

## Braxton Woman Facing Drug Charges in Mon County

A Braxton County woman has been charged in Monongalia County after officers found illegal drugs on her person after they responded to a shoplifting call at their local Walmart.

On January 29, officers with the Granville Police Department were dispatched to Walmart on University Town Center drive in Monongalia County to investigate a shoplifting complaint.

According to the criminal complaint, upon arrival, officers met with Kara Martines, 27, of Exchange, in the Walmart Loss Prevention Office. Store employees claimed



Kara Martines

that Martines had "put on unpaid clothing merchandise," and then "passed the last point of sale wearing that clothing." The merchandise had a total value of \$22.76.

Officers performed a

probable cause search of Martines' person and belongings in order to locate "further unpaid merchandise." During that search they discovered a lock box with multiple containers of a white powdery substance, which tested positive as fentanyl. The illegal drug weighing more than 6 grams, according to the complaint.

Martines has been charged with unlawful possession of fentanyl. She was arraigned in Monongalia Magistrate Court. She is being held in North Central Regional Jail on a \$25,000 bond awaiting further court proceedings.

## Braxton Native Selected SJMH's Employee of the Month

Respiratory therapist Stephanie Smyth has been named the January 2022 ICARE Employee of the Month for Mon Health Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital (SJMH), in Weston.

Stephanie has been at SJMH since November 2009 after graduating from West Virginia Tech with an Associates of Science degree in Respiratory Therapy.

Stephanie is pleased with the honor and said, "I have truly enjoyed my work here at Stonewall because of my wonderful co-workers. Though this year has been extremely challenging for respiratory therapists, we have worked together to provide the best care for our patients and that makes the job satisfying."

A nomination for the monthly Employee of the Month honor is based on the ICARE acronym of Integrity, Commitment, Accountability, Respect, and



Excellence. Stephanie's nominator cited these qualities for her nomination.

Her nominator wrote, "Stephanie is an amazing person inside and out. She is always helpful to anyone and will do anything you ever ask her to do. She is always supporting patients and wanting to do what is best for them. She is compassionate and considerate. Stephanie takes care of her patients in multiple ways and likes to educate them about being vaccinated. She always encourages them to

get better. She always has a smile on her face when she comes into our unit. She has two children and a husband who are her whole world and she is the best mom to them all."

Stephanie and her husband, Adam, have two children - a daughter, Haygen, 10, and son Jackson, 8. The couple lives in Sutton with their Schnauzer, Sophie; Joey, the Goldendoodle; and Heathcliff, the Persian cat. Her parents are Suzanne and Mark Wine of Lewis County. She graduated from Braxton County High School.

Stephanie also related that her life revolves around her husband and children. When she has her days off, she is spending time with them.

She was philosophical about her life and said, "I now live my life to enjoy the moment because you do not know the future. I want to make great memories with my family."

## Magistrates Report

Magistrate David Singleton

January 24: Issac Lane Crews of Richwood, sexual abuse by a parent, guardian, custodian of a child, first degree sexual assault, preliminary hearing waived, transferred to circuit court.

January 25: Kenneth Stephen McNeil of Sutton, aggravated DUI, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$1000 cash, surety, or 10% to the court; Cory Michael Wilson of Charleston, bringing contraband into regional jail, dismissed;

Bonnie McCumbers of Gassaway, petit larceny, dismissed, possession of meth, guilty plea, driving suspended, dismissed per plea, expired registration, dismissed per plea, 180 days of jail, suspended and placed on eight months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs assessed; Kimberlyn Rachelle Carr of Gassaway, destruction of property, guilty plea, domestic assault, dismissed per plea, 12 months of jail, suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised

probation, fine/court costs assessed; January 25: Robbie Franklin Lamp of Grantsville, bringing contraband into regional jail, warrant issued, bond set at \$5,000 cash only; Jennifer E. Kemp of Sutton, destruction of property, no contest plea, obstructing an officer, 12 months of jail with credit for time served, fine/court costs assessed.

January 27: Curtis Layman of Oakland, MD, overweight vehicle, summons issued, bond set at \$500 personal recognizance.

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January 27: Curtis Layman of Oakland, MD, overweight vehicle, summons issued, bond set at \$500 personal recognizance.

## Board of Ed hears from Burnsville, Little Birch Schools

The Braxton County Board of Education held their most recent meeting on February 1. The meeting was called to order by Board President DeAnna Whipkey at 6:00 pm.

Two of the county's elementary school, Burnsville and Little Birch, completed their LSIC (Local School Improvement Council) presentations. Both schools identified improving attendance, reading scores, and math scores as critical needs for the schools. The schools have a goal of having

90% of the students in the classroom 90% of the time. Both also have implemented after school tutoring to work on improving reading and math scores.

Burnsville Principal Teresa Childers and fourth grade teacher Jessica Vandernick spoke on behalf of their school. At BES, the attendance as of January 2022 is up to 90.41% with 35.71% chronically absent, which is defined as two or more days per month. Reading and math goals include getting the number of stu-

dents to 50% on grade level measured by the iReady Benchmarks. At Burnsville, reading proficiency is up to 26% from 14% at the beginning of the school year. In math, the scores have increased from 3% to 19%. Burnsville's mission statement is to create lifelong learners. The staff wants students to become self-motivated in gaining knowledge.

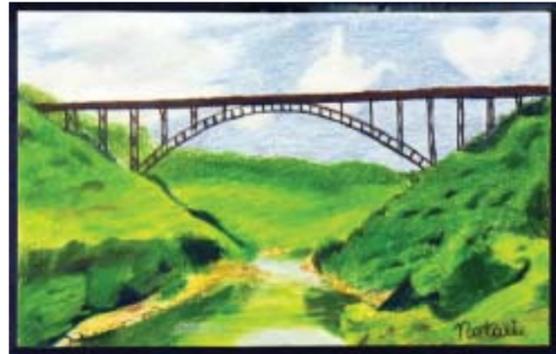
For Little Birch Elementary, Principal Grace Wines and fourth grade teacher Nikki Harper spoke to the board. Their

## Governor announces winners of Almost Heaven Art Exhibition Braxton Middle Schooler Takes 1st Place

Governor Jim Justice, along with the West Virginia Department of Tourism and the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, Tuesday announced the winners of the fourth annual Almost Heaven Governor's Art Exhibition. Those winners included a student at Braxton County Middle School.

Awards were given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in three divisions: Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. winners will receive Blick Art Materials gift cards in the amounts of \$100, \$50, and \$25, respectively.

Natalie Garrett, a 6 grade student at Braxton County Middle School, captured first place in the statewide Middle School Division with her painting



Natalie Garrett's award winning entry titled "New River Gorge Bridge - Hidden Shapes in the Clouds."

to you?"

Selected postcard artwork will be used by the Department of Tourism to personally invite travelers to Almost Heaven, West Virginia.

An exhibition of the winning pieces and other selected entries is now on display outside the Governor's Office at the State Capitol in Charleston. The exhibition features 275 entries from students in 12 Park & Preserve - mean counties.

## Little Birch Elementary announces top spellers

In preparation for the Braxton County Spelling Bee, students in 2nd through 5th grades at Little Birch Elementary School participated in a school-wide spelling bee recently.

Top spellers in Mrs. Montgomery's 2nd/3rd grade class included Layla King who captured 1st Place and Allison Marks who came in 2nd Place. Gabe McCourt rounded out the winners with a 3rd Place finish

Top spellers in Miss Harper's 4th grade class included Marionna George who took 1st Place. Aiden Dorsey followed with a 2nd Place award. Paxton Schrader will serve as the alternate in this age group for the county competition.

Top spellers in Mrs. Berry's 5th grade class included Cole Salisbury who took 1st Place and Maddison Marks who finished in 2nd Place. Colton Putnam will be the alternate.

Fourth and fifth grade students advanced to the Braxton County Spelling Bee held at the Days Inn & Suites last weekend. Watch Braxton County Newspapers next week for a complete list and photographs of county winners.



LB Top Spellers for 2nd/3rd grade included Layla King - 1st Place, Allison Marks - 2nd Place, and Gabe McCourt - 3rd Place.



4th grade winners were Marionna George - 1st Place, Aiden Dorsey - 2nd Place. Paxton Schrader will serve as the alternate.



Cole Salisbury - 1st Place, Maddison Marks - 2nd Place, and Colton Putnam as the alternate represent the 5th grade.

outside of the school. She noted a lot of grandparents are not on the computer and that gives them the chance to see what is going on at Little Birch.

Board member Dr. Martha Dean commented on the students surpassing goals at Little Birch and implementing new goals to work towards is commendable.

Dr. Kenna Seal asked Continued on page 3



# Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs

Last Friday, January 28 marked the seventeenth day of the 2022 Legislative session. To date, 1,551 bills have been introduced - the House has introduced 1,046 bills; in the Senate, 505 bills have been introduced. Thirty-five bills have passed the Senate; 24 bills have passed the House. Two bills have passed both houses and await action by the Governor.

I'll pass on commenting on the State of the State Address for now. The conclusion was not one of West Virginia's finer moments. On an important note to constituents contacting my office in recent days - due to staff turnover and realignment in our office, I have new workers assisting with calls, messages, research, and correspondence. In the interim, they are getting acclimated to new responsibilities and I'm looking forward to working with each of them to streamline the workload as the session progresses. In the meantime, we will work to minimize any delays in responding to your requests.

Among the bills that have passed the House as of January 28 and head to the Senate:

- House Bill 4252 reduces the copay cap on insulin from \$100 to \$35. It also caps the copay for devices at \$100. The copay for insulin pumps is capped at \$200 and a new pump can be covered every 2 years. The bill states prescriptions are not required for tests. The bill advances to the Senate after a 94-3 passage.

- House Bill 4276 creates a Parkinson's disease registry through WVU. Patients have the option to opt out of the registry in writing. Patients cannot be forced to participate. WVU must code a system to protect confidential information. Information in this database cannot be subpoenaed.

- House Bill 4074, Meghan's Law, requires the state board of education to establish training requirements for public school employees on students' self-harm behaviors and eating disorders.

The bill requires yearly education of middle and high school students regarding self-harm behavior, eating disorder signs, prevention, and treatment.

- House Bill 2184 increases the criminal penalties for intentionally exposing a government representative including EMS personnel to fentanyl or any other harmful drug or chemical agent. The bill sets guidelines for misdemeanor exposure and felony exposure. A misdemeanor exposure is intentionally possessing and exposing a government representative. A misdemeanor conviction carries a fine of no more than \$500 or confinement to jail for one month to one year. A felony exposure is intentionally possessing and exposing a government representative to fentanyl or other harmful drug or chemical agent in which the representative is physically harmed by such drug or agent. A felony conviction carries a fine of no more than \$2,000 and/or imprisonment in a state correctional facility for two to five years.

House Resolutions (HR) are geared toward internal issues or rules changes in the House of Delegates. They can often be contentious on a partisan basis, generating a substantial amount of debate across the aisle. However, last week, an important component of a former House rule was partially reinstated and done so on a bipartisan basis. HR 9, as amended and adopted, moves remarks by members back to the House Order of Business.

The resolution allows remarks by members to be on Wednesday each week for an unlimited amount of time. Prior to the pandemic and since anyone can recall, remarks by members were an opportunity to call attention to items, bills, issues, etc., by members addressing the full House of Delegates. Over the last twenty-six years, I've used it on multiple occasions to apply pressure on state agencies. The ability to call out the former cabinet secretary of DOT and DOH led to getting the Governor involved in breaking the

logjam that had the Burnsville Dollar General Store held up over a small parcel of state-owned property. That's the power of using remarks by members as a strategic tool for getting things done when the time is right.

I argued two years ago that it was a mistake to take away an important method to further call attention to the needs and problems of our constituents, get an important bill moving, recognize individuals and accomplishments, or help kill a bad bill. Previously, this was a standing order of business each daily, until leadership determined they wanted to remove remarks by members and move it to a meaningless after-adjournment 5 pm time slot once a week, limiting members to only five minutes. While it should have been restored to the former status of a daily opportunity to take the floor for the aforementioned purposes, it's now only going to occur on Wednesdays, but it will be during the floor session and the time limit for each member is unlimited. I hope future legislatures will see fit to restore remarks by members to its former effectiveness by providing the opportunity daily. It's the right thing to do.

The long, grueling budget hearing process in the House Finance Committee has now wrapped up, with bills being readied by the committee for consideration. By rule, all bills that have fiscal implications must either be referenced or second-referenced to the Finance Committee.

Generally, the majority of bills are referenced to a major committee. While there are technically five major committees in the House - Finance, Judiciary, Government Organization, Health & Human Resources, and Education - the bulk of bills find their final path to the floor or die in either Finance or Judiciary. That's why I've made it a priority to serve you as a member of the Finance Committee throughout the years.

Finally, a sad note on the passing of my friend, Roy Huffman. Roy was a retired State Farm Insurance agent, Veteran, former member of the Braxton County Commission, member of the Board of Directors of WVU Medicine - Braxton Memorial Hospital, Huffman Bookkeeping, and many other charitable and business ventures. In addition to being a notable businessman and Mason, Roy and his wife, Barbara, have been avid Marshall University supporters and mentors to numerous students through college scholarships. Roy was a friend to countless citizens through the years across central West Virginia and beyond. Jean and I send our sincere condolences to Barbara, Tim, Jim, Vicky, and the entire Huffman family.

Now that the session is underway, please contact me at the Capitol office at: Building 1, Room 258-M, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25305. The phone number is 304-340-3142. For those with Internet access, my legislative email address is: Brent.Boggs@WVHouse.gov 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.

# Obituaries

## Louis Raymond Petolicchio

Louis Raymond Petolicchio, 58, of Sutton, went home to be with his Lord on Monday, January 24, 2022, at Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown.

He was born September 9, 1963 in Drexel Hill, PA, the son of Louis & Barbara Elaine Blaker Petolicchio of Hockessin, DE.

Louis worked as a claims adjuster for State Farm Insurance for 36 years. He was a member of Sutton Baptist Church and Awana Club. In his life, Louis was an author of four books, taught The Constitution of the United States to thousands of people, and was the founder of "The Constitutional Organization of Liberty." His passion was to let Americans know their constitutional rights.

After moving to Sutton, Louis and his wife Laurel became very active in the community. They own and operate the Mountain Laurel Country Store and WV Bigfoot Museum in Sutton. They have held two Bigfoot events, bringing hundreds of people to Sutton for West Virginia arts and crafts and adding to the local economy.

He is survived by his loving wife, Laurel Lynn Toland Petolicchio; sons, Louis William Franklin Petolicchio (Sarah Nicrota) of Coraopolis, PA, David Samuel Petolicchio of Sutton; brother, Kenneth Richard of Red Hill, PA; sister, Laurie Petolicchio-Murphy of Wilmington, DE; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services in his honor was held 3:00 pm, Saturday, January 29, 2022 at Sutton Baptist Church, Sutton, with Rev. Eric Thomas officiating.

Greene-Robertson Funeral Home is humbled to be serving the Petolicchio family.

On line condolences may be sent to: greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com

## Roy C. Huffman

Roy C. Huffman, 87, of Exchange, passed away on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at Tygart Center, Farmmont.

He was born June 24, 1934 in Chapel, WV to the late Vinton O. and Audrey Kimble Huffman.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his brother, Wellington V. "Bud" Huffman; sister, Audrey "Billie" King and great grandson, Riley Huffman.

Roy was a business man with a great work ethic who left a wonderful legacy. In 1953 he graduated from Gassaway High School. Following high school he served his country as a member of the United States Army and National Guard. After his military duty he completed his business degree from Marshall University. His first job after college was as a brakeman for B & O Railroad. He worked as a salesman for International Harvester selling tractors and farm equipment. After that he was a Repo man for GMAC. Roy began working for the government for the Civil Service as GS 5 and retired as GS 17. He

was an agent for State Farm Insurance for 22 years and was the Chief Accountant and owner of Huffman Bookkeeping. Roy also served one term as Braxton County Commissioner. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge #133 and held the honorary 33rd degree of Scottish Rites Grand Inspector General. He was a member of the order of the Eastern Star. He attended Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Gassaway. Until his death he was also a current board member of Braxton County Memorial Hospital. In his spare time he loved being an avid Marshall Sports fan and going to his grandchildren's sporting events. He will be missed.

Roy is survived by his wife of 67 years, Barbara Stewart Huffman; children, James K. Huffman, Timothy S. Huffman (Trisha Gregory), and Vicky L. Murphy (Keith Shaver); grandchildren, Amy Lynn McFaul (Timothy), James K. Huffman II (Tabatha), Brandon J. Huffman (Rachael), Tiffani L. Huffman (Katie), Jessica L. Tanner (Kevin), and Jacob L. Murphy; 13 great grandchildren, Katelynn, Robert, Timmy and Mary McFaul, Carson, Wyatt, and Levi Huffman, Blakely and Beckett Huffman, Kylan Ford, Jaycee, Kade, and Jaxon Tanner; and one sister Dena Jane Kelly of Baltimore; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service were 2 P.M. Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at Gassaway Baptist Church with Reverend James Riggs officiating.

Burial with Masonic Rites followed in the Sugar Creek Cemetery, Gassaway.

Visitation was 3 hours prior to the service at the church.

Due to Covid 19, the family appreciated guest who wore a mask.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to WVU Medicine Hospice, 2673 Davison Run Road, Clarksburg, WV 26301 or West Virginia Parkinson's Support Network, 222 Capitol Street, Suite 400, Charleston, WV 25301.

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

Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV.

## Chester James Delaney

Chester James Delaney (1929 - 2022), suddenly passed away on January 25th, 2022.

Devoted husband to Joyce Lough Delaney. Survived by his four children, Jim Delaney (Laura), Jeff Delaney (Randy), Mark Delaney (Lorissa), and Pam Delaney Newsom (Chuck), grandchildren, great grandchildren, three siblings, extended family, and his buddy Dudley.

Chester was a veteran of the Navy and graduate from Allied Institute of Technology with an engineering degree. He spent most of his working career as an outstanding salesman with Coca-Cola, retiring in 1989. Chester enjoyed spending his time at Lower Sleith cabin, wood working, golfing, gardening, and spending time with friends and family. Chester will always be remembered for

the wonderful man he was. Life celebration will be scheduled at a later date.

## Elsie Fay Shreves

Elsie Fay Shreves, 82, of Gassaway, formerly of Clarksburg, passed away on Friday, January 28, 2022 at Braxton Health Care Center, Sutton. She was born in Roane County on July 26, 1939 to the late James Isaiah Martin and Vernie Wagner Martin.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Arlos Leon Shreves and twin sister, Delcie Lipscomb. Elsie worked in Harrison County at the Senior Center and at the Bicycny Nutritional Center as a cook. When she lived in Clarksburg she attended the Upper Room Church, Adamston, but most recently she was a member of the Mid State Church of God, Gassaway. She loved church. In her spare time she did puzzle books and watched gospel programs on TV.

She will be missed. Left to cherish her memories are her sons, Bill Shreves and wife, Jeanette, of Frametown and David Shreves and wife, Vanessa, of Shinnston; grandson, William Lee Shreves of Gassaway; sister in law, Cindy Bender, of Heaters; niece, Becky Sawitski and husband, Gary, of Grafton; and nephews, Daniel Lipscomb and fiancée, Makeiska Harris, of Grafton, Eric Linger of Exchange, and Joshua Linger and wife, Rachel, of Exchange.

In keeping with Elsie's wishes she was cremated and a memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to Mid State Church of God, PO Box 157, Gassaway, WV 26624. Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at www.roachfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway.

Alidene Perkins Bender

Alidene Perkins Bender, 86, of Flatwoods, WV passed away Saturday, January 22, 2022 surrounded by her loving family when she gained her angel wings. She was born March 27, 1935 to parents William Perkins and Laura Jane Tharp Perkins. Alidene is preceded in death by her parents; Husband: Jackson Bender; Brothers: Frankie, Lawrence, James, Garrett and Richard; and Sister: Marie Myers.

Alidene loved driving and visiting with friends along the way. She was an avid bird watcher and loved flowers. She enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Those left to cherish her memory are Daughters: Debbie Perkins, Gloria Starcher and Pat Keener; Sons: James and Richard Bender; Granddaughters: Shelby Bender, Samantha Bender and Martika Miller.

Family will receive friends for visitation on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 from 6:00-8:00 PM. Funeral service will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 1:00PM with Pastor Jason Allen officiating. Interment will follow the service at Poplar Ridge Cemetery, Sutton, WV.

Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the family of Alidene Perkins Bender.

Please turn to OBITS

**The Braxton Democrat-Central**  
Published every Thursday  
by  
**Quality Printing & Publishing, Inc.**  
DBA/ Braxton Democrat-Central  
501 Main Street  
Sutton, West Virginia 26601-1349  
USPS 063-480

Ed Given Janet Six Jennifer Lloyd Jeanine Given	Publisher Office Manager Layout & Design Circulation Manager
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Subscription rates for 1 year in county, \$17.00; Out of county, \$23.50;  
Out of state, \$35.50; Cannot accept subscription for less than six months. Senior Citizens with Golden Mountaineer Cards may deduct \$1.00 from yearly rates.

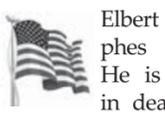
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT SUTTON, WV, 26601

# OBITUARIES

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## William (Shimmy) Singleton

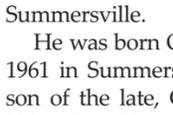
William (Shimmy) Singleton, 91, of Orlando, WV passed on January 23, 2022. He was born on November 29, 1930 to parents Elbert and Dorphes Singleton. He is preceded in death by his parents; Daughter: Diana Slaughter; Brother: Robert Singleton; and Sister: Thelma Singleton. Shimmy proudly served his country in the United States ARMY during the Korean War from 1951-1955 and was honorably discharged as Sergeant 1st Class. Shortly after returning home he went to Cleveland, Ohio to work for Ford Motor Company where he worked for 30 years. After retirement, Shimmy and his wife Nancy returned to the place they loved and truly called home in Braxton County, West Virginia. Shimmy loved planting and watching things grow. At age 90 he still raised a large garden and he enjoyed giving things he had grown to his friends and family. When he was little younger, he also raised beautiful flower gardens, and loved fishing and coon hunting. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 70 years, Nancy Conrad Singleton; Sons: Delmas and his wife, Diann of Gem, WV, Joe Singleton and wife Bonnie of Orlando, WV, Craig Singleton of Clarksburg, WV, Rick Singleton and wife Gayla of Georgia, David Singleton of Orlando, WV; Daughters: Sue McKisic and husband Bob of Rock Cave, WV, Kathy Thomas



and husband Billy Ray of Oregon; Sisters: Virginia Parker, Clara Johnson and Nellie Cayton; 10-Grandchildren; 9-Great Grandchildren and 4-Great Great Grandchildren. Family received friends for visitation on Saturday, January 29, 2022 from 11:00-2:00 PM. Funeral service followed visitation at 2:00 PM at Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation, Flatwoods, WV. Pastor Daniel Arnold officiated the service. Interment followed the service at Little Kanawha Memorial Gardens, Heaters, WV. Stockert Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve Shimmy Singleton's family.

## John David Criss

John David Criss, 60, of Birch River, passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at Summersville Regional Hospital, Summersville. He was born October 2, 1961 in Summersville, the son of the late, Claude & Velma Jean Harris Criss. John worked for Brooks Run Coal Company, WV Tire Disposal Company and was a Baptist by faith. He was a Graduate of Nicholas County High School and Pittsburgh Art Institute. He is survived by his wife, Amber Butcher of Clay; companion, Pam Garvin; son, Nathan Warner Criss and his mother, Sheila Criss; brother, James Franklin Criss (JoAnn) of Little Birch; sisters, Susan Coffman (Larry), Patricia Hooker (Mark) all of Birch River, Debra Wooten (Fred) of Beckley; several grandchildren. Memorial service in his honor was held 12:00 noon, Saturday, January 29, 2022 at Birch River Baptist Church, Birch River



place went to Savannah Singleton. The eight grade winner was James Johnson and second place was Joel Sigman. For the county, Joel Sigman placed first, James Johnson was second, and Savannah Singleton was third. Superintendent Hypes provided an update on covid guidance since things have changed again since the last meeting. She noted the "test to stay" plan will no longer be needed. The state issued the guidance that if a county has a universal masking policy, contract tracing will no longer be in effect. The school screening program previous discussed will still be put in place to allow for the "test to play" program. Testing kits will be coming in and nurses will be trained in the administration of the testing. Dr. Seal asked what test will be accepted. Superintendent Hypes stated that the tests performed by the schools, rapid tests, or home tests will all be accepted to allow students to participate in extra-curricular activities. She ended her update discussing the upcoming "Portrait of a Graduate" program on February 8 at 6:00 pm at Flatwoods Com-

unity Building. "Portrait of a Graduate" is a new program for working collaboratively with the school system and the community in building the educational system to prepare students to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society. The board approved the following consent agenda items: approval of January 18 meeting minutes; transportation requests; payment of bills; budget transfers and supplements; and treasurer's report. Evelyn Post questioned the purchase of a smart TV. She was informed the TV was for the CTE Tech room at the middle school and was purchased out of CTE funds. Post went on to ask about the transfer of \$5000 to BCMS and \$10,000 to BCHS athletic programs. Superintendent Hypes stated those transfers were for supplies and the armory rental for the high school basketball game. Post asked if new wrestling mats were included in those funds. Superintendent Hypes stated it was not but she had a meeting scheduled with Finance Director Ginger Altizer and BCHS wrestling coach Sterling Beane for the following day to discuss the purchase of new mats.

Long, Emily S. Metheney, Heather L. Moore, Lexi N. Pletcher, Stephanie H. Stewart, Emily B. Toler The students making the Provost's Honor List are listed below according to their West Virginia county of residence, followed by out-of-state and international students. Seth I. Arnold, Jack Boyce, Kourtney Davis, Cassidy K. Heavner, Lainey J. Hunt, Cassie N. Hyre, Beau S. Liston, Jacob A.

with Rev. Larry Coffman officiating. Family will receive friends 10:00 a.m. till noon at the church. Greene-Robertson Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Criss family. On line condolences may be sent to: greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com

## Norman Floyd Nottingham

Norman Floyd Nottingham, 78, of Strange Creek passed away on Monday, January 24, 2022 at Plateau Medical center, Oak Hill, WV. He was born in Braxton County on February 16, 1943 to the late Emma and Floyd Nottingham. In addition to this parents he was preceded in death by infant sons, Norman F. Nottingham, Jr. and Steve Edward Nottingham; and son, David Allen Nottingham; brothers, Jackie Nottingham and James Brackie Nottingham; and sisters, Marlene Smith and Georgia Houston Chippis. Norman was retired from Timken Company, Canton, Ohio with 34 years of service. He liked to work outside and hunt. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Mary Walter Nottingham; and daughter, Cindy Jean Phillips and husband, David of Daniels, WV; grandchildren, Rylee Jean Phillips and Reese Emery Phillips; and sister, Shirley Smith of Canton, OH. In keeping with Norman's wishes he was cremated and a memorial service will be held at a later date. Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at www.roachfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV.

He was born in Braxton County on February 16, 1943 to the late Emma and Floyd Nottingham. In addition to this parents he was preceded in death by infant sons, Norman F. Nottingham, Jr. and Steve Edward Nottingham; and son, David Allen Nottingham; brothers, Jackie Nottingham and James Brackie Nottingham; and sisters, Marlene Smith and Georgia Houston Chippis.

Norman was retired from Timken Company, Canton, Ohio with 34 years of service. He liked to work outside and hunt. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Mary Walter Nottingham; and daughter, Cindy Jean Phillips and husband, David of Daniels, WV; grandchildren, Rylee Jean Phillips and Reese Emery Phillips; and sister, Shirley Smith of Canton, OH. In keeping with Norman's wishes he was cremated and a memorial service will be held at a later date. Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at www.roachfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

Braxton Democrat-Central, Page 3 February 3, 2022



## NOTICE TO REDEEM

2020-S-00000049 - Braxton County - WVTL LLC To: RONALD CADLE, ANGELA CADLE, RONALD CADLE, STONEWALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL C/O BOOTH & MCCARTHY, STONEWALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL C/O BOOTH & MCCARTHY, RONALD CADLE, ANGELA CADLE, ANGELA CADLE, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP MANAGER, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all unknown heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property. DISTRICT BIRCH MAP 3L PARCEL 0024 0004

You will take notice that WVTL LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000049, .78AC SLEITH, located in BIRCH, which was returned delinquent in the name of CADLE RONALD &/OR ANGELA, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Braxton County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 20th day of October, 2020, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2022, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2022 will be as follows: Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2022. -\$541.83

Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022. -\$375.41 Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2021 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022. -\$1,224.91 Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022. -\$431.30 Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County. -\$2,573.45 Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor. -\$35.00 You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2022, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2022. -\$385.00 Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022. -\$276.95 Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2021 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022. -\$1,410.39 Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022. -\$690.08 Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County. -\$2,762.42 Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor. -\$35.00 You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2022, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return to: WV State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division, 1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia, 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2 2-3 2-17b

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charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2022. -\$287.88 Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022. -\$192.96 Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2021 following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022. -\$1,246.20 Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022. -\$345.04 Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Lou Dellamea, Sheriff and Treasurer of Braxton County. -\$2,072.08 Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor. -\$35.00 You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2022, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

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# NOTICE

Continued from page 3

about the timing of the summative assessment and the benchmark testing and if it would match up to the growth goals. Director Linda Sears stated the summative assessment will be the first week of May and the benchmark testing will be afterwards. She noted that typically the iReady testing does not match up to the summative assessment. She went on and commended Principal Wines at Little Birch as a first year principal. She felt there would be a large jump in testing scores in both summative assessment and the benchmark testing. Superintendent Kathy Hypes discussed the recent county Spelling Bee. She recognized winners in fourth thru eighth grades. For fourth grade first place went to Leah Rader, Davis and second place was Emma Liston, Sutton. The fifth grade winner was Quinn Lemon, Flatwoods and second place was Ira Ransbottom, Sutton. For sixth grade, Natalie Garrett placed first and Liam Harman was second. In the seventh grade, first place went to Bern Davis and second

place went to Savannah Singleton. The eight grade winner was James Johnson and second place was Joel Sigman. For the county, Joel Sigman placed first, James Johnson was second, and Savannah Singleton was third. Superintendent Hypes provided an update on covid guidance since things have changed again since the last meeting. She noted the "test to stay" plan will no longer be needed. The state issued the guidance that if a county has a universal masking policy, contract tracing will no longer be in effect. The school screening program previous discussed will still be put in place to allow for the "test to play" program. Testing kits will be coming in and nurses will be trained in the administration of the testing. Dr. Seal asked what test will be accepted. Superintendent Hypes stated that the tests performed by the schools, rapid tests, or home tests will all be accepted to allow students to participate in extra-curricular activities. She ended her update discussing the upcoming "Portrait of a Graduate" program on February 8 at 6:00 pm at Flatwoods Com-

unity Building. "Portrait of a Graduate" is a new program for working collaboratively with the school system and the community in building the educational system to prepare students to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society. The board approved the following consent agenda items: approval of January 18 meeting minutes; transportation requests; payment of bills; budget transfers and supplements; and treasurer's report. Evelyn Post questioned the purchase of a smart TV. She was informed the TV was for the CTE Tech room at the middle school and was purchased out of CTE funds. Post went on to ask about the transfer of \$5000 to BCMS and \$10,000 to BCHS athletic programs. Superintendent Hypes stated those transfers were for supplies and the armory rental for the high school basketball game. Post asked if new wrestling mats were included in those funds. Superintendent Hypes stated it was not but she had a meeting scheduled with Finance Director Ginger Altizer and BCHS wrestling coach Sterling Beane for the following day to discuss the purchase of new mats.

Long, Emily S. Metheney, Heather L. Moore, Lexi N. Pletcher, Stephanie H. Stewart, Emily B. Toler The students making the Provost's Honor List are listed below according to their West Virginia county of residence, followed by out-of-state and international students. Seth I. Arnold, Jack Boyce, Kourtney Davis, Cassidy K. Heavner, Lainey J. Hunt, Cassie N. Hyre, Beau S. Liston, Jacob A.

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The following professional, service and extra-curricular recommendations were approved by the board: employment of Cody Dobbins, substitute teacher, Charles McCumbers, substitute bus operator, Jeremy Cantrell, bus operator, bus #41A, and James Huffman, special education supervisory/instructional/transportation aide (itinerant), Sutton; resignations for Patricia Martin, other employment, teacher, BCHS, Martha Wine, substitute teacher, Kelly Morrison, other employment, executive secretary, special education/preschool/head start, and Larry Blake Baldwin, baseball coach, BCMS; and leave of absence for Patrick Facemire, extended unpaid medical leave, teacher, BCMS.

Fundraisers were approved as presented. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 15 at 6:00 pm. As always, members of the Braxton County community are encouraged to attend regular board meetings. Anyone wishing to speak as a delegate or with public concerns may do so by signing in up to 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

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# GSC students named to academic honor lists for Fall 2021

Glennville State College has announced the names of students who attained the President's Honor List and the Provost's Honor List for the Fall 2021 semester. To be named to the President's Honor List, a student must have a 4.0 grade point average. To be named to the Provost's Honor List, a student must have a grade point average

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Jackson K. Davis, Madison L. Duffield, Jesse L. Flint, Raven M. Friend, Daniel R. Hoard, Joseph M. Johnson, Daizy B. King, Abigail E. Long, Hailey B. Lunceford, James E. McChesney, Emily A. Nesselrotte, Andrew C. Pritt, Olivia D. Ramsey, Natalie M. Rhodes, Madeline Tusing, Ethan M. Veltre, Chloe M. Walker, Jaycee A. Wood





# THE BRAXTON DEMOCRAT

CENTRAL

The Newspaper Braxton Countians have depended on for over 100 years

Established 1883

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## CLASSIFIEDS

Buy it! Sell it! Find it fast!

### HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED:** WVU-Braxton County Extension Office is seeking applications for immediate opening of Administrative Secretary. This position provides secretarial, financial management, program and technology support. Applications will be reviewed beginning February 4. For more information, call 304-765-2809. To apply, go to <https://careers.wvu.edu/internal-and-external-portal> and select Administrative Secretary - Braxton County Extension Office - 18694. WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer. Underrepresented class members are encouraged to apply. This includes: minorities, females, individuals with disabilities and veterans. 2-1p

**HELP WANTED:** The Flatwoods-Canoe Run Public Service District is accepting resumes for one (1) full-time, non-exempt, Water Field Worker/Operator-In-Training (O.I.T) position. Essential Job Functions: Day to day operation and maintenance of the water collection system and associated appurtenances, general grounds keeping of the water treatment plant and field installations, general maintenance of all equipment and vehicles. Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma, valid West Virginia Drivers License; a valid West Virginia Class "A" CDL is preferred and passing a pre-employment background check Preferred Qualifications: Completing high school or college courses in the following: Keyboarding, Practical Computer Applications, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Chemistry. Preference will be given to candidates who possess an Associate's Degree in the following: Environmental Technology, Natural Resource Management or similar degree. Candidates that do not meet the minimum qualifications or fail to submit the required transcripts will not be considered. Interested applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, high school transcript and/or college transcript by February 17, 2022 by mailing to the following address: Flatwoods-Canoe Run PSD PO Box 677 Sutton, WV 26601 ATTENTION: Vacancy General submission questions may be answered by contacting the General Manager or Assistant General Manager at 304-765-2300. Walk-in visits will not be accepted. 1-25 2-3b

### FOR RENT

## BRAXTON

**BURNSVILLE TRAILER PARK:** Trailer lots for rent only, NO trailers for rent! Background check required. Trash & sewer included. Absolutely NO pets! Call (304)853-9103 today. tf

**FOR RENT:** 4 Bedroom 1-story newer brick house with garage in Summersville. \$750 plus deposit. Electric heat. No pets. 304-644-5550 TF

**FOR RENT:** Modern 2 bedroom 1 bath, unfurnished apartment located near Sutton. Full kitchen with breakfast bar, utility room w/hook ups, total electric, air conditioned. \$450.00 per month, check or money order only. Water, Sewer, Garbage included. One-year lease agreement, references required. \$450.00 Security deposit and first month's rent of \$450.00 required. No pets, no smoking allowed. Call (304) 678-5252 Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm TF

### FOR SALE

## IN BRAXTON

**FOR SALE:** House on Baxter Street, Sutton, 5 bedrooms, 1-1/2 bath, \$30,000. Call 304-644-5550. 1-18 3-8nc

**FOR SALE:** House on Baxter Street, Sutton, 5 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, \$30,000. Call 304-644-5550. 1-18 3-8NC

### STATE WIDE

## CLASSIFIEDS

**TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING!** Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 877-635-0244. The Mission, Program Information and Tuition is located at CareerTechnical.edu/consumer-information. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

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## TOWN OF SUTTON RESIDENTS

**ANY PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS IN TOWN LIMITS NEEDS TO CHECK WITH THE MAYORS OFFICE**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00 AM-4:00 P.M**

## Elk Village Apartments

*Elk Village Apartments First Month Rent Free "For Qualified Applicants"*

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**DENTAL INSURANCE** from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-405-3412 [www.dental50plus.com/](http://www.dental50plus.com/) press #6258

**APPLYING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY** or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc. Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-844-448-0317 FREE Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide [Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar.)]

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## American Legion meeting

American Legion Braxton Post 33 will conduct its next monthly meeting on Monday, February 7. Post 33 will

## BC Ministerial Association

The monthly meeting of the BCMA will be on February 14, 2022 at 9:00 am. The meeting will be at Luzader's 3 Girls restaurant.

# On the other side of the mountain

By Verena Sava

I got what I wished for, a good dose of winter weather. I wanted to know what kind of conditions we had last January and when I looked up the short notes we keep on daily activities and weather patterns, I noticed that we never had a morning with single digits last year, while this year we've had 5 single digit temperatures in the past two weeks. Another difference are the huge temperature fluctuations, often ranging from 20 degrees or more from one day or night to the next one. The driveways and paths we use every day are quite icy, due to rain one day, followed by freezing conditions. As long as we can see the pure ice, we can be careful, but when a new layer of snow covers the tricky parts, I communicate with weather gods in language that cannot be printed here.

Last week I mentioned how we can contribute in small ways to improve our environment. One more suggestion is to replace gas powered handyman tools with electric ones. This is especially recommended if a gas powered one has to be replaced. It took Greg quite a bit of effort to convince me to do just that. We have had many Stihl chainsaws during our farm life here. The last ones we purchased new were when Sandy hit and that was 11 years ago. We still use them, and Greg never gets rid of any of the old ones, you know, just in case we should ever need a part of one. One never knows! Maybe the whole Stihl collection will eventually end up in a museum, then again, the dump sounds more realistic. We acquired 2 electric chainsaws, a 16" and a 18" one. They are as powerful as the gas ones. Sometimes when I mention electric saws, folks still think that I am talking about running connected to an electric cord. That would be very inconvenient, even though they still exist, but I look at them more like a toy. When I mention electric tools, I consider only battery-operated ones. The performance is the same as for gas powered saws and the advantage is that there are no fumes, we don't need ear protection, because of the low noise factor. When ever I let go of the switch it turns off instantly.

I usually try to be careful with a chainsaw, gas or electric, but last winter when I cut brush with a gas saw, some laurel branches got stuck between the chain and the bar. Ordinarily I would shut off the saw to clean



### Two stove day!

the blade, but I let it run, swung the saw around, pulled on the branches, but was not aware that as soon as the blade felt the ease of turning and the saw was near my knee, it caught the jeans, mangled them and dug into my knee. Luckily it only made a shallow cut. An electric saw would not run, you would have to let go of the switch to attend to cleaning the blade and it would stop. Of course, one needs batteries, a charger, extra batteries to replace the ones one uses up while working on a project. We noticed that the battery does not last as long in extreme cold.

We also have a tiller that we use to do shallow instead of deep tilling. It is perfect for hoop houses where it would be hard to navigate a big tiller and it also very handy for weeding and observing no-till methods, because it does not disturb the microbial life underground. It does not have wheels and feels more like a heavy electric hoe kind of tool. It is the same as a Mantis tiller. There are electric tillers that do deep churning, they have wheels and come with various sets of blades to serve different purposes. We don't have one, since we don't need heavy tilling anymore. Even if you want to break new ground (sod), plan ahead, put a sheet of black plastic or several layers of cardboard on the area you want to convert into a garden spot. The covers will kill the grass and its roots and tilling will be easier.

The tiller attachment can be replaced with a saw to trim tree branches. The saw is mounted on a pole which is 7' long and can be extended to 10'. We use both a chainsaw and the pole saw to prune trees and bushes. One can get too hard-to-reach branches and

tight places with the small saw and the extension often eliminates the need for a ladder. It is kind of iffy to use a chainsaw on a ladder, but if we can't reach higher up branches, we use the tractor where Greg takes up residence in the bucket from which he cuts and prunes, while I move the tractor around from time to time.

We also have replaced a broken gas weed eater with an electric one. I used to consider my Stihl weed eater a personal friend that despite my total neglect always could be counted on. You know that one should always empty the gas tank of any gas operated tool for the winter. I did not, but came spring this reliable buddy started up like magic, no fuss, no cleaning, but that was the old quality type that eventually gave up its spirit and the new one, despite better care always poses constant carburetor problems, choking, clogging and passionate begging for a start in spring. The new electric one works well, I just have not figured out how to replace the string yet after last season, always needed Greg's help because I was in a hurry to get the job done before it turned too hot.

Our lawn mower is also electric. Greg likes it, but I hardly ever use it because we have a job distribution arrangement between us. It is not set in stone, and we can be flexible to switch, but Greg handles most mowing and I do the weed-eating. Job assignments work well for us, Greg cooks breakfast, does salads and lunch dishes, I prepare animal feed during breakfast preparation, I cook lunch, dry lunch dishes and we are happy and comfortable. So far, no batteries needed in these enterprises yet!

# A Bad Idea

By Jeanette Riffle

My hubby was telling me about sleigh riding when he was a kid and he said he got the bright idea to take his dog with him. I asked him how old he was and he said that he was old enough to know better.

He got the dog up in his arms and set down on the sled, and down the hill they went in that snow. Well, that dog got scared, reared back, and took a big jump off. When it reared back, it knocked Duane in the face so hard that it bloodied his nose. He had a sore nose for quite a while and was lucky it wasn't broken. He had to have angels watching over him with some of the things he tells me he did. And, the same with my brothers. One winter when Steer Creek had frozen over, Mom was looking out the back kitchen door and saw two of my brothers coming down Chestnut

yelling at them to get back to the house. I told them they couldn't steer that sled right and was landing on the creek. One of them told me that was what they wanted to do. I explained the danger of that and got them home. I had to help Mom watch them all the time because they didn't see danger. It was the same way with our son when I got married and Mr. R. and I had a son. He didn't fear anything. Many stories but I won't get into that.

Lick hill road and instead of sailing across the bridge, they went for the creek to the right of them and right on across the ice. It scared us too death and she told me to go get them and tell them to come home right now. She said that if they broke through that ice, we would never get them out. I ran down to the bridge

We are having what Dad called an " Old time hard winter." The snow, ice and cold temps have had me house bound for a few weeks. I sure cannot risk falling. I watch birds out the back window. We are getting quite a few pretty birds now at the backyard feeders. Bird watching is one of our hobbies. I have a book to look one up if I don't know what it is. Black oiled sunflower seed has gone up in price but I don't think we will be putting them on a diet. They have a hard time finding food with so much snow on everything. I will close for this time and we pray the sick get well. We are still hearing of so many sick people. Take care and God bless!

NO 3D

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# Three Knights wrestlers place in the WSAZ tournament

By Shirley Shuman

Three BCMS wrestlers placed in the highly competitive WSAZ wrestling tournament last Friday and Saturday. Elijah Moore was the highest placing Knight as he finished second at 190 lbs. Paxton Smith placed third at 123, and Dylan Foster seventh at 135. As a team of only seven wrestlers, the Knights finished seventeenth.

Braxton coach Tyler Morlan expressed his appreciation for the hard work his team did. "I am so very proud of our boys and the way they fought this weekend," he said. "The WSAZ is unlike any other tournament in the state. It is a two-day marathon with round after round of competitions getting tougher and tougher."

The WSAZ tournament is the largest tournament in the state. This year it



Dylan Foster, Elijah Moore, and Paxton Smith placed in the WSAZ wrestling tournament.

featured 90 middle school a wrestler loses in the round of 64, he is automatically eliminated from the tournament.

# Lady Knights go 0-2 on the week



BCMS Lady Knights: Bailey Pritt, Kendall Key, Lila Fitzwater, Lauren Pritt, Raegan Brown.

By Shirley Shuman

The middle school girls lost both games they played last week by narrow margins. On Mon-

day, Buckhannon Upshur edged the Lady Knights 30-29, and Gilmer beat Braxton 35-33 the following night.

With 19 points, Bailey Pritt led Braxton's scoring in the Buckhannon-Upshur game. Lauren Pritt added 5. Coach Matt Pritt explained that the loss was caused by missing easy shots, committing silly fouls, and being outrebounded.

In the game against Gilmer, Braxton was down 23-17 at halftime. The Lady Knights outscored Gilmer 16-12 in the second half. Coach Pritt explained that Gilmer "had a size advantage which caused us to be outrebounded and foul trouble hurt us." He did emphasize that he was "overall proud of the team."

Bailey Pritt once again led Braxton's scoring, this time with 17 points. Lauren Pritt scored 9 points, and Lila Fitzwater 4.

# Knights win three of four games played last week

By Shirley Shuman

After losing to Buckhannon Upshur to begin last week, the Knights came up with three wins. They scored wins against Gilmer, Clay, and Spencer.

In the 39-27 loss to Buckhannon Upshur, the Knights, Coach Randall Brown explained, "got behind early and were unable to close the deficit." The coach explained that the BUMS controlled the game from the opening tip. "We didn't shoot the ball well from the floor, turned the ball over numerous times on silly mistakes, and our defense was picked apart by Buckhannon Upshur,"

With Owen Lowther's 11 points leading the way, Braxton was able to outscore Buckhannon in the second half, but their deficit was too broad to close in on. Coach Brown noted, too, "Our defense is definitely the key to our success this season, and on this night we played dormant for way too long. I do feel that we were the better team, but we did not play up to our capabilities on this night."

Looking at the Knights' 66-22 win over Gilmer the following night, Coach



BCMS Knights: Austin Smarr, Jesiah Lennox, Carter Lewis, Stevie Boggs, Aidan Crockett, Owen Lowther, Jamie Nettles, Ashton Lunceford, Brodi Smarr.

Brown said his team "played an amazing game this night. Our defense really stepped up and we played to our full potential." He noted that Braxton "dominated Gilmer in rebounding and were able to pick their defense apart." The key to Braxton's win, Coach Brown said, "was definitely [the team's] defense." He explained that his players "swarmed the ball and were able to force numerous turnovers."

Lowther, with 20 points, and Stevie Boggs with 12 points, led Braxton's scoring against Gilmer. Ten different Braxton players scored in that game.

Playing at Clay the next night, Braxton scored a 30-25 win. Brady Toler led the Knights with 13 points, while Boggs pulled down 21 rebounds and Jamie Nettles 12. Coach Brown called the Braxton-Clay contest "a phenomenal game played by both teams." He con-

tinued to say that his Knights "were able to jump out early in the first, but Clay marched right back in the game." After some adjustments at halftime, Braxton held Clay scoreless in the third

quarter. "This game was an absolute physical and mental battle for the Knights, but as usual our rebounding and defense prevailed and we pulled out a victory on the road," the coach noted.

In a 53-26 win over Spencer, Braxton had three players in double figures. Toler led with 17 points, Lowther scored 16, and Nettles added 10. Coach Brown commented that his team "may have played their best game of the season on this night." He went on to say the Knights pressured Spencer from the opening tip. "The defense they played in this game was absolutely stellar, and crashing the boards really gave us an advantage. I cannot express how proud I am of these men. Four games in four nights wore us down, but we left everything on the court that night."



Kendal Key scans the court looking to make her next move on the play.



Lauren Pritt takes a shot for the Lady Knights.



Lila Fitzwater works to keep the ball in Lady Knights possession.



Raegan Brown brings the ball in setting up the play.

# Smith and Moore reach 100 wins in their middle school careers

By Shirley Shuman

Last Wednesday night two BCMS wrestlers each acquired 100 wins during their middle school wrestling. Coach Tyler Morlan commented that Paxton Smith and Elijah Moore both accomplished this milestone to become the seventh and eighth wrestlers in the middle school's history to reach 100 wins in three years. Morlan, complimenting his wrestlers, said, "This is a major accomplishment for any young wrestler but the fact that both of them were able to do this with our shortened season last year is amazing."

Smith said that he started wrestling when he was five years old but never imagined that he could reach this goal. "A lot of work and time have been put into my success. Not just my time but coaches, my parents and family, and mentors all across the state," he said. Smith added, "I look forward to wrestling as a Braxton County Eagle."

Asked why he likes wrestling, Smith said, "I love the intensity of it. Wrestling is one on one. You're the only one responsible for what happens good or bad. So you have to learn as much as you can to make sure it's



Elijah Moore marked his 100th wrestling win as last week's event. His parents and brother were on hand to cheer him on.



Paxton Smith received a special award marking his 100th victory. His parents and sister were on hand to share in the excitement.

good."

Moore has been wrestling since he was four. "I enjoy wrestling," he said, "because it is one of the things I've always done. I like the thrill of winning, of achieving something."

This young wrestler, discussing reaching the 100-win mark, said, "I'm very excited about it. It

just kind of happened. I knew I was close to 100 wins but didn't really think about it going into that match."

Moore said he's glad for the help coaches have given him to improve his wrestling. He added, "I appreciate the support I get from my family and the Lord."



Jamie Nettles scored five points for the Knights in the game against Gilmer.



Stevie Boggs shoots for two points for the Knights.

### Knights' scoring in last week's games:

Player	Buckhannon-Upshur	Gilmer	Clay	Spencer
Owen Lowther	11	20	5	16
Stevie Boggs	5	12	7	9
Brady Toler	3	8	13	17
Carter Lewis	4	6	2	0
Jamie Nettles	4	5	3	10
Ashton Stewart	0	5	0	0
Braden Godfrey	0	4	0	0
Ashton Lunceford	2	0	0	0
Brodi Smarr	0	2	0	0
Jessiah Lemon	0	2	0	1



# Pat's Chats

By Pat Ridpath

I have told most of you that I live with my daughter, Cheryl "Robin" Bucklew. She moved here when she retired from her government job in Kansas City, Missouri several years ago. Some of you have told me that you never met her. I decided to introduce her to you in my Chat. I am including a picture of her with me at Christmas a couple of years ago. She does most of the cooking around here. She makes sure we have fruit of various kinds and vegetables, especially greens and broccoli. We usually eat our fruit with breakfast and our vegetables with our evening meal. She likes to try new recipes. I cook mostly beans and cornbread, egg gravy and biscuits, grits, (especially yellow grits or polenta - (frying any leftover regular or yellow grits), sliced red potatoes (from a wonderful invention, the mandarin slicer). I use a little olive oil when I fry eggs or anything. You can see why I have gained weight since she moved in, but it is not her fault if I eat too much. She collects recipes from everywhere and tries them. Yesterday she made vegetarian cabbage rolls but the cabbage was sliced and cooked in with the other ingredients which included plant-based sausage, and it was delicious. I have been mostly vegetarian most of my adult life,

but as I told you once before, I have become what I call a flexitarian. I will eat what the Bible designates as "clean" meat, but if I have a choice, I usually choose the vegetarian alternative. Tomorrow on my birthday, I asked that we NOT go out to eat but rather that they bring me a plant-based burger from somewhere and bring whatever they (Sheri Lyn Sapp and Robin) want. Mary Ann, my only sibling since we lost our wonderful brothers within days of each other last year, and her helper will have a choice of burgers. Mary Ann never eats any meat, so she will be fine with the plant-based alternative. Robin is a wonderful "secretary" and has taken over my Christmas card list and does 99% of our shopping for whatever. It frightened her a bit when I got two problems with my legs, first with a bum knee that was horribly painful, but it has improved with taking it easy and using Ibuprofen - a lot of it - at first. Then when that was getting well, I fell on my right hip and had lots of pain with that (no fracture, just arthritis added to the damage from the fall). It is nearly normal now, though I walk like an old woman sometimes (even though I will be only 88 tomorrow). I have not gotten back to our daily walks, though Robin continued them without me. When the

ice is gone, I think I can walk again regularly. I have spent my last few hours of being 87 writing this Chat. I don't feel a day older than 87, though I don't know how I will feel when I start back on our daily walk. I am so grateful to God to be able to do most things I have always done and for all the blessings of my loving children, my wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I want to thank all of you who pray for the folks I post on Facebook who need prayer. I appreciate each one of you. We have seen miracles happen. I got a call from Shirley Shires who is sister to my late classmate, Eloise Williams. Eloise's husband, Curtis Everette, died the other evening at age 94. He had no problems, just died peacefully in his sleep. There are a few of us graduates of 1951 from Burnsville High School who are alive and in various stages of health. We hope that danger from Covid variant, etc., will not again prevent the High School reunion another year. We wish we could get together one more time. I hear from classmates Helen Phillips Conley (she is cousin to Eloise and just as pretty), Kenneth Pulliam and his wife Betty Graff Pulliam, Carl Sizemore, Homer Heater, Buncy Bosley Marple, Peggy Skinner Morris, and at

first I heard from Clifford Strader, and I am not sure if Vonda Taylor Douglas, Hazel Brown Hawkins, Iva Lou Love Eubanks, Dorothy McCauley Hartman are living. My memory is not what it used to be, so I am fairly sure that Iva Lou died. If any of you can update me on these, or perhaps someone I have missed, just email me at patschat.ridpath41@gmail.com. God blessed our class with many good people, many good friends whom we have lost, and I pray He will bless the rest of us with a peaceful contentment for the rest of our days on earth. I thoroughly believe that our Old Earth will soon be greeted by the Promised Saviour who said, "If I go, I WILL come again," and promised that He is preparing a place for us and He will come again and receive all of His people living or dead and take us to Heaven for a while before He comes to cleanse the earth and make it better than the original Garden of Eden. Then He will bring us back to live in the mansions He has prepared for all of us and we will then go out and build country homes and live in a world where there will be no plagues, no war, no killing, no evil. I can't wait. You have a part in it too, if you believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins. That is the reunion we must be a part of, people. Maranatha



Larry Knight and the kitty he trapped in February 1980.

## A nice kitty

By Larry Knight

My picture says February 1980. This would be in the top 5 in size of all the kittys that I collected during my career. I am not sure that it may have been my biggest tomcat I did not get to weigh it. I do know that it was well below #5 in weight. Tom as you can see had a pretty belly even though there was mud on the fur. I tracked it into a warm hole then trapped it.

This picture was taken inside the maintenance compound at Burnsville Lake. Hugh Webb was the maintenance leader at Burnsville Lake an angel of a guy. I was an employee at the lake but during January and February the maintenance crew was mostly on unemployment. A rest period of a couple of months was ok with everyone. A couple of us trapped animals as the fur brought a good price at that time.

Hugh says if you catch a nice cat bring it and show it to me. On this day I had just got to the maintenance compound in time, Hugh would soon be going home to Richwood for 4 days. He worked the 10-4 shift and was scheduled off that

weekend. The good news was Hugh got to see the kitty. My he says that is the biggest tom I believe I ever saw and I live in Richwood where there are big cats. I have lived in the Richwood area all my life.

I talked Hugh into taking a couple of pictures of tom and me. I ask and Hugh says sure I will do that for you, you were good enough to bring tom in so I could see him. From then on Hugh would tell people about the big tomcat that I had caught. Some poor souls thought he was talking about a housecat. Hugh would say no this tom could eat the biggest housecat that I ever saw. Larry's tomcat was the biggest tomcat that I ever saw in the wild.

Cat trapping became my favorite kind of trapping, I even pretty much quit fox trapping. The cats were more of a challenge.

There was back a few years ago a mail carrier in the Wildcat area that chased cats with dogs. I had an invite to come go on a hunt sometime with him. I know that would have been a fun trip but it never worked out for me.

## Town of Sutton open meeting

The Sutton Town council invites anyone interested to attend an open meeting to discuss the funds that were given to the town of Sutton, approximately \$250,000, from the American Res-

cue Plan. If you have any suggestions for how this money should be spent to benefit the town of Sutton please attend the regular town council meeting Thursday, February 10th 6:00pm.



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