



Three West Virginia members of Integrity Tree Services; Brandon Boothe- Greenbrier County, Richard Holland-Wayne County, and Mike Cutright-Randolph County worked recently to clear hazardous overhanging trees from Green Hill Road.

## Tree Service called in by West Virginia District VII Roads to clear hazardous trees in Braxton County and Lewis Counties

“We all know about the high winds we have had recently this December, said Robert Chumney of Hettie Road in Braxton County, and at the top of Green Hill Road I had to report several trees that had broken off and were hanging dangerously over the road making that section unsafe for travel.”

“In a few days three guys showed up from Integrity Tree Services and made short work of a serious problem, reported Chumney. I learned that while this Tree Service is based in Grandville MI, they preform work in 7 mid-western states and most importantly have a base in Dunbar, West Virginia.”

Richard Holland has 32 years in the tree service industry, and I watched him cut the last overhanging tree from his extended bucket truck high overhead.

He told me that his crew is under the leadership of general foreman, Brandon Lilly from Raleigh County.

I also learned that Integrity Tree Services has its largest satellite office in Dunbar, WV, currently with about 16 crews actively working in West Virginia right now.

Mike Cutright, was proud of his tenure with Integrity and stated that

we have extremely high safety ratings, with a very low employment turnover rates and our company really works hard on mentoring and investing their workers.

There is lots of room for advancement and we are growing and actively hiring all over the state here in West Virginia.

We offer many opportunities for professional development and advancement for our team members. We have several basic career paths; team members can graduate from an entry-level tree trimmer or equipment operator position and participate in training and development to eventually become a Foreman.

Cutright added, “The estimated timeline for this career growth is relatively short around 30 months, depending on training and experience requirements. (If interested in employment just check out our website integritytree.com and click on the section “join our team”)

Best of all Integrity offers bonuses, pay increases, and other benefits to encourage team members in their development which contributes to keep turnover rates.”

Brandon Boothe who has been with the com-

pany for one year said, “Here in West Virginia our work crews’ partner with departments of transportation to help keep roadways clear of overgrowth or dangerous trees and even clear rights of way for new roads to be built. But mostly our maintenance teams are all about keeping roads safe for travel.

We even work with forest services around the mid-west to create firebreaks to help protect them from destruction by forest fires.”

Cutright went on stating, that “Integrity Tree Services, is 23 years old and was founded in 1998. We also provide services to electric utilities and municipalities here in West Virginia, but we don’t engage in individual residential work.

“These gentlemen told me they have actually done work in 17 states and will most likely be sending crews to help in Kentucky where that 250-mile-long tornado created such devastation.

I would like to thank District VII of the WV Department of Transportation for contracting and taking care of this safety issue up here in Northeastern Braxton and Southern Lewis County.” finished, Robert Chumney.

## WVU Braxton County Extension



We’re partnering with Burnsville WV Public Library to offer a FREE six week Eating Smart, Being Active class this winter.

Ready to learn tips to save money at the grocery store, store and prepare food safely, and cook fresh meals your family will enjoy?

Health Educator Selah

Raines will teach ESBA on Saturdays at Burnsville Public Library from 12:30-1:30 pm starting January 8th.

All are welcome, and people on limited incomes and/or who are responsible for the care and feeding of children are encouraged to attend.

Participants receive

free WVU-branded kitchen tools at each class.

If you have been working to stretch your food dollars, this class is for you.

Space is limited- please register by going to the link in the comments, or by calling our office at 765-2809 and leaving your contact info for Health Educator Selah Raines.

Registration is open until Dec. 20 or until all spaces are filled--don’t wait to get a jump start on new skills for the upcoming New Year!

## Mountaineer Food Bank

The Mountaineer Food Bank will have volunteer opportunities every second Saturday of the month.

The MFB will take up to ten individuals in two hour increments. Each volunteer station will be sanitized between each time slot and masks will be provided.

Please give time if you can! Call the Mountaineer Food Bank a call at 304-364-5518 to get scheduled.

## I-79 accident claims Florida man

A collision between a tractor-trailer truck and a passenger vehicle near Burnsville claimed the life of a Florida man. The accident occurred on December 8 at approximately 7:50 a.m. near the 81-mile marker.

Upon arrival at the crash site, Corporal G.H. Jones of the Sutton Detachment of the West Virginia State Police discovered one of the occupants of the SUV had died from injuries received in the collision. That individual, believed to be the driver, was identified as Don-te Pierre Arthur Lewis Mapps Jr. of Florida.

Two additional passengers of the SUV were transported to Braxton County Memorial Hospital with what was believed to be non-life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the tractor-trailer truck was transported to Stonewall Jackson Hospital. His injuries were also termed as non-life-threatening.

According to witnesses, the SUV was traveling north at a high rate of speed when the driver lost control and crossed the median into the path of the south bound semi.

Fire and rescue personnel from the Burnsville

Volunteer Fire Department were on scene for several hours tending to the injured and directing traffic as portions of the south bound lane were closed to traffic.

Further investigation by Cpl. Jones determined that the deceased was not driving the SUV and that Orlando Octavius Felts, originally identified as one of the passengers was in fact the driver. The investigation is continuing. Charges are pending. The identify of the truck driver and the remining passenger in the SUV were not released.

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## Braxton County 4-H Members Participate in Livestock Quiz Bowl

Ten Braxton County 4-H members recently participated in the WV 4-H/FFA Livestock Quiz Bowl at the Mountaineer Cattlemen’s College at Canaan Valley Resort. One junior level and one senior level team competed in the Quiz Bowl designed to test participant’s knowledge of the livestock industry.

The senior team of Emily Brown, Ellen Collins, Lane Friend and Stepha-

nie Singleton earned second place of the 12 teams in the quiz bowl. The junior team of Kasey Armentrout, Mattie Brown, Colden Chapman and Cooper Chapman tied for 9th of 18 teams in their division. Austin Armentrout and Elliott Armentrout competed on a mixed county team with a Grant County 4-H member.

Participants were quizzed about nutrition,

animal health, reproduction, physiology, carcass, feeding, breeding, genetics and other general information about the livestock industry. The contest was sponsored by the WV Cattlemen’s Association and the WVU Extension Service.

To learn more about the WV Beef Quiz Bowl or other 4-H activities, please contact the WVU-Braxton County Extension Office, 304-765-2809.

## Magistrates Report

**Magistrate Beth Smith**

December 3: Aden A. Yoder of Sugarcreek, OH, killing deer less than 14 inches outside spread, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid; Kel Oliver Christianson of Owings, MD, killing deer less than 14 inches outside spread, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid; David W. Spencer of Birch River, overweight vehicle, not guilty plea.

December 6: Anthony Charles Cogar of Sutton, domestic battery-2nd offense, bond set at \$10,000 cash or surety, sexual assault in the first degree, no probable cause found- no evidence presented by prosecution.

**Mag David Singleton**

November 30: Carlos Barker of Ashford, permitting youth hunter under 15 without adult, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Herbert Dalton Dickey, IV of Shock, no MVI, dismissed proof provided.

December 1: Robert Daniel Marks of Strange Creek, no proof of insurance, dismissed proof provided.

December 6: Leonard E. Wyant, III of Gas-saway, driving revoked for DUI x2, preliminary

hearing waived, transferred to circuit court; Jerry Ray Claypoole of Ireland, opening burning of refuse, dismissed, defendant deceased; Randall Scott Kniceley of Little Birch, expired operators, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Mark Cutlip, Jr. of Napier, hunting wildlife from a motorized vehicle, dismissed; Jennifer Kemp of Sutton, petit larceny, guilty plea, obstructing an officer, guilty plea, possession of controlled substance, guilty plea, trespassing, dismissed per plea, obstructing an officer, dismissed per plea, willful disruption of government process, dismissed per plea, disorderly conduct, dismissed per plea, public intoxication, dismissed per plea, 180 days of jail with credit for time served of 11 days, to serve 49 days in jail, 120 days suspended and placed on 18 months unsupervised probation, fines/court costs assessed.

December 7: Cody Austin Richards of Troy, speeding, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed.

December 8: Nicholas Ian Long of Sutton, possession of meth, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$5000 cash, surety, or 10%

to the court; Ryan Duckworth of Frametown, fleeing with reckless indifference, warrant issued, bond set at \$10,000 cash only.

Kenny Jenkins of Gas-saway, DUI, guilty plea, 180 days of jail with credit for time served of one day, remainder suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs assessed; Gerald W. McKinney of Johnson City, TN, DUI, guilty plea, 180 days of jail with credit for time served of one day, remainder suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs assessed and paid; Fermen Leo Rhoades, II of Glenville, overweight vehicle, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid; Joseph Andrew Dodrill of Birch River, overweight vehicle, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid; Daniel W. Hall of Sutton, driving revoked for DUI, no contest plea, 180 days of jail with credit for time served of two days, to serve 28 days on home confinement, remainder suspended, fine/court costs assessed.





# Legislative Update

By **Delegate Brent Boggs**  
December 13, 2021

Twenty-six years ago, I made the prayerful decision along with family and friends, to run for the House of Delegates. That decision was met with success. Armed with the knowledge beforehand that citizens are often skeptical of pledges or promises made by elected officials, my list was short. First, that I would be honest and do my best during sessions and work beyond the 60-day sessions all throughout the year in representing the citizens of Braxton and Gilmer Counties. The second promise was that I would be diligent in keeping you informed.

As regular readers of this space each week can attest, I jumped into writing a weekly column armed only with best intentions and my non-professionally trained but still evolving communications and journalistic skills. I’ve worked hard to do so each week for twenty-five years, fifty-two weeks per year, and still counting. Beforehand, if you didn’t know me and Jean, our kids, and grandkids, you probably do now, both in-person as we criss-cross Braxton and Gilmer Counties, and through these weekly columns...right down to our golden retrievers and cat.

Most importantly, each week I attempt to convey what goes on in the Legislature and state government and the impact and effects long after the session has adjourned. I have taken this task seriously and truly hope it is helpful in bringing to light the information that is timely, often overlooked or under the radar screen. My sincere thanks to Ed Given and Dave Corcoran for providing me with the opportunity to keep you informed each week.

Faith and family have always come first and one of my core beliefs is that God places you where he wants you for a reason. If you’re blessed with being elected to a public service position of trust, you can best lead by humbling yourself and striving to serve others. Likewise, when it’s time to step aside and move in another direction, you need to listen to His voice and guidance.

It is in that same spirit and interest of keeping my pledge to always keep you informed that I have made the decision not to seek re-election for the

House of Delegates in the 2022 election cycle. This was not an easy decision but one that was arrived at after much prayer, reflection and consultation with Jean, and our children. I know in my heart that this is the right decision and I’m at peace with it.

Please know my decision has nothing whatsoever to do with having a “D” or “R” label after your name. And sticking with my core beliefs has always been an easy vote for me. Protecting the unborn. Protecting our Second Amendment rights. Protecting the rights of working men and women that make this nation great. Honoring the men and women of our armed services. Honoring our veterans.

Doing what’s right has nothing whatsoever to do with having a “D” or “R” label after your name. And sticking with my core beliefs has always been an easy vote for me. Protecting the unborn. Protecting our Second Amendment rights. Protecting the rights of working men and women that make this nation great. Honoring the men and women of our armed services. Honoring our veterans.

To quote Mark Twain, “Doing the right thing is never wrong”. That’s what I’ve tried to do in the many thousands of votes I’ve cast as one of the longest-serving members of the House of Delegates in continuous service. Reach across the political aisle, work for the good of all, and find consensus to get things done.

I have had the added opportunity to serve in all or part of four decades and in nearly all leadership capacities in the House. I’ve always used those positions to better serve each of you, my constituents. I’ve said many times that these are not lifetime appointments, but a job that requires being rehired every two years. I am so thankful and grateful that you have honored me with serving you for thirteen consecutive two-year terms.

As for our family, no one could ever ask for a more supportive spouse and partner than Jean, who has been on this journey side-by-side with me. When you elected me, you got Jean too, along with our entire family.

Our kids were in middle and high school at the beginning of this journey and now they have their own kids ranging in ages from 13 to 18. Throughout the years, each one remains as supportive as ever. My parents are now

in their 90’s and Jean’s mother is not far behind. No one could have asked for better examples of faith, family, love, humility, and responsibility than my mom and dad. We’re still the same God-fearing, West Virginia working family of a quarter-century ago – just a little older and well-seasoned from life and experiences. Now it’s time to devote more time to Jean and our family.

So, having laid all that out, my current term will conclude in about 12 months. This is no time to take our foot off the gas and let up, and I have no intentions of doing so. The groundwork laid over the years will be an important springboard for the growth of central West Virginia in the future.

As always, I’ll continue to work as hard as I can for the things our citizens so desperately need and deserve in Gilmer and Braxton Counties. Broadband, roads, bridges, jobs, new recreational, educational, and vocational opportunities. And I’ll always be a tireless supporter of small businesses; senior citizens; expanded access to clean water; our police, volunteer firefighters and EMS; Glenville State College; and a much-needed all-sports athletic facility for Braxton County High School. These will always be important to me, and I’ll be actively involved.

The formula for all that’s been accomplished in the past and ground-work laid for the future started by working together with every citizen and with our towns, counties, state, and federal partners in a bipartisan way. Together, we’ve brought multiple millions of dollars into both counties for water, roads, bridges, wastewater, seniors, education, non-profits, towns, and county projects; and for smaller, but equally important initiatives and projects that many may never notice or realize.

In doing so, I have been blessed beyond words to serve and most of all, with the friendships for life we’ve renewed and made in both Gilmer and Braxton Counties. Both counties will always be our home.

Moving forward, I’ll certainly be open to considering future opportunities where I may continue in public service and put my experience to use for the citizens of central West Virginia. In doing so, I’ll still employ the

same principle that has guided decision-making throughout my life and for the past twenty-six elections...I’ll pray about it.

As always, during the interim period between legislative sessions, I can

be reached at my home at 304-364-8411; or please address mail to: 151 Park Street, Gassaway, WV 26624. For those with Internet access, my legislative email address is: Brent.Boggs@WVHouse.gov

Please remember to thank a Veteran every day for their service and remember our troops - at and abroad - and keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Until next week, take care. #####



Cheese building and barn are ready

## On the Other Side of the Mountain

By Verena Sava

I can’t stand the saying of “pulling yourself up by your own bootstraps”. First of all, I rarely encounter a person with a strap attached to the back of their boots. Most people wear sneakers, crocs, sandals and some fashion-conscious beauties, high heels.

Nothing with which to pull oneself up. I looked up the origin of the saying and it was first used in the sense as I perceive it, something impossible to do. The following recounts will all be testimony to the many people we encountered along our way, who helped us move along, who sped up the way to reach our goal. For some folks the advantage comes with an extremely high level of intelligence, for some it is a daddy with a full wallet but for most of us it is the people we meet during our journey.

After a year of producing good looking hard cheeses, we dared entering a cheese judging competition by the American Cheese Society in 1980. We won second prize. Sure, first would have been better, but as we returned home, we heard the mouse population on the farm celebrating the accomplishments by cheers and a relief to finally have access to some quality. We got some media coverage too.

We now had running water. We dug a well by hand, 12’ deep and Greg attached an electric motor to the immersed pipe. In the meantime, we had also acquired a flock of sheep. You wonder why I wander away from the major subject of cheese. You will see, the sheep played a crucial role in the next development.

Six of the flock got mangled and killed by stray dogs. We had already had a Komondor guard dog with the goats. We needed another guard dog. We came across an



Milk barn up front



Komondor with sheep



Greg playing with dogs

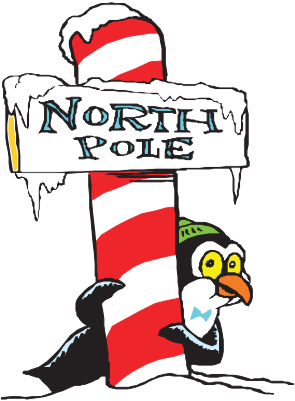
article from Jan Wilt in Colorado, writing about her extensive experience with the Komondor breed.

We got in touch with her, first by mail, then by phone. We bought a puppy from her, and bad luck would have it that the dog died before she was a year old. The vet concluded that she died from an injury to her liver when she got hurt from one of the horned sheep. We almost did not dare telling Jan,

but all farmers know that accidents happen. She offered us a replacement at a reduced price, and we were willing to try again.

To thank her for her help and time, we sent her a wheel of our cheese. She was thrilled and at the same time impressed about its quality. She wrote us a letter in which she explained how time involved hard cheese production was and that the financial return only came after more than 6 months of ripening. Of course, we knew that. She continued that there was a “new” (new for the US) goat cheese making all the news in California, which we should try to make. I had previously lived a year in Paris where I worked for a family as an au pair. This family was keen to introduce me to the best cheeses available in France, one of them was a fresh, unripened chevre cheese. I was familiar with what Jan was suggesting. We set out to learn how to make it. I bought a book dedicated

Continued on page 3



Dear Boys and Girls:

The **Braxton Democrat-Central** will be publishing your letters to Santa again this year.

Mrs. Clause and I are happy to report that the the nice folks at your county’s newspaper will be providing this service at no charge and they will print your picture with your letter if you send it along.

So, boys and girls, send those letters real soon, so I can check to see who has been naughty and who’s been nice!

See you soon...

**Santa Claus**

Send your letter and picture to:

**Santa Claus**  
**c/o Braxton Democrat-Central**  
**P.O. Box 516, Sutton, WV 26601**

Letters and pictures may also be received by email at:  
**democrat@bcn-news.com**



**The**  
**Braxton Democrat-Central**  
Published every Thursday  
by  
**Quality Printing & Publishing, Inc.**  
DBA/ Braxton Democrat-Central  
501 Main Street Sutton, Wv26601-1349  
USPS 063-480

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

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There are two tenets of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that many people have a difficult time understanding. Number one is that we believe in keeping holy the seventh-day of the week, which means we go to church on Saturday, calling it "Sabbath." Most other Christians go to church on Sunday, the first day of the week.

I have heard people say, "How could so many people be wrong?" Others ask, "What's the big deal? Why not go along with everyone else?" There are many other questions asked similar to this.

The other tenet is that most Adventists are vegetarians or eat only what they call the "clean meats"! Many just consider it silly or unhealthy even.

My answer to both of these questions takes me back to the Creation of our planet and early history. Long before there was a Jew or Christian, these two tenets were born before man was created or soon after. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy reveal what happened. First words in the Bible are "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." It goes on to tell about how God spoke everything into existence, different things every day. Then on the sixth day, He no longer spoke things into existence.

Verse 26 of Genesis 1, He says "Let us make man in our image." Then He tells how He created mankind in Chapter 2, verse 7. He got down (I like to think), on His hands and knees, and "formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (That "breath of life" comes from the same word that means

spirit, so it is God's spirit that sparks life in human beings.)

Then Genesis 2, verse 2, "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all his work which He had made." Verse 3: "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." Then, when God spoke to His people later, He gave them all the commandments: Exodus 31, verse 18: "And He gave unto Moses when He had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony tables of stone, written with THE FINGER OF GOD,"

That is why Adventists try to keep the Sabbath that has been His law since creation and was written in stone. There is no record that God changed His law. Malachi 3:6 says "For I am the Lord, I change not."

God, who created us, also gave us instructions of what flesh meats were clean and could be eaten in Leviticus 11 and other places. When the ark was built to save some people when God destroyed evil with a world-wide flood, he sent more pairs of clean animals into the ark than unclean because he knew His people would have to eat things nourishing till after the results of the Flood were over. He admonished men to eat only clean (or Kosher) flesh without any blood or fat in it. Some say we can eat anything if we give thanks for it (citing I Timothy 4:3 which says "commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving. . . for every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received

with thanksgiving." But as we have seen, not every creature was created to be received with thanksgiving. Those designated as unclean can be described as scavengers, cleaning up the surroundings. What God did makes sense.

The main reason most Adventists are vegetarian is because it is safer from disease and healthier, as proven by the Blue Zone results at Loma Linda California results as one of the Blue Zone

## Over the River and Through the Woods

By: Jeanette Riffle

I was inspired to write this story after listening to a wonderful sermon this morning at Rosedale Baptist Church. My great nephew, Stewart Fitzwater, brought us a sermon on the importance of family. Jesus himself put a lot of importance on family. He spoke of love, closeness and concern for His own earthly family. This time of year our mind goes back to home and family. We have good memories of when we were growing up and we all looked forward to Christmas. Kids can't wait to see what all their parents and relatives got them. I remember one time of getting up too early on Christmas morning to see what all was under the tree for me and Dad put me back to bed. He and Mom were already up and putting presents under the tree.

Dad would go around to all the country stores and get oranges, nuts, and all kinds of candy. We already had plenty of Early Harvest apples in the cellar from my Stewart grandparent's orchard. My parents had gone through the Great Depression and they wanted to give us all they could. Dad said he and his siblings hung up a sock and they each got an apple, an orange, candy, and nuts. Times were hard. My parents shopped Montgomery Wards store at Clarksburg after Dad was able to get a car and had worked long enough for the Hope Natural Gas Co., to save up enough money for Christmas shopping. When he first got back from WW 11 he and Mom had to start from scratch and their relatives had to help them. That's what family is for.

My good memories of Christmas is of special food. I loved my mother's mincemeat pie. Pumpkin pies were good, too, made from the butternut squash that my parents raised. Mom fixed chicken and dressing for years and when I was a teenager, Dad started buying a turkey from a farmer that raised them. Then Mom discovered how good the Tavern ham was and they switched to that. When they raised hogs, they had their own country ham. It was all good. I liked everything. Sometimes, off to Grandmother's house we went for her turkey dinner. We didn't have to go over the river and through the woods though, as the song goes. Stewart grandparents just lived a few miles up the road. I remember Grandmother's tree. She didn't like a lot of icicles. It was decorated with a lot of homemade ornaments and popcorn or cranberry ropes.

We are so blessed to have a good family, good church family and plenty of food and material

where men and women live 8 to 10 years longer than average people.

Does this make Seventh day Adventists better than other Christians? No. It is not our being good that saves any of us or anyone. It is believing in Jesus as Savior of each of us and praying that as we study His life and His words, we will become more like Him. Our belief and faith is what saves us. Philippians 2:13.

MARANATHA

blessings, but the greatest gift of all was when Jesus was born to save us all from our sins. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3: 16) May we never forget the real reason for celebrating Christmas.

Until next time, take care. Stay safe and stay well. God bless! I am bringing back a story that I wrote previously as it is appropriate for this time of year.

## Singleton note of thanks

The family of Linda F. Singleton would like to express our sincere appreciation of the flowers, thoughts, food, cards, and condolences expressed during our time of sorrow. All these have been a great comfort to us in recent days.

A special thank you to all the ones who brought food to our home, Frametown United Methodist Church for the wonderful meal that was prepared, Ray Teets for officiating the service, and Roach Funeral Home for providing an efficient, thoughtful, and comforting experience. Ryan and Heather went above and beyond anything we could have imagined. No detail was spared.

Linda's memory has been truly honored and we are forever grateful.

### Braxton County Farm Bureau to meet

The Braxton County Farm Bureau will meet on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6 PM at the Flatwoods Community Building. There will be a Yankee Swap for all those who choose to participate. Please plan to attend.



Inside the barn.

## On the Other Side of the Mountain

Continued from page 2

solely to goat cheese making from France and started to translate the fresh goat cheese pages. We thought we would be able to produce this cheese and have a faster monetary return. The question was how to go about it? What did it mean to start a commercial goat dairy and to produce cheese from the milk?

We contacted the department of agriculture who frankly did not know what to do with the Savas. There were no goat dairies in WV, only cow dairies, selling milk. There were the Bally sisters in Helvetia who made cow cheese from local milk, but they had a special permit. The question came up if we even intended to sell cheese outside the state of WV.

We did not know at the time, but there was a possibility. After many consultations we were presented with the requirements for a licensed goat dairy and cheese production that would meet the federal as well as the state regulations.

The floors all had to be concrete, the walls and ceilings made of washable materials that would have to be power washed twice a week. Our dug well was incompatible with health regulation, we would have to drill a deep well. We also wanted to build a barn which included a milking parlor.

There were no specific rules about the barn itself, but the milking parlor had to have concrete floors, washable walls, sealed off from the rest of the barn. These were obstacles that needed to be faced and overcome. Greg drew up all the floor plans. A bulldozer operator leveled the ground for all the building projects, built access roads, not an easy job on very steep terrain.

Jim Greene helped pour the concrete floors of the cheese building. Then we built the structure with 6" walls for good

insulation and to save on heating costs during the summer when I was off from school.

Our talented neighbor, Ronnie Davis, became our first employee, helping with the construction of the new barn. We found somebody from Birch River who did water-witching (dousing). He walked around the area to see if there was an adequate source of water underground. Holding a simple bent wire loosely in each hand, he strolled around till the wires crossed in front of him and he told us that it would be the area to drill, guaranteeing a good supply of water, more like an aquifer.

We contacted a drilling outfit from Clay who drilled a well 75' deep where they hit plenty of water. The dowser was right. We were so lucky to have such an abundance of uncontaminated water. When we cooled down the pasteurized milk, we used 400 gallons of water an hour. We once unknowingly let a garden hose run all night long and we never ran out of water. Now, all we needed was the cheese!

We set up sort of a lab to conduct our own research by testing variables with buckets of pasteurized milk, slightly different temperatures, different amounts of culture or rennet, measuring acidity and time lapses.

Once we found perfection as the end result, we repeated it several times to see if we could be consistent. It worked, but how were we going to sell it, once we manufactured it? I will tell you next time.

## Christmas Dinner December 18th

Join us for a Christmas Dinner Saturday, December 18th from 11-1 PM at the Shiloh Fellowship Outreach 602 Elk Street, Gassaway.

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# Obituaries

**Margaret L. Frick**  
Margaret L. Frick, 81, passed away December 3, 2021 at home with her family by her side. Born in Newville, WV to Alva and Pearl (Blankenship) Hamner, she lived in the Akron, Ohio area all of her adult life. Marge was a longtime member of Mogadore Baptist Church. She greatly enjoyed reading, her dogs, going to family reunions and spending time with her family.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Bob; 8 siblings. She will be sadly missed by siblings, Alice Williams, Peggy Hamner, James Hamner; many nieces, nephews, friends and her pups.

Per her wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service to celebrate Marge's life was Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at Mogadore Baptist Church, 3750 Albrecht Ave., Akron. Arrangements by Newcomer, Akron Chapel. 330-784-3334.

**James Walter Simmons**  
James Walter Simmons, 75, born in Steubenville, OH on 4/29/46, passed away on 10/24/21 surrounded by family. Survived by his loving wife Gayle of 16 years and his children, James Simmons, Michael Simmons, Sherry Wiltshire, Eric Young, Jamie Lynn and Scott Lynn in addition to 8 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter, sisters Janet Shoberg, Beverly Tyreman and brother-in-law John Tyreman. Also included are nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family and friends whom he considered family.

Jim proudly served in the US Navy from July 1964 – July 1970.

He retired to Green Valley, AZ in 2009 after 39 years with the American Electric Power Co, Cardinal Plant in Brilliant, OH. He was Post Commander of American Legion Madera Post 131 in Green Valley, AZ from 2014 – 2016 and also an American Legion Rider as well as a member of the Elks Green Valley Lodge #2592.

He became a member of the Desert Hills Lutheran Church, Green Valley, AZ and truly enjoyed being a Mason at the Green Valley Masonic Lodge #71 and a Sabbar Shriner, Tucson, AZ.

He enjoyed playing his guitars, riding his motorcycle and playing golf. His infectious laugh was quite contagious and you knew when he was in the building. His West "By God" Virginia stories were memorable and told often. He loved being with his many wonderful friends through the years and his large extended family were very special to him. He will be extremely missed by all that knew and loved him.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held at the American Legion Madera Post 131, Green Valley, AZ, on Nov 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

**Carlton Kurt Long**  
Carlton Kurt Long, 69 of Webster Springs passed away December 5, 2021. Kurt was born July 13, 1952 in Parson and was the son of the late Fred I. and Grace Mitchell Long, Sr.

Along with his parents he is also preceded in death by a brother, Fred Long, Jr.

Kurt was a veteran of the United States Marine Corp. He was a 1970 graduate of Webster Springs High School and was on the track team while in high school. Kurt was a coal miner at Sago Mines for several years; he enjoyed hunting, fishing and collecting antiques.

Surviving is his companion of 27 years, Sheila Adkins, daughter; Amber Adkins; brothers, Jesse Long and his wife Lura and Kenny Long and his wife Sue; aunts, Wanda and Jenny Mitchell, lifelong buddy, Mike Lynch, many nieces, nephews

and friends and also his furr babies Bear and Kodah.

Service will be 2:00 PM, Saturday, December 11, 2021 at Dodd and Reed Funeral Home, Webster Springs with Pastor Marty Cowger officiating. Burial with military honors by American Legion Post #62 will follow at Miller Cemetery, Webster Springs. Friends may join the family for visitation two hours prior to the service at the funeral home on Saturday.

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

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

**Argil Earl Shaver**  
Argil Earl Shaver, 81, of Flatwoods, WV passed away on Sunday, December 12, 2021 at home surrounded by his family after a battle with dementia and congestive heart failure.

He was born January 11, 1940 at Exchange, WV the son of the late Virgil and Mary Jane Tonkin Shaver.

Argil was preceded in death by his wife, Brenda June Shaver; his son, Argil Earl Shaver II; grandson, David Michael Perrine; and siblings, Wilford Shaver, Geneva Shaver, Willard Shaver, Evelyn Brown and Lawrence Shaver.

On July 20, 1962 he married Brenda June Norman and they shared over 57 years together. Argil served in the United States Army for two years. He worked as a mechanic at different garages including Pletcher's, Jones Chevy and the Braxton County Board of Education bus garage as director and mechanic. Argil worked many evenings and weekends in his personal garage on transmissions. He drove the high school band bus for away ballgames and participated in school bus rodeos. He was service person of the year in 1993 -1994 for the Board of Education. Argil raced cars on the dirt track. He loved old cars and trucks and John Deere tractors. He loved to watch NASCAR races and his drivers were Dale Earnhardt, Dale Earnhardt, Jr and Chase Elliott. He also helped his grandchildren with school projects made from wood. Argil made each grandchild a gift from wood such as cabinets, benches and doll cradles that rocked. Argil

was always taking care of his children and grandchildren. Argil went through the eighth grade and when his children were in school he went back and got his GED.

Argil is fondly remembered by his three daughters, Sandra Perrine and husband Larry, Loreta Mayse and husband John, Pamela Cottrill and husband Scott; grandchildren, Wesley Perrine, Paul Mayse, Kayla Smith and husband Matt, Billy Mayse, Jacobi Hineman and husband Zach and Heath Cottrill. He is also survived by great grandchildren, Brooklyn and Makenna Helmick and Owen Mayse; and step great grandchildren, Raegan and Ripley Smith; sisters, Mildred Wine, Rebecca Boyd, Yvonda Westfall and Shirley Ransom; brothers, Dana Shaver and Richard Shaver; and his dog, Jackson.

Funeral service were 1 P.M. Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV with Pastor Eric Veltre officiating. Burial with Military Rites followed in the Stout Cemetery, Flatwoods, WV by his loving wife.

Friends may call two hours prior to the service at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be his grandchildren Wesley Perrine, Paul Mayse, Kayla Smith, Billy Mayse, Jacobi Hineman and Heath Cottrill.

Argil was cared for by his daughters, Sandra, Loreta, and Pam and his grandchildren. Special thanks to granddaughter, Kayla Smith, for all she has done.

The family would like to give special thanks to WV Caring nurses, Kim Harris, Cheryl Carpenter, and Kim Davis Garrison; CNA, Tabitha Deal and family nurse practitioner, Charity Woods.

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

**David A. Mendenhall**  
David A. Mendenhall of Weirton, a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, a friend who could be best described as genuine, and a man of great integrity, passed away on Sunday, December 12, 2021, at the Weirton Medical Center. He was 63.

David was born October 4, 1958, in Wheeling, WV. Days after his birth, Dave was adopted by Elwood and Georgiani Williams Mendenhall.

A graduate of The Linsly School, David continued his education at Fairmont State and Bethany College. David worked in production at WTOV 9 for many years.

David was currently working as a caseworker for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Weirton Office.

When his boys were young, David enjoyed coaching Termite Baseball and going to their high school games watching them play sports. He was an avid Pittsburgh Pirate fan and also loved watching the Pittsburgh Steelers and WVU football. A music lover, Dave enjoyed playing guitar and listening to classic rock, especially RUSH.

Most of all David will be remembered for his heart of gold; a friend who would be there 100 percent of the time, no questions asked.

He was a member of the First Christian Church of Weirton, and the Theta-Delta Chapter of the Tau Kappa Epsilon.

In addition to his parents, Elwood and Georgiani Mendenhall, David was preceded in death by his father and mother in law, Bernard and Delores (Stewart) Heflin.

David is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1990, Ruth Ann Heflin Mendenhall; sons, Jared Brooks (Savanna) Mendenhall of Weirton and Ryan David (Becca) Mendenhall of West Liberty, WV; 2 grandchil-

## All Is Well

**By Joseph J Mazzella**  
Something was wrong. Something was wonderfully wrong. I knew in my mind that my old beagle dog, Snoopy and my daughter's Saint Bernard mix, Lemmy had passed away this last year. Yet, there they both were, playing and romping and chasing each other in my back yard.

They seemed younger too. Snoopy had been in ill health for the last years of her life and Lemmy had lost the use of one of his legs before he died. But here they were running and barking and playing tag like a couple of puppies. It felt so good watching them. My spirit felt so alive. My heart felt so full and I was laughing with joy.

"Beep, beep, beep!" My alarm clock went off and I opened my eyes. It had all benn a dream but what a blessing of a dream. My eyes were damp with tears and my face was still smiling. As I woke up, two thoughts filled my mind too. "God loves you!" and "All is well!" I reached down and felt my newest rescue dog, Sweet-

### GSC employees celebrate the holidays

Glenville State College faculty and staff gathered on Tuesday, December 7 for an employee appreciation luncheon. The event was hosted by President Dr. Mark A. Manchin and First Lady Gigi Manchin.

"We love celebrating the holidays and what better time of year than this to say thank you to all of our wonderful faculty and staff," said President Manchin. "With the end of the fall semester upon us, Gigi and I wanted to express our gratitude and appreciation to our most valuable resource here at Glenville State – the employees. The past year has brought its own unique challenges, and it is important to pause, reflect

dren, Piper and Jackson Mendenhall; and sisters Vickie Mendenhall and Cheryl (Patrick) Radican.

Friends were received Wednesday from 4 until the 6 pm funeral service at the Greco-Hertnick Funeral Home, 3219 Main Street, Weirton, WV. Pastor Carol McKay officiated.

Private interment was held in Chestnut Ridge Cemetery, Florence, PA.

Please consider a memorial contribution to Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, 4900 Tuttle Crossing Blvd., Dublin, OH 43016. [www.dave-thomasfoundation.org](http://www.dave-thomasfoundation.org) | Privacy Policy |

Share tributes and memories at [www.greco-hertnick.com](http://www.greco-hertnick.com) 304-748-3219.

ie licking my hand. I got up, got dressed and took her out for her morning walk just in time to greet the sunrise. As I watched those beautiful, brilliant colors paint the sky those two thoughts remained with me: "God loves you!" "All is well!"

Yes, this world can be a mess at times. It has wars, hunger, climate change, pandemics, illness, conflict and yes, even death. But this is also God's world. He put us here to learn, to live and to love. And some of our best teachers are furry, four-legged friends. That dream reminded me that two of mine are in Heaven waiting for me wagging tails and a lot of love.

Don't let life's pains and problems steal your happiness then. Instead follow the wisdom of our furry friends and bless this world with your love and your joy. Each day when you wake up be thankful for the gift of this life. Each day take the time to be aware of its blessings. And always remember: "This is God's world!" "God loves you!" "All is well!"

on how we've tackled those challenges head-on, and to simply say thanks."

The fall 2021 semester at Glenville State College ends this week. The Winter Commencement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the College's Waco Center.

Campus offices will be closed for the winter holiday from Friday, December 24 through Friday, December 31. Regular operations will resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.

For more information about becoming a GSC Pioneer, contact the Office of Admissions at [admissions@glenville.edu](mailto:admissions@glenville.edu) or call (800) 924-2010.

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# Braxton County Animal Shelter



Jodi is an eight month old spayed female, black lab mix, weighing around fifty pounds. Jodi was surrendered because her owner was disabled and could no longer care for her. She is super affectionate and lays her head in your lap for pets. She has only ever lived outdoors so she isn't yet house trained but she is very smart and we believe she would learn quickly with time and attention. Jodi has lots of playful energy and loves other dogs so we believe she would do best in a home with another dog to play with to burn off energy and show her the ropes. She knows how to sit and walks on a leash and responds to a whistle.



This is Max. He is a fourteen month old micro-chipped, neutered male who was adopted from our shelter and later returned. This guy does not do well with chickens! We don't believe that Max has ever lived indoors so he probably isn't yet house trained. He knows sit, stay, give kisses and come. He's very dog social and wants to play with other dogs but not overly energetic. Max needs a fenced yard or boundaries. He loves toys and will take all the affection and play you can give. He also walks great on a leash and seems to be eager to please his people!

Are you looking to add a four legged, tail wagging member to your family? Rescues from the Braxton County Animal Shelter are looking for their final "Furever" homes and are anxious to meet you. There is a reason we call them man's best friend. We can learn so many things from a dog's behavior, personality, demeanor, resiliency, and most importantly, the willingness to provide their family members with unconditional love, loyalty, and companionship down to their very last breath. BCAS is open

Monday through Friday from 10-3. There is no charge to surrender a dog, but donations toward their care are appreciated. Adoptions are \$99.00 for male dogs and \$119.00 for female dogs, and include spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, parvo/distemper vaccination, kennel cough vaccination, flea treatment and deworming. No dog will leave the shelter unfixed and we are very willing to work with reputable 501c3 rescues. Please call the shelter for vet pricing and ask for our adoption/rescue coordinator Megan at (304)765-2

The Braxton County Animal Shelter still has puppies available for adoption, If you think you could give them a great forever home contact the shelter.

## The music within

By Joseph J Mazzella

I am not sure how many years ago it was. I know it was a while back because I still had a cassette player at the time. I had a lot of housework to do. I was tired of television and was in the mood for music. I pulled out one of my favorite cassettes then and put it in the player. It started to play but before long a loud squeal happened and the music stopped. I opened the player and saw the tape in the cassette was all pulled out and twisted. I tried the old pencil trick to get the tape back in place but it was already broken beyond repair. I frowned. I didn't want to risk another of my cassettes with a tape eating machine, but I really wanted some music.

Then I noticed my ancient record player in the corner. I walked over and dusted off the top of it. I pulled out an old record of my Mom's that my Dad had given me after she died.

I turned on the record player and gently put the record on the turntable. "Pop!" "Crack!" went the record for a second as I put the needle down. Then a beautiful melody from my childhood started to play. I smiled and stared to do my housework. The sweet songs I grew up on slowly started to stir my soul. I felt the music within me coming out of me. My spirit felt like singing so I started to sing, letting my weak, raspy voice join in joyously with the songs. I even dared to dance a little while I did the dishes and didn't drop a single dish. I smiled and laughed. My heart felt so happy. And in that moment I could feel the love of God and the joy of the universe all around me. It was like God was saying, "This is how life is supposed to be!"

These days all of my music is on CD's. My daughter says I am behind the times. She says I should break down, buy a smart phone, and download all the music I want. But instead I think I will dust off those old records again, put them on the record player, and sing and dance along. I will remember Mom and thank

God for the music inside us all.

We all have music within us just waiting to get out. God gives us all a life to live, a love to give, a light to shine, and a song to sing. Don't let your music die within you then. Share your song with the world. And don't forget to dance a little too.

## Notice

Burnsville Elementary will hold a Town Hall meeting at the school on January 11, 2022. The meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

The issues to be addressed at the Town Hall meeting may include, but are not limited to: Parent and Community Involvement; The Learning Environment; Student Engagement; Attendance; Supports for At-Risk Students; Curricular Offerings; Resources; and The Capacity for School Improvement.

## Flatwoods meeting

The Town of Flatwoods Council held their meeting on November 16, at the Flatwood Municipal Building. Treasurer/Recorder, Lisa Hamrick, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Opening Prayer was led by Councilman Luke Malensek.

Present were Treasurer/Recorder Lisa Hamrick, Chief of Police Shawn Brown, and Council Members Jake Hamrick, Luke Malensek, and Dennis Miller. Attending by phone was Mayor Dale Ball and Council Member Brenda Ball.

Citizens present were Lorie J. Brown, and Dany Lee Smallwood Jr.

Lisa Hamrick read the minutes from October 19, 2021 meeting. Dennis Miller made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Luke Malensek seconded. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Lisa Hamrick read the Treasurer's Report.

The vendor craft show will be held at the Flatwoods Community Building on Saturday, December 11th, 9 am to 4 pm.

Dennis Miller made a motion to cancel the Town of Flatwoods Christmas Parade due to lack of public interest. Jake Hamrick seconded. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Lisa Hamrick read the bill list; Luke Malensek made a motion to approve the bill list as read. Jake Hamrick seconded. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Jake Hamrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. Luke Malensek seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.



# The ole tree is on the decline

By Larry Knight

This is one of my favorite spots to stop and take a snack break when in this area. A nice quiet place where I have took a nap for a few minutes before going on. When looking for the little squirrel I sometimes stop at this place more than once during hunting season.

My dog Suzy and I started this tradition many years ago. We would stop have a snack, skin some squirrels if there was water nearby. To this day all my dogs have been to this location.

Pepper is the only dog that I have that I don't have a picture of here. Long ago there was a house that set just behind this tree. The old house is long gone. It was a good place to get in out of the rain.

The old tree has been a den tree as long as I can remember. At some point in time the tree may have been home to honey bees too.

The tree that has the cavity is down the fork that is still standing seemed solid. The downed part of the tree may still be home to some animal.

The upright part of the

tree may someday also blow over. I hope Eek and I get there soon to get a picture of her.

Eek is my dog that is in training. The tree that once helped hold up the yard fence. The tree that once provided shade for the house in summer months.

Just a memory of some of the times that I would stop there, over the years. I started traveling this area when very young with my dad. About 5 years of age I would guess. We would be squirrel hunting and heading toward the Happy Cunningham Woods.

I would sometimes get so tired and sleepy that my Pap would have to carry me, his gun and squirrels if he had any. He had a dog that was a good one if there was a squirrel around Ole Jack would find it. Jack would often catch the squirrel while falling in the air.

Then Ole Jack would shake them and hard so he hardly ever got bit.

Well fans and friends I want to wish each and every one of you a Happy and Merry Christmas and be safe when you are traveling. We want you all everyone back next year....

## Braxton County Senior Center December 2021 Menu

December 16 CHRISTMAS DINNER Baked Ham Sweet Potato Casserole Green Beans Dinner Roll Cherry Crisp

December 17 Spaghetti w/ Meatballs Garden Salad Garlic Bread Fruit

December 20 Chicken Alfredo Garlic Bread Broccoli Fruit

December 21 Hamburger Steak w/ Onion Gravy Mashed Potatoes Spinach Casserole Dinner Roll Fruit

December 22 Pork Riblet on Bun French Fries Fruit

December 23 Breakfast Bake Hash Brown Biscuit Spiced Apples

December 24 HOLIDAY CENTER CLOSED

December 27 Fish Sandwich w/ Cheese French Fries Coleslaw Baked Beans Fruit

December 28 Bean Soup Ham Salad Sandwich Stewed Tomatoes Fruit

December 29 Hot Dog w/ Chili Coleslaw Tater Tots Fruit

December 30 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Peas Dinner Roll Fruit

December 31 HOLIDAY CENTER CLOSED  
2% Milk served with each meal.

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Christmas is coming to the Braxton County Jamboree ( Free Show ) Friday Dec 17, 2021. Santa will be there with lots of toy's and candy. Drawing for a boy and Girl bike and drawing for adults gifts. Music provided by Dixie Highway so come and join us .



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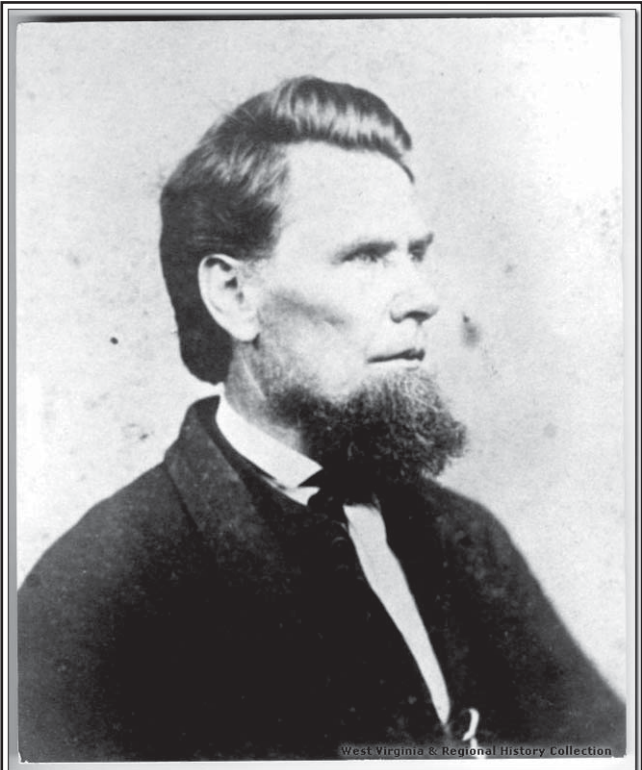
# Hotdogs, hotdogs, hotdogs

By Joseph J Mazzella

“Well, we could use some hotdogs.” I was at the local Catholic Charities food pantry. They had a thrift shop attached to it where I would sometimes stop to pick up a sweatshirt or a CD for my sons. Once in a while, though, I would also step back into the food pantry and ask if they needed anything. I had needed the help of food pantries myself a few times when I was a young father struggling to feed my own family and it felt good to give something back now.

This time I could see that most of the shelves were stocked with canned foods and boxes of dry goods donated by stores and larger food pantries. One thing they said they needed was meat, however. Hotdogs were cheap and I didn’t

# This Week in West Virginia History



Dec. 16, 1893: Alexander Martin died at the age of 71 in Greencastle, Indiana. Martin was the first president of the Agricultural College of West Virginia, which was renamed West Virginia University at his recommendation in 1868.



Dec. 20, 1943: German fighter pilot Franz Stigler protected the heavily-damaged B-17 bomber flown by Charlie Brown as it made its way from enemy territory back to England. The two war veterans met in 1990 and remained friends until their deaths.



Dec. 20, 2002: Grote Reber died. In 1937, Reber built the world’s first parabolic radio telescope in his backyard. The Reber Telescope was moved to the National Radio Observatory at Green Bank in the 1960s and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

Charleston WV – 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. 17, 1957: The J. L. Stifel & Sons calico plant at Wheeling closed. For most of its history Stifel & Sons produced indigo-dyed prints and drills for clothing manufacturers. At its peak, the plant produced 3.5 million yards of cloth per month.

Dec. 18, 1864: General Harry Hill Bandholtz was born in Michigan. Bandholtz was commander of the federal troops that intervened to end the West Virginia Mine Wars in 1921.

Dec. 18, 1816: Lewis County was formed. It was named for Colonel

mind getting some for them with the few extra dollars I had. I soon found myself in the local grocery store finding a brand that was on sale and filling my car with as many packs as I could afford.

As I was paying for them too my mind flashed back to my own childhood. I could see my Mom cooking two hotdogs in a pot of boiling water. Next she put each one on a slice of white bread with a piece of processed cheese. To top it off she would add a little squirt of ketchup. Then she would hand me the plate with her gentle smile and I would devour my lunch. It didn’t cost much but to me it was a feast, cooked with love and eaten with joy.

That memory was still warming my heart as I dropped off the hotdogs

Charles Lewis, killed at the Battle of Point Pleasant.

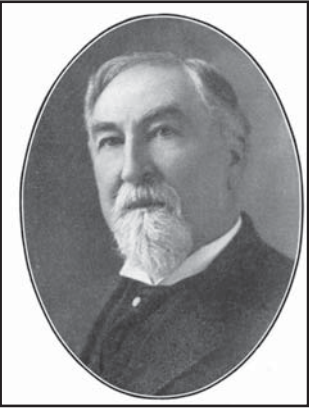
Dec. 19, 1794: A 40-acre tract of George Clendenin’s land was selected as the site of Charlestown, later renamed Charleston. Clendenin, born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1746, was one of the first settlers in the Kanawha Valley. Through Clendenin’s influence the Virginia Assembly authorized the formation of Kanawha County from parts of Greenbrier and Montgomery counties in 1789.

Dec. 19, 1832: The town of Ripley received its charter. It was probably named for Harry Ripley, a popular, circuit-riding Methodist minister who drowned in Mill Creek in 1830.

Dec. 21, 1798: Wood County was established by the Virginia General Assembly. It was named for James Wood, governor of Virginia from 1796 to 1800.

Dec. 22, 1928: Radio station WMMN of Fairmont began operations as one of West Virginia’s pioneer stations. For nearly two decades beginning in 1935, WMMN was an important outlet for country and western music performers. The highlight of this era was the “Sagebrush Round-up,” a Saturday-night live-audience show which began in December 1938 and was broadcast weekly for nearly ten years.

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.



Dec. 18, 1842: U. S. Senator Nathan B. Scott was born. Scott rose to become one of West Virginia’s four richest and most powerful men by 1900.

# Mountaineer Food Bank

The Mountaineer Food Bank will have volunteer opportunities every second Saturday of the month.

The MFB will take up to ten individuals in two hour increments. Each volunteer station will be sanitized between each time slot and masks will be provided.

Please give time if you can! Call the Mountaineer Food Bank a call at 304-364-5518 to get scheduled.

# Thank You

The Sutton Office Staff of Central West Virginia Aging Services would like to personally thank our Executive Director, Evelyn Post for the beautiful Poinsettias she had delivered to our office on December 1st. The flowers were beautiful and the entire staff appreciates all that you do for our agency and the community throughout the entire year. Your kindness and compassion make us all want to be the best that we can be. It’s truly an honor to work for you.

Sutton Office Staff



# Braxton County Middle School Knights Sports

## BCMS girls go into this week's play with 1-1 record

By Shirley Shuman



Brady Toler led all scorers with 15 points.



Jamie Nettles with 8 points this game.

## First two games give BCMS boys good start to season



Stevie Boggs 11 points.

The Knights' basketball players displayed their skills on the court as they won their first two games easily. Braxton defeated Richwood 51-11 and outscored Calhoun 66-21.

Coach Randall Brown commented that his team "started out slow" against Richwood but dominated the game after that. Three Knights scored in double figures against Richwood. Brady Toler led all scorers with 15 points. Stevie Boggs added 11 and Carter Lewis 10.

In the win over Calhoun, Toler again led the team's scoring.

In that game, Toler had a double-double with



Carter Lewis with 10 points.

23 points and 14 steals. Boggs scored 13 points, Aidan Crockett 12, and Jamie Nettles 8.

Describing his team, Coach Brown referred to them as "really solid" and added, "They're a great bunch of kids. They're well-behaved, never com-

plain, and really want to play." Because of Covid issues at the start of practice, the Knights practiced every day of Thanksgiving break in order to be eligible to start the season on time.

They didn't mind at all, according to their coach.

With back-to-back games to open their season the first week of December, the Lady Knights defeated Richwood but lost to Webster. They did not play last week.

In his team's 55-12 win over Richwood on Dec. 1, Coach Matt Pritt saw his defense create a lot of turnovers which resulted in Richwood's having few open shots.

Braxton's Bailey Pritt led all scorers with 18 points. She had 10 steals for a double-double. Also in double figures, Lila

Fitzwater had 15 points and pulled down 5 rebounds.

Avah Mollohan scored 16 points and Raegan Brown added 10 in a junior varsity 36-5 win over Richwood's JV team.

The following night, Webster outscored Braxton 42-37.

Coach Pritt attributed that loss to "missed open shots, too many turnovers, and sloppy play which led to foul trouble." With 15points and 10 rebounds for a double-double, Fitzwater led the

Knights' scoring.

In an overall evaluation of the team so far, Coach Pritt said, "We're playing better than last year. We need to play like we practice and take care of the ball."

Braxton hosts Gilmer Thursday night for the lone game this week. Coach Pritt explained that he is trying to schedule more games for this month. He also noted that the team "will have a tough stretch in January with five games on the road."

## BCMS girls' scoring in first two games:

Player	Richwood game	Webster game
Bailey Pritt	18 pts/10 steals	7 points
Lila Fitzwater	15 pts/5 rebounds	15 pts/10 rebounds
Kendall Key	3 points	0 points
Brooklyn Paletti	4 points	8 points
Lauren Pritt	6 points	2 points
Raegan Brown	3 points	0 points
Rylan Criner	2 points	0 points
Makenna Robinson	2 points	2 points
Jade Chapman	2 points	2 points
Avah Mollohan	0 points	2 points



Aidan Crockett had 12 points.

## Movie nights

Christ Church United Methodist is hosting two holiday movie nights for those who are young or young at heart. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. We are the large tan brick church as you enter Sutton. Friday, December 17 at 6:00 pm "The Star" Tuesday, December 27 at 6:00 pm "The Polar Express"-wear your PJs.

## Notice

Little Birch Elementary will hold the annual LSIC Town Hall meeting January 7, 2022 at 5:00 in the gym.

## Knights have tough start to the wrestling season



Paxton Smith



Brady Pierson

The BCMS wrestlers were on the mat twice last week. Their first outing was a trip to Wirt County for a quad. On Saturday, the Knights hosted a12-team duals tournament. Braxton coach Tyler Morlan pointed out that his team had wrestlers who did well individually although the team was not successful in either endeavor.

Finishing the week undefeated were Paxton Smith, Eliah Moore, and Brady Pierson. Three other Knights---Bradyn Morris, Jackson Wyne, and Hunter Short, finished the first week of the season 7-1.

At Wirt, the Knights fell 42-36 to Calhoun Middle. Braxton defeated Vandevander42-30 in round two and fell to host

Wirt 42-36 in the final round.

In Saturday's 12-team duals tournament, the Knights "wrestled well but were unable to win any duals in their pool," Coach Morlan explained. With filling only 7 of 15 weight classes, it will be hard for us to be competitive in the duals format," the coach noted. "We did have a lot of individual success with our varsity wrestlers posting a record of 42-11 and our JV going 9-8."

This week the Knights will travel to South Harrison.



Landon Mays



Gabriel Hacker



Eliah Moore

## GSC employees celebrate the holidays

Glenville State College faculty and staff gathered on Tuesday, December 7 for an employee appreciation luncheon. The event was hosted by President Dr. Mark A. Manchin and First Lady Gigi Manchin.

In addition to lunch, attendees were also outfitted with a new Glenville State polo shirt.

The fall 2021 semester at Glenville State College ends this week. The Winter Commencement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the College's Waco Center. Campus offices will be closed for the winter holiday from Friday, December 24 through Friday, December 31. Regular operations will resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@glenville.edu or call (800) 924-2010.





Drop your letter to santa off before December 18th to receive a reply in time for the Holidays.

The Burnsville Public Library would like to announce that Santa’s elves have delivered the Santa Mailbox just in time for Christmas.

If your child wants to receive a letter or card back from Santa Clause, please make sure they

include their first and last name with their address.

The deadline to receive a reply will be on December 18th.

For more information and updates, please visit the Burnsville Public Library on Facebook.

## A Blessing in disguise

By Joseph J Mazzella

It was the day after Thanksgiving. Gray clouds covered the sky. The air was biting. The temperature was below freezing. It was spitting snow. And the internet was out. Now I have found that having the internet out can be a pain in the butt or a blessing in disguise. I decided that day to make it the latter, work off my turkey tummy, and get a few things done.

housework was done then I pulled the air conditioning units out of the windows on my daughter’s and my houses and put them up for the winter.

Next I walked into the storage closet and pulled out the Christmas decorations and the artificial tree. I unpacked my Nana’s Nativity scene with a smile and placed it lovingly on my old record player.

Then I set up my Christmas statues of San-

ta and Dicken’s carolers on the mantle along with the Christmas angel. Next I unpacked, assembled and put up the tree. After that I pulled out the lights, tinsel and ornaments. I put each one on the tree gently and with great care while my son played Christmas music and decorated his own room.

In no time at all everything was done. I looked at the tree and then outside again. This time, however, it didn’t seem so cold, gray, and gloomy. Instead it felt warm and Christmas seemed to be in the air. Even the snowflake’s floating in the wind felt more like a gift from Heaven than a curse from nature. I heard “Away in a Manager” coming from my son’s CD player and hummed along. I could feel God’s love too all around me on this Wintery day. I walked back over to my Nana’s Nativity scene and gently touched the baby Jesus. Then I thanked God for this day, for this life, and for the internet being out.

This life certainly can seem full of pains in the butt at times. It is up to us, though, to make each one a blessing in disguise. May you do so with love each and every day of your life.

## Farm Bureau meeting

The Braxton County Farm Bureau will meet on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6 PM at the Flatwoods Community Building.

## Stewart family reunion

The Annual Stewart Family Christmas Eve lunch will be held at the Gassaway Community Building on December 24, 2021. The room will be open at 11:30 a.m. for set-up with lunch to be available as soon as all is complete. Please bring a dish and come join us.



Club members celebrating the Christmas Spirt.

# Judy’s Garden Club December Meeting

Judy’s Garden Club, Appalachian District, held its regular meeting on December 11, 2021 at the Sutton Public Library. Regular business was discussed and various reports were read and approved. The club celebrated with Christmas spirit. Club members brought light refreshments and participated in a Yankee swap.

At this meeting, preparations were being made to attend the Yeti Expo sponsored by Mt. Laurel Store and their Big Foot Museum. Club members donated their time, plants, food, Christmas items and several other items and set up as a vendor at the Expo. Club member, Vicki Pierson, presented information on different cactus as well as answering several other plant questions. Also, the raffle drawing was held for the tea basket and Christmas cactus. The winner of the tea basket was Rene Tyo and Amanda Hamric won the cactus. Congratulations ladies!

An additional effort by Judy’s Garden Club, Shop With A Ranger, was discussed and several club members gave monetary donations to support the Corp of Engineers with this endeavor of providing toys for Christmas to various children in the local area. Judy’s mem-



The winner of the tea basket was Rene Tyo and Amanda Hamric won the cactus.



Club member, Vicki Pierson, presented information on different cactus

bers are a part of many community activities

and events. Please join us anytime in our efforts. We would love to meet you.. Judy’s Garden Club thanks you for your support.

From Judy’s Garden Club, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

## The Journey of Hope and Restoration

“The Journey” of Hope and Restoration, these studies are through the “Living Free” program curriculum.

These studies are done in a small group setting that meets each Monday at 6:00 pm.

The lesson that we are currently studying is “Coping with Losses of Life”. This is a biblically-based study and everyone is welcome to participate.

We serve food at 5:30 PM each Monday at 602 Elk Street, Gassaway, WV.

We have many areas that we are able to minister to others as well such as the areas of destructive behaviors, harmful emotions, negative attitudes, unhealthy relationships, and substance abuse.

To register or if you have questions you can call Pastor Eric Veltre at 304-689-0000.

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