

Joel Sigman emerges as County Spelling Champ

The Braxton County Spelling Bee, held on January 31, at Days Inn and Suites, was an exciting event for area schools' top spellers. It was well attended by parents and community members. The top two spellers in both 4th and 5th grades from each elementary school as well as the top twelve spellers in each of 6th through 8th grades competed for top honors. Joel Sigman an 8th grade student at Braxton County Middle School emerged as County Spelling Champion.

Grade level rounds were held first to determine the top two spellers from each grade. These winners went on to compete in the championship round.

The top two spellers from 4th through 8th grade made up the competition. Representing the 4th Grade was: 1st Place Leah Rader from Davis Elementary and 2nd Place Emma Jane Liston of Sutton El-



The county's top Spelling winners for 2022 were (L to R) Savana Singleton - 3rd Place, Joel Sigman - 1st place and James Singleton 2nd Place. The 5th Grade winners were: 1st Place Garrett and Liam Harman both students at Braxton County Middle School. The 7th Grade winners were: 1st Place Brynne Davis and 2nd Place Savana Singleton both from Braxton

County Middle School. First place winner James Johnson and 2nd Place Joel Sigman both from Braxton County Middle School represented the 8th Grade.

Joel Sigman, son of Doug and Denna Sigman of Sutton took home the Championship honors after successfully spelling the word "listener" in the 7th round. Second place went to James Singleton, while Savana Singleton took 3rd.

Joel and James will represent Braxton County in the Daily Mail Regional Spelling Bee to be held in March.

Organizers extended a "big thank you" to all that helped make the event happen, students who worked hard, exhibited great sportsmanship, and competed, parents who supported and cheered on spellers, staff and volunteers to run the bee, BCMS Engineering students for designing and manufacturing awards.

City National Recognizes Local Branches



The City National Bank which operates twenty-eight financial institutions in West Virginia has recently recognized their local branches for outstanding service. The City National Bank-Flatwoods Branch was recognized by the company as the 2021 Central Region Branch of the Year. The recognition came from internal production numbers such as new accounts and good performance on internal reviews. (L to R): Cheryl Hamrick, Robin Dodrill, Marsha Cochran, Stacy Buckhannon and Lisa Conant.



The Sutton Branch of City National Bank received the 2021 Central Region Service Branch of the Year award. Receiving near perfect scores from secret shoppers and their community engagement work led to this honor. (L to R): Cheryl Currence, Marcey Greene, Lisa Conant, Natasha Hoffman and Tiffany Cartwright.

Braxton County Schools announces early registrations

Families of Braxton County students are invited to come to the Braxton County Board of Education Parking Lot on Thursday, February 24th from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Students must be four years old by July 1, 2022 to enroll in Kindergarten. Students who are three years old by July 1, 2022 and are eligible for Head Start may enroll.

The following information is needed for registration: State Certified Birth Certificate, Immu-

nization Record, Proof of Physical Address, Proof of Income, Medical and/or Insurance Card, Well Check form from Doctors Office, Dental Examination Form from Dentist.

This pre-registration is pick up only. You do not to bring information at this time, just come and pick up your packets for early registration.

For questions or additional information, please contact Christina Bailey at (304)765-5105 Ext. 622 or Connie Lynch at (304)765-5101 Ext. 596.



Students who competed in the 2022 Braxton County Spelling Bell held last week at Day Inn and Suites.

MFB distributes funds to local food pantrys



Those participating in the check presentation included: (L to R) Becky Conrad, MFB Community Engagement Specialist, Jane Marshall, Lifeline Ministry, Denver Drake, United Christian Food Bank, Bebe Marshall, Lifeline Ministry, Chad Morrison, MFB Executive Director, Brian Hoover, Little Birch Southern Baptist Church, Dani Ramsey, Rosedale Community Center, Eric Thomas, Sutton Baptist Food Bank, and Connie Skidmore, Sutton Baptist Church Backpack Program.

During one of his recent press briefings, Governor Jim Justice provided a detailed breakdown of the State's allocation of remaining discretionary funds appropriated to the state by Congress through the CARES Act.

Distribution of those discretionary funds includes \$5,000 being provided to each of West Virginia's 600 food pantrys, plus \$1 million to each of the state's two food banks - Facing Hunger Food Bank in Huntington and Mountaineer Food Bank in Sutton - to provide resources to better serve those facing food insecurity.

Locally several organizations benefited from these funds. Lifeline Ministry in

Little Birch, Little Birch Southern Baptist Church, Sutton Baptist Church Backpack Program, Sutton Baptist Church Food Pantry, Rosedale Community Center, and the United Christian Food Bank of Sutton all received \$5,000 checks through the Mountaineer Food Bank.

Not only food can be purchased with the funds, but items such as gas and transportation costs can be covered as well. This money can also be used to purchase any item associated with the organization's intent to help those facing food insecurity in their local communities.



Legislative Update

By Delegate Brent Boggs

Last Friday, February 4 marked the twenty-fourth day of the 2022 Legislative session. To date, 1,761 bills have been introduced; the House has introduced 1,181 bills; in the Senate, 580 bills have been introduced. 48 bills have passed the Senate; 38 bills have passed the House. Four bills have passed both houses. The Governor has approved SB 8 and SB 191. Two bills await action by the Governor.

For the first time in recent years, both the House Speaker and Senate President made the decision to curtail legislative activities including the floor session and committee meetings last Friday, due to the uncertainty of the incoming ice storm. I applaud their decision to err on the side of caution, thereby keeping members and staff off the roadways and enabling them to travel to their respective homes ahead of the inclement weather. While we were spared the brunt of the storm in central West Virginia, the Ohio River area and eastern mountains were slammed hard. As I write late Sunday afternoon in preparation for meetings to resume on Monday, hundreds of West Virginia residents are still without power as crews work diligently to remove broken trees and rebuild downed lines.

Meanwhile, last Thursday, a Dominion gas line issue caused a major outage in the Gassaway and Summersville area with residents and businesses waking up to cold homes and no natural gas service. I appreciated the Dominion governmental affairs director taking my pre-dawn calls so I could inform constituents that had contacted me. The service was restored quickly by that evening.

Whether it's due to weather or other causes, our

utility workers are working around the clock to keep power, gas, and other vital utilities up and running. We owe our appreciation to the utility workers that take care of our citizens, homes, and businesses.

Among the bills that have passed the House as of February 3 and head to the Senate:

HB 4257 Require visitation immediately following a procedure in a health care facility.

HB 4286 Relating to exempting persons employed as attorneys from the civil service system.

HB 4311 Creating criminal penalties for illegal voting activity.

HB 4312 Extending the option of electronic absentee ballot transmission to first responders in certain emergency circumstances.

HB 4324 To update collaborative pharmacy practice agreements

HB 4333 Relating to the sunset of the Board of Hearing-Aid Dealers and Fitters

HB 4360 Relating to WV Invests Grant Program community service requirements

One bill that passed and now goes to the Governor is Senate Bill 4, which removes the prohibition for nuclear power plants in West Virginia. While I do not believe there is an interest in our State to go down that road at this time, the bill would allow utilities to consider new, safer, and less expensive technologies that may be developed in the future. Any move to build a facility still would face significant hurdles and final approval from state and federal regulators and the West Virginia Public Service Commission.

On the surface, I have no desire to delve into nuclear power, although our State is already situated in emergency planning areas, based on our proximity from existing nuclear power plants

in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Further, the U.S. Navy has been safely powering carriers and submarines with nuclear power for decades. Years from now, if small-scale, safer, and more affordable options are proven to be feasible, we owe it to our citizens to at least have the facts to consider different mixes of where we obtain our electrical power, along with coal, gas, wind, and solar. For now, the safety concerns of existing plant designs, high recovery costs from consumers for construction, and expensive kilowatt-hours generated by a nuclear power facility render them impractical. The bill is now on its way to the Governor for his action.

Finally, WV Supreme Court Justice Evan Jenkins abruptly resigned from the Court last week, effective February 6. It will now be up to a judicial panel to submit names to the Governor for consideration for filling the vacancy until the 2024 election. There is much speculation as to the reason for the rapid departure, although my interest is in who will be recommended and who will ultimately be appointed by Governor Justice to fill out the unexpired term. I sincerely hope the Governor chooses an individual that is a reasonable, moderate judge. The extremists of the far-right and far-left are not representative of the majority of West Virginians.

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.

Opinion: Legal ads are vital to an informed public

Editorial opinion from The Herald Dispatch of Huntington

Some members of the West Virginia Legislature are bound and determined to kill weekly newspapers. They won't say that openly. They might not even realize it, but that's the net effect of what they want to do.

How? Through reducing or eliminating the publication of public notices, also known as legal advertising, in daily and weekly newspapers.

Their motivations might be saving money, although the numbers aren't clear. And it might have to do with hatred of the news media in general.

Either way, it's a bad idea for the public in general and for newspapers themselves. It's one of those things that sound so good in theory but end up

being so bad in practice.

This year's effort involves House Bill 4260. It carries the title "Creating the State Central Legal Advertising website." Delegate Brandon Steele, R-Raleigh, is the lead sponsor. Delegates Geoff Foster, R-Putnam, and John Mandt Jr., R-Cabell, are co-sponsors.

The bill was filed Jan. 19. On Jan. 27 it was sent to the House Judiciary Committee, where it remains.

HB 4260 would eliminate the second and third publication of some public notices in favor of placing them in a new state website for such notices.

Don Smith, executive director of the West Virginia Press Association, said the state's newspaper industry always looks for ways to enhance the reach of public notices, including using the internet, but

replacing print publication with internet publication is a bad idea.

Problems go beyond the fact that much of the state has inadequate internet service, he said.

"Newspaper publication is a valuable and traditional source of public notice," Smith said. When notices appear in print, people can share them with friends and family, he said.

"You don't have to find it yourself. Someone else can see it," he said.

With internet-based publication, people would need to actively search for what they need rather than having it there in front of them, he said. It takes the responsibility off the government and places it on the public, he said.

"That is not the intent of public notice," Smith said.

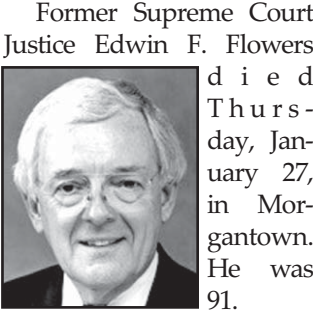
There's also the fact that online public notices can be buried in a user-unfriendly website. That would be a great way to hide important but inconvenient information.

Smith describes that process as an exchange of value and an investment in information. On some legals, counties can more than make up the costs of legal ads with publication fees they assess to the subjects of those ads with fees they assess, Smith said.

Two years ago, at a meeting of the House Judiciary Committee, Smith said Boone County reported that it paid \$4,923 for legal ads during the 2018-19 budget year, but it collected \$69,725 in publi-

Obituaries

VET Former Supreme Court Justice Edwin F. Flowers



Former Supreme Court Justice Edwin F. Flowers died Thursday, January 27, in Morgantown. He was 91.

Chief Justice John Hutchison said, "I am terribly saddened to hear of the passing of one of our own. His exemplary career stands as a monument to his personal dedication to the law, as well as to the citizens of West Virginia. He was a true leader and will be sadly missed. I want to extend my sympathies to his family and to all of his friends and colleagues."

Justice Tim Armstead said, "Former Justice Flowers has left such a tremendous legacy within our state government and judicial system, as well as our nation's federal court system. He and his wife Ellie have also done so much to improve and advance his beloved alma mater, West Virginia University. Few West Virginians have had such a positive and lasting impact on our state, and he will be missed by so many. My thoughts are with his wife Ellie and his family through this difficult time."

Justices Beth Walker and Evan Jenkins said they were sorry to hear of Justice Flowers' death and sent their sincere condolences to his family.

"I knew Ed Flowers as DHHR commissioner, when he was a bankruptcy judge, and, of course, as a Supreme Court Justice," said Justice William R. Wooton. "He was a friend and a genuinely good man. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends."

Justice Flowers was born April 26, 1930, on the family farm in New Manchester, Hancock County.

He received a bachelor's degree (Phi Beta Kappa) from West Virginia University in 1952 and a law degree from the WVU College of Law in 1954. While attending WVU, he served as president of the student body, president of his Sigma Nu fraternity chapter, and Cadet Colonel of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Wing. He was a member of the WVU championship debate team; the WVU Marching Band; and was active in numerous honorary organizations, including Mountain, the highest honor given to WVU students and graduates. He was awarded Most Loyal Faculty & Staff Mountaineer in 1999 and, in 2000, was inducted into the Order of Vandalia, an award for the most loyal servants to West Virginia University.

After law school, he was assigned to active duty in the Judge Advocate General's Corps at Nellis Air Force Base in 1954. The following year, on April 9, 1955, he married Eleanor (Ellie) Ellis, his loving and supporting wife of 66 years.

After his military service, he returned to the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia to practice law.

In 1969, then-Governor Arch Moore appointed him Commissioner of Welfare for the State of West Virginia. In 1975, Governor Moore appointed him to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Justice James Marshall Sprouse. Justice Flowers' term ended December 31, 1976.

In 1977, Justice Flowers became United States

Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia. From 1983 to 1997, he was Vice President for Institutional Advancement at West Virginia University, a position that embraced the government and public relations of the university and coordinated its communications, publications, alumni relations, and the fundraising efforts of its independent foundation.

He was a commissioner of Volunteer West Virginia, the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service, from 2009 to 2012.

In his retirement, Justice Flowers enjoyed writing and publishing books, attending WVU football and basketball games, being actively involved in WVU alumni organizations, studying the Civil War as a member of the Mason-Dixon Civil War Roundtable, and mentoring WVU students, especially his great-nephew Jackson Flowers.

He is survived by his wife, Ellie Flowers; daughters, Ann Flowers and Melissa (Ty) Newberry; grandchildren, Adam (Ashley) Flowers and Kathryn (Sean) Hendricks; and great-grandchildren, Matthew Hendricks and Jack Flowers.

Nixon Funeral Home in Newell is in charge of arrangements. Visitation will be from noon to 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 21, at the Erickson Alumni Center at West Virginia University in Morgantown. The funeral will be Tuesday, Feb. 22 at the New Manchester Christian Church in New Manchester, WV.

Florence E. Walton

Florence E. Walton, 91, passed away January 27, 2022 at her home. She was born June 19, 1930 at Bamboo, Hancock County.

WV to Buster and Mary Helms. She was an active member of Green Valley Baptist Church for over 50 years. After its closure she returned to her childhood church, Mt. Urim Baptist Church, and was a faithful, active member until her death. She was a child of the Great Depression and was raised on a farm in Green Valley. The lessons learned during this time guided her throughout her life and were life-lessons she taught her children and grands! We lived by the motto "Waste not, want not" or "somebody might need it". Mom once shared that she had two dreams in her life - to have a family and be nurse. She accomplished both and they were the purpose for all she did in life. She became an LPN in her 40's and worked at Sacred Heart Hospital in Richwood, WV until her retirement. Preceding her in death were her parents; her siblings, Eldridge, Ralph and Lonnie Helms and Nellie Edds. Her beloved husband and partner in life, Otis Junior Walton, passed away in 2003 and a day never passed that she didn't think of him or talk about him. She is survived by her sister, Lorene and Buck Nottingham; her children, Rhonda and George Tabit, Rick and Robin Walton, Dorcas and Clyde Sparks, Cindy and Rick Barker and Tony and Angela Walton. She has 8 grandchildren: Tiffany, George, John, Justin, Brandon, Zachary, Emily and Rebecca. She has 20 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren and one on the way. She has several step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren

that she welcomed into her life and loved dearly. Funeral service were held February 2, 2022 at 1 pm at Wallace and Wallace Funeral Chapel in Rainelle, WV. There was visitation for family and friends from 12 pm until time of service. In lieu of flowers, in her memory you may make a donation to Samaritan's Purse or St. Jude's Children's Hospital. She supported both with frequent donations. Covid 19 guidelines will be followed and the family requests masks be used. To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Florence Elizabeth Walton, please visit our Tribute Store.

Edgar Lewis Short

Edgar Lewis Short, 86 of Cowen passed away Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at home. He was born August 15, 1935

in Camden on Gauley and was the son of the late Grafton and Callie Williams Short. Along with his parents he was also preceded in death by a son, Allan Short and siblings; Jim Short, Virgie Sill, Virginia "Jenny" Spence and Helen Short.

Edgar was a coal miner and had also worked in the woods; he and Wanda attended Arcola Community Church until his health declined. Edgar loved to go bear hunting with his bear dogs, coon hunting, camping, working in the garden or just about anything outdoors. He enjoyed going to his building to "ding", which meant he was going out to work on his lawnmowers, weed eaters or whatever else he could find to "ding" on.

Surviving are his loving wife, Wanda Short; children, Landis (Teresa) Williams, Bernard Williams, Paul Sill, William (Jeannette) Sill, Treva (Arden) Williams and Kevin (Connie) Short; brother, Delmos (Marie) Short, several grandchildren and great grandchildren and also many nieces, nephews and other extended family members.

No services will be held at this time.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.adamsreedfh.com

Adams-Reed Funeral Home, Cowen is honored to be serving the Short family.

Elda Jean Belknap

Elda Jean Belknap, 91, of Glenville, WV passed away January 29, 2022. She was born on November 22, 1930 in Heaters,

WV to parents Grant and Lottie Prince Blake. Elda was preceded in death by her parents; Husband: Farrell "Chick" Belknap; and Brother: Charles Blake.

She was a Christian by faith and attended the First Baptist Church in Glenville, WV. Elda resided in Lubbeck, WV for 15 years prior to moving to Glenville, WV. She owned a pet store in Vienna, WV and enjoyed raising parakeets, canaries, hamsters and gold fish. Her other interests were gardening, canning and quilting.

Left to cherish her memory are her Brother: George Blake; Sisters: Alice Belknap and Lou Smith; Daughter: Shara Curry (Joel); Granddaughters: Andrea Curry of California and Alicia Miller of Florida; and 5-Great Grandchildren.

A grave side service were held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 1:00 PM at the Braxton Memorial Cemetery, Sutton, WV.

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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: BRAXTON DEMOCRAT-CENTRAL, 201 SECOND STREET, SUTTON, WV, 26601. PHONE: (304) 765-5555
PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT SUTTON, WV, 26601

OBITUARIES

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Porter Dale Thomas
Porter Dale Thomas, 88, of Clarksburg, passed away on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at United Hospital Center. He was born March 19, 1933 in Bergoo to the late James E. Thomas, Sr. and Mamie Ellen Turner Thomas.

He was a devout Christian who took his religion seriously. He was a gentle, caring man who was loved by everyone he met.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, James E. Thomas, Jr., Max Thomas, and Paul H. Thomas; and sister, Imajean Thomas McCord.

Porter is survived by his nephew Stephen P. Thomas; niece Diana Thomas; and several other nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends to mourn his passing.

Graveside Services were held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 11:00 AM at Miller Cemetery, Webster Springs, with Pastor Butch Rose officiating.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.doddreedfh.com.

Dodd & Reed Funeral Home is honored to be serving Porter’s family.

Connie Lynn Gill
Connie Lynn Gill born on April 3, 1955, in Gassaway, West Virginia to Murl and Meredith (nee Wood) Hall passed away on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at the Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital at the age of 66.

She was a 1973 graduate of Clay High in West Virginia. Connie worked at Discount Drug Mart in Oberlin for 22 and a half years as a Pharmacy Technician. She really enjoyed her job and the people that she met.

Family gatherings, entertaining, cooking, gardening, traveling, playing the violin, her jewelry and her beloved yellow convertible Mustang brought her much joy. Connie was an exceptional painter. Her goal for her children and grandchildren was for them to receive a good education and to be prepared for their future.

Connie was a truly kind and generous soul and she always wanted to make others happy.

She is survived by her husband of 17 years, Jerry Gill; children, Meranda Millis, of Spencer, Bryan Gill, of LaGrange, Melissa (Joe) Striker, of Amherst, and Michael (Crystal) Gill, of Logan; grandchildren, Avery (Tiffany) Millis, of El Paso, Texas, Colton Millis, of Willard, Austin Gill, of LaGrange, Abby Millis, of Willard, Gillian Striker, of Amherst, Kylee Gill, of LaGrange, and Marin Striker, of Amherst; great grandson, Beau Millis, of El Paso, Texas; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Connie was preceded in death by her son, Jerry Gill Jr.; parents, Murl and Meredith Hall; and her brother, Larry Hall.

The family received friends on Thursday, February 3, 2022, from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center, 1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst. The family also received friends on Saturday, February 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. at Wilson Smith Funeral Home, 154 Main Street, Clay, West Virginia 25043. Funeral services immediately followed the visitation at 12:00 p.m. in the funeral home followed by inter-

ment at Keener White Cemetery.

Online condolences may be sent to the Gill family at www.carlwilsonfuneralhome.com. Wilson Smith is honored to be serving the Gill family.

Velma “Lynn” Clifton
Velma “Lynn” Clifton, 98, of Sutton, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, February 4, 2022 at Braxton Memorial Hospital, Gassaway.

She was born December 26, 1923 in Sutton, the daughter of the late John William & Lula Mabel Facemire Woods. Also preceding her in death was her husband, Harry Clifton; son, Gary Clifton; sisters, Lilly “Mae” Facemire, Gladys Johns, Evelee Woods; brother, Lee Facemire.

Lynn attended the Southern Baptist Church, Sutton, she loved her family and enjoyed her friends and community.

She is survived by her son, Larry Clifton (Dorlis) of Sutton; daughter-in-law, Drema Clifton; grandchildren, Ryan Clifton (Brittany), Michael Clifton; great grandchildren, Grayson, Hayden and Ava.

Funeral service were held 1:00 pm, Monday, February 7, 2022 at Greene-Robertson Funeral Home, Sutton with Rev. Shane Boggs officiating. Burial followed at Hoover Cemetery, Bug Ridge Rd. Sutton. Friends called 1 hour before the service at the funeral home.

Clifton family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Braxton Memorial Hospital for their excellent care.

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

Online condolences may be sent to: greene-robertson-funeralhome.com

Guy Engel, Jr.
Guy Engel, Jr., 81 of Gassaway passed Monday, January 31, 2022 at Braxton County Memorial Hospital.

He was born September 28, 1940 at Chapel, WV a son of the late Guy Engel Sr. and Orma Fisher Engel.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret “Marge” Ann Engel and brother, Chris Engel.

Guy drove the milk truck for the Gerwigs to Summersville. He worked on rigs in the oil fields. Guy hauled pulp wood for Faris and Zampa Brady. He was employed with the State Road from 1969 to 1981. He also drove a coal truck for Lee Facemire at Centralia and had several odds and ends jobs. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed deer hunting and fishing. On the television he loved watching wrestling and westerns. He enjoyed talking to his neighbors and people in his community.

Guy is survived by his son, Guy Engel III (Domenica) of Ettrick, VA; daughter, Mary Walker of Frametown; grandchildren, Liz and Matthew Walker and Atalaya and Artorius Engel; great grandson, Blake Leonard.

Funeral service was 2 p.m. Sunday, February 6, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway with Pastor Joe Bob Trueman officiating. Interment was in the Engel Family Cemetery, Chapel.

Friends called one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

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

Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway.

OPINION

Continued from page 2

cation fees.

That works out to more than \$14 received for every dollar spent on legal ads. What private enterprise, county government or school board would turn down a return on investment of 14-to-1?

Sure, there is some self-interest when newspapers object to limiting or eliminating some legal advertising. Newspapers make money on legal ads. Legal advertising is a reliable source of income in a time when other ad revenues are diminishing — even if the state sets the rates it will pay for those ads.

Weekly newspapers depend more on public notices and legal advertising than dailies. Online news sites come and go with varying degrees of success and quality, but weeklies are usually the sole source of information for the less-populous counties. Weeklies are where people read about government actions and high school sports. Public notices allow people to know when a company wants to discharge waste into the air or water. It’s how people know when local government is about to hire a company to build a new ambulance station or pave a road. Public notices provide a direct, unfiltered look into what’s happening.

Daily newspapers are more likely to survive this assault on their income than weeklies, but they, too, will suffer. Weekly newspapers in West Virginia employ about 400 people. Should legislators who are hostile to local news media sacrifice those jobs to satisfy their anger? Of course not.

“What county or municipality is better off if its newspaper closes?” Smith asks. “When it’s trying to help everybody else, government should not target the newspaper industry as an industry it’s trying to hurt.”

A combination of print and internet publication of public notices works best for the public.

HB 4260 is not needed for another reason, Smith said. Last year, the full Legislature passed into law Senate Bill 642, which orders the state auditor to create a state website for legal ads and requires all state agencies to place their legal ads on the website once it’s functioning.

SB 642 adds publication on a state website in addition to the traditional publication in newspapers to increase public notice.

Also last year, Senate Concurrent Resolution 57 called for a related study of the state’s website for publication of legal notices in lieu of newspaper publication. The study will consider cost savings and the effectiveness of public notice. The auditor’s office is working on the website now and data can be gathered once it’s online.

The trial period for that website will provide data on the effectiveness of print and online publication of legal notices “instead of the whim of one or two legislators,” Smith said.

HB 4260 is another in a yearly battle of legislators who want to punish newspapers for slights, whether real or perceived. The survival of local media and — by extension and in principle — the public’s right to know what those legislators are doing is more important than a few egos.

HB 4260 needs to die in committee for this year and for years to come.



NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000002 - Braxton County – SAM SKIDMORE
To: LUBE EQUIPMENT INC, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS LLC, CLEVELAND BROTHERS EQUIPMENT CO. INC., ANDERSON EQUIPMENT CO., STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, CORPORATE BILLING INC, RYAN MARSTELLA CROWN HILL EQUIPMENT, RUDD EQUIPMENT CO INC, RISH EQUIPMENT CO, BROOKS RUN MINING CO LLC, COASTAL COAL-WEST VIRGINIA LLC, 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 HOLLY
MAP 10Q PARCEL 0021 0000
You will take notice that SAM SKIDMORE, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000002, WOLF CREEK 59.28 AC 1748, located in HOLLY, which was returned delinquent in the name of COASTAL COAL-WEST VIRGINIA LLC, 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.-\$1,162.00
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$994.94
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.-\$989.75
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff’s sale to March 31, 2022.-\$301.91
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.-\$3,3448.60
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 2-10 2-24b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000008 - Braxton County – RICHARD D MITCHELL
To: FLOSSIE HARRIS, JAMES SKIDMORE, ICIE SKIDMORE, JAMES SKIDMORE, ICIE SKIDMORE, PATRICIA PERRY DICKERSON, KATHLEEN MCCULLOUGH, RICKY SKIDMORE, 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 OTTER
MAP 5K PARCEL 0012 0000
You will take notice that RICHARD D MITCHELL, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000008, OBRIEN 33.25 AC, located in OTTER, which was returned delinquent in the name of SKIDMORE JAMES & ICIE, 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.-\$366.34
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$256.05
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.-\$466.16
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff’s sale to March 31, 2022.-\$301.91
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.-\$1,390.46
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 be-

LEGAL NOTICES

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February 10, 2022

fore 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 2-10 2-24b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000018 - Braxton County – TLC DEVELOPMENT
To: MICHAEL G KANTOS, 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 SALT LICK
MAP 9C PARCEL 0017 0000
You will take notice that TLC DEVELOPMENT, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000018, 22.29AC LITTLE KANAWHA, located in SALT LICK, which was returned delinquent in the name of KANTOS MICHAEL G, 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.-\$283.34
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$179.02
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.-\$743.24
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff’s sale to March 31, 2022.-\$43.13
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.-\$1,248.73
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 2-10 2-24b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000031 - Braxton County – ELEMENTAL RESOURCES LLC
To: M.B HINKLE, L.E. HINKLE, LUELLA E HINKLE, LOE E HINKLE, LIEWELLA E HINKLE, LUELLA M HINKLE, AUDRIA MARDELL MCQUAIN, PEARL BALLARD HINKLE, PEARL RETA HINKLE, MORTIE J HINKLE, MICKEY D MCQUAIN, BYRON J MCQUAIN, JOHNNY M MCQUAIN, MICKEY DELL MCQUAIN, BYRON J MCQUAIN, JOHNNY MCQUAIN, 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 HOLLY
MAP 9999 PARCEL 0600 0003
You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000031, 83.27AC O&G FLATWOODS RUN, located in HOLLY, which was returned delinquent in the name of HINKLE M B HRS, 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.-\$113.38
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$18.09
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.-\$1,003.73
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff’s sale to March 31, 2022.-\$289.39
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.-\$1,424.59
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 2-10 2-24b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000032 - Braxton County – ELEMENTAL RESOURCES LLC
To: HELEN S. HOLCOMB, HELEN FRANCIS HOLCOMB, JERRY A HOLCOMB, WILLIAM LORY HOLCOMB, JOHN OTTO HOLCOMB, SUE HOLCOMB, DOROTHY HOLCOMB, BEULAH SKIDMORE SECREST, JERRY A HOLCOMB, 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 HOLLY
MAP 9999 PARCEL 0600 0120
You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000032, 1/7 OF 110AC O&G WOLF, located in HOLLY, which was returned delinquent in the name of HOLCOMB HELEN S, 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.-\$97.37
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$3.43
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.-\$968.53
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff’s sale to March 31, 2022.-\$113.13
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.-\$1,182.46
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 2-10 2-24b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000121 - Braxton County – ROBERT B BOURN
To: MARLENE G PRICE C/O KAREN PIERCE, JOHN AKERS, DOROTHY ELLEN AKERS, ALLEN W PRICE, 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 6T PARCEL 0017 0000
You will take notice that ROBERT B BOURN, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000121, WOLF PEN 1/3 OF 9AC, located in BIRCH, which was returned delinquent in the name of PRICE MARLENE G, 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.-\$120.87
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$25.67
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.-\$425.13
Amount paid for other statutory

Please turn to **NOTICE**

NOTICE

Continued from page 3

costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022.-\$242.52
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.-\$814.19
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 2-10 2-24b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000122 - Braxton County – ROBERT B BOURN
To: BROOKS RUN MINING COMPANY LLC, APPLIED INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES INC, ANDERSON EQUIPMENT COMPANY, RISH EQUIPMENT COMPANY C/O RYAN S MARSTELLER ESQ, RUDD EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC, M-B LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, CLEVELAND BROTHER EQUIPMENT CO INC, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS LLC C/O LEGAL DEPARTMENT, LUBE EQUIPMENT INC, CROWN HILL EQUIPMENT INC C/O RYAN MARSTELLER ESQ, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, COMPLIANCE DIVISION, AMU RE: ACCOUNT #2213-7948, XTREME LABOR SOLUTIONS LLC, CITICORP NORTH AMERICA INC, CORPORATE BILLING INC, 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 OTTER MAP 8P PARCEL 0037 0000
You will take notice that ROBERT B BOURN, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000122, 140AC INCL COAL BUFFALO 1745-1746, located in OTTER, which was returned delinquent in the name of COASTAL COAL-WEST VIRGINIA LLC, 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.-\$1,220.10
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$1,061.11
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.-\$561.82
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022.-\$903.82
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.-\$3,746.85
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 2-10 2-24b

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.
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 2-3 2-17b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000086 - Braxton County – WVTL LLC
To: JAMES WILLIAM WESTFALL, JAMES WILLIAM WESTFALL, KELLY DAWN WESTFALL, KELLY DAWN WESTFALL, STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL C/O CENTRAL ATLANTIC LEGAL GROUP PLLC, STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL C/O BOOTH, STRANGE & DANIEL, STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL C/O CENTRAL ATLANTIC LEGAL GROUP PLLC, STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL C/O BOOTH, STRANGE & DANIEL, JAMES WILLIAM WESTFALL, JAMES WILLIAM WESTFALL, KELLY DAWN WESTFALL, KELLY DAWN WESTFALL, BARN LEASE CORPORATION OF AMERICA INC C/O FLAHERTY, SENSABAUGH BONASSO PLLC ATTORNEYS AT LAW, JAMES WILLIAM WESTFALL, 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 OTTER MAP 7G PARCEL 0049 0001
You will take notice that WVTL LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000086, 2.61AC CEDAR CREEK, located in OTTER, which was returned delinquent in the name of WESTFALL JAMES WILLIAM & OR, 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.-\$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 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 2-3 2-17b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000088 - Braxton County – WVTL LLC
To: MARY WILLIAMS, HERBERT WILLIAMS, MARY WILLIAMS, J. BURTON HUNTER III, TRUSTEE, PROGRESSIVE BANK, N.A. BUCKHANNON, PROGRESSIVE BANK, N.A. – BUCKHANNON, OCCUPANT, 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 OTTER MAP 8M PARCEL 0066 0004
You will take notice that WVTL LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000088, .58AC S S ELK 3320, located in OTTER, which was returned delinquent in the name of WILLIAMS MARY L, 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.-\$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 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 2-3 2-17b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000091 - Braxton County – WVTL LLC
To: BROOKS RUN MINING CO LLC, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS LLC C/O STEPTOE & JOHNSON PLLC, BROOKS RUN MINING CO LLC, LUBE EQUIPMENT INC C/O BAILES, CRAIG, YON & SELARDS PLLC, RYAN MARSTELLAR CROWN HILL EQUIPMENT, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE TAX DEPARTMENT COMPLIANCE DIVISION, AMU, XTREME LABOR SOLUTIONS LLC C/O KAY CASTO & CHANEY PLLC, XTREME LABOR SOLUTIONS, LLC C/O LORETTA WALKER SITES, BROOKS RUN MINING CO LLC, 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 OTTER MAP 8R PARCEL 0015 0009
You will take notice that WVTL LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000091, 1.03 AC TRACT A LITTLE BIRCH RIVER, located in OTTER, which was returned delinquent in the name of BROOKS RUN MINING CO LLC, 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.-\$488.46
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$372.14
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.-\$1,428.16
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022.-\$474.43
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.-\$2,763.19
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 2-3 2-17b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000048 - Braxton County – WVTL LLC
To: DEBORAH ANN WASLYK, OCCUPANT, 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 3J PARCEL 0005 0000
You will take notice that WVTL LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000048, 35AC STEER CREEK, located in BIRCH, which was returned delinquent in the name of WASLYK DEBORAH ANN, 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.-\$868.75
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$695.83
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.-\$1,107.29
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022.-\$129.39
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.-\$2,801.26
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 2-1-27 2-10b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000056 - Braxton County – WVTL LLC
To: CAMDEN FOX HRS, FRED FOX, JANE CUTLIP, ROY CUTLIP, JOAN SHRIVER, JOHN HALL, JOHN HALL, EARL FOX, HERMAN FOX, JENNIE HALL, AUGUSTA CURVY, ANNA FAST, GORDON FOX, JOHN FOX, GEORGE FOX, AGNES JANE FOX, REBECCA DUFFIELD, ELLE DUFFIELD, ANNA JEAN GREENE, FRED FOX II, KELLEY ANN HALL, LEAH FOX, LEAH FOX MORRISON, MARY ANN HALL, HOLLY ANN HALL CONRAD, ROBERT R HALL, ROBERT A HALL, LELAND SHRIVER, JUDY TULLY, JUDY TILLY, JUDITH TULLY, GEORGE FOX, SUSAN FOX, THE HEIRS OF CAMDEN FOX, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CAMDEN FOX, 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 9999 PARCEL 0001 9910
You will take notice that WVTL LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000056, OG 1/2 OF 81 AC TATE, located in BIRCH, which was returned delinquent in the name of FOX CAMDEN HRS, 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.-\$103.30
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$8.86
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.-\$1,522.11
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022.-\$4,565.81
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.-\$6,200.08
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.

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 2-1-27 2-10b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000057 - Braxton County – WVTL LLC
To: CAMDEN FOX HRS, FRED FOX, JANE CUTLIP, ROY CUTLIP, JOAN SHRIVER, JOHN HALL, JOHN HALL, EARL FOX, HERMAN FOX, JENNIE HALL, AUGUSTA CURVY, ANNA FAST, GORDON FOX, JOHN FOX, GEORGE FOX, AGNES JANE FOX, REBECCA DUFFIELD, ELLE DUFFIELD, ANNA JEAN GREENE, FRED FOX II, KELLEY ANN HALL, LEAH FOX, LEAH FOX MORRISON, MARY ANN HALL, HOLLY ANN HALL CONRAD, ROBERT R HALL, ROBERT A HALL, LELAND

SHRIVER, JUDY TULLY, JUDY TILLY, JUDITH TULLY, GEORGE R FOX, SUSAN FOX, THE HEIRS OF CAMDEN FOX, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CAMDEN FOX, CAMDEN FOX HRS, 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 9999 PARCEL 0001 9920
You will take notice that WVTL LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000057, OG 1/2 OF 73 AC N S ELK, located in BIRCH, which was returned delinquent in the name of FOX CAMDEN HRS, 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.-\$102.30
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$7.96
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.-\$1,537.35
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022.-\$4,708.94
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.-\$6,356.55
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 2-1-27 2-10b

NOTICE TO REDEEM
2020-S-00000058 - Braxton County – WVTL LLC
To: CAMDEN FOX HRS, FRED FOX, JANE CUTLIP, ROY CUTLIP, JOAN SHRIVER, JOHN HALL, JOHN HALL, EARL FOX, HERMAN FOX, JENNIE HALL, AUGUSTA CURVY, ANNA FAST, GORDON FOX, JOHN FOX, GEORGE FOX, AGNES JANE FOX, REBECCA DUFFIELD, ELLE DUFFIELD, ANNA JEAN GREENE, FRED FOX II, KELLEY ANN HALL, LEAH FOX, LEAH FOX MORRISON, MARY ANN HALL, HOLLY ANN HALL CONRAD, ROBERT R HALL, ROBERT A HALL, LELAND SHRIVER, JUDY TULLY, JUDY TILLY, JUDITH TULLY, GEORGE FOX, SUSAN FOX, THE HEIRS OF CAMDEN FOX, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CAMDEN FOX, 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 9999 PARCEL 0001 9930
You will take notice that WVTL LLC, the purchaser of tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000058, OG 1/2 OF 32 AC N S ELK, located in BIRCH, which was returned delinquent in the name of FOX CAMDEN HRS, 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.-\$97.37
Amount of subsequent years taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2022.-\$3.43
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.-\$1,522.11
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2022.-\$4,565.81
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.-\$6,188.72
Cost of Certification of Redemption – cashier check, money order or

Please turn to **NOTICE**




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The Lady Knights defense work together to keep Richwood from scoring.

Lady Knights won 3 of 3 games in four days last week

The BCMS girls had a series of three straight wins last week, as they defeated South Harrison, Summersville, and Richwood. Their 31-20 victory over South Harrison came on Monday on South Harrison’s home court. Coach Matt Pritt contributed the win to

“good team effort and a good defensive game.” Seven Lady Knights scored in that game with Lila Fitzwater’s 9 points leading the team. The following night, this one on their home court, the Lady Knights outscored Summersville 34-20. Coach Matt Pritt pointed out that

Fitzwater “had a strong game” as she led Braxton with 17 points. Thursday’s game, a 56-3 win over Richwood, saw three Braxton players score in double figures. Fitzwater led with 15 points, Lauren Pritt scored 14, and Kendall Key added 12.



The Knights defense leave no room for Richwood to score.

BCMS boys end week with three wins, one loss



Braedan Godfrey shoots for two points for the Knights.



Ashton Lunceford looks to make his next basket against Richwood.



Kendall Key takes a shot from the three point line for the Lady Knights



Raegan Brown scans the court looking to work the ball under the basket.



Reese Carpenter passes the ball to a teammate.



Makenna Robinson keeps the ball in play.



Aubrey Pritt passes the ball to a Lady Knight.



Lauren Pritt shoots for three points for the Lady Knights.



Jamie Nettles with a quick basket for the Knights.



Owen Lowther surpasses the Richwood defender for two points.



Aiden Crockett scored 16 points against Richwood.



Carter Lewis scored ten points for the Knights.



Brady Toler brings the ball back into Knight territory.



Austin Smarr keeps the ball in play. Photos courtesy of Janet Six.

Lady Knights' scoring in last weeks' three wins:			
Player	S. Harrison	Summersville	Richwood
Lila Fitzwater	0	17	15
Bailey Pritt	6	4	9
Lauren Pritt	3	9	14
Kendall Key	3	1	12
Brooklyn Paletti	2	4	0
Aubrey Mowery	2	0	0
Jade Chapman	2	0	2
Avah Mollohan	0	0	2
Mackenna Robinson	0	0	2

Knights' individual scoring in last week's games:				
Player	South Harrison	Summersville	Webster	Richwood
Aiden Crockett	13	9	15	16
Brady Toler	19	6	14	0
Carter Lewis	6	2	2	10
Jamie Nettles	5	5	12	3
Owen Lowther	5	8	8	12
Ashton Lunceford	3	3	6	3
Brodi Smarr	2	0	0	6
Stevie Boggs	0	0	6	10
Braeden Godfrey	0	0	0	8
Austin Smarr	0	0	0	2

The Knights had a strong week as they defeated South Harrison, Webster and Richwood. Their only loss came at Summersville. Coach Randall Brown explained how the Knights cinched a 53-37 win over South Harrison last Monday night even though “South Harrison brought a very evenly matched team to this game.” The coach said, “We were able to out run them, and our defense definitely controlled this game.” Saying that the game “went back and fourth,[Braxton’s] defensive pressure was able to help [them] pull away in the fourth quarter.” Brady Toler led the Knights with 19

points, and Aiden Crockett, also in double figures, scored 13. The followng night, Summersville handed Braxton their only loss of the week. Coach Brown, noting that Summersville “is a very talented team, explained, “They were able to get us into early foul trouble which definitely had a huge impact on the game.” He added that his squad “definitely gave it all [they] had but were not able to get close enough to make it a game.” No Knight scored in double figures, but Crockett led his team with 9 points. On Wednesday, Braxton

outscored Webster 68-32 with three players in double figures. Crockett led with 15 points, Brady Toler scored 14, and Jamie Nettles added 12. The Braxton coach said that his team “controlled the game from the opening tip.” He explained that the Knights were able to control the tempo of the game with their defense along with dominated the rebounding. Coach Brown, noting there was little to say about Thursday’s 76-8 win over Richwood, commented that his team was able to control the whole game. In that game, Crockett scored 16; points, Owen Lowther 12, Carter Lewis 10, and Stevie Boggs 10.

When a can of coke cost a quarter

By: Joseph J. Mazzella

When I was a boy I lived across the road from a 4-H camp. For nine months out of the year the camp was mostly empty and my own personal playground. I would ride my bike up and down it's quiet, paved roads pretending to win the Star Wars' X-wing fighter battle above the Death Star. I would shoot basketballs alone at the court and no matter how many times I missed the lay up I was still Dr. J winning the championship game in my mind. I would even explore its woodlands having adventures and looking for buried treasure in my imagination.

In the Summer when the camps arrived I would swim every day at the

pool. Then I would sneak into the Camp's kitchen to get a treasure of my own. My smiling Nana worked there and would sneak me a hot roll and a quarter from her apron. I would take my treasure down to the pop machine and buy me a sweet can of Coca Cola to quench my thirst and lighten my heart.

Those memories are over 40 years old now, yet they still live in my mind like it was yesterday. Sometimes I wish I could go back in time to when a can of coke cost a quarter and talk to that little boy. I would tell him to enjoy and cherish each day he had there even more than he already did. I would tell him that every moment here is a gift from God. I would tell him to

be here now and to try not to blink because the years were going to fly by faster than the Millennium Falcon. Most of all, I would tell him to stop and hug his Nana every chance he got.

Life here seems so short at times. The longest life here still seems too brief to learn all we have to learn, to do all we want to do, and to share the love we need to share. Maybe that is the point. God wants us to realize just how finite life on this Earth is. He wants us to see the preciousness of each and every second. He wants us to spend them all learning, loving, laughing, and growing in joy. May we all do so. May we thank God for today and live it like it was our last.

On the other side of the mountain

By Verena Sava

In the days back then, it was the groundhog that predicted the length of the winter. It was based on careful observations by our ancestors who watched the sun and its impact and its influences on their daily lives, their crops and their livestock. In Europe it is not the groundhog that predicts the length of winter, but the sun. Of course, it is the same as seeing the groundhog's shadow, you need sunshine for this. I learned a rhyme as a kid that if the sun is bright and shiny on Candlemas day (February 2nd), it will be a long time before we see spring.

Folks in many different parts of the world used to plant by signs, mostly by the moon. I can't remember anybody on our road not planting by signs, which are Zodiac signs. Zodiac is a diagram used by astrologers to represent positions of planets and stars. The 12 Zodiac signs in the Western Hemisphere are real, they represent 12-star constellations. From our earthly position it seems that the moon is moving from one Zodiac sign to the next, together influencing the growth of crops together with the phase of the moon. Some people consider the whole planting calendar as a made-up tale, but old timers swore by it. Planting by the moon might have a more scientific explanation.

The moon influences the Earth's gravitational field, with which we are familiar, with high and low tides on the oceans' shores. Scientists are trying to find out if these gravitational forces could have an impact on water in the ground and plant growth. We are familiar with the phases of the moon, new moon, first, second, third and fourth quarter, ending in full moon, which we call the waxing or increasing moon phase. The waning, decreasing stage ending eventually in the new moon is the next development. If we follow moon planting guides, it makes planting fairly easy. Plant below ground crops in the waning moon and above ground crops in the waxing moon. Below ground plants are roots or tubers, above ground everything else.

If you add Zodiac signs to the planting calendar, it becomes a little more complicated. That's where the farmer's almanac and other calendars that include the zodiac signs come in handy. The fertile signs are Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces, the semi fertile ones are Taurus, Capricorn and Libra. Using an almanac for figuring out when to plant



Mason bee

certain crops, look for these signs together with the moon phases. Again, below ground crops in the waning and above ground crops in the waxing phase but adding the zodiac signs of fertility.

Gemini, Aquarius, Arries, Leo, Sagittarius and Virgo are the barren signs. They should only be used for weeding, pruning and harvesting, no planting or seeding.

I have never heard a neighbor pointing out to us to plant something in the Pisces. No, these people referred to the zodiac signs that represent parts of our body. So, somebody would tell us to plant bean seeds in the arms (Gemini) cabbage in the feet (Pisces) or to avoid all planting in the bowels (Virgo). I find it fascinating that farmers and gardeners used these methods to raise their food when it was still a matter of self sufficiency and self reliance. I don't really care if Zodiac signs are a folk lore, these people knew how to survive.

I came across an article about solitary, native bees. These were the main pollinators on this continent before the European honeybee was introduced. Apparently solitary bees are much more efficient pollinators than our honeybee. They don't collect pollen and arrange it neatly on their legs for transportation like their honey producing colleagues, they have tiny, sticky hairs on their abdomen and when they collect pollen, they "belly-flop" onto the blossom and the pollen sticks all over their bellies. They have a 95% pollination rate. They are not picky; they gather pollen from just about any plant that is blooming. The most common solitary bees are mason and leaf cutter bees. Their stings are harmless, because they don't have to defend a hive colony. It would feel more like a mosquito bite or a pinch, and they only do it when we squeeze them. The mason bee uses mud to construct its nest. It looks for hollow stems, holes in wood, or any other cavity. Once it has found the right shelter it will seal off the end of the chamber with mud, lay an egg, then include a pollen loaf, made

of pollen and nectar and if the chamber is spacious enough, build another mud wall and lay an egg again. They lay about 15 eggs in their lifetime. The eggs hatch into a larva which eats the pollen loaf, spins a cocoon, then forms a pupa. They overwinter in the shape of a pupa. Male and female adult mason bees die about 4 to 6 weeks after emergence. One gardener suggested to put up a solitary bee house with a roof and hang it in a sunny location. These structures look like a bird house, without a front wall, filled with small tubes that serve as incubation chambers. It came with a warning that pollen mites are carried into these houses and can proliferate with the stacks of food. They will consume the pollen loaf and the mason bee hatchling has nothing to eat and will die. Some comments even mentioned that these houses could be called mason bee cemeteries.

Leaf cutters will also find a cavity. The female chews out crescent shaped pieces out of leaves or blossoms, doing no harm to the plant. She will transport them back to the cavity, chew them till they become pliable, pushing them up along the wall of the cavity. She will then lay an egg, leave a pollen loaf, then wrap up the leaf chamber and making a cozy little "sleeping bag" for her offspring. This is a process that may take up to 5 hours of intense activity. The egg will hatch, turn into a larva, but does not make a cocoon like the mason bee. The adult lifespan of the leaf cutter is about the same as for the mason bee.

When these native bees emerge in spring, they are hungry. We have to make sure to have early blooming flowers ready for them. It is very important to keep flowering plants around all season long to sustain them. They offer us in return maximum pollination. Do not use any pesticides in your garden and around your house. Ag organizations mention that 75% of our food supply depends on bees of which there are 20'000 different species worldwide.

Local West Virginia University students earns honors

West Virginia University has announced its Deans and Presidents Lists. The following students have been named to the Deans and/or Presidents List at West Virginia University for the Fall 2021 semester: Deans List Conner Bragg, Kelsey Butcher, Robin Frey, Dylan Johnson, Peyton Lacy, Abigail Liston, Haylie Lynch, Jayson Nguyen, Garrett Shingler, Riley Skeens, Margaret Skidmore, Gage Vincent, Lilly Ware, and Jamie Yoder,

Presidents List Grace Belknap, Heath Cottrill, Kristen Cox, Drew Duffield, Brandon Johnson,

Possum that didn't get away

I think our dog, Ras-cal, learned a lesson about possums. A while back he got after one and it played dead. He walked away and went in the garage for a nap. Later, he checked on it and it was gone. He tried to track it down but to no avail. Hubby saw it get up and leave when the coast was clear and got a laugh out of that when the dog became so confused. He could just imagine what that dog was thinking.

Well, recently on one of the nicer days when we had a thaw, Duane found a dead possum out by the front sidewalk. That dog had laid his trophy there for us to see. Possums are good to have around unless you have chickens. You don't want a possum in the chicken house. They will clean the ticks up off your property, though. We welcome them here but we don't see many anymore. As a matter of fact, we don't see many small critters at all. Coyotes have killed a lot of them and

Mountaineer Food Bank announces 2022 Mobile Food Pantry dates

Mountaineer Food Bank is located in Gassaway, WV. Our organization provides food and other household items to our emergency food network in 48 counties including programs such as food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, Backpack programs, senior programs and mobile pantries.

Mobile Pantries provide food to "food deserts" where food accessibility is limited and/or scarce. Fresh, healthy food tends to have a short shelf life. To

Braxton County Senior Center Food Menu

Menu subject to change due to food availability. 2% milk served with each meal.

Tuesday 8 Steak and Pepper Strips, Au Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli, Dinner Roll, Fruit. Wednesday 9 Salmon Patty, Pasta with Peas, Stewed Tomatoes, Fruit. Thursday 10 Spaghetti with Meatballs, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Fruit. Friday 11 Pepperoni Roll, Tomato Soup with Cheddar Cheese, Crackers, Fruit. Monday 14 Madly In Love Meatloaf, Mushy Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Peas, Devoted Dinner Roll, Flirty Fruit. Tuesday 15 Chicken Alfredo, Broccoli, Garlic Bread, Fruit. Wednesday 16 Beef Vegetable Soup, Cornbread, Spinach, Casserole, Fruit. Thursday 17 Open Face Turkey Sandwich, Stuffing, Corn, Fruit. Friday 18 Fish Taco with Baja Sauce, Black Beans, Rice, Fruit. Monday 21 Holiday - Center Closed. Tuesday 22 Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Roll, Pea Salad, Fruit. Wednesday

Lauren Keplinger, Kathryn Korte, Christopher Lockard, Kristen Shaffer, William Skidmore, Wylie Skidmore, and Trista Wayne.

Outstanding undergraduate academic achievement is recognized by awarding President's List and Dean's List status to students who obtain a 4.0 GPA or 3.5 GPA, respectively in a semester. Only the highest honor is awarded, and it will be noted on the transcript. Students must be enrolled in 12 credit hours or more of graded courses to be eligible for such recognition with no grades of I (incomplete), NR (not reported), or W (withdrawal).

they will come down out of the hills after small pets. If you let a small dog out to go potty you had better watch it. Our granddaughter heard coyotes on both hillsides here when she was home at Thanksgiving. She heard their high pitched yipe one evening when she was outside.

We have had a very cold spell with snow and ice. It wasn't safe for man or beast to be out there but today we had a thaw. It was only 9 degrees when we got up this morning but by afternoon it had warmed up quite a bit and the things started melting. I sure was thankful to open the back door and see sunshine and a beautiful blue sky. I lit the oven and baked hot rolls to go with our dinner. It smelled like a bakery in here with the yeast bread baking. I keep buttermilk cornbread baked up every week.

My grandma on Mom's side gave me three cast iron skillet of different sizes for a wedding gift and

West Virginia University is the premier land-grant institution in the 21st century and delivers high-quality education, excels in discovery and innovation, models a culture of diversity and inclusion, promotes health and vitality and builds pathways for the exchange of knowledge and opportunity between the state, the nation and the world. Founded in 1867, WVU is home to more than 30,000 students and has nearly 200,000 graduates shaping our world each day.

For more information on WVU, visit <http://about.wvu.edu>.

those are the only skillet that have held up all these years. I use the medium size one for fried potatoes, biscuits and cornbread. I grew up learning how to cook from scratch from our country foods and I still cook that way. Occasionally, I will try out a new recipe. I find that some of them need to be revised, or as Mom used to say, "I need to doctor it up." I will close for this time. We are all so anxious for spring to get away from the cold temperatures, snow and ice. March winds bring April showers and May flowers. Someone said recently they were anxious for March to come.

Until next time, continue to be safe and stay well. A cousin on the Stewart side called me today and he is sick with that old COVID again. He said it was like a real bad head cold. I think he wishes he had gotten the vaccines. Maybe it would have been a lighter case of that virus.

Take care and God bless!

make sure food gets to our clients as quickly and fresh as possible, they are transported to selected locations and distributed by Mountaineer Food Bank. Mobile Pantries can provide a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and baked goods to people in need.

Hosted by churches, schools, and community centers, a Mobile Pantry can feed between 100 and 1,000 households.

The following dates for

2022 can also be found online at <https://www.mountaineerfoodbank.org/mobile-food-pantry>

You can also follow the Mountaineer Food Bank on Facebook to keep up with the most up to date information.

All Mobile Food Pantry events will be from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at Holly Gray Park in Sutton. The dates for 2022, which can be subject to change, include, April 5th, June 7th, and August 12th.

2022 Central WV Riding Club show dates announced

The Central WV Riding Club has announced show dates for 2022.

All shows are held at Holly Gray Park and start at 5:00 p.m. Showbill will be posted after the February meeting.

Anyone interested in joining or sponsoring a class comment below or send a message with an address or email address to send it to and which form(s) you

day 25 Breakfast Bake, Hash Browns, Biscuit, Spiced Apples, Juice. Monday 28 Chili, Sweet Potatoes, Crackers, Fruit.

Membership is \$5 per person and \$10 per family. Sponsorship is \$40 for Silver Sponsor and \$100 for Gold Sponsor. 2022 show dates Include: May 21, June 25, July 16 Youth Show dates include: July 23, August 27, September 24, and October 8.

Trail Ride October 16 @ 1:00 p.m. on Sugar Camp Rd (John & Kathy Given's) Gassaway

Burnsville Freedom Festival host Spaghetti Dinner

The Burnsville Freedom Festival will be hosting a dine-in or carry out Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 12th from 3-6pm at the Burnsville Community Center.

Family/kids pictures can also be taken with the Lady and the Tramp

backdrop. Menu includes spaghetti, salad, bread, drink & dessert. Price is by donation only.

To place a carry out order on the day of the dinner please call Suzanne at 304-402-8853 or Deanna at 304-678-9145.