

Shareholders Recognized for Services to Tucker County Schools



Tracy Harlan presenting Cynthia Kolson of the Rotary Club with Certificate of Recognition



Tracy Harlan presenting Jason Heater of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation with Certificate of Recognition



Tracy Harlan presenting Barbara Simmons of Community Action with Certificate of Recognition

By Jennifer Britt
The Parsons Advocate

recognition program with the Tucker County Rotary Club. The Rotary Club provides services for humanitarian projects, scholarships, literacy projects, and youth programs throughout Tucker County. Harlan recognized Cynthia Kolson for the Rotary Club's passion toward increasing and maintaining the Tucker

Tracy Harlan presented certificates of recognition to shareholders at the Tucker County School Board meeting. Four organizations were recognized for good deeds and services provided to the students of Tucker County Schools. Harlan started off the

See SCHOOLS page 3A



Sample Baskets of books presented to Tucker County Schools

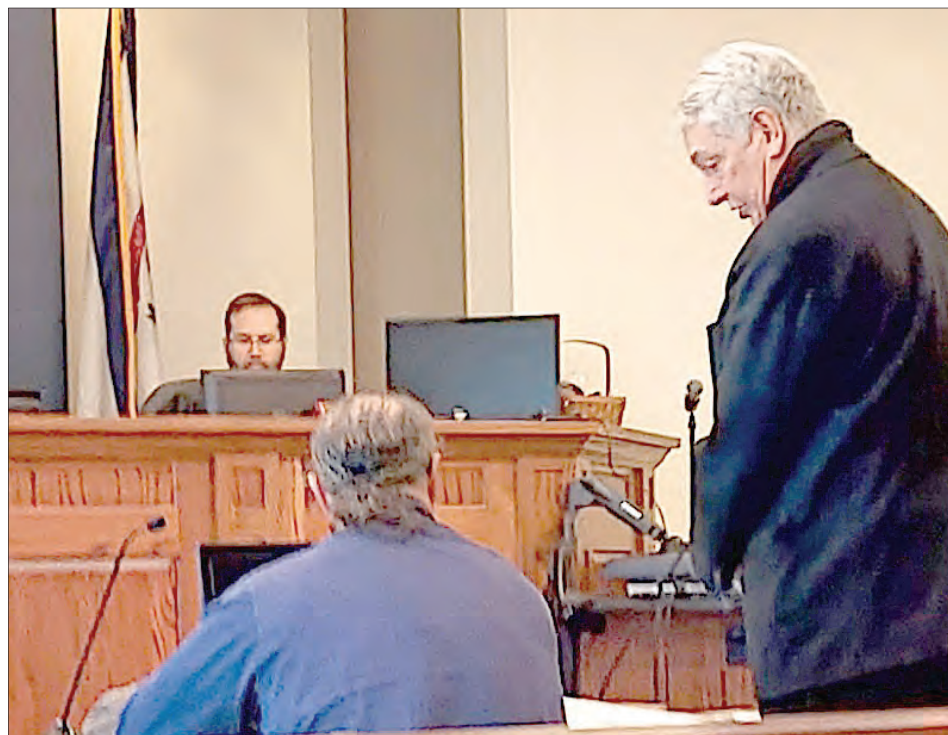
Judge Courier Issues Sentencing and Status Decisions

By Jennifer Britt
The Parsons Advocate

The Honorable Judge James Courier reigned over Tucker County Circuit Court with the sentencing of two individuals previously indicted by the Grand Jury. Lester Mook and David Stover after much time due to COVID restrictions received sentencing for actions committed.

Lester Mook was indicted by grand jury back in June 2018. Mook was indicted for two counts of felony receiving, transferring, and concealing stolen property and three counts of burglary in the second degree, (aiding and abet-

See COURRIER page 2A



Lester Mook addressing Judge Courier

TCHS Students Earn Certification

The following, Tucker County High School Business Computer Applications students earned Microsoft Office Specialist certifications this semester. Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) is a premier industry recognized certification that provides validation of students' knowledge, skills and abilities relating to the Microsoft Office applications.

For Microsoft PowerPoint 2019: Hannah Cussins, Blake Helmick, Kelsynn Whitehair, Charley Dumire, Kelsey Helmick, Kaylee Jennings, Caitlyn McCrum, Ryan Scott, Olivia Williams, Blaike Adams, Damion Jones, Sydney Lambert, Cheyenne Roth

For Microsoft Word AND Powerpoint 2019: Avery Colebank, Malia Cussins, Jacob Lower, Kylee Neff, Mason Powell, Justin Robeson, Ava Shaffer, Bailey Cale, Erin Chambers, Abigail Kitzmiller, Allison Liller, Adelaide McCann, Carlee Nicholas, Reece Poling, Zannah Shahan, Cameron Showalter, Caroline Bonner, Eden Burton, Matthew Cain, Karleigh Rohrbaugh, Hunter Ware

For Microsoft Excel 2019: Carley Dumire and Riley Rohrbaugh.

Former Canaan Valley State Park Director of Operations Sentenced on Fraud Charges



By Jennifer Britt
The Parsons Advocate

Former Canaan Valley State Park and Resort Director of Operations, Michael Scott Chaney, was sentenced in Circuit Court on March 9 by Circuit Court Judge Lynn A. Nelson. Chaney, age 57, of Harman, plead guilty to five counts of felony embezzlement. Chaney was charged with stealing from taxpayers nearly \$165,000 worth of items used for personal use, from high-end Christmas decorations and guns to having fuel delivered to his residence.

Chaney will serve a sentence of one to ten years for each of the five counts in a state facility, with the sentences to be served concurrently. Chaney was taken into cus-

today following the hearing.

Chaney worked for the Canaan Valley State Park and Resort overseeing the day-to-day operations of the resort for the management company Regency Hotel Management. Starting in May 2017, Chaney started making purchases of tangible goods, which were paid for with state money, for his own use. In October of 2020 the embezzlement was discovered when Chaney took medical leave and invoices were discovered for items purchased that were not on the resort property.

According to letter released by the State of West Virginia State Auditor, John B. McCuskey, Chaney purchased 19 sets of Christmas decorations as well as 10 firearms, dozens of tools, building materials and a Honda ATV, among other items.

The professional grade decorations Chaney used to decorate his own front yard ranged in price from \$1,100 to \$5,500 for each set. The decorations ranged from an elaborate nativity scene, a cross, an angel and many other Christmas classics. The decorations from Motion Industries totaled in cost close to \$41,000.

The Honda ATV, four of the

See FRAUD CHARGES page 2A

Tucker County Libraries Seek Funding in New Budget

By Jennifer Britt
The Parsons Advocate

Five Forks Public Library Director Nancy Moore and Mountaintop Public Library President Katherine Morvay presented to the Tucker County Commission a motion for additional funds in upcoming budget year. Moore explained the funds were needed for more books, audio books, magazines and more. Moore further went into detail about the many services available at both libraries and how they were just trying to keep up progress.

Mountaintop Public Library was asking for a budget funding of \$14,500. Davis plans to build a new bigger library onsite of the current library. The new library will be able to house more computers for public use, and hopefully the large complicated equipment needed for big meetings. Morvay said we are "small but we are mighty," describing the library and all the services it can provide to the county and surrounding areas, students, and anyone looking for employment.

Parsons' Five River sPublic Library is seeking \$12,000, an increase of \$1,000 of prior year's budget. Five Rivers has been receiving the \$11,000 allocated for many years without a request for an increase. Five Rivers has seen an increase of participation in several programs such as the Toddler Tumbler Program, book clubs, and summer reading programs.

Commission approved additional funding for the libraries provided there is enough funds in the new budget.

Other business presented during the meeting was reports from Kevin White, Fire Chief and Bailey Falls of the Animal Shelter. White com-

mended the Health Department and all they have done and continue to do during COVID. White stated Tucker County it was day 747 of COVID response.

White presented to the Commission three new board appointments for the OEM Advisory Council. Allen Cosner for a one-year term, Thomas Klus for a two-year term, and Michael Simmons for a three-year term. All were approved by the board.

Falls named Maggie Brown as the new animal control officer for Tucker County. Brown is scheduled to start working on March 16 and complete levels one and two training as she works at the animal shelter. Falls also mentioned a "Kitten Shower" on March 19 at 358 Williams Ave in Davis. The event is geared towards recruiting new fosters and receiving donations.

"I just want to thank you for doing an excellent job for the people and the animals of Tucker County," Commissioner Lowell Moore said to Falls.

Commissioners Moore and Mike Rosenau concluded the meeting by updating on the progress of the AmusementTax. To date the bill was passed by the Senate, but is still sitting in the House Finance Committee. Moore was optimistic as to whether the bill would be passed or not but still was optimistic the bill would continue to the House of Representatives for voting.

The Commissioners also urges the public to register to vote or make changes to voters' registration by April 19 as early voting will be held on April 27 through May 7, and to continue to support the Tucker County EMS.

The next meeting of the Tucker County Commission will be on March 23 at 9 a.m. at the Tucker County Courthouse Courtroom.



Tucker County Sheriff Office Monthly Activity

Month of February 2022

- Felony Arrests (charges or indictments) 0
- Persons Arrested on Felony charges 0
- Misdemeanor arrest (charges or indictments) 2
- Persons arrested on misdemeanor charges 2
- Misdemeanor citations issues 0
- Hazardous moving violations tickets issued 0
- Other traffic violations tickets issued 1
- Hazardous moving violations warning issued 1
- Other traffic violations warning issued 17
- DUI arrest (Driving under the influence) 0
- Motorist Assists ie. broke down vehicle 7
- Vehicle crashes where a crash report was generated 2
- Felony cases fielded resulting in a police report 1
- Misdemeanor cases fielded resulting in a police report 5
- Drugs confiscated in dollar street value amount \$0
- Other contraband confiscated \$0
- Domestic violence petitions served 0
- Job Tasks completed 181
- Calls for service either through 911 or walk ins resulting in Police action 66
- Mileage Report (Total miles traveled by the Department patrolling) 3,577 miles

Additional Notes : We currently have one officer at the academy becoming certified and are currently seeking one employee for a Deputy position.

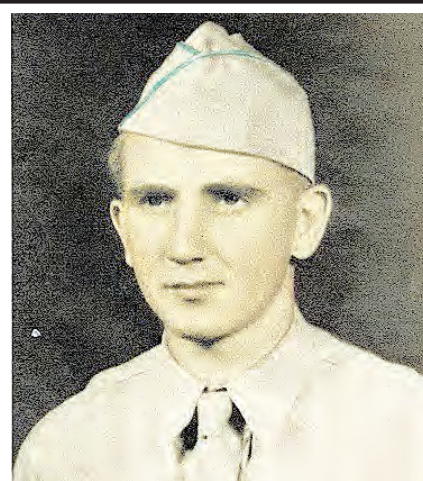
This monthly report has been prepared by Sheriff "Jake" Kopec for educating the public as to how their tax dollars are being put to use at the Tucker County Sheriff Office.

News of Record

The following property transfers have been recorded in the Tucker County Clerk's office:

- Monica M. Hamm/AKA/Monica M. Rumsey, Dry Fork, 1.001 acres to Monica M. Rumsey and Carl M. Hamm, \$0.
- Rosalie N. Knotts, Black Fork, Part of Parcel 18.7, 1.03 acres to Richard W. Knotts and Tammy L. Knotts, \$0.
- Richard W. Knotts and Tammy L. Knotts, Black Fork, 4.45 acres to Richard W. Knotts and Tammy L. Knotts , \$0.
- Charles M. Mullenex, Jr., Parsons Corporation, Lot 1 Block J to Garrett Crossland-Bolyard, \$18,000.
- Patrick Shan Walsh, Lot 30 Pointy Knob 2.00 acres to Richard Tilley and Laura Tilley, \$480,000.

TURNER'S TIDBITS



This is a photo of CPL Paul Junior White, 35th Tank Battalion. He was born December 7, 1924, and passed away November 10, 1983, from lung cancer. He was raised by his mother Lona Tingler; his father, Robert P. White died in 1933 at the age of 26 of diabetes. CPL White entered the Army in 1943 and was honorably discharged in 1946. He served as a Tank Gunner in Normandy, France, and Rhineland, Germany. Once, he and another guy were blown out of a tank (he earned a Purple Heart), The Germans came and found him badly wounded; his arm was nearly blown off. He played dead. The Germans took the other guy and CPL White later heard some shots. He assumed they had shot the guy. Years later while working at a garage, that guy walked in asking for CPL White. By-Standers said CPL White turned white as a sheet from the shock of seeing the other guy. In addition to the Purple Heart, he received 3 Bronze Service Stars, Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, WWII Victory Medal, Favorably Considered for Good Conduct Clasp, American Campaign Medal, and others. In 1947 he married Ethel Vandevander; she is still living at the age of 94. They had five children and now have eight grandchildren. Ideas, comments, suggestions, photos to share contact Tim Turner (304) 478-3389.

Courier

Cont. From Front Page



Stover leaving courtroom after being sentenced two years of probation.

ting), and one count of first-degree arson. L. Mook's case coincided to Tammy Mook's, his wife, charges of four counts of burglary and one count of arson. Also involved was James Nelson, father-in-law, for charges of first-degree arson.

All involved were accused of burning down a vacation home at 1675 Dry Fork Rd. The knowledge of the arson first became known when a confidential informant told the police in recordings from the jail that she had been involved as well as Nelson and the Mook's.

Nelson has been found not guilty of all charges against him

L. Mook represented by Defense Attorney Pay Nichols, per his plea agreement, was acquitted of grand larceny charges and plead guilty to possession of stolen property. The possession charge carries a one-to-five-year jail sentence. Courier sentenced L. Mook to one-to-ten years suspended and up to five years of probation. After one and half years the probation a determination may be made whether to reduce the probation period or not. Courier based his decision on three key note factors; the crime was non-violet, a 20-year gap with convictions and restitution had been paid in full.

The vehicle in question was a



Lester Mook and Mother leaving court room after being sentenced one-to-ten years of probation.

side-by-side stolen from Thrasher Engineering Company and has been given back to Thrasher.

Courier also resigned over the status case of Stover. Stover plead guilty to charges of misdemeanor unlawful restraint. Stover held Brian Perkins at gun point and had another individual tie his hands and feet together. Stover is quoted with saying to Perkins, "If you move this will go differently." Stover then called the police for a citizen's arrest.

According to Stover, Perkins had broken into his place of residency

and "thumped his dog." Stover then proceeded to track down Perkins and attempted to make the citizens' arrest. Courier explained to Stover, "There may be justification for your actions but not the best judgement used" Courier then sentenced Stover to two years of probation with the opportunity to, after a year, probation being lifted.

When Courier asked Stover if he agrees with the terms of the plea bargain, Stover stated, "Yes, I will do anything to save my dog from being executed."

Fraud Charges

Cont. From Front Page

seven guns and other items were returned to the state and auctioned to help recoup some of the money embezzled. The guns were described as customized special edition firearms with elaborate designs and specifications. Chaney claims in court testimony three of the seven guns and many tools were taken to auction and sold for his own cash benefit.

Per his plea agreement, Chaney paid \$152,426 in restitution to Regency Hotel Management, LLC. and \$20,000 to Canaan Valley Resort general fund for the cost of the audit.

In a statement released by Tucker

County Prosecutor Savannah Hull-Wilkins, Wilkins said: "I would like to thank former Trooper Donelson, Trooper Schmide of the Parsons Detachment of the West Virginia State Police, Tyler Kondo and Jim Watson of the Auditor's Public Integrity and Fraud Unit, General Manager of Canaan Valley Resort Sam England and Superintendent of Canaan Valley State Park, Don McFarland, for all the hard work that was put into this case."

Chaney, an Air-Force veteran, addressed the court stating: "I just want to prove I can be a law-abiding

citizen." Chaney also mentioned he had a wife, mother, and five children and five grand-children that relied on him to be there. Chaney apologized to everyone he hurt and said, "I don't know why I did what I did, it started as something small that turned into a mushroom cloud out of control."

Before being taken into custody Chaney hugged his tearful family and said "Everything is going to be ok. I'm sorry and I love you!" Chaney is currently being held in the Tygart Valley Regional Jail awaiting transfer to prison.

ThomasPreston **Tom Preston, CPA**
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The Parsons Advocate

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PARSONS ADVOCATE LETTERS TO EDITOR POLICY

The Parsons Advocate encourages letters to the editor. Letters can be mailed to P.O. Box 345, Parsons, WV 26287 (envelopes must show a return address), faxed to 304-478-1086, e-mailed to mikie@parsonsadvocate.com or dropped off at our office at 219 Central Ave.

Submissions must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. This is for verification purposes.

Letters can be submitted only once each 30 days and can not exceed 500 words.

Submitting a letter does not guarantee it will be published. All letters become prop-

erty of The Parsons Advocate. The Parsons Advocate reserves the right to edit and/or reject letters. Personal attacks, lies, and etc. will not be published.

The views expressed in letters are not necessarily the views of the Parsons Advocate.

Thank you notes and advertising are not considered as letters to the editor. When submitting letters do not use all caps, italics or bold. Use punctuation, upper and lower case letters and indent for paragraphs.

If you have any questions, please call us at 304-478-3533.

The Parsons Advocate

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Applications Still Being Accepted for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) is reminding qualified individuals that applications for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will be accepted until Friday, March 18, 2022, or until funds are exhausted. The federally funded program assists eligible state residents in paying home heating bills.

Eligibility for LIEAP benefits is based on income, household size and whether the household is responsible for paying its heating bill. To qualify, households must meet all program guidelines, which include an applicant's annual income being at or below 60 percent of the state median income. In situations where a heating emergency exists, applicants must contact a DHHR worker for case evaluation.

The maximum allowable gross income levels for LIEAP Fiscal Year 2022 are listed below:

| Household Size and Gross Monthly Income Limit | |
|---|---------|
| 1 | \$2,005 |
| 2 | \$2,621 |
| 3 | \$3,238 |

| | |
|----|---------|
| 4 | \$3,855 |
| 5 | \$4,472 |
| 6 | \$5,088 |
| 7 | \$5,204 |
| 8 | \$5,583 |
| 9 | \$6,150 |
| 10 | \$6,718 |

For each additional person, add \$567. Households whose income exceeds the maximum amount are not eligible; however, some types of income may be excluded for LIEAP. Social Security and Veterans income will be excluded for the current LIEAP application period.

Applications are available online at www.wvpath.org and may also be obtained at local DHHR offices, Community Action Agencies, or senior centers operated by an Area Agency on Aging.

Completed applications should be delivered or mailed to the DHHR office located in the applicant's county of residence. A list of local offices may be found at <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/Pages/MapList.aspx> or by calling 304-352-4431. Mailing the application to any other office or to a utility company may delay the receipt by DHHR and prohibit processing the application.

Morrissey Launches Sixth Kids Kick Opioids Contest

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey announced Tuesday the rollout of his office's sixth Kids Kick Opioids contest, a public service announcement partnership with elementary and middle schools that encourages students to raise awareness of prescription painkiller abuse.

Kids Kick Opioids has drawn more than 14,400 entries since its inception. The sixth contest launched this month with the mailing of entry forms and details to schools and superintendents across West Virginia.

"Every year, the Kids Kick Opioids contest exposes the immeasurable talent and creativity of the students in our elementary and middle schools," Attorney General Morrissey said. "Their entries viscerally demonstrate that the opioid epidemic resonates in classrooms across West Virginia. Kids Kick Opioids gives students an outlet to express their concerns, while using the creativity and talent of all participants to raise awareness of the epidemic."

The contest provides an opportunity for students to learn the dangers of prescription painkiller abuse. It has also given many an outlet to express the personal impact of opioid abuse upon their lives and that of their loved ones.

Students can work individually or in groups. Submissions may include drawings, poems, letters or anything that would promote awareness.

The winning entry will appear as a statewide newspaper PSA. Regional winners will be displayed in the State Capitol.

Thousands of West Virginians have lost their lives to a drug overdose, many of which were opioid related.

Reversing this trend has been a top priority for the Attorney General. He has fought the epidemic on multiple fronts, including a lawsuit against the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration that achieved sweeping reforms to the nation's drug quota system.

The Attorney General also has battled the opioid crisis with civil litigation, multistate initiatives, funding to target opioid abuse, criminal prosecutions, new technology, engagement with the faith-based community and education.

Contest entries must be postmarked by May 6 by mail to the Attorney General's Office at 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., State Capitol Building 1, Room 26-E, Charleston, WV 25305, or sent by email to AGPSA.contest@wvago.gov.

LMC Set to Transform Social Media Strategy for Clients

ELKINS, W. VA - LMC, an Elkins-based, woman-owned, boutique marketing agency, has announced that its Social Media department has recently passed the Professional 300-level Certified Creative Strategy Meta Blueprint exam (formerly known as the Facebook Blueprint exam). Employees that passed this certification exam include Social Media Director, Erin Brown, and Social Media Managers, Brie Evans, Savannah Carr, and Sydney Mullenax.

Thanks to the time and energy the team put in, they demonstrated advanced proficiency in Meta's Certified Creative Strategy Professional course and are now in a unique position to continue to showcase themselves as experts in the ever-evolving world of social media strategy and Facebook marketing solutions.

According to Meta Blueprint, "This certification tested on advanced competency in the strategic skills needed to develop insight-driven creative briefs, inspire and improve the impact of mobile creative, and drive better results on Facebook, Instagram, Facebook Messenger, and WhatsApp."

This certification is absolutely essential for strategy professionals with experience developing creative advertising strategies for brands and businesses.

"Knowing that Facebook and Meta's family of apps are our most used platforms, and they evolve constantly, these Meta Blueprint Certifications are crucial for our Social Media Department to stay competitive and on top of the social

media giants. Receiving these certifications make all the difference for our clients' results when we plan and develop social media strategies," says Social Media Director, Erin Brown.

As LMC continues to manage social media strategies for several clients, it will use this information to drive better results in campaigns for clients and businesses. The certification and course lead to a better understanding of media plans and the ability to build, manage, measure, and optimize campaigns.

"We've seen some really great returns for clients using ads on social media, but if you're not sure how to optimize the ads correctly it can end up very costly," says Brown. Looking to expand your social and marketing reach? Visit agencylmc.com/audit for a free social media audit from their team.

For more information on LMC and the services they provide, visit agencylmc.com.

LMC is a woman-owned, full-service, integrated boutique marketing agency delivering results-driven traditional and digital campaigns. Capabilities range from public relations, marketing and branding, web design, photo and video production, and strategic planning. Founded in 2014, the agency exceeds client expectations through accountability, high-quality production, and valuable counsel. LMC serves clients ranging from healthcare to tourism, as well as non-profit organizations. To learn more, visit agencylmc.com.

Entrants to Submit Projects Focused on Sustainability and Protecting Our Natural World; Registrations Due April 22

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY — Students from around the world are invited to share their innovative solutions as part of the 2022 Spellman High Voltage Electronics Clean Tech Competition. This competition engages students in identifying and solving real-world environmental challenges by creating innovative solutions.

The first-place winner will receive \$7,000 in prize money; \$5,000 for second place, and \$3,500 for third place, while fourth through tenth places will each be given \$1,000.

Over \$22,000 in prize money will be awarded to the top student teams at the Competition finals, held on August 11, 2022.

Each year over 40 countries participate, allowing entrants to compete against student ideas from around the world. Registration for the competition is open through April 22, 2022; students must submit their papers by April 29. Ten finalist teams will be announced online on June 9, 2022.

"As we enter the second decade of the Clean Tech Competition, our world is continuing to face growing challenges to which we must find solutions. These young students will play a critical role in developing answers which will make an impact on our natural world. As the sponsor of the Spellman HV Clean Tech Competition, each year we are ever more impressed and inspired by the student competitors," said Spellman HV President Dr. Loren Skeist. "The submissions from high school students around the world continue to push boundaries and give us hope that we will overcome energy and environmental challenges we face today."

"The Clean Tech Competition continues to grow in its worldwide participation and competitiveness as a showcase for innovative ideas. We encourage students worldwide to share their knowledge, ideas and passions for making a difference and preserving our planet for future generations. The Spellman HV Clean Tech Competition is a tremendous opportunity for young people to share their inventive projects with peers from different nations while enhancing and promoting the benefits and fruits of STEM education," said Dr. Ray Ann

Havasy, Executive Director of the Center for Science, Teaching and Learning.

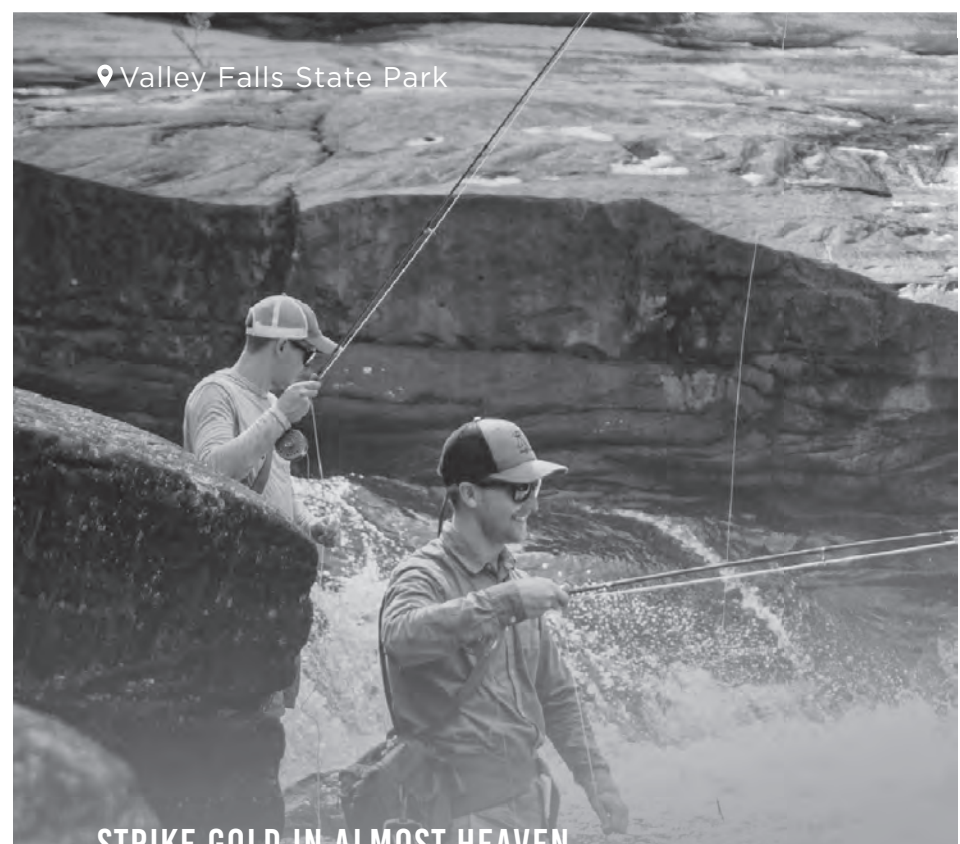
Innovative ideas and solutions are necessary to promote sustainable energy use, preserve the planet, help resolve climate change and create healthier environments. The program is hosted and managed by Rockville Centre, New York-based not-for-profit Center for Science, Teaching & Learning (CSTL), led by STEM Crusader and Advocate Dr. Ray Ann Havasy and sponsored by Hauppauge, Long Island-based Spellman HV Electronics, a leader in high voltage technology in the medical, industrial and scientific fields.

For more information about CSTL or the 2022 Spellman High Voltage Electronics Clean Tech Competition, please visit the Clean Tech Competition website at www.cstl.org/cleantech or contact the administrator at (516) 764-0045 or by email at cleantech@cstl.org.

Headquartered in Hauppauge, NY, Spellman High Voltage Electronics, a family-owned company established in 1947, is the preferred global supplier of precision DC high voltage power supplies and Monoblock® X-Ray sources for medical, industrial and scientific applications. It currently has over 2,200 employees in five design, six production and eight support centers in North America, Europe and Asia. Spellman partners with leading technology companies to advance medical care, industrial processes, quality control, scientific research, security and telecommunications by providing innovative high voltage power conversion solutions. For more information about Spellman High Voltage Electronics, visit www.spellmanhv.com.

The Center for Science Teaching & Learning (CSTL) is a not-for-profit organization with a mission of encouraging science learning and literacy. CSTL develops programs for people of all ages and utilizes inquiry-based learning as its foundation for program development. This year marks the first for which CSTL is serving as the administrator of the Clean Tech Competition. For more information, visit www.cleantechcompetition.org.

For more information about CSTL visit www.ctsl.org.



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WVtourism.com/GoldRush

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AB and the Rural Innovation Center to offer Income Tax Assistance

February 24, 2022 - In partnership with their Rural Innovation Center, Alderson Broaddus University offers free tax preparation assistance to qualifying community members. Known as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), the program utilizes upper-level Accounting majors from Alderson Broaddus University that have been IRS-certified to provide free, basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. "Alderson Broaddus University and the Rural Innovation Center in Philippi are proud to offer this

service that will benefit a significant number of residents of Barbour County and the surrounding communities," explains Dr. Drew Ciccarello, Director of the Rural Innovation Center and Dean of the College of Business at AB University. "With ever-changing tax rules and regulations, many people are unsure about how to complete their taxes accurately, and those eligible for tax refunds would like them as quickly as possible. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides both of these services – tax preparation and online filing services - free of charge. As an added benefit, it

also serves to provide our students with a "real-life" opportunity to apply what they have learned and provide a valuable service to the community." To qualify for this program, individuals must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Earn a moderate income of \$54,000 a year or less.
- Be disabled.
- Not speak English well.
- Be a senior citizen.

Designed to serve working adults, student teams will meet with community clients on a day and time that is convenient – day, evening, or week-

end. An appointment is required and meetings will be conducted at AB's new Rural Innovation Center located at 80 North Main Street in Philippi. Reservations can be made by calling Betsy McComas, CPA, at 304.457.6499 or emailing johnsonch@ab.edu.

About Alderson Broaddus University
Alderson Broaddus University is an independent institution of higher learning, committed to serving the region as an academic, cultural, and religious resource, with programs based on a liberal arts foundation.

The mission of AB is to provide students with the highest quality education, striving to prepare students to succeed in their chosen disciplines and to fulfill their roles in a diverse society as well-rounded and responsible citizens. AB is located on a historic hilltop in Barbour County in Philippi, West Virginia. The University is rooted in historic and continuing relationships with the American Baptist Churches in the USA and the West Virginia Baptist Convention. For more information about AB, visit www.ab.edu.

Click It Or Ticket: Buckling Up Saves Lives

Spring will soon be here and when temperatures go up, more drivers are on the roads. The West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is reminding all drivers of the importance of seat belt use. The GHSP is coordinating a statewide Click It or Ticket high-visibility enforcement mobilization that runs from March 4-20, 2022. West Virginia law enforcement officers will be out in full force, ticketing seat belt violators who are caught traveling without a correctly buckled seat belt or transporting unrestrained children. This statewide seat belt campaign is aimed at enforcing seat belt use to help keep all vehicle occupants safe and is running in preparation of the national Click It or Ticket high-visibility enforcement mobilization in May, prior to the beginning of a summer travel season that is expected to be busier than recent years. "We want every person in a vehicle – whether it's the driver, a passenger, or a child in a car seat – to be correctly restrained, every trip, every time," said Governor Jim Justice. In 2020, 47 percent of all passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in West Virginia were unrestrained. To help save lives, we need to step up seat belt enforcement, day and night. People who live in rural areas might believe that their crash exposure is lower, but in 2020, 64 percent of total vehicle fatalities in West Virginia occurred in rural locations, compared to 36 percent

in urban locations. "Our seat belt usage rate went down in 2021. Roadway fatalities went up last year. We are going in the wrong direction and need to correct course so that no one else dies on West Virginia roads," said Bob Tipton, GHSP Director. "We have about 12 percent of West Virginia drivers and passengers who still aren't buckling their seat belts. We are working to change that. Our long-term goal is to have 100% of drivers in West Virginia correctly buckling their seat belts every time they travel in a vehicle. This change starts with statewide enforcement periods like this one," Tipton continued. Wearing your seat belt is not just a good idea; it is required by law. Day and night, front seat and back, every trip, every time: Click It or Ticket. Don't just buckle up to avoid a ticket. The values of our families' and friends' lives in West Virginia are priceless—and much higher in value than the money violators pay if ticketed. If you are caught driving while unbuckled and you get a ticket, look at it as your wakeup call. A ticket is less expensive than paying with your life or the lives of your family and friends. "Click It or Ticket isn't about citations; it's about saving lives. Buckle up for yourself, your family, and your friends," concluded Tipton. For more information about the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program, visit www.dmv.wv.gov/ghsp or call 304-926-2509.

Citizens Bank of WV is Ranked #10 in Nation

Citizens Bank of West Virginia was recently recognized by CB Resource, Inc. for financial performance in the top 10% of banks in the nation, ranking 10th among 638 banks with total assets between \$250 and \$499 million. Citizens was the only bank headquartered in West Virginia in that asset range to make the CB Top Ten™ report that uses a scorecard based approach with eight performance indicators to identify the top performing banks in the country. The CB Top Ten™ groups community banks into five peer categories based on total assets. The rankings are based on bank performance within key performance indicator categories and their collective performance in all categories. The key indicators include asset growth, return on average assets, return on average equity, net interest margin, efficiency ratio, non-performing assets, non-interest-bearing deposits, and non-interest income. Citizens Bank of West Virginia ranked number 10 nationwide for the entire year's performance in 2021 among its peers. Citizens also received a five-star rating for financial strength and security in all of 2021 from Bauer Financial, Inc., the nation's leading independent bank rating and research firm. This rating indicates that the bank excels in areas of capital adequacy, profitability, asset quality, and much more.

In addition, our financial performance in 2021 builds on our success from the previous year in which Citizens Bank of West Virginia was named to American Banker magazine's Top 200 Publicly Traded Community Banks and Thrifts in the nation – ranking 64th on its prestigious nationwide list published in the May 2021 issue. Citizens was ranked the highest in West Virginia and the only bank headquartered in this region of the state to make the list. "This recognition and accolades we continue to earn are a testament to our exceptionally dedicated and professional staff and reaffirms that Citizens is a financial institution that our customers and communities can trust for all their banking needs," said President & CEO Nathaniel S. Bonnell. "We especially take great pride in what this recent national ranking represents." About Citizens Bank of West Virginia Citizens provides integrated financial services including retail and commercial banking, wealth management, and mortgage services from six offices in Elkins, Parsons, Beverly, Snowshoe, Buckhannon and New Martinsville. The bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Citizens Financial Corp. (OTC: CIWV). For more information, visit us online at www.citizenswv.com.

Eastern WV Community and Technical College create fund with Tucker Community Foundation

The new Eastern WV Community & Technical College Foundation Fund will be used for the purpose of supporting the Eastern WV Community & Technical College Foundation. The Tucker Community Foundation shall make a distribution on an annual basis to the Eastern WV Community and Technical College Foundation, for various purposes, with the exception that upon recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Eastern WV Community and Technical College Foundation, the distribution may be reinvested with the Fund. The Eastern WV Community & Technical College Foundation and St. George Medical Clinic established the fund with \$20,000 that will later be used for an annual scholarship(s), the Foundation will determine annually an appropriate percentage of the fair market value of the aggregate of the principal and income of the fund for distribution for the charitable purposes for which it is intended. To donate to the Eastern WV Community and Technical College Foundation

Fund, make checks payable to TCF – Eastern WV Community and Technical College Foundation Fund and mail to the Tucker Community Foundation, P.O. Box 491, Parsons, WV 26287. Online donations can be made at www.tuckerfoundation.net. The Tucker Community Foundation manages more than 140 endowed funds providing annual scholarships and grants to nonprofits and charitable causes throughout the eight-county service area. Inspired by the flood of 1985, the mission of the Foundation is to create opportunities for the communities we serve. For more information on how to set-up an endowed fund or to learn about the foundation, call 304-478-2930.

**Tim Knotts For
County Commissioner**

timknotts14@yahoo.com

301-616-8073

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WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Local Children in Need



No administrative fees. EVERY CENT received is used to buy winter clothing!

In Tucker County, local children will go cold this winter without your help.

Just what is The Parsons Advocate's WARM THE CHILDREN FUND?

The Parsons Advocate's WARM THE CHILDREN FUND is neighbors helping neighbors in Tucker County. The Parsons Advocate is asking readers to donate to the fund and the proceeds will be used to buy new warm winter clothing for local children. There are no administrative fees. All the money donated is used to buy new clothing.

How will the children's clothing be purchased?

The Advocate's WARM THE CHILDREN coordinator has made arrangements with a local store and assigns volunteer shoppers to take the children and their parents shopping. Shoppers will be people like you, anyone in the community willing to help by donating a little of their time to this worthwhile cause.

How can I help?
Simply complete the coupon below and send it with your donation to the address on the coupon. Thanks for your generosity. **All donations are tax deductible.**

CLIP & MAIL

Enclosed is my donation to the WARM THE CHILDREN FUND. Make checks payable to WARM THE CHILDREN FUND.

Please check if you do not want your name published on the donor list.

Name: _____

Address: _____

MAIL TO: **WARM THE CHILDREN FUND**
c/o The Parsons Advocate
P.O. Box 345, Parsons, WV 26287
or drop off at the Advocate's office at 219 Central Ave., Parsons, WV

SPORTS

Tucker County boys' earn State Tournament birth with 58-43 win



Photo by Brittany Channell

2022 Regional Champions, Tucker County Mt. Lions, Front Row(L-R): Maddox Anderson, Justin Robeson, Cole Carr, Trevan Bonner, Blaike Adams, Ethan Rosenau. Back Row(L-R): Levi Bennett, Owen Knotts, Ashton Lycliter, Zach Long, Haden Wamsley, Aaron Quattro, Brok Bennett, Rory Nestor.

By Dave Helmick
TuckerCountySports.Com

HAMBLETON – The Mt. Lions Boys' Basketball team hosted the Co-

Regional Championship game against Tygarts Valley on Wednesday March 9th. The Bulldogs put up a good fight, but Tucker County pulled away in

the second half to take the victory 58-43. The win clinched a spot in the State Tournament for the second year in a row for the Mt. Lions.

The first quarter was tight in scoring as Tucker County held a slim 13-12 lead after one quarter of play. In the second quarter

See BOYS page 2B



Photo by Brittany Channell

Tucker County's Ashton Lycliter takes a shot over the Tygarts Valley defender on Mar. 9th. The Mt. Lions won the contest 58-43.

Lady Mt. Lions beat Tug Valley, fall to Cameron in Semi-Finals



Photo by Eddie Ferrari

Tucker County's Macy Helmick takes a shot over a Cameron defender on Mar. 10th.

By Chris George
TuckerCountySports.Com

CHARLESTON – The Tucker County Girls' Basketball team opened the State Tournament on Tuesday March 8th with a Quarterfinal game against #3 Tug Valley. The Lady Mt. Lions led throughout the contest and Tucker County held off a Tug Valley rally to get the first round State Tournament victory by the final score of 46-45.

Tucker County got off to a good start in the first period, but Tug Valley fought back late in the quarter to lead the Lady Mt. Lions after one quarter 6-5. The second quarter

belonged to Tucker County as they outscored Tug Valley 16-11 to make the half-time score 21-17 Lady Mt. Lions.

Tucker County pulled away from Tug Valley in the third quarter as they outscored the Lady Panthers 17-13 in the third to put the Lady Mt. Lions lead to 38-30 after three quarters of play. Tug Valley then chipped away at the Tucker County lead in the fourth quarter. Tug Valley tied the game late and with under 20 seconds left in the game Tug Valley took the lead 45-44 after a 3 point basket. Tucker County, however, inbounded the ball quickly



Photo by Eddie Ferrari

Tucker County players react after the victory over Tug Valley on Mar. 8th. Tucker County won 46-45.

as raced to the other end of the floor to draw a foul. Jayden Kuhn went to the line for a 1 and 1 foul shot. Kuhn missed the foul shot, but Kadie Colebank got the rebound and was fouled on her shot with 6 seconds left in the game. Colebank then made both foul shots to give the Lady Mt. Lions the 46-45 lead. Tug Valley inbounded the ball and missed a three point shot as time expired. The Tucker County players celebrated as the #6 Lady Mt. Lions won the contest 46-45 over #3 Tug Valley to advance to the Final Four. Junior, Kadie Colebank

led Tucker County with 16 points, 25 rebounds, 5 blocks. Jayden Kuhn and Brylee Wetzel added 7 points each for the Lady Mt. Lions. Ericka Zirk added 9 rebounds and Macy Helmick followed with 6 rebounds for Tucker County.

CHARLESTON – The Lady Mt. Lions continued their State Tournament run with a Semi-Final game against #2 Cameron on Thursday March 10th. Tucker County got down in the second quarter, but a fourth quarter rally came up short as the Lady Mt. Lions fell in the contest

51-44.

Tucker County controlled the first quarter as the Lady Mt. Lions

led after one quarter 8-6. Cameron fought back in the second quarter as they out-

See GIRLS page 2B

Girls' Basketball All-PVC Conference Announced

The Potomac Valley Conference announced their Girls' Basketball Division 2 All-PVC list. The Lady Mt. Lions placed three players on the list, Junior Kadie Colebank, Senior Jayden Kuhn and Sophomore Macy Helmick. Colebank averaged 18 points per game for the

Lady Mt. Lions and 16 rebounds per contest. Kuhn averaged 12 points per game and 3 steals per game for Tucker County. Helmick averaged 10 points per game, 4 rebounds per game and 4 assists per game for the Lady Mt. Lions. Petersburg placed three players on the list, Braylee

Corbin, Mickala Taylor and Kennedy Kaposy. Moorefield placed one player, McKenna Crites. Pendleton County's Anna Young was the lone Lady Wildcat and Olivia Vandevener from Pocahontas County rounded out the All-PVC Honors.

AREA SCHEDULE:

Wednesday March 16th

- Tucker County Baseball vs Elkins @ Home 5:30pm

Thursday March 17th

- WV Boys' Basketball State Tournament:
- Tucker County Boys' or Pendleton Co vs Man or Greater Beckley @ Charleston 11:15am
- Tucker Valley Baseball vs Elkins Middle @ Home 5:30pm

Friday March 18th

- Tucker County Softball @ Gilmer County 5pm

Saturday March 19th

- WV Boys' Basketball State Tournament – Class "A" Championship 10am
- Tucker County Baseball @ East Hardy 1pm

Monday March 21st

- Tucker County Softball vs Tygarts Valley DH @ Home 5pm/6:30pm
- Tucker County Baseball vs Harman @ Home 5:30pm

Tuesday March 22nd

- Tucker Valley Softball @ Barbour County 5pm



**Your community.
Your healthcare.**

Good Luck!

Tucker County High Mt. Lions
Tucker Valley Wildcats
Davis Thomas Bears



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MEDICAL CLINIC, INC.
stgeorgeclinic.org

Girls

scored Tucker County 19-7 in the second to make the halftime score 25-15 Cameron.

The third quarter was won slightly by Cameron 14-11 to make the score 39-26 Cameron after three quarters of play. The Lady Mt. Lions then battled back in the fourth as they out-scored Cameron 18-12, but the Lady Dragons held off the Tucker County rally to capture the victory by the score of 51-44.

Macy Helmick led Tucker County with 15 points, 5 rebounds and Kadie Colebank added 11 points, 13 rebounds. Brylee Wetzel chipped in 9 points and Ericka Zirk pulled down 7 rebounds for Tucker County in the loss.

Cameron went on to defeat Gilmer County 53-50 in the Championship game with a made three point basket at the buzzer. Kadie Colebank was named to the Class “A” All-Tournament Team. Tucker County finished the season with a 19-7 record. For more info go to TuckerCountySports.Com.



Photo by Becky Moore

Lady Mt. Lions player Katie Hicks dribbles the ball up the floor against Tug Valley on Mar. 8th. Tucker County won the game 46-45.



Photo by Brittany Channell

Lady Mt. Lions player Jayden Kuhn looks for room against Cameron on Mar. 10th.



Photo by Brittany Channell

Tucker County's Brylee Wetzel shoots a foul shot against Cameron on Mar. 10th. Tucker County fell in the contest 51-44.



Photo by Becky Moore

Tucker County's Kadie Colebank takes a shot against Tug Valley on Mar. 8th. The Lady Mt. Lions won the game 46-45.

Boys

Cont. From 1B

the game continued to close in scoring as Tygarts Valley outpaced the Mt. Lions in the quarter 11-9 to make the score 23-22 Bulldogs at the halftime break.

Tucker County then pulled away in the third quarter as the Mt. Lions outscored Tygarts Valley 22-8 in the period to give Tucker County the 44-31 lead after three. In the fourth quarter the visiting Bulldogs fought back, but the Mt. Lions held off Tygarts Valley to capture the win 58-43. The win allowed Tucker County to advance to the WV Boys' State Tournament on March 15th.

The Mt. Lions were led in scoring by Haden Wamsley with 19 points and Ash-

ton Lycliter added 17 points, 9 rebounds. Tucker County's Levi Bennett also had 10 points and Maddox Anderson chipped in with 8 points, 6 assists in the Mt. Lions win.

Tucker County (23-2) earned a #3 seed in the State Tournament and will face #6 Pendleton County on Tuesday March 15th at 9:30am in Charleston. The winner of this game will advance to the Semi-Finals on Thursday March 17th at 11:15am against the winner of #2 Man and #7 Greater Beckley. The Class “A” Championship game will be played at 10am on Saturday March 19th. For more info go to TuckerCountySports.Com.

WHAT SHOULD THE TUCKER COUNTY COMMISSION PRIORITIZE OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

Come share your ideas for a better future with Deborah “Deb’ie” Stiles candidate for Tucker County Commission.

Then stay to celebrate some special birthdays and St. Patrick’s Day with us and enjoy a limestone-raised beef burger or VF lentil burger, salad, & a piece of cake!

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TUCKER COUNTY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM



Photo by Amanda Kisamore

Front Row (L-R): Katie Hicks, Avery Colebank, Jayden Kuhn, Macy Helmick, Brylee Wetzel, Addie Hicks. Back Row(L-R): Head Coach Dave Helmick, Jacey Davis, Jayden Moore, Ericka Zirk, Kadie Colebank, Tabitha Adams, Hannah Cussins, Assistant Coach Carrie Colebank.

2021-2022

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Adkins HOME CENTER SOUTHERN STATES 304-478-2488 304-478-2552</p> | <p>Backstreet Auto Hambleton 304-478-1071</p> | <p>Riley Barb Tucker County Magistrate #2 on the Ballot Paid by Riley Barb</p> | <p>Bonner's Collision Service Parsons • 304-478-1186 GO TEAM!</p> | <p>Brenda's BACKWOODS GRILL 38 Cheat Valley Hwy, Parsons 681-399-9020 Open Tuesday - Friday 3 - 8 p.m.</p> | <p>Camden's Corner Mart Dryfork • 304-227-4192</p> |
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| <p>Stevens' Florist Parsons • 304-478-2161 GO MT. LIONS!</p> | <p> Stevens' Realty & Management Parsons ~ 304-478-2141 Our Mt. Lions are the BEST</p> | <p>Surock Monument Company Seneca Trail • 304-478-3688 Proud to support the TC Mt. Lion teams</p> | <p>TC Ladies & Mt. Lions ROAR The Happy Camper Boutique LLC First Street, Parsons • 304-704-5277</p> | <p> Tucker Gifts A Unique Boutique Something for Everyone Go Mt. Lions! Good Luck at States! Open Mon.-Fri - 10am-6pm • Sat. 10am-4pm 224 Pennsylvania Ave., Parsons, WV 304-478-2831</p> | |
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| <p>Great Job Ladies! Sheriff J. E. Kopec Proudly supporting our youth!</p> | <p>LOHR & BARB FUNERAL HOME H. Nicholas Barb, LIC Parsons • Elkins 304-478-2300 • 304-636-4440 lohrbarbfuneralhome.com</p> | <p>Honored & Blessed to Support Tucker County Lady Mt. Lions Tim Knotts For Tucker County Commission Paid by Tim Knotts</p> | | <p>McClain Printing Parsons 304.478.2881</p> | <p>MINERS & MERCHANTS Bank Thomas, WV 304-463-4155 </p> |
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