

## 45th Annual Tucker County Chamber of Commerce Banquet Celebrates Community

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

The Tucker County Chamber of Commerce held its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet at Canaan Valley Resort State Park in Davis to honor this year's community award winners. The evening was kicked off with a greeting from Executive Director Jessica Waldo. "I find it so amazing that here we are 45 years celebrating our community and recognizing those that we feel that deserve these awards that have done things above and beyond," Waldo said.

Canaan Valley Resort sponsored the Community Service Award. Ed Evans was the honoree due to his dedication to helping the community. "As I'm reading through the nominations for this nominee, it started to feel like I was doing the Employee of the Year Award again because of all the things this individual does for the community," the presenter said. "This person is doing this for free. This is not an employee. This person is doing all this work...just out of the goodness of their heart."

The presenter outlined many of the good works that Evans does for the community. "He mows and picks up the dirt at Centennial Park and hauls the trash to the landfill and I'm told that's at his own expense. He mows the cemeteries in the spring to get them ready for Memorial Day. He raises funds for local non-profits through one of his infamous chicken burns. That's a Tucker



The award recipients for the 2023 Tucker County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet. From Left to Right: Baily Falls, Employee of the Year; Mary Jane Smith, Special Award in Heritage and Arts and The Tuckineer Award for her late husband; Ed Evans, the Community Service Award; Timberline Mountain, Business of the Year; 2023 Boys and Girls Basketball Teams, Special Award; and Daniel Levi Bennett, Student of the Year.

County term. I'd never heard of it until I moved here. He's spent countless hours mowing, making repairs, cleaning the barns, stage area, ballfields and rest rooms at Camp Kid. He's an integral part of the county fair by serving on the board and can often be

found on the fairgrounds camping among the animals to help keep an eye on the livestock all week. He volunteers for both 4-H and FFA. These are just the things he does to benefit the community as a whole."

See AWARDS page 4A

## Smiths Honored at Chamber Banquet

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

The Tucker County Chamber of Commerce Banquet was a night of celebration. However, the night truly belonged to the Smith family.

Mary Jane Smith accepted the Special Award in Heritage and Arts for her work as the founder of the Camp Horseshoe Quilt Retreat, but the surprise honor went posthumously to her late husband Wayne Smith when he was named the 2023 Tuckineer. Roxanne Tuesing sponsored and presented the award.

"Mary's biography is a lifetime of dedication and accomplishment," Tuesing said. "Faith, family, community, church, and always helping are all part of Mary's biography. A special chapter in Mary's biography is the Quilt Retreat at Camp Horseshoe. Working at Horseshoe, Mary saw the life changing experiences kids and teens had at finding new friends, being kind, helping each other, learning, building new skills, creating community, having fun and returning home renewed and ready to do good in their families and schools and communities. Mary imagined the same could happen for older generations. A lot of adults step away from everyday life into

Horseshoe's peaceful atmosphere with people lifting everyone up to become their best."

The presenter said Mary's solution was to found the Quilt Camp. "It's one thing to have an idea, a vision of what could be, turning an idea into reality is something entirely different," the presenter said. "It takes work, planning, organizing, recruiting quilters plus those who want to learn how to quilt, funding quilt camp - we all know nothing is without cost - and then conduct the retreat. Mary did it well. She put in the work, the imagination, the heart. The first Horseshoe Quilt Retreat, in 2002, had eight campers. The enthusiasm of those first quilt campers led to another quilt retreat that grew into fall and spring Quilt Retreats. This week is the Spring 2023 Quilt Retreat."

Smith said, "I leave with you this paragraph that is read at each retreat - most of the quilters probably have it memorized - 'Five days, we will eat, sleep, talk, and breathe quilting with the devotion and reverence of nuns, but without the vow of silence. Above all we have come to talk and to laugh. Each of us have carved out this sacred time from our lives filled with home and family, career, chores and the selfless caring of others. This is a private

See SMITHS page 4A

## Region VII Planning & Development Authority Hosts Listening Session



Carrie Wallace from the Region VII Planning and Development Authority conducted a Broadband Listening session recently.

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

"Tucker County is being left behind because of this," Tucker County resident Lowell Moore said during the Broadband Listening Session. "Businesses will not come into Tucker County



Tucker County resident Lowell Moore, left, and Tucker County Commissioner Timothy P. Knotts, right, attend the Broadband Listening Session at the Tucker County Courthouse.

because there isn't sufficient broadband. People moves out of Tucker County and I'm going to say somewhere between 50 to 100 per year, we're losing population by the year because we don't have it and nobody's moving back in because we don't have it. So, Tucker County is really falling behind."

Region VII Planning & Development Council, a sub-recipient of a WV Office of Broadband award, hosted a listening session at the Tucker County Courthouse in Parsons. The goal of the listening session was to gather the input of the public regarding the state's upcoming broadband

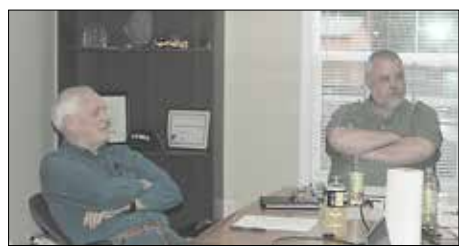
See REGION VII page 3A

## Tucker County Solid Waste Authority Addresses Finances, Receives Notice

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

The Tucker County Solid Waste Authority met in regular session at the T.C.S.W.A. Office. Items on the agenda included financial reports and a Director's Report.

The Authority heard the Leachate totals for the landfill were the lowest in 10 fiscal years. In March, 399,560 gallons were hauled in a total of 65 loads to Moorefield, Westernport, Md, and the City of Thomas, respectively, with a treatment cost of \$12,310.91.



Vice-Chair Dennis Filler, left, and Presiding Chair Mark Holstine, right, listen to the accountant's report at the Tucker County Solid Waste Authority meeting.

"I will point out," Presiding Chair Mark Holstine said, "That is the lowest treatment quantity in the last 10 fiscal years for March."

The board was informed that accounts receivable totaled \$363,681.34 of which four accounts were overdue with three paid and the remaining one out for collection. All accounts payable were reported to be paid in full. Deposits and Billings started with a balance of \$141,071.06 with deposits in the amount of \$381,481.46 and total disbursements of \$415,798.22 for an ending balance of \$106,754.30.

Mark Joseph delivered the Accountant Report to the Authority with mostly good news for the board.

"This is our Quarterly Dashboard Report hitting our key metrics associated with the organization financial performance," Joseph said. "What we're doing here is we are comparing here in column E, March 31, 2022 compared to a year later which was this most recent March 31. Our total cash on hand at the time \$361,000



The Tucker County Solid Waste Authority met to discuss financial reports and a notice of compliance received by Presiding Chair Mark Holstine.

last year, \$229,000 this year. That was a change roughly of \$133,000 decrease. We used primarily, a good bit of that was to help with our debt service over this past year. But we've maintained our own on our current ratio. That again, that is the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. It's a good measure of our liquidity and it's staying above 1.0 which

is where we want it to be. The measure came in at 1.40 which is 4% improvement from the end of the last period March 31."

According to Joseph, the Authority's debt amount is down, but long-term debt is increased due to the financing of a new compactor. The Authority's fixed assets were reported by Joseph to be \$1.2 mil-

See TCSWA page 2A



# News of Record

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

- James D. Portaro and Annette L. Smith, Right of Way Agreement to Northwest Hardwoods.
- Francis I. Hovatter, Parsons Corporation, Parcel Long Street 16,000 sq. ft. to Jon C. Hovatter Et. Ex. \$0.
- Donald Lee Moore and Nancy Evans Moore, Thomas Corporation, Tract 10 and 11; .54 acre tract 9.27 acres and .18 acres to Moore Family Revocable Trust, \$0.
- Douglas E. Lawrence and Lisa M. Lawrence, Dry Fork District, 2 ¼ acres more or less to Lisa M. Lawrence Full Right of Survivorship and Douglas E. Lawrence Full Right of Survivorship, \$0.
- Robert T. Poling, Sr., clover District, Mineral 39 acres to Shilo Quarry, \$1,700.
- Vermelle C. Hughes, Clover District, 39 acres Minerals to Shilo Quarry, \$1,700.
- Virgie L. Hutchison, 39 acres Minerals to Shilo Quarry, \$1,700.
- David L. Poling, Clover District, 39 acres Minerals to Shilo Quarry, \$1,700.
- Helmick Construction and Maintenance LLC, Dry Fork District, Lot 9 Winterset to Kerri T. Simpson, \$93,000.
- Patricia L. Cooper, Dry Fork District, 1 acre to Thomas K. Cooper, \$0.
- Timothy H. Canfield, St. George District, 59.55 acres to Timothy H. Canfield Et. Ux., \$0.
- Elmo D. Wiles, Jr. and Beverly A. Wiles, St. George District, 10.5 acres to Jacob Wesley Wiles, \$0.
- Elmo D. Wiles, Jr. and Beverly A. Wiles, Transfer on Death; Lot 156' x 100' x 115' x 80; 0.312 acres to Jeremy Dale Wiles
- Elmo D. Wiles, Jr. and Beverly A. Wiles, St. George District, Transfer on Death; 100.28 acres to Jacob Wesley Wiles Et. Al. \$0.
- Pamela A. Pierce-Brown, Hambleton Corporation, Pt. Lot 108 – 3,500 sq. ft. to Gail R. Brown, \$0.
- Yvonne Parsons Licking District, 25 acres, 13.5 acres and 92.5 acres Bull Run to Krista Hedrick, \$120,000.
- Tucker County, Formation of Tucker from Randolph County Va. to Virginia Assembly.
- Hiram Pullium and Mary Pullium, Parcel on Cheat River to Aaron Loughry.
- George Smith and Estate of John Hoye, 750 acres to Ewin William.
- Ewin William and Ann Ewin, Licking District, Part of 100 acres Tract to Peter Shafer.

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

- Robert Frederick Haslacker III to Elizabeth Nicole Williams, On Thursday, May 11, 2023.
- Ronald Lee Lacy to Trina Allison Thornburg on Thursday, May 18, 2024.

## We Get Letters

Dear Tucker County,

May 21-27, 2023, is the 49th annual National EMS Week. In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our nation's communities. This year's theme is EMS: Where Emergency Care Begins.

Tucker County EMS responds to an average of 100 plus calls a month. These calls serve, resident and visitors to Tucker County, including all age ranges from infants to centenarians. From upsets and falls, diabetic incidents, fires, motor vehicle and ATV accidents, health and welfare checks, amputations, illnesses, breathing complications, strokes, drug overdoses, cardiac events and combinations of the aforementioned, your community EMS providers are covering the 421 square miles of the Tucker County to assess, stabilize, initiate treatment and then expeditiously and safely transport patients in need to the nearest medical facility. When, what and how they do their jobs in the magic hour dramatically makes a positive difference in the lives of the citizens of Tucker County. With over 1200 annual calls in a county of 6800 residents, it is extremely likely, we all know many of our neighbors whose lives have been touched by our EMS staff. The Tucker County Ambulance Authority encourages all community members to greet their EMS providers and thank them for their service this upcoming week.

Your EMS staff works night and day in concert with law, fire, 911 and other OEMS service providers to provide a critically needed service to a county with no local hospital services. Please let them know, that the community they serve, appreciates the difference they make in your lives.

Grateful for the service they provide,  
Tucker County Ambulance Authority



# Circuit Court Hears Tucker County Cases

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

The 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court of West Virginia heard cases recently at the Tucker County Courthouse in Parsons. The Honorable Judge James W. Courier, Jr. presided over the day's docket.

The first case of the day regarded the dispensation of funds being held by the court in a case between the WV Department of Highways and brothers James and William Minear. The court ruled that a settlement amount was to be dispersed equally between the brothers and is to be issued in two separate checks, one to each Minear brother.

Attorney Brent Easton appeared in person, as did both the Minear brothers. Representation for the WV DOH appeared via video. Also, during the proceedings, Easton was released as guardian in the case.

The court also heard a motion from Attorney Morris Davis who was representing Dustin Stemple in a criminal complaint. Both Davis and Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney Savannah Hull Wilkins were present in person, along with Stemple.

In the motion, Davis requested that his client be examined for criminal responsibility due to what the defense asserted was a negative interaction with law enforcement that led to a struggle and Stemple being transported by ambulance. Davis also said that it was evident from video evidence that Stemple became catatonic during the ambulance ride. Davis also said that his client has been diagnosed with bipolar depression and that mental health was a concern.

"I think it's necessary to have him evaluated," Davis said.

There was no objection from the State and the defense did not feel that

a competency hearing was needed at this point. The court granted the motion and the evaluation is being set up by the defense.

The court also heard the pretrial statements in the case of the State vs Jeffrey Hebb. Hebb appeared in court with his attorney Brent Easton. Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney Savannah Hull Wilkins represented the state in the case.

Easton said that he and his client had discussed the plea agreement proposed, but that Hebb desired to go to trial in the case. A jury trial date was set by the court for August 1. The court also reiterated a no contact provision from Hebb's arraignment hearing that continues to be the condition of bond.

Also during the court proceedings, several civil cases had trial dates set as well as dates for pretrial appearances and other related deadlines.

## TCSWA

lion. Joseph also reported that an audit that had been completed on the Authority had positive results with according to Joseph, everything appearing to be in balance.

"We did receive, finally, the ending audit report from the year ending June 30, 2022," Joseph said. "It came out with a clean opinion, no material mis-statements. We only had two adjusting entries which were related to the pension liability. Those were two entries that we're not qualified to make so we rely on the auditor to provide those entries...So, this is the corrected audit. For the most part its positive. She gave a positive opinion. There were no material weaknesses in internal control noted...everything seems to be in balance."

Presiding Chair Mark Holstine delivered the Director's Report regarding a notice that was received.

"You have in your packet a draft consent order that I've been waylaid with in the last 30 days," Holstine said. "Without going through it painfully, evidently, there was a notice of violation issued to the Tucker County Solid Waste Authority on September 7,

2017 in reference to the fact that because the capacity of the landfill exceeded 2.5 million megagrams in emissions possibilities, that the Tucker County Solid Waste Authority should have applied for a Title 5 Air Quality Permit at that time. That did not occur, time goes by, air quality figures out they haven't done their job in six years so they send me a notice by email first in April telling me that they are going to send me a consent order and I immediately questioned, 'Why am I getting a consent order because I haven't seen an N.O.V. first and then they drafted this. This is a draft and sent this to me two days ago, I guess. I've had multiple conversations with them to no avail. I'm going to have a third conversation with them tomorrow with attorney in tow, I guess because they won't listen to just me."

Holstine said the Title 5 Permit requirement is not the main issue, but rather the time frame given. "I understand that we are supposed to have a Title 5 permit," Holstine said. "I'm not questioning that we're supposed to have a Title 5 permit, but I wasn't noticed of it until April

of 2023. Why do I need a consent order that has if you get into the details, get back there on the second page, they are putting time order for compliance, they got time frames on those. So, they want me to have a Title 5 Air Quality Permit when this thing goes final within 30 days. Well, we're still trying to get a consultant to do the permit. We haven't even contracted it yet. I don't think it's going to be possible for us to submit an Air Quality Permit in 30 days."

Holstine said that the draft also included other requirements as well as the possibility for a \$1,000 a day fine. "Then they also want me to do something that I've asked them I don't understand how I'm going to do it," Holstine said. "They want me to do an emissions statement through the calendar years 2016, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21. I can't hardly do that in

Cont. From Front Page

2023. So, I've asked them to clarify that. I haven't received an answer. We do have to do the certified emissions statement, which is also what we're working with a consultant for. So, in the end we do anticipate complying with the order. I'm questioning the need for the order and putting a gun to my head and saying that if I don't hit it within 30 days, they're going to hit us with a thousand dollar a day fine. That I don't agree with so we're going to fight a little bit on that."

According to Holstine the cost to update the Tier 2 Emissions statements will cost the board \$30,000 with the Tier 5 permit costing an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000.

The Tucker County Solid Waste Authority will next meet June 26 at 3 pm at the T.C.S.W.A. Office located at 284 Landfill Road, Davis.

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# Financials, Considerations Dominate City of Parsons

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

With the coming end of the fiscal year, financial considerations were addressed by the City Council of Parsons at their regular meeting.

Among the financial considerations the council addressed were two invoice lists. The first concerned the normal assorted bills of the city amounting \$92,877.43 and included multiple Mon Power accounts among other vendors that service the city. The second invoice list contained two entries for Kidwell's Auto Parts, Inc totaling \$1,842.08.

The council also considered two quotes submitted. The Final Touch Embroidery and Screen Printing in Cumberland, Md. submitted an order approval for \$1,725.00 for Oil Dry red infield conditioner, Oil Dry drying agent, Oil Dry easy mound bricks clay, and Pro Turf home plate mat. Old Glory Resources, Inc. submitted a safety chips quote to the city in the amount of \$2,950.00 for 100 yards of Playground Safety Chips.

Also presented at the meeting was the monthly financial report prepared and submitted by the acting treasurer and treasurer in training. According to documents submitted to the council, the General Fund has an end of month balance for the month ending April 30, 2023 of \$71,056.67, the Coal Severance Tax Fund a balance of \$1,842.22, Wellness 24 Fitness Center – W.M. Harman Fund of \$43,871.69, Parsons Parks and Recreation – W.M. Harman Fund of \$311,079.11, Library/Park Fund of \$5,518.76, Fire Service Contribution Fund of \$34,339.56, Corrick's Ford Interpretive Site – Rental Fund of 7,685.42, Corrick's Ford Interpretive Site – General Fund of \$2,414.03, Cemetery Fund – General Fund of \$89,584.47, Cemetery Fund – William M. Harman of \$131,693.26, Parsons Railroad Bridge Conversion Project of \$3,068.89, Water Fund of \$1,277.63, Water Customer Deposit Fund of \$11,229.88, Sewer Fund of \$824.17, Sewer Customer Deposit Fund of \$8,380.12, American Rescue Plan Act Fund of \$145,840.86, Garbage Fund of \$5,645.91, and the Denzil Earl Evans, Jr. Memorial B/F Lighting Fund of \$1,494.81.

The City savings accounts were also presented at the meeting with the General Fund in the amount of \$125,299.48, PPRC/ Special Projects of \$1,492.64, Wellness

24 Fitness Center/Equipment Replacement \$2,164.78, Skatepark Improvements of \$3,409.43, Cemetery Reserve of \$6,981.62, Cemetery of \$971.83, Cemetery Perpetual Care of \$31,729.71, Water Renewal and Replacement Reserve of \$31,729.71, Customer Deposit of \$6,093.93, Water of \$13,286.37, Working Capital Reserve (Water) of \$13,004.71,

Sewer Renewal and Replacement Reserve of \$,912.25, Sewer of \$46,617.54, Pulp Mill Bottom Storm Drainage Improvements of \$46,034.10, Working Capital Reserve (Sewer) of \$22,012.44, and Garbage of \$96,065.41. The documents also included information on two Certificates of Deposit for Water in the amount of \$20,994.19 and Sewer of \$22,734.69.

The Treasurer and Treasurer in Training also supplied a report on the General Fund Revenue and Budget Control for the month ending April 30, 2023 in which the total general fund revenue was \$711,449.00 under original budget, \$489,507.00 in approved revision, a revised budget of \$1,200,956.00, an amount received of \$561,119.26 and an uncollected balance of \$639,836.74. The City expenditures according to the documents were an original budget of \$711,449.00 with \$798,507.00 under approved revision, a revised budget of \$1,200,956.00 and an unexpended balance of \$607,471.20

The Coal Severance Tax Fund Revenue and Budget Control Report was also submitted. According to the report, the original budget was \$3,102.00 with \$4,414.00 under approved revision with a revised budget of \$7,516.00, an amount expended of \$6,446.63 and an unexpended balance of \$1,069.37.

The Treasurer and Treasurer in Training also submitted documents related to the TCEF – William Mahan Harman Fund. A Summary of Assets showed that assets totaling an investment cost basis amount of \$15,075,284.38 with a total market value of \$19,650,488.39 and an estimated annual income of \$440,961 with a current yield of 2.24. There was also a document pertaining to approved allocations from the fund in a total amount of \$693,278.44.

The Council also considered a recent letter from the West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways requesting the city sign off on an agreement that outlines the manner in which the Corrick's Ford Battlefield Park Recre-

ational Trails Program will be funded.

The Council was also brought up to date with the latest report from Thrasher Architecture Engineering Field Services. In regards to the Parsons-Hamrick PSD Emergency Interconnection, Thrasher reported they are Working on bid authorization with bid documents ready, all permits received and preliminary title opinion received. The firm also reported that the WV Development office is currently reviewing bid authorization documents on the project and information from the US Fish and Wildlife Service has been accepted, but they are awaiting complete review approval and are reaching out to the Development Office every couple of days for updates.

Thrasher also updated the progress on the Parsons Sanitary Sewer System Improvements. According to the firm, a funding application was approved by WVJDC. The project has an estimated construction cost of \$3,100,000 with an estimated project cost of \$4,010,000. In regards to the project, Thrasher reported that a Facility Plan was drafted and being reviewed prior to submission to WVDEP with an anticipated submission of the Facility Plan next week, design plans are being laid out with field work expected to start in two weeks and the firm will work to prepare an easement list for the proposed replacement areas.

Parsons Water System Improvement

Project was also updated by Thrasher in the report. According to the firm, a funding application was approved by WVJDC. Region VII has submitted the application to the DWTRF Program for the project. A \$3,184,000 estimated construction cost with an estimated project cost of \$3,984,000 was also reported by Thrasher. The firm also said that an application for \$500,000 in Earmark Funds was also submitted for this project and had passed through the first steps of approval. Thrasher has also begun work on the layout of design plans for the water system project.

In other business, the city discussed the ongoing GS Millworks LLC request. Documents outlining the flood plain of the area under the request were submitted showing the area is within the FEMA 100-year floodplain and floodway with the danger coming from Shavers Fork. The document also reported a Flood Height of 1650.8 ft, water depth of about 4 ft and an elevation of 1648 ft. A hand drawn map of the proposal area was also submitted showing the areas where proposed signage and access/parking for the protected Butternut tree would be should the request go forward. The map showed a city property access to the tree from Missouri St.

The next meeting of the Parsons City Council will be Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Charles W. "Bill" Rosenau Municipal Building, 341 Second Street in Parsons.

## TURNER'S TIDBITS

Parsons, W. Va., June 14th, 1900.

Mr. I. C. Bennett

You are hereby required to appear at the Court House of Tucker County on the 12th day of June, 1900, to serve as a Grand Juror.

RILEY HARPER, S. T. C.

This is a summons for I. C. Bennett requiring him to appear at the Court House on June 12, 1900, to serve as a Grand Juror. The summons was issued by Riley Harper, Sheriff of Tucker County. Ideas, comments, suggestions or items to share contact Tim Turner (304) 478-3389.

## Awards

The presenter also listed some of the good Evans does for the people of his community, in addition. "Some of the things I was most touched by as I was reading these nominations were things that he does for his neighbors who are in need," the presenter said. "He's often mowing the yards of elderly community members who aren't able or need assistance with that. He once witnessed a neighbor nearly falling on the ice in winter while trying to get water from Close mountain spring. So, he took it upon himself to repair the culvert and gravel to make access for his neighbors to access safely the spring. He was once walking past his neighbor's house and saw that their wheelchair ramp needed repaired. He wasn't asked. He was just walking past, noticed it needed fixed and fixed it. I have a quote here that sums this up, 'Volunteers don't get paid. Not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.'"

The 2023 Educator of the Year was named as James Marple, a Tucker County High School Math Teacher. Mountain Hospice sponsored the award. According to Waldo, Marple was the 2007 recipient of the Office of Institutional Education Teacher of the Year Award. "One nomination mentioned that there are few people that have improved as many West Virginian lives as Mr. Marple," Waldo said.

Mr. Marple wasn't able to attend the event, but Tucker County High School Principal Alex Cork accepted the award on his behalf.



Ed Evans accepts the Community Service Award at the 2023 Tucker County Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

"He's very deserving of this award," Cork said. "We're very fortunate to have him at the school."

The Recipient of the Student of the Year was Daniel Levi Bennett. The award was sponsored by Sirianni's Cafe. Bennett had over 30 letters submitted on his behalf, according to the presenter. "We got 30 letters written on behalf of this young man," the presenter said. "30. That's a lot of letters."

Bailey Falls of the Tucker County Animal Shelter received the Employee of the Year Award at the banquet. The Inn at Canaan sponsored the award. "This nominee is someone who devotes her love, her time, and dedication to the welfare of all animals and providing the absolute best care that she can with a smile on her face while she's doing so," the presenter said.

The 2023 Business of the Year was Timberline Mountain. The award was sponsored by Best of Canaan. The Special Award was



Attendees mingle prior to the 2023 Tucker County Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

County Boys Basketball Team and the Tucker County Girls Basketball Team. The award was sponsored by the Tucker County Community Foundation and St. George Medical Clinic.

The Tucker County Chamber of Commerce lists its mission statement as, "The Tucker County Chamber of Commerce facilitates a healthy and striving county economy. The Chamber



Mary Jane Smith and her two sons, Chad and Jason, accept the 2023 Tuckineer Award on behalf of the late Wayne Smith at the 2023 Tucker County Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

promotes individual success, small business development, and entrepreneurial activities by providing information, education and leadership to local businesses and members. The Chamber

## Smiths

time for ourselves. This is a communal time away from everything, a mental health time, a spiritual refreshment time. Time to return to our creative roots. This time is ours to enjoy for the week. For each of you, I pray you have a happy place to feed your soul, renew your spirit and thank God and know that God has placed you here for a reason also."

The announcement of the 2023 Tuckineer cemented the Smiths as the guests of highest honor at the event. Several of the attendees were brought to tears by the announcement and even the presenter became choked up when he saw the Smith family's reaction.

partners with and actively participates in the projects and activities of other community and regional organizations and agencies in matters affecting the economy and the community. The

Chamber supports efforts to protect and conserve natural and cultural resources recognizing the stewardship of the natural environment and Tucker County's heritage is essential to the economy."

## Cont. From Front Page

"I saw the reaction, I'm sorry," the presenter from Citizens Bank of West Virginia said as he paused during his speech. "Citizens Bank of West Virginia is proud and excited to honor your husband with the 2023 Tuckineer Award, posthumously, as a devoted member of the community who embodied the spirit of Tucker County, Mr. Wayne Smith, who unfortunately passed away Christmas Day last year."

The award was accepted by Mary Jane Smith and the Smiths' two sons, Chad and Jason. The Tuckineer Award was sponsored and presented by Citizens Bank of West Virginia.

LET US KNOW "WHAT'S HAPPENING"  
304-478-3533

# What's? Happening

## Memorial Day ceremonies

The Tucker County Veterans Association will hold two Memorial Day ceremonies. The first will be Saturday, May 27, 2023 at 1 p.m. at the All-Veterans Memorial Wall located in Parsons at the intersection of Rt 219 and Rt 72. The second ceremony will be Sunday, May 28 at 1 p.m. in Davis at the Veterans Monument located on William Avenue next to the Visitors Center.

## Yard, Bake and Hot Dog Sale

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church on Water St. in Parsons is sponsoring

a large yard, bake and hot dog sale on Saturday, May 27 from 9 a.m. - ?. There will be a variety of general items and something for everyone.

## Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

There will be a spaghetti dinner and silent auction to benefit Robbie "Mooch Kawasaki" Hull on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at the Davis Fire Hall from 3. until 6 p.m. or until sold out. Price will be by donation and all proceeds will go toward his medical expenses for treatment for esophageal cancer. Dinner will include spaghetti, salad, roll, drink, and dessert.

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

May 24, 1896: Confederate General John Echols died in Staunton, Virginia. Echols served in the Kanawha Valley in 1862 and commanded Confederate forces at their defeat at the Battle of Droop Mountain in November 1863.

May 25, 1903: Industrialist and philanthropist Bernard Patrick McDonough Jr. was born in Texas. Starting with a Parkersburg construction business in the 1930s, McDonough built a Fortune 500 company with operations in hand tools, building materials and barge building. The Bernard McDonough Foundation remains one of the largest private foundations in West Virginia.

May 25, 1937: William H. "Teepi" Kendrick died in Morgantown. Kendrick was a pioneer in West Virginia's 4-H program. He broadened the program to emphasize more than just agriculture, and he was primarily responsible for establishing the state 4-H

camp at Jackson's Mill.

May 26, 1895: Athlete Ira Errett "Rat" Rodgers was born in Bethany. He was WVU's first football All-American, lettering in 1915-17 and 1919.

May 27, 1912: Legendary golfer Sam Snead was born at Ashwood, Virginia. When The Greenbrier reopened as a resort after World War II, Snead returned as the golf pro.

May 27, 1922: Labor leader Bill Blizzard was acquitted of treason charges following the 1921 Battle of Blair Mountain. The trial was held in the Jefferson County Courthouse, where John Brown had been convicted of treason against Virginia in 1859.

May 28, 1863: Arthur Boreman was elected as the first governor of the new state of West Virginia. May 28, 1920: Elmer Bird-"The Banjo Man from Turkey Creek"--was born in Putnam County. He was named best old-time banjo player in the country four times in his 60s.

May 28, 1938: Basketball player Jerry West was born on Cabin Creek, Kanawha County. West led East Bank High School to the state basketball championship in 1956 and then

wrote the record book at West Virginia University.

May 28, 1998: The Robert C. Byrd United States Courthouse in downtown Charleston was dedicated. The 440,000-square-foot building incorporated Neoclassic, Egyptian and Art Deco designs.

May 29, 1778: Dick Pointer, an enslaved person in Greenbrier County, helped save about 60 settlers who were attacked by Indians at Fort Donnally near Lewisburg during the Revolutionary War.

May 29, 1949: Singersongwriter, labor activist, educator, and radio host Elaine Purkey was born in West Hamlin.

May 29, 1961: Alderson and Chloe Muncy in McDowell County received the first food stamps in the nation. After observing malnutrition and poverty during his campaign, President John Kennedy directed the government to establish a pilot food stamp program.

May 30, 1940: Smoke Hole Caverns in Grant County opened for tours. The cave is beautifully decorated with stalactites hanging in rows along the ceiling; the main room is called the "Room of a Million Stalactites."

I think I am going to live through this crap that is going around. I have struggled to the surface of a tumultuous sea of snot and can now see the horizon. My ship just about went down a couple times but I survived. I DO NOT want to go through that again thank you very much. Momma Said, "I think I have single handedly kept Kleenex in business."

The weather has changed for the better and that is a boost to the system. A little bit of sunshine goes a long way. I am in my element when the sun is out and I see a beautiful blue sky. When you are not feeling great and you are stuck in the house the best medicine is just walk outside and look up.

I spent many days with Mom in the great outdoors and I can still see her hiking up and down the side of the mountain digging ramps. I miss her so much but she is always with me in spirit. Every time I go to the woods I can feel her presence and it is a great comfort.

If you have children you should get out and do things in nature, it has a great impact even if you do not notice it right away.

I can still remember things we did together when I was a small child. We would go fishing and bring back buckets of bluegills and sunfish and pour them in our neighbor's pond. We had so much fun camping and just being together outside. I will thank her until my dying days for introducing me to nature and all it holds. Momma Said, "Unplug your kid and go for a walk."

## Sweet and Spicy Roast Beef Sandwiches

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 TO 2 TABLESPOONS prepared horseradish
1/2 CUP mayonnaise
1 TEASPOON Worcestershire sauce
salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 crusty long steak rolls or hearty kaiser rolls
12 OUNCES sliced provolone cheese
3/4 POUND shaved or thinly sliced roast beef
1/2 CUP bread and butter pickle chips
1 CUP sliced roasted red pepper
1/2 TEASPOON dried oregano

### INSTRUCTIONS

Combine the horseradish, mayonnaise and Worcestershire sauce in a small bowl. (If you like things on the spicy side, add more horseradish; if you want to keep the spice level low, add less horseradish.) Season with freshly ground black pepper and set aside.

Cut the rolls open, but not all the way through. Spread the horseradish mayonnaise on both sides of the bread. Add a couple slices of provolone cheese, laying them over both sides of the roll. Top with roast beef and nestle the pickles and roasted red peppers on the roast beef

near the fold of the roll. Season with oregano, salt and freshly ground black pepper. Close the rolls and wrap with parchment paper to keep them closed.

If you want to make these sandwiches ahead of time, rearrange how you build them as follows. First dry the pickles and red pepper strips with clean kitchen towel. Build the sandwiches by layering 2 slices of provolone cheese, laying them over both sides of the rolls. Spread some of the horseradish mayo on the cheese and then top with the roast beef. Place the dried roasted peppers and pickles on the roast beef near the fold of the roll. Season with oregano, salt and freshly ground black pepper. Close the sandwich making sure the roasted peppers and pickles are on the inside to ensure the bread does not become soggy. Wrap with parchment paper or aluminum foil.

If you are not eating the sandwiches right away, store them in the refrigerator until you are ready to serve.

When ready to serve, enjoy the sandwich cold with some potato chips or heat the sandwiches. You can heat them wrapped in foil on a BBQ grill for 5 to 6 minutes or unwrapped in your air fryer for 3 to 4 minutes - just enough for the cheese to melt and for the bread to get crusty. Let the hot sandwiches rest a few minutes before serving. Carefully unwrap and enjoy!

## Super Crossword INITIAL WORDS

Table with crossword clues and initial words. Includes categories like ACROSS, DOWN, 1 Jacob bought his birthright, etc.

# REWARD

The Parsons Parks and Recreation Commission is offering a \$500 reward for information which leads to the identification and conviction of individual(s) involved in the destruction of property near the Pulp Mill Bottom Pond. This incident occurred in the evening hours of Monday, April 17, 2023, when a vehicle made several trips through a recently seeded area that is not open for vehicle traffic.

Any information can be given to the Parsons Police Department at (304) 478-3060 or by contacting them on their Facebook page.

DEADLINE 3PM FRIDAY

## Weather Totals

May 9 - May 16

Nursery Bottom Parsons

### Temperature

Max 84° F Min 39° F

### Precipitation

Week 0.80" April 5.88" 2023 18.96"

### Snowfall

New Snow 0" Snow on ground 0" Winter Total 11.5"

U.S. Forest Service

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Sudoku grid with numbers and empty cells for solving.

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Large grid for puzzle answers corresponding to crossword clues.

CONGRATULATIONS  
Davis Health System  
*class of*  
**2023**



**ALISHA ARBOGAST**  
Davis and Elkins College



**MAGGIE BECKER**  
Elkins High School  
Daughter of Mike Becker



**MAKENSI BENNETT**  
Philip Barbour High School  
Daughter of Brandy Bennett



**CAMERON BILLER**  
Elkins High School  
Son of Lisa Biller



**LYDIA BLACKBURN**  
Elkins High School



**JON BONNER**  
Elkins High School  
Son of Teresa Stalaker



**ALISON BOYCE**  
West Virginia University



**RICHARD BOYCE**  
Glennville State University  
Son of Dr. Jeanette Jackson



**REBEKAH BURNER**  
J. P. Knapp Early College High School, NC  
Granddaughter of Jaqueline Hall



**ELISABETH BUTCHER**  
Davis and Elkins College  
Daughter of Debra Butcher



**OLIVIA CHEROK**  
Philip Barbour High School  
Daughter of Rob Cherok



**WESLEY CHEWNING**  
Tygarts Valley High School,  
Son of Marianne Chewning



**EMMA CHUA**  
West Virginia University  
Daughter of Drs. Phil & Mindy Chua, DO



**KAELYN COGAR**  
Elkins High School



**DANIEL CORLEY**  
West Virginia University  
Grandson of Lesa Corley



**BRAYDEN CROSTEN**  
East Canton High School, OH  
Grandson of Rita Faye Crosten



**COLE CRUMM**  
West Virginia University  
Son of Lisa Crumm



**HANNAH CUTRIGHT**  
Elkins High School



**JOSEPH DANIELS**  
Davis and Elkins College  
Child of Shirley Daniels



**MAIA DAUGHERTY**  
Lewis County High School  
Granddaughter of Cheryl Corley



**JACEY DAVIS**  
Tucker County High School  
Daughter of Heather Harper



**ANNA DIBACCO**  
Fairmont State University  
Daughter of Joe and Katie Dibacco



**LUCAS DICKINSON**  
Elkins High School  
Son of Amanda Dickinson and the late Joey Dickinson



**CARMEN DONNELLY**  
Harman High School



**TRISTEN DUMIRE**  
Pierpont Community & Technical College  
Grandson of Cathy Haddix



**KILEY EDWARDS**  
Elkins High School  
Daughter of Dr. Christine Evankovich-Edwards



**DILLON EVERSON**  
Philip Barbour High School  
Son of Valerie Everson



**MIRIAM FATH**  
Elkins High School  
Daughter of Tracy Fath



**KEENAN FERGUSON**  
Elkins High School  
Son of Chara Ferguson



**GUNNAR FILLER**  
Tucker County High School  
Son of Misty Filler



**DERRICK GEAR JR.**  
Tygarts Valley High School  
Stepson of Michelle Gear



**WALKER GEORGE**  
Tygarts Valley High School  
Son of Shelly George



**HANNAH HADDIX**  
West Virginia University  
Granddaughter of Cathy Haddix



**MAKAYLA HADDIX-HOFFMAN**  
West Virginia University  
Granddaughter of Sherie Bolton



**ZACHARY HALL**  
Webster County High School  
Stepson of Emily Harris



**JESSLYN HOGSTON**  
Tygarts Valley High School  
Daughter of Terra Hogston



**ALFRED ISCH III**  
Philip Barbour High School  
Son of Angela Row



**NATHANIEL JACKSON**  
Appalachian State University  
Son of Vance Jackson



**IAN JAMES**  
Elkins High School  
Son of Ciera James



**THEA KERNS**  
Elkins High School  
Daughter of Lisa Kerns



**SHAYLA KOERNER**  
West Virginia University  
Daughter of Arvela Koerner



**AUTUMN LANE**  
Elkins High School



**JASMINE MALLOW**  
Elkins High School



**HANNAH MARTIN**  
Elkins High School  
Daughter of Danelle Martin



**JOCELYN MARTIN**  
University of Charleston  
Daughter of Danelle Martin



**PIPER MAXWELL**  
Philip Barbour High School  
Granddaughter of Nellie Starkey



**BRODY MCCOURT**  
Webster County High School  
Son of Jeni McCourt



**KYLEE MCKINNEY**  
Nicholas County High School  
Daughter of Amy Fields



**MADISON MICHELS**  
Davis and Elkins College



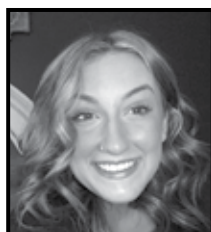
**KASSANDRA MILLER**  
West Virginia Wesleyan College  
Daughter of Patty Hornick



**SUMMER MILLS**  
Webster County High School  
Daughter of Cathy Mills



**JEANA NELSON**  
George Mason University  
Daughter of Robin Fair



**NIYA NUTTER**  
Elkins High School



**KENZIE PHILLIPS**  
Elkins High School



**LOGAN PHILLIPS**  
Tygarts Valley High School  
Son of Julie Phillips



**BETHANY PRAY**  
St. Ambrose University  
Daughter of Vance Jackson



**BLAISE PRICE**  
Philip Barbour High School  
Son of Cheryl Pritt



**CELIA RICOTTILLI**  
Elkins High School



**DARIAN SELTERS**  
Elkins High School  
Step-Daughter of Amanda Dickinson



**SOPHIE SHOEMAKER**  
Elkins High School  
Daughter Christi Shoemaker



**BRETT SMITH**  
West Virginia University  
Son of Brenda Smith



**SHELBY SMITH**  
Philip Barbour High School



**BRAYDEN SNYDER**  
Buckhannon-Upshur High School  
Son of Alicia Snyder



**JAYDEN STARKS**  
Philip Barbour High School  
Son of Emily Starks, FNP



**WILLOW STOREY**  
Elkins High School



**GARRETT SWECKER**  
Tygarts Valley High School  
Son of Bill Swecker



**GREYSON TEETS**  
WVU College of Law  
Son of Stephanie Teets



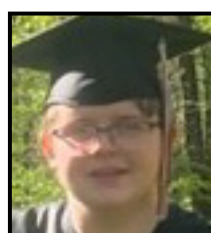
**HANNAH WHITE**  
Elkins High School  
Granddaughter of Rosa Mayle



**BAILEY WILDMAN**  
Tygarts Valley High School  
Daughter of Brandy Wildman



**CHASE WILDMAN**  
Pierpont Community College  
Son of Brandy Wildman



**SASHA ZIRKLE**  
Elkins High School  
Daughter of Apryl Strother

All regular communication methods were used to discover every family member graduating this year.  
IN THE EVENT THAT WE'VE MISSED SOMEONE, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES.



**Davis HealthSystem**

# SPORTS

## Tucker County Chamber of Commerce Present Special Award to TCHS Basketball Teams



Members of the 2023 TCHS Boys' Basketball team were presented a Special Award at the Annual Tucker County Chamber of Commerce Banquet on May 18th. The Special Award was sponsored by Tucker Community Foundation and St. George Medical Clinic. Photo by Hannah Snyder Media.



Members of the 2023 TCHS Girls' Basketball team accepted a Special Award at the Annual Tucker County Chamber of Commerce Banquet on May 18th. The Special Award was sponsored by St. George Medical Clinic and Tucker Community Foundation. Photo by Hannah Snyder Media.

## Tucker County Track Competes At State Track Meet

By Dave Helmick  
TuckerCountySports.Com

CHARLESTON – The Mt. Lions Athletes that qualified for the State Track Meet traveled to Charleston on Friday May 19th for the WV State Track Meet.

The State Meet got started for Tucker County with the Girls'

4x800m Relay. The Lady Mt. Lions 4x800m team consisting of Katie Hicks, Erin Chambers, Hannah Hardy and Addi Moats finished in 6th place. This would allow the Lady Mt. Lions 4x800m team to earn medals with a time of 11:00.16.

The TCHS Girls' Shuttle Hur-

dle Relay team of Mayah Gross, Moira Callaway, Hannah Cussins and Lilly Callaway competed on the track on Friday evening. This team finished 9th place in their event with a time of 1:15.30.

The first event of Day 2 on Saturday May 20th was the 400m. Tucker County's Nate

Ricottilli competed in the Boys' 800m event. In the race Ricottilli placed 14th with a time of 53.98.

The last event that the Tucker County Track team had in the State Track Meet was the Girls' 4x400m Relay. The Lady Mt. Lions 4x400m team consisted of Erin Chambers, Hannah Hardy,

Moira Callaway and Addi Moats placed 10th in the event with a time of 4:46.11.

Thanks to the Tucker County Track Seniors: Hannah Hardy, Erin Chambers, Lilly Callaway, Hayden Smith and Dom Mullenax. For more info go to TuckerCountySports.Com.



Nate Ricottilli runs in the 400m event at the State Track Meet. Photo by Robin Hardy.



Erin Chambers competes at State Track Meet in 4x800m event. Photo by Robin Hardy.



Hannah Cussins competes in the Shuttle Hurdle event at the State Track Meet. Photo by Robin Hardy.



Addi Moats competes at State Track Meet in 4x800m event. Photo by Robin Hardy.



Mayah Gross competes in the Shuttle Hurdle event at the State Track Meet. Photo by Robin Hardy.



Moira Callaway competes in the Shuttle Hurdle event at the State Track Meet. Photo by Robin Hardy.



Katie Hicks competes at State Track Meet in 4x800m event. Photo by Robin Hardy.




TCHS Girls' 4x800m Team(L-R): Katie Hicks, Erin Chambers, Hannah Hardy and Addi Moats pose with their 6th place medals on May 19th. Photo by Robin Hardy.



Hannah Hardy competes at State Track Meet in 4x800m event. Photo by Robin Hardy.




Lilly Callaway competes in the Shuttle Hurdle event at the State Track Meet. Photo by Robin Hardy.



## Your community. Your healthcare.

Good Luck!

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



St. George

MEDICAL CLINIC, INC.

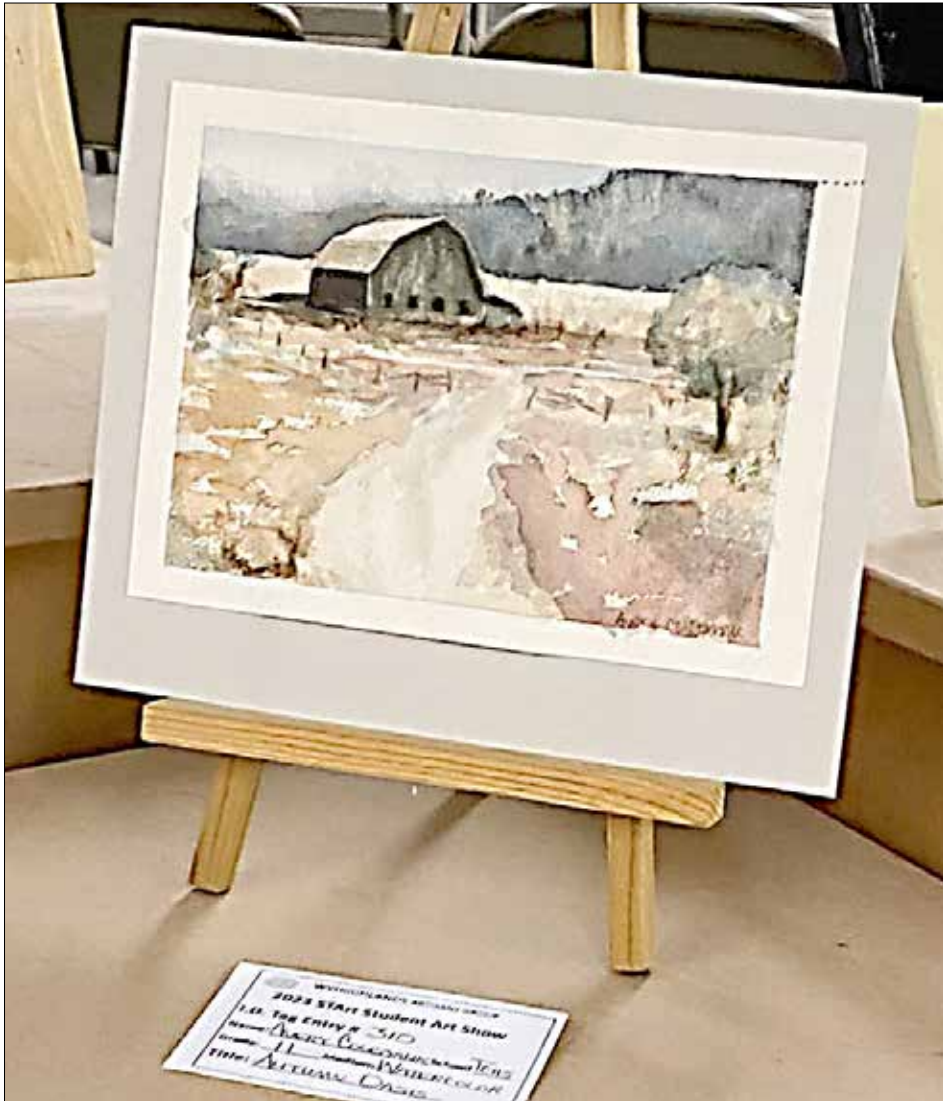
stgeorgeclinic.org







# STArt All County Student Art Exhibition held



"Autumn Oasis" Watercolor by Avery Colebank

On Sat, May 6 and Sun, May 7, the STArt (School to Town Art) All County Student Art Exhibition was held at the Firehall in Davis. The show was sponsored by the WV Highlands Artisans Group. One Hundred and twenty three works from all grade levels (K-12) that were picked to be in the show were chosen by the student's art teacher. Each student received a special artwork and pin from local artist Seth Pitt to commemorate their talent and show participation. The awards ceremony was held on Sunday afternoon May 7 and much thanks to Preston County art teacher Claire Jones who did the judging. Also, special thanks to volunteers Holly Landes (show coordinator), Elaine George, Elaine Moore, Betsy Viola, Rachel Garner, Nancy Luscombe, Linda Reeves, Donna Patrick, Carol Gwinn, Kurt Johnson, David Skoog, Tom Tillman, Susan Moore, Beth Spencer, Ruth Melnick, Brian and Susan Hicks and Titi and John Ferguson. A shout out also to Kathy Thomas, from the Davis Firehall, and to the hard working art teachers of Tucker County. Congratulations to all the students in the show.

## LIST OF AWARD WINNERS OF THE 2023 START ALL COUNTY STUDENT ART EXHIBITION.

GRADE	NAME	TITLE	MEDIUM
<b>K-2</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ragan Lutz	Stained Glass Gar	Marker
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Aubree Miles	Fall	Colored Pencil
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Anna Nelson	Leprechaun	Mixed Media
HM			
	Natalya Martin	Tie-Dye Rainbow	Marker
	Knox McBee	Spring Leaf	Marker
	Austin Mauzy	Rosy	Mixed Media
<b>3-5</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kevin Kerr	Snake's Territory	Mixed Media
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jane Basile	An Eye of a Warrior	Marker
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Addison Fansler	Fall	Colored Pencil
HM			
	Jane Basile	A Swiss View	Gouache
	Mia Lambert	Chalk Dragon	Chalk Pastel
	John Lutz	Scales	Pencil
<b>6-8</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Zayden McClure	Corn	Watercolor
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Isabella Rivera	Bella	Mixed Media
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Liam Davis	Pop Art	Mixed Media
HM			
	Levi Phillips	Remembering Pollack	Acrylic
	Drew Simmons	Drew's Color Wheel	Watercolor
	Arabella Phares	Top of the Mountains	Mixed Media
<b>9-12</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Adelaide McCann	Trash	Acrylic / Wood
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kimber Auvil	Bubblegum	Acrylic
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Carlie Harper	Gothic Architecture	Acrylic
HM			
	Catie Kirk	Rose Still Life	Watercolor
	Olivia Triplett	Mr. Bean	Marker
	Jeremiah Funk	The Girl in the Hat	Pencil
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Shilah Jones	Friends	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mikailla Lawrence	Rainbow	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lylee Jones	Sunset	
<b>TOWN AWARDS</b>			
Town of Davis	Carlie Harper	Gothic Architecture	Acrylic
City of Thomas	Anna Bella Shoemaker	We Are Trash	Colored Pencil
City of Parsons	Olivia Sigley	Colorful Crowd	Acrylic
Davis VFD	Marissa Judy	Dancing	Clay
BOS	Avery Colebank	Autumn Oasis	Watercolor
<b>PEOPLE'S CHOICE</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Avery Colebank	Autumn Oasis	Watercolor
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Carlie Harper	Hand Study	Clay
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Adelaide McCann	Trash	Acrylic / Wood

# MGC May Yard of the Month



May 2023 Residential Yard of the Month was awarded to Jim and Cathy Hebb's home on Central Avenue by the Mountaineer Garden Club. Their home is surrounded by beautiful greenery and a beautiful large Rhododendron in full bloom.



Cork's Turkey Knob Wines LLC garnered the award for Business YOM with many baskets of wave petunias hanging from the porch and in scattered pots.

## YOU CAN HELP...

### 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

# DEADLINE 3PM FRIDAY

## Eastern recognizes Tucker County students for spring semester honors

Four Tucker County residents achieved academic honors during the Spring 2023 semester at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Dean's List recipient, earned for completing nine or more credit hours this spring with at least a 3.5 grade point average, was Carley Dumire, Hannah Hardy, Avery Smith, and Ivanna Wilt.

Eastern West Virginia Community and

Technical College, based in Moorefield, serves six rural counties in West Virginia's Potomac Highlands by offering affordable academic programs, including five online degrees, early enrollment courses for high school students, and a variety of flexible workforce trainings. Eastern is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. For more information, visit [easternwv.edu](http://easternwv.edu) or call 304-434-8000.

## More Than 6,300 Student Families Apply To Use Hope Scholarship For Upcoming School Year

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – State Treasurer Riley Moore, who serves as chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board, today announced more than 6,300 West Virginia students' families applied to receive the Hope Scholarship education savings account for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

"We have seen a surge of interest in the Hope Scholarship this year," Treasurer Moore said. "That tells me West Virginia families have a strong interest in educational freedom and school-choice options, and our Office has been proud to help empower them to pursue the educational opportunities they believe will work best for their children."

As of Monday, May 15, the deadline to apply, the Office had received 6,323 Hope Scholarship applications for the academic year that begins this fall. The Office received roughly 3,600 applications last year, approving approximately 3,200 prior to a legal injunction that halted further processing. About 2,200 students ended up using the Hope Scholarship for the current academic year after that injunction was lifted.

"I'm encouraged to see such rapid growth of interest in this program," Treasurer Moore said. "That tells me that parents are getting more involved in their children's education and doing everything they can to find the educational path that will work best for their child's future."

Of the 6,323 applications received as of Monday, 3,698 have already been awarded the Hope Scholarship with approximately

2,500 applications in various stages of submission, review or on hold awaiting further documentation. Only 99 applications so far have been deemed ineligible with five applicants declining after they received an award notification.

"We will be spending the next few weeks working diligently to review and approve the remaining portion of applications and notifying the families of their status soon," Treasurer Moore said. "If families haven't received an approval notification yet, I ask they remain patient and continue checking their email in case staff have follow-up questions or need additional information or documents to process their child's application."

All submitted applications should be reviewed by July 1, 2023.

The Hope Scholarship Program is an education savings account available for kindergarten through 12th grade students. It is designed to allow parents and families to use the state portion of their child's education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience through the approved Hope Scholarship Program Schools and Education Service Providers.

The scholarship amount varies each school year; for the 2023-24 year, it will be \$4,488.82. The first portion of Hope Scholarship funds will be distributed to approved students through the program's online portal by Aug. 15, with remaining funds distributed by Jan. 15, 2024.

More information on the program is available at [www.hopescholarshipwv.com](http://www.hopescholarshipwv.com).

## DHHR Highlights Need for Foster Parents for Older Youth

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – As part of National Foster Care Month, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Social Services emphasizes the need for certified foster families for older youth. In West Virginia, nearly half of youth entering foster care are 9-17 years old. Twenty-seven percent of those children are between the ages of 13 and 17 years old.

"Many youth in the 13-17 range can thrive in a home environment, and it is important that there is a sufficient number of certified foster families and kinship caregivers willing to open their homes to older youth," said Cammie Chapman, DHHR's Deputy Secretary for Child and Adult Services.

For the first quarter of 2023, there were on average 1,427 certified foster homes in West Virginia. Only 25% of these homes reported a willingness to accept youth ages 13 or older.

"The primary purpose of foster care is to reunite the child with their fam-

ily by providing interventions whenever safely possible," said Chapman. "Individuals can make an impact by providing stable housing and resources for children and families as they work toward reunification."

Mission West Virginia is the first point of contact for individuals interested in becoming a West Virginia foster parent, and also works with Child Placing Agencies to facilitate matches between families and children in West Virginia. To learn more about foster care and relative/kinship care certification and resources, contact Mission West Virginia at [www.missionwv.org](http://www.missionwv.org) or 1-866-CALL-MWV (1-866-225-5698).

To view and apply for careers in the child welfare field, visit [dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities.aspx](http://dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities.aspx). Individuals currently enrolled in a bachelor's or master's social work program may receive tuition assistance. Email [DHHREAP@wv.gov](mailto:DHHREAP@wv.gov) or call 304-558-6700 for more information.

## West Virginia's Abundant Natural Gas and Oil Resources Provide Nearly \$13 Billion in Economic, Trade & Job Benefits

CHARLESTON, WV.— The American Petroleum Institute (API) today released new analysis on the growing economic contributions of America's natural gas and oil industry in all 50 states, including investment in West Virginia ranging from taxes and workforce wages paid to indirect and induced jobs in retail, manufacturing, agriculture and other sectors throughout the energy supply chain. The study, commissioned by API and prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), showed that the industry supported more than 73,000 jobs and contributed nearly \$13 billion toward the state's economy in 2021.

"Natural gas and oil delivers growing economic contributions to America that were nearly equivalent to Canada's annual GDP last year. From West Virginia to California, America's natural gas and oil workforce is the backbone of communities, supporting nearly 11 million careers throughout the energy supply chain," API President and CEO Mike Sommers said. "America's economic outlook is brighter when we are leading the world in energy production and this analysis serves as a reminder that we need policies and regulations that encourage investment and enable development."

The PwC report is based on the latest government data available at the state, national and congressional district level. The findings highlight the importance of policies that promote energy development, including meaningful action on permitting reform and the issuance of a final five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing.

According to the analysis, in 2021, the industry directly and indirectly:

- Supported 73,120 total jobs (25,460 direct and 47,660 indirect) or 8.5 percent of West Virginia's total employment.
- Generated an additional 1.9 jobs elsewhere in West Virginia's economy for each direct job in the state's natural gas and oil industry.
- Provided \$4.8 billion in labor income (\$1.9 billion direct and \$2.9 billion indirect) to West Virginia, 9.9 percent of the state's total.
- Contributed \$12.9 billion to West Virginia's total gross domestic product

(\$8.1 billion direct and \$4.7 billion indirect), 15.0 percent of the state's total.

"West Virginians enjoy significant economic and environmental benefits thanks to the development and use of our home-grown natural gas and oil," Charlie Burd, Executive Director of the Gas and Oil Association of West Virginia (GO-WV) said. "No other fuel source provides the same level of energy security as clean-burning American natural gas, and we are proud of the industry's ability to create thousands of good-paying jobs for West Virginia workers."

In 2021, the U.S. led the world in natural gas and oil production and the benefits of that leadership permeated throughout non-producing and producing states alike. At the national level in 2021, the natural gas and oil industry:

- Supported 10.8 million total jobs or 5.4 percent of total U.S. employment.
- Generated an additional 3.7 jobs elsewhere in the U.S. economy for each direct job in the natural gas and oil industry.
- Produced \$909 billion in labor income, or 6.4 percent of the U.S. national labor income.
- Supported nearly \$1.8 trillion in U.S. gross domestic product, accounting for 7.6 percent of the national total.

Click here for more information on the economic impact analysis and here to view a copy of the report.

API represents all segments of America's natural gas and oil industry, which supports nearly 11 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our approximately 600 members produce, process and distribute the majority of the nation's energy, and participate in API Energy Excellence®, which is accelerating environmental and safety progress by fostering new technologies and transparent reporting. API was formed in 1919 as a standards-setting organization and has developed more than 800 standards to enhance operational and environmental safety, efficiency and sustainability.

To learn more about API and the value of oil and natural gas, please visit [API.org](http://API.org).

## Gas Prices Continue to Drop in West Virginia

The average price for gasoline across Northern West Virginia is three cents lower this week at \$3.375 per gallon, according to AAA East Central's Gas Price Report.

**This week's average prices: Northern WV Average \$3.375**  
**Average price during the week of May 8, 2023 \$3.408**  
**Average price during the week of May 16, 2022 \$4.265**

The following is a list of the average prices in several West Virginia locations:

\$3.364	Bridgeport
\$3.373	Clarksburg
\$3.415	Huntington
\$3.472	Martinsburg
\$3.336	Morgantown
\$3.282	Parkersburg
\$3.379	Weirton
\$3.378	Wheeling

**Trend Analysis:** The national average for a gallon of gas remained steady over this past week at \$3.53. Even though demand for gasoline is higher, the lower cost of crude oil is limiting gas price increases. Today's national

average is 13 cents less than a month ago and 97 cents less than a year ago.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gas demand grew substantially from 8.62 to 9.30 million barrels per day last week. Meanwhile, total domestic gasoline stocks decreased by 3.2 million barrels to 219.7 million barrels. Higher demand and a reduction in stocks have slowed pump price decreases.

At the close of Wednesday's formal trading session, West Texas Intermediate decreased by \$1.15 to settle at \$72.56. Oil prices declined amid ongoing market uncertainty regarding stalled U.S. debt ceiling negotiations. Additionally, the EIA reported that total domestic commercial crude inventories increased by 3 million barrels to 462.6 million barrels last week.

Motorists can find current gas prices nationwide, statewide, and countywide at [gasprices.aaa.com](http://gasprices.aaa.com).

AAA East Central is a not-for-profit association with 69 local offices in Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia serving 2.7 million members. News releases are available at [news.eastcentral.aaa.com](http://news.eastcentral.aaa.com). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

### TUCKER CO. 4-WHEELERS, INC.

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## CHALLENGE IN THE HILLS

*"Tucker County Style"*

### Memorial Day Weekend • May 27 & 28

**PARSONS, WV**

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**Pre-Registered Camping Deadline May 19th!**

**Camping gate opens 8 am Friday, May, 26th**

Competition Entry Fee - \$25 Per Event

Competition Registration & Inspection Opens **Friday, May 26, 4 pm to ?;**

**Saturday, May 27, 7 am to 11 am; Sunday, May 28, 7 am to 11 am.**

**\*\*\*NOTICE for ALL DRAG Competitors on BACK!\*\*\***

**1st Annual Dylan Marsh - Jr Drags Top Eliminator**

Junior Dragsters—Sunday, Registration 7 a.m.—Racing starts 8 a.m.

—ages up to 15 years old (no entry fee). Ages 11-15 years -

No quicker than 6.5 seconds and No 2-wheeled or electric machines

Admission: \$15 per day, under 12 FREE with adult

Pre-Registered Camping: \$15.00 per person

Regular Camping \$20.00 per person

SATURDAY  
FLAT DRAGS

Index Classes - Pro Drags, \$700 First Place Top Class, 4 car minimum

**\$100 - Quickest Reaction Time in Competition**

**Men's Top Eliminator \$500**

**Fastest Time 4-Wheel Drive in Competition**

**\$500 Bounty on Track Record 3.114 Seconds (4-wheel drive only)**

SUNDAY  
MUD PIT

**7th Annual Dick Kidwell Memorial Fastest Time \$500**

**Sunday Worship Service 7 am around concession stand.**

**Mandatory drivers meeting before each event (Must have valid driver's license)**

EAST COAST SAFETY RULES APPLIED FOR ALL EVENTS

Tow Hook required on all mud machines.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT TOM & SANDY HARDY 304-478-2386 OR RANDY & TAMMY CARR 304-478-4305

RANDY THORNTON 304-677-9489, TOMMY & NANCY SIMPSON 304-478-2138

SAM & BECKY THORNTON 304-842-3142 OR PHIL & JULIE CONRAD 304-227-4477

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Pre-Registration Forms and Mud Rules available on the following Facebook pages:  
Tucker County 4 Wheelers, Inc. Challenge in the Hills

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Hardy's Garage, Cutright Bros Racing, Crystal's Bakery, Thornton Dunn Rolling Farm

RAIN, SNOW OR SHINE!

RAIN, SNOW OR SHINE!

# Mettiki Coal honored seven miners with the Lifesaver Award



Recently, Mettiki Coal honored seven miners for their lifesaving performance in responding to an unconscious co-worker. Their rapid response time, and first aid assistance played a vital role in saving the life of a fellow miner.

The “Lifesavers” were awarded the prestigious Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Lifesaver Award for their heroic deed.... Each Lifesaver received an individual “Certificate of Honor” for their role in the event.



## SGMC and Pharmacy attends Leadership Conference



The St. George Medical Clinic and Pharmacy leadership team recently attended a leadership conference through the Ethos Group at Canaan Valley Resort. The team is excited to continue to see growth within the St. George organization. Pictured top from left to right: Becky Mathis-Stump (Ethos Group), Dani Lamburno, Amanda Smith, Kim Mullenax, Solena Roberts, Emily Ramsey, Amber Gump, Chatel Jones, Dr. Elaine Moore, Paul Wamsley, CEO, Becky Poling, and Teresa Wamsley.

## Memorial Day Weekend at Canaan Valley Resort Features Outdoor Adventure, Music & More

Davis, W.Va. (May 18, 2023) – Featuring live music, chairlift rides, golf, and access to outdoor adventure and unparalleled scenery in the highest mountain valley east of the Rockies, Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-28) at Canaan Valley Resort is the perfect ‘start-of-summer’ getaway for families, couples, or those looking to enjoy the mountains of West Virginia.

“Canaan Valley Resort is the perfect outdoor adventure basecamp to explore the unique wildlife and ecology of the highest mountain valley in the eastern United States,” said Matt Baker, resort general manager. “We’re excited to kick off the summer season with the Mountainside Music Series at the Ski Area on Friday, May 26 and the opening of our pool on Saturday, May 27.”

Occurring outdoors on the Quencher’s Plaza, slope side at the ski area,

and free to the public, Canaan Valley Resort’s Mountainside Music Series features live music from 6-9pm every Friday evening throughout the summer (5/26-9/1). Pub fare, as well as local craft brews, are available for purchase at Quencher’s Pub.

Three’s Company Blues will perform on Friday, May 26. The band started as a fun cover project but has blossomed into much more as they will soon be releasing their first EP, a five-song disc of heavy blues rock,

slow blues, and a touch of indie rock. Their influences cover a wide range of genres from Jimi Hendrix to Govt Mule to Vulfpeck.

While on site, or throughout the weekend, guests will enjoy a scenic chairlift ride offering breathtaking views of the surrounding valley and mountains.

For the golfer, the resort offers the Geoffrey Cornish designed, and European links-inspired, 18-hole championship golf course. For tee times or additional information, contact Canaan Valley Resort’s

## The Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau Announces the Return of the Annual “Take in Tucker” Scavenger Hunt

Davis, W.Va. — The Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is pleased to announce the return of the annual “Take in Tucker” Scavenger Hunt. The scavenger hunt will run through the end of October, giving participants ample time to explore all the best sites and natural beauty of Tucker County. Additionally, participants who complete the scavenger hunt will be entered to win a \$250 gift card.

Participants will have the opportunity to discover Tucker County’s small mountain towns, unique landmarks and hidden gems while following a scenic driving loop that takes them to five different locations across the county. To participate, pick up a Tucker County passport from the Tucker County Visitor Center, Vacation Rental offices, Canaan Valley Resort State Park, Blackwater Falls State Park or Parsons City Hall. Bring it along to collect five different “Tucker Tree” stickers for your passport. Each location will have an easily identifiable waterproof plastic box containing a roll of stickers to be affixed to the passport at each stop.

Once your passport is full, turn it in or mail it to the Tucker County CVB to qualify for the prize drawing on October 31, 2023.

“The ‘Take in Tucker’ Scavenger Hunt is a fun-filled adventure that will help you experience all that Tucker County



has to offer,” said Jessica Waldo, Executive Director of the Tucker County CVB. “We are looking forward to seeing everyone’s photos and hearing about their journey of exploring Tucker County.”

Participants are encouraged to share photos of their favorite stops on social media using the hashtag #TakeInTucker.

For more information on the “Take in Tucker” Scavenger Hunt, including rules, driving directions, and passport details, please visit the Tucker County CVB website at [gettuckered.com](http://gettuckered.com).

### About the Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau is a nonprofit marketing and sales organization whose mission is to promote tourism and advertise Tucker County as a visitor-friendly travel destination.

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