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"DEVOTED TO BRAXTON COUNTY -- RESPONSIVE TO ITS CITIZENS' NEEDS"

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Martha Dean named to fill vacant Board of Ed seat

The Braxton County Board of Education held a work session and a special meeting this past week in order to discuss and later fill the vacancy left by Vice President David Hoover after his recent resignation due to health concerns.

On Tuesday, December 14, board members held a work session that was conducted mostly in executive session. For over an hour and half, board members reviewed the letters of interest they had re-

ceived in the last few weeks.

Then on Friday, December 17 in a brief special meeting that lasted only four minutes, board members appointed Martha Dean to the vacant seat. The appointment passed with one abstention. Board member Evelyn Post read the following public statement in response to the appointment and the reasoning behind her abstention. "The Board of Education received ten outstanding applicants. All of whom would have

brought distinct leadership to the table. Unfortunately, only one seat was open. My vote to abstain is based on the Mr. Hoover's recommendations. I believe it is only befitting and respectful of an office holder's wishes for them to be considered. With all due respect to my fellow board members, I disagree that one of the two of Mr. Hoovers recommended choices could not be appointed. I respect the applicant chosen and I welcome her with open arms."

Braxton County Airport to receive \$110,000 grant

U.S. Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced last week that \$8,706,711 from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for projects at 22 West Virginia airports including Braxton County.

Braxton County Airport will receive \$110,000. According to a representative of the local Airport Authority official notification of the grant has not yet arrived, so the Authority does not know what the guidelines for spending the funds will be. "We have a number of critical areas that need funding, so we are hopeful that the grant will be applicable to some of those needs," said the representative.

"The bipartisan Infrastructure Invest-

ment and Jobs Act will bring historic investments to West Virginia, creating long-term, good-paying jobs while also addressing West Virginia's infrastructure needs. I successfully fought to allocate around \$40 million for West Virginia airports, and I am thrilled to see the first round of funding is being distributed to 22 airports in the Mountain State. West Virginia depends on our airports to serve as manufacturing and economic hubs, and I look forward to seeing the positive impacts of these investments and the investments still to come," said Senator Manchin.

"During the process of negotiating and putting together the final bipartisan infrastructure package, West Virginia's airports and their surrounding infrastruc-

ture were top of mind," said Senator Capito, a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. "In the past year, I've had the chance to make visits to Yeager Airport, Raleigh County Memorial Airport, and North Central West Virginia Airport to see their facilities first-hand and areas that are in need of improvements. This funding makes needed investments that will help provide additional services that will increase travel to West Virginia, create job opportunities, and drive economic development in regions across our state. I was proud to play a role in making this funding a reality and look forward to announcing similar investments through the bipartisan infrastructure package in the future."



A number of State and local dignitaries were on hand last Wednesday to honor Tyler Baldwin for his heroic efforts that are credited with saving the life of his elderly neighbor when fire destroyed their home on November 29th.

Braxton teen honored for heroic action in saving neighbor State Fire Marshal, others recognize Tyler Baldwin

In front of his high school peers, friends, and family, Tyler Baldwin was recognized on Wednesday, December 15 for his heroic efforts of pulling his elderly neighbor from a house fire on November 29.

Baldwin was honored in a ceremony with various dignitaries from throughout the state on hand to recognize him for his actions.

Braxton County High School Principal Dr. Tony Minney welcomed everyone to the ceremony followed by Superintendent Kathy Hypes.

Criminal Justice Instructor Lee Given spoke briefly about Baldwin and his goals, including his aspirations to become either an officer with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources or a first responder.

"Tyler is very humble. He doesn't like to talk about the situation that morning, but Tyler is one of few that would actually do it again. 100 times over, but there's not many people like Tyler that

would take that chance to save a life," said Given.

Those presenting plaques and certificates of recognition included State Fire Marshal Ken Tyree, John Hoffman, Braxton OES Director, Sutton Volunteer Fire Department Chief, David Long, Ben Spurlock from Senator Joe Manchin's Office,

Delegate Brent Boggs, Rhett Dusenberry on behalf of Congressman Alex Mooney's Office, and Hannah Goetz with the WOWK Gives Back Award.

Both Fire Marshal Tyree and Chief Long noted that if Baldwin and his family hadn't noticed the fire and responded quickly a death likely would have resulted.



West Virginia State Fire Marshal Ken Tyree presented Tyler Baldwin with a plaque for his "Excellence in Bravery and Determination."

Commission hires new Drug Testing Services coordinator

Two actions at last Friday's regular meeting of the Braxton County Commission resulted in the hiring of a new coordinator for the Braxton County Drug Testing Services program.

The first act, after President Lisa Godwin called the meeting to order, was to accept the resignation of Laura Wilson as coordinator of the program. In her letter, Wilson explained that she had completed certification to become a 9-1-1 dispatcher and was moving to a full-time position with that agency. She added that she had arranged her schedule to allow her to work on Thursdays and Fridays to train her replacement.

Later in the meeting, President Godwin explained that the Commission had received 5 applications for the position and had interviewed 4 of them. Commissioner Larry Clifton made a motion to hire Addi Facemire of Sutton to fill the vacancy. The action passed unanimously. The Commission President explained that Facemire would be paid \$21,000 per year plus full county benefits, serve a 90-day probationary period and

would begin her new position on December 27.

John Hoffman, OES/9-1-1/EMS Director was next to address the Commission. He presented monthly activity reports for Braxton Control and the Ambulance Service. Hoffman also requested permission to add three individuals to the EMS staff. On separate motions all three were approved. Amanda Gum and Laura Wilson were hired as part-time Emergency Vehicle Operators effective December 20. Wilson will be paid \$12 per hour while Gum will receive \$10.

Jaden Beall was hired as a full-time Emergency Vehicle Operator. His rate of pay will be \$10 per with full county benefits. All three will serve a 90-day probationary period.

Hoffman also requested permission to upgrade the dispatch center's CAD System through Motorola Solutions. He explained that the new system would cost \$105,976.78. He added that his agency intended to finance \$80,000 of the purchase and pay the balance. The request was approved on a motion by

Larry Clifton.

In other action, the Commission approved the Short Form Settlements for the following

Braxton student to receive GSC scholarship

Glenville State College student and Braxton



County resident Chloe Richardson has received the Lyndsee Gay Natural Resource Management Scholarship.

Richardson, from Strange Creek, is a freshman studying Wildlife Management.

"Thank you so much to the scholarship donors for choosing me for this scholarship," she said. "This will help me continue my education and help me pursue my career conserving wildlife in West Virginia."

The Lyndsee Gay Natural Resource Management Scholarship

was established in 2021 to honor Lyndsee Gay, a Glenville State graduate who tragically passed away in 2018. The scholarship is awarded annually to a student in the Natural Resource Management program at GSC. The student should have a minimum GPA of 2.5 at the time of application. Recipients will be selected by the faculty and staff in the Department of Land Resources.

as presented by the Fiduciary Supervisor: Karl K. Browning, Judith A. Demastus, Mary E. Jarvis, Zona

Management program at GSC. The student should have a minimum GPA of 2.5 at the time of application. Recipients will be selected by the faculty and staff in the Department of Land Resources.

For more information about the programs within the Department of Land Resources at Glenville State College, contact the Department of Land Resources at Land.Resources@glenville.edu or (304) 462-6370.

Oleta Lough, Everett Rowan and John F. Thomas.

A motion by Larry Clifton approved the application for correction of erroneous assessments for David and Emmaline Belknap.

Deputy County Clerk Shelia Butler told the Commission that a change was needed to bring the county into compliance with near equal magisterial districts as required by State Code. She said the change was necessary due to the recently completed census. "While many counties in our state are struggling to make the necessary changes, our's will be relatively easy," Butler explained. She recommended that Precinct 24, which votes at Mark LeRose Ford, be changed from the Eastern District to the Western which will satisfy the necessary requirement. After hearing the explanation, Melvin Gum made a motion to authorize the change.

It was also Gum who made a motion to authorize the use of the county credit card to pay registration fees of \$225 per individual and \$129 per night lodging for the County Commissioners Association's

Legislative Conference on January 16, 17, and 18 at Embassy Suites in Charleston. Commission President Lisa Godwin stated that her registration fee would be covered by the Association since she serves on the state board.

Larry Clifton introduced action to close the Courthouse offices at Noon on December 23 and 30 in addition to the regular holiday schedule as authorized by the Governor.

It was also Clifton who made the motion to approve a contract with Global Science & Technology, Inc. to provide comprehensive computer and network support for the county. Those services will cost \$1,060 per month or \$12,720 per year.

The Commission tabled action on an agreement with DataMax for collection services of delinquent personal property taxes pending additional information.

The Commission reviewed and approved a Melvin Gum motion to enter into a contract

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OPINION

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As I See It

By Ed Given



Dear Santa,

Hello Santa! It's me Memphis. This is my first time writing to you Santa. Kathryn turned the pen over to me, reluctantly... she doesn't like to share, but she really likes me.

Just in case you didn't get the memo... I'm the newest member of the Given clan, the first great-grandchild and this is my very first Christmas.

I hardly know where to start Santa. Everyone in this family just can't wait to get their hands on me, but sometimes I'm not in the mood. They soon figure that out. The exception is my Mommy. I am always anxious to see her, particularly after a long day's work. After a hard day of me and Nana playing, I am glad to cuddly with my Mommy. I like my Daddy too. They spend a lot of time with me, and I like to keep them guessing as to what I'm going to do next.

Us Given kids have it pretty good. Though Ella Jean and Kathryn want everything they see, I'm pretty sure they will like what ever you bring. Besides they will have forgotten most of what they ask for anyway. We won't be able to see them on Christmas as they took a family vacation in Florida. Poppie isn't too happy that they won't be here for the big day. The good side is we get to have two Christmases.

My cousin Ava is a big girl now and she wants an electronic game and an art set. Cousin Jamie is also into electronic stuff, so about anything would work for him as well. Cousin Sam is now "working for a living" so maybe you should bring him some mittens and a warm hat. My Maddie is really good to me, so maybe you can extend her and Sierra's break from college so they can have more time to play with me.

Cousin Reese needs a cushion for her Jeep seat. She's having trouble seeing over the steering wheel. At least that's what Uncle Jamie says. Carly is busy with school and her boyfriend, so maybe you could help her with time management so she would have more time to play with us younger ones.

Poppie warned me not to say much about my Grand, aunts and uncles... he says they might get mad, particularly Aunt Ali. I've heard her yelling at my cousins... I don't want to make her mad.

Santa, Kathryn says whatever you brought Nana last Christmas to keep her from being tired and sleeping all afternoon after we leave, isn't working. So, perhaps you could come up with something else. Poppie says she is usually asleep in her chair within an hour of Mommy and Daddy picking me up.

So, there you go Santa. I know you have lots of boys and girls to please, so I'm sure, my cousins and I will be happy with what ever you bring. Santa, one thing I have figured out in my short time being part of this family is that there is plenty of love to go around. So, this time of year we hope everyone else will be able to share in that love!

Merry Christmas,
Memphis Kayne Wine



From our readers

Christmas isn't really about wish lists, gifts...

Dear Editor,

After my younger daughter came home from school with a Christmas wish list, I was fairly quick to tell her this wasn't what Christmas was about.

I was so moved by our conversation that I wrote "My Dear Child." Some people saw this letter and were quite moved by this. These people believed it should be published.

Here is the letter:

My dear child,
I'll bet by now, you are really beginning to wonder what you will be getting for Christmas.

Well, I am beginning to wonder also. I am glad you have a Christmas list. Everybody should have a dream!

However, Christmas is about the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is about how Jesus was born in a manger in a stable, many years ago in Bethlehem.

He was born to die, and take our sins away. Christmas is a time for giving and should not be thought of as a time for receiving big elaborate gifts.

I think that we need to approach the Christmas season with the humbleness of being content with what God has already given us.

True enough; human nature will always allow us to want more. Especially at Christmas time, I feel we should feel fulfillment with things we have already been blessed with.

The idea of finding a few very special things under the Christmas tree should be a feeling of overwhelming surprise and not a feeling of expectation!

I feel that the specialness of knowing we have rich blessings bestowed on us by God and believing we have the capacity to take full advantage of these blessings will make Christmas much more meaningful.

Opening our hearts and minds up to the needs of others will make Christmas a time of remembering the true meaning God intends for Christmas.

Something very special happens when so much importance is placed upon giving and helping those whom we may or may not be aware of as being less fortunate than we are.

It seems the things we feel are so important for us to have do

not really have the same values as they originally had.

May all of God's love you feel radiate and be transmitted outwardly to embrace all who come within your reach as you travel through life.

As you wrap Christmas gifts, sing Christmas songs and help to decorate our Christmas tree, may the true meaning of this blessed season remain in your heart always.

May the idea of it being more blessed to "give than to receive" have a particularly warmer special meaning now more than ever before.

Remember, a special part of inner happiness is giving, not necessarily receiving.

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

With love always,
Mom.
Sue Herwat
Gassaway.

This letter from 1996 is from the unpublished book "Unexpected Treasures."

Letters to the Editor Our policy...

We would like to remind readers that we welcome letters to the editor.

We would like to reiterate our policy of not publishing letters that do not contain the author's identification. You must enclose a phone number for verification purposes. The number will not be published.

We reserve the right to edit and/or refuse any letter. We do not accept letters refuting or endorsing candidates for any upcoming election.

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, Braxton Citizens' News, P.O. Box 516, Sutton, WV 26601.

Those wishing to email should send them to: editor@bcn-news.com

Just look at this!

A weekly photo of opinion in Braxton County... sometimes good and sometimes not so good.



Jim Rose of Gassaway was the lucky winner of the Sutton Volunteer Fire Department gun and blanket raffle. Jim Morris (right) who headed up the fund-raising event, is shown here presenting the winner his prizes. Morris said the SVFD would like to thank all those who bought tickets that made the event successful. "We would also like to thank Hart's Pro Hardware for helping us with the gun and Canna Drake for the donation of the blanket. Without support we could not continue to provide the quality of service we strive to the citizens of our fire district," said Morris.

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Citizens' NEWS

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News from our Capitol

by Delegate Brent Boggs

With only days until Christmas, I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season. While we've not had any meaningful winter weather thus far, I'm sure it's not far away. However, our grandkids are skeptical of our stories of significant snowfall at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We had a great weekend with family and friends for my birthday and I'd like to thank everyone that called, emailed, texted or messaged birthday greetings and well-wishes.

I also had a great surprise this afternoon when oldest grandson Collin and one of his buddies traveled up from South Carolina on Sunday to spend a few days with us. Collin loves the farm and I'm sure I'll be spending quite a bit of time at Bonnie this week before he heads back south all too soon.

Last Thursday, was a special day at Braxton County High School as a school assembly was held to honor one of their own,

Tyler Baldwin. Recently, Tyler was credited with saving the life of an elderly neighbor by rescuing him from a burning home. In addition to my representing the House of Delegates and presenting a citation, Fire Chiefs and members of several Braxton County Volunteer Fire Departments, Board of Education President Whipkey, Braxton County Commissioner Gum and representatives of both Senator Manchin and Congressman Mooney were in attendance and for several special presentations. Additionally, a special presentation was made by the WV Fire Marshall Ken Tyree and Deputy Fire Marshall Robert Bailey on behalf of their office and the WV Fire Commission.

Thank you to BCHS Principal Dr. Tony Minney, Superintendent Kathy Hypes and the teachers, staff, and students for planning the program and for taking time to honor Tyler for his heroic and selfless action.

The issue of broadband has been with us nearly as long as I've been in the Legislature. Initially, no one thought this would be an in-demand service. However, as technology has grown by leaps and bounds, broadband has turned into a must-have for homes and businesses. Quite simply, the lack of broadband is viewed as a major liability to economic growth and bolstering our declining population and school enrollment in West Virginia. To our credit in Gilmer and Braxton Counties, we were light years ahead of other rural areas of the state, going head-to-head with former landline provider Verizon as we prevailed in setting up a first-of-its-kind non-profit entity (Gilmer-Braxton Technology Research Zone) in conjunction with Glenville State College. While we were successful in some limited wireless deployments, there was not enough available funding at the time to finish the job. If we'd had access to the funds now available, we'd have had nearly all of both counties covered with broadband coverage today.

Now it seems the rest of the State is catching on to what we knew twenty years ago, and I believe in the next year we're going

to see the beginnings of getting the dream of broadband out to our citizens in our rural areas. While I recognize that it will not happen everywhere at the same time, I want to ensure that no home or business is lost in the process. That's why I keep in close contact with WV Development Office Secretary Mitch Carmichael. For all practical purposes, the WV Development Office is the manager of the billion dollars available for broadband expansion and the office that will have the most leverage on where it goes and when.

One problem is that current providers – Frontier in particular – have not provided accurate maps of where broadband is available. In most cases, their information is flawed, indicating a larger coverage area than what is actually the case. In the Joint Committee on Government and Finance a couple of weeks ago during interim meetings, I asked Mitch how citizens that are unserved or underserved can ensure that they are not overlooked due to flawed maps.

He indicated that if you have service, but it

*Please turn to **CAPITOL***

COMMISSION

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with Johnson Controls for inspections and maintenance of fire suppression system at the Courthouse. The cost of the services will be \$2,980.

The Commission took action to set a hearing for March 18 at 10:30 a.m. to hear an objection to the final settlement in the estate of Austin Robert Hardesty.

The final acts of the short session were separate motions to approve the County and EMS bills for payment and the minutes of the Commission’s December 3 meeting.

Being no further business the Commission’s final meeting of 2021 concluded at 9:33 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Braxton County Commission will be on January 7 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

CAPITOL

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is substandard, go on the website of the WV Development Office at: Broadband.wv.gov and take the speed test. This will verify both your location and current upload and download speed.

For those that have no service, call 304-356-0138. This will ensure that if you have no service, your location will be noted by the State Broadband Office. This is extremely important, as we want no one left behind. If you have any questions, please let me know. Also, spread the word and have everyone in your area take the speed test or call. The better documentation we have in Gilmer and Braxton Counties of our lapses in coverage, the better chance we have of getting service as the first rounds of upgrades and deployments begin early next year.

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@



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New Arrivals:

- New Load: Windows, various sizes
- New Load: Sliding Patio doors
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- New Load: Vinyl Flooring and underlayment
- New Load: Laminated flooring

Materials available:

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- Hand Sanitizer - 1 L Glass bottles
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- Paint - 1 gal. Satin White
- Kitchen & Bathroom Faucets
- Flooring Laminate, Vinyl & Underlayment
- Floor Tile: 12x12, 18x18, 6x24. 12x24
- Tile Setting Materials & Tools
- Fiberglass blow-in insulation - machine for rent
- Roofing Shingles
- Toilets
- Wood Frame Mirrors
- Selection of Vanity Tops
- Granite/Stone Slabs
- Door panels (interior)
- Door Knobs
- Tub/Shower units

Other items too numerous to mention

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Wednesdays & the 2nd Saturday of each month 9 am to 2 pm
The Central WV Outreach Center needs clean used oil to heat with this Winter. Please call for details.

WVHouse.gov

The 2022 legislative session begins on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, and I will be in the Capitol office daily beginning on January 10 until the session ends in mid-March.

Jean and I wish everyone a joyous Christmas as we celebrate Christ’s birth. 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 during this holiday season. Until next week, Merry Christmas and take care.

Little Birch Elementary celebrates i-Ready

Little Birch Elementary School says they are especially proud of their Pirates... “who work hard to improve in reading and in math.” Over the past five weeks, the following students have demonstrated growth on i-Ready:

***Most improvement**
Kindergarten/1st Grade:

*Owen Jamison
Maddox Martin
Hayden Morrison
Denzil Shingler
Clayton Utt
Mason Bragg
Jasmine Evans
Lucas Hall
Annie McCourt
*Thaddeus Sartin
*Marlee Schrader
Kaiden Sears
Arden Snodgrass

2nd Grade/3rd Grade:

Mackenzie Morrison
Averie Rose
*Michael Stout
Daisy Williams
*Layla King
*T.J. Markle
Violet Williams

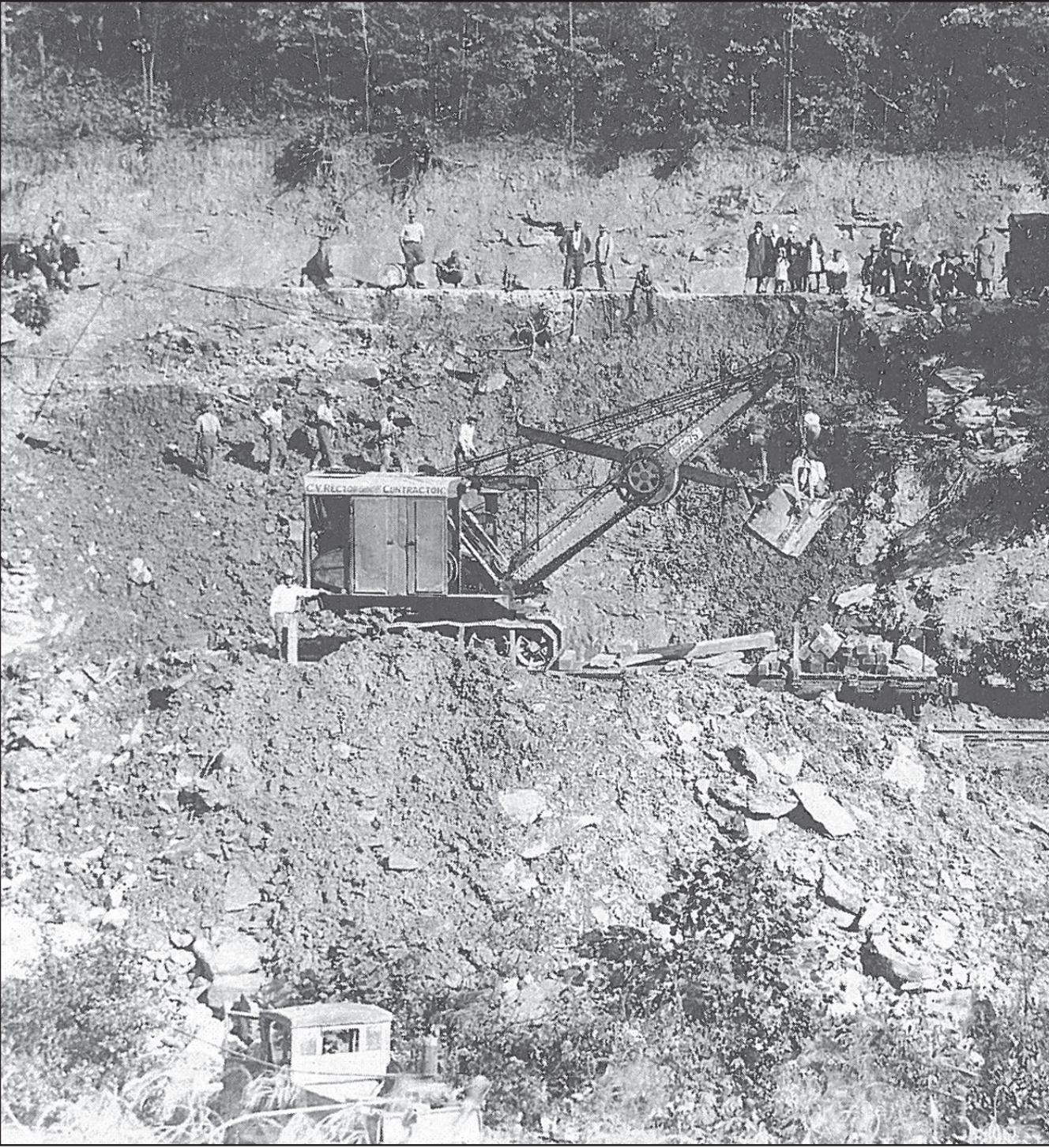
4th Grade:

*Austin Armentrout
Austin Brooks
Aiden Dorsey
Marionna George
Brenna Hoard
Brayden Rose
Romey Rose
Sechaniah Rose

5th Grade:

Gracie Coffman
Dennison
Destani Edgell
Maddison Frame
Lydia Gerwig
Alyssa Goodrich
*Kyia Hermison
Shyann Jenkins
Jeremiah Morrison
Cole Payne
Colton Putnam

Way back when...



Road Construction....
Everything was more difficult in the past. One obstacle that was by no means easy... was road construction. Most of work was done by hand except for a very limited inventory of heavy equipment such as this shovel shown in 1929 or 30 while building Route 4 and 19 between Sutton and Flatwoods. C.V. Rector General Contractor as in charge of the construction. The photo is courtesy of Craig A. Smith collection and is

featured in a series of historical books about Braxton County titled “Looking Back”. The five volumes are filled with old pictures and county history. These books, The History of Braxton County, The History of Bulltown and Craig’s three cookbooks are available for purchase at the Citizens’ News/Democrat-Central Office, 501 Main Street, Sutton, WV. They make great Christmas Gifts and there is still time as our office with be open through Thursday.

Dr. Sami Aljohani to join Mon Health Heart and Vascular Center

The Mon Health Heart and Vascular Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Sami Aljohani, to its staff. Dr. Aljohani will soon be practicing at the Mon Health Heart and Vascular locations in Elkins and Weston.

Dr. Aljohani is a graduate of Taibah University, College of Medicine in Saudi Arabia. He moved to the United States in 2012 where he performed his internship, residency, and fellowship at West Virginia University and knows the importance of cardiac care because of the state’s sobering statistics. Dr. Aljohani is married and spends his downtime traveling, reading, and watching movies.

“I was drawn to medicine after seeing the effects of limited healthcare access on my family members, Dr. Aljohani said. “Being able to work and live in an area where I can be of greatest help is my goal and calling West Virginia my home is an honor.”

West Virginia ranks first highest in the nation in the prevalence of heart attack (7.5%) and coronary heart disease (8.0%). The state ranks seventh highest in the nation in the prevalence of stroke (4.4%) and the overall cardiovascular disease prevalence is highest in the nation according to the WV Department of Health and Human Resources.

This makes it that more important to bring the award-winning Mon Health Heart and Vascular Center close to patients in North Central WV. The Center brings the latest advancements in cardiac care to the community

hospital setting, offering patients the expertise and comfort they deserve. From diagnostics to surgery, the Mon Health physicians use a comprehensive approach focused on individualized care and exceptional outcomes.

With a highly skilled clinical team, patients receive the care and attention they need to get back to an active, rewarding life.

Dr. Aljohani will be seeing patients at the Mon Health Heart and Vascular Center in

Elkins at 501 Railroad Ave, (304) 636-5006 and at the Weston office located at 66 Hospital Plaza in Weston, (304) 269-6004.

To learn more about the Heart and Vascular Center, visit MonHealth.com/Heart.

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OBITUARIES

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, Loretta 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, Brooklynn 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 was 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 called two hours prior to the service at the funeral home.

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

Argil was cared for by his daughters, Sandra, Loretta, 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.

Richard A. "Rick" Rose

Richard A. "Rick" Rose, 70, of Gassaway, WV passed away Monday, December 13, 2021 due to complications from the Covid virus.

He was born on October 3, 1951 to the late Dana A. and Mary Edna Cutlip Rose.

He was also preceded in death by one sister, Sharon Ann Bowling and nephew, William Houston Mitchell.

Rick graduated in 1969 in the last gradu-

ating class of Gassaway High School and worked on the railroad for 30 years.

He is survived by brother, James "Jim" Rose (Roberta) of Gassaway; sisters, Joanna Smith (Gary) of Meridian, Idaho, Elizabeth "Libby" Wilson (Harold) of Gassaway and Marlene Mitchell (Bill) of Gassaway; two uncles, Robert Cutlip of Florida and Jack Rose of Ohio; 11 nieces and nephews and numerous cousins.

A private graveside service was held at the MP Cutlip Cemetery on Cutlips Fork, Gassaway, WV.

The family would also like to give a special thank you to Reka Verton for taking such wonderful care of Rick for the past 13 years. You are truly appreciated.

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

Arrangements were made by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV.

David A. Mendenhall

David A. Mendenhall of Weirton, a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and 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, Jarred Brooks (Savanna) Mendenhall of Weirton and Ryan David (Becca) Mendenhall of West Liberty, WV; 2 grandchildren, 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 will be 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.davethomasfoundation.org | Privacy Policy |

Share tributes and memories at www.grecohartnick.com 304-748-3219.

Ronnie Riffle

Ronnie Riffle, 74 of Elkins, WV; departed this earthly life on the morning of Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at the Nella's Inc., Nursing Facility in Elkins, WV; following an extended illness.

He was born February 26, 1947 in Braxton County, WV; son of the late Thomas and Ruby Riffle.

Ronnie worked in the Oil and Gas industry as a field worker and he enjoyed living in the mountains of West Virginia.

A funeral service was conducted at the Ellyson Mortuary, Inc., 2 Vanhorn Drive, Glenville, WV; 26351 at 1:00 PM; Monday, December 20, 2021 with Pastor Bryan Groves officiating. Burial followed in the Stalnaker Cemetery in Glenville. Family and friends were received from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM; Monday at the Mortuary in Glenville.

Ellyson Mortuary, Inc., is honored to assist Ronnie Riffle with his final arrangements.

Charles Eugene "Gene" Conrad

Charles Eugene "Gene" Conrad passed away on Monday, December 13, 2021 at home

at the age of 82. He was born on March 11, 1939.

Gene lived on Pigeon Roost Road near Walkersville, WV for 40 years and was a lifelong resident of Braxton County. Gene was retired from the Department of Highways where he worked for 27 years, 12 of those years were at the interstate garage at Burnsville followed by 10 years at the rest area between Burnsville and Roanoke on I-79 and worked his last 5 years at the Heaters garage. Prior to working for the DOH, Gene worked for the Town of Burnsville and for the Pennline Company.

He was raised by foster parents Russell "Hugen" Conrad and Hallie Ann Conrad of Walkersville and has a foster brother, Jim

Burns, who survives. He is also survived by close friend and caretaker of 10 years, Tim Gibson. Gene spent many hours working on the farm where he lived and was a hard worker his entire life. He was a kind and very giving person who was always there to lend a helping hand and was well liked by friends, neighbors and co-workers.

Gene enjoyed fishing and hunting very much. He also enjoyed reading books, and watching cowboy and western shows on TV. Gene will truly be missed by all who knew him.

Family received friends for visitation on Saturday, December 18, 2021 from 12:00-1:00pm. Funeral service followed in the Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation Chapel. Interment followed service in the Little Kanawha Memorial Gardens, Heaters, WV.

Melissa Ann Drake

Melissa Ann Drake, 42, of Ivydale, WV gained her heavenly wings and went to be with the Lord on December 5, 2021.

She was born July 14, 1979 to the late Glenn Tanner and Beverly Coen.

In addition to her parents she is preceded in death by her late husband, Rick Taylor II; maternal grandparents, Frank (Stacy) and Lenoris (Joann) Coen; paternal grandparents, Richard and Dessie Tanner; half-brother, Kevin Wayne Tanner and nephew, Michael Keiffer.

She is survived by her children, Chelsie Drake of Clay, WV, Christopher "CJ" Samples of Buckhannon, WV, twins Lacey and Macee Samples of Prociuous, WV; grandson, Silas Chaney of Clay, WV; sisters, Stacy Murphy of Clay, WV, Jerri Drake of Gassaway, WV; Shonda Tanner of Clay, WV; half-sisters Kathy Tanner of Akron, OH, Shawnette Moore of Boston, MA, and Rachell Truman of Ivydale, WV; half-brothers, Johnny and Michael Tanner of Akron, OH, Kevin Eugene Tanner of Glenville, WV; nieces, Jennifer Cummings of Valley Fork, WV, Andrea Jarrett of Clay, WV, Mykia and Davi Linkinoggor of Clay, WV, Avery Lanham of Clay, WV; nephews, Isaac Murphy of Huntington, WV, Jack Cummings of Charleston, WV, Landon Tanner of Clay, WV.

Melissa was a loving sister and mother of four children who enjoyed cooking, gardening, and the outdoors. She was a free-spirited person with a wild heart who would give you the shirt off her back. She often spoke of Jesus, and she loved God with all her heart. She lived by loving one another and being a friend to every stranger that she met. She was an old soul who loved rock and roll who enjoyed singing and dancing. She had an infectious smile, and she knew how to make people feel good. She was the most giving, vibrant, cheerful, loving person on this earth, who always had a big, beautiful smile on her face. She was loved so much by so many people, and she will be missed dearly. She leaves behind many

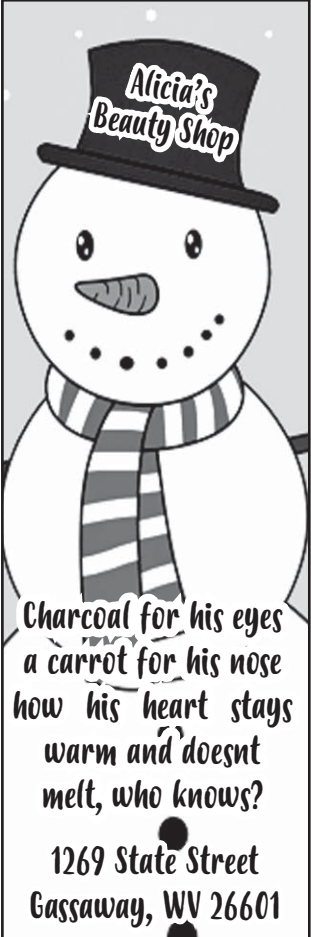
Please turn to **OBITS** page 5

Many chairs are left empty at Christmas. May God wrap his loving arms around us and bring us peace.

Greene Robertson Funeral Home

600 Riverview Drive | P.O. Box 40
Sutton, WV 26601 | 304-765-5502

Steve Jeffers Owner, Director, LIC | Dorin Jeffers Administrative Assistant
John Ware Funeral Attndee www.greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

“The Journey”
It is called “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.

.....
Burnsville Elementary hosts Town Hall meeting
Burnsville Elementary will host 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.

.....
Annual Stewart Family Christmas Eve lunch
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.

.....
Braxton County Senior Center December Menu
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. Menu subject to change due to Availability of foods.

.....
Friday night indoor 3D shoot
Friday night Indoor 3D Shoot - 15 animals (shoot twice) - Doors open @ 6PM - Beef Chili and Cornbread available @ 6:30 - Shoot starts @ 7PM till ?. Mid State Archers 2415 Airport Rd. Questions - call Ronald 304.542.4353.

.....
Kanawha Alumni Indoor Archery at night
Mid-State Archers is now opening on Tuesday nights for indoor target archery from 6-9pm, 2415 Airport Rd. For more information call 304.542.4353.

Lloyds Hardware

From our family to yours, may you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

(304) 765-3332

4350 Sutton Ln, Sutton, WV 26601

State Farm

346 ENTERPRISE DR, GASSAWAY, WV 26624
CALL TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTE! (304) 364-8600

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

Merry Christmas

Wishing you the most joyful of seasons. We look forward to serving you in the New Year!

Thank you for your patronage.

OBITS

Continued from page 4

memories to cherish, and she will never be forgotten.

The family would like to thank everyone who made donations to bring her home and honor her wishes with a proper service and burial. We will forever be grateful.

Her visitation was 6 to 9 P.M. Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV.

Graveside service was 11 A.M. December 23, 2021 at Coen Cemetery, Chloe, WV.

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

Zachariah Isaac Tanner



Zachariah Isaac Tanner came into this world 35 years ago. He was born in Charleston, WV on December 6, 1986

two months early and ready to fight. He was a tiny thing even though he loved to eat. He could out eat two grown men and often did. He loved all the loud noises of a big family. If he thought one of his brothers or sisters was in trouble it was the funniest thing in the world. You could hear him laughing clear through the house. At any given moment you would hear the music that he loved so much get turned up. One his sisters would have him out of his wheelchair dancing with him and he would be laughing so hard that he could not breathe. Other times one of his brothers would have him in the floor arm wrestling with him. He always got to win. He came into this world too early and left it way too early.

He will be missed so much by his momma, Connie Cain Sears and husband, Gabe of Frametown; his father, Samuel Tanner and wife, Debbie of Nebo; his brothers, Adam Tanner of Frametown, Jason Tanner of Youngstown, OH, Tristen Tanner of Charleston; his sisters, Amanda Schoonover of Gassaway, Destaney Jerrell of Gassaway, Nicole Jerrell of Frametown and Samantha Tanner of Nebo; several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.


Funeral service was 1 P.M. Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV with Pastor Daniel Tanner officiating. Burial followed in the Douglas Cemetery, Ivydale, WV.

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

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

funeralhome.com.

Joshua Hacker



Joshua Hacker, 32, of Exchange, passed away on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at WVU Ruby Memorial Hospital due to a short illness.

He was born May 13, 1989 in Buckhannon, WV.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Mary and Bayward Butler; and his paternal grandparents, Thelma and Arthur Hacker.

Josh worked as an electrician. He was a good father and if he wasn't working he was spending time with his family. He was a blacksmith and gunsmith and enjoyed woodworking and anything that he could do with his hands. He would help anyone who needed it. He was an animal person who loved dogs. In his spare time he watched the TV shows, Forged in Fire, What on Earth (science show), and How Its Made. He also was a Bigfoot enthusiast.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Jessica Hacker; son, Tristan James Hacker; mother, Kandee Butler of Exchange; father, Thomas Ray Hacker and wife, Vada, of Exchange; brother, Kenneth Hacker and wife, Christy, of Fairmont; half-brothers, Daniel Nicholson of Buckhannon; Thomas Nicholson and wife, Chasity, of North Carolina, Stephen Hacker of Exchange; half-sisters, Misty Heater and husband, Jason, of Heaters, and Sherri Hacker of Heaters; and a large extended family. He also leaves behind his three dogs.

Josh was cremated and a private service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV.

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

Iva Lee Jackson



Iva Lee Jackson, 60, of Little Birch, passed away on Friday, December 17, 2021 at Camden Clark Hospital, Parkersburg.

She was born June 3, 1961 in Sutton, to the late Grover Richard & Dorothy Genevieve Shaffer Barnette. Also preceding her in death was her husband, Larry Jackson; sons, James Emory Canfield, Bruce Canfield; brother, David Allen McHenry.

Iva was a homemaker, a truck driver and is a member of the Apostolic Church.

Left to cherish her memory is her brothers,

Gary Barnette of Ashboro, NC, Larry Barnette, Grover Barnette both of Little Birch; sisters, Lola Fannin of Flatwoods, KY, Beulah Pullin of Flatwoods, WV, Mable Verton of Little Birch; grandson, James Emory Canfield of Cabin Creek.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 pm, Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at Greene-Robertson Funeral Home, Sutton with Pastor Homer Gibson officiating. Burial will follow at Barnett Cemetery, Little Birch. Friends may call one hour before the funeral at the funeral home.

Greene-Robertson Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Jackson family.

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

Diana Lynn McCormick



Diana Lynn McCormick, 62, of Salem, WV, formerly of Clay County, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at WVU United Hospital Center, Bridgeport, WV surrounded by her family.

She was born in Charleston, WV on April 8, 1959 to the late Betty Jean Hamrick and Fred Lee Patterson.

In addition to her parents Diana was preceded in death by her brothers, Rodney Wayne Patterson and John Allen Patterson; and sister, Cheryl Ann Patterson Parks.

Diana was a born again Christian. She loved fishing, camping, and being outdoors. Diana's homemade buttermilk biscuits were five star! She loved gospel music and spending time with her family. She also enjoyed volunteering at My Fathers Mission. Nearing her death Diana texted and said that "I am not alone and I'm not in pain".

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Russell McCormick of Salem, WV; brothers, Michael Patterson of Frametown and David Patterson of Frametown; sisters, Edna Belt and husband Robert of Bomont, WV and Sandra Gillette and husband Timothy of Inverness, FL; half-sister, Debbie Hamrick and husband Russell of Clay; sons, Adam Wood and fiancée Brandy Stuber of Prociuous and Hirsal Bollinger and wife Daisy of Clay; and daughter, Jennifer Rowland and husband Kenneth of Bellville, OH; stepsons, John McCormick of Salem, Rusty McCormick and wife Lisa of Salem, and Matt McCormick and wife Sonya of Columbus, OH. Diana is also survived by seven grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was 12 P.M., Sunday, December 19, 2021 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV. Burial followed at Hamrick Cemetery at Swandale, WV.

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

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

Waltons Bonding


WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY Christmas

502 Court Street Summersville, WV 26651

COMMUNITY CORNER

PAT'S CHAT

BY :
PAT RIDPATH



I was going to write and have you go online and watch a sermon given by our new pastor, Daniel Venegas. I think he called it "Holy Smoke"! I wanted you to hear it. I had to watch it online because the arrival of my Florida granddaughter and her family interrupted the sermon (which was muted from my side). He is so young and newly graduated, but really digs deep and gives wonderful, heartfelt sermons. If you are curious, go to this site and listen for yourself. I don't think you will be sorry. Let me know what you think of it or whether you have any questions.

<https://www.facebook.com/buchannonsda/videos/98884678/85081567ebook>

But I read the poem below, so that is way more than enough for the Chat column. I hope you enjoy both the poem and the sermon online.

The Glenville Democrat had this note at the end of the column: "Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within.....we will all, one day, be there, too! PLEASE SHARE THIS POEM, The best and most beautiful things of this world can't be seen or touched. They must be felt by the heart....."

“When an old man

died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in an Australian country town, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value. Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. One nurse took her copy to Melbourne....the old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas editions of magazines around the country and appearing in mags for Mental Health. A slide show presentation has also been made based on his simple, but eloquent poem. And this old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this anonymous poem winging across the internet.

"CRABBY OLD MAN

"What do you see, nurses? What do you see? What are you thinking when you're looking at me? A cranky old man not very wise, Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes? When you say in a loud voice, I do wish you'd try! Who seems not to notice the things that you do. And forever is losing a sock or a shoe? Who, resisting or not lets you do as you will, With bathing and feeding the long day to fill? Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see? Then open your eyes, nurse. You're not looking at me. I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still. As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.

I'm a small child of .Ten
with a father and mother.
Brothers and sisters who
love one another. A young
boy of Sixteen with wings
on his feet Dreaming that
soon now a love herll meet.
A groom soon at Twenty
my heart gives a leap. Re-
membering the vows that
promised to keep. At Twen-
ty-Five now I have young of
my own Who need me to
guide and a secure,happy
home. A man of Thirty.
My young now grown
fast, Bound to each other
with ties that should last.
At Forty, my young sons
have grown and are gone,
But my woman is beside
me to see I don't mourn.
At Fifty, once more, Ba-
bies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children,
My loved one and me.
Dark days upon me, My
wife is now dead. I look
at the future, I shudder
with dread. For my young
are all rearing young of
their own. And I think
of the years and the love
that I've known. I'm now
an old man and nature is
cruel. It's jest to make old
age look like a fool. The
body, it crumbles, grace
and vigor, depart. There is
now a stone where I once
had a heart. But inside this
old carcass a young man
still dwells, and now and
again my battered heart
swells. I remember the
joys, I remember the pain,
And I'm loving and living
life over again. hink of the
years, all too few, gone too
fast. And accept the stark
fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people,
open and see, Not a cranky
old man. Look closer. See.
ME!

Maranatha



Sutton Public Library 2nd Annual Christmas Decorating Contest Winners

The Friends of the Sutton Public Library held their second annual house decorating contest. There were many beautifully decorated homes around the community, however, only four houses entered the contest. They were all well planned, and it was difficult to choose the win-

ners. The judges could tell there was much thought and many hours of work put into the decorating.

First place \$50 winner: Jennifer Rhodes; Second place \$25 winner: Jason Nottingham; Third place \$10 winner: Jill Sligar.

Thanks to all the par-

ticipants. The Friends would also like to thank Mountain Laurel Country Store for contributing to the cash prizes for the contest. Hopefully next year we will have more entries. Take a drive around the county and enjoy the beautifully decorated homes this season.

COUNTY STORIES BY: **JEANETTE RIFFLE**

Holiday Potatoes

I fixed candied white sweet potatoes for Thanksgiving and our granddaughter had never had them. She had only had yams but she really liked these. I explained to her about my Dad growing them and I didn't know how to do that, but her Grandpa did. My job was to stay in the house after supper, take care of my baby brother and do supper dishes. Mom said she would go to the gardens with Dad and the boys.

Mr. R. said he hated that job of planting and growing sweet potatoes. His job was to water them every evening. He had to pump up water from the well into a big wash tub, carry buckets of water to the garden, and use a dip-

per to water each plant. Sometimes there were two rows of them clear through the garden. They are different from regular potatoes in that you make the ridge and set plants in the ridge. With regular potatoes, you hill them up after they are already grown. He remembers someone telling him that he didn't have to use a hoe to make those ridges clear through the garden. She told him to hitch up "Old Bob" and put a plow to him and let him make the furrows. Well, he wasn't used to that and he said they did what she said and followed along holding onto that plow but they had some of the most crooked rows you ever saw. He just now told me that story and like always I asked questions. Yes, he said he had to hoe the weeds out so as to encourage the sweet potatoes to grow. All that hard work and he never really liked them all that well. He didn't know why his aunt wanted to grow so many sweet potatoes.

I always looked forward to them along with Mom's squirrel supper in the fall. We had some

with the holiday meals, too. Dad didn't grow as many as Aunt Susie did, though. I never heard anyone complaining about working too hard to grow them. I probably wouldn't like them either if I had to do all that garden work that my husband did.

There are a lot of sick people right now. Weather changes have made people sick with upper respiratory issues. Sinus troubles and sore throat. Mr R. had to take me to our doctor this past week for sore throat. He has a lingering cough from his head cold. I could get him over that cough. What is so bad about putting Vick's Salve on the bottom of the feet and a pair of warm sock's ?

We are hearing of people with a stomach bug and a lot are coming down with Covid. We have had all three of the Covid vaccines and our kids are getting the booster, first of the week. So, we should be safe for a Christmas get together here with them.

Until next time, we pray that the sick get well . Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all. God bless!



MAGISTRATE COURT

R-E-P-O-R-T

Magistrate Beth Smith's Court

October 25: Mohamed Hashi Dirie of Columbus, OH, driving too fast for road conditions, dismissed, pre-trial diversion, to pay court costs.

November 17: Samuel Paul Ayers of Gassaway, no proof of insurance, dismissed per plea, driving suspended, dismissed per plea.

December 13: Clifford Casto of Elkview, obtaining goods under false pretenses, dismissed-age of case; Christine M. Frame of Cleveland, no proof of insurance, no contest plea, improper registration, no contest plea, fines/court costs assessed.

December 14: Ryan Duckworth of Flatwoods, obstructing an officer, guilty plea, driving suspended, dismissed per plea, 27 days of jail with credit for time served of 27 days, fine/court costs assessed; Jesse L. Beck of Platts-mouth, NE, disorderly conduct, guilty plea, obstructing an officer x2,

dismissed per plea, disruption of governmental process, dismissed per plea, fine/court costs assessed; Jimmy Gladwell of Richwood, possession of meth, guilty plea, possession of marijuana, dismissed per plea, 60 days of jail with credit for time served of two days, remainder suspended and placed on nine months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs assessed.

December 15: David Allen Carper of Gassaway, domestic assault, guilty plea, obstructing an officer x3, dismissed per plea, three months of jail with credit for time served of three months, fine/court costs assessed; Ronda Robey of Sutton, battery on officer, guilty plea, obstructing an officer x3, dismissed per plea, failure to yield at intersection, dismissed per plea, no seatbelt, dismissed per plea, failure to obey traffic control device, dismissed per plea, left of center, dismissed per plea, failure to yield to emergency vehicle, dismissed per plea, six months of

jail with credit for time served of 30 days, eight months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs assessed.

December 16: David Aaron Cogar of Clay, attempted murder, no probable cause found, dismissed, different felony charges to be recharged; Alvie W. Woods of Duck, possession of meth, possession of cocaine, dismissed per plea, possession of marijuana, dismissed per plea, 90 days of jail with credit for time served of two days, remainder suspended and placed on eight months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs assessed.

Magistrate David Singleton's Court

December 15: David R. Carper of Gassaway, fraudulent registration, dismissed per plea, no license, dismissed per plea, no registration, dismissed per plea, no MVI, dismissed per plea, no proof of insurance, dismissed per plea, unsafe/improper equipment, dismissed per plea.

Friends of the Sutton Public Library announce quilt raffle winner

The Friends of the Sutton Public Library have had a busy and profitable year. All proceeds go to the library to pay utilities and keep the library staffed. The latest fundraiser was raffling a quilt that was made and donated by the Create and Donate quilting group that meets at the library each Thursday to sew. Many, many people were so generous in purchasing raffle tickets. The winning ticket was pulled during the Yeti festival on Saturday Dec. 11th. The winner of the queen size fall colored quilt was Gail Halcomb. She is very excited to have a quilt made by the local quilters. Over \$700.00 was raised by this raffle. Both locals and people who don't even live in West Vir-

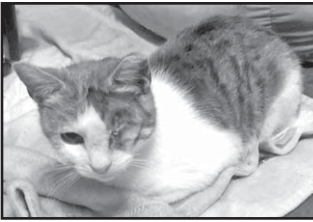


The winner of the queen size fall colored quilt is Gail Halcomb. ginia are so supportive of the library. Thanks to everyone who bought a ticket. Watch for the next fundraiser sponsored by the Friends of

KITTY KORNER: Affordable, Adoptable, Fixed Feline Friends

As the holiday approached, we remind you that pets are a lifetime commitment, and not just a present for under the tree on Christmas morning. Just One Generation recommends that new pets NOT be introduced to a household on or at Christmas morning, but rather several weeks before or after the event. This gives all the best chance for the pet to adapt to its new environment. 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 \$35, and older kittens and cats may already be done at the time of placement. This week we feature two of our mother cats that hold a special place in our hearts. Each has lovingly raised their litter, as is looking for someone who can provide them with the same dedicated care. 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.



GABRIELLA: female, bold calico, short-haired. Young (less than 2 years), spayed, immunized, litter box trained, used to indoor living.



FAITH: female, gray/white, short-haired. Faith lost an eye in defense of her litter. The eye was surgically removed and is now fully healed. Spay/rabies vaccine scheduled and included with adoption fee. Very gently, loving, social.



Pam Wine, Town of Burnsville and Sherry Ratliff, Friends of the Burnsville Lake distribute baskets to the elderly of Burnsville.



The Friends of Burnsville Lake and the Town of Burnsville help make Christmas brighter for the elderly

The Friends of Burnsville Lake and the Town of Burnsville have partnered together for another year to help make Christmas a little

brighter for the elderly residents of the Burnsville area. Everyone did such a wonderful job collecting and making these

baskets to hand help throughout their community. This is a great example of a community working together to share the holiday spirit!

Thank you on behalf of Tom Tichner

On Monday, November 15th my whole world changed. I lost my soul mate, my love, my rock, my companion, and my best friend, I lost my Tommy! I don't know how I can every thank all of you for your prayers, visits, calls, texts, messages, food, loving words, cards, hugs, gifts, and flowers, and just being there, all which were greatly appreciated and needed. To my friends and neighbors who have continually helped me with our dogs, and helped me in various situations, thank you; the gentleman who orchestrated the repair and removal

of tress from my driveway, a big thank you; the donations to the Animal Shelter have just been overwhelming, thank you, Tom would be so proud. There has just been so much love shown to me, I'll never be able to thank you all enough! Please know that I love each and every one of you, and I am thankful for such, kind, loving, and caring friends. Tom was such a loving and compassionate man, he will be missed, and I miss him terribly. Please remember me in your prayers for strength. All my love to you all, Edith "Edie" Tichner.

MFB holds Volunteer opportunities

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.

Dog Tales: 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. Adop-

tions 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

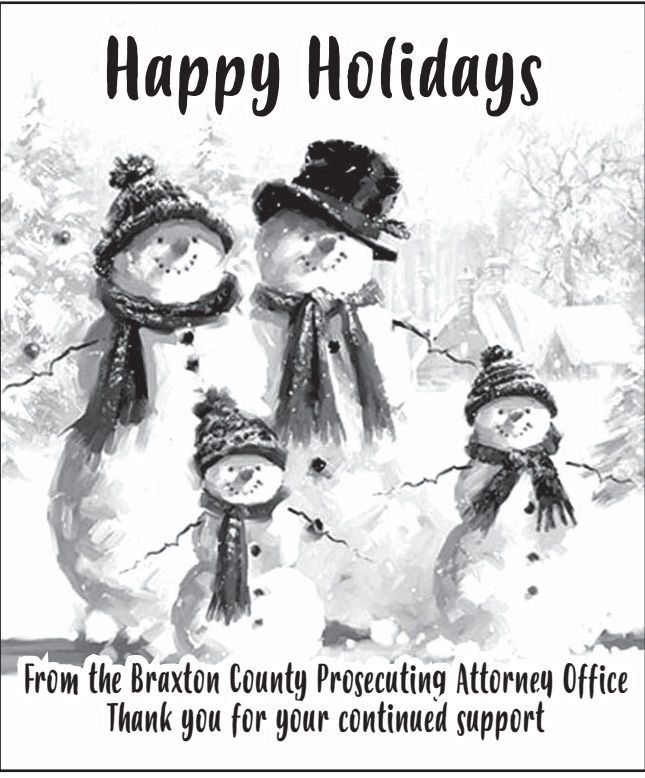


Sam, Joe and Pete are littermates looking for brand new homes this Christmas! Their Mom is a German Shepherd and we can't be sure about the Dad so they are listed as German Shepherd mixes. These handsome brothers are five months old (born July 13th) and will likely mature into big dogs. They have never lived indoors and are learning to walk on a leash but they are very smart and are learning quickly. These guys love to romp and play with

each other and would do well with puppy siblings. They especially love a good tug of war with a rope and some belly scratches.



Marley is an approximate six month old mixed breed female who weighs around thirty pounds and likely will stay a medium sized dog. Marley is still a puppy with playful puppy ways. She was surrendered to animal control by a caretaker who didn't have time to invest in her. She walks on a leash and knows her name and is very smart and eager to please her human. Marley could easily be trained and is food motivated. Marley has lived mostly outdoors and isn't fully house trained yet. She loves all dogs and people and would love to have a puppy sibling to play with but probably wouldn't do well in a home with small children because she hasn't yet learned to be gentle when in play mode.



Braxton County Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
My name is Shelby Lynn Bender. I'm 5 years old and go to Little Birch School.

I have been a good girl this year.

I would like to have a green Dinosaur with a good truck, and a slide. Please bring my baby sister Sammy a toy too.

I will leave cookies and milk for you.

Shelby

Dear Santa,
I have been the best I could be this year which is very good this year what I want for

Christmas is 1: case of water 2: Midevil armor 3: Real Buster Sword from the game Final Fantasy 7

Love, Brayden

Dear Santa,
To be honest I have been very naughty this year but mine and my brother and sister life has been very hard from an abusive family we just got adopted 3 years ago but are still very, very poor what I want for Christmas is 1: Fort-nite Nerf Gun 2: a Nin-tendo Switch Lite.

Love, Branndon

Dear Santa Claus,
I have had a very, very hard life to be honest I have been naughty this year but there will be easy days I just half to keep pushing forward all I want for Christmas is 1: a phone 2: blue healer puppie 3: fake nails from Walmart

Love, Elizabeth Pullin

Dear Santa,
My name is Caleb

Brown. I was writing to tell you Merry Christmas. I hope you and your elves have a good Christmas. Happy Holiday!

Ho ho ho!

PS I would like the secret formula



Dear Santa,
My name is Harper Fern Chrislip. I have

been a very good girl this year. I'd love to have a giant doll house for my LOL dolls and Barbie Dolls. Id also like a pair of blue gloves to match my snowman. Id also love an OMG LOL Big Sister Surprise Doll. Thats all. Thank you Santa.

Love, Harper.

Dear Santa,
My name is Bryson Waites. I live in Buckhannon with my Dad and Anna. I am 7 years old and I have a broken arm so Grandma Libby is writing this for me. She says Santa stops there. I will be there for Christmas. I have been a pretty good boy this year. I think I would like a toy army gun, a remote control truck, and some new boots. Please remember Dad and Anna and my two sisters. They are into girly things. Thanks Santa!

I love you, Bryson
PS Grandma lives in Orlando, WV



Dear Santa,
Well, it is that time of year again that you are checking your list to see who had been naughty and who has been nice. We here at the Robbins Nest are sure hoping we are all on that nice list! We know we have not always been on the nice list but we promise we are all trying real hard to get on that nice list. You can ask our teachers at the Robbins Nest and they know we have been little angels all of the time. Well, maybe not all of the time but

most of the time. Okay, part of the time we are little angels! Since there are only five days life till you make your trip from the North Pole, we promise we will be so so so good from here on out. We promise that we will not make it hard for our teachers at daycare and we will be awesome boys and girls for our parents. Ms. Debbie has our lists and we know you know exactly what we want this year for Christmas. We cannot wait for your arrival.

Love you
Robbins Nest Child Care Center

Dear Santa,
I still have a lot of questions about you. I see many versions of you around the Holidays and Mom says that you are here to help Santa before the big day. I have been good this year, I sometimes get myself into trouble though but it is nothing I can't change my attitude toward, learn from and overcome with some help. This year I am asking for a pair of Pointe shoes to dance around the house in. Mom said that they are very expensive and that my foot should be properly measured for them to fit just right but I know that your Elves know what they are doing so I am hopeful!

Merry Christmas
Love Rileigh Samples

MOUNTAIN LAUREL

Country Store

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

gomart

MERRY CHRISTMAS BRAXTON COUNTY

Merry Christmas

From Central West Virginia Real Estate

Custom Barn Quilts

Contact athenastainedglass for more details.

Happy Holidays

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US TO SERVE YOUR HEALTHCARE NEEDS

5th and 6th grade Braxton County Youth Basketball team scrimmages during halftime at WVU game

On Sunday, Dec. 12th, families and friends gathered to enjoy a day of Braxton County Youth Basketball. This Sunday, the court looked quite different. They watched 5th/6th grade players take the court at the WVU Coliseum to scrimmage at halftime, during the Mountaineer game against Kent State in Morgantown. Four 5th/6th grade teams were comprised of players attending the game. Two teams scrimmaged on each half of the court. The Mountaineer assisted with the games. The teams and other players were escorted onto the court by coaches and assistants from the BCYB League. The 3rd/4th graders in attendance had the opportunity to watch the scrimmage

from the Home and Visitor benches, as well as, received tshirts. This experience is one that our youth will never forget. Libby McQuain organized this event with the help of WV Mountaineer Athletics and with the help of volunteers from our league the day of the event. She commented, "It's one thing for our youth to enjoy fun activities for Youth Day prior to a Mountaineers home game, but to get to step onto the court at the Coliseum to play basketball with your friends, being able to cheer for your league from the benches, it doesn't get much better than that for our youth basketball players!" Mountaineers went on to win the game 63-50, making for a really good ending to a great day in Morgantown.



Braxton County Youth Basketball teams scrimmaged at the WVU Coliseum during halftime at the Mountaineer vs Kent State game.



(Tariff Rule 44) PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN CHARGES BY MUNICIPALITIES
NOTICE is hereby given that the Town of Burnsville, a public sewer utility, has adopted, by ordinance on December 13, 2021, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing sewer collection and disposal service to sewer customers in and around Burnsville in the County of Braxton, West Virginia. Burnsville deems the present customer rates and charges for the furnishing of sewer service throughout the entire territory served by Burnsville to be inadequate to provide sufficient revenues to the Town to maintain and operate the sewer collection and disposal system and to maintain required debt service coverage. The Town is proposing a two step increase in rates and charges to assist its customers. The Step I increase in rates and charges is necessary to provide sufficient revenues to the Town to maintain and operate the sewer collection and disposal system and to maintain required debt service coverage. The Step I rate increase, being a percentage increase of 10.66% over current rates, will be effective for bills rendered after February 1, 2022. The Step II increase in rates and charges is necessary to satisfy the monthly payments on the loan for the Town's wastewater collection system improvements project. The project will be funded by grants in the amount of \$2,669,500 and a loan in the amount of \$169,500. The Step II rate increase, being a percentage increase of 20.01% over current rates, will be effective for bills rendered after substantial completion of the wastewater collection system improvements project. The proposed rate increases are as follows

STEP I RATES
(Effective for bills rendered after February 1, 2022)

APPLICABILITY
Applicable within the entire territory served.

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE
Available for general domestic, commercial, and industrial service.

(I)	<u>USAGE CHARGE</u>			
First	2,000 gallons	\$16.20	per 1,000 gallons	
Over	2,000 gallons	\$16.20	per 1,000 gallons	

(I)	<u>MINIMUM BILL</u>			
	Minimum Monthly Bill			\$ 32.40
	3,400 Gallon Monthly Bill	\$ 55.08		
	4,000 Gallon Monthly Bill	\$ 64.80		

(I) UNMETERED CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS
\$48.60 per customer per month (based on 3,000 gallons)

(I) Indicates increase.

STEP II RATES
(Effective for bills rendered after substantial completion of the wastewater collection system improvements project)

APPLICABILITY
Applicable within the entire territory served.

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE
Available for general domestic, commercial, and industrial service.

(I)	<u>USAGE CHARGE</u>			
	First	2,000 gallons	\$17.57 per 1,000 gallons	
	Over	2,000 gallons	\$17.57 per 1,000 gallons	

(I)	<u>MINIMUM BILL</u>			
	Minimum Monthly Bill	=		\$ 35.14
	3,400 Gallon Monthly Bill	=	\$ 59.74	
	4,000 Gallon Monthly Bill	=	\$ 70.28	

(I) UNMETERED CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS
\$52.71 per customer per month (based on 3,000 gallons)

(I) Indicates increase.

The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

Step I Rate Increase- Bills Rendered After February 1, 2022					
	Avg Gallons	Current Bill	Step Bill	Dollar Increase	% Increase
Residential	2,500	\$ 36.60	\$ 40.50	\$ 3.90	10.66 %
Commercial	4,000	\$ 58.56	\$ 64.80	\$ 6.24	10.66 %
Public Authority	20,500	\$ 300.12	\$ 332.10	\$ 31.98	10.66 %

Step II Rate Increase- Bills Rendered After Substantial Completion of the Project					
	Avg Gallons	Current Bill	Step Bill	Dollar Increase	% Increase
Residential	2,500	\$ 36.60	\$ 43.93	\$ 7.33	20.01 %
Commercial	4,000	\$ 58.56	\$ 70.28	\$ 11.72	20.01 %
Public Authority	20,500	\$ 300.12	\$ 360.19	\$ 60.07	20.01 %

The Town does not have any resale customers. The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. The Commission shall review and approve or modify the increased rates only upon the filing of a petition within thirty (30) days of the adoption of the ordinance changing said rates or charges, by:

(1) Any customer aggrieved by the changed charges who presents to the Commission a petition signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the customers served by such municipally operated public utility; or

(2) Any customer who is served by a municipally operated utility and who resides outside the corporate limits and who is affected by the change in said rates or charges and who presents to the Commission a petition alleging discrimination between customers within and without the municipal boundaries. Said petition shall be accompanied by evidence of discrimination; or

(3) Any customer or group of customers of a municipally operated utility who are affected by said change in rates or charges who reside within the municipal boundaries and who present a petition to the Commission alleging discrimination between said customer or group of customers and other customers of the municipal utility. Said petition shall be accompanied by evidence of discrimination.

All petitions should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of Burnsville to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the office of Burnsville Public Utility Board: 54 Buckeye Alley, Burnsville, West Virginia, 26335.

A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, P.O. Box 812. Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE AUTHORITY BOARD APPLICANTS SOLICITED
Pursuant to WV Code 7-15-5, the Braxton County Commission is accepting letters of interest for appointment to the Braxton

County Emergency Ambulance Service Authority Board. The aforesaid Board shall be lodged in a board of not less than five nor more than fifteen individuals who shall be known as members of the board and who shall be appointed

for terms of three years each by the governing bodies of the participating governments. Any individual who is a resident of, or member of the governing body of any participating government is eligible to serve as a member

of the board. Board vacancy is for a Business Appointment. Interested persons are to submit a Letter of Interest to the Braxton County Commission, Post Office Box 486, Sutton, West Virginia 26601, postmarked no later than Friday, December 24, 2021. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

NOTICE OF FILING OF ESTATES
TO THE CREDITORS AND BENEFICIARIES OF THE WITHIN NAMED DECEASED PERSONS: I have before me the estates of the following deceased persons and the accounts of the fiduciaries of their respective estates:

DECEDENT: FLODA V. REXROAD
FIDUCIARY: AGNES RESROAD
302 BRAXTON ST.
GASSAWAY, WV 26624
DECEDENT: EARL KENNETH ALLEN
FIDUCIARY: BARBARA ALLEN
2102 WALNUT FORK RD.
CHLOE, WV 25235
DECEDENT: SHIRLEY JEAN NICHOLSON
FIDUCIARY: IRENA ALMY
1723 HYERS RUN RD.
BURNSVILLE, WV 26335
DECEDENT: EULA YOUNG
FIDUCIARY: CONNIE PINGLEY
92 WALNUT DRIVE
ELKINS, WV 26241
DECEDENT: JACK AUSTIN STALNAKER
FIDUCIARY: SHIRLEY BROWN STALNAKER
736 ACORN COURT
WARRENTON, VA 20186
DECEDENT: RETA ANN DAVIE
FIDUCIARY: DALE DAVIS
1535 HEROLD RD
SUTTON, WV 26601
DECEDENT: SUSANNA ROSE
FIDUCIARY: SCOTT SIMMONS
400 LAKE DRIVE
AMISSVILLE, VA 20106
DECEDENT: SHARON ELAINE MILLER
FIDUCIARY: JAMES P MILLER JR
7453 CHAPEL RD
GASSAWAY, WV 26624
DECEDENT: IDA BELLE DEAN
FIDUCIARY: TERRY L. DEAN
8 BACK STREET
BURNSVILLE, WV 26335
DECEDENT: SHIRLEY K. SWISHER
FIDUCIARY: JAN FRAME
84 SOUTH HIGH ST.
SUTTON, WV 26601
DECEDENT: FRANK HARVEY HENDERSON
FIDUCIARY: SIERRA NOTTINGHAM
ENTERPRISE DR
GASSAWAY, WV 26624
DECEDENT: MARJORIE YOUNG
FIDUCIARY: ROSS YOUNG
846 EUREKA RD.
STRANGE CREEK, WV 25063
DECEDENT: DIXIE L. (DICK) GRAFF
FIDUCIARY: RICHARD M. GRAFF
P O 104 BURNSVILLE, WV 26335
ANCELLIARY ADMINISTRATION:
DECEDENT: JEAN GARBER
FIDUCIARY: MICHAEL J. GARBER
40297 FESTOON LANE
MECHANICSBURG, MD 20659
DECEDENT: JAMES JACKSON
FIDUCIARY: VIRGINIA COURT
530 DAVIS STREET
NILES, OH 44446
All persons having any claims against the estate(s) of any of the above-named persons whether due or not, are notified to exhibit the same with vouchers thereof, legally verified, to the fiduciary of such deceased persons as shown herein with 60 days of the publication of this notice to the office of the Fiduciary Supervisor of Braxton County or the Fiduciary named above, not later than the 4th day of February, 2022; otherwise any or all such Claims may by law be excluded from all benefits of said estate(s). All beneficiaries of said estate(s) may appear either before the above-named fiduciary by the date first above shown or thereafter before the Fiduciary Supervisor by the date last above shown to examine said claims and otherwise protect their respective interests. Given under my hand this 4th day of December 2021.
TAMERA FACEMIRE
Fiduciary Supervisor
12-14 12-21b


Little Birch Elementary LSIC Town Hall Meeting

Little Birch Elementary will hold their Annual LSIC Town Hall meeting on Thursday January 7, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. in the school gym.

For more information please call 304-765-2042.

Harts Pro Hardware


Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Bob Hart & Revelea Lemon

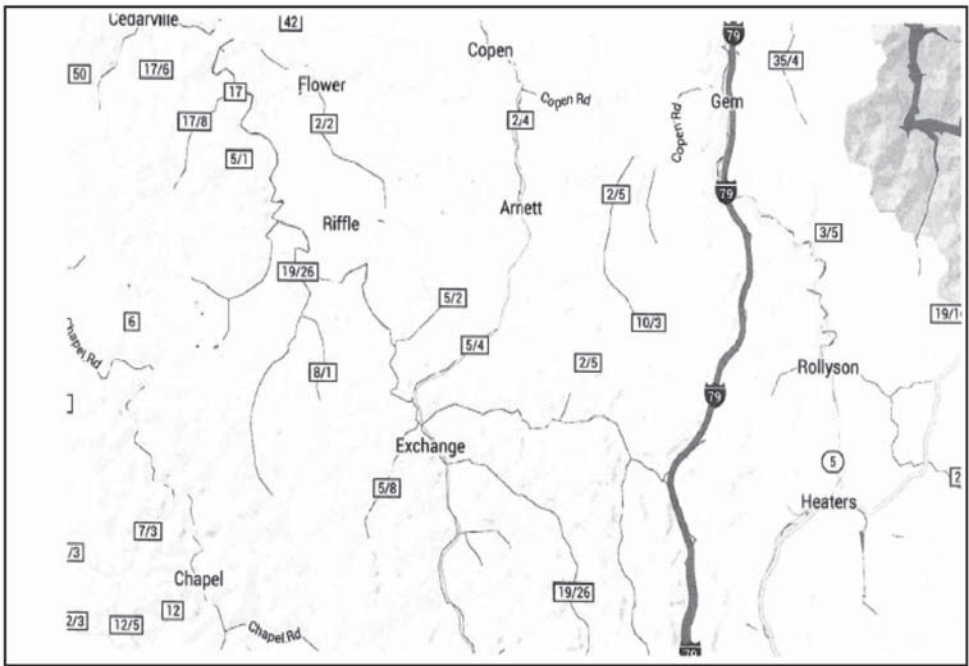


Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
-2 Corinthians 9:15

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

from Greg, Jim and Melda
at Ameriprise Financial Service Inc.





BAZZLE GAS COMPANY CUSTOMER INFORMATION NOTICE
In compliance with regulations, we must keep our customers informed of the responsibility of maintaining their service fine piping. Bazzle Gas owns the main fine located near your facility that serves gas to our customers. Bazzle Gas is responsible for replacing or repairing the main fine or service fine to your meter. Customers own the gas fine from the meter to and within their dwelling. Bazzle Gas Company does not maintain the customer's buried piping on the customer's side of the meter. The cost of the repair or replacement from the meter to the customer facility is the customer's responsibility and should be done by certified personnel. Bazzle Gas Company does periodic leakage surveys on the main lines and service lines to your meter. The customer is responsible to

periodically inspect and maintain piping from their meter side to prevent hazards of corrosion and/or leakage. If an unsafe condition exists on our facilities, Bazzle Gas Company will either shut off the flow of gas to make repairs or correct the line with no interruptions of gas service to the customer. However, if interruption is necessary, we will make every effort to minimize the inconvenience. Repairs will be made expeditiously. Affected customers will be notified when their service is interrupted. Bazzle Gas Company can assist in locating a leak for the customer. If a leak is found on the customer's side of the meter, it is your responsibility to make repairs as soon as possible. Bazzle Gas Company owns and maintains the meter. Only Bazzle Gas Company employees shall connect or disconnect the meter. Before any excavation is done within Bazzle Gas Company's area,

please call Miss Utility at 1-800-245-4848 or 811. It is the law. Bazzle Gas Company and the other utilities in the area will mark their lines before you dig. If you smell the odor of gas or suspect any hazardous situation involving our system, please contact Bazzle Gas Company immediately at 304-472-4289. Office hours are Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm. In an emergency after hours call Earl Riffle at 304-613-8925 or 304-765-9192 or call James Ross at 304-613-8921. If an emergency arises such as an explosion, fire, etc, please call 911 and Bazzle Gas Company. Questions may be directed to the office during business hours at the above telephone number. Bazzle Gas Company values the safety of our customers. Bazzle Gas Company 354 Morton Avenue Buckhannon WV 26201 12-21B

FAMILY FURNITURE center

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from our family to yours



2868 State Street Gassaway, WV 26624 (304)364-8774

SPORTS

Reporting Braxton County's sports action

- Youth
- Middle School
- High School

BCHS girls still struggling, lose both games of the week

Both Roane and Lincoln won against the Lady Eagles last week. Braxton coach Bill Lunceford named "too many turnovers" and "problems scoring even when we have the shots as reason for losing in both games.

On Tuesday, Roane outscored Braxton 63-30 as the young Lady Eagles met with a more mature team. In the second quarter, Braxton coach Bill Lunceford pointed out, "Roane had 20 points to our five, and eight of those points came in free throws." He added, "We fouled a lot, and they killed us from the foul line." The Lady Eagles were nine for 19 at the line while Roane was 16 for 23.

Braxton shot better against Lincoln but Lincoln still outscored the Eagles 72-35. In that game,

Lincoln scored 13 points before Braxton scored and held a 13-4 edge at the end of the first quarter. In the second, Braxton scored 15 points. "Had we scored like that in the first, we could have been in the game, The same thing happened with the third and fourth quarters. We're starting slow." Coach Pritt pointed out.

Braxton's performance at the foul line did improve in the Lincoln game as the team made 12 of 23 free throws. Looking at the week, Coach Lunceford said, "We were disappointed that it didn't go the way we thought it would. The girls continue to play hard, and I can see an improvement in the way they're playing."

Against Lincoln, Lainey Hunt led the team in scoring with 12 points and

was the only Braxton player in double figures. Coach Pritt also commended SkyLynn Abraham for

her performance against Lincoln.. "SkyLynn played well defensively." Abraham had three blocks and

several rebounds against Lincoln. Braxton has only one

game this week. They travel to South Harrison Wednesday.



Brooklyn Godfrey looks for an open Lady Eagle.



Lainey Hunt shoots from the three point line .



Bethany Payne moves the ball in for a layup.



Lady Eagles defense works the Roane County Raiders.



Erica Nicholson shoots for two points for the Eagles.

High school junior varsity basketball squad has 3-1 week

The junior varsity Eagles squad began last week with a loss to Nicholas County but won their next three games. On the team's early play, Coach Robert Lloyd commented, "All these guys are new to me, as I am new to them. We are getting more familiarized with each other every single day," he said. "They already know what I expect from them every single day."

Nicholas scored a 77-62 win over the young Braxton team. Landon Stewart scored 18 points to lead the Eagles' jv, and Ryken Rutherford added 15



Ashton Stewart shoots for two points for the Eagles.



Jaxxon Short goes for a layup.



Logan Balwain moves in under the net looking for two points for the Eagles.



Ryken Rutherford works around the Clay defender.



Riley Hunt goes for the foul shot.

In their next game, played at home, the junior varsity team, led by the same two players, defeated Clay's jv 69-27. In that game, Stewart had a game high of 19 points while Rutherford scored 13.

Stewart put in 26 points in a close win over Moorefield on December 17. Rutherford contributed 9 points to the 60-59 Braxton win.

Braxton defeated Petersburg 52-47 the following night. In the win, Zach Shaver led the Eagles' jv team with 17 points. Logan Balwain scored 8.

May your Holiday Season be filled with family and friends, health, and happiness!

Dr. Chad Lancaster D.D.S - Dr. Colter Tayloer D.D.S and all of our staff in the office

Roach

Funeral Home

708 Braxton Street
Cassaway, WV 26624
(304)364-2231

Ryan M. Roach, Director

May Peace,
Joy, Hope and
Happiness be
yours during this
Holiday Season

From Ryan Roach,
Heather and Tate

SPORTS

Reporting Braxton County's sports action

- Youth
- Middle School
- High School

BCHS Eagles have busy week, win three of four games

The Eagles defeated the Nicholas Grizzlies in the first of four games they played last week. In the second game of the week, they lost to Clay but went on to defeat Moorefield and Petersburg Friday and Saturday.

Although he was pleased with the wins, Braxton coach Josh Lunceford noted that his players “haven’t played very good basketball this week” and added, “They haven’t been up to our potential, our standards.” The coach pointed out two problems---a lot of turnovers and poor free-throw shooting.

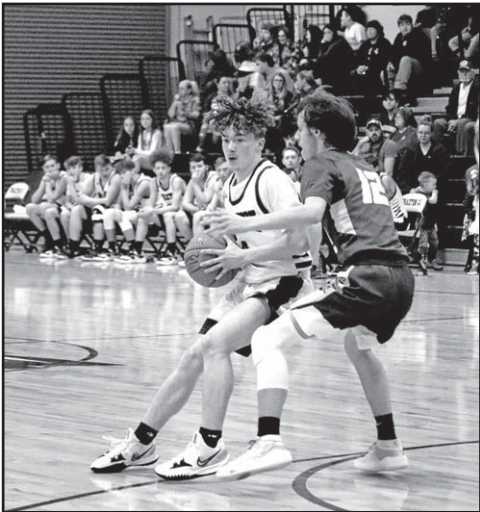
Braxton led most of the way and won 55-52 over Nicholas last Tuesday. In that game, D.J. Coomes led the Eagles’ scoring with 23 points. Also in double figures, Beau Liston added 12.

Clay defeated Braxton 63-55, and Coach Lunceford was quick to point out that his team “shot only 37 percent from the floor” and added, “It was our worst game of the week.” Clay made 55 percent of their field goal attempts. Coomes once again led Braxton’s scoring, this time with 20 points, and William Forbush scored 11.

The Eagles’ next game came on Friday night as they played Moorefield and Petersburg. With Coomes pouring in 30 points and Forbush adding 12, Braxton made a comeback to win that game 60-54. The Eagles outscored their opponents by 14 points in the second half for the win. “This was a good win,” Coach Lunceford commented.

Braxton led throughout the game as they beat Petersburg 59-46 the following night. With 14 ;points, Coomes led the Eagles. Bosely had 11 points in that game.

The Eagles travel to Roane tonight, and they host South Harrison Thursday night. Coach Lunceford expects “a tough game” against the South Harrison Hawks.



Lane Morrow works the ball around a Clay County defender.



Above: Beau Liston looks for an open Eagle to finish the play. Right: Mathias Garavaglia sets up the play with his team as he brings the ball back into Eagle territory.



Mason Abraham shoots for two points from under the basket.



Photos courtesy of Janet Six.



William Forbush works the court around a Clay County defender.

Eagles' individual scoring in last week's four games:

Player	Points against			
	Nicholas	Clay	Mooreville	Petersburg
Spencer Bosely	2	6	2	11
Lane Marrow	3	0	2	9
D.J.Coomes	23	20	30	14
William Forbush	9	11	12	9
Beau Liston	12	8	4	2
Mason Abraham	3	6	2	8
Matthias Garavaglia	3	4	5	3
Braden Clark	0	0	3	

BCHS wrestlers place fourth in Jason Eads Memorial Duals

Wrestling in a 12-team duals tournament at Point Pleasant High School Saturday, the Eagles finished fourth behind Point Pleasant, Herbert Hoover, and Fairmont Senior. Two of Braxton’s wrestlers—Blayne Jarvis at 138 and Colton Moore at 195, went 5-0 in the tournament.

In their duals matches, the Braxton wrestlers lost only once, and that was to Herbert Hoover. Eagles’ coach Sterling Beane commented that Hoover “has some good lightweight wrestlers and that’s where we have some weak spots.” He added, “We also had a couple of matches against Hoover that could have gone either way.

Braxton faced Wahoma in their first dual and won that match 63-18. The Eagles defeated Point Pleasant junior varsity 69-6 before losing 46-30 to Herbert Hoover. A 45-31 victory over Greenbrier West was followed by Braxton’s 60-15 win over Gallia County, Ohio, Academy.

Coach Beane said that he can see his wrestlers improving and looks forward to the rest of the season. Braxton’s

next competition comes Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Grafton Duals Tournament.

Eagles' individual records at the Jason Eads Memorial Duals Tournament:

106	Cody Stout	3 wins/2 losses
113	Braydon Helmick	4 wins/1 loss
120	Joseph Posey	1 win/4 losses
126	Anthony Currence	3wins/2 losses
132	Andrew Brandt	1win/3 losses
138	Blayne Jarvis	5 wins
145	Steven Deal	1 win/4 losses
152	Logan Bennet	4 wins/1loss
160	Jackson Davis	4 wins/1 loss
170	Ethan Campbell	2 wins/3 losses
182	Bryce Leegan	4 wins/1 loss
195	Colton Moore	5 wins
220	Connor Facemire	4 wins/1 loss
285	Ryder McLaughlin	4 wins/1 loss
Junior varsity		
152	Brett Bender	1 win/1 loss
145	Andrew McCallister	1 win

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