

The Parsons Advocate

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF TUCKER COUNTY SINCE 1896

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Commission Hears Details of Tax Credit

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Retiring Tucker County Assessor Chris Michael updated the Tucker County Commission on the new West Virginia Motor Vehicle Property Tax Adjustment Credit at the Commission's regular meeting.

"I actually attended an association of counties meeting last week," Michael said. "...to get a description of our new tax rebate bill."

Michael outlined to the commission what the rebate bill entailed. "This bill is going to be tricky the first year until people get used to it," Michael said. "I've given you all a copy and I'd like to see if Sheila could get it on your website, maybe get this in the paper a few times before the tickets start rolling because there's some things – and I'll go over it here, briefly – This



Tucker County Commissioners Fred Davis (left), Mike Rosenau (center left) and Tim Knotts (right) bid farewell to retiring Tucker County Assessor Chris Michael (center right) following the commission's regular meeting.

rebate bill is not an assessor bill, it's not a sheriff's bill, it's not a county commission bill. You pay and turn everything in here like you've

always done. This bill was written for the Department of Tax and Revenue. They're the ones that will

See COMMISSION page 2A

Nelson Holds Last Day of Circuit Court in Parsons

By: Lydia Crawley
Parsons Advocate

The Honorable Judge Lynn A. Nelson will be retiring the end of June. On Wednesday, June 14th he held his last full docket day in Parsons on the 21st Circuit Court. During his day in court, Nelson heard and finalized a variety of cases from juveniles to criminal and civil.

Nelson presided over the State v. Jonathan Nuzum. Attorney Morris Davis represented Nuzum in the case with Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney Savannah Hull Wilkins representing the state in the matter. Davis had filed a motion to

reconsider on behalf of his client.

During the proceedings, Davis called Brandon Pyles who operates a sawmill in Lewisburg and was Nuzum's former employer to the stand to testify. Pyles testified that he would be willing to rehire Nuzum should he be released.

"I think he's learned something from this," Davis said. "He knows where he is going to be if he isn't on the right path." Davis also asked the court to reconsider based on Nuzum's significant other recently being diagnosed with a brain tumor.

See NELSON page 3A

St. George Medical Clinic Gifts County AEDs



St. George Medical Clinic Director Paul H. Wamsley, Jr. presents the Tucker County Parks and Recreation Board with a new AED (automated external defibrillator) for the Holly Meadows Golf Course.

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

County Commissioner Mike Rosenau and OEM Director Kevin White accompanied St. George Medical Clinic Executive Director Paul H. Wamsley, Jr. as he presented new AEDs (automated external defibrillators) to the Holly Meadows Golf Course and Camp Kidd. The AED were a donation from the clinic to the county organizations.

Wamsley said, "St. George Medical

Clinic is honored to provide the Tucker County P&R (Parks and Recreation) and the Holly Meadows Golf course with a life-saving AED. The new AED will detect and diagnose the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia and is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electricity which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to re-establish an effective rhythm. The AED will provide peace of mind to golfers and visitors to the Holly Meadows Golf Course know-



Paul H. Wamsley, Jr., Executive Director of St. George Medical Clinic, presents Tucker County Camp Kidd with a new AED for the camp.

ing that the unit has the capacity of saving lives. SGMC loves to give back to the community that has supported its mission and growth in providing healthcare services to the County."

Immediately following the presentation to the Parks and Recreation Board at Holly Meadows, Wamsley, Rosenau, and White proceeded to Camp Kidd. The camp was already gearing up for 4-H camp.

Of the presentation, Wamsley said, "St. George Medical Clinic is happy to donate an AED machine to the Tucker County

Camp Kidd for unexpected life-threatening cardiac events. SGMC commends the Tucker County Commission and Camp Kidd Advisory Board in their expansion and renovation of the Camp Kidd facilities. Community support of SGMC's service programs has made it possible for SGMC to donate the AED machine and provide future support, both financially and through medical equipment and supplies to protect the community using the Camp Kidd facilities. Thank you for allowing SGMC to be a community partner."

Nelson Steps Down from Bench



After 15 years on the bench in the 21st Circuit Court, Judge Lynn A. Nelson is stepping down to retire as a "Gentleman Farmer."

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

"It has been an absolute pleasure to deal with these people up here and serve as judge for them," Judge Lynn A. Nelson said.

Wednesday, June 14th was a bittersweet day at the Parsons Courthouse. After 15 years with the West Virginia 21st Circuit Court, Judge Lynn A. Nelson is retiring.

"I always wanted to be

a lawyer," Nelson said. "I don't know why. I guess watching Perry Mason as a kid, I always wanted to be a trial lawyer."

Nelson came from a family with a strong background in law going back to his grandfather and an uncle. "My Grandad was in the House of Delegates and a State Senator, my uncle was a lawyer and I just got interested in it," Nelson said. "So, I started hanging out with my uncle

working the summers when I wasn't working for my dad at the car lot."

Nelson said he never intended to become a prosecutor. "Didn't plan on becoming a prosecutor," Nelson said, "but I got elected out of school. I ran in the primary while still in law school."

Nelson also said he predicted to his parents, becoming a judge while still in law school. "That year before, '87, I told my parents I'm going to come back to college, work for 20 years and run for judge and I did."

Nelson is a native of Ridgely. He received a bachelor's degree in political science in 1984 from West Virginia University and his law degree in 1988 from West Virginia College of Law. He has also studied at Oxford. "I studied at Oxford, too," Nelson said. "We just did a four month summer camp. You go over there, it was a trip that was sponsored by the University of San Diego and there were four of us from WVU, probably about 40 of us all together, but four of us from WVU went. We were there two day before school got out to two days

before school started."

Nelson went on the describe what studying abroad was like for him. "You see at Oxford you don't go to class," Nelson said. "They have the tutorial method. So, I would have to walk 45 minutes to my tutor's house once a week and when you left the week before, they would give you a reading assignment and they'd tell you write a 10-page paper on whatever the topic was. Then you'd come back, sit one on one like this and they'd grill you for an hour. So, there wasn't no faking it. But I only had to be in Oxford two days a week, too. I had a brick rail pass so I could go wherever I want. We were 60 miles outside of London."

Nelson said he plans to become a gentleman farmer after retirement with the possibility of teaching law as well. "I've talked to Potomac State College about teaching down there," Nelson said. "I taught there before when I was prosecutor, but I had to give it up because I went full time. And I've got a farm. I'm just going to be Mr. Douglas on

See STEPS DOWN page 3A

Tennent Denied Bail

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

The Honorable James W. Courier, Jr. presided over the West Virginia Circuit Court in Tucker County at the courthouse in Parsons. As part of the day's docket, Robert Tennent appeared via Teams from the Regional jail on a bond motion. Tennent is currently being held without bond on a first-degree murder charge.

Attorney Easton represented Tennent in the matter. Easton said that if released, Tennent would be residing at his home in Tucker County and that his client was willing to comply with any requirement the court imposed.

Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney Savannah Hull Wilkins adamantly objected to the request. Wilkins outlined the events that led to the charge of first-degree murder. According to Wilkins, the victim in the case was not on Tennent's property at the time of the shooting and the victim was also unarmed and shot from behind in the incident.

Wilkins also told the court that the defendant called emergency services and admitted to shooting his brother. Wilkins also said that Tennent also admitted to having planned the act. "He called 911 and said that he did that," Wilkins said.

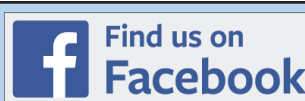
Wilkins also told the court that she was concerned for the safety of not only the victim's widow who lived nearby, but also the general public as well, should Tennent be released. "I would be strongly opposed to any bail," Wilkins said.

Attorney Easton said, "The court is not required to set bond in a case such as this. I would just like it to be reviewed."

Judge Courier denied bond stating the situation was of obvious violence and citing concerns for others and the community at large. "I don't feel comfortable doing it with what I know right now," Courier said. In his decision, Courier said he was uncomfortable granting bond with the facts of the case as they stand. Courier did say that the matter could be reconsidered at a later date if new information was presented.



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News of Record

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

- West Virginia Resort LLC DBA New Windwood Fly In Resort, Dry Fork district, .933 acres to John Dehn, \$0.
- Alderson Broaddus University Inc. FKA Alderson Broaddus College Inc., Clover District, 33/40 interest in 579 19/25

acres oil and gas to Mike Ross Inc., \$0.

- Kenna S. Barger Jr., Dry Fork District, Lot 76 Blackbear to C5 Rentals LLC, \$180,000.
- Melinda K. Delsignoe Et. Al., Licking District, Lot #45 to Melinda K. Delsignoe Et. At., \$0.
- Timothy R. Borris and Patsy S. Borris, Clover District, 3.91 acres Tract 5 to Eric Scott Moody and Kelsey Elizabeth

Moody, \$42,500.

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

- Brian Gregory Sarfino to Taira Nicole Gainer on Saturday, June 3, 2023.
- John Michael Vieira to Erin Mary Ingeholm on Saturday, June 10, 2023

Commission

Cont. From Front Page

administer it. They're the ones that will rebate your money. That money comes from the counties. You pay everything here like you always have. You have to apply to the Department of Tax and Revenue when you do your income taxes for the 24-tax year."

Commissioner Mike Rosenau asked about where the rebate money was coming from. "So, nothing will come back, as far as the rebate is concerned, from the county?" Rosenau said. "It comes directly from the state."

"Nothing," Michael said. "We have no jurisdiction on it what-so-ever. Other than, you fill out your personal property form, you turn them in on time, you pay your taxes in a timely manner, and that is the tricky part the first year. A lot of people like to pay everything the day they get it, like July 15, they want to pay the whole year in a go."

Michael explained why paying personal property taxes early the first year would disqualify applicants from the state rebate the first year. "This first year, you cannot pay the second half of your personal property tax in July," Michael said. "If you do, you will not get credit for it because your rebate will be for the 24-income year income tax. Not county tax, income tax. So, your second half of 23 need to be paid when they are due, which is between January 1 and March 31. Once you pay in that time period, when you do your 24 income taxes, that rebate can be taken then at that time against the taxes you owe or if you don't owe any, you can get the money back from the state. But the big trick is do not pay the second half of your 23 personal property taxes early. Pay them when they are due. The only money you can get back's money you pay during the 24-income tax year."

Michael explained to the commission that the second half only applied to the first year of the program. "So then when you get your other tickets next summer, if you want to pay them both, that's fine or in a timely manner or anything that would be in the normal flow," Michael said. "After this first one, it won't be too bad. But this first one, we just got to keep people from forfeit that second half rebate if they pay early or if you pay it late you won't get credit for it either."

Michael summarized to the commission some of the rebate bill's particulars. "I'll kind of go over," Michael said. "The opportunity to fund this credit will be on your 24 West Virginia income tax return which you file in 25. For all timely paid property taxes made on vehicles in the 24-calendar year and the same rule will apply from then on out. Who qualifies, individuals, partnerships, S-Corps, LLCs and C-Corps, Leasing companies qualify for the credit. They are required to pass the savings on to the consumer leasing the motor vehicle. Any of you leasing will have to contact your leasing company to figure out how they are going to do that because I don't know. That will be up to you and them. Motor Vehicle don't qualify. The first motor vehicle property tax payment that will be eligible to qualify, as I was saying, for the credit is the payment made for the second half of the 23 property tax year and must be paid between January 1 and April 1, between – I see it as March 31 myself – 2024. Any property taxes paid in 23 cannot be claimed."

Michael said that disabled veterans are also looking at a rebate on their house taxes. "This also goes to the disabled veterans because they are going to get a break on their houses," Michael said. "They'll be applying to Charleston for this. But again, they don't want to pay the whole year up front, just pay the first, the second half in a timely manner and I think that would qualify through Charleston also for their rebate."

Michael outlined the vehicles that would qualify for the rebate. "Now the different things that will be eligible," Michael said, "are class A cars and trucks with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or less, Class B trucks, truck tractors or road tractors with a gross weight of 10,001 pounds or more, motorcycles, even buses, every motor vehicle designed for carrying more than seven passengers or transportation of persons for compensation, excluding taxicabs. Trailers, boat trailers, or semitrailers designed to be drawn by a Class A vehicle with a gross weight of less than 2,000 pounds, antique motor vehicles are all good, farm trucks are all good, ATVs, they're all good also. All those things do qualify for the rebate. So again, you turn in your stuff



Retiring Tucker County Assessor Chris Michael gives a report to the Tucker County Commission regarding the upcoming State of West Virginia Motor Vehicle Property Tax Adjustment Credit.

in as you always do here. You will have to apply to the state tax department on your income tax to get your rebate on those vehicles."

Michael also outlined the vehicles that would not qualify. "The vehicles that do not qualify for the credit," Michael said, "include but not limited to Class C trailers and semitrailers, taxi cabs, mobile equipment such as backhoes and that type of thing, campers, pull campers, now motorized motor campers I think they're eligible, but pull behind travel trailers are not. And to learn more about classifications, you can visit their site to see."

Michael said that even those who do not owe and are not required to file state income taxes are eligible for the rebate. "And taxpayers who do not owe West Virginia income taxes and are not required to file West Virginia income tax

return will be able to claim a rebate in early 25 for their motor vehicle property taxes paid. You need to check with the taxwestvirginia.gov site as they get that integrated by the end of next year...But they will be able to apply to the state and get a check back."

Michael also informed the commission of the taxpayer service numbers and contacts for those who may have problems. "There are also the taxpayer service numbers," Michael said. "Anybody that has a problem or a question, you need to call the taxpayer service representative State West Virginia state department of property tax. Doesn't do any good to call the assessor. Doesn't do any good to call the sheriff or the commission. We really have nothing in it. It is administered by the state."

TURNER'S TIDBITS

P. H. SHAFFER JEWELER

Opposite the Depot HENDRICKS, W. VA.

In ancient times Jewels of Gold, Brass and Diamonds were used to beautify the fair and enrich the Nobles, Knights and Cheiftains. When the supposed god, Isis, kissed the heart of an Egyptian maid the whole clan bedecked her with Jeweles, and they became so beautiful that one Clopatra attracted the attention of a Caesar from the battlefields of Rome. The maid of Idenec attracted the world. Our jewelry in modern times has both the quality of beauty and value.

Time was measured then by Watches.
Time is now measured by WATCHES of which we have in stock all makes.

Time was when man used sticks to eat with. Now we sell beautiful silver spoons, knives and forks, as well as Diamonds, Solid Gold Goods of all kinds, and Precious Stones. CALL ON US.

WATCH REPAIRING WORK GUARANTEED

This is an advertisement for P. H. Shaffer, Jeweler of Hendricks. "Pat" was a native of Maryland, living on a farm six miles from Oakland. In 1899, he opened a jewelry store in Bayard, WV. The Buffalo Lumber Company's mill burnt in 1901 and he moved to Tunnelton. He moved to Hambleton, as he was not happy with the move to Tunnelton. In 1907, he moved to Utah; later moving to Nevada, California, and Washington and finally returning to Hambleton. In October 1907, he moved his store to Hendricks, across the tracks from the Depot. Ideas, comments, suggestions, or items to share contact Tim Turner (304) 478-3389.

TOWN OF HENDRICKS GARBAGE PICKUP

Beginning Thursday, June 22, 2023, garbage pickup for the Town of Hendricks will occur on Thursdays.

The Parsons Advocate

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TO THE VALLEYS
YOUR HOMETOWN
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Dr. Mary Alice Klein
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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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OBITUARIES

Raymond Joseph Foster

Raymond Joseph Foster, 76, of Hambleton, WV, passed away on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at his home. Born on July 12, 1946, in Gouverneur, NY, he was the son of the late Clifford Foster and Anna (Hooley) Foster.

Raymond was a graduate of Edwards-Knox Memorial Central High School and pursued a career as a mechanic with Dominion Energy. He served in the United States Air Force, during the Vietnam War, as an aircraft mechanic. He was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Raymond enjoyed metal detecting, hunting and fishing, camping, playing cards, kayaking, and spending time with his family. He loved to travel and visited all 50 states. He especially enjoyed traveling to warmer destinations, like the beach.

He is survived by his children, Christina Wilfong and husband Brian of Hambleton, WV, and Joseph Foster of Parsons, WV; granddaughters, Daniele Pennington and husband Brandon of Hambleton, WV and Claire Foster of Japan; step-grandchild, Jessica Rhodes and husband Danny of Hambleton, WV; great-grandson, Jaxton Pennington; step-great-grandchildren, Damian and Delaney Rhodes; and sister, Maryann Burch of Montrose, WV.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his step-grandson, Kaleb Wilfong, and brother, Robert Foster. In accordance with his wishes he was cremated and no services are scheduled. Hinkle-Fenner Funeral Home is assisting the family. Memorial if desired may be made to WV Caring P.O. Box 760, Arthurdale, WV 26520 in his memory.



Cortland Acres celebrates Dan Bucher's retirement on June 28

Dan Bucher has made valuable contributions to Cortland Acres, helping to guide the facility's growth and expansion. After four decades of service, he is calling it a career and retiring as the development director.

"Cortland Acres has always been woven into my daily life for more than 40 years," Bucher said. "As I reflect on my involvement at Cortland Acres, I am thankful for the relationships with the current and past residents, the families, the volunteers at the facility, and the dedicated staff. My heart is full of all of the friendships I have made."

Join in celebrating Dan Bucher's retirement from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, in the Gathering Room of Cortland Acres. Guests may enter through the Blackwater Short-term Rehabilitation Center entrance, located at the rear of the facility. Cortland



Cortland Acres will host an open house celebrating Dan Bucher's retirement from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, in the Gathering Room of Cortland Acres. Refreshments will be served.

Acres is located at 39 Cortland Acres Lane, Thomas. Refreshments will be served.

Beth Clevenger, administrator of Cortland Acres, said that Bucher has been an important and integral part of Cortland Acres' history and development.

"The June 28th celebra-

tion is an opportunity for the community, families, staff, residents, and friends to thank Dan for his numerous years of service," Clevenger said. "Dan's commitment to Cortland Acres has enriched our facility and staff and ensured we are positioned to provide excellent care for our residents and families. Dan's tenacity laid the groundwork for the growth of Cortland Acres so many years ago, and I'm thrilled he will continue to direct our future by serving on the Board of Directors."

When Dan Bucher accepted a job at the age of 25 as a social worker for Cortland Acres, he could not have foreseen becoming one of the youngest nursing home administrators in the state and the tremendous growth that would occur under his guidance and leadership.

Bucher's career at Cortland Acres started on April

7, 1980. He became administrator of the facility in 1982 and remained in that position until Jan. 5, 2001. Afterward, he served Cortland as a board of director member for 14 years while employed in administration at Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center, and then at Davis Health Systems, establishing several programs during his time there. In 2015 he returned to Cortland and accepted the position of development director.

The Cortland Acres campus includes a 94-bed long-term care facility, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation programs, rental apartments in Pineview and garden and patio homes in The Pines. For more information about The Pines or Cortland Acres or to set up an appointment for a tour of the facility, call 304-463-4181 ext. 203, or visit www.cortlandacres.org.

Nelson

Wilkins said the prosecution opposed the motion. According to Wilkins, Nuzum had two handguns, one pistol with the shaved off serial numbers, a shotgun, ammunition, drugs in the form of meth and marijuana and an unregistered truck among other things at the time of his arrest.

Judge Nelson denied the motion. In his decision he said, "...does not find cause to reconsider. This case is closed."

Judge Nelson also heard the case of the State v. Travis Riggs. Riggs entered a plea agreement to one felony count of harass-

ment. As part of the proceedings, Judge Nelson explained Riggs his rights, as well as the process and questioned him regarding his decision. Riggs said he understood.

Wilkins outlined the circumstances surrounding the case. According to Wilkins, Riggs had a protection order against him that he repeatedly violated which resulted in multiple counts against him in Tucker County and charges in Randolph and Upshur Counties as well. Of the slew of counts, Wilkins said four of them were incurred while he was in jail for emailing

the victim and he also incurred a count for having a third party contact the victim on his behalf.

Wilkins also told the court that the defendant had been placed on home confinement, but would not stay at home and even moved without notifying authorities. Wilkins also told the court of a bar fight that Riggs had engaged in while on home confinement that resulted in him appearing in court with a black eye. Wilkins relayed to the court that the defendant also parked for an extended period of time within eye-

sight of the victim's place of employment. "He absolutely cannot follow any kind of rules we give," Wilkins said.

Attorney Isner represented Riggs in the matter. Isner said Riggs had been a client for years in business and estate matters. "He's not the kind of client that comes in with those things," Isner said.

Nelson sentenced Riggs to one to five years. "One to five. Take him into custody. This thing has dragged out long enough," Nelson said.

Cont. From Front Page

START YOUR WEEK AT WORSHIP

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Steps down

Green Acres, I think. Be a gentleman farmer. I got to find me a Eb. I'll even get the phone down off the pole."

Nelson said he is going to miss his staff at the court. "You know, I'm really going to miss these guys," Nelson said. "I came up here, I'd been up here a couple of times as special prosecutor... and these people just took me in. Made me part of them. They are incredible people; I just wish they lived about 45 minutes closer."

Nelson commented on how small-town life has

changed since he was growing up. "Everybody knows about everybody. Ridgeley was a 1,000 people when I was growing up, you know everybody knew everybody. We're not like that anymore, society ain't like that no more. I ain't much on Hillary Clinton, but we used to raise them like a village. Everybody knew, by God, you got into trouble at somebody's house your mom and dad were going to know about it before you got home."

Nelson said that today's parents aren't like that

anymore. "Parents come in here and say, 'My kid wouldn't do that.'" Nelson said. "They want to be their friends, not their parents, and it's killing us."

Nelson also attributed the change in society to his decision to retire. "This stuff is going to s%\$*. That's one reason why it's time to go," Nelson said. "Let somebody else do it. There'll be people here long after I'm gone."

When asked what his greatest accomplishment has been on the bench, Nelson said, "I don't know. You'd have to ask other people, I don't know. I just showed up and tried to do what I thought was right and if...down in Charleston think it's wrong, they can change it."

Nelson did comment that being a judge can be a lonely job. "It's not the kind of job that you can talk to people about. It can really give you a dark outlook on life."

Nelson said that he tries to do the best job he can every day. "I got to go home tonight and look in that mirror and say,

Cont. From Front Page

FAIRVIEW
HOMECOMING
Sunday, June 25, 2023
At the church pavilion on Location Rd, St. George
Picnic lunch begins at noon.
Send mowing donations to:
Fairview Cemetery Fund
c/o Mountain Valley Bank, N.A.
PO Box 383
Parsons, WV 26287

**Do You Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the World?
Are You Confused Because Many Churches
Are Changing Their Teachings on Right and Wrong?
Are You Looking for Christian Teaching Rooted
in the Bible and Morality That Does Not Change?
Are We to Conform God's Teaching to Ourselves,
or Should We Be Conforming Ourselves to God's Teaching?**

In Saint Paul's second letter to Timothy, he warns that "the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings and they will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths." As society shifts away from Biblical morality, there are many who wish to change the teachings of Jesus Christ to suit themselves. They want to call themselves Christians and at the same time set aside the very teachings of Christ. The Catholic Church continues to faithfully teach Biblical morality and faithful Catholics seek to conform their hearts and minds to that teaching, even if falling short at times.

If you are interested in learning about the often misunderstood teachings of the Catholic Church or would like to ask questions about what faithful Catholics believe, please join us in the social hall located directly behind Our Lady of Mercy Church, 221 Water St., Parsons, WV on Wednesday, June 21st at 6:30pm or at the Saint Thomas Center, 324 Brown St., Thomas, WV on Thursday, June 22nd at 6:30pm. Bring your Bible!

West Virginia Ranks 42nd in Child Well-Being but Inaccessible, Unaffordable Child Care Will Continue to Push More Families into Poverty

Charleston, West Virginia — West Virginia ranks 42nd in child well-being, according to the 2023 KIDS COUNT® Data Book, a 50-state report of recent household data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation analyzing how children and families are faring. This year's report focuses on the rising cost of childcare. The state's lack of affordable and accessible childcare short-changes children and causes parents in West Virginia to frequently miss work or even quit their jobs, while those who can find care are paying dearly for it. These childcare challenges cost the American economy billions of dollars a year and stymie women professionally.

During the 2023 legislative session, childcare providers pushed for enrollment-based subsidies. Kristy Ritz, the West Virginia Association for Young Children executive director and member of the KIDS COUNT network, said that by basing reimbursements on enrollment instead of attendance, the bill would have created more financial stability for providers. That, in turn, would allow providers to increase their childcare slots, helping parents avoid years-long waitlists. If more West Virginia parents can get their kids in care, more parents can work, according to Ritz.

The Data Book reports too many parents cannot secure childcare that is compatible with work schedules and commutes. The Data Book reports that in 2020—21, 13% of West Virginia children birth to age 5 lived in families in which someone quit, changed, or refused a job because of problems with childcare. And women are five to eight times more likely than men to experience negative employment consequences related to caregiving.

Even if parents can find an opening at a childcare center near their home, they often can't pay for it. West Virginia's average cost of center-based childcare for a toddler was \$7,955, 9% of the median income of a married couple and 35% of a single mother's income. While the cost of care burdens families, childcare workers are paid worse than 98% of professions. Median national pay for childcare workers was \$28,520 per year or \$13.71 an hour in 2022, less than the wage for retail (\$14.26) and customer service (\$18.16) workers.

The stakes are high. Last year, West Virginia KIDS COUNT reported that 21% of West Virginia's children are living in households with a high housing cost burden. Now due to the childcare crisis, that number could certainly rise. Each year, the Data Book presents national and

state data from 16 indicators in four domains — economic well-being, education, health, and family and community factors — and ranks the states according to how children are faring overall.

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the failings of the childcare market also affect the health of the American economy, costing \$122 billion a year in lost earnings, productivity, and tax revenue, according to one study. All of these challenges put parents under tremendous stress to meet the dual responsibilities of providing for their families and ensuring their children are safe and nurtured. Their report also found:

- While 10% of white children lived in families in which someone quit, changed, or refused a job because of childcare, this figure was 17% of Black children and 16% of Latino children.
- More than 60% of childcare workers reported having difficulty paying their own food and utility bills in the most recent month.
- Infant childcare is so expensive that one analysis indicates it costs more than in-state college tuition in 34 states and the District of Columbia.
- The main federal mechanism for subsidizing care, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, partially offsets costs for only 1.3 million of the more than 12 million kids in childcare. Of children eligible for subsidies under federal rules, only one in six receives them.

Transitioning from a faltering childcare system to creating a flourishing one will take new thinking and investing at the local, state, and national levels. An executive order issued by President Biden in April is aimed at expanding access, lowering costs, and raising wages. It could prove to be a helpful framework, but more is needed:

- Federal, state, and local governments should invest more in childcare. State and local governments should maximize remaining pandemic recovery act dollars to fund needed childcare services and capacity. Congress should reauthorize and strengthen the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, while the West Virginia legislature should pass a bill to base childcare reimbursements on enrollment, rather than attendance.

Public and private leaders should work together to improve the infrastructure for home-based child care, beginning by lowering the barriers to entry for potential providers by increasing access to start-up and expansion capital.

To help young parents, Congress should expand the federal Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program, which serves student parents.

Click below to access the 2023 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK
<https://www.aecf.org/resources/2023-kids-count-data-book>



Tucker County Homeland Security Emergency Management is working with Kokosing Construction to help you plan your commute on Route 219 south of Parsons or Route 219 north of Elkins during the bridge construction that will necessitate the closing of the road at different times. The closure or delays will be near the old Generals Road which is 1 1/2 miles past the Moore Station Road if you're coming from Parsons. The dates listed below are the scheduled dates at this time. Everything is weather and material dependent and can change with little notice.

Closures or delays are not expected to occur until after 7:30 am on the listed dates and are planned to be 40 minutes in length. It is important to understand circumstances beyond anyone's control can cause a longer closure of several hours or the majority of the day. Please plan your travel with the information provided or using an alternate

route. Please note that plans are in place to provide Emergency Service with no delay to any incident that may occur on either end of the area effected by the **Closure or Delay.**

- Dates as of 6/14/2023**
- 6/19/23
 - 6/21/23
 - 6/22/23
 - 6/29/23
 - 6/30/23
 - 7/5/23
 - 7/6/23
 - 7/7/23
 - 7/10/23
 - 7/11/23
 - 7/12/23
 - 7/13/23
 - 7/14/23
 - 7/21/23
 - 7/24/23
 - 7/25/23
 - 7/26/23
 - 7/27/23
 - 7/28/23

This schedule may be adjusted throughout the project and updates will be provided.

Kevin White
 Tucker Co. HSEM

Annual Quilt and Wall Hanging Exhibition on Display at the Culture Center

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) unveiled the annual exhibition, *Quilts and Wall Hangings 2023*, in the Great Hall of the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, and announced the winners of the juried exhibition at the opening concert of the annual Vandalia Gathering.

This year, the popular juried exhibition features 67 creative quilts and wall hangings representing the talents of West Virginians from 21 counties. There are 43 quilts and 24 wall hangings in the exhibition, which will remain on display through Sept. 20, 2023.

"Quilt making is one of West Virginia's oldest and most treasured art forms," said Charles Morris, museums director. "This annual display is a favorite for many West Virginians and for quilters and quilt lovers from around the country. It is one of our most popular displays."

The exhibition features the work of 54 quilters. Winners were selected by Karen Kendo, a quilter since 1995, longarm quilting business owner and NQA Certified Judge from Charleston, S.C. Kendo selected winners in four categories: pieced quilts, applique quilts, mixed/other quilts and wall hangings. Quilt awards are \$750 for first place, \$400 for second place and \$300 for third place. The wall hanging awards are \$400 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place. The

department made one purchase, and the juror designated a Best of Show prize of \$100. In addition, four nonmonetary honorable mention distinctions were made.

First place winners in this year's exhibition include Carol Miller of Bruceton Mills, Preston County, for *Baltimore Album* in the Applique category (Best of Show); Rhonda Braham of Independence, Preston County, for *Candied Fans*, in the Pieced Quilt category; Linda Dotson Vaughan of Caldwell, Greenbrier County, for *Gardner's Alphabet* in the Mixed/Other Quilt category; and Amy Pabst of LeRoy, Roane County, for *Sari Not Sari* in the Wall Hanging category.

The Culture Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information about this year's exhibition, contact Rachel Keeney, exhibits coordinator, at 304-558-0220 or Rachel.M.Keeney@wv.gov.

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ArtSpring visits exhibit at Cortland Acres



One of ArtSpring's stops on Saturday, May 27 was an exhibit at Cortland Acres that was on display at the St. George Canaan Valley Clinic and Pharmacy. These were just a few of the pieces that were available for sale at their annual fundraiser. Additionally, there was a children's activity for youth to participate outside throughout the day. It turned out to be a fun and exciting day for both youth and adults visiting ArtSpring's activities throughout the valley.



Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau Holds Productive Meeting

Davis, W.Va. — The Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) hosted a successful tourism partner meeting on April 26, 2023. The gathering showcased the vibrant collaboration between local businesses, organizations and non-profits, highlighting the community's commitment to promoting tourism and enhancing visitor experiences in Tucker County.

The meeting commenced with an update from Jessica Waldo, the Executive Director of the Tucker County CVB, who shared exciting news about the latest initiatives. Waldo announced the release of the summer pocket guide, providing visitors with comprehensive information on the county's attractions and recreational activities. Additionally, the launch of this year's Take in Tucker Scavenger Hunt, a challenge running through October, and the production of a new Visitors Guide was announced.

Pat Strader from Digital Relativity

delivered a presentation on the newest version of Google Analytics, GA4. Attendees were encouraged to register for GA4 promptly if they hadn't done so already. Strader emphasized the enhanced insights and useful information that GA4 would provide, making it an invaluable tool for optimizing the online presence of businesses in Tucker County.

Debra Frank from Eastern Community College provided valuable tips and information on hospitality management. In collaboration with Eastern Community College, Frank also announced plans to offer additional Hospitality Tourism Training, tailored to the unique needs of local businesses. Interested parties should contact the Tucker County CVB for more information.

"We are thrilled to see such a strong collaboration from our local community, which is vital to our ongoing efforts in promoting Tucker County as a premier des-

ination," said Waldo. "Together, we will continue to enhance visitor experiences, foster economic growth and showcase the exceptional beauty and offerings of our county."

The Tucker County CVB extends its gratitude to all the attendees for their valuable contributions and commitment to the prosperity of tourism in Tucker County. For more information about the Tucker

County CVB and its initiatives, please visit 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.

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE IN CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES

NOTICE is hereby given that MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY, public utilities, have filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing electric service to approximately 550,000 customers in northern, central, eastern and northwestern portions of West Virginia in all or portions of the following counties: Barbour, Berkeley, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzell, Wirt, and Wood.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective June 30, 2023 unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will produce a \$207,452,687 increase in base rates, which is an increase of approximately 13.0%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	Base Rate Increase	
	(\$) INCREASE	(%) INCREASE
Residential	\$18.07	15.0%
Commercial	\$55.16	12.5%
Industrial	\$478.70	9.4%
Street Lighting	\$155.13	17.2%

There are no resale customers of Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company. The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or lesser than the average shown. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or petition to intervene prior to September 30, 2023 unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases and to participate in future proceedings. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention and refer to Case No 23-0460-E-42T. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. All protests and interventions should be addressed to The Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

A complete copy of this tariff, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the following offices of the Company: 5001 NASA Blvd., Fairmont, WV 26554.

A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

Monongahela Power Company
The Potomac Edison Company

LEGAL

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Trustees, Richard A. Pill and David D. Pill, by that certain Deed of Trust dated December 29, 2006, executed by the B01 Towers, David K. Boyles and Mona L. Boyles, to Richard A. Pill or David D. Pill, either of whom may act, the Trustee(s), of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Tucker County, West Virginia, in Book 219, at Page 435. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of RR 2 Box 490, Parsons, WV 26287, and, upon information and belief, is now known as 1842 Holly Meadows Rd, Parsons, WV 26287. The Borrowers defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Trustee(s) have been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Trustee(s) will sell the following described property, together with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances belonging, to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Tucker County, in Parsons, West Virginia, on the following date:

June 28, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.

Located in the District of St. George, County of Tucker and State of West Virginia, to-wit:
Parcel No. 1: A parcel containing 0.69 of an acre, more or less, subject to an outsale by Donald J. Bennett to Howard G. Ferguson, to which deed reference is hereby made for a more particular description.
Parcel No.2: A parcel containing 0.083 acres (erroneously referred to in the current deed as 0.83 acres), more or less.

LESS AND EXCEPTING THE FOLLOWING:

0.31 Acres identified as Tract Two on the attached exhibit which is a survey by James T. Carr, WV Licensed No. 920.

The remaining portion being Tract One which is a parcel comprised of 0.34 acres as shown on the said Exhibit [attached to the Deed recorded in Deed Book 189, at Page 697] and is referred to for a more specific metes and bounds description.

And being the same property conveyed to David K. Boyles and Mona L. Boyles by Deed dated December 27, 2006 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Tucker County in Deed Book 1 89, at Page 697.

TERMS OF SALE:

- The property will be conveyed in an "AS IS O physical condition by Deed containing no warranty, express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-ways, easements, covenants, conveyances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.
- The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia Code § 11-22-1.
- The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.
- The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.
- The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.
- The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten (10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

Richard A. Pill
Richard A. Pill, Trustee

David D. Pill
David D. Pill, Trustee

85 Aikens Center
Edwin Miller Boulevard
P.O. Box 440
Martinsburg, WV 25402
(304) 263-4971
foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ENGINEERING SERVICES

The City of Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia, is requesting statement of qualifications from engineering firms to provide design and construction related services for the Poplar Street Sidewalk Improvements Project. The proposed project will consist of replacement of existing sidewalks on Poplar Street, Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia. The services to be provided are project design, preparation of all necessary permit applications, preparation of construction plans, specifications, and bidding documents, assistance during bidding, construction administration services, and construction inspection services.

The funding source for this project is coming from the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Enhancement Program administered by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways.

Procurement of said services will be in accordance with WV Code Chapter 5G and 24 CFR Part 85.34. All firms interested in being considered for this selection must submit at least eight (8) copies of a proposal detailing qualifications, technical expertise, management and staffing capabilities, related prior experience, and professional references.

The goal of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm who will provide the highest quality service. Accordingly, technical expertise and related past experience will be weighed heavily. The candidates judged most qualified based on a review of the statements of qualifications will be interviewed. The firm determined to be the most qualified based on an evaluation of the interviews will be asked to prepare fee proposals for engineering services as project scopes are finalized.

Please submit all requested information to: Mrs. Agnes A. Arnold, City Administrator, City of Parsons, 341 Second Street, Parsons, WV 26287.

Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 P.M. (EDT), Friday, July 21, 2023. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all submissions. All work will be performed in accordance with the regulations issued by State and Federal agencies relative hereto. The selected candidate will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Section 109 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Conflict of Interest Statement, and the Access to Records provisions. The City shall ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that positive efforts are made to utilize small businesses, including those in rural areas, minority-owned firms, and women-owned business enterprises. The City will afford full opportunity to women and minority owned business enterprises to submit a show of interest and response to this request and will not discriminate against any interested individual or firm on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin in award of the contract.

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HELP WANTED - Job Posting: Eastern WV Community & Technical College, Instructional Specialist: Advanced Technology/Wind Energy Faculty - Benefit Eligible. In addition to instruction, this Ten-Month Faculty position is responsible for the overall development, coordination, implementation and scheduling in the area of wind energy and electromechanical technology at Eastern's Technology Center in Petersburg, WV. For more info, go to <https://easternwv.edu/employment-opportunities/> or email careers@easternwv.edu.

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Tucker County Community Corrections is recruiting for a **Full-Time Case Manager**. It is preferred the qualified candidate have a degree in a Criminal Justice, or other related field. Job Duties will include but not limited to

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- Maintains contact with community resources to arrange referrals and services, as necessary.
- Prepares reports, correspondences, and documents as necessary, maintains records of contacts with clients.
- Performs related work as required.

Please submit resumes to Tucker Day Report Center, Attn: Dustin Luzier 213 First Street Parsons, WV 26287. Deadline to submit resume is June 23, 2023, for any questions, please call 304-478-2833. Tucker County Community Corrections is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Tucker County Baseball's Mason Kisamore was selected to the Class "A" Baseball All-State Honorable Mention List on June 14th. Photo by Dave Helmick.

Mason Kisamore Makes Baseball All-State Second Team List

By Dave Helmick
TuckerCountySports.Com

The WV Sports Writers announced the Class "A" Baseball All-State members on Tuesday June 14th. Tucker County Baseball Senior Mason Kisamore collected Second Team All-State Recognition. Kisamore led the Mt. Lions on the mound pitching, and Mason also led Tucker County at the plate batting this season. For a complete list of Class "A" Baseball All-State go to TuckerCountySports.Com.

Johnson Graduates from Fairmont State



Tyler Scott Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Johnson of Kerens, graduated from Fairmont State University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in National Security and Intelligence and graduated cum laude. Johnson plans to join the FBI after he gets back from basic training and AIT in the Army National Guard.



This Week's Submitted Photos

This week's photo of ducks on the Pulp Mill Bottom Pond, was submitted by Teri Cayton. Email your photo, name, and where the photo was taken to mikie@parsonsadvocate.com



Mountaineer Garden Club YOM

The home of Dale and Danielle Moore, pictured above, was selected for residential YOM for June. The home has hanging baskets, beautiful hostas, potted flowers and multiple geraniums lining the entry for a beautiful summer display.

St. George Pharmacy entrance area, pictured right, had zinnias, daylilies and assorted greenery for a colorful display.



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Jake Harron age 7 from Davis WV in the 16 and Noah Luzier age 8 from Davis WV in the 30 racing.

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LET FREEDOM RING! CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

Thomas Mountaineer Days scheduled for July 1

THE MOUNTAINEER DAYS COMMITTEE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF THOMAS AND THE THOMAS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FINAL PLANS FOR MOUNTAINEER DAYS. THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JULY 1.



The grand finale of the evening will be the 66th annual fireworks display sponsored by the Thomas Volunteer Fire Department. This year's show will last about 45 minutes.

The Independence weekend activities kick off with Tucker County Young Life again sponsoring a 5K Run/2K Walk Race. Racers can register at the event or online. The link is on the Facebook page,

Mountaineer Days 5K Run/2k walk presented by Eastern Mountains Young Life, (or <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068964740096>)

The cost is \$20 for pre-registration

and \$30 the day of the event. Registration is from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., with the race starting at 8 a.m. at the Thomas Fire Hall.

The popular vendor area and craft displays open at 10 a.m. along the railroad grade in Thomas. With more than 40 vendors, residents and visitors will enjoy sampling the food and exploring crafts.

New this year are inflatable amusement rides sponsored by the Tucker County Young Life. The rides will be set up along the railroad grade in Thomas.

The Mountaineer Days Parade begins at noon, with the line-up starting at 11 a.m. at the Division of Highways garage. Fire Trucks will line up on Quail Ridge Drive.

Following the parade, the county's largest cakewalk, sponsored by the Mountaineer Humane Society, begins at 1 p.m. in the old Miners & Merchants bank lot. The nonprofit group is seeking donations for this popular event.

"We would appreciate any baked goods donations, homemade or bought, and participants for the cakewalk," said Karen Linton, one of the event's key organizers. "All proceeds from the cakewalk will go to our Run For It team, The Cruisin' Critters, which then supports the spay and neuter voucher program."

Musical entertainment begins at 11 a.m., with Trevor Reichman taking the stage in the old Miners & Merchants bank lot. He will be followed by Jason Good Blues Band playing at 2:30 p.m., Heather Hannah & Company at 4 p.m., and Wilson Springs Hotel performing at 5:30 p.m.

Austin Snell, the event's headliner, will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. This Dudley, Georgia artist is well on his way to making "grunge country" as familiar a term

as "honky tonk." His "Excuse the Mess" gathered 1 million streams in its first week of independent release and landed him as a SiriusXM Highway Find.

The grand finale of the evening will be the 66th year of fireworks sponsored by the Thomas Volunteer Fire Department. Each year the fireworks are put on with the donations received from the public as well as through roadblocks on the day of the event and door-to-door fundraising efforts. This year's show will last about 45 minutes.

The pancake breakfast sponsored by the Thomas Volunteer Fire Department will close the Mountaineer Days weekend activities. Breakfast will be served at the Thomas Fire Hall from 8 a.m. to noon.

Mountaineer Days is made possible by the following sponsors: Western Pocahontas + Natural Resource Partners, City of Thomas, Tucker County Parks and Recreation, Davis Trust Company, St. George Medical Clinic, WVU Medicine, MountainTop Realty, Sirianni's, Sunrise Sanitation, United Financial Center, Black Bear Resort, Mountaintop Health Center, Mountaintop Dental Clinic, Citizens Bank of West Virginia, Best of Canaan, Miners & Merchants, Kingsford, Grant County Bank, Still Hollow Distillery, Elkins Motor Sports, Stumptown Ales, GJ Garton Insurance, Railey Realty, Backbone Mountain Guide Service, Hinkle Fenner Funeral Home, Jeremy Bolyard Construction, Mountain Valley Bank, Ella & Company, Davis Shop'n Save, and Mountain State Brewery. The Mountaineer Days Committee also appreciates the support of the Thomas Parks & Recreation, Tucker Community Foundation, and the city employees.

Austin Snell headlines Mountaineer Days



Austin Snell will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 1, in the old bank parking lot in downtown Thomas for Mountaineer Days.

Nashville might be known as a 10-year town, where it takes a decade or more to get noticed. But for River House Artists/Warner Music Nashville's Austin Snell, the rules have never really applied.

Snell fuses hard-rocking sonic aggression with the deep-feeling confessions of a country troubadour. The Georgia native drifted into Nashville with a battered old guitar and wrote a career-launching hit. Now, just one year into his Music City tenure, he's well on his way to making "grunge country" as familiar a term as "honky tonk."

Austin Snell will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 1, in the old bank parking lot in downtown Thomas for Mountaineer Days.

After his gritty "Excuse the Mess" gathered one million streams in its first week

of independent release, Snell dropped a handful of hard-core country rockers, with momentum building behind the sound. A rare SiriusXM Highway Find accolade – the same one bestowed on now-superstars like Maren Morris and Luke Combs and distinction as just the second artist ever chosen for SiriusXM's Artist Accelerator program.

It all points to that rare star who has found his mark early – and there's more on the way. But if you ask the humble hitmaker, he's no visionary genius. Just a guy who loves hard rock and country in equal measure, with a deep understanding of struggle ... and a voice that sheds light in the dark.

"It seems to keep clicking, and I don't really know why," the emerging star admits. But that modesty belies a wild ride.

Snell grew up with a modern rock-lov-

ing father and a mother drawn to country radio. Traveling the South to race go-karts on weekends, Snell ended up internalizing every note of those records and feeling at home whenever they were playing, no matter where he was at the time. But it was when joining the Air Force that music became a passion.

Nineteen years old, 1,000 miles from home, and alone for the first time, he passed the long evenings with a cheap acoustic guitar, belting out the same tunes he grew up on with a few clumsy chords. Already obsessed and unable to visit home due to COVID-19, Snell dove into writing songs as he heard on country radio – heartfelt, melodic, and filled with clever hooks. Then his mom did what moms do.

"I let my mom talk me into posting my stuff on Facebook for our friends," he says with a chuckle. "People ended up liking it, so that's what I did in my free time. I would write songs and post them, to see what people thought."

Unsurprisingly, his audience soon grew, and the wild ride got wilder. After returning home and deciding he'd rather write songs than work a shift, Snell made up his mind to try Nashville.

At first, Snell just went with the flow, learning the ropes of Nashville's well-established co-writing scene. But things were about to change at 24 years old and only five years after first picking up a guitar.

"I moved with the plan of not putting anything out until I found something different, something nobody else was doing that felt authentic for me," Snell explains. "I didn't know how long that would take, but then we wrote 'Excuse the Mess,' and it opened my world."

Co-written with Presley

Aaron and Christian Yancey, the low-down power ballad was the first track Snell wrote with a hard-rock edge – and it was different. Tunes like "Send You the Bill," "Cold," and "Pray All the Way Home" followed and helped Snell solidify his sound.

"I grew up on both sides of this music, so I just hope people know it's real to me," Snell explains. "I think that's my main goal, to make my own sound and let everyone know I'm not trying to copy anybody else. I'm going to pave my own way."

Thomas Volunteer Fire Department will once again light up the sky over Thomas

Thomas Volunteer Fire Department will present their annual 4th of July fireworks show.

What began in 1957 by members of the Department it continues to be a non-profit public service project. The display is an annual Thomas tradition.

The display has grown into one of the largest and most spectacular displays in the area. It is not only enjoyed by our local residents but countless visitors as well.

The display is funded by donations from the general public through a house-to-house collection throughout Thomas and surrounding area and roadblocks set up on the night of the display, mail in donations and by funds provided by the Tucker County P&R Commission.

The display is totally self-sufficient, meaning donations collected this

year funds next year's show. Whatever is collected pays for the following years display. Absolutely no Fire Department funds are used.

The actual firing of the display is conducted by members of the Department in strict compliance with State and Federal laws and guidelines.

As in the past TVFD has honored the memory of past and present members who have passed away since the last Display, with the firing of the first shot. This year we will honor the memory of one of our past members Terry "Ted" Helmick, who passed away on July 17, 2021. Ted was an active member of the Department in the 1970s throughout the 1980s he held the offices of Lieutenant and Captain, he also served on the fireworks display team for many years.

In closing the Members of the Thomas Volunteer Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have supported this Department throughout the years and would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July

Safety first when handling fireworks

Days at the beach. Family trips to the ice cream parlor. Vacations. These are just a few of the things that evoke the spirit of summer, a time of year when school is out and everyone seems to exhale a little and enjoy the warm weather.

Awe-inspiring fireworks displays also come to mind when imagining summer. Whether it's the Fourth of July or town gatherings along a local waterfront, fireworks displays are a big part of many people's summers. Unfortunately, the potential for accidents and injuries is high when fireworks are involved, particularly when displays aren't left to the professionals.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission notes that, on average, 280 people per day visit emergency rooms with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday. More than 53 percent of fireworks-related injuries in 2017 were burns.

Fireworks are always best left to the professionals, and many communities have criminalized the use of fireworks by amateurs. But many people still light fireworks, and those that do should follow these safety precautions.

- Never let kids handle fireworks. Fireworks, even sparklers, should never be given to children. The National SAFE KIDS campaign notes that sparklers burn at 2,000 F,



which is hot enough to cause third-degree burns. So while they might seem like harmless symbols of summer, sparklers pose a significant threat to youngsters.

- Follow directions. Fireworks come with detailed directions for a reason, and that's to keep users safe. Strictly adhere to these directions and go over them with anyone who intends to light fireworks.

- Never use fireworks indoors. Fireworks are for outdoor use only. If it rains, do not try to light fireworks indoors and then throw them outside before they go off.

- Make sure spectators keep a safe distance. Do not light fireworks until all spectators are out of range should something go awry.

- Recognize

that fireworks are not toys. They might be a marvel, but fireworks are not toys. As a result, they should never be aimed or thrown at another person, nor should they be lit or launched from a body part.

- Do not attempt to reignite malfunctioning fireworks. Attempting to reignite malfunctioning fireworks can lead to serious injury.

- Light fireworks on smooth, flat surfaces. When lighting fireworks, do so only on smooth, flat surfaces, making sure to direct them away from people, homes, dry leaves, and flammable materials.

Fireworks are best left to the professionals. Consumers who insist on lighting their own should only do so with the utmost caution.

Why is Independence Day celebrated on July 4th?

The Continental Congress declared its independence from Great Britain on July 2, 1776. If that date raises an eyebrow, it should. Independence Day in the United States has long been celebrated on July 4th, which would seem to be two days late. But upon closer examination, it seems Americans are not really celebrating their independence two days later than they should be. According to the National Constitution Center, the Continental Congress approved a resolution declaring its independence from Great Britain on July 2. However, a document still needed to be drafted to explain the decision to the general public. Such a document was already in the works, but it took two days for the men of Congress to agree on a final version. The resulting document, known as the Declaration of Independence, was sent to John Dunlap, an Irish printer who served under George Washington during the American Revolutionary War, who subsequently printed roughly 200 broadsides. Still, the Declaration of Independence was not read to the public until July 8, 1776, when Colonel John Nixon did so in Philadelphia on what is now known as Independence Square. It was nearly a month later, on August 2, 1776, when most members of the Continental Congress actually signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.

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Tucker County Sheriff

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Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney

Paid by Savannah Hull Wilkins

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Heather Hannah & Company to perform at Mountaineer Days

Mountaineer Days has always held a special place in Heather Hannah's heart, and she feels fortunate and blessed to be a part of this year's July 4th celebration in Thomas.

"This place has given me a sense of place and belonging," Hannah said about Tucker County. "Being able to give back and say thank you to a community that has given me so much is a tremendous honor."

Heather Hannah & Company will take the stage at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 1 in the old bank parking lot in downtown Thomas for Mountaineer Days. She will be joined onstage by Josh Stevens on cello and her brothers, Jacob and Josiah, playing the guitar and banjo.

Mountaineer Days is a homecoming for many local individuals and families.

"It is truly a celebration of home and that is the theme of so many of the songs I write," Hannah said. "It is a special thing to share with people what a home looks like to me during this year's celebration."

Being a fourth-generation harmony singer, Hannah grew up singing gospel songs with her family while her father delivered the message. She also grew up listening to old-time and bluegrass music, such as Doc Watson and Tony Rice.

"While you have the music you were born into, you have the music that grows with you," Hannah said. "The majority of songs I write are written here on the mountain in Tucker County, which makes them mountain music by the very definition."

For Hannah, the songwriting process is very intimate and personal. It is usually done in the early morning hours.

"I've never figured out how not to write a true song," Hannah said with a smile. "I figured I never have the business of writing about something I had not

lived. It means you have to be brave enough to tell the truth about what has happened to you in a first-person narrative.

"It is one of the most rewarding things for me as a songwriter and a musician. Sometimes people will come up to me after a show and say, 'Hey, I thought I was alone until I heard that song, or I've lived that song.'"

A found guitar helped define her future, even though she didn't know how to play it at the time.

"I was able to process, unpack and heal with the guitar," Hannah said. "Once that healing happened, I was able to move into realms of joy and celebrations and love and have music as a conduit and a voice."

"Music is how I found my people. Some of the people I'll be playing with for Mountaineer Days have been friends of mine from my first day in Tucker County."

She is excited to play in the place she has called home for the past 17 years.



Heather Hannah & Company will take the stage at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 1 in the old bank parking lot in downtown Thomas for Mountaineer Days.

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The Wilson Springs Hotel features blue-grass style music at Mountaineer Days

The Wilson Springs Hotel are a high-powered country and bluegrass outfit based out of Richmond, Va. The band combines tones of traditional country and western swing, bluegrass, folk, and rock to create a unique sound that is simply their own.

Wilson Springs Hotel will take the stage at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 1 in the old bank parking lot in downtown Thomas to entertain Mountaineer Days attendees.

In two and a half short years, The Wilson Springs Hotel went from Sunday afternoon's in the corners of breweries to main stage festival performances. It's not a climb many are able to make, especially in such a short burst. When read, that information makes you wonder how or why a band was able to make that jump so fast, while others have been playing the same shows and trying to reach the same stages for so much longer.

But standing under the lights of the main stage at Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival in Pittsboro NC, it only took one song to understand; their music is meant for the big stage.

The Wilson Springs Hotel is

a real place; a 1700's construction property nestled in between the hills of the Shenandoah Valley that often housed the wounded and ill who healed at the sulfur springs nearby. It is now owned and resided in by a close friend of Jacob Ritter, the band's songwriter and leader. "We played together in the first band I was in. It felt like a nice homage to the beginning of my musical performing experience and to the place I call home."

Fast forward to 2020, at the bitter end of a lost relationship and a COVID-foiled plan to move north to Canada, the first Wilson Springs Hotel songs were written. Those songs tell the story of traveling through the end of that relationship. The first, self-titled, album came out in October of 2021 just after the bands first tour. This album would be the backbone of their first full year on the road in 2022.



Wilson Springs Hotel will take the stage at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 1 in the old bank parking lot in downtown Thomas to entertain Mountaineer Days attendees.

Their second album, "Old Thoughts and Memories" was released in April of this year.

"The first album captures the original influence of this band, and was recorded in a session fashion; writing in the studio one song at a time with outside musicians," said Sebastien Richard, bassist. "This second record was written on the road as a group and we recorded the

majority of it live in studio. I think it really captured who this group of musicians is and the energy we bring to the live show."

Those 10 songs take you through a variety of genre and influences, while maintaining that watermark-like sonic fingerprint great bands possess. They are distinctly Wilson Springs songs.

They take you on a journey through slow & somber crooner country, to rippin' honky tonk, to hard hitting indie rock, thru almost psych-rock like guitar tones, and back again. Ritter's voice tells a story through all of those varying energies; one of heartbreak, hard truths, putting yourself out there even though you know it could hurt.

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Happy 4th of July!

We wish you a joyful and safe celebration of this remarkable day in our nation's history.

St. George MEDICAL CLINIC, INC.

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