Alfredo, Peas, Garlic Bread, Garlic Salad, Fruit. Wednesday 18 Beef Vegetable Soup, Cornbread, Broccoli Casserole, Fruit. Thursday 19 Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Dinner Roll, Pea Salad,

Fruit. Friday 20 Great Northern Beans, Cornbread, Beets, Fruit. Monday 23 Chili, Sweet Potatoes, Crackers, Fruit. Tuesday 24 Baked Fish, Macaroni and Cheese, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit. Wednesday 25 Chicken Ala King, Rice, Dinner Role, Fruit. Thursday 26 Breakfast Bake, Hash Browns, Biscuits, Spiced Apples. Friday 27 Spaghetti with Meatballs, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Fruit. Monday 30 Hot Dog with Chili, Tater Tots, Coleslaw, Fruit. Tuesday 31 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Fruit.

A Christmas Moment

By: Joseph J. Mazzella

It was a rainy, December day 30 years ago. A cold hung in the air that chilled you to the bones. I was even wishing the temperature would drop a few more degrees so at least it would snow. My wife and I were standing in a line at a volunteer fire department building with our two year old daughter, Beth. It was going to be her first time meeting Santa and my wife had brought her camera along to catch the moment.

When Santa finally appeared with his bag of gifts most of the other younger children backed away in fear at this strange man with a big white beard and red suit. My daughter

didn't, however. She wasn't scared at all. I think it was because one of her grandpas had a beard even bushier than Santa's. Instead she literally jumped up and down with joy in a little circle almost coming out of her snow boots in the process. Seeing her happiness Santa approached her first.

"Ho Ho Ho! What do you want for Christmas little girl," he asked. Beth didn't say anything. She just reached up and gave Santa the biggest hug in the world. My wife laughed and I smiled seeing this beautiful moment of Christmas love. And all of the sudden that cold, damp firehouse seemed warm and bright. Or

perhaps it was just all of us being filled with the spirit of Christmas by watching my little girl share her love and delight.

These days my little girl is 32 but I still enjoy every warm, loving, hug she gives me and I still carry that Christmas moment in my heart and mind to warm me any time this world seems too cold or bleak. It keeps my soul on the big picture. It keeps my heart on Love.

Margot Silk Forrest wrote, "The big picture is nothing more than a million moments all strung together." May all of your moments then be full of the spirit of Christmas. May all of your moments be full of Love. And may God live through you in them all.

A Quiet Christmas

By: Jeanette Riffle

We have been in a few days because of weather and warnings to stay off the roads unless it was necessary. Weather has put a hold on Christmas for some of us. We are still waiting on our son and granddaughter to come down from Michigan. They got ready to come down this morning and got up to a big snow. Also, we heard that there was snow blowing across the road on Rt. 250 over in the farm lands of Ohio, making it slick to drive on. They will come tomorrow, December 26th if the weather permits. This has happened before. And, like I always say, "Better safe than sorry."

Church was canceled today at Rosedale

Baptist due to weather and people away visiting with loved ones at Christmas time. We have enjoyed Christmas shows on big screen TV and I get the church services of some of my relatives on line. They show up in my notifications and I can click on them and go there. Cousin, Scotty Stewart ,is song leader at Pleasant View Baptist Church of Parkersburg, and nephew, Jared Brock Fitzwater, is youth pastor of Rock Grove Baptist Church of Lewis County. Cousin Leary Vanhorn is pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church in Elizabeth, WV.

We put our dog in the garage by the stove and he didn't like it until he was taken out on a leash to go potty and that ice

and snow hurt his feet. He tried to raise two feet at a time to get out of it and that was a funny sight. When he saw how cold that wind chill was and how iced up his feet got, he was glad to get back in by the fire and on his good warm dogie bed.

We just heard a long range forecast for next Friday and Saturday. It is supposed to be in mid 60's.

That will feel likes spring broke, but we are sure ready for it. A few snow flurries are possible tomorrow, Monday, December 26th , but not supposed to amount to anything, though. I hope everyone had a very nice Christmas and until next week, take care and may the good Lord bless and keep you in his care. We will have our Christmas when the kids get here.

Just One Generation: Kitty Korner Adoptable Cats



Just One Generation cat rescue was formed in 2013 to help address the severe feline overpopulation problem in our area.

All of our adoptable cats and kittens are looking for indoor homes, and are litter box trained, social, have been vaccinated, dewormed, and received topical flea protection.

Spay/neuter/rabies is included with our modest adoption fee of \$45,

and older kittens and cats may already be done at the time of placement.

If you have given thoughtful consideration to welcoming a lifelong companion into your home, you might want to consider one of our three latest arrivals. They were born on October 14 and are currently nine weeks old. They will receive initial FVRCP vaccine, deworming, and topical flea protection with Revolution

Plus. Their spay/neuter and rabies vaccine at age four months included with their modest adoption fee for local adopters.

More adoptable animals can be viewed on petfinder.com by entering a search for CATS at location 26623, or by LIKING our Facebook page .

Additional information can be obtained by calling Sally Stewart at 304-364-4136.

ROACH FUNERAL HOME

PROUDLY SERVING SINCE 1975

Our goal is to give the families that we serve, a warm and relaxed home to come to at a difficult time - when compassion, sincerity and professionalism are paramount.

Ryan M. Roach, LIC

708 Braxton St.
Gassaway, WV 26624
304-364-2231



LEGAL NOTICES

Braxton Democrat-Central, Page 4
December 29, 2022



Notice Of Intent To Escheat 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

NOTICE TO REDEEM

2021-S-00000052 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: RODNEY GREATHOUSE, SUZZANE GREATHOUSE, TIF-FANY GREATHOUSE, ROD-NEY GREATHOUSE, SUZ-ZANE GREATHOUSE, TIFFANY GREATHOUSE, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, suc-cessors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduci-aries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delin-quent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT BIRCH
MAP 4L PARCEL 0006 0000
You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Cer-tificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000052, 114.53AC STEER CREEK SUR-FACE, located in BIRCH, which was returned delinquent in the name of GREATHOUSE ROD-NEY &/OR, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows:
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023.-\$1,931.53
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023.-\$1,767.62
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$1,190.35
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$398.56
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of

Braxton County. -\$5,288.06
Cost of Certification of Redem-ption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor. -\$35.00
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Build- ing 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM

2021-S-00000053 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: RYAN PRINCE, RYAN PRINCE, ANGELA PRINCE, ANGELA PRINCE, RYAN PRINCE, ANGELA PRINCE, RYAN PRINCE, ANGELA, RYAN PRINCE, ANGELA PRINCE, OC- CUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, credi- tors, representatives, suc-cessors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduci-aries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delin-quent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT BIRCH
MAP 6Q PARCEL 0026 0000
You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000053, 4.75AC DIADDA, located in BIRCH, which was re- turned delinquent in the name of PRINCE RYAN D &/OR ANGELA C, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows:
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023. -\$838.36
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023. -\$698.38
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$1,200.59
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$522.84
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County. -\$3,260.17
Cost of Certification of Redem-ption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor. -\$35.00
You may redeem at any time

before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM

2021-S-00000054 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: JEAN BALLENGEE DIVERS, JEAN BALLENGEE DIVERS, JOSEPH BALLENGEE, JAMES BALLENGEE, RICHARD MCKEE, JEAN BALLENGEE DIVERS, JOSEPH BALLENGEE, JAMES BALLENGEE, JAMES BALLE- GEE, RICHARD MCKEE, RICH-ARD MCKEE, RICHARD MCKEE, RICHARD MCKEE, RICHARD MCKEE, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, credi- tors, representatives, suc-cessors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduci-aries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delin-quent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT BIRCH
MAP 9999 PARCEL 0001 4250
You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Cer- tificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000054, 85AC OG N S ELK, located in BIRCH, which was returned delin-quent in the name of DIVERS JEAN BALLENGEE ETAL, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delin-quent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows:
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023. -\$113.61
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023. -\$18.44
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$1,210.84
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$1,337.12
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County. -\$2,680.01
Cost of Certification of Redem-ption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor. -\$35.00
You may redeem at any time be- fore March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Build- ing 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM

2021-S-00000055 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: CHARLES FRAME HRS, CHARLES FRAME HRS, CHARLES JARRETT FRAME, JR., ELIZABETH PAINTIFF, RUS-SELL PAINTIFF, JR, ELIZABETH PAINTIFF, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, credi- tors, representatives, suc-cessors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduci-aries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delin-quent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT BIRCH
MAP 9999 PARCEL 0002 0200
You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Cer- tificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000055, COG 44.75 AC STUMBO, located in BIRCH, which was returned delinquent in the name of FRAME CHARLES HRS, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as pro- vided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows:
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023. -\$109.70
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023. -\$14.82
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$1,084.87
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$754.99
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County. -\$1,964.38
Cost of Certification of Redem-ption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor. -\$35.00
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Build- ing 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM

2021-S-00000056 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: CHARLES FRAME HRS, CHARLES FRAME HRS, CHARLES JARRETT FRAME, JR., ELIZABETH PAINTIFF, RUS-

SELL PAINTIFF, JR., ELIZABETH PAINTIFF, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, credi- tors, representatives, suc-cessors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduci-aries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delin-quent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT BIRCH
MAP 9999 PARCEL 0002 0210

You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Cer- tificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000056, OG 44 AC STUMBO RUN, locat- ed in BIRCH, which was returned delinquent in the name of FRAME CHARLES HRS, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as pro- vided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows:
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023. -\$103.99
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023. -\$9.58
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$1,084.87
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$888.56
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County. -\$2,087.00
Cost of Certification of Redem-ption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor. -\$35.00
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Build- ing 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM

2021-S-00000060 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: VICTOR SHINGLER JR, VIC- TOR SHINGLER JR, CHERYLE SHINGLER, VICTOR SHINGLER JR, CHERYLE SHINGLER, OC- CUPANT, VICTOR SHINGLER, CHERYLE SHINGLER, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLI- DATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, repre- sentatives, successors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, admin- istrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent prop- erty, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT HOLLY
MAP 9T PARCEL 0031 0002

Pratt, Madelyne Owen Smith, and Andrew Owen; six great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; son-in-law, John Owen of McKenney; daughter-in-law, Tina Snellings Pratt; sister-in-law, Jeannette Curtis (William); and sis- ter-in-law, Marge Kuhl of Medina, OH; sister-in-law, Vicki Kuhl of Medina, OH; and brother-in-law, Jerry Brooks of North Lima, OH.

The family received friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at the Chester Chapel of J.T. Morriss & Son Funeral Home. A funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, December 9, 2022, at the funeral home. Inter- ment was private. In lieu of flowers, memorial con- tributions may be donat- ed to Fellowship Baptist Church, 2154 Coxendale Rd., Chester, VA 23831. Condolences may be reg- istered at www.jtmorriss.com.

William L. Smith

William L. Smith, 81 of Glenville, WV; departed this earthly life in the af- ternoon hours of Monday, December 19, 2022 at the Genesis Health Care Glen- ville Center, following an extended illness.

He was born March 11, 1941 in Portsmouth, VA; son of the late James and Gladys Smith.

William is a graduate of

P A R C E L 0031 0001
You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Cer- tificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000060, .37AC CARPENTERS FORK, located in HOLLY, which was returned delinquent in the name of SHINGLER VICTOR B JR &/OR, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as provided by law, un- less before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows:
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023. -\$881.96
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023. -\$743.92
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$1,153.35
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023. -\$442.13
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County. -\$3,221.36
Cost of Certification of Redem-ption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor. -\$35.00
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Build- ing 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM

2021-S-00000061 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: VICTOR SHINGLER JR, CHERYLE SHINGLER, VICTOR SHIN- GLER JR, CHERYLE SHIIN- GLER, OCCUPANT, CHERYLE SHINGLER, VICTOR SHINGLER JR, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CON- SOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, suc-cessors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardi-ans, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co- owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delin-quent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT HOLLY
MAP 9T PARCEL 0031 0002
You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Cer- tificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000061, .112AC CARPENTERS FORK, located in HOLLY, which was returned delinquent in the name of SHINGLER VICTOR B JR &/OR, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for

Please turn to **NOTICE** page 5

Churchland High School in Portsmouth, VA; he worked as a Millwright in manufacturing for many years and enjoyed being artistic and spending time with family and friends.

Surviving are 5 chil- dren, Johnathan Smith (Lori) of Cottageville, WV; Robin Benson of Raven- swood, WV; Mary Beth Witkowski (Jason) of Ma- son County, WV; Bobby Smith (Darlene) and Billy Smith of Kenna, WV; and 4 siblings, Mary Smith of Kingsland, GA; Betty Weth of Saint Mary's, GA; Ellen Hollowell of Eden- ton, NC; and Raymond Smith (Mary) of Ahoskie, NC.

Also surviving are 7 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many other wonder- ful family and friends.

Along with his par- ents, William is preceded in death by 9 siblings, Barbara Hendrix, Shirley Marshall, Bobby Smith, Daniel Smith, Francis Rodgers, Gladys Garris, James Marshall Smith, Richard Smith, and Frank Smith.

Williams request for cremation has been hon- ored and a celebration of his life will be conducted later in 2023.

Ellyson Mortuary, Inc., is honored to assist the family of William L. Smith with cremation arrange- ments.

being planned for Decem- ber 29th. Venue to be de- termined.

Corky donated his body to the West Virgin- ia University School of Medicine. In lieu of flow- ers, please donate to your local high school athletic program. Corky would love that.

Wanda Kuhl Pratt

Wanda Kuhl Pratt, 83, of Chester, passed away



on Mon- day, De- cember 5, 2022. Born in Copen, WV, she was the daugh- ter of the late, Archie Glen Kuhl and Naomi Davis Kuhl. She was also preceded in death by her son, Rich- ard Pratt; and daughter, Cathy Owen.

Wanda was a long-time employee of Estes Express Lines, as an office clerk. She served as the Middle District Christmas Store Coordinator for 20 years. She was a faithful mem- ber of Fellowship Baptist Church, where she served as Music Director for 25 years, and as their Mis- sions Director. She also volunteered with the VA Baptist Disaster Group.

Wanda is survived by her beloved husband, Kenneth Pratt; grandchil- dren, Derek Pratt, Dustin

laski County HS, Nicholas County HS, Salem Col- lege, Stewarts Draft HS, Hinton HS and finally, he ended his coaching career back in the coal fields of Logan, WV...full Circle. Over this illustrious career he polished his “story-tell- ing” skills.

It’s been said that he once entered the best liars contest but was disquali- fied because they didn’t rate professionals.

Coaching kept him young and vibrant until his 84th year. He brought laughter, life, and love to most everyone he en- countered, especially the two who could do no wrong and never had to run sprints: Kala Jane and Tanner Ray, his grandchil- dren. If nothing else, he nearly always would tell an inappropriate joke at the absolute inappropri- ate time. He was loved by many, cussed by some and always left a lasting impression wherever he landed. No doubt he will be missed!

LOVE YA AND I MEAN IT!!!!

He was preceded in death by parents Ray and Freda Griffith, and his sisters Dawn Rae, Toby, Gwen and Pat and wife Ramona Jane Frame. He is survived by wife Pam, son Wes, sister Sally and brother Gary, and grand- children Kala Jane and Tanner Ray.

A celebration of life is

his story telling, as well.

First year coaches in those days did a little of every- thing. He was an assis- tant football coach, head wrestling coach, freshman basketball coach and head baseball coach. All of this and a single parent to a young son (Wes). Thank goodness for his sisters and all the help with the youngster.

His success and the ability to network allowed him the opportunity to move to the Kanawha Valley for a coaching po- sition in the best high school conference (KVC) in the state. This is where the legend began: Head coach of the DuPont High School Panthers. He was fortunate enough to have coached many great ath- letes and shape the lives of many a young man. He was a tough coach but fair. One particular player once said, “that boot camp was much easier than an August with Corky”. He also was fortunate enough to have coached his son, Wes. Once Wes had com- pleted his high school ath- letics, Corky became the coaching vagabond: Have whistle will travel.

Multiple stops from 1983 until his retirement. Murray State University, Braxton County HS, Pu-

Obituaries

OBITS

Continued from page 2

or at least acted like he did. There was a good chance that while making you smile and laugh, he was mulling over exactly what your name was.

Born to a coal miner's family, in the thriving me- tropolis of Widen, WV, he honed his athletic skills and social abilities in that cultural mecca. At the ten- der age of 15, the family packed their bags for the big city...Gassaway, WV! Must have been “culture shock” with all that elec- tricity, running water and all.

Corky's love of athlet- ics and coaching was his vision for a way out of the coal fields. He was a great football/baseball player, and he turned that abili- ty into a scholarship to Sa- lem College. This was just the beginning of a long road to a degree and a coaching position. He still holds the WV record for most colleges attended to attain a bachelor's degree. And...it only took 9 years.

His world-famous coaching career began in the fall of 1968 at Ripley High School. Probably, this is where he worked on

NOTICE continued from Page 4

the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows: Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023.-\$124.14
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023.-\$16.27
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$1,153.35
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$398.56
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County.-\$1,692.32
Cost of Certification of Redemption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.-\$35.00
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2021-S-00000062 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: VICTOR SHINGLER JR, CHERYLE SHINGLER, VICTOR SHINGLER JR, VICTOR SHINGLER JR, CHERLYE SHINGLER, OCCUPANT, CHERYLE SHINGLER, VICTOR SHINGLER JR, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT HOLLY
MAP 9T PARCEL 00031 0003
You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s)

on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000062, .0594AC CARPENTERS FORK, located in HOLLY, which was returned delinquent in the name of SHINGLER VICTOR B JR &/OR, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows: Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023.-\$99.49
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023.-\$5.43
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$1,153.35
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$442.13
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County.-\$1,700.40
Cost of Certification of Redemption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.-\$35.00
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM2021-S-00000068 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: EARNEST HERRON, EARNEST HERRON, EARNEST HERRON, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest

in the subject property.
DISTRICT OTTER
MAP 7 P A R C E L 0001 0000
You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000068, J A GROSE SUB 1 LOTS 69 70 71 72 300.0 X 250.0 X 3, located in OTTER, which was returned delinquent in the name of HERRON EARNEST LEE, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows: Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023.-\$463.65
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023.-\$350.82
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$1,090.37
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$267.85
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County.-\$2,172.69
Cost of Certification of Redemption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.-\$35.00
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2021-S-00000079 - Braxton County – WVTJ LLC
To: JEREMY CLAYPOOLE, JEREMY CLAYPOOLE, JEREMY CLAYPOOLE, JEREMY CLAYPOOLE, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, de-

visees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT SALT LICK
MAP 14G PARCEL 0033 0004
You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000079, 5AC FALL RUN, located in SALT LICK, which was returned delinquent in the name of CLAYPOOLE JEREMY, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows: Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023.-\$153.62
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023.-\$57.48
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$1,106.12
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$311.42
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County.-\$1,628.64
Cost of Certification of Redemption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.-\$35.00
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2021-S-00000107 - Braxton County – JASON LANAGAN
To: TAMMIE GAY, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
DISTRICT GASSAWAY CORP
MAP 7 P A R C E L 0129 0000
You will take notice that JASON LANAGAN, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000107, LOT 42 BLK 23 25X100X25X100, located in GASSAWAY CORP, which was returned delinquent in the name of GAY TAMMIE, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 26th day of October, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2023 will be as follows: Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2023.-\$365.55
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2023.-\$259.26
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$744.65
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2023.-\$43.57
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County.-\$1,413.03
Cost of Certification of Redemption – cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.-\$35.00
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Return to:
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collections Division,
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

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To: TAMMIE GAY, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.
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Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 12-29 1-12b

This Week in West Virginia History

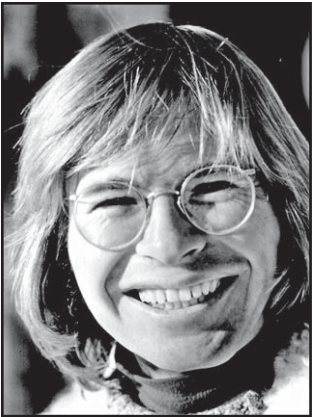
The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.



Dec. 28, 1879: Brigadier General Billy Mitchell was born in France. As chief of the Army Air Force, Mitchell ordered aircraft of the 88th Squadron to perform reconnaissance during the 1921 Miners' March on Logan.



Dec. 29, 1861: Confederate soldiers burned most of downtown Sutton. The town slowly rebuilt but remained small until the local timber industry boomed in the 1890 to 1920 period.



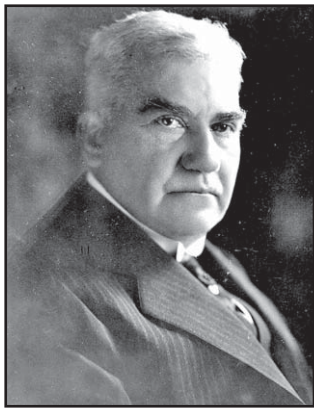
Dec. 29, 1970: John Denver and two friends completed the song "Take Me Home, Country Roads." Denver performed "Country Roads" in West Virginia on several occasions, notably for the opening of the new Mountaineer Stadium in Morgantown in 1980.

Dec. 30, 1917: The temperature in Lewisburg dropped to 37 degrees below zero. It is the coldest official temperature on record for the state.

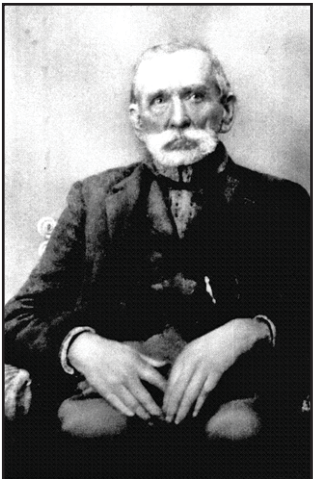


Dec. 31, 2007: Sara Jane Moore was released from prison after serving 32 years for trying to kill President Ford. Moore grew up in Charleston and later moved to California, where she joined left-wing groups and became an FBI informant. She spent part of her incarceration at the Federal Prison Camp in Alderson.

Jan. 1, 1859: Michael Joseph Owens was born in Point Pleasant. A skilled glassblower by age 15, Owens went on to mechanize the making of industrial glass products and launched a factory in Charleston that became



the world's largest producer of window glass.



Jan. 1, 1888: In one of the most violent episodes of the Hatfield-McCoy Feud, Jim Vance, uncle to "Devil Anse" Hatfield, led an arson attack on the McCoy family cabin. Two of Randall McCoy's children were killed, and his wife was badly beaten.



Jan. 1, 1953: Country music legend Hank Williams was found dead in his car in Oak Hill, Fayette County. He had been scheduled to perform in Charleston the previous night, but the concert was canceled due to bad weather.



Jan. 2, 2006: An explosion at the Sago Mine in Upshur County killed 12 men. Federal investigators pointed to a lightning strike as the most likely ignition source for the blast.



Jan. 3, 1856: Musician Lewis Johnson "Uncle Jack" McElwain of Webster County was born. He was the most respected fiddler in central West Virginia during his lifetime. He took part in many fiddle contests, and no one can recall him ever being beaten.

Jan. 3, 1921: The state capitol building in Charleston was destroyed by fire. The so-called Victorian capitol, the second one in Charleston, had opened in 1887. After the fire, a temporary wood-frame building, known as the "pasteboard capitol," was erected in just 42 days. It burned in 1927.

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

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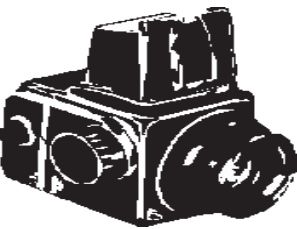
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Photos courtesy
of Janet Six

A Photographic Look at...

BCMS Knights' varsity boys have outstanding wins in last two games



Ryan Stalnaker takes the foul shot for the Knights in the game against Gilmer County.



Landon Hart pushes up for two points for the Knights.



Remington Huffman works his way past a Gilmer County defender.



Ashton Stewart take a shot for 3 points for the Knights.



Braeden Godfrey dribbles the ball back into Knight territory.



Brady Toler goes up for two points for the Knights.

Junior varsity Knights had strong game against Gilmer jv

By Shirley Shuman

The BCMS junior varsity boys outscored Gilmer 38-24 in their lone game last week. The young Knights led the entire game and were up by 15 at halftime. Coach Nick Long stressed that his players were strong on both offense and defense and explained some of the improvements he saw from them. "Braxton took care of the ball by limiting their turnovers compared to previous games and by rebounding well," the coach said. He

pointed out that, against Gilmer, the Knights cut their turnovers in half as compared to the usual 30-plus they had in the games they had lost. "This group of boys is starting to shoot and handle the ball more consistently." Coach Long continued to discuss the team's work. "Defense has been our strong point all season. In just six games, we are getting comfortable with full court awareness and limiting turnovers. I am excited about this group

in the future due to their outstanding heart, hustle and toughness. We are [also] continuing to work on all fundamentals," he said. With 12 points, Zach McQuain led the Knights' scoring. Jackson Lewis added 8 points, Hunter Short 1, Josh Anderson 6, Holden Lloyd 7, and Cohen McPherson 4. Braxton played Buckhannon-Upshur's junior varsity Tuesday night. Their next game is home against Summersville Jan.5.

Gilmer Middle School varsity girls outscore Lady Knights

By Shirley Shuman

"We couldn't get any offense going," Lady Knights' coach Mark Pritt said of Gilmer Middle's 26-15 win over his team. After remarking that Gilmer was a physical team which played strong defensively, the Braxton coach added, "I didn't make the right adjustments."

Rylan Criner led the Lady Knights' scoring with 9 points. Avah Molloyhan added 4 and

Aubrey Mowery 2. A game scheduled last week with Cal-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.

houn was postponed because of weather conditions. 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.



The Knights defense works hard to gain control of the ball. Photos courtesy of Janet Six



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!



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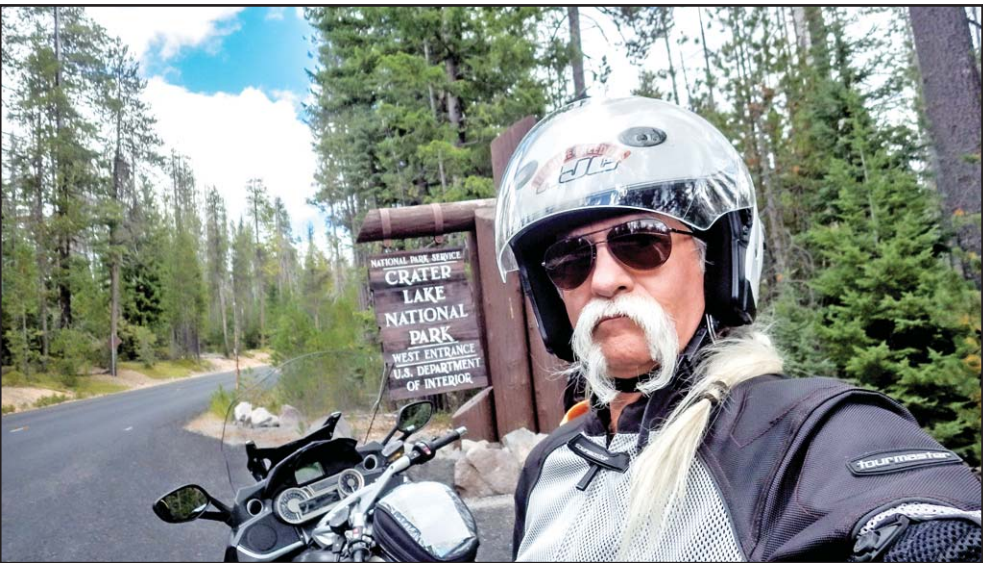
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Why I Ride



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At the entrance to magical Crater Lake National Park.

Getting lost, GPS, Maps, and Crater Lake National Park



Always have a map backup of your journey.

Last column of 2022. Almost six months since the first installment of this column. How time flies. I wish for you all that God grant you everything you need to live a happy life, and to add to someone's happiness. If you have something to say to someone, say it now; if you have something you want to do, do it now. Life can change

from one minute to the next. Love each other, take care of one another. Peace and Love.

About the confusing title. I began using a GPS unit when I bought my 2012 BMW K1600 GTL. I didn't want it. I finally decided to get it because there was a hole in the dashboard for it and I was given a half-off price on the unit, which retailed

for \$800! I eventually got used to it after riding thousands of miles, a lot of which I never looked at the unit. The GPS took me on some wild rides, way out of the way from my destination, sometimes would take me around four or five blocks just to end up exactly where I was before. This taught me to plan my routes on a map, in addition to the GPS unit. The map, as you can see in the picture, sits below the handlebars, neatly folded into the transparent pocket of the tank bag. Getting lost on a motorcycle means having to stop traveling to check the maps, something which I avoid like the plague because once I get on the bike, I go, and unless I find a dis-attraction, the bike stops at the next gas stop, usually about 175 miles later. I map my next day's route every night when I stop to eat and sleep. Always subject to change, however, I plan where I'm stopping for the night. Doing this also saves money. Stopping at the first hotel or



An attempt to capture the magnificence of Crater Lake.

motel you see could cost you extra bucks, and you may not find a place for many, many miles. Hang in there, the story will twist into a good ending.

In 2014, still on my 2012 Beemer, I set out to ride from Sutton, and stop at the NMM in Anamosa, IA, visit friends in Gunnison, CO and Tempe, AZ, relatives in Martinez, CA, and more friends near Yakima, WA. Medium-size trip for me, about 7,000 miles. All went wonderfully well until I left Martinez and headed North on I-5 towards Washington. I was supposed to turn off on SR 97 just past Mt. Shasta in northern California, pretty close to the border of Oregon, and cut diagonally through Oregon into Washington. However, I came across signs announcing the approach to the town of Weed! Not just Weed, but South Weed, Central Weed, North Weed, all kinds of Weed signs, which I thought pictures of this would delight some folks back home. And take pictures I did, except that I went right past the last Weed exit, SR 97, where I was supposed to turn off. Thirty-something miles later, I realized I was not following my carefully mapped route and went out the first exit I could find. At a gas station there, I met a group of Harley riders and shared my story, to which they laughed, and proceeded to tell me that it was the best thing that could have happened to me. Why? Asked I. I was told that if I followed I-5 North and head East on SR 62, I could go around Crater Lake National

Park and get myself back on SR 97 North.

The visit to Crater Lake added four hours to my trip, however, it was worth every minute. Crater Lake National Park is a magnificent and magical place to see and feel. Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States and seventh deepest lake in the world. The lake is 1,943 feet deep and lies in a volcanic basin created when the 12,000-foot-high Mount Manzanara collapsed after an eruption over 7,000 years ago. Crater Lake is also one of the clearest lakes in the world because it is filled mostly by snowfall. The park has 183,224 acres of magnificent mountains, peaks, and evergreen forests surrounding the lake. The wide range of eleva-

tions in the park is home to a diverse collection of wildlife and intense scenery. Crater Lake National Park was on my list of places to visit on my way back from Alaska in 2017, however, as well as Yosemite National Park, all accesses to the parks were closed due to the large number of fires in the regions. Even if I had been able to get in, I couldn't see the lake because of the smoke. This was a depressive blow for me, having built myself up for the visit for years.

Bottom line, visit the park at one point in space, and if you get lost, I hope you find another beautiful or interesting place not on your schedule.

Ride safely and intelligently. Peace.



One the infamous Weed signs. Check out the fool taking pictures of the exit he bypassed on the rear-view mirror.

On the Other Side of the Mountain



Winter Veggies we use today.

By Verena Sava

Christmas with its traditional culinary delights like ham, turkey and all the trimmings is behind us, now we have to think of how to give the same regard to the New Year's gastronomical observance. One thing we should absolutely avoid on New Year's menu is chicken of any sort. I gained this knowledge from our neighbor and friend Sue. Eating any kind of poultry on this day is a bad omen for the whole year. It implies that you have to scratch and scratch every inch of your existence to try to make a living or maybe just to survive. Worse yet, you might scratch, but in the wrong direction, backwards. Re-

south the next 365 days, it is because you served chicken on January first! Nobody ever gave me such important warnings, but somehow the Swiss must have known about it from their forefathers. We had mutton (ragout) with Saffron, served with mashed potatoes, then pastetli, a cup-like pastry, filled with meat and gravy, followed by sauerkraut with salt pork and a few tablespoons of just plain potatoes. If you say that any dessert was out of the question, you are wrong. There was either a cake with three layers of buttercream and beautifully decorated or rose shaped meringue with a wal-

lop of whipped cream on top. Indulging in a meal like that we knew

that nobody could insult any food deity and if our year did not turn out perfectly, we only had to blame ourselves. I will talk about a few food items that are perfectly safe for our health and for pleasing the food sovereignty. We still have plenty of these items available to us.

Let's start with leeks. They can be used in any vegetable soup to enhance its flavor. Three or four leeks can be sliced into quarter inch rings, sauteed in some butter, then add some water to cook them for a half an hour. This will end up in a leek delicacy. Once they are cooked, mix 1 tbs of flour with a tiny bit of cold milk, add to the leeks and boil them till the flour thickens. Now add some heavy cream (at least a cup) and a generous helping of Gruyere or some other cheese you like.

One can enjoy this dish as is, or add it on top of a toast, focaccia or put it in a wrap.

We have two friends, Martha and Jim, who make the most delicious leek and potato soup. Start like with the recipe I just mentioned, then add about four potatoes,

cut in pieces, skip the flour, cook the whole thing for about one hour, then use a potato masher to turn the potatoes into a light mush. Add some butter, heavy cream (at least a cup) and some parsley for decoration. While one sips the soup, heaven can't be far away.

A root vegetable that is not well known, but offers excellent flavors is celeriac. It looks like celery, forms the same leaves, but in a darker green and it makes a root, sticking halfway above ground. Once picked and its root system cut off, we have a rough skinned, whitish globe in our hands. After washing and brushing off the dirt, one has to peel off its skin with a vegetable peeler. The inner flesh exposed is creamy-white. It can be cut in pieces to add to soups like other root crops, but we also like it raw. I run the pieces through a slicer in the food processor, but of course it can be done by hand. Add a little lemon juice to prevent the celeriac from turning brown. This process of turning color has to do with the oxidation of Vit. C. As a

dressing I add some yogurt, heavy cream and a little bit of olive oil. To give it an extra appeal, I mix in some dried cranberries. It is best when prepared a day or more before we serve it.

Another root vegetable is parsnips, long elongated, white roots. After washing and peeling them, I cook them like potatoes, then make mashed parsnips out of them, adding butter and a pinch of nutmeg. They also add taste to soups.

All root vegetables can be roasted each one by itself, but I prefer a medley of them: carrots, celeriac, parsnips, rutabagas, sweet potatoes, maybe even adding some chunks of butternut squash with the whole thing. Roast them on a cookie sheet, sprinkled with about 3 tablespoons of oil, at 400 degrees for about 35 minutes or till they are crisp.

We use spaghetti squash like the pasta it is named after. I half the squash, remove the seeds for the chickens, then cook them in a pressure cooker. Times vary according to the size of the squash. We love it with a tomato

sauce, with plenty of basil and cheese generously sprinkled on top. Sometimes I fix them with meatballs, sometimes we just eat them the way they are, tossed in a pan with butter.

Of course there are many uses for pumpkin and butternut squash. When we choose to make soup, I always add some curry to it and some heavy cream.

Of course I never mentioned salt or pepper, but add them to your liking. You might find my "recipes" (suggestions) fairly vague, but this is how I cook. When it comes to precision cooking like for baked goods, Greg will take over to assure a successful outcome.

Of course what we cook on New Year's day has nothing to do with our destiny in the coming year. True compassion, tolerance towards each other, friendship and love determine our well being for the days after New Year's. We were lucky to experience plenty of it the past few months. In the spirit of empathy, consideration and kindness, Greg and I wish you a happy New Year.