

## Magistrates Report

### Magistrate Beth Smith

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 Plattsmouth, 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.

### Mag David Singleton

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.



2nd Annual Christmas Decorating Contest First place \$50 winner Jennifer Rhodes

## 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 winners. 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 participants. The Friends would also like to thank Mountain Laurel General 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.

## Braxton County Student Awarded Scholarship from Glenville State College

Glenville State College student Chloe Richardson has received the Lyndsee Gay Natural Resource Management Scholarship through the College's Department of Land Resources.

Richardson, from Strange Creek, West Virginia, is a freshman study-

ing 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 Nat-

ural 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

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Contestants from the 2021 Sweet Heart Productions Christmas Pageant

## 2021 Sweet Heart Productions Christmas Pageant and Fairytale Christmas Pageant

By Fernando Rodriguez

Multi-colored lights shone on the Landmark Studio for the Arts' stage to light the way for the contestants of the 2021 Sweet Heart Productions Christmas Pageant and Fairytale Christmas Pageant.

Fifty-four contestants strutted their glamorous gowns and dresses and their best smiles in front of the panel of judges vying for the top spots in divisions which included: Baby Miss, Tot Miss, Tiny Miss, Little Miss, Young Miss, Jr. Miss, Miss, MS, Mrs., Grandma, and yes, a Boys division.

The pageants are made possible by Gary Beamer, who has been producing high-quality pageants for over 20 years, and his loyal following of volunteers.

Gary also orchestrated the extremely successful Sutton Christmas Parade 2021, his first time doing so. This year's Christmas Pageant was composed of the most entries ever.

In addition to the many division winners, too many to list here, special awards were given to supporting staff, and a Toy & Food drive took place on the same day, with toys going to children in foster care and the food to local food banks.

Some of the winners include: Evie Martin, Tot Miss Division Queen and Best Personality; Reese Mohr, Mini Grand Supreme and Overall Best



### Everyone was a winner.

Dressed; Kingsley Pennington, Fairytale Queen, Prettiest Smile, and Ultimate Grand Supreme; Violet Lemasters, Grand Supreme 0-4, and Diva of the Year; Meala Williams, Grand Supreme; Marleigh Williams, Overall Most Beautiful, Mini Supreme 5+, Best Overall Fairytale Queen 5+, and Best Smile for the Year; Lilith Helmick, Little Miss Merry Christmas; Emma Hare, Christmas Tree Supreme, Fan Favorite, Best Dressed, and Most Beautiful; Kendra Lambert, Miss Merry Christmas Queen 2021, Best Dressed Division,

Most Beautiful, and Best Overall Attire.

Everyone was a winner. The pictures will be posted on my Facebook page, as well as Gary's. Anyone wishing pictures can message me an email address with the person's name and contestant number if possible, and I will be happy to email high-quality pictures suitable for printing.

Thank you, Gary Beamer, Sweet Heart Productions, and his assistants, the Landmark Studio for the Arts, and the many sponsors and contributors, for making this fabulous event possible.

## Braxton County Resident Completes Student Teaching for Glenville State College

Jessica Smarr of Sutton, West Virginia has completed her student teaching at Glenville State College (GSC). She completed her student teaching in Early Education (PreK-K) and Elementary Education (K-6) at Burnsville Elementary School with Joyce Stump and in Multi-Categorical Special Education (K-6) at Robert L. Bland Middle School as a Clinical Teacher of Record with mentor Amber Richards. Dr. Shelly Ratliff and Dr. Will Vann were her GSC supervisors. She and her husband Nathan have three children, Andrew, Brehana, and Austin.

Senior teacher education students take part in an internship during their final semester at GSC.

At the conclusion of



Jessica Smarr

their internship students must complete a presentation illustrating their mastery of the Interstate New Assessment and Support Consortium (In-

TASC) standards as well as the standards of their particular area of study.





# Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs  
December 20, 2021

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

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# Kitty Korner for December

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.

## Notice


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



**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.



With You In Mind At  
**Christmastime**

May you and your family enjoy the many blessings that give true meaning to the holiday season. We feel privileged and blessed to have you as our neighbors.

**Braxton County Assessor**  
**Edith Tichner & Staff**

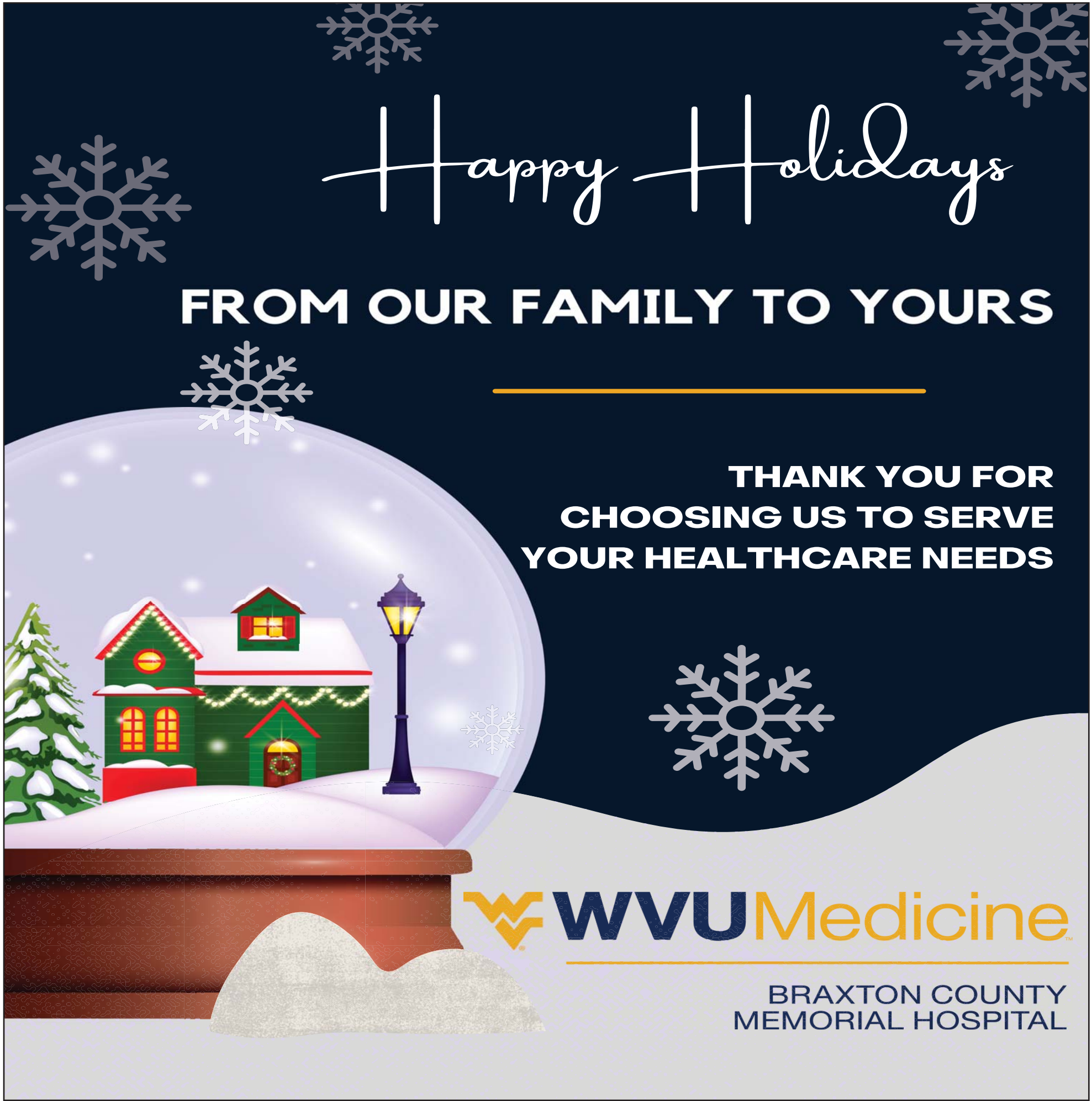
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**POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: BRAXTON DEMOCRAT-CENTRAL, 501 MAIN STREET, SUTTON, WV, 26601. PHONE: (304) 765-5555**  
**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT SUTTON, WV, 26601**



**Happy Holidays**

**FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS**

**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US TO SERVE YOUR HEALTHCARE NEEDS**

**WVU Medicine**

**BRAXTON COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**



# Legislative Update

Continued from page 2  
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 is substandard, go on the website of the WV Development Office at: [Broadband.wv.gov](http://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@WVHouse.gov](mailto:Brent.Boggs@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. ####

## Stewart family reunion

The Annual Stewart Family Christmas Eve lunch will be held at the Gassaway Community Building on December 24, 2021.

The room will be open at 11:30 a.m. for set-up with lunch to be available as soon as all is complete. Please bring a dish and come join us.



December 19, 2021

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, heart-felt 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/buckhannonSDA/videos/988846788508167>ebook

But I read the poem below, so that is why 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.

Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.

At Twenty-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, Babies 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.

Think 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!!

## 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 re-

pair 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.



### JOY TO THE WORLD

We'd like to join with all of you in praying for world-wide peace and harmony this holiday season.

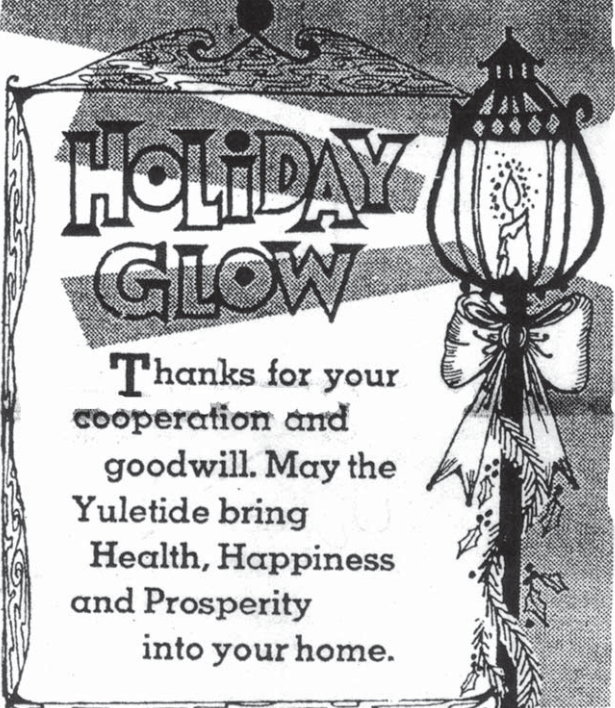
**Rexroad Supply Co.**  
1071 State St.  
Gassaway, WV  
364-2623



## Season's Greetings

Wishing you happy holidays and a new year filled with prosperity and success!

Thanks Everyone  
Susan (Frame) Lemon  
**Braxton County Circuit Clerk**  
Phyllis, Cynthia, Jacqueline, Christine & Brittany



## HOLIDAY GLOW

Thanks for your cooperation and goodwill. May the Yuletide bring Health, Happiness and Prosperity into your home.

**State Farm Insurance**  
Vicki Murphy  
150 Enterprise Drive, Gassaway  
364-8600



<https://www.facebook.com/elktheatre>



## ELK THEATRE

192 Main Street Sutton WV 304 765 2519  
Booth Opens 30 Min Before Showtime

### CLOSED SAT FOR CHRISTMAS!

**DEC 24 & 26 2021**  
**Fri 7 PM & Sun 3 PM**

Tickets \$7  
**Spider-man: No Way Home**

Rated PG 13 Runs 2 Hrs 28 Min



## ROACH FUNERAL HOME

PROUDLY SERVING SINCE 1975

708 Braxton Street  
Gassaway, WV 26624  
304-364-2231

**Ryan M Roach, Director**  
**Heather & Tate**

**May Peace,  
Joy, Hope  
and Happiness  
be yours during the  
Holiday Season  
and throughout the  
New Year.**



# Obituaries

**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 graduating 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](http://www.roachfuneralhome.com).

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

**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 a s b o r n o n March 1 1 , 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.

**Herbert F. “Herb” Pugh**  
Herbert F. “Herb” Pugh, 89 of Webster Springs passed away on Monday, December 13, 2021 at Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center. He was born April 3, 1932 in Jerryville to the late Gartrel and Audrey Wright Pugh.

Herb was a member of the Point Mountain

Church; enjoyed hunting, fishing, ramp digging and gardening. He was a retired UMWA Coal Miner working for Sewell Coal and Gauley Mountain Coal. Herb was one of a kind and never met a stranger. He was known by everyone and will be greatly missed.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Rule Pugh; daughter Vickie Reeder; brother Charles Pugh; and sister Kay Green.

Herb is survived by his children Hubert Pugh of Silver Spring, MD, Jim (Connie) Pugh of Webster Springs, and Margaret (Charles) Anthony of Silver Spring, MD; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; fur baby Pepper; and many other extended family and friends to mourn his passing.

Friends joined the family for visitation on Friday, December 17, 2021 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at Dodd & Reed Funeral Home, Webster Springs. Funeral Services to celebrate Herb’s life were held on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 1:00 PM at Point Mountain Church with Pastors Arlin Carpenter and David Chapman officiating. Interment followed in Point Mountain Cemetery, Webster Springs.

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

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

**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 a s b o r n J u l y 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 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.roachfuneralhome.com](http://www.roachfuneralhome.com).

**Diana Lynn McCormick**

Diana Lynn McCormick, 62, of Salem, WV, formerly of Clay County,



passed a way 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.roachfuneralhome.com](http://www.roachfuneralhome.com).

**Joshua Hacker**

Joshua Hacker, 32, of Exchange, passed away on Thursday, December



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 Big-foot 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.roachfuneralhome.com](http://www.roachfuneralhome.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 a s b o r n 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.

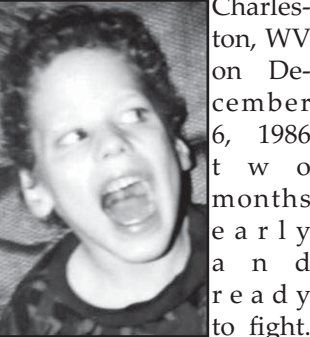
Funeral services were held 1:00 pm, Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at Greene-Robertson Funeral Home, Sutton with Pastor Homer Gibson officiating. Burial followed at Barnett Cemetery, Little Birch. Friends called one hour before the funeral at the funeral home.

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

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

**Zachariah Isaac Tanner**

Zachariah Isaac Tanner came into this world 35 years ago. He was born in

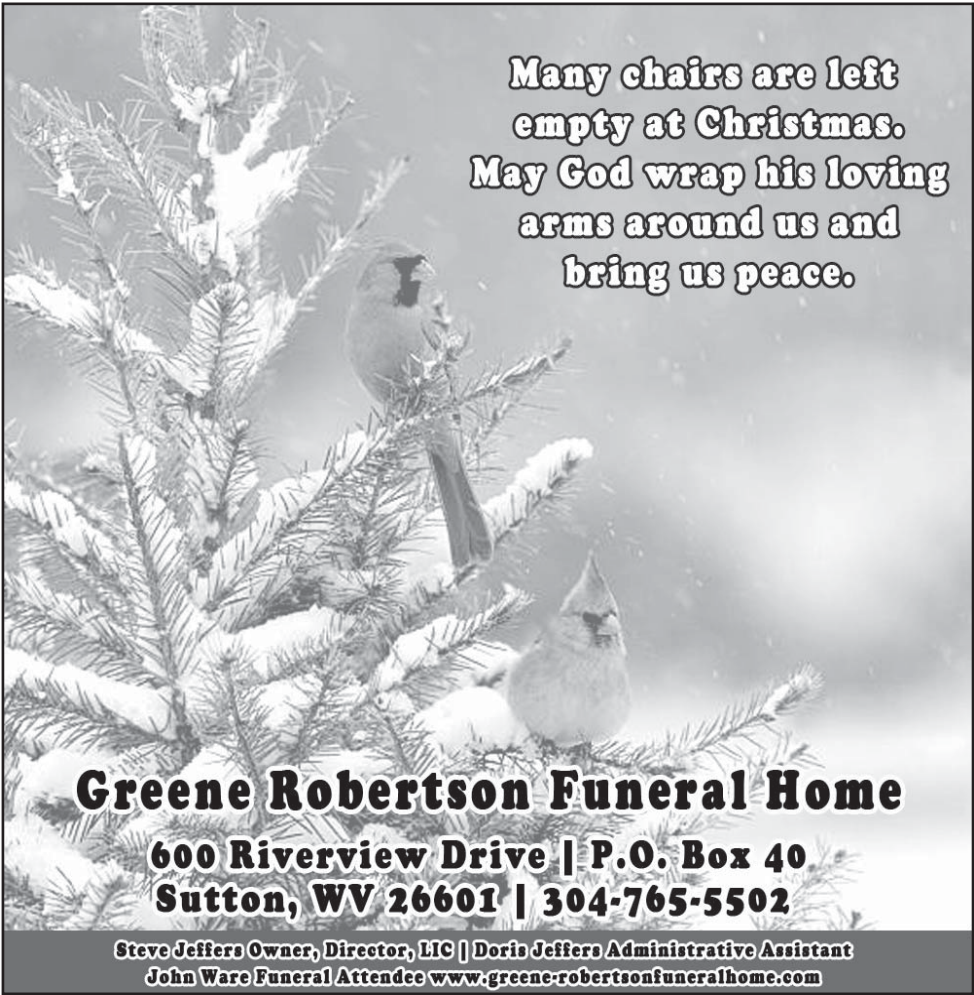


Charles-ton, WV on December 6, 1986 t w o months e a r l y a n d r e a d y to fight.

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

Continued on 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 Attender [www.greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com)**

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# Obituaries

Continued from page 4

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.roachfuneralhome.com](http://www.roachfuneralhome.com).

## Ralph Calvin Gay

Ralph Calvin Gay, 68, of Burnsville, WV and formerly of Sutton, WV, passed away on Sunday, December 19, 2021 at the Hospice House in Huntington, WV.

Ralph was born on June 26, 1953 to parents Robert Lee Gay and wife Margaret Nell (Friend) Gay who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Roberta "Bobby" Gay.

Ralph worked at Days Inn for many years as a cook. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and was an avid West Virginia and Steeler football fan.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and especially his grandson Dylan who was his best "budgy".

Ralph is survived by his wife, Tammie, who he was married to for 35 years; sister; Rhonda Dunning, daughters; Charity (Johnny) Jones, Augusta Gay and Shannda Gay, grandchildren; Makaela Jones, Malik Jones, Tyler Hill, Quan Singleton, Quay Singleton, Trey Singleton and Dylan Stewart; great grandchildren Octavian Hill, Xavier Hill, Colton Artis and Raelyn Jones.

Ralph will be cremated and a celebration of life will be held at later date.

Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Gay family.

# On the Other Side of the Mountain

By Verena Sava

Learning how to sell something is a skill that has to be honed! We faced an uphill battle in WV trying to sell goat cheese and I totally understand the reluctance of people wanting to even taste goat's milk or cheese. When goat's milk is "goaty", it tastes pretty terrible. "Goaty" is the result of improper handling of the milk.

All equipment, milking buckets, strainers or pipeline milk systems, have to be sterilized before milking. We washed the goats' udders prior to milking with water mixed with hydrogen peroxide, then we dried them with paper towels. Of course, the milkers' hands had to be clean too.

The fat globules in goat's milk are very volatile and if the milk is not cooled down immediately after milking, the globules deteriorate, turn rancid which we interpret as "goaty".

The French expert on soft goat cheese advised us to use the double boiler method for pasteurizing the milk instead of the faster, new method of forcing the milk through platelets that would again be too harsh on the delicate composition of goat milk. "Goaty" is a fault, an indication of uncleanliness or improper cooling.

We got in touch with Delmer Robinson, the food writer for the Gazette at that time, to ask him for addresses for restaurants that would possibly be interested in using our cheese. It piqued his interest, and he made a trip up to the farm, writing an article in the newspaper. We had the addresses of the top ten restaurants in the state and we started with the Greenbrier.

We established contact and agreed on a date for testing the product at their hotel. We were kind of intimidated, but they made us feel welcome. We ate lunch at their chefs' table in the kitchen. After the tasting we returned home with our very first order. We had one problem. The cheese can be made in different shapes: pyramids, 3" rounds, 2" rounds and 8" logs.

The Greenbrier wanted logs and judging on their interest of future orders we did not have enough shapes. They were un-

available everywhere. I had to contact my au pair family in France where the cheese shapes were manufactured to ask for their help. They immediately agreed to get in touch with the factory and my parents from CH were going to be the financial resource for this transaction.

Later on, when the logs became available in the US again, we ended up with around 150 or more pieces, since the Greenbrier ordered sometimes 200 lbs. of cheese a week.

After the Greenbrier we visited The Red Fox Inn at Snowshoe. Brian was excited to use a local product and we were again leaving with an order of cheese. Then we visited a restaurant in Fairmont, they liked the cheese, but they served more Italian type food, no orders.

Then Susan Mc Queen, the manager of the wine and cheese department of the former Stone and Thomas store, asked us to show up for a tasting. Again, we were well received and had gained a new customer. We also went a few times to the Charleston Framers' Market on a Saturday.

A Swiss journalist who resided in Washington DC had asked some mutual friends in CH for our address. He called us and asked if he could spend some days with us to get an immersion in Swiss ambience, because he felt he needed a shot of it. We hit it off right away.

We talked Swiss, we enjoyed eating together and commenting on what made good grub! He loved our cheese. He wanted to know if we sold any in DC so he could purchase it on his return and recommend it to friends.

No, we only sold it in WV. After he returned to DC, he tore out some yellow pages from his phonebook on which he circled the stores we should contact.

We did not send samples; we wrote a letter in which we described our cheese. Sutton Place which later sold to Fresh Fields and still later to Whole Foods placed an order to see if they would like it.

We did not hear back from them, and it just happened that we had to order more culture from New England Cheese Making and I mentioned to them my slight disappointment. Ricky straightened me out right away.

YOU are the seller, THEY are the customer, and they are to be treated like gold. Who cares how YOU feel, you have a good product, but you have to learn how to market. YOU have to contact THEM, not the other way around.

Another lesson learned. We called them and they wanted to know, why it took us so long to ask about their judgement. They loved it and ordered for three more stores.

We were really getting busy and hired another employee, Karen. Then I got a phone-call from my father that my mother, who had been ill, took a turn for the worse.

He advised me if I wanted to see her one more time I should hurry. It was summer, school

was out, and I immediately made reservations for a flight to CH.

On the plane from Charleston to NY, I met "Peachy" a Charleston businessman. His real name was Edwin Masinter (B+B Loans), but he deserved his nick name, he was a real Peach in every regard.

We exchanged business experiences, of course he was a pro in the field.

Then he asked if we sold our cheese in NYC. I told him I would not have the slightest idea how to get in touch with these stores. "I tell you what" said Peachy, "next time I go to NYC, and I go there often, I'll call you and you bring me some samples of your cheese to take with me to NY."

He kept his word, he took the cheese to Zabar's, Balducci, Dean and Delucca, Fairway and we landed in NYC. Was it the quality of our

cheese or the charm of Peachy that opened these famous doors?

My mother recovered, but she passed away two years later from the ravages of diabetes which had plagued her most of her life, but nobody recognized the symptoms at that time.

In 1987 we entered a competition again at the American Cheese Society and among 135 entries from different producers, we won one blue, two red and one white ribbon.

Now the doors became wide open, no more chance encounters that helped us move along, these memorable and most appreciated contacts that were so crucial to learning the ins and outs of marketing, now it was the cheese that did it by itself.

The Story does not end here, there is a little more to tell next week.

Greg and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas!

## Braxton County Student Awarded Scholarship

Continued from page 1

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.

## Town Hall meeting

Burnsville Elementary will hold a Town Hall meeting at the school on January 11, 2022.

The meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

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

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](mailto:Land.Resources@glenville.edu) or (304) 462-6370.



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## Notices

**NO HUNTING OR TRESPASSING:** All land on Happy Hollow Road from Posey Cemetery side, ridge to ridge. Straders, Luzaders, and Swansons. 10-26 12-28 EOWp

## For Sale

**FOR SALE:** 3 Bedroom house on 4 acres, 228 Di-atter Run Road, Frametown, \$95,000. Call 304-364-5748. 12-14 1-4p

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## (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)	USAGE CHARGE		
First	2,000 gallons	\$16.20	per 1,000 gallons
Over	2,000 gallons	\$16.20	per 1,000 gallons

(I)	MINIMUM BILL		
	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)	USAGE CHARGE		
	First	2,000 gallons	\$17.57 per 1,000 gallons
	Over	2,000 gallons	\$17.57 per 1,000 gallons

(I)	MINIMUM BILL		
	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. 12-23 12-30b

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# Braxton County Middle School Knights Sports

By Shirley Shuman



Lila Fitzwater



Lauren Pritt



Lady Knights defense in action.

## Gilmer girls’ squad scores win over Lady Knights



Rylan Criner



Kendal Key



## Knights’ wrestlers finish second at the Junior LKC meet Paxton Smith named “Outstanding Wrestler” of tournament

Although Braxton had only nine wrestlers competing in the Junior LKC tournament Saturday, the team came away with second place. Four Knights placed first in their weight classes. Dylan Foster 138, Brady Pierson 170, Eliah Moore 190, and

Paxton Smith 123 not only placed first but all four pinned their way through the finals.

At 110, Bradyn Morris finished second. Placing fourth were Jackson Wyne at 102 and Joel Sigman at 285. Landon

Mays finished in fifth place and Homer Short, 102, placed sixth.

Braxton coach Tyler Morlan said he is “very proud of how these young men stepped up this weekend” and added, “We had to not only

win but had to get pins in those wins.”

The coach also added a caution. “We are showing improvement every time we step on the mat,” he said, “but still have a lot to work on.”

## Middle School Knights win only game played last week

The Knights defeated Gilmer 49-16 in their only game last week. Braxton coach Randall Brown explained that his team “started out really slow” and added “We were taking good shots but were unable to get many to go in.” At the end of the first quarter, the Knights led but had only scored seven points.

A run in the second,

led by Stevie Boggs who had 22 points in the game, gave Braxton a 30-3 lead. Coach Brown said this came about because his squad “dominated the game with [their] defense.” He added, “We pressed and were able to score points off turnovers. Stevie Boggs came off the bench and dominated the paint. Gilmer was unable to match up with his size

and athleticism.”

In the second half, Braxton outscored their opponents 19-13. “I was really pleased with how the game went,” Coach Brown said.

“However, we really need to fine tune our game with Clay and Webster coming to our gym over the next two weeks. I’m confident they will give us all we can handle.”

# Merry Christmas



From our family to yours, we wish you a safe and joyous Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Brent and Jean Boggs



Brooklyn Paletti



# Holiday Potatoes

By: Jeanette Riffle

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 dipper 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 socks's ?

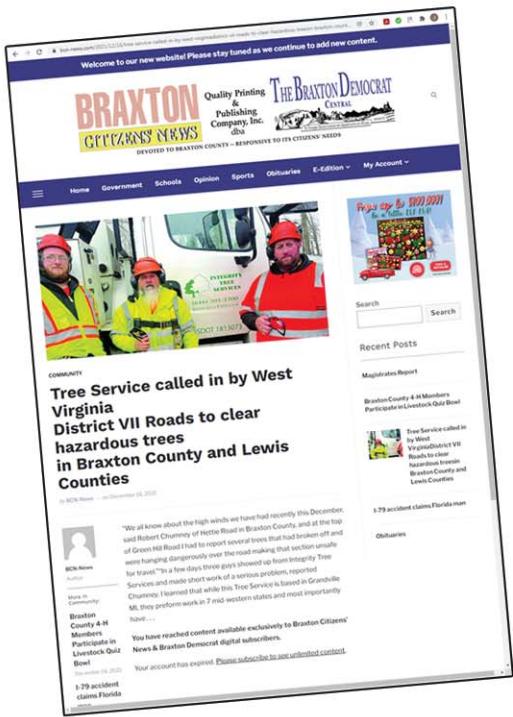
We are hearing of people with a stomach bug and a lot are coming down with Covid. We have had all three of the Covid vaccines and our kids are getting the booster, first of the week. So, we should be safe for a Christmas get together here with them.

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

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