

The Parsons Advocate

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF TUCKER COUNTY SINCE 1896

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Tucker County Ambulance Authority Medical Director to Become State EMS Medical Director

By: Lydia Crawley
Parsons Advocate

Dr. PS Martin at the meeting of the Tucker County Ambulance Authority informed the board of his appointment to the state. "Something I need to tell you, if you haven't been told," Martin said, "as of this Friday, I will be the new State EMS Medical Director. As I told my co-workers, it's my dumpster fire now."

Martin informed the board of how the new position would impact his current position as EMS Medical Director for Tucker County. "The one thing I want this group to know," Martin said, "is that when I first started talking to them, I had a list of requests. They met all of them. The one that they had of me was that I had to give up medical directorship of all of my agencies. I had a problem with that because there aren't enough EMS physicians for me to give up all of my agencies that I am involved with. So, I explained to them first of all, that Tucker...does not have competition. There is no one beating down the door to take over EMS there. So, I don't see that I have a conflict of interest...In Marion County where I am the Medical Director, they do have competition with Mon County, but I am also the assistant medical director of Mon County, but the competition that Marion County has with Harrison and Mon is not cut-throat. They work together. They help cover each other's communities. They have never had that type of, so I don't consider it a conflict of interest there either."

"The last I heard from them, they were going to send me a form to fill a list of all of my EMS contacts and they would decide what was a conflict or not," Martin said. "I have not heard a word back from them in a little over a month. So, I am not going to say anything else and I just wanted you guys to know that as far as I'm concerned, we continue along this line. If they do consider that there's a conflict of interest, I have already looked out with my partners and I have four other EMS physicians in our group that one of their names would be put on all documentation. Everything on paper would be going through them, everything else would-be business as usual."

Martin said that beginning in October, he would be spending some of his time in Charleston. "Starting

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33rd Annual Uncle Sam's Birthday Celebrated



Uncle Sam addresses "the final five." Two of the final five ticket holders were not in attendance and did not have proxies. Pictured are Ranger Jane, left, and Lisa Wood, center. Wood was recipient of the \$5,000 grand prize.



Uncle Sam mingles with attendees prior to his Birthday Party at Bear Paw Lodge at Canaan Valley Resort. The event was an annual fundraiser for the Tucker Community Foundation.

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

The Tucker Community Foundation hosted the 33rd Annual Uncle Sam's Birthday Party at the Bear Paw Lodge at Canaan Valley Resort in Davis.

The evening began with a dinner before the elimination portion of the evening began. The drawing and elimination of names was interspersed with door prize and \$150 winners until the auctioning of the 250th ticket prior to the 246th draw.

Separate raffle tickets were sold at the event. These tickets were eligible for three separate drawings: the Greenbrier Package, \$1500 in cash and the Community Chest consisting of over \$5,000 in merchandise. A separate raffle was sold for a quilt. "All the money from the

raffles goes into our scholarship fund," Uncle Sam said. "So, this is a good cause. It services eight counties around us. Eight counties and one county in Maryland."

The first raffle was for the quilt, followed by the drawing of the Greenbrier Package, \$1500 in cash and finally the Community Chest. The \$1500 was given in five-dollar bills. Uncle Sam said the initial plan was to place the money into a booth with a blower, however the bills were too heavy to circulate in the booth. "It's \$1500 in five dollar bills," Uncle Sam said. "We were going to put it in the machine. I'll tell you the story. We put it in the machine over there. We do have cash in there, but its paper money so it blows a lot better. The real stuff, it stays on the ground."



Uncle Sam was in high spirits at his annual Birthday Party.

The auctioning of the 250th ticket began at \$200 and quickly rose in price until finally selling for \$3,000.

The final five included two tickets where the holders were not present and no proxy had been named. By the rules of the event, the drawing went forward until those tickets had been drawn. As a result, there was no splitting of the pot at this year's event. The winner of the \$5,000 grand prize was Lisa and Chris Wood.

During the event, Uncle Sam paused the festivities when he drew Sarah Fletcher's ticket. He asked the group to come together in a moment of silence for Fletcher. "What a great lady she was," Uncle Sam said.

This year's official judge for the event was Mike Moore.

County Commission Names New Assessor; Hears Updates

By: Lydia Crawley
Parsons Advocate

The Tucker County Commission in a unanimous vote appointed Greg Stevens as the new County Assessor effective July 1. Stevens will be filling the unexpired term of retiring Assessor J. Chris Michael. "Greg, welcome aboard, my friend," Tucker County Commissioner Tim Knotts said. "It is with great regret that we are sending Chris out the door, but you are able to fill shoes and looking forward to working with you."

"I appreciate the confidence and look forward to talking as well," Stevens said.

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County Commissioners Fred Davis, left, and Tim Knotts, right, welcome new Tucker County Assessor Greg Stevens, center, at the Commission's meeting.

County EMS Receive Updates

By: Lydia Crawley
Parsons Advocate

Tucker County Ambulance Authority met in regular session at the Five Rivers Public Library. The board received various updates and addressed outreach and financial opportunities.

Board President Dennis Filler updated the board on the perception the entity has in the Tucker County community. "Anytime I am out in the community," Filler said, "I obviously get approached by a lot of folks and the community reception is very positive. So, kudos to EMS staff and squads because you are doing the right thing and presenting yourself in such a way that the community understands that you are there as their EMS. And there is less of an us-them thing."

Filler did tell the board of an interac-

tion he had with a member of the public in the Davis-Thomas area. "I did have an interaction up on the mountain last Friday," Filler said, "and there is still some of the old perceptions that, you know, we are hiding money, those kinds of nonsense or we're not providing a level of service. But its obviously some folks that are still talking in the small community groups and they are really not looking because I think we're doing everything we can to get the word out there about what is we're doing."

Filler said that the effort the group has placed into community outreach is working. "All the efforts that are happening with community outreach are paying off," Filler said. "The only thing I continue to ask the staff is, remember we're always in the community's eye and you guys should know what the norms are, follow

those norms and keep it up because it's working. We're getting good, positive feedback from throughout the community. There are still hot spots and will continue to work those, but overall, it has dramatically improved from what it was six, eight months ago."

Interim Director Amanda Simmons presented an operations report to the board. "Let's go with this first, the crews have been phenomenal," Simmons said, "working overtime, extra, going to events, doing transports for us. It doesn't matter how many transports they've done in a day. You got another one? We need to do it, lets go. To make money, they've been pushing through. My gosh, its been phenomenal."

Simmons also said that upgrades have been made. "We've been able to upgrade

See EMS page 4

Region VII Give Listening Session Update

By: Lydia Crawley
Parsons Advocate

Project Coordinator Carrie Wallace from the Region VII Planning and Development Council provided an update on the results of a series of Broadband Listening sessions that the organization had conducted in the area as part of an upcoming state-wide roll out of Broadband internet access throughout the state of West Virginia.

"We are here to provide an overview of our Broadband Listening Tour that began in March," Wallace said. "That includes Barbour, Braxton, Lewis, Gilmore, Randolph, Tucker and Upshur Counties."

Wallace explained the program and its funding during the meeting. "The Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program provides 42.5 billion to expand high speed internet access by funding, planning, infrastructure deployment, mapping, equity and adoption activities in all 50 states," Wallace said. "The State of West Virginia is currently participating...and as a first step, has applied for five million in initial planning funds which will support the development of a five year action plan."

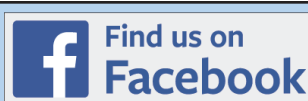
Wallace described the five-year action plan and the state's plans to get broadband internet to all corners of West Virginia. "The five-year action plan will establish the state's high-speed internet goals and priorities and serve as a comprehensive needs assessment that will inform West Virginians high speed internet infrastructure expansion and the proposals for implementation funds," Wallace said.

Wallace also said that the program was receiving additional funding. "The additional Equity Act provides 2.7 Billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion," Wallace said. "They aim to insure all people

See REGION VII page 4



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School Clothing Allowance Application Period Opens

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Family Assistance will begin accepting school clothing allowance applications on July 1, 2023, for eligible children enrolled in West Virginia schools and will close applications on July 31, 2023. Each eligible child will receive a \$200 benefit that may be used toward the purchase of appropriate school clothing or piece goods for families who sew clothing for their children.

The following will automatically receive school clothing allowance benefits for each school-age child in the home by the end of June 2023:

- Families with school-age children who currently receive WV WORKS cash assistance.
- Parents or guardians of children in foster care.
- Children ages 4-18 who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, are enrolled in school and whose household income is under 130% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Families who received school clothing allowance in 2022 and currently have Medicaid coverage should receive a school clothing allowance program application by mail in late June 2023.

Others may be eligible for school clothing allowance benefits, but the monthly income for a family of four may not exceed \$3,007. Verification of income for July 2023 must be submitted with applications for school clothing allowance.

Income Limits for the School Clothing Allowance Program for 2023:

No. of Persons in Household	Monthly Income Limit	No. of Persons in Household	Monthly Income Limit
1	\$1,473	6	\$4,029
2	\$1,984	7	\$4,541
3	\$2,495	8	\$5,052
4	\$3,007	9	\$5,564
5	\$3,518	10	\$6,076
+ \$512 for each additional person.			

“In 2022, 81,029 West Virginia children were assisted by the school clothing allowance program,” said Janie Cole, Commissioner of DHHR’s Bureau for Family Assistance. “This program fills an important need for children and families with back to school preparations.”

School clothing allowance program recipients will receive an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card. The EBT card will operate like a debit card and can be used at any retailer who accepts EBT cash transactions. Parents or guardians of children in foster care will receive the school clothing allowance benefit as a check.

Families, caretakers, and guardians may apply online at www.wvpath.wv.gov or request a paper application be mailed to them by contacting their local DHHR office or by calling 1-877-716-1212. Applications must be received by July 31, 2023.

Those needing to update their address may do so at www.wvpath.wv.gov or by calling DHHR’s Customer Service Center at 1-877-716-1212

News of Record

The following criminal complaint has been filed in the Tucker County Magistrate office:

- **Brian Austin Perkins**, of Davis, was charged with one count of Entry of building other than dwelling, entry of railroad, traction or motorcar, steamboat, or other vessel. According to the complaint, on June 6 Deputy C.R. Summerfield of the Tucker County Sheriff’s Office was dispatched to 128 Fifth St in Davis. When he arrived at the Wicked Wilderness Pub he was met by Eric Laiti who stated that he is the owner. He stated that someone had broken in earlier that day and stole some food and bottles of liquor.

He stated that the incident was captured on security cameras and the officer requested to view those images. A shirtless male subject entered the Pub by a side door and he was observed walking around going through coolers. A tattoo was observed on the subject’s right side and he was identified as Brian Perkins.

Summerfield obtained a hand written statement from Laiti who stated they discovered a number of items to be misplaced along with coolers that were left open. When the camera was checked a male was discovered breaking in around 12:15 a.m. He observed him looking around and taking bottles of liquor and food with an estimated cost of \$500. An employee was asked if they recognized the subject and it was determined to be Perkins. Laiti verbally stated that the door must have been left unlocked as no sign of forced entry was visible.

One of Perkins’ social media accounts was located and a picture was observed of the tattoo on his right side.

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

- Workman Land and Livestock, Clover District, 39 acres, 6 chains, 15 poles be the same more or less to Rose Holdings LLC, \$1,000.
- Lydia C. Fansler, Black Fork District, 132 acres to Otis S. Fansler and Arthur D. Fansler, \$1.
- G. Russell Rollyson, Jr., Black Fork District, .25 acres Old Mackeyville Rd to Sunshine Investment Group LLC, \$151.46.
- Philippi Inn Enterprises Inc., Black Fork district, 16,500 sq. ft. to Roberts Estates Inc., \$100,000.
- Kismore Properties, Black Fork District, lot 31 to Chad Kismore Et Al, \$240,000.

We Get Letters

Editor,

On June 15th, 2023 an employee of TC EMS was given permission from the Interim EMS Director to use the State Highway fuel fob to access and obtain fuel to put into their personal vehicle which had been used excessively that day in support of TC EMS business functions. On June 16th, the Interim EMS Director informed the TC Ambulance Authority Board President of these actions. The Board President met with both individuals early that afternoon. Outcomes from the meeting were: a) clarification that neither the fobs, fuel cards or other access controls would

be used to obtain fuel from state or commercial entries for any use in a personally owned vehicle (POV). b) the appropriate mechanism to be used when POVs are used to conduct EMS business, is to submit mileage reimbursement at the present rate of 65.5 cents per mile or the current rate as published by the IRS for repayment in their next paycheck. The TC board president counseled the EMS Director regarding the proper use and access of EMS vehicles to WV State fuel sources and has directed that the guidelines be posted at each station for review by all EMS personnel.

As the TC Ambulance Authority

Board president, it is my determination that there was no intent to defraud or steal from either the state or the TC Ambulance Authority by anyone involved in this incident. All employees were acting in the best interest of the citizens and residents of Tucker County albeit not in accordance with state guidelines. This was a one time occurrence. All individuals have been counseled appropriately. TC EMS is controlled by an Authority Board and legally operates as a semi-private business separate from the county government. EMS vehicle access to DOH fuel points is controlled at the state level. One board officer and the treasurer have consistently reviewed the fuel use logs before authorizing payment by TC EMS to the State of West Virginia DOH throughout this fiscal year and do so as a matter of board policy on all our payments. We have found no indication that this is a systemic issue and we are confident that this matter has been properly addressed.

All organizations do and will make errors in judgement. Good organizations however, recognize their mistakes, take accountability for those actions and fix their errors. TC EMS addressed this issue internally on June 16th and it is considered resolved.

Dennis Filler
Tucker County Ambulance Authority
Board President

Morrisey’s Mobile Office Sets July Stops for North Central West Virginia

CHARLESTON — Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced a representative from his office will meet with north central West Virginia residents in July to discuss consumer-related issues and answer any potential questions.

“These public events are a great way for consumers to talk one-on-one with our consumer representatives,” Attorney

General Morrisey said. “Residents can easily get questions answered, learn what is going on in their area and how to keep personal information safe and secure.”

Pam Krushansky, a consumer outreach and compliance specialist with the office, will host the events on July 13, 10. to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center, 217 Senior Lane, Parsons

PSC opens investigation of fire hydrants

CHARLESTON, WV – On Friday, the Public Service Commission initiated a general investigation to examine the maintenance and testing of fire hydrants.

Although the Commission has no requirements for water pressure or volume for fire suppression, the state Department of Health and Human Resources requires that, “Under no circumstances shall fire flows be less than 250 gallons per minute.”

One of the primary charges of the Commission is to require public utilities to perform in a manner designed to safeguard the inter-

ests of the public and the utilities. Whether a fire hydrant is owned by a public utility or served by a utility, the utility has responsibilities to assure that the hydrant will perform adequately. If adequate flow cannot be delivered by a particular hydrant, that hydrant is not fulfilling its purpose as part of the water distribution system and the utility owning or serving the hydrant is not providing adequate service.

For that reason, the Commission has ordered that on or before July 28, 2023, all public utility owners of fire hydrants or that serve private fire hydrants shall provide certain infor-

mation to the Commission. Information sought includes the number of hydrants owned or serviced, their age, descriptions of the infrastructure supporting them, problems or complaints encountered, and maintenance schedules and practices.

PSC Chairman Charlotte Lane said, “We are seeking information and will evaluate when we receive it and then we will determine if further action is necessary.”

More information on this case can be found on the PSC website: www.psc.state.wv.us. Click on “Case Information” and access Case No. 23-0555-W-GI.

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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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Parsons High School Class of 1958 holds 65th reunion

The Parsons High School Class of 1958 held its 65th reunion at Piccola Paula's in Parsons on June 10, 2023

Bill Hanlin, class vice president, was the emcee for the event. A moment of silence was held for deceased members of the class. A hat with a 1958 class design was won by Rachele Davis and was donated to a class member. Table floral arrangements

were won by Gay Fansler White, Sherman Eye, Steve Schrecongost, Madeline Myers Weaver and Virginia Warner.

Those in attendance, other than the above-mentioned class members were: Sharon Hanlin, Dennis White, John Weaver, Kathleen Weaver, Barbara Parsons, Steve Schrecongost, Virginia Warner, and Rachele Davis.



OBITUARIES

Ruth Collins Hinkle

Ruth Collins Hinkle, 96, of Elkins, WV, passed away on June 25, 2023, at Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center. Born on November 29, 1926, in Davis, WV, the only daughter of the late Theodore and Grace (Good) Collins. On April 6, 1947 she was united in marriage to Ellery James Hinkle at the First United Methodist Church in Davis, WV.



Mrs. Hinkle attended the Davis, Tucker County schools and graduated in 1944. While in high school, she was active in the music department and attended the West Virginia All-State Chorus. After graduation, she attended West Virginia University and Davis & Elkins College, with a major in history and a minor in social studies. Mrs. Hinkle taught in Davis High School prior to moving to Elkins. In 1959, she was employed by Davis & Elkins college where she served in several positions through 1972. From 1972 to 1980 she worked as an interior designer for the Elkins Furniture Center. In 1980, she returned to Davis & Elkins College where she remained until her retirement in 1992. She was a member of the Elkins Junior Women's Club and was also a member of the Davis & Elkins College Aid. She was associated with the Mountain State Forest Festival as Chairman of Princess Housing and assisted in their business office. She was a member of the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church and worked in the Sunday School Department for twelve years. She later became a leader in the Youth Fellowship Program. Her passions were interior decorating, tablespaces, entertaining, history of the civil war and WV football.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ellery James Hinkle; a son, Clark Daniel Hinkle and wife Lola Brick Hinkle; and a granddaughter, Samantha Hinkle McLaughlin. Mrs. Hinkle is survived by two great-granddaughters; Kaitlin Nichole McLaughlin, and Jessica Ann McLaughlin.

A committal service was held on July 3, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the Maplewood Cemetery Mausoleum with Pastor Bob Yothers officiating.

The Hinkle-Fenner Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Hinkle family at this time.

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Kimberly "Kimmy" Marie Clements

Kimberly "Kimmy" Marie Clements, 43, of Davis, passed on June 19, 2023, surrounded by her family, at Garrett Regional Medical Center, after a very courageous battle with cancer. Born on August 10, 1979, in La Crosse, WI, she was the daughter of Philip and Debra (Bahr) Clements.



She graduated from West Salem High School in 1997 and, after high school, she went to UWL for five years, obtaining a degree in Recreational Management. She worked briefly in Hackensack, MN.

Kimmy was called to the mountains of West Virginia over twenty years ago and never looked back. She drove to Pendleton County from Wisconsin to work atop Spruce Knob, where she joined a team of outdoor educators at the Mountain Institute (TMI). TMI, now Experience Learning, remained her second home. "Spruce", as Kimmy referred to it, kick-started so many of her passions, friendships, and love for the West Virginia Hills. While at Spruce, she worked with dozens of people of whom she would eventually consider family. Her time there culminated with her cooking for groups that numbered in the hundreds and brought opportunities for work that took her as far as New York State.

From Spruce, Kimmy quickly discovered her love and passion for outdoor adventures. She led trips on the Via Ferrata and worked for Nelson Rocks Adventure Center. She was an avid rock climber and would drive to Seneca Rocks as often as the weather allowed. She settled in Tucker County, where her love for cooking and skiing landed her at WhiteGrass Cross Country Ski Resort and Cafe. Kimmy worked as head cook in the cafe and, in more recent years, in the shop and as a groomer. Her extended family included all the local "Powder Hounds". She would spend hours traversing Weiss Knobb, skiing to the Natty Nord, and indulging in her favorite pastime with friends.

Kimmy also cooked for the Bright Morning Inn, rolled sushi at the Ish Kitchen, and hosted many elaborate Thanksgiving Day dinners at her home. She was passionate about educating people on how food could heal our bodies. For seven years, Kimmy managed Highland Market in Davis, connecting farmers with local buyers and organizing workshops for people interested in canning, fermenting, organics and nutrition. Just as she was diagnosed with cancer, Kimmy started her first business, Canaan Creations, and her plan was to offer healthy prepared meals that she would pre-package for pick-up.

Kimmy Clements had arms of steel, a heart of gold, and a sharp tongue. She had "style for days", never met a dog she didn't love, and was an absolute light of joy and laughter. Her garden was her haven, cooking was her passion, and being tough as nails was her personality. She was a daughter, sister, aunt, cook, friend, athlete, lover of funky fashion, and an artist. Kimmy would chainsaw a tree down, make a bouquet of flowers, plant an entire bed of seedlings, and have a pot of soup cooking all before most folks got up in the morning.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her grandmother, Margaret Bahr; one sister, Tracy and husband Jim; special niece, Brittany and Jake; very special great niece, Quincy; nephews and nieces, Caden and Lizzie, Logan, Gavin, James Jr., and Michael; special aunts, uncles, and many cousins. Also surviving are all of her amazing, wonderful, and caring West Virginia family of 20 years and a very special friend, Casey King.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Jenny Clements; grandparents, George Bahr, Ralph and Joan Clements; and two uncles, Randy Bahr and Martin Clements.

Kimmy's request for cremation was honored and a celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, favorite memories of Kimmy may be shared with the family on the funeral home website or by a donation made to a charity in her name.

The Hinkle-Fenner Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Clements family at this time.

Director

Cont. From Front

in October...I will finish out my schedule as it is. I will still work clinically at Children's Hospital, WVU...I will just be reducing the amount of shifts. Once I get to October, every Tuesday and Wednesday will be my office hours in Charleston. I will go down on Tuesday morning, stay Tuesday night and come back Wednesday after hours. So that would give me a presence in Charleston. It won't be every single week, but the majority of weeks, I will be there. Everything else I will do virtually or I will have leads across the state."

The board congratulated Dr. Martin on his appointment.

Also at the meeting, Dr. Martin commended the work of an EMS staff member for their response to a cardiac arrest event. "I just wanted to recognize Cammy Nestor. The last time I did a major shift up here, it's kind of interesting, we don't generally have a whole lot of cardiac arrests. So, we had two cardiac arrests in one day... and the one would not have been proven and would not have been handled the way it was if Cammy had not

had the forethought to do what she did," Martin said. "She was first on scene. She had a patient who was obviously a drug overdose. She gave intranasal Narcan and then had the presence of mind to put them on the monitor and reassess the patient and she realized that the patient did not have a pulse and was not breathing. So, she started chest compressions as I came through the door, the patient had just awakened and looked at me and said, 'What's up, guys.' It was when we actually pulled out the monitor and ran it off, what actually happened was she gave the Narcan intranasally just as his heart rate was dropping down below 10. So, then he went to a flatline and he was not circulating. He could not absorb the Narcan. She started chest compressions, circulated, he absorbed the Narcan and woke up. She resuscitated that cardiac arrest before I even got on scene and all by herself. It was pretty amazing and if she hadn't put him on that monitor, we never would have known that. That's the proof, right there. Again, Cammy, great job."

Citizens Named to Top 200 Community Banks in the Nation

Citizens Bank of West Virginia was recognized for the third consecutive year by American Banker magazine in the Top 200 Publicly Traded Community Banks Under \$2 Billion of Assets in the Nation. Citizens Bank surpassed last year's placement, ranking 26th on the prestigious nationwide list and #1 among West Virginia banks. Citizens ranked 44th in 2022 and 64th in 2021.

"This consistent ranking is thanks to the commitment and work of our Citizens staff and management team who care deeply about our customers, communities, and mission," commented Nathaniel S. Bonnell, President & CEO. "It's with enormous pride we are near the top of the respected national leaderboard, reaffirming the value of our bank's innovative products and services along with our employees who deliver the highest-

quality customer service." Other points of pride for Citizens Bank include recently being named Newsweek's 2023 Best Small Bank in West Virginia, 2023 Small Business Administration (SBA) WV Community Lender of the Year, and The InterMountain's 2023 People's Choice Best Bank. In 2022, Citizens was named a Best Bank to Work for by American Banker.

American Banker ranks publicly-traded banks and thrifts with less than \$2 billion in assets based on three-year average return on equity (ROE) as of 12/31/2022.

About Citizens Bank of West Virginia

Citizens Financial Corp. (OTC: CIWV) is the parent company of Citizens Bank of West Virginia, Inc. with assets of \$597 million and headquartered in Elkins, WV. From six office locations in North Central and northern West Virginia, the bank provides integrated financial services including retail and commercial banking, wealth management, and mortgage services. For more information on Citizens Financial Corp. or Citizens Bank of West Virginia, Inc., visit us online at www.citizenswv.com.

TUCKER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

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Commission

Cont. From Front Page

Tucker County Commissioner Fred Davis also stated his support of Stevens at the meeting. “And I’ve been watching TV where all these new rule changes and stuff is and you’ve been in on top of the new rule tax thing and I’m glad that we have you to step in and do that now.”

“I will do my best for everybody in the county,” Stevens said.

The Commission also unanimously approved the appointment of Roger Cale as County Appraiser. Cale will be replacing Stevens as Appraiser.

Tucker County EMS Interim Director Amanda Simmons

updated the Commission on the latest developments with EMS which included an employee retention credit. “In general, we have a lot of good things going on,” Simmons said. “We just received notification that we received the employee retention credit through the federal government.”

Simmons said the credit would give EMS approximately \$270,000. “It’s going to be a once in a lifetime type thing,” Simmons said. “We are going to receive roughly \$270,000 through the employee retention credit. It’s the second round of

COVID reimbursement for payroll.”

Simmons credited Tucker County Director of the Office of Emergency Management Kevin White with the inspiration for applying for the credit. “Actually, I had talked to Kevin White and so we had been speaking one day and he said, ‘You know actually you might be eligible for that.’ I said ok and I gave them a call and actually at first they told us no because they thought we were a government body. But actually we are just funded by government, you know every so often throughout the year. It’s not

run by government. Its run by the board so in the end we were eligible for the retention credit.”

Simmons also told the Commission that the EMS board had also enacted a policy change. “We had a decision made on a policy that we had placed into action for the Fire Department as well as for City and County PD where each active member will receive two ambulance assisted rides EMS through Tucker County. It can’t be through another agency, it has to be through Tucker County, whether it be for something that has happened where they’ve hurt themselves at their home or

they’ve been sick or whatnot. It’s for them as an individual. And we’ve actually already had two firemen have already been able to us the policy. So, we were really happy to have that in place. We’re just elated over that one.”

Simmons said that wanted the agencies to know that they were appreciated. “Hopefully city and County PD, as well as Fire Department will get some use out of that and they will see that EMS really wants to go and make sure that they’re taken care of. They’re always there for us so we want to make sure we’re there for them.”

EMS

Cont. From Front Page

some of the supplies that we have,” Simmons said, “operational wise in the trucks that can help. One of those is bags. We’ve tried multiple bags, we’ve had some issues with that. We got one coming this week to try out. Its a really nice set up...we are going to try two, one in each station just so we can get a feel for everything.”

Simmons also informed the board of a new chair system that EMS could benefit from. “Stryker has been phenomenal,” Simmons said. “They did show us a stair chair today. That’s one of the upgrades that we are looking at is a stair chair in some form or nature. That is something that we do feel is desperately needed if we did have an issue. Here this last month we were not able to get lift assistance. That is something that we are looking at in the near future on trying to achieve.”

Simmons went on to explain to the board how the stair chair works. “What we do is if we have someone – we have one



Tucker County EMS met in regular session at the Five Rivers Public Library Meeting Room in Parsons.

individual in particular who lives on a set of stairs that go straight up outside,” Simmons said. “So what we do is, we take them out of the rig. Let’s say they are coming down. Let’s say that they get a 911 call. We place them on this chair – it kind of looks like a wheelchair – we strap them in and then the device has a set of tracks.”

Simmons also explained

the existing system that EMS has for their current stair chair. “Unfortunately, unless you have a partner that’s got enough build to them or you yourself are able to,” Simmons said, “unless you have two individuals that can actually do said stair chair, its very difficult to get said patient up and down because there is no electronics to it right now in fact the one that I

brought with me to the library the other day, didn’t even have a set of tracks on it, that’s how old it is. It has four tires.”

Simmons described the upgrades the new equipment had. “With Stryker right now, with the new mechanisms,” Simmons said, “we can put a 350-pound individual on and a little woman can take them up and down the stairs by

themselves without the assistance of fire or another individual. The new ones have electronics on them. They have a little battery pack. And its amazing, you push a button and it pulls them up the stairs and it glides them down. It has traction to it.”

Simmons told the board that the stair chair would be a vital piece of safety equipment for patients and

staff. “So that is something that we are looking at not just for the safety of the patients, but worker comp claims will go way down because of the back injuries,” Simmons said. “We are looking at 18 to 19 grand for one stair chair, but can I tell you it’s worth two workers comp claims or pulling the person out completely with one fall.”

Simmons also informed the board that EMS received notification that the authority qualified for reimbursement from the Employee Retention Credit. This credit is awarded through a federal Covid relief program. Simmons said that all forms have been signed and they will be receiving money, but it remains a matter of when. A total of \$270,000 from six increments is expected to be received over several months with the first check in four to 10 months. The program covers payroll expenses from March of 2020 to December of 2021.

Region VII

Cont. From Front Page

and communities have the skills, technology and capacity needed to reap in the full benefits of our digital economy.”

“The West Virginia Office of Broadband is currently implementing the State Digital Equity Planning Grant program which is centered on the development and implementation of digital equity and inclusion initiatives that focus on the covered population and those include those who live in households that are below 150% of the poverty level, aging individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with language barriers, individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups and individuals who reside in primarily rural areas,” Wallace said, “which includes all of Region VII’s counties.”

Wallace went on to explain how her office had received grant funding to assist the state in data collection from the communities to assist in assessing the needs of the state in regards to the broadband roll out goal. This resulted, according to Wallace, in the series of listening sessions that were held across the region. “So, feedback from these sessions have been submitted to state partners,” Wallace said, “to consider while developing their five year action plan to deploy broadband internet access border to border across the State of West Virginia. Between March 29 and May 31, Region VII held 13 listening sessions across our region...During the course of those 13 meetings, a total of 242 residents were reached.”

Wallace explained how the data was handled following the sessions. “Following each Listening Session we returned to our office and we immediately reported your feedback via the stat’s online submission form,” Wallace said. “The form mirrors the questions that were asked during the listening sessions.”

Wallace assured that her office did not hold back when submitting the public’s responses to the state. “As promised, we didn’t hold back,” Wallace said, “and often submitted your direct quotes regardless of how forward they were. After all, this was your opportunity to have your voices heard and we wanted to be sure stake holders heard exactly what you had to say and that included the good, the bad and the ugly.”

Wallace said the final report was submitted to the state June 1. “Our final report was submitted to the West Virginia Office of Broadband June 1st following our final listening session on May 31,” Wallace said.

Wallace also outlined portions of the report. “Please note that the report format was provided by the state,” Wallace said. “This is a date summary that the state requested that we fill out. You will see we are Region VII, we had 13 listening sessions. These are all the locations where

the sessions were held. We noted that we were going to have one virtual follow-up session, which is today, this meeting. Our covered population is listed here and then key themes and barriers and needs were all outlined. Keep in mind, this does not include all of the feedback that was submitted by the state, of course, because as I mentioned, following every session, we came back and submitted your direct feedback via the prior form we reviewed.”

Wallace explained the key themes, barriers and needs outlined in the report. “So for the key themes, barriers and needs we noted the following,” Wallace said. “Many parts of our region not only lacked access to internet, but also landline telephones, cell phones and radios. We heard this in many of our listening sessions. The current infrastructure that is in place cannot accommodate additional households unless another resident disconnects service. ISPs only make improvements in areas where they have competition. When they are the only option, they rely on antiquated equipment and technology. West Virginians in our region are left behind due to inadequate internet access.

Residents don’t have the option to efficiently work from home. Our students lost out on two years of education during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has led to a decrease in population. Business owners are relocating to places where broadband is considered a basic utility. We can’t attract new businesses to the area without the same offerings. The fiber infrastructure is in place, owners of the fiber need to be required to lease or sell access to smaller ISPs that are interested and willing to bring it to the home. If ISPs are receiving grant funds, they must be held accountable to provide what they promised. If they don’t they should be subject to hefty fines. Affordability differs greatly from household to household. This must be considered when calculating plan rates. And finally, residents in our area repeatedly expressed frustration with Frontier’s internet and customer service and questioned why they continued to receive grant funds.”

Wallace said that Frontier wasn’t the only company that respondents voiced concerns about. “Keep in mind, Frontier wasn’t the only company that we heard concerns and frustrations about,” Wallace said, “But it was overwhelming the response, the negative response, we got for Frontier through all of our listening sessions. So, we wanted to make sure that was noted.” Wallace also said it was noted in the report that the idea of a traveling technician to assist with service and repairs would be useful in the more remote areas.

Wallace said the state would begin

distributing surveys for those who were unable to attend a listening session beginning the week of June 19th. “The state procured a survey firm to create a survey to reach residents that were unable to attend our regional meetings,” Wallace said the additional data collection period would

run for 30 days followed by the state drafting their five-year action plan. The plan, according to Wallace, is estimated to be available beginning in August of 2023.

For more information about the Broadband rollout or Region VII, visit their website at <https://www.regionvii.com>.

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What's? Happening

Friends Of Cortland

There will be a meeting of the Friends of Cortland Acres July 10 in the Gathering Room at Cortland Acres at 1p.m. For more information, call Marie Grafton, Activities Director at 304-463-4181, Ext 21.

The Brights Chapel Homecoming

The Brights Chapel Homecoming will be held on Sunday, July 23rd, 2023 at 12:00 at the Brights Chapel Church grounds in Elk. Bring your favorite covered dish and beverage. Everyone is welcome to enjoy family, food, friends, and fellowship. Hamburgers and hot

dogs on the grill, paper products, gifts, and music will be provided. For info, please contact Matthew Bright at (304) 698-6288 or brightchapelhomecoming@gmail.com

Rummage And Bake Sale

The Hambleton United Methodist Church will be having a rummage and bake sale on Saturday, July 8 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fried bread, hot dogs, beans, cornbread and more will be available.

Heckler Reunion

The Heckler Family reunion will be held at St. George Park on Saturday, July 15 at 1 p.m.



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).

July 5, 1896: Cartoonist Kendall Vintoux was born at Fraziers Bottom. He began his career with the *Charleston Gazette* when he submitted a cartoon about the town of Poca's first paved road. Many of his drawings are now in the collection of the University of Charleston.

July 5, 1950: Army Private Kenneth Shadrick of Wyoming County was one of the first U.S. servicemen killed in action in the Korean War.

July 6, 1806: Statesman Charles James Faulkner was born in Martinsburg. Faulkner served in the West Virginia legislature, U.S. Congress (1851-59, 1875-77), and as U.S. minister to France.

July 6, 1848: Historian Virgil A. Lewis was born in Mason County. In 1905, Governor Dawson appointed Lewis as the first director of the Bureau of Archives and History.

July 6, 1883: Judge "R. D." Bailey was born at Baileysville, Wyoming County. Bailey came into wide prominence as the judge of the Matewan Massacre trial in 1921.

July 7, 1928: The Madonna of the Trail monument was dedicated in Wheeling. It is one of 12 such statues erected along the National Road to honor America's pioneering women.

July 8, 1894: Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photog-



July 11, 1861: The Battle of Rich Mountain was fought in Randolph County. Union troops under the command of General George McClellan defeated Confederate forces.

rapher, Aegerter built both a studio and darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement. The glass plate negatives survive today in several archived collections.

July 8, 1924: Rock 'n' roll pioneer Johnnie Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as "Roll Over, Beethoven." Berry's hit "Johnny B. Goode" was supposedly written as a tribute to Johnson.

July 8, 1961: Sutton Dam was dedicated by Governor Wally Barron. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam for purposes of flood control, low-flow augmentation and recreation.

July 9, 1942: An explosion at the Pursglove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in an eight-month period.

July 9, 1989: Treasurer A. James Manchin resigned after being impeached. With

a stock market downturn in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly \$300 million in investments for which he was responsible.

July 10, 1769: Physician Jesse Bennet was born. He performed the first successful caesarian section in America in 1794, on his own wife and without proper equipment and with no antiseptics. He later established a large practice in Mason County and served as an Army surgeon in the War of 1812.

July 10, 1936: The temperature in Martinsburg reached 112 degrees. It tied the record for the state's hottest recorded temperature, which had been set August 4, 1930, at Moorefield.

July 11, 1867: John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County. He served as the 15th governor of West Virginia.

July 11, 1976: Gov. Arch Moore dedicated the West Virginia Culture Center. The facility was built to showcase the Mountain State's artistic, cultural and historic heritage.

What is going on with our country? We have the son of a sitting president that gets off with a wrist slap for something that other people are in jail for. And then he pleads to a lesser charge and gets off with nothing. That is the same charge that got Al Capone arrested, convicted and imprisoned. I don't think your name should get you any privilege treatment. *Momma Said*, "My name is just as important as his is but my butt would be in prison!"

We are as screwed up as a world society can get. We have possible impeachment charges on our current president, charges against our former president, a basic dictator in Russia that is not being charged with war crimes, Canada is on fire, the air quality in the USA is dangerous and I can just imagine what it is like in Canada.

The Bible says that the world will be destroyed by fire this time around and I sure can believe it just by looking

Momma Said
This column is about tips, helpful hints, recipes and words of wisdom. I dedicate this column to my mother.
By Teri Cayton
The Parsons Advocate

outside. My eyes are itchy, my throat is sore and my ears hurt all the time. I don't think we are going to be seeing much sunshine this summer. The only solution is a gigantic rain storm that puts all the fires out or we wait until winter and the snow gets it done.

With all the smoke in the air it is actually disrupting the weather pattern and Canada may not get what they need. With the heat and smoke from the fires, storm clouds cannot form and it will just keep on burning. *Momma Said*, "I just hope when this is over I can see ya'll on the other side."

Lemon Blueberry Loaf

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups plus 1 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup plain yogurt or sour cream
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 tsp. lemon zest
- 1 ½ cups fresh or frozen blueberries

Lemon Glaze/Syrup:

- 2 to 3 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 cup sifted confectioner's sugar

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350*
2. Grease the sides and bottom of a loaf pan
3. Sift together all dry ingredients for the bread
4. In a large bowl, mix together all the moist ingredients

5. Slowly add in the dry ingredients
6. In a separate bowl, add the tbsp. of flour to the blueberries and fold gently into the batter
7. Pour the batter into the prepared pan
8. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes. If a toothpick comes out clean the bread is done
9. Remove from the oven and let cool for 10 minutes
10. Remove loaf from pan and cool on a cooling rack
11. In a small saucepan on low heat, add the powdered sugar to the lemon juice and let it dissolve. Simmer for 3 minutes
12. Using a fork, poke holes all over the loaf, top and sides
13. Use a pastry brush to brush the lemon syrup on the top and the sides.
14. Let harden for 15 minutes before serving
15. Enjoy!

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Super Crossword IT'S MEANINGLESS

ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN
1 Carter-era FBI sting	1 James A. Garfield's "A"	40 College-level H.S. courses	80 Stinging filer
7 "It costs — and a leg"	2 — Seltzer	41 Some vipers	81 Wall creeper
12 "Likely story!"	3 Occupy, as a desk	42 "Skyfall" actress Harris	82 Hold and use
16 Learning inst.	4 USN VIP	43 Writer Capote	83 Part of many a kid's lunchbox meal, for short
19 Spanning structure	5 Become older	44 Holster item	84 Shimmer, as an opal
20 Gorme with Grammys	6 See	45 Invite (to)	85 It's stuffed into an olive
21 Mag online	72-Across	46 Get reduced in price	87 Potato cover
22 Boxer Clay, renamed	7 — Fables	47 Suffix with north	88 After point number eight
23 Withstanding decay	8 Somnolent competitor	48 Surpass in competition	89 After point number eight
25 Dak., in the 1800s	9 Have — with destiny	49 Wriggly fish	90 After point number eight
26 Sawmill item	10 — Tin Tin films	50 Sheep's cry	91 Bar on a car
27 Org. for drs.	11 Got together	51 Razor brand	92 2016 Summer Olympics locale
28 Haughty type	12 Old Mexican	52 Stephen of	93 1992 Summer Olympics locale
29 Reggae singer with the Wailers	13 Seven, in Seville	53 Brand of bath additives	94 Frankness
31 Pureed fruit product since the mid-1800s	14 As to	54 Actress Tippi	95 Regional life
36 Top-drawer	15 Luxury Italian car	55 Slangy "sweetie"	96 Church parts
37 Is storming	16 Second-largest city in Greece	56 Denver-to-Bismarck dir.	97 Bert's bestie
38 Antonym: Abbr.	17 Shut entirely	57 Call a halt to	98 Some RSVPs
39 Maker of Tater Tots	18 Tall	58 Pull sharply	99 Defiant kid's declaration
41 It induces an immune response	19 With an inky implement	59 Size bigger than med.	100 About, timewise
44 Trash collection service	20 Stage after larva	60 Bicycle pedal attachment	101 Bert's bestie
48 "Our Gang" girl	21 Soft felt hat	61 Imagine	102 College VIP
	22 Pro votes	62 Young and inexperienced	103 Rakish guy
	23 Pungent salad green	63 Really weak	104 "SNL" aier
	24 Gossipy meddlers	64 PD alert	105 NHL's Bobby Fore
		65 First lady	106 Pale-looking
		66 Big oil gp.	

DEADLINE
3PM
FRIDAY

Weather Totals

June 20 - June 27

Nursery Bottom
Parsons

Temperature
Max 85° F
Min 54° F

Precipitation
Week 1.42"
June 4.05"
2023 23.78"

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

U.S. Forest Service

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		5	1		9		6	
4			7					3
	3			4		2		
2					4			5
		8		1			7	
9	6		8			1		
	1				5	9		
7			6					1
		9		8		3	2	

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!

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Community Cast, Musicians Announced for “Moonshine Memories”

“Moonshine Memories” -- a free, family-friendly music and courtroom drama program -- will be presented starting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 23 at Canaan Valley State Park, and at the same time on Sunday, July 30 at the old Courthouse in Parsons. The true story tells how a grizzled Tucker County “moonshiner” fought eviction from his home – and won!

Tucker County Commissioner Mike Rosenau and County Sheriff Jake Kopec will be part of the live community cast. Award-winning Elkins fiddler Gerry Milnes and guitarist Mike Miller will present

moonshine-themed songs. Also in the community cast “bringing history to life” are Tom Yocum, Casey Rucker, Susan Callahan, Carl Harr, Rafe Pomerance, Susan Moore, and Barb Alford. The program Director is Silas Bright.

For more information and to RSVP, go to <https://saveblackwater.org/moonshine-memories> or call 304-345-7663.

“Moonshine Memories” tells the story of Albert “Ab” Crossland, a Canaan Valley resident who fought back in court in 1969-70, when the State tried to evict Ab (and his pet skunks) from his cabin home on Canaan Valley State Park

West Virginia Man Wins Battle To Stay In Cabin

By SKIP JOHNSON
The Charleston Gazette
DATE: 10-1-69 Albert Crossland, a native of Mass., it all going. It ain't here. The

1971 Photo and Story about Moonshiner Ab Crossland grounds. The late Justice Larry Starcher of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals was Crossland’s Legal Aid lawyer.

“We had a great crowd at our history discussion about the Crossland case at Canaan Valley State Park on May 20,” said Tom Rodd of the local group Friends of Blackwater, which is organizing the program. “The July 23 and 30 programs will be lively,

fun, and interesting.” A reception will follow both programs.

Friends of Blackwater is partnering with the Tucker County Historical Society; ArtSpring; the Tucker County Highlands History and Education Project; Cottrill’s Opera House; and the Aurora Project; with financial support from the Tucker Community Foundation and the West Virginia Humanities Council.



TURNER'S TIDBITS



This is from a postcard dated June 6, 1910, from Jenningson. The chute is bringing boards out and there are men, in the lower right of the picture, stacking them. Jenningson at that the time was a large community with a school, store, lumber mill, etc. As I understand it, the train ran through the area and onward to Dryfork, Harman, Job and Whitmer. Thanks to the contributor for this great old card. Ideas, suggestions, comments or items to share, contact Tim Turner (304) 478-3389.

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Jared Box project helps alleviate anxiety of young patients

ELKINS, WV – Thanks to an innovative collaboration between the GFWC Woman’s Club of Elkins and Davis Medical Center, young patients in the emergency department can ease anxiety with a “Jared Box.”

The Jared Box Project began in 2000 following the death of five-year old Jared McMullen from State College, PA. Jared, who spent a lot of time in hospitals during his treatment for a brain stem tumor, brought a backpack of games, toys, and activities to his appointments. Upon his passing, Jared’s classmates honored him by initiating The Jared Box Project. They collected donated activity boxes which were distributed to children visiting the Geisinger Medical Center.

“The emergency department can be a scary place for our young patients,” said Kristi Moehrle, MHA, BSN, RN, Director of Emergency Services for Davis Medical Center. “The Jared Boxes are a wonderful and fun diversion for our little patients.”

Today, hospitals in all fifty states participate in the program with over one million boxes being distributed to hundreds of healthcare facilities.

Moehrle said supplies for the boxes are needed on a continued basis.

“We hope individuals and other community groups will donate items to keep the supply of Jared Boxes coming. They are really well received by the patients and their parents,” she said.

A Jared Box is a plastic shoe-sized storage box filled with small gifts, toys, games, crayons, coloring books, and fun activities.

Anyone interested in the Jared Box Project can contact the DHS Foundation at 630-3043, or visit the GFWC Woman’s Club of Elkins page on Facebook. You can also learn more at thejaredbox.com

The GFWC Woman’s Club of Elkins became a federated club in 1913. Over the past 100 years, the organization has participated in a variety of local, state, and national projects. The first library in Elkins was started by the club and was originally located in the lobby of the YMCA.

The club supports a number of local initiatives including donating clothing and toys to WVU Children’s Hospital, awarding scholarships to Randolph County high school seniors, volunteering for Red Cross blood drives, contributing to the Randolph County Animal Shelter, and much more. Visit the Facebook page to learn more about their community activities.

\$350,000 for EDA Projects in West Virginia

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, and member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$350,000 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for three separate economic development councils in West Virginia. The funding will be used to support the development and implementation

of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) across each region.

“The EDA is a key partner in growing our state’s local economies, and today’s announcement strengthens that collaboration with our partners in West Virginia,” **Ranking Member Capito said.** “These funds have the ability to go a long way in helping support new businesses, accelerate growth, and drive the public-private partnerships that make up the foundation of many

of our local economies, as well as helping to drive new investment in each area. I look forward to seeing the impact of this funding and, as Ranking Member of the EPW Committee, I will continue to lead efforts to support our communities through the EDA.”

The CEDS process is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic development roadmap to diversify and strengthen the regional economy.

Individual awards listed below:

- **\$210,000 – Region 1 Planning and Development Council:** This funding will support the development and implementation of a CEDS for McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming counties.
- **\$70,000 – Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council:** This funding will support the development and implementation of a CEDS for Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan counties, as well as nine municipalities.
- **\$70,000 – Region 7 Planning and Development Council:** This funding will support the development and implementation of a CEDS for Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis, Randolph, Tucker, and Upshur counties.

Morrissey Applauds US Supreme Court Decision Protecting Free Speech of Small Business Owners

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey issued the following statement after the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in 303 Creative v. Elenis, which defended the First Amendment rights of business owners.

“Free speech is just that: free speech. No one should be forced to say anything that is against their religious beliefs,” Attorney General Morrissey said. “Small business owners should be allowed to run

their businesses without fear of being shut down just because they choose to exercise their constitutional rights.”

The Attorney General was part of a 20-state coalition that filed an amicus brief which supported the position of 303 Creative.

Lorie Smith, who owns 303 Creative in Colorado, is a graphic artist and website designer. Smith wants to expand her business into wedding websites, but her religious beliefs prohibit

her from promoting same-sex weddings

Under Colorado’s anti-discrimination law, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals said that if Smith designs websites for opposite-sex weddings, she is required to create websites for same-sex weddings.

Smith sued, alleging that Colorado’s law violates her rights under the First Amendment.

In the brief, the coalition argued that states cannot use their public

accommodations laws to force business owners to create custom speech.

Attorney General Morrissey joined the Nebraska and Arizona-led brief with his counterparts in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Utah.

Read a copy of the Supreme Court’s ruling at: <https://bit.ly/432QOhP>

Tucker County Student Graduates from Glenville State University

GLENVILLE, WV – Garret W. Crossland-Bolyard of Parsons has graduated from Glenville State University as part of the University’s May 2023 Commencement. Crossland-Bolyard earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Administration of

Justice. Founded in 1872, Glenville State University is a public liberal arts institution located in Glenville, West Virginia. The University offers a variety of traditional and online degree programs and several NCAA Division II athletic teams.

\$798K TO SUPPORT TWO WEST VIRGINIA FOOD BANKS

Charleston, WV – U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$798,894 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. The funding is made possible through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and will support the operations of the Facing Hunger Food Bank in Huntington and the Mountaineer Food Bank in Gassaway.

“To ensure healthier and more prosperous communities, every West Virginian should have access to quality, affordable food. Addressing food insecurity continues to be one of my top priorities, and I am pleased USDA is assisting the West Virginia Department of Agriculture in supporting the efforts of the Facing Hunger Food Bank and the Mountaineer Food Bank. The funding announced today will help these organizations provide emergency

assistance for West Virginians in need, as well as strengthen food distribution infrastructure in underserved areas,” said **Senator Manchin.** “As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocating for resources to combat food insecurity throughout the Mountain State.”

TEFAP provides funds to state agencies to address gaps in emergency food system coverage and strengthen food distribution infrastructure in underserved areas. With the resources announced today, Facing Hunger Food Bank will work to establish and support new partner agencies in remote and rural areas, in addition to increasing traditional TEFAP distributions, mobile pantry distributions and just-in-time deliveries in those areas. Mountaineer Food Bank’s project will focus on expanding local agency capacity through a competitive sub grant process, as well as identify underserved areas and prioritize projects in those areas.

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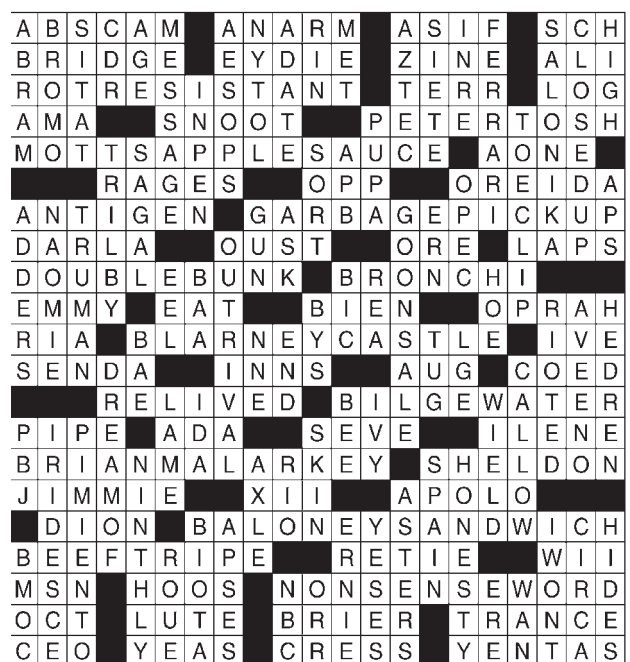


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Friends of Blackwater & Aurora Research Associates Receive Grant to Research West Virginia Central & Pittsburg Railroad



Friends of Blackwater and historical consultants Aurora Research Associates (ARA) received funding from the West Virginia Humanities Council to document and research historic resources along the former West Virginia Central & Pittsburg Railroad [Western Maryland Railroad] corridor in Tucker, Grant, and Mineral counties.

This grant is part of a larger project to explore the creation of a National Historic Trail that would link the Allegheny Highlands of West Virginia to a larger network of trails including the C&O Towpath Trail, the Great Allegheny Passage, and the Appalachian Trail.

Over the past year, ARA conducted extensive research of the West Virginia Central & Pittsburg railroad and traveled the corridor, surveying historic buildings, sites, and structures that would be of interest to users of a potential rail-trail. They found that many sites associated with the railroad and coal industry in West Virginia are dwindling in number, but several notable sites along the WVC&P corridor remain. Interested parties and future trail users will find railroad depots in Cumberland, Westernport, Piedmont, and Parsons; company stores and warehouses in Shallmar, Kempton, and Thomas; and former company housing now

used as private residences in Bayard, Shallmar, Coketon, and Westernport.

Friends of Blackwater and ARA invite you to join them at one of their "Railroad Reminiscences" local history events this summer to share stories about the railroad, learn about historic buildings and ghost towns, and discuss plans for a future recreational

and historical trail.

7/10 6:30 PM- Keyser WV, American Legion
 7/11 6:30 PM- Carpendale WV, Town Hall
 8/5 2:00 PM- Piedmont WV, Ameri-

can Legion
 8/6 2:00 PM- Parsons WV, Parsons Depot
 8/6 6:30 PM- Thomas WV, Buxton & Landstreet Gallery
 8/7 3:00 PM- Cumberland MD, Allegany Museum



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For more information, contact:
 Grace Roy, Director of Human Resources
 2533 Beverly Pike • Elkins, WV 26241
 or email to groy@ercc.biz

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Summer Reading Program 2023!



Five Rivers Public Library's summer reading program was June 7, 14, 22 & 28. The theme was "All together Now" which featured Science, Community Heroes and Bee happy, Bee kind.

Books were read to the children weekly and this year it covered Science, Community heroes and about being Kind to others.

The crafts, games, snacks & activities were geared toward the themes of the Summer Reading Program. Each child's handprints were painted and placed on a white paper sheet covering the back side of the door to the meeting room.

Nathan Sams from The National Youth Science Academy was here and he brought a bike that was pedal powered, the faster you pedaled the brighter the lights got, the kids loved it. Each child that attended that day received an engineering kit. Other science experiments were; Wiggly worm experiment, Soda and Mentos explosion and Marshmallow shooters just to name a few. There was fun painting, coloring, be kind rock paint-



ing and making clothes pin planters filled with seeds. There was 2 pinata's filled with candy and the kids loved swinging the bat to get the candy out of them.

All children received goodie bags, with the top three readers receiving a special tote filled with a variety of items. Our top three readers were, 1st place went to Ryleigh Blue, 2nd place was Quinn Hovatter and 3rd place went to Gage Hovatter.

Of the reading lists that were turned in, 789 books were read for the 3 weeks of the program. To encourage the kids to read, there were several businesses who contributed certificates to the reading program. McDonalds, Ada Mae's, Grandma's Custard, The Gram Slam Grill, Mr. Pizza, Crystal's Bakery, B & J's family diner, Shop & Save and Subway. We appreciate the businesses for their support! We also appreciate all the



parents, grandparents, etc. who brought the children to our program! The kids had a great time as did the volunteers and library staff!

The last Summer Reading Day was celebrated with pizza, ice cream and drinks at the Mill race and splash park.

Children attending this year: Rhys, Gage and Quinn Hovatter, Luke Rippey, Avery and Adalee Lycliter, Ryleigh & Raehan Blue,

Arlana Roberts, Lonnie Roberts, Colt and Ryder Glover, Austin and Jackson Mauzy, Nora, Harrison and Audrey Roberts, MaKenna Hackney, Milliana "Milli" Miller, IdaLee Nestor, Anna and Ava Wilmoth, and Natalie Owens, we had a total of 26 children attending this year.

Thanks to our volunteers, Macy & Maddy Helmick and Tabitha Adams.

Career Services at Eastern Held Job Fair in April

Moorefield W.Va. – On April 11, 2023, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College Career Services, led by Dixie Heavener, Career Counselor, held a job fair with fifty-one employers onsite. Companies like Northrop Grumman, West Virginia University, and Pilgrim's Pride were among the employers who attended. There were eighty-nine job seekers in total who showed up throughout the day to network and find employment. Heavener said, "Eastern's job fair brings together job seekers and employers from the tri-state area to network and discuss job opportunities and internships. I am honored to plan these events for Eastern students, alumni, and community members. I am also very proud of today's turnout. I hope to see participation rates continue to soar." A raffle drawing was held at the end for one employer to win an Eastern's Potomac Highland Producers boxes. Jessica Rhodes, Dental Office Manager at St George Medical Clinic, was

the winner. Eastern holds two job fairs annually, with the next one coming up on October 10, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

About Eastern Career Services

Career Services at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College is a comprehensive service center designed to meet the career planning, career exploration, job seeking, and post-graduation needs of every student and alumni. Get expert assistance in building or refining your resume, cover letter, or professional portfolio. Practice your interviewing skills with a mentor and receive feedback on your performance. Learn important career planning and employment skills by participating in monthly mini-courses. Topics include but are not limited to negotiating your salary, benefits of online professional platforms (i.e. LinkedIn, Focus2Career, Handshake), job search strategies, interview skills,



personal finance, setting up your own business, and how to ask for what you need at work to be successful.

Stop by Room 111 at Eastern's

main campus in Moorefield, WV, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Evening hours are available by appointment. For more information, visit east-

ernwv.edu/current-students/career-services/. Contact Dixie Heavener, Career Counselor at dixie.heavener@easternwv.edu or 304.434.8000 ext. 9239.

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