

The Parsons Advocate

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF TUCKER COUNTY SINCE 1896

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County Parks and Recreation Discuss Ball Field Plans

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Tucker County Parks and Recreation Board met in open session at Holly Meadows Golf Course. Among the agenda items was the scoreboard at the baseball field across from Camp Kidd.

"We bought that scoreboard over two years ago and it's still sitting," Board Member Tom Gutshall said.

"I'm going to call them tomorrow and say, 'Hey, something has got to be done about this scoreboard.' I mean its sit there for two years. I mean, it's a brand new scoreboard."

As part of the discussion on the matter, the board discussed the need for a comprehensive plan for the ball field area before they could move forward with placement or improvements. "(The School Board) was supposed to give us a comprehensive plan on

See PLANS page 3



The ball field across from Camp Kidd was the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Tucker County Parks and Recreation Board.

Speed Bumps Create Controversy for Commission



The installation of temporary speed bumps like this one by the county at Camp Kidd became the topic of dissension at the Tuesday, July 11th meeting of the Tucker County Parks and Recreation Board. The installed speed bump is one of three purchased and installed by the Tucker County Commission in an attempt to slow traffic near the ball field and camp grounds.

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Discussion of the topic of the installation of temporary speed bumps in the area surrounding Camp Kidd became heated between Tucker County Parks and Recreation Board Member Mike Shaffer and Tucker County Commissioner Mike Rosenau at the Tuesday, July 11th regular

session of the Parks and Recreation board.

"Just wanted to have a general discussion, we'd put it under facilities, with Mike and Fred (Davis) regarding the installation of the speed bumps up along the route coming in down by the ball field," Shaffer said.

"What we are going to do is," Rosenau said, "we are going to place three

speed bumps down through there. We ordered the first one to get the size, but they are interchangeable. So we'll order three additional ones to that one so that we can have two or three. So it will go from the edge of the pavement to the edge of the pavement."

Rosenau cited numerous complaints of children crossing the road in the area as the reason

behind the plan. "We've had so many complaints about kids running back and forth," Rosenau said. "We've had the police down here, there's signage every place, you know."

Rosenau said the speed bumps were the only option available to the County Commission, "The only thing we can do as a commission is, we're installing the speed bumps to maintain traffic control." Rosenau went on to say that the decision was made in order to prevent children from being injured in the area. "So,(we're),trying to prevent a child from getting hurt."

Rosenau said the speed bumps were temporary in nature. "So what we are going to do is, we are going to install three speed bumps down through there," Rosenau said. "They are on a temporary basis. They will be from the spring until the fall. They will come out during the winter to maintain for plowing."

Rosenau said he had witnessed the need first

Animal Shelter Updates Commission

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Tucker County Animal Shelter Director Bailey Falls updated the Tucker County Commission on the progress of the shelter at the Commission's July 12th regular session.

"This month, we've been busy," Falls said. "We've had more coming in then going out, but that kind of is par for the course this time of year with people going on vacations, but we've had a lot of fosters step up and able to help out so that's been very good."

Falls updated the Commission on the status of the county's voucher program. "We're at 168 vouchers issued so far to Tucker County residents," Falls said. "People have really been appreciative of that. Its made a big difference. We're glad to be able to help folks with that."

Falls said the shelter is in need of volunteers to help walk dogs, especially in the mornings. "We've got a lot of big, energetic dogs that need the energy outlet to stay sane in the shelter."

The AED has been installed at the shelter, according to Falls. "Joe and Benny came in and installed our AED, which I believe it was from Mandy. It was Mandy Simmons who got the AED. So that's awesome. We're excited to have that. Joe and Benny got that installed, I think it was on Monday."

"And that goes right back to working together," Tucker County Commissioner Mike Rosenau said. "You know Mandy is not a county employee, but she knows the need. She went after the AED."

"She had told me that she had ordered that," Falls said. "So we are really thankful for that, especially being tucked up there with volunteers who are older and its definitely a reassurance. We're glad to have

See SHELTER page 2

Emergency Management to Host Mass Casualty Training



Tucker County Commissioners Tim Knotts, right, Mike Rosenau, center, and Fred Davis, left, received updates from several departments during the Commission's regular session.

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Emergency Management Director Kevin White updated the Tucker County Commission during the Commission's regular session on the progress of his department which included details of an upcoming interdepartmental Mass Casualty Training.

"We have a MCI going on," White said. "A Mass Casualty Incident. It is going to be based on a school bus accident."

According to White, the school bus that will be used in the training was donated by the Tucker County School Board. "We did find a school bus," White said. "The School Board got us a bus. They had one, I guess, that had a catastrophic engine failure several years ago. Had been sitting in a lot somewhere else where they had taken it to get repaired. They couldn't do anything with it, so I told them I don't need a motor. We just need the body, the wheels, the

See TRAINING page 2

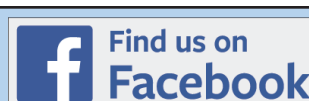
Corridor H Bridge



Work continues to progress on the Bridge between Moore and the county line, despite numerous delays.



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Shelter

that.” Falls said that there was work done to assist with temperature and moisture regulation in areas that did not currently have air conditioning. “Joe and Benny also helped out with moisture and temperature regulated in our buildings that don’t have central air and they’ve helped out a lot with that. They’ve gotten some things kind of worked out with some of the rooms that weren’t used in previous years that are now in use. So, making sure that they stay dry and cool enough that equipment and animals are safe and staff are safe as well.”

Falls also informed the Commission of a donation from Kingsford Charcoal. “Kingsford Charcoal made the generous donation of five pallets – that’s over seven, almost 7500 pounds of cat litter...We’re really grateful for that. It was in memory of Connor Nestor. So, we’re thankful for Kingsford and the Nestor Family for remembering Connor like that.”

Falls also thanked the Assessor’s Office for their donation of a Jeep to the shelter. “We are also very thankful to the Assessor’s Office for passing on their Jeep to us. That has been

very helpful to have two SUVs that are reliable to be able to transport animals, especially if we have to go in different places at different times.”

According to Falls, her department has taken off the Assessor’s decals from the vehicle and will soon be placing “Animal Shelter” under the existing Tucker County lettering.

The Friends of the Tucker County Animal Shelter, a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Fundraising Board is accepting new

members. Contact the Animal Shelter for more information on how to help.

The next meeting of the Tucker County Commission will be held July 26th at 6 p.m. at the Tucker County Courthouse Old Courtroom in Parsons. The Tucker County Animal Shelter Advisory Board will meet July 16th at 12 p.m. at the Animal Shelter, 586 Brooklyn Heights, Parsons.

Cont. From Front Page

Traffic Delays

US 219, Seneca Trail, in Tucker County, will continue to experience major delays thru Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Major delays are expected for US 219, Seneca Trail, Tucker County, approximately 2.70 miles north of the Randolph County line and approximately 1.00 miles

south of County Route 219110, Moore Station Road, continuing Wednesday, July 12, 2023, through Tuesday, August 15, 2023, from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. This is for continued construction work associated with Corridor H. Special accommodation will be made for emergency vehicles. All other motorists are advised to plan accordingly and use alternate routes as necessary.

Cont. From Front Page

Training

chassis. Stuff like that. They agreed to get it towed there. I told them we’d pay for the tow bill.”

At the request of Tucker County Commissioner Mike Rosenau, White explained what a Mass Casualty Event is. “It basically is a response to where we have more patients than we have capability,” White said. “And then, you have to categorize them. So, if you have three people, it can be a mass casualty because you have three people involved. Mass casualty for us, in this situation, we’re probably going to try to get 10 people involved as victims.”

White said the training would involve several different entities. “We’re going to bring all our local resources together: fire, law, EMS, 911,” White said. “We’re writing the script right now to say that we got these victims, we’ve got persons trapped.”

White said the training had to include a hazardous material component. “We have to have a hazardous material component in it,” White said.

“So, it will basically be a diesel spill into a stream, something like that. Because then, our LEPC can sponsor it with their funds to help provide a meal or something like that. They get those funds given to them from the state every year, like \$3500, as long as they play by our rules, which ours does. We play by the right rules.”

White said the scenario for the training will be a bus accident involving another vehicle. “We’ll have a bus accident involving another vehicle, probably. We’ll have the bus driver, five, six, eight passengers being kids and we are going to go through the process of removing them, triaging them, setting up transportation for them. Things like that.”

“So, it’s a great thing,” Rosenau said. “So before, God forbid anything ever happens, we’ve already gone through the steps in training to work out the bugs, per se. So, I applaud you all.”

“We do this once a year at least,” White said. “Last year we did a Water Movement Class for all the fire

departments, EMS, everybody come together and we set up on Thomas. and we moved tankers and thousands and thousands of gallons of water so that if we ever had a large fire – say Front Street, Thomas, God forbid it ever happened, we’re going to need more water than we can possibly get. So, we did that. The year before we did, I think a swift water type deal and ice. Somebody falls through the ice. That type of stuff. We do these things regularly. Sometimes we include Health Med in on them. But, its for all our Emergency Services to come together for a half a day and we train together so we know what equipment and what we can provide. That way we all are on the same page as a team when it comes to that. God forbid its needed, but if its needed, we got it.”

White said the training date is set for August 5. “We’ll have that I think its August 5 is that date that we’ll have that and invite everybody.” White informed the Commission that the training will be held at Tucker County High School.

News of Record

• **Jasper Wayne Snyder**, of Parsons, was charged with one felony count of Sexual assault in the 2nd degree and one felony count of Strangulation. The complaint states that on Friday, June 9 Trooper C.A. Hawkins of the Parsons Detachment of the West Virginia State Police was dispatched to a sexual assault complaint. The complainant was in the emergency room at Davis Medical Center in Elkins.

Hawkins obtained a hand written statement from the victim in which she stated she met with Snyder just to talk. He got into her car and told her to drive and she did so until he told her to stop. She stated he forced her into the backseat and told her to lie down. She stated she froze and couldn’t speak and he used a rope to tie her arms and legs and began to choke, bite and sexually assault her.

She tried to tell him to stop but he kept pressing on her neck and she could not breathe. After the sexual assault he threatened her if she told anyone that he would make it look like she had set him up. Snyder was located on June 21 and stated he had not seen the victim in two years.

Snyder has been charged with sexual assault and is being held in the Tygart Valley Regional Jail on \$25,000 bond.

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

- Vandalia Heritage Foundation, Thomas Corporation, Unit 5 Dibacco Lofts to Cory Stout and Maria Belcher, \$79,000.
- William Harold Samples and Ruth Elaine Samples, Black Fork District, 1.633 acres to Shavers Fork LLC, \$48,500.
- Maria Martin Thacker Revocable Trust; Maria Thacker Martin Trustee, Lot 7 Canaan Heights Estates to Justin Moeller Et Ux, \$215,000.
- Stephen F. Szurgyi, Dry Fork District, Lot 105 Mountainside to Ian Mehi Beckner and Dena Lynn Beckner, \$365,000.
- David C. Leshner and Nancy E. Leshner, Davis District, 3.54 acres to Eriks Brolis and Linda Brolis, \$430,000.

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

- Wesley Brian Bennett to Ashley Danielle Roy on Saturday, July 8, 2023.
- John Michael Vieira to Erin Mary Ingeholm on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

The Parsons Advocate

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PARSONS ADVOCATE LETTERS TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Parsons Advocate

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OBITUARIES

Joyce Lee Rosier Hovatter



Joyce Lee Rosier Hovatter, 62, a resident of Parsons, passed from this life on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at Davis Medical Center in Elkins. She had been in declining health.

Joyce was born on Tuesday, July 12, 1960, in McKeesport, PA, a daughter of the late Kenneth Virgil Rosier and Patricia Marie Elizabeth Robertson Rosier. She was married to O.J. Hovatter.

Left to cherish Joyce's memory is a daughter, Sherry Ann Hovatter, and fiancée, Carson White, of Parsons, two brothers, Kenneth Lee Rosier and wife, Delores, and Charles Ode Rosier and wife, Helen, three sisters, Blanche Marie Hoover of PA, Diane Elizabeth Knotts and husband, David, of Parsons, Stacy Marie Coffman and husband, John, of Elkins, mother-in-law, Frances Hovatter, several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Preceding Joyce in death besides her parents, was two brothers, Riley John Rosier, and Kenneth Virgil Rosier, a half-brother, Walter Pleasnaik and wife, Jenny, and brother in law, James Hoover.

Joyce attended Tucker County High School. She was a homemaker but had previously worked for the Tucker County Senior Center. Joyce loved working with the seniors, shopping, her fur babies and her parrot, Maggie. Above all, she dearly loved her only child, Sherry.

Joyce's request for cremation will be honored and in keeping with her wishes, there will be no formal services. The Hostetler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Joyce Lee Rosier Hovatter. Send online condolences to the family at: www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com.

James June Carr

James June Carr, 92, a resident of Hendricks, passed from this life Thursday, July 13, 2023 at Garrett Regional Medical Center in Oakland, MD. He had been in declining health.

June was born on Tuesday, March 3, 1931, a son of the late Alvie Carr and Anna Margaret Mick Carr. On October 6, 1985, in Red House, MD, he married Shirley Shaffer Carr, who survives. They had celebrated thirty-seven years of marriage.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Shirley, four daughters, Helen Carr Gatto, of Hendricks, Beverly Carr Morgan and husband, John, of Carlisle, PA, and Sandy Carr Perks and husband, Will, of Beaufort, SC, Jo Viragh and husband, John of Uniontown, PA, a son, Donald Butler, of Terra Alta, nine grandchildren, Susie Kelly, Alyssa Bravo, Nick Viragh, Scott Mackie, JD Gatto, Jessica Clouse, Jennifer Morgan, Jacquelyn Putt, and Joseph Perks, seven great-grandchildren, three sisters, Bessie Wilmoth, Lula Friend and husband, Terry, and Rita Oldaker and husband, Roy, and several nieces and nephews.

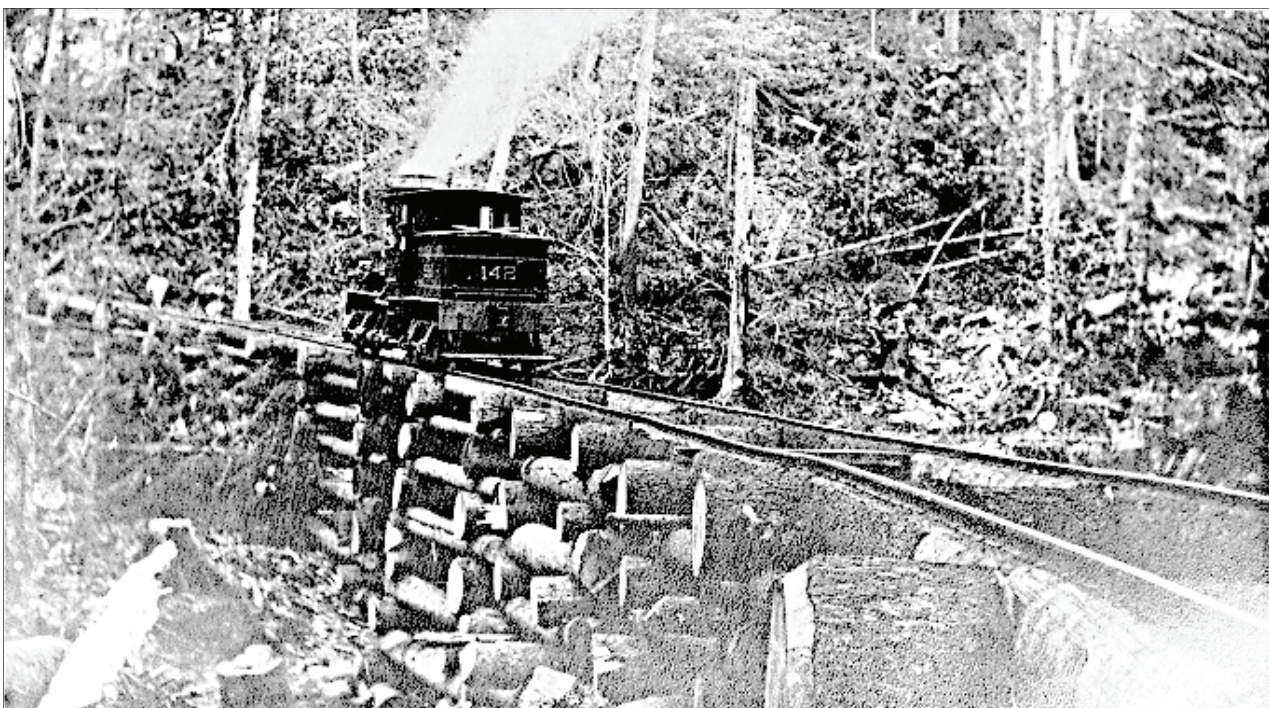
Preceding June in death besides his parents was his first wife, Mildred Louise McDaniel Carr, a daughter, Barbara Mackie, a son-in-law, Jim Gatto and a brother, Neal Carr.

June attended Hamrick School. He was employed by Carl "Sonny" Hedrick for many years and was a mechanic for the Department of Highways from which he retired after more than twenty years. June enjoyed fishing, hunting, and camping. He was a good Christian man.

Visitation was held at the Hostetler Funeral Home on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the funeral hour. Rev. James Snyder officiated, and interment followed at Fansler Cemetery in Hendricks. The Hostetler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for James June Carr. Send online condolences to the family at: www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com.



TURNER'S TIDBITS



This is the Number 142 Shay built for F. Thompson Lumber Company in Island Run, Pennsylvania. The Shay is shown here in Davis operating for the Blackwater Lumber Company in 1900. Ideas, suggestions, comments, or items to share contact Tim Turner (304) 478-3389.

St. George Senior Outpost

The St. George Senior Outpost met on June 15. Sharon Daniels led the pledge of allegiance, blessed the dinner, and started the evening program of show-n-tell. Folks displayed beautiful quilts and various antiques and collectibles. Jane Pifer explained her genealogy research and James Poling demonstrated turkey calls. Attending

in addition to the above were Carmen White, Becky Corcoran, Linda Bonner, Pete Kuhn, Buddy Arnold, Dorothy Simpson, Claudette Judy, Don Nestor, Virginia Popio, Arlene Ramsey, Jean Myers, Carol Weinstein, Shirley Cassidy, Roger Carpenter, Judy Parsons, Janice Poling, and Eleanor Nestor.

The next gathering will be July 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the St. George United Methodist Church for a Christmas-in-July celebration with songs and stories. Seniors are always welcome to come, bring a friend, bring a covered dish and enjoy food, fun, and fellowship.

Plans

Cont. From Front Page

what they want to do, what is their idea," Gutshall said. "We were going to make some changes up there...the way we want to make it to hold Tournaments like softball tournaments and Little League Baseball. We got to have the fields back-to-back."

Gutshall posed the idea of having two fields back-to-back with the press box and concessions stand between the fields. "You could put one press box in the middle," Gutshall said. "Then you could use the same press box for both fields."

Gutshall commented on plans for a concession stand. "The whole idea if that is, if you do it right, if you build it correctly, you can put a concession stand underneath the press box," Gutshall said. "So now its accessible to both fields. Rather than build another building."

Gutshall also expressed some opportunities an updated ball field could bring to the county. "You could get a softball tournament there," Gutshall said. "They could rent out Camp Kidd because we'd have eight, ten teams come down here."

Tucker County Commissioner Mike Rosenau questioned the board on the subject. "Let me ask you this," Rosenau said. "I don't know much about it. So, if you put your fields back-to-back, how do they play?"

"Home plate would be right at cen-

ter field," Gutshall said. "It would be adjacent fields." Gutshall said that there was plenty of room to expand and not impact parking for the area. "You'd have the same amount of parking you have now," Gutshall said.

"The Little League Baseball and Softball were supposed to put together a comprehensive plan of what they were wanting," Board Member Mike Shaffer said.

"But when it comes to the scoreboard, if you had your plan, you could save a step and do it," Rosenau said.

"We need to have a plan first before we can do any kind of financing," Shaffer said.

"But the thing is, once you have a comprehensive plan," Rosenau said, "then you can move toward it. Maybe it would be in steps, maybe a grant becomes available. That's what I'm keyed into is grants, but you can't have anything for grant applications without a plan."

There was discussion that the board was promised a comprehensive plan from the organization two years prior, but due to it never being presented, the project has been at a standstill. The board voiced frustration over the inactivity on the project. The board also discussed the issue of the county schools use of county facilities.

"Like everything in the county,

schools use the fields for nothing," Gutshall said. "You know, we charge a little bit of nothing, we charge softball nothing for use of the facilities. We pay electric, we pay the water, we pay for everything, which is fine... Everything done down here is done voluntarily."

Rosenau said, "Another thing I will tell you I think is the school utilizes it, I think the Board of Education should be involved in it, you know."

"They should be invested in it. They should have some money in it," Shaffer said.

"I didn't want to say that out loud," Rosenau said. "But that's exactly how I feel, too. They should be."

The board discussed that they were glad to help the school and allow them to use the field, but also discussed that the maintenance of the facilities fell solely upon Parks and Recreation. "The bottom line is this," Gutshall said. "It is for the kids and we would never say no to the kids. But then again, they have to have some responsibility."

The board discussed getting on the agenda for the next school board meeting. "That's what I'd do," Rosenau said.

"We can't move forward without a comprehensive plan," Shaffer said. The board tabled the subject.

Speed bumps

Cont. From Front Page

hand. "Like I said, I've been to various ball games down here. You got kids running across the road all the time. The thing is its, I can't, after it was brought to my attention so many times, in a clear conscience, not do something that is going to try to help the kids."

"Now, I don't disagree with the concept," Shaffer said. "I question, since they are temporary, can they be permanent?"

"We can do permanent," Rosenau said. "They'd be into the road then."

"What reasoning would be permanent?" Shaffer said. Shaffer went on to say that he didn't see a need for the measure. "It looks to me that the times you're at risk up there is where you have kids at the ball field and people at the camp. That's the time when, I'll call at risk. Now listen, hear me out, that's the times when you're at risk, in my opinion. Now obviously we've operated this facility for the last 20 years or whatever, we have had issues. I agree there is a potential, but that potential is when there is children present. Outside of the times there's kids or there's ball games, I don't see the need to have those in place."

Rosenau said, "How many times have you been down here and you seen parents bringing their kids down to practice in the new facility you

have down here, the batting cages? You have kids coming down just to, I know my dad did it all the time, just to pitch to them. So, if you have that potential there...so you have children there more than just whenever there's a ball game going on."

"You have children at the city ball field," Shaffer said. "You have the city park, you have children in town running around on the streets."

Some members of the board expressed a desire that the speed bumps be removed following ball season, but said the measure was a good idea overall. There was also discussion of children present during 4-H Camp and the county fair.

"They are going to be there right to the fall," Rosenau said. "There won't be any there in the late fall. Not until early spring."

"Why is that guideline being set that way?" Shaffer said. "Is that just your preference or is that consensus of somebody?"

"Its the Commission's preference," Rosenau said.

"So, you voted them in," Shaffer said.

"We voted to install," Rosenau said. "We approved on our agenda to purchase the speed bumps and put them down there. Everybody's all right with it, but you. You're the only one I've heard has a complaint from.

Everybody else has been saying, 'Mike, thank you for trying to protect the kids.'" Rosenau went on to say, "We can agree to disagree."

Rosenau reiterated his position on the traffic safety of the area. "Like I said," Rosenau said, "to see the kids running back and forth across the road. And like I've said we've had the police down here. We have signs posted and there's still people running 30,40 miles an hour through there. One child gets hurt, and we didn't do something about it...I'm just saying, the speed bumps are going in. That's the way it is."

"You're not being practical about it, Mike," Shaffer said. "Try to be practical. There is a time and need for it, but it isn't seven plus months out of the year. We had this discussion. We had speed bumps up at one point in the past, like the 90s. We went through the same kind of process. We actually ended up getting more complaints on speed bumps then we did otherwise. So this isn't like its a new concept."

Rosenau expressed a desire not to argue over the issue. "I'm just saying, I don't want to argue. I hate fights," Rosenau said.

The next meeting of the Tucker County Parks and Recreation Board will be held August 8th at 9 p.m. at Holly Meadows Golf Course.

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Gas Prices Continue to Fall in West Virginia

The average price for gasoline across Northern West Virginia is five cents lower this week at \$3.289 per gallon, according to AAA East Central's Gas Price Report.

This week's average prices:

- Northern WV Average **\$3.289**
- Average price during the week of July 3, 2023 **\$3.332**
- Average price during the week of July 11, 2022 **\$4.637**

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

\$3.243	Bridgeport
\$3.269	Clarksburg
\$3.199	Huntington
\$3.378	Martinsburg
\$3.378	Morgantown
\$3.228	Parkersburg
\$3.323	Weirton
\$3.294	Wheeling

Trend Analysis:

Pump prices barely budged over the past week, despite

the expected demand surge due to the July 4th holiday. AAA predicted that more than 43 million people would hit the road to celebrate the nation's birthday.

Despite the record number, the national average for a gallon of gas is just a penny higher since last week at \$3.54. Today's national average is four cents lower than a month ago and \$1.14 less than a year ago.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gas demand increased slightly from 9.31 to 9.6 million barrels per day last week. Meanwhile, total domestic gasoline stocks decreased by 2.5 million barrels to 219.5 million barrels.

At the close of Wednesday's formal trading session, West Texas Intermediate increased by \$2 to settle at \$71.79. Oil prices have increased due to market concerns that supply may be tight through the remainder of 2023. However, price increases have been capped due to ongoing market fears that a recession will occur. Additionally, the EIA reported that total domestic commercial crude inventories decreased by 1.5 million barrels to 452.2 million barrels.

Motorists can find current gas prices nationwide, statewide, and countywide at gasprices.aaa.com.

AAA East Central is a not-for-profit association with 69 local offices in Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsy

West Virginia Homegrown Harvest Festival

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"An inclusive community where everyone is welcomed!"

"A gathering of friends, families, artists, and musicians ... there's something for everyone..."

These are but a few of the things you'll hear and we've heard over the years about The West Virginia Homegrown Harvest Festival established in 2017 and set against the breathtaking backdrop of Silver Lake in Eglon, WV. The West Virginia Homegrown Harvest Festival has had one thing from the very beginning of its infancy ... a love for West Virginia and her mighty people, for the musicians, the artists, the very BEST of West Virginia. Since 2017, that love has grown from a handful of folks with a vision to represent Appalachia at her finest, to several.

Plug in 3086 Seneca Trl Eglon, WV 26716 into your GPS and prepare to unplug upon arrival. The lineup this year is incredible with the following acts: Revered Rattlesnake, Brasstaxx, Auddity III, A.M.D., Homebrood, Wazoo, The Snatchburg Boys, Chaga Tea Project, Floyd Cowger & The Honkey Tonk Hounddogs, Wildman Band of Thieves, Fat J's Space Travelers, and more!

Come join us for a weekend of fun Friday July 29 & Saturday July 30!! Music will begin at 4 pm Friday & 1 pm Saturday!! Sponsored by Peaceful Vibes, Pillage Sound, Endo Solutions, VW Restorations and The Blaxsmith Shop, all of Upshur County! The WV Homegrown Harvest Fest is proud to support the Musicians, Artists, Crafters & Small Businesses who call our beautiful mountain state home. Weekend Pass with camping - \$50, Weekend Pass without Camping - \$30, Day Pass with Camping - \$25, Day Pass without Camping - \$15. Kids 13 & under Free!! \$5 Dog Fee per dog!

Citizens Named Nationwide Top Lender

Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) recently named Citizens Bank of West Virginia the 2023 nation's No. 2 top lender in the consumer/mortgage category for banks \$300M - \$1B in assets. Recognition is based on the strength of the banking services and operational efficiencies throughout the previous year.

ICBA used FDIC data for 2022 and calculated a lender score out of 100 for each community bank. The score combines the average of the bank's percentile rank for lending concentration and for loan growth over the past year in each lending category and adjusted for loan charge-offs in each category at certain percentile thresholds.

"As a community bank in rural Appalachia, we feel especially proud that we are ranked second in the nation as the top consumer and mortgage lender," stated Citizens Bank President & CEO Nathaniel S. Bonnell. "This achievement is a testament to the team of professionals focused on helping our customers throughout the entire

financing process. Citizens is proud to help so many people achieve the dream of homeownership, purchase a vehicle, or a camper for family vacations."

In the past year, Citizens Bank provided financing of over \$220 million to more than 4,000 clients to buy autos and RVs, first homes, second homes, investment properties or refinance existing homes. "Our team offers personal support from start-to-finish and closes loans as quickly and efficiently as possible," further stated Bonnell. "We also take pride in continuing to service our customers and loans after the closing."

This recognition is in addition to other recent acknowledgments Citizens Bank has received including being ranked 26th in the Top 200 Publicly Traded Community Banks Under \$2 Billion of Assets in the Nation, Newsweek's 2023 Best Small Bank in West Virginia, 2023 Small Business Administration (SBA) WV Community Lender of the Year, and The Inter-Mountain's 2023

Kathy Leombruno
SVP & Marketing Officer
Direct: 304.637.2185

leombruno@citizenswv.com
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Elkins, WV 26241
304.636.4095

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People's Choice Best Bank. In 2022, Citizens was named a Best Bank to Work for by American Banker.

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 \$600 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.

Highlands Bankshares, Inc. Reports 2023 Second Quarter Earnings and Declares Quarterly Dividend

Petersburg, WV - Highlands Bankshares, Inc. (OTC: HBSI) announced unaudited earnings of \$1,559,000 for the first six-month period ended June 30, 2023. This represents a decrease of 25.97% from the \$2,106,000 earned during the same period in 2022. On a per share basis, net income was \$1.17 for the first six months of 2023, compared to earnings of \$1.58 per share for the six months ended June 30, 2022.

On July 11, 2023, the Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.45 per share to be paid on August 4, 2023 to all shareholders

of record as of July 28, 2023. Based upon the current market price and annualizing the dividends paid to shareholders this quarter, Highlands' current dividend yield is 4.21%.

Jack H. Walters, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the holding company, stated "Interest rates have continued to be somewhat volatile, but gradually moved higher over the past quarter. This has allowed us to improve our net interest margin. Unfortunately, those same higher rates also led us to sell certain security issuances at a loss due to credit concerns. These sales impacted results in the current quar-

ter as compared to the linked quarter. On an encouraging note, we continue to see moderately strong loan demand, which has been somewhat surprising given the rapid runup in interest rates and speaks to an underlying strength in the economy."

Highlands Bankshares, Inc. operates twelve banking locations in West Virginia and Virginia through its two wholly-owned subsidiary banks, The Grant County Bank and Capon Valley Bank, and offers insurance services through its wholly-owned subsidiary HBI Life Insurance Company.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

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High Visibility Speed Enforcement Begins

CHARLESTON, WV – The West Virginia Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to remind motorists and motorcyclists to slow down and obey posted speed limits when traveling on West Virginia’s roads. Speeding is a dangerous, illegal, and aggressive behavior responsible for more than one-quarter of all traffic-related fatalities nationally and nearly one-quarter of roadway fatalities in West Virginia.

The GHSP and NHTSA are working to put an end to this unsafe and preventable driving behavior during a nationwide speed prevention campaign taking place this month. Targeted high visibility enforcement

began on July 14, 2023 and will continue through July 30, 2023.

Speeding has become a focus of highway safety professionals both nationwide and in West Virginia due to an increase in risk-taking and careless driving over the past few years. In 2021 alone, 12,330 people were killed in speeding-related crashes nationwide. That same year, 64 people died on West Virginia’s roads due to crashes involving speeding.

Speed limits are not a suggestion; they are the law. Obeying posted speed limits keeps drivers and passengers safe.

Speed limits are set for clear, sunny weather and dry road conditions. If roads are wet, snowy, or icy, drivers should reduce their speed to maintain safe control of their

vehicle. Although improvements in vehicle safety and passenger protection have made incredible strides over the past few decades, it is still the driver’s responsibility to control their speed and maintain control of the vehicle when behind the wheel.

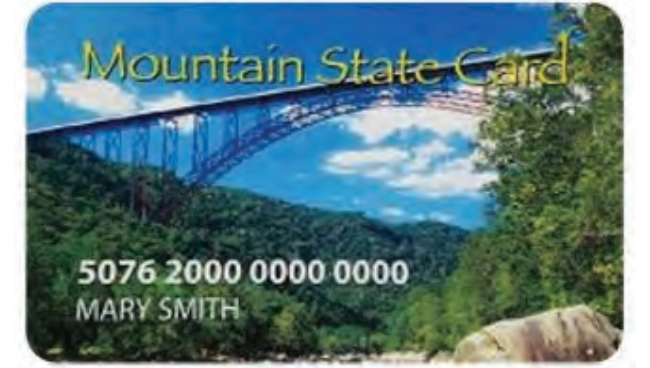
Much like impaired or distracted driving, speeding is a selfish choice that can have deadly consequences for the driver, other drivers, vehicle passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

The message is clear: Speeding Wrecks Lives. Please slow down.

To learn more about speeding, go to nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/speeding.

For more information about the West Virginia Governor’s Highway Safety Program, visit highwaysafety.wv.gov or call 304-926-2509.

DHHR Addresses Stolen SNAP Benefits



CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) reminds West Virginians participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of the heightened risk of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card fraud and stolen benefits.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and DHHR have recently received several reports of card skimming, phishing, or cloning scams to steal SNAP benefits.

DHHR is working with state and federal partners, SNAP retailers, EBT processors, and other industry experts to protect SNAP benefits and combat SNAP benefit theft.

“Card skimming can happen to anyone who uses a credit, debit or EBT card, including SNAP participants,” said Janie Cole, DHHR’s Commissioner for the Bureau for Family Assistance. “SNAP benefit theft victimizes low-income individuals who rely on these benefits to feed their families, and it will not be tolerated.”

Theft of SNAP benefits is punishable by federal and state law and can include imprisonment and financial

penalties. If a recipient of SNAP benefits is convicted of benefit theft, penalties may also include being banned from participating in the SNAP program.

Through the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, DHHR can replace stolen EBT benefits due to card skimming, cloning or phishing, retroactive to October 1, 2022, and through September 30, 2024. Replacement benefits cannot exceed the actual amount stolen or the household’s benefit allotment amount for the two months immediately preceding the theft, whichever is lesser.

West Virginia residents who receive SNAP benefits and believe benefits have been stolen due to card skimming, cloning, or phishing, should contact their local DHHR office or contact the DHHR Customer Service Center at 1-877-716-1212 to file a claim. For a list of DHHR county offices and phone numbers, visit <https://dhhr.wv.gov/pages/field-offices>.

For more information on SNAP scams and tips to protect EBT cards and benefits, visit <http://dhhr.wv.gov/ebt/pages/snap-scams-alerts>.

Donors needed in July to prevent a blood shortage

Red Cross, Warner Bros. Discovery partnering to encourage blood donations around Shark Week & theatrical release of MEG 2: THE TRENCH

MORGANTOWN, WV, July 10, 2023 — The American Red Cross continues to see a concerning trend – blood donations are being sent to hospitals faster than they are coming in. The Red Cross has collected about 50,000 fewer blood donations than needed over the last two months. Donors are asked to make an appointment to give blood now to avoid a looming blood shortage.

To help head off a more serious situation, the Red Cross is teaming up with Warner Bros. Discovery for the 35th anniversary of *Shark Week* and the theatrical release of *Meg 2: The Trench*. The public is encouraged to celebrate a summer of sharks and help shore up the national blood supply by giving in July.

In thanks for helping, the Red Cross is offering several incentives to donors who come out to give blood in the coming weeks. Additionally, in response to the great need for blood, those who hurry in to help by coming to give July 1-16 will receive a limited-time bonus \$15 gift card by email to a merchant

of their choice.

July 1-11: All who come to give will get an exclusive Red Cross dry bag, while supplies last. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts.

July 12-Aug 12: Those who come to give will be automatically entered for a chance to win a three-night New York getaway for two with a private shark dive adventure at Long Island Aquarium. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Shark.

July 17-31: Presenting donors will receive an officially licensed *Shark Week* T-shirt, while supplies last. Donors will also be automatically entered for a chance to win a three-night New York getaway for two with a private shark dive adventure at Long Island Aquarium. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Shark.

By scheduling and keeping appointments in July, donors can help provide for those in immediate need of lifesaving care. To schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

How to donate blood

To make an appointment, simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [\[Blood.org\]\(https://Blood.org\), call 1-800-RED CROSS \(1-800-733-2767\) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states \(16 with parental consent where allowed by state law\), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.](https://RedCross-</p>
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Amplify your impact – volunteer!

A stable blood and platelet supply is critical to national preparedness. Additionally, as we approach the beginning of what is expected to be another active hurricane season, the Red Cross urges everyone to get ready now and consider becoming a volunteer to help people affected by the growing number of climate-driven disasters.

Support impacted communities by assisting at Red Cross shelters, using your professional skills as a licensed health care provider or becoming a member of the Red Cross Disaster Action Team. To learn more, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

About the American Red Cross:

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Foot & Ankle Podiatric Surgeon



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West Virginia WIC Enrollment Opportunities at Fairs and Festivals

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Staff from the West Virginia Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, better known as West Virginia WIC, will extend outreach and enrollment statewide through the summer at West Virginia fairs and festivals. As part of an ongoing effort to modernize services and remove barriers to accessing WIC benefits, the West Virginia WIC program will utilize an online participant portal to accept applications.

“Fairs and festivals are an opportunity for WIC staff to meet families in the community while highlighting the support and public health services available through WIC clinics,” said Jamie Wilkinson, Outreach Coordinator for West Virginia WIC’s Office of Nutrition Services. “We look forward to seeing new faces as well as those who have been a part of the WIC program since their preg-

nancy and child’s birth.”

Local West Virginia WIC agencies will host children’s activities, diaper changing stations and mother’s lounge for infant feeding, and free farmers markets while enrolling eligible families at the following events. Dates listed indicate West Virginia WIC staff presence; some events extend for additional days.

July:

- Marshall County Fair (July 24-30)
- Jackson County Jr. Fair (July 28-29)
- WV Hot Dog Festival (July 29)

August:

- Tri-County Fair (August 3-5)
- Braxton County Fair (August 1-5)

- Berkeley County Youth Fair (August 5-12)
- WV State Fair (August 10-19)
- Town and Country Days (August 14-19)
- Parkersburg Homecoming (August 18-19)

September:

- Italian Heritage Festival (September 1-3)
- Beckley Kids Classic Festival (September 9)
- Preston County Buckwheat Festival (Sept 28-30)
- Autumn Fest (Sept 30)

For more information about West Virginia WIC, visit dhhr.wv.gov/WIC. To view and apply for DHHR careers, visit dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities.aspx.

Mountain State Spotlight explains: West Virginia’s opioid settlement foundation will soon have board members. Here’s how they’re picked

Local governments have been selecting their representatives for the West Virginia First Foundation. Here’s the process and what impact they’ll have on the state’s efforts to abate the opioid crisis.

By Allen Siegler for Mountain State Spotlight

In the coming days, local government leaders across West Virginia are set to elect five board members for the foundation tasked with managing the majority of the state’s opioid settlement funds, a sum that totals right around \$1 billion as of July. The new members of the West Virginia First Foundation will join Dr. Michael “Tony” Kelly, an emergency medicine physician who was elected last week, and five members chosen by Gov. Jim Justice. The governor has also indicated that he’ll make his selections “really soon.”

Selecting the right people for these positions is essential, says Drema Hill, a West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine professor who helped the Attorney General’s Office determine how the state can spend its opioid settlement winnings.

“It is really going to have the power to make the decisions over these funds,” Hill said. “That’s why it’s very important who is elected to be on this board.”

We break down how West Virginia local governments are choosing their board members, how the foundation can spend its settlement funds, how well those members will represent areas most impacted by the substance use crisis and how transparent the foundation’s operations will be.

How are the opioid settlement foundation board members chosen for each region?

While West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and other state lawyers were pursuing lawsuits against pharmaceutical supply chain companies, they developed a Memorandum of Understanding for the money from the lawsuits. The memorandum guides how the state can spend this money and established governing guidelines for the West Virginia First Foundation.

The document split the state into six regions based on existing designations from the state’s Bureau for Behavioral Health. Each region will have one resident serving as a board member for the foundation.

Officials from the towns, cities and counties of each region — with the exception of people from seven small local governments that never signed on to the memorandum — can nominate one person to be their region’s board member. Once all the nominations are in, the regions will host public meetings, where representatives from each local government included will vote on the candidates.

So far, the only meeting that’s taken place has been the one for Region Six, a series of southern West Virginia counties that were targeted by prescription drug distributors. Its local elected officials selected Kelly. The other five regions will choose their representatives on July 12 and July 13.

Who can be nominated?

The memorandum says board members should have expertise that could be helpful for guiding the foundation; examples range from substance use treatment practitioners to people experienced in finance.

A letter from Morrisey’s office to local governments says that nominating current elected officials is “highly discouraged.” According to his press secretary, that’s an attempt to prevent the selection from becoming political.

But that hasn’t stopped local governments from nominating elected officials. Mercer County Commissioner Greg Puckett was nominated for Region Six’s board seat but ultimately not selected.

In Region Three, an area made up of counties in the Mid-

Ohio Valley, Parkersburg Mayor Tom Joyce will be on the ballot. Over the past two years, Joyce has, contrary to local data, attributed rises in Wood County crime to local substance use treatment efforts and successfully lobbied for state legislation that prevents Wood County from adding more treatment facilities. He did not respond to phone and email interview requests for this story.

Vienna Mayor Randall Rapp, who nominated the Parkersburg mayor for the board, cited Joyce’s professional experience working for hospitals as a major reason why he nominated him.

“I just think that [with] his background and his character, Tom will do the right thing,” Rapp said.

Wood County Commissioner Blair Couch was less comfortable with the prospect of Joyce as the Region Three representative. His commission nominated Westbrook Health Services president Kevin Trippett, and Couch said he would prefer someone like Kelly.

“I think politicians can be swayed more than a doctor from Raleigh County,” Couch said.

Will the foundation board be fair to the places most impacted by the crisis?

The money will be split according to a formula that assigns percentages — based on a municipality’s population, number of prescription pain pills received, and overdose death count — of how much of West Virginia’s total opioid crisis took place in an area.

For example, the formula determined that about 9% of the total crisis took place in Cabell County and Huntington. It calculated a similar estimate for Kanawha County and Charleston.

But each region will still only get one vote on the foundation. That means that despite the calculation that Region Five, which includes both Kanawha and

Cabell counties, was affected more than other regions, it will have the same vote on the board as Couch’s Region Three.

“How can you have Cabell and Kanawha in the same region?” Couch asked. “Those two big counties, who have suffered a lot through the opioid [epidemic], are going to have one vote on this 11-member panel.”

How transparent will the foundation be?

Drema Hill says the West Virginia First Foundation is being set up as a private nonprofit to discourage the funds from being politicized and misused. But this has raised questions about whether the foundation will be subject to the same rules as government organizations.

Morrisey’s press secretary did not respond to phone and email questions asking whether the foundation will be subject to the state’s Freedom of Information Act. But courts have previously ruled that private foundations created by state authorities are subject to the law, according to Suzanne Weise, a West Virginia University law professor who specializes in government transparency.

A list of “frequently asked questions” developed by the Attorney General’s Office says that the foundation won’t be subject to the state’s Open Meetings Act. The memorandum does say that all meetings related to the foundation should be open to the public and gives the state’s attorney general the power to audit it. But some local government officials have already raised concerns about whether those provisions will create enough accountability for the organization.

How will the foundation spend the settlement money?

Once the attorneys’ fees for the settlements are finalized, the West Virginia First Foundation will be responsible for managing hundreds of millions of dollars.

The board members are supposed to invest the majority of that sum, but the memorandum also instructs them to distribute 20% of the foundation’s yearly budget to the six regions each of the next seven years.

Each regional board member will also double as their area’s director; that job entails leading regional governing groups that decide how their shares of the money get spent. The foundation’s board members will collectively be responsible for determining the process by which West Virginia government and non-government organizations can apply for regional funds.

Conny Priddy, the program coordinator of Huntington’s Quick Response Team, is confident the money will help reduce the damage of the state’s opioid crisis. But she worries it won’t be enough.

In the 2021 trial that pitted Huntington and Cabell County against drug distribution companies, an epidemiologist and a forensic economist estimated that it would take \$2.5 billion just to address the problem in that county. In the wake of U.S. District Judge David Faber’s ruling in favor of the drug distributors, lawyers for Huntington and Cabell have appealed the decision to the 4th U.S. Circuit.

Now, the foundation will only have access to a portion of \$1 billion to address problems throughout the entire state. Priddy said some money is better than nothing, but she doesn’t know what impact it will ultimately have for the West Virginia families who have suffered the most.

“I hate to say it, but you can’t throw a little bit of money at it and then expect the problem to go away,” she said. “It has become generational.”

Disclaimer: Weise is the secretary of Mountain State Spotlight’s Board of Directors.

Introducing USPS Ground Advantage: New coast-to-coast 2-5-day shipping offering now available

Earlier this month, the Postal Service announced the launch of its new shipping offering, USPS Ground Advantage. The enhanced ground solution provides a simple, reliable, and more affordable way to ship packages in two-to-five business days across the continental United States.

“USPS Ground Advantage is a game changer – for our customers, the industry and USPS. By efficiently and effectively integrating our ground transportation model to the magnificence of our last mile delivery operations, we can now offer the most compelling ground shipping offering in the market,” said Louis DeJoy, United States Postmaster General and CEO. “With USPS Ground Advantage, we are ready to compete for an increased share of the growing package business.”

USPS Ground Advantage pro-

vides America’s businesses and the public with a compelling new ground shipping option leveraging USPS’ unparalleled last-mile delivery route system and improving integrated mail and package postal logistics network.

With the product’s launch, USPS is retiring three offerings: USPS Retail Ground, USPS Parcel Select Ground and USPS First-Class Package Service as well as Ground Returns and First-Class Package Return Service.

USPS Ground Advantage is a key element of the Postal Service’s shipping service growth strategy as part of the 10-year Delivering for America plan. A new shipping portfolio – comprised of USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Connect Local and Regional – positions USPS to compete very effectively for any package under 25

pounds that can be transported by ground, within a region across states, and across the country.

USPS Ground Advantage Key Features:

-Packages delivered in 2-5 business days across the continental United States.

-Free package pickup service at home or in-office.

-Business customers can use USPS Ground Advantage return service as a convenient option for customers who need to send items back.

-\$100 insurance included on USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Ground Advantage Return packages. Customers can purchase up to \$5,000 in additional coverage.

To bring USPS Ground Advantage to market, the Postal Service is launching an integrated marketing campaign through the fall leveraging Direct Mail, digital, search, social and radio to reach every American business.

Where to Find USPS Ground Advantage:

Available now wherever customers ship from, including all 34,000 Post Offices or on Click-N-Ship.

USPS Ground Advantage is available for shippers of all sizes who want reliable domestic ground shipping to all 50 states, PO Boxes, APOs FPOs, DPOs, U.S. military bases, territories, and Freely Associated States.



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Tucker County (TMU-130 Blackwater-William 69 kV)

Beginning at the William Substation off of US Rt 219 north of Thomas, WV and proceeding in a southerly direction crossing SR 90, Davis Rd, Landfill Rd, SR 32 Appalachian Hwy, CR 29 Pendleton Run Rd, and Blackwater Falls Rd, terminating at the Blackwater Substation in Davis, WV.

For more information about Mon Power’s Transmission Aerial Saw Program, call 1-800-686-0022. When contacting, please alert our Representatives that your call is pertaining to our Transmission Aerial Saw Program.

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The Coal Tipple at Thomas, West Virginia

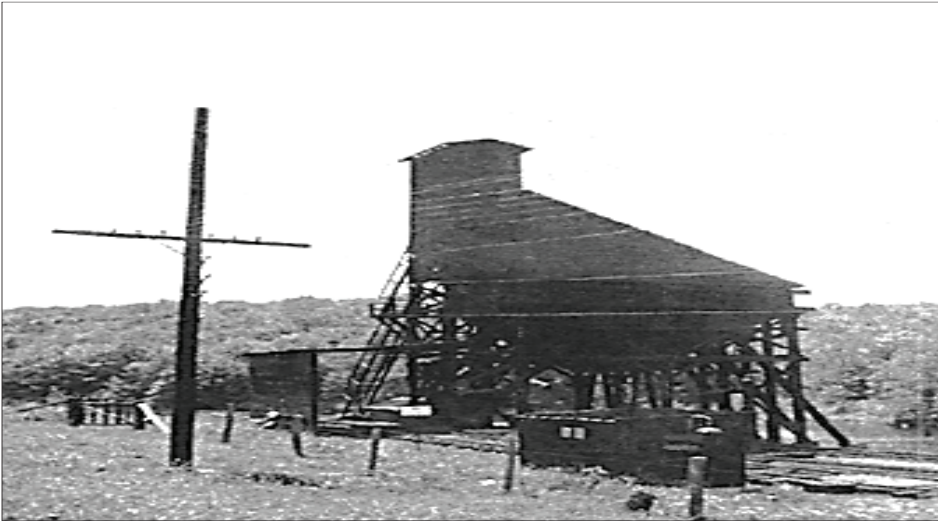


Photo of the tipple

By **Connie Eye**
Tucker County Historical Society

The Western Maryland Railway coal tipple located just outside of Thomas near was operated for about 30 years by my father, Dave Helmick. He managed and maintained the coal tipple and water tank so that there was always plenty of coal and water for the steam engines after pulling freight up the Blackwater Canyon which is about 3000 feet above sea level on its way to Cumberland, Maryland, the Western Maryland Railway headquarters. The train usually had helper engines in the middle of the fleet which was usually two or three engines. These engines were usually detached from the freight at Fairfax, WV and returned to Elkins, WV.

Dave kept the tipple full of coal, kept

reports of amount of coal distributed each day, and made sure the switch lights in the area had plenty of oil in them. To load the tipple, a train would place the loaded coal cars on the siding by the tipple and would drift the cars to the area above the sump where he would dump the car. The coal was then loaded into a bucket attached to a pulley which ran up and dump the coal into the tipple. Trains needing coal would pull into the tipple and pull down a trough and load coal into the train. If the train needed water, it would proceed on down the tracks to the water tank and fill up with water.

The Western Maryland Railway company provided the house for our family to live in. We were allowed to use their property for a small farm where we raised chickens, hogs, and cows. In the spring of the year, hobos would get off the train and

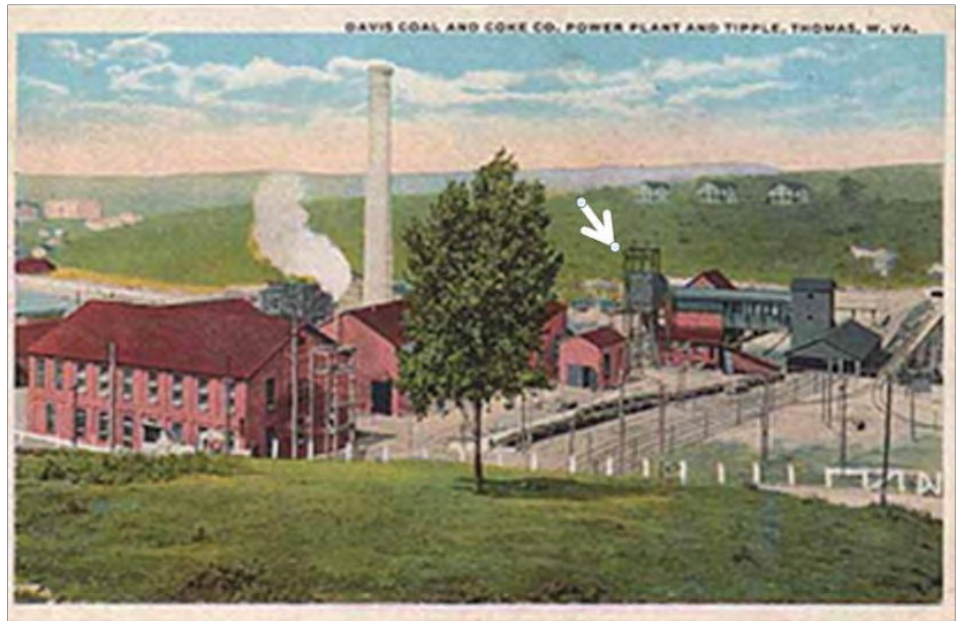
my mother would give them food, usually butter, milk, eggs, bread. We would usually get the same ones each year and they would usually spend the summer and in the fall hop onto a train and go to another destination. While there they usually stayed in the phone shanties which were located along the tracks where the trackmen kept their tools.

We were also frequently visited by groups of gypsies traveling through in their horse and buggies. That is how Gypsy Hollow got its name. Gypsy Hollow is located about a mile from Sissyboo. Sissyboo is about mile from William. They would stay just below the water tank along the tracks in a wide spot between the railroad tracks and the highway. They would also visit us and my Mom would give them food, but they were not as nice as the hobos. They would come back late at night and steal chickens and coal and anything else they got their hands on.

The last passenger train to leave Thomas was January 4, 1958. The first passenger train to leave Thomas was in 1889. In 1884 the West Virginia Central and Pittsburg Railway was completed into Thomas. In 1905, it was became the Western Maryland Railway. The tipple in Thomas was dismantled in July 1955 after the Western Maryland purchased diesels.

My Dad left The Thomas Tipple in July 1954 and transferred to the Hendricks, WV, track section gang where he retired in the summer of 1962 with 35 years' service with Western Maryland Railway.

This article appeared in the April 2022 edition of the Tucker County Historical Society quarterly newsletter. The TCHS is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It meets monthly in Parsons with membership open to anyone for annual dues of \$10 mailed to PO Box 13, Hambleton, WV 26269.



In the postcard above the tipple is shown with an arrow.

**DEADLINE
3PM FRIDAY**

YOU CAN HELP...

WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Local Children in Need



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

How can I help?

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

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

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

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

How will the children's clothing be purchased?

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

CLIP & MAIL

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

MAIL TO: **WARM THE CHILDREN FUND**

c/o The Parsons Advocate

P.O. Box 345, Parsons, WV 26287

or drop off at the Advocate's office at 219 Central Ave., Parsons, WV

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until August 8, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
011	2023880001	R088-REMGR	24 00	GUARDRAIL D8 2024 REM GUARDRAIL D8 2024 REM GUARDRAIL
				COUNTY: TUCKER, PENDLETON, POCAHONTAS, RANDOLPH

BRIDGE: Bridge
SPAN(S): Bridge Class
STRUCTURE STEEL:

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must submit electronically with their bid a Proposal Guaranty Bond for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferral, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Publication: July 19, 2023

City of Parsons
341 Second Street
Parsons, WV 26287
304-478-2311

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Parsons.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after August 4, 2023, the City of Parsons will submit a request to the WV Department of Economic Development for the release of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Project Title: Parsons Emergency Water Preparedness and Resiliency Project

Purpose and Location: Connect the City of Parsons' and Hamrick PSDs water systems to provide a backup source of potable drinking water to 4,200 Tucker County residents in the event of a disaster or system failure. The connection will be made along the banks of the Black Fork River in the Bretz area of Tucker County, WV.

Estimated Cost: HUD grant funding will be \$676,000 and the total project cost is estimated at \$726,000.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Parsons has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Parsons City Hall at 341 Second Street; Parsons, WV and at the Region VII Planning & Development Office at 21 East Main Street; Buckhannon, WV and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Parsons. All comments received by August 3, 2023, will be considered by the City of Parsons prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Parsons certifies to the WV Department of Economic Development that Bruce Kolsun in his capacity as Acting Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The WV Department of Economic Development's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Parsons to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The WV Department of Economic Development will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Parsons' certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Parsons; (b) the City of Parsons has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the WV Department of Economic Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the WV Department of Economic Development, WV Community Advancement and Development Office at 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East; Capitol Complex, Building 6, Suite 553; Charleston, WV 25305. Potential objectors should contact the state office to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Bruce Kolsun, City of Parsons Acting Mayor



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Classifieds

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304-478-3533

Fax: 304-478-1086
email: mikel@parsonsadvocate.com
www.parsonsadvocate.com

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Monday thru Friday

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\$50 REWARD

Call 304-478-2933 or text 304-621-5302

LEGAL

I have before me the accounts of the Executor or Administrator of the estates of the following deceased persons:

Deceased	Personal Representative(s)
Raymond J. Foster	Christina R. Wilfong
1st publication 7/12/23	490 Long Street
2nd publication 7/19/23	Hambleton, WV 26269
John J. Rhoades, Sr.	John J. Rhoades, Jr.
1st publication 7/12/23	9 Seventh Street
2nd publication 7/19/23	Hendricks, WV 26271

Claims against any estate must be filed within sixty days of the date of first publication. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint to the Tucker County Commission, Tucker County Clerk, 211 First St., Suite 205, Parsons, WV. Any person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court must be filed with County Commission within sixty days after the date of first publication or thirty days of service of the notice, whichever is later.

ATTEST: SHERRY SIMMONS, TUCKER COUNTY CLERK

LEGAL

"NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING"

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has scheduled a public meeting on July 27, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the **Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plan** for the Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund Program (DWTRF). A part of the Intended Use Plan is the Fiscal Year 2024 Comprehensive Project Priority List. The meeting will take place in person at the WV DEP's Headquarters in Charleston, WV. An option to attend remotely or call-in is below. A copy of the draft Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plan is available, and may be requested by calling, writing, or sending an email request to the address below. The plan can also be viewed on DEP's web site.

Contact
Kathryn Emery
WV Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water & Waste Management
601 57th street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304
(304) 926-0499 Ext. 43830
Kathryn.D.Emery@wv.gov
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/tjy-fznu-gwr>
Or dial: (US) + 1 419-945-6029
PIN: 803 176 620#

LEGAL

I have before me the accounts of the Executor or Administrator of the estates of the following deceased persons:

Deceased	Personal Representative(s)
Joyce Hovatter	Sherry A. Hovatter
1st publication 7/19/23	219 Jameson Ave.
2nd publication 7/26/23	Parsons, WV 26287

Claims against any estate must be filed within sixty days of the date of first publication. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint to the Tucker County Commission, Tucker County Clerk, 211 First St., Suite 205, Parsons, WV. Any person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court must be filed with County Commission within sixty days after the date of first publication or thirty days of service of the notice, whichever is later.

ATTEST: SHERRY SIMMONS, TUCKER COUNTY CLERK

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE PARSONS ADVOCATE

Eastern Foundation's Farm-To-Table Dinner Raises \$27,000 for Students and Scholarships

FISHER, W.Va. – The Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College Foundation held the annual farm-to-table dinner at the Misty Mountain Event Barn on June 28—garnering \$27,000 in support from attendees through the evening's activities to support students and scholarships at Eastern. The farm-to-table dinner celebrates the unique traditions surrounding food and agriculture in West Virginia, from the production and preparation to the stories surrounding it. This event also highlights the story of the local producers, the land, the food, and the culture of the Potomac Highlands while supporting the growth and development of Eastern and its students.

The menu featured food sourced from local farms, and chefs from local restaurants prepared the meal. Before dinner, guests enjoyed lavender lemonade with lavender from Blackthorn Estates Nursery and a grazing table with appetizers and desserts prepared by The Grove Café and Bakery with Firefly Farms cheese. Dinner was served buffet style. Brisket from Flying W Farms and chicken legs and thigh quarters donated by Pilgrim's Pride were prepared by Meadowbrook Farms BBQ as part of the main course. Chefs from Cheetah Bs and Mullin's 1847 Restaurant prepared a variety of delicious sides featuring local ingredients from Buena Vista Farm, M&S Maple Farm, Spring Valley Farm, Patterson Creek Apiary, Wilfong Farms, Teets Cattle Company, White

Barn Farm Market and Cove Mountain Bakery.

The event saw a full house, as tickets sold out days before the event, with 150 people in attendance. Silent and live auctions were held throughout the evening. Items in the live auction ranged from a new grill to photographs and art creation services. Dr. Thomas Striplin, president of Eastern, donated six of his own photographs to the live auction. "The farm-to-table dinner is a great way to support student scholarships while simultaneously showcasing our local producers' products and services in the Potomac Highlands Region," said Dr. Striplin. Later in the evening, an award ceremony for the Friend of Philanthropy and Friend of Agriculture was held, as well as a short address by Miss West Virginia 2022, Elizabeth Lynch, about the importance of agriculture in West Virginia.

The late Joe Mathias of Mathias Farms received the 2023 Friend of Agriculture award for his contribution to the agriculture community in the Potomac Highlands region. This award was presented to Joe Mathias' family by Greg Mitchell of Farm Credit of the Virginias, who also sponsored the award. Paul Wamsley, CEO of St. George Medical Clinic received the Friend of Philanthropy award. St. George Medical Clinic recently donated \$20,000 to the Eastern Foundation to create the first permanent endowment to provide medical education scholarships. Other awards and recognition went to Della Davis, senior



vice president/compliance & human resources officer at FNB Bank, Inc., in recognition of her outstanding volunteer service as the Foundation Board of Trustees secretary-treasurer from 2020-2023. The 2023 Farm Fellows and mentors were also recognized. The Farm Fellowship program, supported by an Agriculture Workforce Training Award from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, offers an in-depth intensive agricultural training experience that combines classroom training with hands-on practical experience and mentoring.

Several students, including the WV Beef Queen Sarah Sions, the WV Dairy Princess Helen McCarty, and Cody Mitchell, represented the WV State FFA Association during the silent and live auctions. There were many

prize packages for attendees to bid on, from handmade leather work and illustrations to spa and movie night baskets. Michael Thomas of Oak Summit served as the live auction auctioneer. During the live auction, several dinner attendees purchased a campus bench in memory of the late John C. Jack Welton. "The Eastern Foundation appreciates the opportunity to provide memorialization for families who have loved ones that passed away," said Rob Burns, Eastern's director of non-profits. "We value being able to help families honor their loved ones."

The farm-to-table dinner is the College's largest fundraising event. The annual event aims to bring the community together to support the local area and education for students. The Eastern Foundation raised \$27,000 from live and silent auction earnings,

as well as through raffle tickets—the largest amount raised in the history of the event. "We are incredibly thankful for the community's outpouring of support for student advancement. We look forward to providing this event again next year," said Dr. Megan Webb, dean of advancement and continuing education at Eastern. In her remarks, Webb also recognized the efforts of Burns and Jennifer Rexroad, both with the college's Foundation, in coordinating the event and thanked the many sponsors and supporters who made the Farm to Table Dinner a success: St. George Medical Clinic, Farm Credit of the Virginias, Misty Mountain Event Barn, the Potomac Highlands Producers Co-op, the farmers behind each product included with the meal, table and event ticket buyers and the donors of the auction items.

Wamsley receives Friend of Philanthropy



Paul Wamsley was given the Friend of Philanthropy award from Eastern College recently.

It's Time



Avoid the last minute back-to-school scramble.

We're hosting two free sports physicals clinics. All students are welcome to attend.

Date: Thursday, July 20, 2023
Time: 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Location: Tucker Valley Elementary School Library

Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023
Time: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Davis-Thomas Elementary School Cafeteria

No appointment necessary.
A parent or guardian must be present to sign consent form.



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Mon Power has contracted to maintain portions of its rights-of-way with an aerial saw consisting of approximately ten 24-inch rotary blades powered by a motor and suspended on a vertical boom beneath a helicopter. This maintenance method allows for the quick, safe, and efficient trimming of trees along our transmission lines. The aerial saw will be operating March through October 2023 in the following counties in West Virginia:

Randolph and Tucker Counties (TMU-156 Loughs Lane-William 138 kV)
Beginning at the William Substation off of US Rt 219 north of Thomas, WV in Tucker County and proceeding in a southwesterly direction crossing US Rt 219, CR 1/8 Pierce Benbush Rd, US Rt 219, Luke Mullenax Rd, Mackeyville Rd, SR 72 Dry Fork Rd and the Black Fork River near Hambleton, WV. From there the line taps and runs north to the Parsons Substation at Parsons, WV. From the tap structure the main line continues in a westerly direction crossing CR 41 Government Rd, Shavers Fork, US Rt 219, and the Randolph-Tucker County line. Continuing in Randolph County in a southerly direction crossing CR 2 Thornhill Ln, CR 42 A St, CR 1/2 Wilmoth Run, CR 3 Springstone Rd, Gilman Rd, CR 7 Triplet Run Rd, CR 1 Leading Creek Rd, US Rt 219, CR 11 Laurel Mountain Rd, Hedrick Hollow, CR 14 Gum Rd, US Rt 250, SR 33, SR 92, the Tygart Valley River, and terminating at the Loughs Lane Substation west of Elkins, WV.

For more information about Mon Power's Transmission Aerial Saw Program, call 1-800-686-0022. When contacting, please alert our Representatives that your call is pertaining to our Transmission Aerial Saw Program.



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