



“Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

February, 2024

Vol. 32 No. 02 Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com & Tom Lacombe tomlacombe@comcast.net

BCCA Board of Directors - 2024

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	Wes Deavers	540-631-0016

Browntown Calendar

- Feb. 2nd Saturday Ground Hog Day
- Feb. 12th BCCA Public Meeting 7:30p.m.
- Feb. 14th Valentines Day
- Feb. 18th BCCA Paint Party
- Feb. 27th Tues. deadline for Mach newsletter
- Mar, 8th & 9th BCCA Yard Sale Friday and Saturday

Browntown Baptist Church

browntownbaptistva@gmail.com

Pastor: Sherman Kaipha Brown

Worship Service @ 11 a.m. Fellowship @ 12 p.m.
Baptist Church provides food at the Fellowship Hall.

Every Wednesday is “Free Food” for Browntown residents who need help with feeding their families.

Hours are: 12:30 to 2:30 (for pick up).

Cool Spring Church of God

Pastor: Jeff Fletcher

Sunday School at 9:30 and Worship at 10:30.

Limeton United Methodist Church

Pastor: Taeshin Kim

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

C-CAP Needs YOU!

Just one shift – 3 Hours a month

Please contact Joanne Koszyk 540-551-3815

Or email ourccap@gmail.com

Thanks so much for your help, Joanne



BCCA Browntown Spring Yard Sale – March 8 & 9 Friday and Saturday 9:00 to 200

We need donations! And if you want to rent a table for yourself, contact Patsy Pennington at 540-635-5568. Space for personal tables is very limited inside, but outside we have lots of space, just dress warmly. We will take clothes, furniture, tools, dishes, linens and even Christmas decorations that you don't use or need anymore.

Browntown Alert!

LOCK YOUR GARAGE & SHEDS

Good Morning. I am not sure if this is appropriate or not but here goes.. I had two Stihl chainsaws stolen from my garage in the past week. I had a sheriff come out and there is an ongoing case. Not sure if they will have any success in finding the culprits or the chainsaws. That said.

I am going to put up a sign in Tom's store offering a \$500 reward for info on who stole them, and their return. If you can put the same "REWARD" in the newsletter and on the BCCA list..

Bruce Colton

Obituaries

Judy Marie Henry Jenkins, 71, of Bentonville, passed on Jan. 18, at Winchester Med. Ctr. surrounded by her loving family. Judy was born Oct. 19, 1952 in Front Royal, daughter of the late Wilson Russell and Clemmie Marie Partlow Henry. She worked for Fleetwood Travel Trailers for years and retired from the federal government. Surviving is her loving and devoted husband of 46 years, David Thomas "Tinker" Jenkins, Jr.; one son, David T. Jenkins, III (Kelly) of Bentonville; one brother, Gerry Raymond Henry of Bentonville; three sisters, Audrey Lee Henry of Rixeyville, Daris Ann Henry Mathews (Rick) of Browntown, and Kelly Lynn Henry Cabbage (Sherman) of Stanley; grandchildren, Madison Marie Jenkins and Ryan Thomas Jenkins, both of Bentonville; sister-in-law, Doris Ann Jenkins Wood (Charles) of Doswell; close and dear friend, Brucie Jenkins; two uncles, Earl Partlow of Winchester and George Partlow of Stephens City; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Judy was preceded in death by her parents; and two brothers, Archie and Curtis Wayne Henry.

Shawn M. Noel passed on Dec. 27. Shawn was born in Sacramento, CA to the late Arnold "Pappy" Clement Noel and Marjorie "Nonnie" Aurelia (Cameron) Noel. The family moved to Alexandria, where Shawn grew up with her half-sister Claudia Frazier and brothers Trace Noel and Mycal Noel. In addition to her parents, Shawn was preceded in death by her half-sister Claudia Frazier and brother Trace Noel. Shawnie is survived by her brother Mycal Noel (Maria), sister-in-law Edith Appleton and former sisters-in-law, Paige, and Janet. Ah and the precious ones she was instrumental in giving guidance as they grew. Memorial Gifts may be made to: MCCR Rehoboth Beach DE, PO Box 191, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971, or Coastal Cats, PO Box 45 Selbyville, DE 19975.

Corann Viola Updike, 88, of Woodstock, formerly of Front Royal, passed away on Saturday, December 23, at Consulate Healthcare in Woodstock. Mrs. Updike was born on September 12, 1935 in Rileyville, to the late Raymond and Viola Baylor Wood. She was also preceded in death by her husband, George G. Updike; daughter, Patricia Utterback; grandson, Albert Utterback; two brothers and two sisters. Survivors include her sister, Marguerite Sedwick and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial Gifts may be made to the Shenandoah National Park Trust, 1750 Allied Street Suite C, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Obituaries continued on page 8

O.J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.

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OJ's New Hours

O.J.'s will be open 9 till 5 Mon-Sat and Noon till 4 on Sundays. Look for the **Open** flag out front, and a sign on door in case we have to close up for unforeseen reasons. **Thanks again, Tom**

Deadline for March

News: Feb. 27th

Make A Note: Patsy Pennington is the person to contact if you need to use the Center. Patsy's number is 635-5568

Leave Home a few minutes Earlier **Please Slow Down, Enjoy the Ride**

Remember, our roads aren't designed for the amount of traffic they carry these days. I'm sure many of you have been going down the road and find an oncoming vehicle across the center line!!

**Don't forget -- area schools
Are now in session**

GOONEY VALLEY HISTORY CLUB

POSTAL DELIVERY IN THE GOONEY - PART 2



The Mystery of “Hambaugh’s” (1813-1873)

In last month’s article we described various features of the way letters were delivered in the Gooney Valley during the period 1812-1867. In summary, they were delivered to your local post office, it was expensive, you had to pick it up yourself, and until stamps were introduced in 1847, you had to pay the postage due.

Before 1891, the Post Office had no written policies about post office names and because of this the sources of many P.O. names are lost to history. The name of a town, neighborhood, crossroads, or the postmaster's name or place of business were typically selected. Also, nearby geographic or man-made features were often used. A post office in Ohio was named “Mulberry Corners” after its location where a farmer had once grown mulberry trees. Storekeepers, tavern keepers and mill owners were usually the postmasters through the early 1800s. They knew how to keep expense ledgers and handle money. All postmasters were appointed by the Post Office Department. In some smaller post villages in the early 1800s the postmaster earned less than \$10 a year. But the amounts, big or small, usually increased as the years passed, and because the postmaster's job was part-time and the average daily wage was \$1, the position became a coveted one.

1813: THE BEGINNING OF POSTAL SERVICE IN THE GOONEY VALLEY

Our first post office was located north of the area that fifty years later would become known as Browntown and was named “Hambaugh’s” (also “Humbaugh’s”) after its postmaster, John Hambaugh. In 1813, mail carriers based in Front Royal made one return trip a week between Front Royal and Waynesboro, a distance of about 84 miles, delivering and picking up mail at several post offices on the way. The list of stops changed over time but initially were “Humbaugh’s, Overall’s, Hawksbill Mills, Mundellsville, Kite’s Mill, Hamburger’s, and Port Republic”. The carriers were allowed to choose how they carried the mail, (e.g. on horseback, wagon or sulkey, depending on prevailing road conditions). Over time, routes were simplified and shortened. In 1865 there was still only one delivery a week to Hambaugh’s but by 1872 Samuel H. Rudasill, the “designated messenger” was required to convey mail twice a week between Front Royal and Hambaugh’s for an annual fee of \$100.

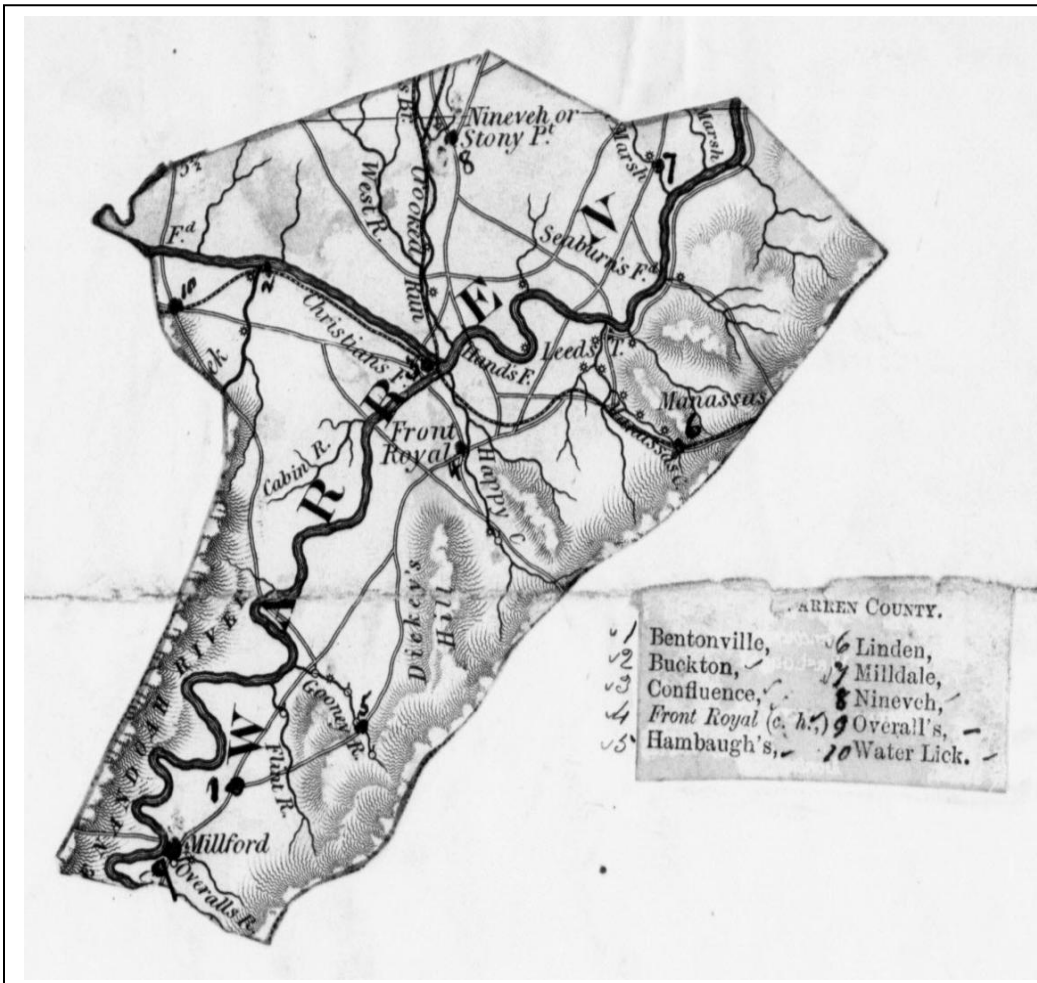
Continued on page 4

POSTAL DELIVERY ALONG THE GOONEY: PART 2



Where Was the Hambaugh Post Office? This has been a mystery for a number of years but we can now confirm that Hambaugh's was located in the old farmhouse currently known as "Mount Echo". This house was originally built of logs around 1796. John Hambaugh was most likely the original owner of this house and also the builder of the grist mill later known as Boyd's Mill.

John Hambaugh was born in Germany in about 1770 and had 4 sons and 3 daughters with his wife Sarah Moreland. Shortly after becoming postmaster in 1813, the house and mill was sold to John Franklin Boyd, a former colonel in the war of 1812 and large slave owner, who already owned much of the surrounding land. At that time, and for at least the next one hundred and ten years, the property was known as the Old Manor Plantation. After John Boyd died in 1833 the plantation passed to his eldest son Stephen Decatur Boyd Sr. who was a member of the Corps of Engineers that laid out the Old Manor Turnpike (now Browntown Road) from Front Royal to Browntown in Warren County. Later it would become the home of his son, Stephen Decatur Boyd Jr. Hambaugh Post Office operated in this property until at least 1873 when the Browntown post office opened in the store on Gooney Manor Loop owned by Lafayette Updike, who became postmaster in 1875.



The map on the left shows all of the Post Offices and Postal Routes in Warren County in 1868. Look closely and you can see that Hambaugh's P.O. (#5) is located in the area now known as Boyd's Mill

Upcoming Events –

Browntown Landscape Paint Party - Sunday, February 18 from 1-3:30

Come join us with the fantastic Kelly Walker of "The Studio for Learning" to paint a gorgeous Browntown Landscape with our famous Redbud Trees. Even if you have never painted before, Kelly is a great teacher who can help even the beginners do great. Plus its a fun thing to do on a cold winter day! Space is limited so please register early. If you go to our Facebook Page "Browntown Community Center Association, Inc" and "Like" it you will get our posts when we make them. There is also a post about the Paint Party with the picture. Click on the comments and there is a link to register online. Sounds complicated, but its not! Hope to see you there! We will have snacks and drinks available for purchase that day as well.

Spring Yard Sale - Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9. from 9-2. Donations accepted now till March 7. Call Patsy Pennington at 540-635-5568 to arrange for drop off at the center. This is a great fundraiser for us and we appreciate your donations! We need volunteers to help unpack, organize and even work the day of the sale. The ladies who have been helping are awesome but always appreciative of an extra set of hands! If you can help, call Patsy!

Browntown Redbud Festival - Sat April 20th - We are still in the planning phase. Any suggestions or ideas for adding to this or ways to improve are greatly appreciated. We are also looking for volunteers for this day as well. My email is marthaburacker@gmail.com, just send me a message!

Other items of note, things we are working on:

We would like more things for the kids in our community. Parents, we need your input and involvement.

Farmers Market will resume in the spring! Start growing some goodies!

Next meeting is Monday, February 12 at 7:30 at the Community Center.

Sincerely,

Martha Buracker, President

Browntown Community Center Association, Inc

Feb 2024 Bees

Interested in becoming a beekeeper? If you live in the Winchester/Front Royal/Berryville VA area, beekeeping classes are starting in mid-February. These classes are offered on weekday evenings, and run for seven weeks, one night a week. Two additional weekend events will teach you how to build hives and frames and provide hands-on training in an apiary. If you are interested, sign up information is available at bonsbees.com.

Denise K. Vowell

Classes are pretty much full, particularly the Front Royal Class. There is still space at the VT Experimental Farm west of Stephens City (Weds evenings), and maybe some space in the Winchester class (Tues evenings). We hope to have 80 students this year. And the pic is from my "failure to launch" swarm last summer. Bees decided to return to their hive, probably because the queen didn't want to leave yet. Apollo is one of my first 4 hives.



FEBRUARY, 2024 UPDATE - THE BEARR GROUP “KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE”

THE BEARR GROUP IS NOW ONLINE at BEARRGroup.com

Facebook: BEARR Group Instagram: @bearr_group Twitter: @bearr_group

911 REFLECTIVE SIGNS -- HAVE YOU GOT YOURS YET?

3512 SURPRISE YOUR NEIGHBOR OR FAMILY MEMBER WITH A GREAT NEW YEAR GIFT!

These signs are invaluable to first-responders trying to find your house in an emergency.

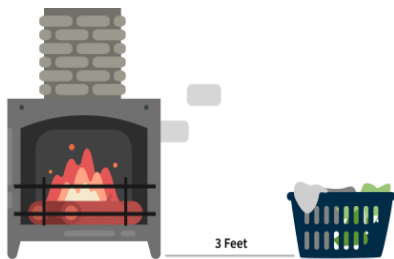
Cost: \$25 (payable on delivery)

Order yours at BEARRGroup.com or email Chris Lewis at chris@BEARRGroup.com or call 540-313-6185.

ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WINTER READY?

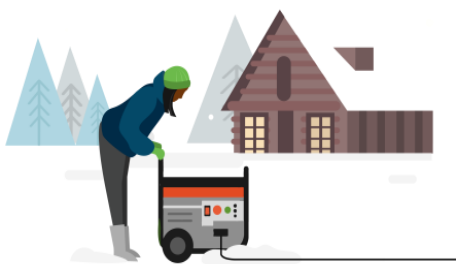
Across the nation right now, we’re experiencing eight fire deaths a day in homes – the place where people should be at their safest. Winter weather, such as we have experienced recently, brings increased fire risk, especially if people light fires in stoves with chimneys that have not been cleaned for some time or use space heaters or candles during power outages. **We have had two such fires in Browntown in just the last two weeks.**

For some really useful information on how to be “winter ready” check out the guidance provided on the following website: www.ready.gov/winter-ready#fires. Here are examples of a few of the tips you will find there:



Preventing House Heating Fires

- *Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from fireplaces, stoves, radiators, portable heaters or candles.
- * Plug space heaters directly into an outlet, and make sure the cord isn’t damaged or frayed.
- * Never use an oven to heat your home.
- * Clean & inspect heating equipment & chimneys each year.



Preparing for Power Outages

- *Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- *Generators and fuel should ONLY be used at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages
- *Do not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- *Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage.
- *Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.

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Obituaries *“continued from page 2”*

Brian Alexander Jenkins of Bentonville, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, December 31, at the age of 28. A funeral service was held on January 10, at Maddox Funeral Home with Sammy Campbell officiating. Internment followed at Panorama Memorial Gardens. Brian wouldn't want there to be a special dress code, so the family asked friends to wear whatever you would have worn when hanging out with Brian. After the funeral service, friends were invited to attend a celebration of life at Rivermont Fire Department. Brian was born November 5, 1995 in Charlottesville, VA to Gina Jenkins. He graduated from Skyline High School in 2014. Brian was employed by Precision Paint Shops. Brian enjoyed spending time with his friends, hunting, racing and working on cars with Granddad. He was an absolute gun enthusiast with enough ammo to stock a store.

Brian was known to make everyone laugh and be the life of the party. He had a laugh and smile that was absolutely contagious. Brian's greatest title was uncle and he loved that title more than anything else. You could always catch him taking a selfie, wrestling or tickling his two nephews.

Brian is survived by his mother and stepfather, Gina and Mike Smith; special "dad", Karl Van Reuth; sister and brother-in-law, Joanna and Robbie Foster; grandparents, Jr. and Connie Jenkins; very special aunt and uncle, Sheri and Jim Johnson; two very spoiled nephews, Brayden and Bentley Foster; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; and many friends he considered family, as Brian never met a stranger. Brian is preceded in death by many family members including his grandparents, Richard and Karen Jenkins; special grandmother, Helen Robinson; cousin, Lisa Willingham; and friend, Mason Simmons. Pallbearers were Luke Carter, Van Jacob Carter, Kody Showers, Jesse Jenkins, Bob Eddy and Windle Spindle. Honorary pallbearers were Karl Van Reuth, Tyler Menefee, Van Wiley Carter and Jr. Shingleton.