



The Newspaper Braxton Countians have depended on for over 100 years

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Sutton, West Virginia 26601

January 6, 2022

Magistrates Report

Mag David Singleton

December 20: Logan J. Griffith of Morgantown, expired MVI, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid.

December 22: Jamie Marie Currence of Sutton, expired registration, no contest plea, no proof of insurance, no contest plea, fines/court costs assessed.

December 27: Jordan Scott Staley of Strange Creek, no seatbelt, no contest plea, fine assessed and paid; Charlie R. Allen of Burnsville, falsely reporting an emergency, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Martin Lenny Bronkhurst of Sutton, obstructing an officer, no

contest plea, obstructing an officer x2, dismissed per plea, disorderly conduct, dismissed per plea, cell phone violation, dismissed per plea, fine/court costs assessed.

December 29: Joshua J. Luzader of Sutton, petit larceny, guilty plea, petit larceny x6, dismissed per plea, 30 days of jail, suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs/restitution assessed; Joseph Raymond Reed of Gassaway, loud exhaust, dismissed, improper display of registration, dismissed; Ronald Jerry Criner of Sutton, driving suspended, guilty plea, no proof of insurance, guilty

plea, 60 days of jail, suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, fines/court costs assessed.

December 30: Jennifer E. Kemp of Sutton, petit larceny, entry other than dwelling (vehicle), warrant issued, bond set at \$5000 cash only; Brianna Kay Cook of Frametown, assault, battery, warrant issued, bond set at \$1500 personal recognizance.

January 2: Larry Allen Duffield of Widen, driving suspended-3rd offense, obstructing an officer, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$2500 cash or surety; Joseph Lee Rogers of Duck, trespassing asked to leave, warrantless arrest, bond set.

Braxton Student Awarded Scholarship to Glenville

Glenville State College student Heather Moore has received the Clark Jr. and Marjorie Hardman Scholarship through the College's Department of Land Resources.

Moore, from Duck, is a senior studying Natural Resource Management.

"I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected for the generous Clark Jr. and Marjorie Hardman Scholarship," said Moore.

"Thank you for this financial support toward my higher education. Receiving this scholarship allows me to maintain my GPA, complete my degree, and achieve my career goals."

The Clark Jr. and Marjorie Hardman Scholarship was established in 2010 by Mr. D. Stephen Hardman to honor the memory of his parents, as well as recognize the important part GSC played in his parents'



Heather Moore

education and their life's pursuits and accomplishments. The award is given to a student who has displayed high academic achievement with an identified need for financial assistance.

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



Members of the Frametown Trailblazers 4-H Club show off the fruit baskets ready to be delivered to local residents.

Frametown Trailblazers 4-H Club is Putting the Hand H into Practice

The Holiday season is a wonderful opportunity for local groups and individuals to show others how much they care for them.

Recently, the Frametown Trailblazers 4-H Club made and delivered fruit baskets to local senior citizens.

The 4-H club made and delivered 20 baskets full of fruit, granola bars, and other tasty treats. The 4-H members had a lot of fun making the baskets, and even more fun when they delivered them.

Each of the lucky recipients was blessed to

hear an enthusiastic version of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" sung by the club members.

For more information about 4-H or joining a 4-H club in Braxton County, contact the WVU-Braxton County Extension Office at 304-765-2809.

Braxton DNR officers receive promotions

In mid-December two Braxton County men and Department of Natural Resource Officers, Sergeants Tim White and Dwayne Duffield, were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant at DNR Headquarters in South Charleston.

Lieutenant White's career with the State of West Virginia started in 1998 as a correctional officer and counselor at the Central Regional Jail in Flatwoods. He was hired with the Natural Resources Police in 2001. After completing the academy, he served the citizens of Hampshire County until he was reassigned to Nicholas County, where he served for the next nine years. During his time in the field, he was selected as the NASBLA State Boating Officer of the Year in 2011. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in September of 2011, covering the Doddridge, Ritchie, Pleasants, and Tyler areas. Shortly after, he transferred to Webster and Pocahontas, before settling in the Braxton, Clay, and Nicholas area. In 2016, Sergeant White took over as the Regional Training Officer for District 3, where he was responsible for the coordination of officer train-



Braxton County natives and Department of Natural Resource Officers, Sergeants Tim White and Dwayne Duffield, were recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

ing as well as hunter and boater education for the district.

Lieutenant Duffield's career with the State of West Virginia also started as a correctional officer at the Central Regional Jail. In 2002, he was hired as a Natural Resources Police Officer.

During his years as an officer, he received several training credentials

to include firearms, defensive tactics, and water survival. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and took over the Regional Training Officer responsibilities for District 6, where he spread his expertise to other officers within the district. Lieutenant Duffield will continue to serve the officers and citizens of the 6th District.

Burnsville Public Library focus on Libby By Overdrive

In this series, staff of Burnsville Public Library will share with you, different services, collections, materials and more, available at the library. We hope that by sharing some of our lesser known services, collections, etc. you will see that the library is more than just a place you come to for books.

This week we will be talking about Libby, an app by Overdrive. The library is part of the WV READS Ebook consortia. This means that with your library card you have access to thousands of e-books, e-audiobooks and, just added, e-magazines. We would be happy to walk you through finding your next novel, short story or poetry anthology, biography, or how-to manual.

On top of all the great fiction and non-fiction titles available, WV READS now also offer magazines and handbooks. You can learn about your new mobile device or peruse the extensive offering of e-magazines. We can guarantee that there is something for everyone in the Libby app.

All you need to do is download the Libby by Overdrive app to get started. The app is available on iOS and android systems. You will have to have an active library card and some simple instructions to get started. The app itself will walk you through the steps. Cards from any Braxton County library (Burnsville, Gassaway, or Sutton), along with cards from any library in the WVLN (West Virginia Library Network) will give you access to Libby. The instructions included here are only for cards from our Braxton County libraries.

•Download the Libby by Overdrive app, from your app store
•You will be asked to

choose your library. You will enter Upshur County Public Library

•Then you will be asked to input your library card number

•Finally, you will be able to browse materials and make your selection

If you have any questions or issues trying to access Libby, you can call us at 304-853-2338 and we will be able to walk you through setting it up.

Exciting news for those that may suffer from visual impairments or blindness, Overdrive has been working hard to ensure that Libby is accessible for you. They have added several features already: screen reader support, "Read from Here" mode, navi-

gation bar labels, adjustable text size, adjustable playback speeds for audiobooks, keyboard shortcuts and lighting options.

Additionally, Overdrive will be adding the following accessibility updates in January 2022: screen reader and voice control improvements, keyboard function indicators, many new accessibility features, full screen menus and updated menu icons. If you would like more information about any of these new or upcoming features contact us, we would be glad to share what we know.

Please watch for our next Focus On: which will highlight our Audiobooks and Playaways.

Educational Dinner Meeting Planned

WVU Extension will host an educational dinner meeting at Jackson's Mill on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm, with the program to begin at 7:30 pm.

Dinner is being sponsored by Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage. However, you do need to pre-register by calling the WVU-Braxton County Extension Office, at 304-765-2809, by January 5. If you would like to attend, but can't make the dinner, you are still welcome to attend the program, which will start at 7:30 pm. There is no cost and no pre-registration needed if you come only to the program.

The topic this month will be Understanding and Applying Value of Gain in a Livestock Enterprise. Dr. Shaffer, WVU Extension Livestock Specialist, will discuss the concept of Value of Gain, how it is calculated and how it can be applied across different livestock enterprises.

Kevin Shaffer was

raised on a family farm in north-central West Virginia raising commercial cattle. He earned a B.S., M.S. and Ph. D. in Animal Sciences from West Virginia University, specializing in ruminant nutrition and beef cattle management. Dr. Shaffer is an Extension Associate Professor with the WVUES and the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design. He serves as coordinator of the West Virginia Young Sire Evaluation Program, including the Wardensville and Southern Bull Test programs, WV Quality Assurance Feeder Cattle Marketing Program and teaches beef cattle management courses.

Dr. Shaffer resides in Philippi, WV with his wife, Monica, two daughters, Avery and Ellie, and one son, Emmett. Together, they are managing a growing a livestock business.



Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs
January 3, 2022

With this first update for 2022, I want to start by expressing my thankfulness for the health and safety of our family throughout 2021. Despite the challenges and uncertainty, we're heading into the New Year with faith and confidence. And I'm looking forward to the beginning of the 2022 regular session next week on January 12, hopeful that cool heads will prevail and that there is a genuine desire to put politics to the side, concentrating instead on the issues and policies that can make a difference for our citizens in every area of West Virginia. Meanwhile, COVID has claimed the lives of well over 5,000 of our fellow West Virginians of all ages as the virus continues to rage all around us.

I'm already hearing rumblings that some members are seeking to capitalize on 2022 being an election year and wanting to focus on politically expedient issues by introducing bills to address problems where they do not exist. Attempts at scoring political points from either side of the aisle do nothing to improve our economy, grow our workforce and stem the out-migration of our brightest and best to other states. It would be great to see West Virginia and other state legislatures reject the partisan nonsense coming out of Washington, DC for several years and set an example of working together in a bipartisan way. Our nation cannot afford this divide and gridlock any longer, as our adversaries around the world are always watching and ready

to take advantage in any way possible.

One of the most exciting aspects of the upcoming session will be the planned legislative action granting university status to Glenville State College. This is especially meaningful as this year marks the 150th anniversary of GSC. With the addition of new programs and the ability to begin offering master's degrees in some programs, I'm looking forward to helping make the change from GSC to GSU. Hats off to GSC President Manchin, his leadership team and the GSC Board of Governors for working to make 2022 the year the criteria will finally be met to accomplish the legislative change. Look for this to occur sometime later in the session.

I'm also hopeful we can craft some reasonable and long-overdue legislation to provide grandparents more rights than they currently are granted regarding their grandchildren. Over the past five years, the number of grandparents and great-grandparents raising grandkids has increased considerably. Also, we need to look at better opportunities to place kids with willing grandparents when parents are deemed unable or unfit to raise their kids. All too often, grandparents are cut out of the equation when it comes to permanent custody. Most heartbreaking of all is watching situations where a parent has custody of a child and purposefully deprives grandparents of a meaningful relationship with their grandkids out of anger or malice. This is a difficult area to find a legislative solution that will pass the scrutiny

of the judicial system.

Due to the last two holiday weekends, there was little news of a ransomware attack on the company that the State of West Virginia subcontracts pay and leave for over 37,000 state workers. Due to that ransomware attack, all pay for 140 state agencies had to be manually entered into new files to run checks for state workers for the last pay period of 2021. Now it appears, according to State Auditor J. B. McCuskey, the same will be needed to meet the first pay period of 2022.

Ultimately, the subcontractor will have to pay for the costs to the State for the attack. However, the need to make certain state employees are paid correctly and on-time is a top priority. This is an example of how important cybersecurity is to everyone and a stark reminder that criminals – foreign and domestic – are working to disrupt our way of life and inflict economic damage to our citizens.

Finally, 2022 certainly arrived with unexpected and unseasonal rain and wind, resulting in flooded roads and downed power lines for many West Virginians. And, as I write this Sunday night, the temperature is dropping quickly. Everyone needs to be prepared for winter weather, even if it arrives a month or two later than we normally expect. Don't get lulled into a false sense of security. Be careful out there. A fall on black ice during a short walk to the car or the mailbox can put you out of commission, regardless of your age or physical condition.

During this final week before the session begins, please continue to contact me at my home office 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

The 2022 legislative session begins on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, and I will be in the Capitol office daily beginning on January 9 until the session ends in mid-March. The Capitol address is: Building 1, Room 258-M, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25305. The phone number is 304-340-3142.

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



Sheri Sapp, the ONLY collector, with Bill Elmer on her right, with Carol Holden and Lisa Phillips on her left.

She loved doing it so much that when no one wanted to be a collector of funds, but would help drive the vehicle while Sheri went door to door, she decided she wanted to do it anyway, so we decided to do it. Picture shows Sheri Sapp, the ONLY collector, with Bill Elmer on her left, with Carol Holden, and Lisa Phillips on her right.

The yearly goal was met and exceeded for donations to help with the Community Services adventures through 2022. Each year we ask our friends and neighbors to help us rebuild our funding for community projects. We help with different things throughout the year, like joining with many other groups

and churches to create a fund to provide for activities that will help keep the Seniors and others joyful and happy over the graduation and proms activities without being tempted to be out in dangerous situations, such as driving, etc.

We, along with other groups help people in our communities who have suffered from tragedies, storms, fires and other disasters in our community.

If you want to see the world-wide scope where Seventh-day Adventists live and work and help others, go to <https://www.adventist.org/world-church/> Wherever you go you can find your friends, the Seventh-day Adventists.

MARANATHA

Holiday Sickness

By: Jeanette Riffle

We have never heard of so much sickness over the holidays as we have heard lately. There's head cold, sore throat, flu and COVID. Stomach bug and RSV. It makes a person want to hole up and hibernate.

The news is full of the COVID virus and the variants. It is on the rage ! I'm not going anywhere. Mr. R. goes by the safety rules and does the grocery shopping. His head cold is on the mend and so is my sore throat. I'm doing the Neti Pot salt water rinse for sinuses and the warm salt water gargle for the throat. Those home remedies are helping. I went to our doctor and got a two week course of antibiotic and that has helped a lot.

We have been enjoying good hot meals, our Christmas gifts and nap time, which is whenever the mood hits. I am slowly putting things away. Sometimes it is hard to find a place to store the big things.

We need to try and find the energy to bag up everything that we are not wearing or using and donate it to charity. You don't realize how tired and sleepy you are until the holidays are over.

I was talking on the phone to a friend today and she said she stayed up until after midnight to see the new year in for the first time in her life. She wanted to do something different. She probably had to sleep in this morn-

ing. Hubby and I were talking about what we did when we were growing up. I remember how New Year's Day was celebrated at our house. It is my oldest brother's birthday and Mom always had him a chocolate cake and ice cream.

Her aunt, Lula Lowe, had a restaurant in Glenville and she could order up a big bakery cake for our birthdays. Mom had each of us one birthday party at our house. She said that if you had more than that, you were just begging.

My how times have changed ! Almost everyone has a party for their children every year, nowadays. Hubby said they didn't do anything for New Years Eve or Day. They just put up the new calendar and like all of us, tried to remember to write the correct date on things. I put up a new calendar yesterday. I caught myself starting to write December or 2021 in my journal the past two days.

Some people think they have to have sour kraut or a cabbage dish of some kind for good luck. We never got into that. I don't believe in " good luck, bad luck." It's just an expression with me. God is in control and whatever happens is his will. It is all in his hands.

We will pray that the sick get well and that everyone will please follow the safety rules and let this awful virus die down. Until next time, take care, be safe and God bless!

Peanut Brittle still available at Burnsville Library

Burnsville Public Library still has our super yummy, homemade, peanut brittle available!

For \$5 you get two 8" rounds of brittle. Proceeds from our sales will go into the general fund to provide for the library's general operation, as well as to help with programs and services. If you would like to purchase any, please visit the library.



January 2, 2022

The Christmas Season, including New Year's Eve celebrations are over for the most part, but today there was a little celebration at the Buckhannon Seventh-day Adventist

Church. Several of the people who had helped with caroling by actually driving the vehicle that carried the speakers on top of it, playing Christmas music, as they went up one side of the street and down the other, with Sheri going to the homes to request funds for community service. (There were other drivers, not pictured.) Some members and friends attended the celebration and enjoyed the pizza party with Sheri.

This has almost become a lost art - literally caroling and collecting funds for helping people in our community. When I was young we actually donned our warm jackets, hats and gloves, and sang with our group from house to house. People were usually very generous.

When we arrived back at the church, there would be warm cocoa and cookies or some sort of treat. I remember people asking early in the season just when we would be coming to do caroling. No more. Many of us, my peers and me, are too old to walk far especially where it might be slippery paths.

Sheri Lyn Sapp, as I told you last week, remembers going caroling with her mom, Mrs. Elmer, Mrs. Black, Vonda Simons and others like her, some would go to the doors and others would

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Heavy Coat (Hip Length)	19.75
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Heavy Coats

Laundry



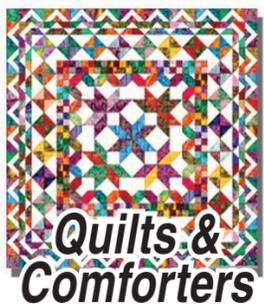
Shirts	3.55
Pants (Extra Heavy Starch + 1.00)	9.40
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Comforter (King)	41.50
Quilt	23.00

(Down Filled + 5.00)

Extra charge for silks, beads, leather trim, down filled, etc.



Quilts & Comforters

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Brenda Foy	General Manager
Janet Six	Office Manager
Jennifer Lloyd	Layout & Design
Sonya Stewart	Advertising Sales
Jeanine Given	Circulation Manager

Phone: (304) 765-5555 Fax: (304) 765-2754
e-mail: braxton@wvdsi.net; braxtonbrenda@wvdsi.net

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Mon Health Hospitals Earn National Recognition for Promoting Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation

Mon Health Hospitals have earned national recognition for their efforts to increase organ, eye, and tissue donor registrations across the state through the Workplace Partnership for Life (WPFL). The WPFL is a national initiative that unites the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the organ donation community with workplaces across the nation in spreading the word about the importance of donation.

The WPFL Hospital Organ Donation Campaign challenges hospitals and healthcare organizations to "let life bloom" by educating their staff, patients, visitors, and communities about the critical need for organ, eye, and tissue donation, including offering opportunities to register as organ donors. Four Mon Health Hospitals earned recognition for conducting awareness and registry activities be-

tween October 2020 and April 2021, and for responding to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and navigating those changes and challenges.

Mon Health Preston Memorial Hospital earned Platinum Recognition, the highest level of distinction for 2021. Grafton City Hospital, Mon Health Medical Center, and Mon Health Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital all earned Silver.

These hospitals were 4 of 1,657 organizations to participate in the 2021 campaign.

See the full list of hospitals recognized.

"We are proud to support CORE's mission to promote organ, eye, and tissue donation," said Michelle Stanton, BSN, RN, Director of Quality at Mon Health Preston Memorial Hospital. "With so many people awaiting life-saving organs, it is critical for Preston Memorial Hospital to do our part by raising awareness and educating our community. Our physicians,

nurses, and staff realize the positive impact that organ donation can have on both recipients as well as a donor's family."

Mon Health Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Stalnaker was pleased with the honor as well and noted, "CORE is a vital organization in the continued healthcare continuum in our region and state.

The ability to offer lifesaving transplants extends life for individuals and families. Participating as an organ donor is one of the greatest gifts a person could potentially give to a patient on a waiting list. Many thanks to all donors and their families for participating in this wonderful program."

"We are a proud participant in CORE's mission. It is vital that we continue to educate the community at large about the importance of eye, organ, and tissue donation. We are truly humbled by all those donors who registered this year, and we are excited to continue our outreach." Jamie McLaughlin, Sr. Director of Critical Care at Mon Health Medical Center said. "Organ donation is truly the most remarkable, selfless act a person can undertake. I'm proud to be an organ donor and am proud to be a part of a hospital that advocates for such a critical and needed initiative," Kevin Gessler, Chief Administrative Officer of Grafton City Hospital, said.

The 2021 Hospital Campaign efforts added 27,386 registrations to state registries, includ-

ing registrations from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since its inception in 2011, the campaign has generated 579,412 registrations as well as united donation advocates at hospitals with representatives from their local organ procurement organizations, Donate Life America affiliates, and state and regional hospital associations.

Mon Health Hospitals worked with the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE) and the West Virginia Hospital Association (WVHA) to leverage its outreach efforts.

Every ten minutes, another person is added to the organ transplant waiting list, reaffirming the critical and growing need for registered organ, eye, and tissue donors. For more information about the WPFL Hospital Organ Donation Campaign, visit www.organdonor.gov/hospitals. Visit Donate Life West Virginia to sign up as a donor today.

About Mon Health System: Mon Health System is an integrated network of physician clinics, outpatient centers and hospitals in North Central West Virginia that works together to make healthcare more accessible and affordable to the communities it serves.

It includes five hospitals – its flagship, Mon Health Medical Center in Morgantown; Mon Health Preston Memorial Hospital in Kingwood; Mon Health Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital in Weston; Mon Health Marion Neighborhood Hospital in White Hall; affiliate, Grafton City Hospital in Grafton; Mon Health- DASCO

Home Medical Equipment in Morgantown and Weston; and The Village at Heritage Point. Mon Health System is also part of many Joint Ventures such as Acuity Hospital of Morgantown, Monongalia EMS, Amedisys

Hospice, Care Partners, Encompass and the Mon Health Center for Outpatient Surgery to preserve choice, improve access and ensure the highest quality of care. For more information, visit mon-health.com

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January 11th

**BCHS Boys VS
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\$10,000 CONTEST

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Dinner for Novalee Bennett will be held at the
Rosedale Senior Center in Rosedale, WV

Saturday, January 8th

From 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

\$10
Dinner includes

Spaghetti
Garlic Bread
Side Salad
Dessert
and a beverage

Serve and Sit
or take it To-Go!

There will be a
Chinese Auction
with lots of amazing
items that have been
donated to the
Bennett Family

LIVE MUSIC
from the
Fisher Family
of Braxton County

All benefits will go directly to
Miss Novalee Bennett, 13 years old, of Rosedale, WV
who is beginning her Chemo journey for a Brain
Tumor that will take place over the next 70 weeks

Obituaries

Rena Muriel Posey

Rena Muriel Posey, 76, of Orlando passed away on Monday, December 27, 2021, at United Hospital Center following a brief illness.

Rena was born in Braxton County on August 23, 1945, a daughter of the late Earse Skinner and Clara McCauley. In addition to her parents, Rena was preceded in death by six siblings: Francis Skinner, Virginia Bartlett, Faye Skinner, Irving Skinner, Ray Skinner, and Jimmie Skinner.

She married Richard Posey on June 5, 1965. He will miss her dearly.

Surviving her are two children Connie Johnson of Bridgeport and Rick Posey and wife, Sherri, of Weston; one grandson, Zackary Nicholson; two sisters: Veda Cantrell of Jane Lew and Reba Gae Luzader of Kent, OH; and several nieces and nephews.

Rena was a Label Inspector for Alkahn Label Factory for 31 years and later worked in the Laundry Room at Best Western for 10 years. She was a member of the Little Kanawha Independent Church for over 56 years. Rena enjoyed bird watching, gardening, and canning. Above all else, she loved spending time with her family, especially with her grandson, Zack.

Family and friends gathered for Visitation at Pat Boyle Funeral Home and Cremation Service located at 144 Hackers Creek Rd. in Jane Lew from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, December 31, 2021. Funeral Services were held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 1, 2022 at the Little Kanawha Independent Church located at 1259 Burnsville Rd, Burnsville with Reverend Ronzel Roberts officiating. Interment followed at Little Kanawha Memorial Gardens in

Heaters.

We, at Pat Boyle Funeral Home and Cremation Service, are honored and privileged to serve the family of Rena Muriel Posey. Online condolences may be expressed at www.PatBoyleFuneralHome.com.

Mary Leta Allen

Mary Leta Allen, 96, of Big Otter, WV became a Christmas Angel on De-



ember 26, 2021 at the home of her beloved granddaughter, Rebecca Lynne Brock. Mary was born and raised at Blue Sulphur in Greenbrier County. Her parents were Irvin and Vearie Milam Rhodes. Mary graduated from Smoot High School. While in nurse's training, she met and married Paul Allen. She and Paul were married in 1946 until Paul passed in 2000. Mary received training at Charleston Beauty Academy. Mary was founder and owner of the Clay Beauty Shop for many years. She knew hard work and long hours. Mary was a member of the Villa Nova Missionary Baptist Church. She enjoyed sewing, gardening, caregiving, housekeeping, birdwatching, babysitting, and being a grandmother and a great-grandmother. A stronger person would be hard to find. Mary supported Clay County Schools and Clay 4-H activities.

Mary was the last to pass among all her and Paul's brothers and sisters and spouses. Left to cherish Mary's memory are her daughters, Paula Seal (Kenna) of Sutton, WV and Sharon Schlaegel (Lee) of Madison, WV; granddaughter, Rebecca Brock (Allen) of Scott Depot, WV and two great-granddaughters, Hailey McKenna and Amelia Shay, as well as

several nieces and nephews. To Rebecca, Mary always said, "I love you. Always have. Always will!" Mary loved her kind, wonderful caregivers: Faith, Laura, Jackie, Sherry and Rose.

Graveside service were held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, January 1, 2022 at Wallace Cemetery at the End of the Trail, Clintonville, Greenbrier County with the Rev. Rick Swarengin officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donation be made to the Kanawha Hospice Care, WV 1606 Kanawha Blvd. Charleston, WV 25387.

Rebecca would like to thank her work family, especially Jeanna, for all the love and kindness during this difficult time. The family would like to thank Handley Funeral Home for their professionalism, kindness, and care with Mary.

You may express your condolences to the family at www.handleyfh.com.

Walkeria Joy Hudkins

Walkeria Joy Hudkins, 51, of Wilsie, passed away Friday, December 31, 2021 at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital.

She was born July 27, 1970 in Charleston, WV.

Walkeria was a homemaker. She enjoyed flower gardening and thrift shopping. She was a loving wife, mother and daughter.

She will be remembered and deeply missed by her husband of 22 years, Tim Hudkins; son, Dusty Hudkins; parents, Noble and Anita Exline Rollyson of Wilsie; brother, Timothy Rollyson and wife, Savannah, of Gassaway; and several nieces and nephews.

Walkeria's funeral service will be 11 A.M. Saturday, January 8, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV with Pastor Eric Veltre and Pastor Ed Rollyson officiating. Burial will follow at the Rollyson Cemetery, Wilsie.

Visitation will be 6 to 8 P.M. Friday, January 7th at the funeral home.

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

Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway.

Zeta Jean Mohr

Zeta Jean Mohr (nee Beall), 85, of Wellington, loving wife, mother, sister, mamaw, great-grandma and friend,



went home to be with her Lord and Savior the morning of December 29, 2021, at her residence, surrounded by her family.

She was born January 7, 1936 in Orton, West Virginia and was a resident of Wellington for the past 21 years. She was an employee of LaGrange Electrical Assemblies for over 30 years. Mrs. Mohr, a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, was a devoted member of Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church in Spencer and a charter member of Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church in Grafton. She was an avid traveler and visited 49 of the United States with the exception of Alaska. She also loved music, crocheting, playing cards and spending time with her beloved family.

Zeta will be remembered and deeply missed by; her three children, Carlton Mohr (Cyndi) of Spencer, Debbie Burns (Jason) and Liz Dean (David), both of Wellington; six grandchildren, Chelsea Ralston (Steven) of LaGrange, Corey Dean (Rachel) of Wellington, Jared and Noah Burns, both of Wellington, Joshua Glemza (Reene) of North Olmsted and Sadie Abate (Travis) of Wakeman; four great-grandsons, Ryan, Jaxon, Myles and Felix; one sister, Evonne Mohr (Vonnice) of Normantown, West Virginia; and two brothers, David Beall of LaGrange and Doyle Beall Jr. (Barb) of Cox's Mills, West Virginia.

She was preceded in death by; her loving husband of 58 years, Glen Mohr in 2013; her parents, Doyle and Louise (nee Whitesel) Beall; two brothers, Jackie and Wendel Beall; a sister-in-law, Ruthie Beall; and a brother-in-law, Ring Mohr.

Funeral Service was 1 P.M. Saturday January 1, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, West Virginia with Pastor Dave Turner officiating. Burial followed at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Normantown, West Virginia.

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

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Mount Carmel Cemetery Fund.

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

Viola "Mae" Johnston Nicholson

Viola "Mae" Johnston Nicholson, 91, passed away on December 29, 2021 at Autumn Lake Healthcare at Crystal Springs, Elkins, WV. Mae was born on May 6,



1930 to she was preceded in the late Charles Alton Carson and Jessie Mae Cosner Carson. She is preceded in death by husband George M. Johnston whom she was married to for 49 years; husband Thurman "TK" Nicholson, brothers; Donnie Carl Carson and James Russell Carson, sisters; Mary Heater and Carol Robinson, and grandson; Kelly Wayne Yeager.

Mae was a Christian by faith and previously attended Little Kanawha Independent Church, Stouts Chapel and Orlando Baptist Church. She was a member of the Gem Homemakers Club. She enjoyed gardening, canning, making apple butter, cooking for her family and feeding the hummingbirds.

Mae is survived by sons; Kenneth (Crystal) Johnston, Aurora, WV, David "Mark" Johnston, Beverly, WV, daughters; Donna Jean Lilly (Mont), Chapmanville, WV, Shirley Ann Yeager (Lee), Sand Fork, WV, Brenda K. Bleigh (James Arley), Sand Fork, WV, Karen Sue Addy, Anita Lynn Gibson, Elkins, WV and Janet Marie Nicholson (Kennith), Elkview, WV, brothers; Charles Ray Carson, Burnsville, WV, Glenn Lee Carson (Linda), Tioga, WV, John Sherman Carson (companion Kate), Buckhannon, WV, Ralph Alton Carson (Ruth), Burnsville, WV, sisters; Freeda Gay Perrine, Burnsville, WV, and Joyce Kay Moore, Cheshire, OH. She was blessed with 18 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren.

The family of Viola "Mae" Johnston Nicholson would like to thank Colonial Place Assisted Living and Autumn Lake Healthcare for the compassionate care provided to their mother.

Visitation was held on Monday, January 3, 2022 from 11:00-1:00 with the service following at 1:00 pm at Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation, Flatwoods, WV. Pastor Ronzel Roberts officiated the service. Burial followed at the Canfield Cemetery, near Sand Fork, WV.

Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the family of Viola "Mae" Johnston Nicholson.

Beatrice Grace Blake

Beatrice Grace Blake, 86, of Sutton, WV passed away Saturday, January 1, 2022 peacefully at home surrounded by family.

Daughter of the late Edgar Hugh James and Lydia Ethel Given James,

she was preceded in death by her husband, Wilbur L. Blake and infant son, Steven James Blake.

She is survived by her daughter, Donna Jane James (Lowell), son, Wilbur Blake (Susan) all of Sutton, WV; grandchildren, Aaron James (Jenna) of Frametown, WV, Adrienne Raucio (Frank) of Southport, NC, Angela Goss (Eric) of Lancaster, PA, Andrew Blake (Shannon) of Coventry, RI, Matthew Blake (Jeannine) of Sterling Connecticut, Joseph Fell of Warwick, RI, and Allyson Stocker (Nathan) of Buckhannon, WV; great-grandchildren, Austin James, Tyler Hoagland, Emmaleigh James, Brenley Hoagland, Charlie Rollyson, Roman Raucio, Adriana Goss, Jocelyn Goss; and great-great granddaughter, Sophie James. She is also survived by brother, Don James and his wife, Shirley, of Maylene, Alabama, along with several nieces, nephews and cousins, all very dear to her heart.

She was a member of Hope Baptist Church of Frametown, WV, and exemplified the love of Christ through lifetime demonstrations of generosity, sacrifice and kindness toward others. She loved her family with all her heart, and found the greatest joy in the company of children. Her lifelong profession had been bookkeeping and she served each employer with diligence and integrity, earning their respect and gratitude. An avid reader and gardener, she found great delight in a good mystery, and reveled in the beauty of the first spring flowers. A precious soul in every way - she was deeply loved by her family and friends. She knew that in Christ, good-byes are not permanent, and a reunion awaits those whose hope is in the Lord.

In keeping with Beatrice's wishes she will be cremated.

Memorial Service will be 11 A.M. Saturday, January 8, 2022 at Hope Baptist Church, Frametown with Reverend Rich Demastus officiating.

Friends may call one hour prior to the memorial service at the church.

Inurnment will be by her late husband in Middle Run Cemetery, Frametown.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Braxton County Animal Shelter, 10 Animal Shelter Lane, Sutton, WV 26601.

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

Beth Ann Jordan

Beth Ann Jordan, 36, of Ireland, passed away after a tragic accident on

Monday, December 27, 2021.

She was born in Weston on March 9, 1985, a daughter of Thomas Sims II and the late Bonita Law Bennett. Greeting Beth at Heaven's Gate, along with her mother, are her sister-in-law, Brenda Harris; and brother, Thomas Sims III.

Continued on page 5

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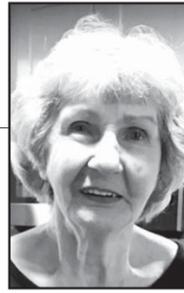
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Obituaries

Continued from page 4

On September 23, 2011, Beth married the love of her life, James Thomas Jordan. The two of them shared the ups and downs of marriage and raising their sons, and he will miss her dearly.

Forever cherishing their memories of Beth's giving nature along with her husband and father, are three sons: Adam Jordan, Caleb Jordan, and Grant Jordan; three siblings: April Sims of Orlando, Amanda Sims and Josh Sims both of Weston; one sister-in-law, Darlene Wyne and husband, John, of Ireland; one brother-in-law, Daniel Jordan of Ireland; mother and father-in-law: Harmand and Darlene Jordan of Ireland; her husky, Simba; and several nieces and nephews.

Beth graduated from Lewis County High School in the class of 2003. She was a homemaker and loving mother.

Beth was formerly a manager at the Flatwoods McDonalds for over 10 years. She was a Christian by faith and loved to spend time outdoors: kayaking, camping, fishing, sightseeing, and admiring waterfalls.

Family and friends gathered for Visitation at Clutter Funeral Home - Alkire Chapel located at 190 Wildcat Road in Ireland from 12 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Funeral Services

was at 2 p.m. in the Alkire Chapel with Pastor David Gillum officiating. Interment will follow at the Jordan Family Cemetery in Ireland.

We, at Clutter Funeral Home - Alkire Chapel, are honored and privileged to serve the family of Beth Ann Jordan. Online condolences may be expressed at www.ClutterFuneralHome.com.

Mark Allen Gunter

Mark Allen Gunter, 69, of Little Birch, passed away on Sunday, January 2, 2022 at his residence.

He was born May 18, 1952, the son of the late Kevin & Betty Hosey Gunter. Also preceding him in death was his brothers, Matt Gunter and Kenny Gunter.

Mark was a Assembly Line Worker for Ford Motor Company and a Army Veteran.

Left to cherish his memory are his son, Seth Gunter (Ashley) of Columbus, OH; daughters, Elizabeth Scott (Kenny) of Abilene, TX, Sarah Hess (Bradley) of Elyria, OH; 10 grandchildren.

Upon his request the body will be cremated.

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

Town Hall meeting at LBE

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

The Great State of West Virginia Proclaims Saturday January 22, 2022, to be LOCAL QUILT SHOP DAY

In recognition of the importance of independent quilt shops to local economies, Saturday January 22, 2022, is proclaimed to be Local Quilt Shop Day throughout West Virginia.

Local Quilt Shop Day is an annual arts celebration focusing on the rich tradition and history of quilting in our communities. This internationally celebrated holiday emphasizes the importance of Local Quilt Shops and their significant contributions and economic impact on local communities.

Local quilt shops not only provide supplies for quilting, but also serve as a center of learning and creativity for quilters and sewers embracing

quilting. Through this unique art form, our communities and our history are stitched, layered, and bound together.

Celebrated on January 22, 2022 this year, Local Quilt Shop Day was established by The Fabric Shop Network, a trade association that represents over 5,000 local quilt shop owners globally.

To participate is easy - The Fabric Shop Network encourages the public to visit their local quilt shops in person or online on Saturday January 22, 2022. Check with your local quilt shop for hours and days open as they may be impacted by local / state health guidelines.

Shaver thank you

Thank you for your thoughtfulness, your generosity and support during this difficult time. It was greatly appreciated.

The family of Argil Earl Shaver wants to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers, keepsakes, or food. We thank Roach Funeral Home for all they did for us. We thank Charles McCumbers and helper for opening and closing the

grave. Special thanks to Pastor Eric Veltre and the grandchildren Wesley Perrine, Paul Mayse, Kayla Smith, Billy Mayse, Jacobi Hineman and Heath Cottrill for being pallbearers. Thanks to the ladies of Gassaway Baptist Church for the dinner after the funeral.

Also special thanks to the American Legion and Army Honor Guards for the military rites and presentation of the flags.

West Virginia Turnpike sees record-breaking holiday travel, WVDOT announces

The Christmas and New Year holidays saw record numbers of vehicles utilizing the West Virginia Turnpike, the West Virginia Department of Transportation announced.

During the 12-day period between Dec. 22, 2021, and Jan. 2, 2022, 1,263,779 vehicles went through Turnpike toll booths.

The period includes both the Christmas and New Year holidays, which fell on the weekends.

"As always, the West Virginia Turnpike was well prepared for an increase in travel during this 12-day holiday period," said Jeff Miller, Executive Director of the West Virginia Parkways Authority that oversees Turnpike operations.

We expected a high volume of travel based on the weather forecasts being favorable and the days of the week in which the holidays fell," Miller

this busy time of year."

Holiday traffic on the Turnpike was up 27.34 percent compared to 2020, when 992,419 vehicles went through Turnpike toll booths. Traffic was also up 7.7 percent

compared with the 2019 holiday season, when 1,173,380 vehicles went through the toll booths during the same period.

Miller said the traffic counts set a record on the Turnpike.

The Journey of Hope and Restoration

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

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

The lesson that we are currently studying is "Coping with Losses of Life".

This is a biblically-based study and everyone is welcome to participate.

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

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

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

Obituary Policy

- Obituaries should be received within 30 days of death.
- The deceased should be a current or former resident of the newspaper's coverage area (Braxton County and the surrounding areas), or have family members who have lived or are living in this area.
- Obituaries are accepted from funeral homes or funeral directors. Obituaries may also be provided from other publications or family members.
- Obituaries may be edited to conform to the newspaper standards and deadlines.
- There is no charge for obituaries that meet the aforementioned guidelines.

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FOR SALE: 2003 KAWASAKI AUTOMATIC 4 WHEEL DRIVE ATV. Great condition, new tires. \$3000. Call 304-644-1307. 12-28 1-4p

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: Braxton Co. Senior Citizens Center is accepting applications for immediate opening(s) of an hourly Driver Position(s). Must be friendly, motivated, willing to work where needs arise, like working with people, have previous experience working with the public and able to work independently. Will interact daily with seniors and may be involved with events and activities. Position remains open until filled by qualified individual. Send resume or completed application to: BCSCC Executive Director, 23 Senior Center Drive, Sutton, WV 26601 or e-mail to dirbcsc@frontier.com Preference to those qualified individuals aged 60 or over in accordance with the Older Americans Act. EOE 1-4 1-11b

HELP WANTED: Braxton Co. Senior Citizens Center is accepting applications for immediate opening(s) of an hourly Nutrition Site / House-keeping Position(s). Must be friendly, motivated, willing to work where

needs arise, like working with people, and able to work independently. Any previous experience working with the public is a plus. Will interact with seniors and staff. Position remains open until filled by qualified individual. Send resume or completed application to: BCSCC Executive Director, 23 Senior Center Drive, Sutton, WV 26601 or e-mail to dirbcsc@frontier.com Preference to those qualified individuals aged 60 or over in accordance with the Older Americans Act. EOE 1-4 1-11b

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This Week in West Virginia History

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

Jan. 6, 1828: Ward Hill Lamon was born in Jefferson County. Lamon was friend, law partner and unofficial bodyguard to President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln sent Lamon to Richmond on business, and the President was assassinated while his bodyguard was away.

Jan. 6, 1921: Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield died. He was the patriarch of the Hatfield family and their leader during the Hatfield-McCoy feud.

Jan. 6, 1931: An underground gas explosion killed eight men at the Glen Rogers coal mine in Wyoming County.

Jan. 6, 1948: Bob Wise was born in Washington D.C. He served in Congress and was the state's 33rd governor.

Jan. 7, 1955: The Cedar Lakes Conference Center officially opened, though it was not named until 1957. The name was chosen for its two lakes and an abundance of native cedar trees.

Jan. 8, 1919: The West Virginia legislature ratified the U.S. constitution's 18th Amendment by a Senate vote of 26-0 and a House vote of 81-3. West Virginia became the 21st state to ratify the prohibition amendment. National prohibition became effective under the Volstead Act on January 16, 1920.

Jan. 8, 1926: Comedian Soupy Sales was born Milton Supman. Raised in Huntington and graduating from Marshall College (now Marshall University), he achieved fame as a wacky television personality.

Jan. 8, 1958: Passenger service on the Greenbrier Division ended. The Greenbrier Division, a branch line of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, served the Greenbrier Valley in Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties in West Virginia.

Jan. 9, 1986: The first instant "scratch" lottery tickets were sold in West Virginia. Voters had approved the lottery amendment to the state constitution two years before.

Jan. 10, 1846: Wetzel County was created from a part of Tyler County. It was named for Indian fighter Lewis Wetzel.

Jan. 10, 1860: Webster County was created from parts of Braxton, Nicholas, and Randolph counties. The county was named for Daniel Webster.

Jan. 10, 1923: Musician "Curly" Ray Cline was born in Baisden, Logan County. He was one of the most significant bluegrass fiddlers from West Virginia from 1938 until his retirement in 1993.

Jan. 10, 1928: Gov. Howard Gore appointed Minnie Buckingham Harper to fill the unexpired term of her husband, E. Howard Harper. She was the first African-American woman to serve as a member of a state legislative body in the United States.

Jan. 10, 1940: The Pond Creek No. 1 mine at Bartley in McDowell County exploded. The blast killed 91 miners, with another 47 escaping. Rescue teams worked five days to retrieve the bodies, but found no additional miners alive.



Jan. 9, 2014: Hazardous chemicals were discovered leaking into the Elk River, contaminating the water supply for a nine-county region.



Jan. 9, 1911: Louise McNeill was born on the family farm in Pocahontas County. She was appointed poet laureate by Governor Jay Rockefeller in 1979, holding that title until her death in 1993.



Jan. 8, 1866: William Gustavus Conley was born near Kingwood in Preston County. Conley was the 18th governor of West Virginia, serving from 1929 to 1933.



Jan. 10, 1925: Judge Elizabeth Virginia Hallanan was born in Charleston. She was West Virginia's first female federal court judge.

Jan. 11, 1865: Confederate forces under General Rosser burned the covered bridge at Beverly. Bridge builder Lemuel Chenoweth rebuilt the damaged span in 1872-73.

Jan. 11, 1873: Dwight W. Morrow was born in

Huntington. Morrow was a financier, diplomat and a U.S. senator, representing New Jersey.

For more information contact 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

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Braxton County Middle School Knights Sports

By Shirley Shuman



The Knights defense lining up as a Webster player brings in the ball.



Jamie Nettles aiming for the hoop.

Braxton County Middle School boys basketball team scores win over Webster



Stevie Boggs had 16 points against Webster.

In what Braxton coach Randall Brown termed "a hard fought battle," the Knights defeated Webster 49-44 in their only game last week.

The Braxton coach noted that his team "jumped on them early," then added, "but we had some key players who got into foul trouble. When we had to sit some of the Knights, Webster was able to inch back into the game."

The coach pointed out, however, that the Knights held their com-

posure and made some big plays at the end of the game."

He also noted that Braxton had a key player out due to COVID and another who missed a lot of practices due to the protocol. "I am extremely proud of the effort all the boys put out. [They] really stepped up and showed what they are made of."

Braxton's leading scorer, Stevie Boggs, put in 16 points, and Brady Toler, also in double points, added 14.



Brady Toler brings the ball down the court.



Ashton Lunceford looking for the basket.

Individual statistics for the Knights against Webster:

Owen Lowther	9 points, 3 rebounds, 3 steals
Stevie Boggs.....	16 points, 8 rebounds
Brady Toler.....	14 points, 9 assists
Jamie Nettles.....	4 points, 9 rebounds
Ashton Lunceford.....	2 points, 2 rebounds
Carter Lewis.....	4 points, 6 rebounds

Senior Center Menu for January

Wednesday, January 5-	Garlic Tomato, shrimp pasta, garlic bread, honey glazed carrots, fruit	scalloped potatoes, dinner roll, fruit
Thursday, January 6-	Cornish Pasti, peas, dinner roll, fruit	Friday, January 14- Pepperoni Roll, Tomato soup w/Cheddar Cheese Crackers, fruit
Friday, January 7-	Pork Chops, scalloped potatoes, beets, dinner roll, fruit	Monday, January 17- Holiday CENTER CLOSED
Monday, January 10-	Sausage biscuit with gravy, hash browns, fruit	Tuesday, January 18- Chicken Alfredo, peas, garlic bread, fruit
Tuesday, January 11-	Pork Riblet on bun, French Fries, fruit	Wednesday, January 19- Country Fried Steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, dinner roll, pea salad, fruit
Wednesday, January 12-	Open Face Turkey Sandwich, stuffing, green beans, fruit	Thursday, January 20- Beef Vegetable Soup, cornbread, broccoli casserole, fruit
Thursday, January 13-	Stuffed Green Peppers,	Friday, January 21- Pinto Beans, Cornbread, beets, fruit
		Monday, January 24- Chili, sweet potatoes, crackers, fruit
		Tuesday, January 25- Chicken ala King, rice, dinner roll, fruit
		Wednesday, January 26- Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, broccoli, dinner roll, fruit
		Thursday, January 27- Breakfast Bake, hash browns, biscuit, spiced apples, juice
		Friday, January 28- Pork BBQ Sandwich, sweet potato fries, coleslaw, fruit
		Monday, January 31- Fish sandwich with cheese, French Fries, baked beans, fruit



Carter Lewis in action against Webster.

Knights place fourth in the Buckhannon Upshur duals

Five Braxton wrestlers go undefeated in B-U duals

Braxton Middle had only seven wrestlers when they competed in the Buckhannon Upshur duals last Tuesday, but they still finished fourth among eight teams. The host team won the tournament followed by Preston in second and Summersville in third. Other teams wrestling in the duals tournament included South Morgantown, Petersburg, Webster, and Gilmer.

Five Knights---Braydn Morris 110, Paxton Smith 123, Dylan Foster 135, Eliah Moore 190, and Joel Sigman 285--- were undefeated during the duals tournament. Jackson Wyne ended the day at 4-1 and Gabriel Hacker at 1-3.

In the duals, Braxton defeated South Morgantown 36-30, and outscored Webster 36-18. Summersville, Preston, and Buckhannon all won

against the Knights. Knights' coach Tyler Morlan said he was "extremely proud" of his wrestlers. "We knew coming into this tournament our numbers would be a problem for us, but the boys wrestled with a sense of purpose and most matches ended in a pin for us."

Braxton's next outing is scheduled at West Fairmont on Saturday, Jan. 8.



Owen Lowther had an awesome game with 9 points, 3 rebounds and 3 steals.



Verena letting goats into milking parlor

On the Other Side of the Mountain

By Verena Sava

Here is a little more about our farm adventure. Last time I talked about marketing. Once a product is available in stores, it has to be recognizable by its logo or label.

Over the years we received many comments about the attractiveness of our label, as well as catching color combinations which people said represented the freshness of the cheese. We needed help with our label, and we had heard of Colleen Anderson, who sometimes sang or commented on WV Public Radio. She is a graphic artist. We contacted her; not sure she would accept our request. She is the one who created the label that earned so many positive comments.

The next phase in our business adventure was expansion. As the demand for the cheese increased, we increased our number of milking animals. You might remember our start with milking Squeaky and Buffy, then adding Barbara and Queeny, increasing the herd from four to 10, to 25, to 40, to 75 and eventually to 140.

We needed more barn space and we had to hire a construction company to do the work, we were too busy with the business to do it ourselves. We also added two rooms to the cheese facility, a 25' long packing room on one side and on the other a 14' extension area for

washing and a dirt room to change our boots and barn clothes on the other side. We had now 5 full time and 2 part time employees.

I had to give up my teaching job to be fully involved in our home business. We sold cheese in WV, NY, DC, and now had added sales in MA, VA, MD, PA, OH, MI, IL (Chicago), NC, and one restaurant in CA. In the meantime, we had procured the organic certification for our farm and the cheese.

The step from 75 milkers to 140 has some story behind it. One morning in the dead of winter, there was a heavy snowfall, followed by zero-degree temperatures.

Our employees were unable to come to the farm and we were alone with the whole enterprise. Milking 75 goats by hand with -5 degrees in the milking parlor was not easy. The hands stayed warm, because they were in touch with the warm udders most of the time, but the rest of the body cooled off considerably to the point that when we finished milking after an hour and a half later, I started shaking uncontrollably upon returning to the cheese building.

While changing my boots, I noticed that I had frostbite on my toes. Of course, it did not help that the water to the barn had frozen, and we needed to get water to the goats. We connected four water hoses from the cheese

building to the barn to fill up the buckets, then drained the hoses again before they froze. Greg called the hospital to ask what we should do about the frostbite, and we were advised to warm the feet up slowly, gradually adding warmer water till the blood started circulating again.

We did not have much time to dwell on the injury, milk needed pasteurizing, equipment needed washing, cheese was to be salted, cheese forms washed and put away, but we knew that we had to make plans if such circumstances would occur more often. The solution was to build a new milking parlor with a pipeline system.

We gathered the necessary information, contacted the only outfit that installed pipeline systems for dairies in VA, got things rolling and by the end of summer we had a system where we could milk 100 goats in an hour, even if it meant to do it by one person alone, if needed.

Now something happened, we had not planned on. Food critics noticed the newcomer (Brier Run Chevre) on the shelves and soon our name appeared in goat cheese articles among other producers. There apparently was a curiosity of where this organic cheese was made. Our nanosecond of cheese fame started.

We were contacted by the Washington Post, asking if they could send a food writer to us to write about our operation. Imagine, the way we lived was in no comparison to the pristine, white, immaculately clean cheese facilities or the barns. We lived very simply and to accommodate somebody from the city to stay with us for a day or more was challenging.

Then we were contacted by the NY Times, and it just so happened that the journalist was a college friend of Greg's. The day the column in the NY times was published the phone started ringing nonstop before 7 a.m. with comments of support and cheese orders for private households. We had no idea how we were going to handle the extra orders, asking people for patience, explaining that the goats could only produce so much milk a week.

After that, we received around 700 letters of support. The Charleston Gazette wrote a story about us, some medical journals recommended our product because of it being organic and of high quality. Gourmet magazines took up the story. Martha Stewart sent three of her

people here to write a feature article about us. They stayed here for several days, but we could not accommodate so many unrelated people, having only one guest room. They stayed in town for the nights.

They rearranged our kitchen for photos, to make it more acceptable to their readership, more hip. I noticed the changes when I returned to the house and I asked them politely to leave everything as it was, in its original state.

I never saw any photos of our house in their magazine, so I concluded that they did want to invade our privacy. We were marketed in many news outlets without us even knowing. The upside of this media exposure of course was an increase in sales. Some stores sent their salespeople from the cheese counter to the farm for a visit to see how everything worked and to verify that what they read about us was true.

Chefs came to the farm. I admit it was an added stress to play hostess to the people we depended on for sales, however, we made all these wonderful contacts. Each encounter was very rewarding without any exception. People did not seem to mind the simplicity of our living quarters.

In some way, they discovered that there was some charm and comfort in our way of life and of course, good food for every meal. There was no pressure for conformity, just spending some time on a farm with all the animals. I will add next time just a little item that will make you laugh, but that will be the end of our cheese story.

Braxton County Animal Shelter



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



This is Max. He is a fourteen month old micro-chipped, neutered male who was adopted from our shelter and later returned. He's very dog social and wants to play with other dogs but not overly energetic. Max needs a fenced yard or boundaries. He loves toys and will take all the affection and play you can give. He also walks great on a leash and seems to be eager to please his people!

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Snowdrop, very early blooming, Dec. 26th



Greg in new milking parlor