

The Parsons Advocate

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B.F. Long & Co Unveil Renovations



Renovations to B.F. Long & Co. in Parsons included a new sign and face lift to the front of the building.



Ben F. Long III, left, and his son Ben F. (Bud) Long IV, right, are the third and fourth generations to operate the shop started by B. Frank Long in 1922.



B.F. Long & Co. employed an Amish craftsman to renovate the front of the store over the summer. Photo courtesy of Bud Long.

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Some big changes have come to Parson's oldest shop. For over a century, B.F. Long & Co. have served the Parsons area with sporting goods. Over the summer, the shop got a face lift in the form of a new display window and exterior work.

The shop was founded by B. Frank Long, the grandfather of current owner Ben F. Long III who operates the shop along with his son, Ben F. (Bud) Long IV. The current Longs are the third and fourth generation to own and

operate the shop at 331 First Street in Parsons. Long III said he has owned the shop since 1977 and has personally managed the shop full time since 1985.

According to Long III, his grandfather first founded the shop in 1922 at a location on Walnut for two years before purchasing the current building and moving the shop. "This came up for sale and he bought it in 1924 and been here for 100 years in this location."

"We plan on being here 200 years," Long III said. "I don't think I will, but Buddy might."

"The renovations started out (because) I had a leak over that front window," Long III

said.

All the renovation work was done by a local Amish craftsman named Freeman Miller, according to Long III. "The front of that store has gotten him a lot of jobs because he did such a good job for me," Long III said. "Everyone loves it."

Only one more repair is needed to complete the renovations, according to Long III. A crack in the front display window has led to the need for a replacement window. Long III said he will replace the large window in the spring. "I am going to do that when the snow leaves," Long III said.

The current renovations are not the first time the building has needed a complete face lift. Following the 1985 Flood, the building was condemned after the historic building was nearly destroyed and forced from its foundation by the water, according to Long III.

B.F. Long & Co. carry a wide range of outdoor, camping and home goods including a full line of cast iron cookware, fishing and hunting gear, firearms and ammunition, as well as home goods such as silk flowers. The shop is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The shop is closed Sundays.

Short Term Rentals Spark Debate at Davis Town Meeting

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Comments made by Mayor Al Tomson of the Town of Davis sparked controversy during a meeting of the Town Council on January 24. The controversy arose from a discussion relating to a business license application by resident Craig O'Connor regarding an Airbnb property that O'Connor is currently renovating at 676 Henry Avenue.

The controversial comments arose from Tomson stating that he was familiar with the building in question and an admission that he had been in the building without the knowledge of the owner. Tomson claimed that he had been admitted to the building by a construction crew. The debate was over whether the owner knew of the entrance or not. "I think it is premature to ask for a business license for a Airbnb that's got a dirt floor in the kitchen

and has a number of other deficiencies," Tomson said.

O'Connor asked Tomson how he knew the condition of the building. "I've seen it," Tomson said. "When your guys were working on it, they invited me to look at it."

O'Connor said he was not aware that the crew had permission to allow people to enter the building. "I wasn't aware they had permission to let people in," O'Connor said.

Tomson said he wasn't aware either, but he was allowed in anyway. "I didn't know that either, but they did," Tomson said.

O'Connor replied that it was his property. There was an audible murmur from the crowd following the comment with one member of the audience exclaiming, "Wow." "But it's still my house," O'Connor said.

O'Connor in later comments to the Parsons Advocate said, "I'm not sure if you saw the video, but I had a leak over that front window," Long III

See **SHORT TERM RENTALS** page 2

Building Condition Concerns Raised at Parsons Council Meeting



Carolyn Gray, pictured, discussed the impact an adjoining building is having on her property on First Street. Gray's discussion was part of the January 23rd regular meeting of the Parsons City Council.

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

A deteriorating building on First Street was the subject of concerns raised at the January regular session of the City of Parsons Council meeting. Carolyn Gray addressed the council concerning a building that is adjacent to one she owns on First Street. "It needs condemned," Gray said. "And I'd like to know what we can do about it."

According to Gray, the building, which shares a stairwell with hers, is leaning and is an imminent threat to her property. "It is a safety issue," Gray said. "Its leaning towards my building."

The condition of the neighboring building has begun to affect her property, as well, according to Gray, with damage being incurred to the foundation of her

building. "Its beginning to break up my foundation on the front," Gray said.

According to Gray, the neighboring building is gutted with even the ceilings removed. "You can crawl through my attic, in my apartment upstairs, and you can look down," Gray said. "They have no ceilings, nothing."

Gray said she has spoken with the property owner who claims to not have the funds to repair or stabilize the structure. "I've talked to the guy," Gray said. "He told me he ain't got the money to fix it."

"I've put a lot of money in my building," Gray said.

City Administrator Aggie Arnold said the City is aware of the situation. According to Arnold, the City's Code Enforcement Officer has been made aware of the issue and is coordinating with Police Chief

See **COUNCIL MEETING** page 2



A number of lots in the Riverwalk Development, pictured, have been at the center of a legal tug of war between property developer Pete Johnson and the Town of Davis.

Town of Davis Discuss Eminent Domain Filing Regarding Riverwalk Development

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

A number of lots at the center of a legal tug of war between Riverwalk Development Property Developer Pete Johnson and the Town of Davis was the subject of a special meeting by the Town Council in conjunction with the Building Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. The agenda listed the reason behind the meeting to be in order to, "finalize the settlement of the eminent domain litigation with Peter Johnson/Davis Riverwalk Development."

Several members of the public were on hand for the meeting. Following a call to

order and roll call, the council entered into executive session. Several members of the public expressed displeasure over the motion.

Davis resident Craig O'Connor addressed the council regarding the executive session decision. "Could I ask respectfully that you not go into executive session," O'Connor said. "It's not necessary. You don't have to go into executive session."

Town of Davis Mayor Al Tomson replied to O'Connor's request. "We want to," Tomson said.

O'Connor further said that there had been repeated requests for information following past executive sessions. "I just

See **RIVERWALK** page 4

Landfill Plans "Unique" Cell Design

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Tucker County Solid Waste Presiding Chair Mark Holstine outlined plans for a new cell to the Solid Waste Authority Board on January. The plans for construction of a new cell at the Landfill will be "unique," according to Holstine. Holstine said, "That is going to be a major modification to our permit and we are going to be asking for a unique design, so we have to give ourselves time to get it through permitting."

According to Holstine, the plan will be to lay a liner down over the existing cell instead of adding a "cap" to it. Holstine said most cells are capped with some having liners placed over the top of the cap. According to Holstine, his plan is to forego the cap and just place a liner over everything prior to establishing the new cell. "We're wanting - me and Jody (Alderman) - to line over top of that for our next cell," Holstine said. "We want to bring our liner all the way to the top of what you can see out there."

See **LANDFILL** page 2

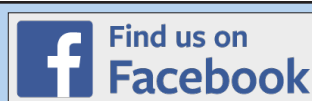
ROAD CLOSURE

TUCKER COUNTY, WV - County Route 17, (Smokey Hollow Road), Tucker County, will be closed from Monday, February 12, 2024, through Monday, April 8, 2024, beginning at approximately 1.5 miles from the intersection of County Route 17 and WV

72 near Parsons, for construction work associated with Corridor H. All motorists, including emergency vehicles and school buses, will need to seek alternate routes. One alternate route is to take WV 72 to WV 38 near St. George to County Route 21 (Clover Run).



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Short Term Rentals

Cont. From Front Page 1

sons Advocate stated he was concerned by the Mayor being inside his building without his knowledge. "The revelation that I am 'one of those Airbnb people' and that the Mayor was in my house without my knowing about it was upsetting to me on a personal level," O'Connor said.

According to O'Connor the license was in anticipation of future renovation efforts. O'Connor stated that he wanted to see if he could get the license before committing more money and work into the property. O'Connor explained that he was still working on the property. "I'm still working on the property. That is why I am trying to get this thing so I can put some money into it," O'Connor said.

When asked by Tomson why he was requesting the permit now, O'Connor stated there was ambiguity regarding the issue of one vs multiple licenses for those with multiple short term rental locations. "I thought we needed a license for each building," O'Connor said. "But apparently, there's people that have one license and multiple locations. So maybe I don't need another license."

Tomson said he thought one license per location was required. "We keep going around and around about this," Tomson said. "And I think it is one license for each location. You can have it under one business."

O'Connor said his concerns over the license arose from the Town's "Temporary" Moratorium on short term rentals. According to O'Connor a four-month moratorium was passed in 2021 and is still in effect. Tomson and the Council stated that the moratorium alone would keep O'Connor from obtaining the license. A member of the council stated that the moratorium was in effect until June 30 of 2024. "Moratoriums are temporary," O'Connor said. "They are not supposed to be in lieu of a zoning ordinance."

Tomson replied to O'Connor's debate on the moratorium. "We couldn't do an ordinance as we learned from you and some of your friends while we continue to work on zoning," Tomson said.

When asked by O'Connor what was meant by "you and your friends," Tomson clarified it referred to local Airbnb owners. The audience murmured and an exclamation of, "Whoa," by a woman in the audience could be heard following Tomson's comment. "All of you Airbnb types," Tomson said. "Because you guys are fighting the ordinance."

According to Tomson, the Town has extended the moratorium while they work on a zoning ordinance for the

Council Meeting

Cont. From Front Page 1

Kevin Keplinger to assess the property's condition.

City Attorney Tim Stranko weighed in on the situation and said from a legal standpoint, the city was constrained by law, but there were remedies available once an official report on the property was available by the Code Enforcement Officer. "We're constrained by law, of course," Stranko said. "For the City to condemn a property, a properly certified code enforcement officer would have to find that property deficient as defined by the property maintenance code."

Stranko said the report submitted to the City Administrator would be the first step for the City. Stranko also informed Gray that the report would be public record and she would only need request a copy if she wished. "That is our first step," Stranko said. "We need a report signed by the certified officer."

Questions of ownership arose at the meeting concerning the building in disrepair. According to Gray, the building was currently being leased to own. "I do believe he's leasing to own it," Gray said.

Gray said she has offered help to fix the building. "I even offered to help and he says he don't got the money," Gray said.

The City Council was a last resort, according to Gray. "I don't have any other choice but to come to you guys to see what can be done," Gray said.

Gray said her intention was not to see a business leave town, but instead wanted to work with the City to protect

Landfill

Cont. From Front Page 1

Holstine said he has already spoken to the engineer about the plans and that he has asked the engineer to open talks with the Department of Environmental Protection about the proposed design. "What I'm asking him to do is to go ahead and contact DEP, start a conversation on that seal cap," Holstine said. "This is what we want to do, will you all approve it and if not, what will you approve?"

According to Holsine, the DEP said there is a lot of waste that is not currently capped. The plan would cover the current uncapped waste and be able to be tied into the new cell, Holsine said. "But if I am going to come over it and put liner over it, do I absolutely have to cap it?" Holstine said. "Why do I need a closure cap on something I am getting ready to put a liner on?"

Holsine acknowledged that the plan could be viewed as unorthodox by the DEP. Holsine also said that he is not even sure the entity will allow the Landfill to pursue the plan. "How they are going to allow us to do that is a question," Holstine said. "It doesn't happen all the time."

Holstine, Alderman and the engineer are all in agreement with the design, according to Holstine. However, Holstine said he has concerns that the Department of Environmental Protection may not allow the design. "We're on the same page," Holstine said. "I can see it working that way. I'm not so sure the DEP Permitting will allow it to occur that way."

According to Holsine, it can take a year to 18 months to submit a major modification to the DEP. "It normally takes 12 to 18 months to get a major modification to the

Town. Tomson also acknowledged that the Town had not been able to have an ordinance on short term rentals and that is what prompted the work on a more comprehensive zoning ordinance. "We learned we couldn't do an ordinance for short term rentals and then we said we would do the zoning ordinance that would encompass a number of things including short term rentals and every time we have been working on these things, we have extended the moratorium to allow us to have the time to do that."

During the meeting, O'Connor referenced a letter written by the West Virginia Attorney General to the Pendleton County Prosecuting Attorney regarding the Attorney General's opinion on the proper procedures regarding zoning moratoriums. "I just read a letter from the Attorney General of West Virginia that says you can't do a moratorium when you don't have zoning in place," O'Connor said.

O'Connor agreed at the meeting that he would forward a copy of the Office of the Attorney General's letter to the Town for review. A copy has also been supplied to the Parsons Advocate by O'Connor. "I will send you that letter," O'Connor said. "I think the moratorium needs to be called off because you are not in compliance with West Virginia law."

In the letter dated July 21, 2023 it is written, "While Pendleton County has the discretion whether or not to pursue a moratorium, the Legislature has set out the procedure if it chooses to do so. That statutory process requires Pendleton County to adopt a comprehensive plan, develop a zoning ordinance, and enact a zoning ordinance." The six-page document goes into legal detail regarding Pendleton County and wind turbine construction.

According to O'Connor, the Town of Davis has no such ordinance in place, but has been working on one for some time. At the meeting, Tomson said he is still looking at how the Town can hold an election for the zoning ordinance. "I was hoping that maybe we could piggy back off of the primary that occurs in May," Tomson said. "I'm not sure we can do that. I am still waiting for a legal decision from the Secretary of State's Office. If not, we will have to do it a separate time which will take a lot of effort and money."

O'Connor's application was tabled by the Council. "I'm not going to deny it," Tomson said. "I'm just going to table it. You have a lot of work to do on that house before it is inhabitable by human beings."

her property. "I don't want to see any business go out of town," Gray said. "I mean if he wants to fix it up, great. But I fixed my building up."

According to Gray, she has been considering placing her building for sale, but is concerned over the impact the building next door will have on a potential sale. "I'm thinking about selling it," Gray said. "No one is going to buy it with a building coming into mine."

Council Member Melissa Jones asked Gray if the buildings were joined by a wall. Gray said they were not and further stated when asked about how the buildings joined by City Recorder Tim Auvil, said the buildings shared a common stairwell in the middle. Gray also said that the majority of the stairwell was placed located on the other building. "We share the stairway," Gray said. "But I don't have that much to share."

Stranko informed Gray that the City may not be the only avenue Gray has in the issue. Gray said she had already contacted an attorney concerning the matter. "I didn't mean to suggest that the City is your only solution," Stranko said. "You may have some private action."

In a follow up call to City Administrator Aggie Arnold, Arnold said the Code Enforcement Officer had met with the owners of the buildings separately and was going to hold a meeting with both owners together next week. Arnold also said that an official report had not been drawn up yet due to the ongoing conferences with the owners involved.

DEP anyway," Holstine said. "So, I said three years, realistically, before we have to build the next cell," Holstine said.

The need for the unique design and modification stems from a problem that is developing from the current design of the landfill, according to Holsine. "The way this is designed, or lack thereof, if we don't use that area, we are going to end up with a big V notch in our landfill because they did not anticipate this in the design," Holstine said. "I don't know what they were anticipating in the design, but you are going to end up with a big V."

As well as being empty air, the notch in the Landfill would also create a large valley that would hold water, according to Holsine. Holsine said the Landfill is allowed to use what he termed "valuable" air space in the problem area. By utilizing the air space, the Landfill will gain elevation and not have to expand outwards, thereby extending the life of the Landfill, according to Holsine. "We'll extend the life of our future construction a lot because we're going to gain a whole lot of elevation and all of what we gain in elevation can be tapered back into what you see out there now."

Holsine said a realistic timeline for the project would likely be three to four years for construction of the new cell. "We're probably looking at three to four years," Holstine said. "Hopefully closer to four, realistically closer to three."

The next meeting of the Tucker County Solid Waste Authority will be held on February 26th at 3 p.m. at the T.C.S.W.A Office located at 284 Landfill Road in Davis.

News of Record

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

- Diane W. Shaffer, Dry Fork District, Unit F5, Week 6 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Robert J. Shaffer.
- Diane W. Shaffer, Dry Fork District, Unit G6, Week 13 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Margaret Shaffer Jones; Margaret Shaffer Jones.
- Diane W. Shaffer, Dry Fork District, Unit F4, Week 6 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to John A. Shaffer.
- Brenda Arnold, Sharon K. Moats, Randy A. Carr and Stephen D. Carr, Licking District, 1.15 acres to Donald Parks, Jr. and Julie Parks, \$145,000.
- Brenda Arnold, Sharon K. Moats, Randy A. Carr and Stephen D. Carr, Licking District, 1.15 acres right of way to Donald Parks, Jr. and Julie Parks.
- Brenda Arnold, Sharon K. Moats, Randy A. Carr and Stephen D. Carr, Licking District, 1.15 acres water well easement to Donald Parks, Jr. and Julie Parks.
- Barbara Ellen Lee, Clover District, 39 acres, 6 chains and 15 poles minerals to Rose Holdings LLC, \$1,500.
- Lucinda J. Styles, Clover District, 39 acres, 6 chains and 15 poles minerals to Rose Holdings LLC, \$1,500.
- Deborah Kaye Styles, Clover District, 39 acres, 6 chains and 15 poles minerals to Rose Holdings LLC, \$1,500.
- Richard Clay Styles, Clover District, 39 acres, 6 chains and 15 poles minerals to Rose Holdings LLC, \$1,500.
- Randall Adams, Dry Fork District, Unit 10, Deerfield Village Condo to Kirk Gordon, Sr. and Tina Gordon, \$350,000.
- CEProperties LLC, Dry Fork District, Lot 4, Canaan Vistas containing 3.71 acres to Brian Lim and Jiun Ahn, \$625,000.

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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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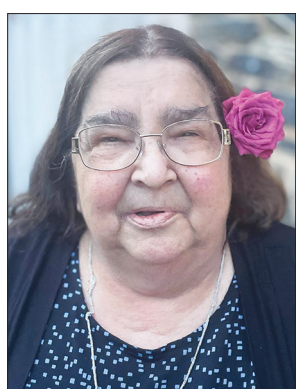
OBITUARIES

Mary Virginia Crowl

Mary Virginia Crowl, 69, of Davis, passed away on February 1, 2024, at WVU United Hospital in Clarksburg. Born on November 5, 1954, in Charleston, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Wilma (Arnold) Melkus.

Mary attended Mountaineer High School. She enjoyed going to church at Davis United Methodist Church. She was a member of FOE #936 Ladies Auxiliary and a past member of the Rebekah's Lodge. Mary loved painting, cooking, baking and, most of all, spending time with her family and friends.

Left to cherish her memory are four children, Melissa Scott and husband Pete of Davis, Holly Canfield and husband Howard of Sugarlands, Michele Crowl



and partner Tommy Cooper of Dryfork, and Freddy Crowl and wife Holly of New Creek; eleven grandchildren, Cody Cussins and wife Sierra, Jordan Delsignore, David Scott, Derek Scott, Alexis Markley and husband Timmy, Haley Cussins, Marcus Crowl, Ryan Delsignore and partner Katie, Kaili Crowl, Hannah Cussins, and Allison Cooper; two great grandchildren, Rylynn Delsignore and Race-

lynn Markley; four siblings, Karl Melkus and wife Katrina, Edward Melkus, Nancy Criniti and husband Elvin, and Cathy Martin and partner Paul; a sister in law, Linda Melkus; along with a host of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two siblings, Thomas Melkus and Patricia Knotts.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024, from 2 to 5 Mary Virginia Crowl p.m. at the Davis Fire Hall, 610 William Avenue, Davis. Private interment will be in the Davis Cemetery.

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

Robert Cecil Hull

Robert Cecil Hull, 58, of Davis, went to be with his Heavenly Father on January 27, 2024, surrounded by his family at WVU Ruby Memorial Hospital. Born on March 15, 1965, in Parsons, he was the son of the late James Benjamin and Dorothy Lillian (Paugh) Hull.

Robbie was a graduate of Tucker County High School Class of 1983. He worked for Blackwater Falls State Park. He was a member of the Davis United Methodist Church and loved volunteering his time with the Mountain Top Youth Group with the Blackwater Charge United Methodist Churches. Robbie enjoyed hunting, mountain biking, running, trapping, singing, running rabbit dogs, and motorecy-



cle cross country racing. He is survived by his loving wife, Tina Marie (Richards) Hull, to whom he was married on July 17, 1999, and they would have celebrated 25 years of marriage this July. Also surviving are a daughter, Lindsey Marie Hull, who is a Junior at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA; and his siblings,

James Hull and wife Terry, Steve Hull and wife Julie, Richard Hull, and Donna Mason and husband Michael.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his nephew, Austin Carr.

Friends were received on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, from 5 to 8 p.m., in the Hinkle-Fenner Funeral Home, 567 Thomas Ave., Davis. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m., Thursday, February 1, 2024, at Davis United Methodist Church 338 Thomas Ave., Davis with Pastor Jay Bunting officiating. Interment followed in the Bethel Cemetery in Parsons.

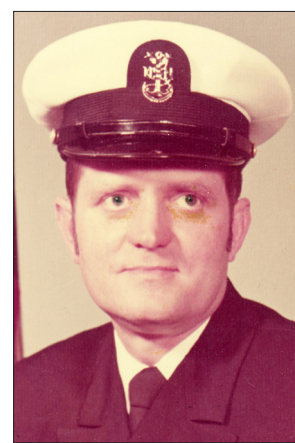
The Hinkle-Fenner Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Hull family at this time.

Aaron Banks Lester, age 87 years, a resident of Hambleton, WV departed this life Monday afternoon, January 29, 2024, at Buckhannon, WV.

He was born Tuesday, September 29, 1936, at Summit, GA, a son of the late Howard Palmer Lester and Mildred Avis Grimes Lester Dry. On November 4, 1966, he married the love of his life, Brenda Joyce Roy Lester, who preceded him in death on January 22, 2022. They had celebrated fifty-five years of marriage and he longed for the day that they could be together again. He is survived by four children, Gary Dean Lester and wife Shirley of Hendricks, Melony Dawn Lester Flanagan and husband Mike of Hambleton, Diana "DeeDee" Christine Lester Kesecker and husband Mike of Hambleton and Aaron Carl Moore and wife Shauntel of Parsons; eight grandchildren, Gary Dean Lester, Jr. and wife Heather, Katie Marie Lester, Cory Allen Lester, John Michael DelSignore, Jr. and wife Laken, Caleb Brant Flanagan, Collin Michael Flanagan, Justin Seth Crosten and wife Emily, and Alyssa Brooke Parsons and husband Daniel; ten great grandchildren;

Preceding him in death were one brother, Wilford Herschel Lester and two sisters, Ona Pearl Williams, and Mary Dean Dasher.

He graduated in 1953 in North Carolina then went on to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Navy. During his thirty-six and a half years of service, he was assigned



to the USS Frank Evans from June 1956-September 1956, the USS John Thomason from August 1961-July 1963, and the USS Saratoga from April 1969-April 1971. Some of his accomplishments throughout his career include Yeoman school in San Diego, CA, serving for the Secretary of the Navy and the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C., becoming a Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Surface Warfare (OP-03), and serving for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Navy Planning Program, and the Naval Historical Foundation in Washington, D.C. He was also a member of the U.S. Navy Band. He got to see the world as his orders took him to California, Korea, Sicily, Guam, England, and numerous other places. Of all the wonders he experienced in his travels, his most precious treasures were his beloved wife, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Upon retiring from the Navy, he returned to Hambleton, WV, where he was employed by Lambert's Chevrolet and Performance Motors in Parsons, WV. He was known to many as Les or Master Chief, his favorite hobby

was golfing. He was a regular at the Holly Meadows Golf Course, where he is known as a legend. He had made eleven hole in one shots there while enjoying his time golfing and telling stories with his golf buddies. He had also won the E9 Golf Tournament. He also enjoyed playing the guitar and singing to his grandchildren. He was a Pentecostal by faith and attended the Hambleton Pentecostal Church of God in Hambleton, WV, where he enjoyed playing his guitar and singing hymns in front of the congregation. He was a generous man who had opened his home to many throughout his life. His humor and quick wit were second to none. He will be sadly missed by everyone who had the honor of knowing him.

The family received friends at the Lohr & Barb Funeral Home of Parsons, WV on Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. On Friday, morning, February 2, 2024, Mr. Lester was moved to the Hambleton Pentecostal Church of God in Hambleton, where final rites were conducted at 10:30 a.m. Ordained Minister Joyce Minear with Rivers of Living Waters Ministries in Elkins, WV, officiated and interment followed at the West Virginia National Cemetery at Grafton, WV, where full military honors was accorded by the U. S. Navy and the Taylor County Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Lohr & Barb Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements for Aaron Banks Lester. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.lohrbarbfuneralhome.com.

Ralph J. Poling



Ralph J. Poling, 87, of Chesterfield VA, passed away Jan. 30, 2024. He was preceded in death by his mother, Ida Ellen Brown; father, Guy Poling; brother, Denzil Poling; sisters, Ida Keener and Jacqueline Pugh; all uncles and aunts. He is survived by his wife M. Louise Hicks Poling; sons, Jay Poling (Tracy) and Robert Poling

tin Mitchell of Bluefield, WV; sisters-in-law, Margaret Mitchell (Glenn) and Barbara Brett (Richard) of Princeton, WV. Ralph served in the US Army during the Korean War. He was a loving son, brother, husband, father and grandfather. After retiring as CEO of Data Card Addressograph, he started a successful garden center at Smith Mountain Lake, Va. He was an avid reader, fisherman and friend to all he encountered. He had a deep faith in God. Ralph was a volunteer in many community endeavors. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Suncrest Hospice, www.suncrestcare.com and/or the Wounded Warrior Project, www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

(Sophia); sister, Patricia Broadwater of Shaw, WV; grandsons, Walker Poling, Noah Poling, Alex Poling., Benjamin Poling, Landon Poling and Nicholas and Nathan (Hannah) Yancey; granddaughters, Abigail Poling, Natalie Yancey. He is also survived by nephews, Peter Poling of Fla., Ronald Broadwater and Michael Pugh of WV., Kevin Mitchell of Charlotte, NC and Jus-



THANK YOU!

Dear friends and loved ones,

There is nothing in this world like returning to the place where your own story began; where friends show up when you need them most, and where your heart remains no matter how far you stray. It is true what they say about not being able to take the West Virginia out of the girl. When I am in Tucker County, I am home.

Jeff, Riley, the grandchildren, great grandchildren and I want to thank all of you for surrounding our family with your love, support, kind words and many beautiful gestures of sympathy honoring our mother, Jane Barb's life. Those who actually came to be by our side, your comforting presence meant the world, and is a gift we will never forget.

A heartfelt and special thank you to my nephew Nick Barb, my sister Anita Barb, The Lohr & Barb Funeral Home and Pastor Kevin Keplinger for the beautiful service and the extra care taken that made this process so much easier for our family.

We thank and love each of you.

Sidnee Barb



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The family of Rob Hull would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the community for the sympathy, love, and support in this time of loss.

Specifically, we would like to thank Hinkle-Fenner Funeral Home, Pastor Jay Bunting, Blackwater Falls State Park, Canaan Valley State Park, Siriannis, Miners and Merchants Bank, the Davis VFD, and all the individuals and local churches who prepared and served food.

We truly appreciate everyone's kindness.

Riverwalk

Cont. From Front Page 1

don't see the need," O'Connor said. "This has been going on forever. We've been asking you every time you go into executive session to let us know what is going on here."

After approximately twenty-five minutes, the council returned. A motion was passed that gave Tomson the authority to sign all documents regarding the eminent domain release. A following motion to adjourn the special session immediately followed.

Following the adjourning of the special session, Tomson approached a man seated at the front of the public seating and announced to the crowd that he would be holding a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission with the gentleman and another member who was present on the phone. "We are going to have a meeting of the P&R," Tomson said. "Ronnie's a member and I am a member and I have Joannie on the phone who is a member. So, we have established that we have a quorum."

The only business conducted by the Parks and Recreation Commission was a motion by the gentleman present to allow Tomson to sign the eminent domain

release on behalf of the board. Following approval, the meeting was immediately adjourned and the Town of Davis commenced their regularly scheduled session.

The issue of the eminent domain filing appeared late on the agenda for the Town Council. Mayor Tomson addressed the room when the agenda item was reached. According to Tomson, while the council had discussed a mutual release agreement, nothing had been finalized. However, once an agreement is final, both parties are anticipated to publish a mutual public statement, according to Tomson. "We went into executive session to talk about the mutual release agreement," Tomson said. "It's not finalized, I'm not at liberty to talk about it yet and there is a public statement that will be mutually released by Pete Johnson and by the Town of Davis when everything is approved."

Tomson went on to explain that the statement would be published in the newspaper and be available to the public. "It will be published in the paper," Tomson said. "So that is coming, but it is not ready yet."

No date for the next Town of Davis Council meeting was given.

A Tucker County Railroader's Daughter



The Davis Coal & Coke Co. building in Thomas in the 1960s

Joseph W. Dumire

Dorothy Pauline Dillon Shoemaker Losh lived on Brown Street in the Tucker County Town of Thomas, in one of the former Davis Coal & Coke Co. superintendent houses on Brown Street. She was born on February 24, 1925 – not far away at her family home on Railroad Hill. She was delivered by Dr. Joseph J. Miller, who had also delivered Eva Dillon, Dorothy's mother, who grew up in the same house.

Originally there were 3 duplex houses on Railroad Hill that were owned by the West Virginia & Central Railway, a division of Davis Coal & Coke Co., and rented to their employees. Only 2 of the 3 original houses now remain, and they are now privately owned. Dorothy's grandfather, John Robert Yeager, and his wife Cora Mabel Ulrich, lived in one of the houses; her Uncle Louis G. Yeager and his wife Susan from Glasgow, Scotland lived in another of the houses and Dorothy and her family lived in the middle house. The six households on Railroad Hill formed a close-knit community.

Dorothy was the daughter of Samuel Edward Dillon, who was an engineer for the Western Maryland Railway and drove an engine between Thomas, Hendricks and Elkins. The Hendricks to Thomas grade was the steepest railroad grade east of the Rocky Mountains. Dorothy's mother was Eva Theresa Yeager; her grandfather, John R. Yeager was a shop foreman for the Railway, served on the Tucker County Board of Education, and belonged to the Masons and Order of Eastern Star. Here's Dorothy in her later years.

From her childhood, Dorothy remembers a great deal: her mother teaching Sunday School, picking blackberries on Railroad Hill, walking across the tippel of the Thomas coal mine to get to school, dancing and socializing with others her age at the Roma Restaurant (where no alcohol was served), the baseball field where Cortland Acres now stands, Whipple's Bakery, Topper's barber shop, Nick DiMaio's Confectionery, The Varsity, the Christmas tree not being set up until Christmas Eve, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners together as a family, sled riding, ice for homemade ice cream coming from the pond near their house, and collecting metal in the woods to sell to the junk man for spending money.

Dorothy remembers Mr. J. H. Patterson who taught Latin and was also principal, Lil Schilansky who taught first and second grades, and Miss

Topper who taught third and fourth grades. Mr. Patterson was strict but well respected. He also wrote a book, "Of Me I Sing or Me and Education," which sold for \$2.00 which was a lot at the time.

Dorothy's grandfather John's brother, Dr. George H. Yeager was director of the University of Maryland School of Medicine and saved the life of Tojo (prime Minister & General of the Imperial Japanese Army) when he tried to commit suicide at the ending of WW II.

Even though the Yeager side of the family were Lutherans, and Dorothy was baptized a Lutheran, she was raised a Presbyterian, and was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. Her first husband, Harold Shoemaker was a career man in the Air Force, and they raised their 3 sons, Harold, Tim and Sam during Harold's military career. In later years Dorothy married Howard Losh.

Dorothy was first and foremost a loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister. She worked as a payroll Clerk for Davis Coal & Coke Co., and Housekeeping Manager at Cortland Acres Nursing Home. She was kind and forgiving to others, a great friend to all, and was community minded. Dorothy passed January 25, 2022, just shy of her 97th birthday. What a rich history for this Tucker County railroader's daughter!

This article appeared in the October 2023 edition of the Tucker County Historical Society newsletter. The TCHS is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership is open to anyone, which includes receipt of newsletters by mail, for annual dues of \$10 mailed to PO Box 13, Hambleton, WV 26269.



TURNER'S TIDBITS



The writing on the back of this photo card reads Hambleton, West Virginia. As you can tell, the post office is clearly marked and is in a part of a private residence. It was a common occurrence to maintain a post office in a person's home. It is often hard to place an older home as roads and streets today didn't exist back then. This photo is from 1904-1918 according to the dating of post cards. Matching this date with information found in History of Tucker County by Fansler, the residence would be of Bertie Agnes Sayre. Her husband, Harry Sayre was postmaster from 1893 to 1902. His widow took over the job in 1902 after the passing of her husband. She was postmaster until 1939. After her passing, there were several others who operated the post office. Ideas, comments, suggestions, or items to share, contact Tim Turner (304) 478-3389.

Gas Prices Take a Tumble in West Virginia

The average price for gasoline across Northern West Virginia is three cents lower this week at \$2.917 per gallon, according to AAA East Central's Gas Price Report.

This week's average prices: Northern WV Average \$2.917

Average price during the week of January 22, 2024 \$2.940

Average price during the week of January 30, 2023 \$3.468

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

- \$2.936 Bridgeport
- \$2.936 Clarksburg
- \$2.849 Huntington
- \$2.999 Martinsburg
- \$2.905 Morgantown
- \$2.874 Parkersburg
- \$2.952 Weirton
- \$2.885 Wheeling

Trend Analysis:

After remaining relatively stable over the first few weeks of the new year, the national average for gas edged higher by three cents this past week to \$3.10. Even though demand is lower, slightly higher oil costs are causing gas prices to increase. Today's national average is two cents less

than a month ago and 40 cents less than a year ago.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gas demand dipped from 8.27 to 7.89 million barrels per day last week. Meanwhile, total domestic gasoline stocks increased by 4.9 million barrels to 253 million barrels. Due to fluctuating oil prices, lower gas demand, and rising stocks, pump price increases have been limited.

At the close of Wednesday's formal trading session, West Texas Intermediate increased by 72 cents to settle at \$75.09. Oil prices rose after the EIA reported that total domestic commercial crude stocks decreased significantly by 9.2 million barrels to 420.7 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 70 local offices in Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia serving 2.7 million members. News releases are available at news.eastcentral.aaa.com. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Gov. Justice and WVDNR welcome 17 new elk to West Virginia

A second transport of nearly two dozen more to take place in February

LOGAN, WV — Gov. Jim Justice and to the state's herd in 2024 and create a



the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced today the successful transport of 17 elk to the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area in Logan County. The elk will be evaluated and held for a short period of time before being released into the wild, bringing the state's growing elk population up to 127.

"As Governor, I'm thrilled to announce that West Virginia's elk population has reached an incredible 127 animals," Gov. Justice said. "Since our reintroduction efforts began several years ago, these majestic creatures have returned to grace our state, enriching our ecosystem and offering unparalleled outdoor experiences. This achievement is a testament to the tireless efforts of our dedicated DNR staff, whose commitment to conservation is truly commendable. We remain committed to further expanding our elk population, fostering tourism, and ensuring a vibrant future for these iconic animals in West Virginia."

"As we restore West Virginia's elk population after a century of extirpation, we are reminded that our state's natural resources are a great treasure and that the abundance of wildlife calling these hills home need our protection," WVDNR Director Brett McMillion said.

This elk transport comes just two weeks after Gov. Jim Justice announced that the WVDNR would add 40 new elk

visitors center and observation tower in Logan County to help tourists and wildlife enthusiasts view elk in a natural setting. A second transport of 23 elk is scheduled to take place in February.

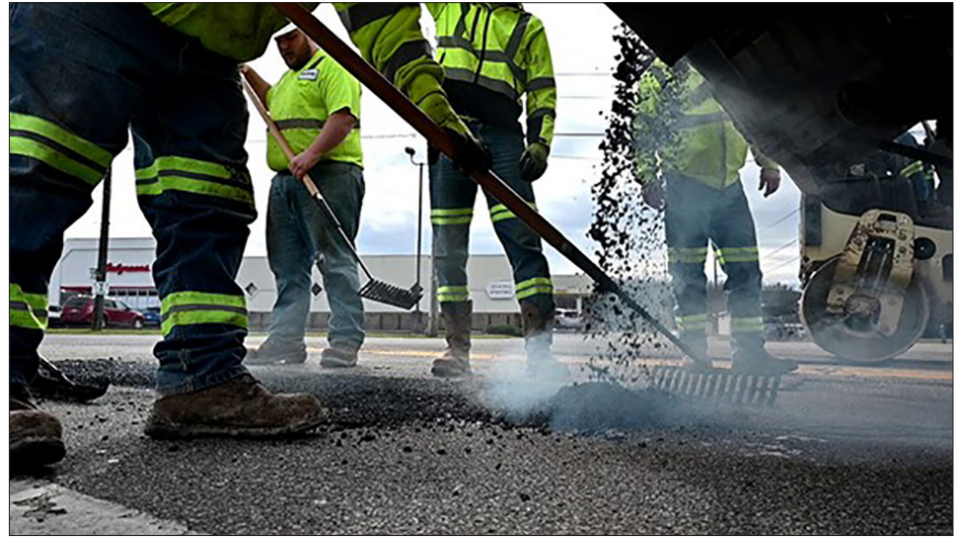
All 40 elk scheduled to be released this year will be transported from the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in Kentucky. Partner agencies involved in the capture and release include the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The WVDNR launched its Elk Restoration Project in 2016 with the release of 24 elk acquired from the Land Between the Lakes. Since 2018, the WVDNR has introduced 57 elk (15 from Kentucky and 42 from Arizona) to the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area in Logan County.

To raise awareness about its elk restoration project, the WVDNR has offered guided elk tours in Logan County where participants can learn more about the history of elk in West Virginia and get a chance to see elk in a natural setting. Tours are offered in September and October each year and often sell out.

To learn more about the WVDNR's elk restoration program, visit WVdnr.gov/elk. To download a copy of the WVDNR's Elk Management Plan, visit WVdnr.gov/publications-and-guides.

Governor Justice and WVDOH announce Operation R.I.P. Potholes



CHARLESTON, WV – Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) are taking advantage of a recent streak of warmer weather to announce Operation R.I.P. Potholes.

With current warmer weather and temperatures expected to climb into the 50s and 60s over the next couple of weeks, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) has made arrangements with asphalt plants in Princeton, and Morgantown to open on Monday, February 5, 2024 to build on the momentum from the opening of a plant in Poca.

The early opening will allow the WVDOH and its contractors to make hot mix pothole repairs in southern and north central West Virginia.

“Our partners in the asphalt industry are cooperating with us to open during the off-season to provide us with hot asphalt to make needed repairs,” said Joe Pack, P.E., WVDOH Chief Engineer of Operations.

A recent freeze/thaw cycle of snow and very cold temperatures, followed by warm temperatures and rain, has

wreaked havoc on West Virginia Roads. WVDOH road crews have been patching potholes with cold asphalt throughout the winter, but these repairs are only temporary. What the WVDOH and contractors need to make permanent pothole repairs is hot asphalt.

The WVDOH and its contractors depend on asphalt plants throughout the state to provide asphalt for paving and patching. Those plants shut down during the winter for maintenance and usually don't reopen until spring.

However, with a recent stretch of warmer weather, the WVDOH has negotiated with several asphalt plants to open temporarily to make needed pothole repairs now rather than in a few months.

An asphalt plant in Poca opened on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, allowing the WVDOH and contractors to make permanent, hot asphalt patches on interstates, roads, and work zones in Kanawha, Boone, Clay, Putnam, Mason, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, and Wayne counties.

The opening of the Princeton plant



will allow patching in McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, Wyoming, Monroe, Summers, and Fayette counties in southern West Virginia. Opening the plant in Morgantown will allow patching in Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor counties in upper north central West Virginia. In areas where hot mix is still not avail-

able, such as areas where the asphalt plants themselves are down for winter maintenance, crews will be out in full force patching with temporary methods to allow a smooth ride for motorists.

As Operation R.I.P. Potholes continues, the DOT will keep the public informed through regular press announcements.



Many Volunteers Donated Toward Christmas Baskets

Many volunteers donated their time, finances, and resources to this year's Hinkle House Christmas Baskets. Through their generosity 226 Christmas Baskets were distributed serving 654 people. The total number of people served in the month of December was 353 households and 987 people.

The food pantry is a ministry of the First United Methodist Church of Parsons. Hinkle House is located across from the church at 101 First Street, Parsons, WV 26287. Food distribution is each Thursday from 1-2:30 p.m. As part of the food donations come from the government the USDA guidelines require that each person or

family is only supposed to come once per month to the food pantry for distribution.

Emergency needs outside this distribution time can be provided by calling 304-478-1114. This guideline is needed because there is

limited supply even though we desire to serve everyone possible. There is a sign-up form to begin coming to the food pantry that can be completed upon your first visit. This is basic information including family size not income, there is no required additional documentation. If you have questions, please contact us at the number listed above.

Mac Warner visits Tucker County Clerks Office



Pictured: Mayor of the City of Parsons Bruce Kolsun, Tucker County Clerk Sherry Simmons, and Secretary of State Mac Warner.

Secretary of State Mac Warner and his office traveled to Tucker County to discuss with County Clerk Sherry Simmons about the upcoming 2024 Primary Election.

Simmons informed Warner that Tucker County is prepared for the upcoming election in updating voter registration rolls, the former consolidation of our precincts, preparing notification for poll workers, and continuing to perform in leading the state in voter turnout on Election Day.

The Secretary of States Office along with the Tucker County Clerk's Office has recently conducted sending out confirmation notices to voters in the county, so voters will have the opportunity to update their address if they have moved.

The confirmation notices are essential to keeping voter registration rolls up to date and clean.

Simmons also informed Warner that we now have 9 precincts in our county. Precinct 10 has been consolidated into Precinct 24, and Precinct 1 has been consolidated into Precinct 2. Voters have received new cards and notice of the consolidation change that had occurred in 2023.

Simmons also informed Warner that

Tucker County poll workers should be receiving notice in the mail of their upcoming appointment in March of 2024.

Tucker County also led the state in voter turnout for the Primary Election in 2022 with 44% of their registered voters casting a ballot in that election.

Simmons stated that she would like to continue that trend again in the upcoming 2024 Primary Election.

The Tucker County Clerk's office conducted a voter registration drive with eligible high school seniors, informing them on how they can register to vote, deadlines for the upcoming 2024 election, and becoming a poll worker.

Individuals who turn 18 on or before the General Election date of any election year, are able to also vote in the Primary Election of that year.

The deadline to register to vote in the 2024 Primary Election is April 23, 2024.

Mayor of the City of Parsons Bruce Kolsun also met with Warner to discuss updates at the City of Parsons and to discuss his updates that he has as the Chair of the Republican Committee for Tucker County.

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Moats Joins Membership of American Angus Association

Vincent Moats, Hambleton, West Virginia, is a new member of the American Angus Association®, reports Mark McCully, CEO of the national breed organization headquartered in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

The American Angus Association, with more than 22,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef breed association in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on over 20 million registered Angus.

The Association records ancestral

information and keeps production records and genomic data on individual animals to develop industry-leading selection tools for its members. The programs and services of the Association and its entities — Angus Genetics Inc., Angus Media, Certified Angus Beef LLC and the Angus Foundation — help members advance the beef cattle business by selecting the best animals for their herds and marketing quality genetics for the beef cattle industry and quality beef for consumers.

SPORTS

LADY MT. LIONS GET WINS AT EAST HARDY, ELKINS AND PETERSBURG



Tucker County's Raven Matthews looks to get a shot off in a recent game against Gilmer County. Photo by Brittany Channell.



Lady Mt. Lions player Mayah Gross dribbles the ball up the floor in a recent game against Gilmer County. Photo by Brittany Channell.

By Chris George
TuckerCountySports.Com

BAKER – The Tucker County Girls' Basketball team traveled to East Hardy for a varsity only game on Tuesday January 30th. The Lady Mt. Lions started the game strong and took home the victory with the final score of 78-41.

The first quarter belonged to the visiting Lady Mt. Lions as the led the Lady Cougars after one quarter 21-2. East Hardy fought back in the second quarter as they scored 20 points in the period. Tucker County would score 21 points in the second to make the halftime score 42-22 Lady Mt. Lions.

The Tucker County defense then outscored the Lady Cougars 22-11 in the third to put the score at 64-33 Tucker County after three quarters. The Lady Mt. Lions defense continued in the final quarter as the Tucker County defense held East Hardy to 8 points, while the visiting Lady Mt. Lions scored 14 points to make the final score 78-41 Tucker County.

The Lady Mt. Lions were led by Raven Matthews with 22 points, 7 rebounds and Addie Hicks

had 9 points. Katie Hicks, Ericka Zirk and Macy Helmick added 8 points each for Tucker County. Helmick also had 6 assists, 7 rebounds, while Zirk collected 8 rebounds and Avery Colebank dished out 5 assists for the Lady Mt. Lions in the win.

ELKINS – The Lady Mt. Lions Basketball team was scheduled to host Elkins on Thursday February 1st, but a water line leak near the high school forced the game to be played at Elkins High School instead of TCHS. Tucker County jumped out to an early lead to start the game and the Lady Mt. Lions maintained the lead throughout the game to win 51-35.

Tucker County controlled the game early as they led 5-0 to start the game and the Lady Mt. Lions had a 9-2 advantage after one quarter of play. Elkins battled back in the second as Tucker County would edge the Lady Tigers in scoring 14-13 in the second to make the halftime score 23-15 Tucker County.

The Lady Tigers continued to battle in the third quarter as they outpaced the Lady Mt. Lions 12-9 to cut the Tucker County lead to 32-27 after three quarters of play. In the final quarter the Lady Mt.

Lions would pull away with the help of two three point baskets by Brylee Wetzel. Tucker County would outscore Elkins 19-8 in the fourth to give the visiting Lady Mt. Lions the win by the final score of 51-35.

Brylee Wetzel led Tucker County in scoring with 14 points on the night. Macy Helmick and Raven Matthews added 10 points each for the Lady Mt. Lions in the win. Matthews collected 17 rebounds and had 8 blocks for Tucker County, while Helmick pulled down 5 rebounds and dished out 4 assists in the Lady Mt. Lions win. The Tucker County JV team got the win also 40-29.

PETERSBURG – The Tucker County Girls' Basketball team traveled to Petersburg for their third game of the week on Saturday February 3rd. The game went back and forth throughout with both teams holding leads in the fourth quarter. The Lady Mt. Lions surged ahead late in the game and held on for a 54-51 road win.

12-9-15-18-54-----12-21-36-54
10-12-16-13-51-----10-22-38-51
In the first quarter Tucker County edged ahead slightly to lead after one quarter 12-10. Petersburg

then outscored the Lady Mt. Lions in the second quarter 12-9 to give the homestanding Lady Vikings the 22-21 halftime lead.

The third quarter was close in scoring as Petersburg outpaced Tucker County slightly 16-15 to put the Lady Vikings lead to 38-36 after three quarters. The fourth quarter went back and forth throughout as Petersburg built a 51-45 lead with 2:56 left in the game. The Lady Mt. Lions then went on a 9-0 run the rest of the game to pull off the come from behind win by the final score of 54-51.

Tucker County was led in scoring by Raven Matthews with 20 points, 12 rebounds, 5 steals, 4 blocks and Ericka Zirk added 13 points, 10 rebounds, 4 blocks. Macy Helmick chipped in with 7 points, 3 assists, while Katie Hicks added 3 assists, 4 steals and Addie Hicks had 5 rebounds, 3 steals for the Lady Mt. Lions in the win.

Tucker County(13-4) will return to action tonight at #2 Gilmer County. The Lady Mt. Lions will then host Petersburg for Senior Night on Friday February 9th with JV action starting at 5:45pm. For more info go to TuckerCountySports.Com.

TUCKER BOYS' WIN AT PENDLETON, FALL IN OVERTIME AT SOUTHERN

By Dave Helmick
TuckerCountySports.Com

FRANKLIN – The Mt. Lions traveled to Pendleton County on Tuesday January 30th. Tucker County trailed at the half, but they pulled away in the third quarter to get the 72-60 victory.

The first quarter was a battle as the scoring was close and the score was 21-18 Tucker County at the end of the first. The Wildcats would respond in the second quarter as they outscored the Mt. Lions 18-14 to give Pendleton County the slim 36-35 halftime lead.

The third quarter would belong to Tucker County as they came out in the second half on fire and their defense was working. The Mt. Lions won the third quarter 20-9 to put Tucker County ahead after three quarters 55-45. The fourth quarter was even in scoring as the Mt. Lions held their lead throughout the final quarter to outpace Pendleton

County slightly 17-15 to take home the road win by the final score of 72-60.

Ethan Rosenau led Tucker County with 20 points, while Ashton Lyeliter added 18 points, 14 rebounds. Owen Knotts had 14 points, 15 rebounds and Maddox Anderson 11 points, 6 assists in the win for the Mt. Lions. The Tucker County JV team picked up the win also 65-27.

OAKLAND, MD – Tucker County ended the week with a road contest at Southern Garrett on Saturday February 3rd. In a great game the Mt. Lions forced overtime with a big shot at the end of regulation, but Southern Garrett got the win in overtime by the final score of 60-56.

In the first quarter both teams battled as the score at the end of one was 11-11. The second quarter was also competitive as Tucker County held a slight advantage in the quarter 14-12. This gave the Mt. Lions the halftime lead 25-23.

In the second half Tucker County built on their

lead as they outscored Southern 15-13 in the third quarter to give the Mt. Lions a 40-36 advantage to start the fourth quarter. The homestanding Rams would fight back in the fourth quarter as they outpaced Tucker County 17-13. Southern had the three-point lead late in regulation before Tucker County's Maddox Anderson hit a three point basket to tie the game to force overtime. Southern then outscored the Mt. Lions in overtime 7-3 to give the Rams the victory by the final score of 60-56.

Tucker County was led in scoring by Garrett Wilfong with 18 points. Maddox Anderson had 14 points and Ethan Rosenau added 13 points in the loss for the Mt. Lions. The Tucker County JV team won their game 63-21.

Tucker County(12-3) will return to action on Friday February 9th at Webster County. The Mt. Lions will then travel to Gilmer County for a varsity only game on Tuesday February 13th. For more info go to TuckerCountySports.Com.

AREA SCHEDULE:

Wednesday February 7th

Tucker County Girls' Basketball @ Gilmer County 5:45pm
Thursday February 8th
Tucker County Girls' JV Basketball vs Keyser @ Home 7pm

Friday February 9th

Tucker County Girls' Basketball vs Petersburg @ Home 5:45pm
Tucker County Boys' Basketball @ Webster County 5:45pm
Tucker Valley Girls' & Boys' Basketball vs East Preston @ Home 5:45pm

Monday February 12th

Tucker Valley Boys' Basketball vs Belington @ Home 5:45pm
Davis-Thomas Girls' & Boys' Basketball vs Harman @ Home 6pm

Tuesday February 13th

Tucker County Girls' vs Pendleton County @ Home 6pm
Tucker County Boys' Basketball @ Gilmer County 6pm
Tucker Valley Girls' Basketball vs Belington @ Home 5:45pm
Tucker Valley Boys' Basketball @ Tygarts Valley 5:45pm



Tucker County's Maddox Anderson attempts a shot in a recent game against Gilmer County. Photo by Brittany Channell.



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Good Luck!

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



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Eastern Develops Cyber Intelligence Degree Program

Moorefield W.Va. - Starting in the Fall of 2024, Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College will begin offering a cyber intelligence program with options to earn a two-year degree, 1-year academic certificate, and two micro-credentials in cyber intelligence. According to Dr. Tom Striplin, Eastern President, “We have been working on the development of this fully online program over the past year and are excited about the options and opportunities the program will provide to prospective students and employers.”

All courses in the program including general education can be taken online which is conducive to individuals interested in pursuing a career in cyber intelligence while working and maintaining a household. The program will also be offered in area high schools where students who complete 4 of the core cyber intelligence courses can earn a micro-credential in cybersecurity. According to Jonathan Williams, Cyber Security Program Coordinator/IT Faculty, “We created the program to be scalable so that students could earn micro-credentials, an academic certificate, or a degree in cyber intelligence. The program is also going to be competency-based, with a focus on the attainment of cyber intelligence skills that employers are looking for in prospective employees.”

Striplin recently attended the National Governors Association Meeting on Cyber Security

in Washington, D.C., as one of two representatives from West Virginia higher education. “What I heard overwhelmingly from major employers in the industry that presented on various cyber security topics was a need to focus on skills and competencies and a decreased focus on degree attainments,” said Striplin, “Eighteen states have now removed degree requirements for working in state agencies and employer polls are indicating managers are favoring experience to education.”

“Industry-level certification coupled with micro-credentials and hands-on training are what employers are looking for and we plan to deliver that in the program. The cyber intelligence program will leverage a competency-based approach with practical experience by partnering with several cyber companies. Our plan is for our students in the program to have practical experience in simulated cyber-attacks and participate in cyber competitions,” said Williams, “We have virtual servers that students can safely participate in these simulated environments providing hands-on experience that employers are looking for. Coupling simulated training with Learn and Earn opportunities where students can have paid internships while in the program increasing their advantages in the job market.”

“We are also embracing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and are developing an AI Tutorbot that will be trained on cyber intelligence information that will be available 24/7 for students in the program that will help them with topics anytime and anywhere,” said Williams. Eastern has also partnered with the Cyber Defense and Intelligence Center, a non-profit organization committed to cyber intelligence. Relevance to market needs is important to the quality of the educational program with courses focused on digital forensics, incident response, threat hunting and malware, and cyber warfare and ethical hacking to name just a few.

“There is an incredible need for cyber intelligence experts worldwide with an estimated 700,000 jobs and growing,” said Striplin, “Cyber security is now a critical component of the national defense strategy of the country, and we are looking for students interested in helping protect the United States against this growing threat.” For more information on the program, visit www.easternwv.edu or send an email directly to Jonathan. williams@easternwv.edu.



PRO/On TRAC Elects Two New Board Members

PRO/On Trac elected two new members of its board—Carrie Allender and Phyllis Garcia. Carrie serves as Vice President of Lending and Business Development for Davis Trust Company. She manages the Davis Trust Co. LPO Office in Thomas. Carrie also serves as President-elect of The Rotary Club of Tucker County.

Phyllis Garcia is a native of Tucker County and retired back to her home county in 2017. She is also active in the community serving as Registrar

of the Blackwater Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a member of the Canaan Valley History Group, the International Order of Odd Fellows and St. Paul’s Methodist Church.

According to Executive Director of PRO/On Trac Cynthia Kol-sun, “these women have so much to offer to our board. They both are excited to help our community and bring experience and creativity to the board.”

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THANK YOU FOR READING

LEGAL

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

Deceased	Personal Representative(s)
Robert T. Metz	Kimberly White
1st publication 2/7/24	1763 Evans Run Rd.
2nd publication 2/14/24	Elkins, WV 26241

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

2024 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & REVIEW
The Tucker County Commissioners will sit as the Board of Equalization & Review during the following dates:

Monday, January 29, 2024	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Wednesday, January 31, 2024	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Friday, February 2, 2024**	Noon - 2:00 PM
Tuesday, February 13, 2024	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Thursday, February 17, 2024	11:00 AM Sine Die

**Natural Resource and Industrial Hearing Only -
Date and Time Subject to Change pending State Approval

The purpose of these meetings is to listen to persons who appear before the commission for REVIEWING and EQUALIZING of their assessments for the tax year and to transact any other complaints concerning taxes, assessments, etc.

In no case shall any question of classification or taxability be considered or reviewed.

Each person requesting an appointment will be granted 15 minutes in which to present their case, and all persons must have an appointment. Taxpayers appearing before the Board of Equalization and Review will be given a written answer to their inquiry by no later than February 28, 2024. However, no decisions will be made on the day of the review. The burden of proof is the taxpayer’s responsibility.

To make an appointment, you must contact the County Commission Office at 304-478-2866, Ext 1207.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Davis
505 William Avenue
Davis, West Virginia 26260

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of the Town of Davis, Wastewater System Improvements, Interim WWTP Improvements Project will be received by the Town of Davis, at Davis Town Hall, 505 William Avenue, Davis, WV 26260 until **10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 7, 2024**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Sealed bids can be hand delivered to the Davis Town Hall, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. **A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at Davis Town Hall, 505 William Avenue, Davis, WV 26260 at 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.** Representatives of the Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the project. **Bidders must attend and participate in the conference.**

Bids are for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and performance of work consisting of lagoon upgrades at the Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant which includes installation of aerators and a baffle wall. The contractor shall be responsible for obtaining any additional pipe or fittings that may be necessary to complete the work. The plans and specifications are intended to cover a complete project and it shall be thoroughly understood that a failure to mention specifically any work which would naturally be required to complete the project shall not relieve the Contractor of his responsibility to perform the work.

This will be a two-envelope bidding process.
All BIDS shall remain open for ninety (90) days.
The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Town of Davis 505 William Avenue Davis, WV 26260	ConstructConnect 30 Technology Parkway, Suite 500 Norcross, GA 30092
Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP 159 Plaza Drive Keyser, WV 26726	Altoona Builders Exchange 1927 Union Avenue Altoona, PA 16601
Contractors Association of West Virginia 2114 Kanawha Blvd., East Charleston, WV 25311	Dodge Data and Analytics 2860 S State Hwy 161, Ste 160 #501 Grand Prairie, TX 75052-7361
Construction Employers Association 2794 White Hall Blvd., White Hall, WV 26554	Pennsylvania Builders Exchange 1813 North Franklin Street Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Digital copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be available via a link upon request from the Contractor free of charge by contacting the Engineer. Should the Contractor wish to have hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS, they may be obtained from the office of the Engineer, Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP, 159 Plaza Drive, Keyser, WV 26726, Phone (304-788-3370), upon a non-refundable payment of **\$300.00 plus shipping charges.**

All contractors must purchase Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms from the Engineer in order to bid. A five percent (5%) Bid Bond or certified cashier’s check must accompany all Bids.

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in part by grants and loans from the: Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council (IJDC). Neither IJDC, nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this Advertisement for Bids or any resulting contract.

NOTICE OF FEDERAL WAGE REQUIREMENTS
Contractors are required to comply with all laws pertaining to prevailing wage rates for the federal wage rates issued in accordance with the Davis Bacon Act.

NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President’s Executive Order No. 1 1246, which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in the specifications.

DBE REQUIREMENTS
Each bidder must fully comply with the Disadvantage Business Enterprises, and Affirmative Action Requirements, as identified in the contract documents.

The Bidder agrees to make “positive efforts” to subcontract a portion of the total value of the contract to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. This shall be done in compliance with the six (6) affirmative steps as outlined in 40 CFR 33.240. Failure to demonstrate positive efforts to do so may lead to rejection of bids. For this program, the term “subcontract” includes all construction, modification, and service work contracted for by the bidder in the execution of the work under this contract.

SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT
Recipients shall not entertain the use of businesses that are listed on the “System for Award Management (SAM)” at www.sam.gov, in accordance with 2 CFR Part 1532 and Subpart B and C of 2 CFR Part 190.

WV ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE ACT
West Virginia Code 21-1D-5 provides that any solicitation for a public improvement construction contract requires each vendor that submits a bid for the work to submit at the same time an affidavit of compliance with the bid. The enclosed Drug-Free Workplace Affidavit must be signed and submitted in the first envelope as evidence of the vendor’s compliance with the provisions of Article ID, Chapter 21 of the West Virginia Code. Failure to submit the signed Drug-Free Workplace Affidavit in the first envelope shall result in Disqualification of such Bid.

CONTRACTORS LICENSE
All Bidders are required to have a West Virginia Contractor’s License per Section 530-42-12 of the West Virginia Code. Per the requirements of the Article 21-11-11 of the Code of the State of West Virginia, any Contractor submitting a Bid on this project hereby certifies, indicates, and acknowledges that he/she has a Contractor’s license from the State of West Virginia and meets all the qualifications required by the statutes of the state and location in which the Work is to be performed.

Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act and the Contract Work Hours Standards Act.

Compliance with all other applicable federal and state regulations is required.

The Town of Davis reserves the right to waive any informality in the Bid and to reject any or all Bids.
Date: January 31, 2024
Town of Davis
Project Engineer
RK&K, LLP
159 Plaza Drive
Keyser, WV 267261

DEADLINE
3PM FRIDAY

LEGAL

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE

Under authority of that certain Deed of Trust dated June 21, 2013, from Alicia Dawn Bishoff to Marc B. Lazenby, Trustee, of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Tucker County, West Virginia in Trust Deed Book No. 263, at page 20, securing a promissory note in the principal amount of \$40,542.84, payable to Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., and default having been made under the promissory note secured by the aforesaid Deed of Trust and sale requested by Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale at the front door of the Tucker County Courthouse in Parsons, West Virginia on March 5, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., subject to all reservations, exceptions, easements and other matters which appear of record, and subject to all unpaid taxes, if any, the following piece or parcel of real estate, together with the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in St. George District, Tucker County, West Virginia, described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at an iron pipe set 1 foot southwest of telephone pole (#31) which is on the southwest side of a lane to Hile Cemetery, said pipe is set 21 feet southeast of the centerline of Tucker County Route #7 in the northeast boundary line between Marie and Marvin K. Phillips 84/570, and Terry Hile 88/465; thence with the boundary line fence, S. 26 23 E. 241.06 feet to an iron pipe set at a fence corner to said Phillips and Hile, thence generally with the boundary line between Phillips and Hile S. 58 30 W. 120 feet to an iron pipe set about 1 foot north of the fence, thence leaving the fence line and through the Phillips tract N. 26 16 W 268.17 feet to an iron pipe set 18 feet southeast of the centerline of Tucker County Route 7, thence along the south side of Tucker County Route 7, N. 71 28 E. 120 feet to the beginning, containing .71 of an acre, more or less, as shown on a plat recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission in Deed Book 203 at page 18, and as surveyed on March 15, 1983, by G. W. Wendel, LLS #317. Together with a certain 2013 Manufactured Home, Serial No. CWP023896TN.

Being the same property conveyed from Marsha Jean Bishoff to Alicia D. Bishoff by Deed dated April 23, 2013, of record in the aforesaid Clerk’s office in Deed Book No. 211, at page 538.

Terms of the sale: Cash or certified funds due on date of sale.

Given under my hand this 1st day of February, 2024.

/s/ Marc B. Lazenby
Trustee

LEGAL

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURE SERVICES

The Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is requesting statements of qualifications from qualified consulting firms to provide the necessary services to construct a new visitor’s center in Tucker County, WV, and any other enhancements on the CVB property. Professional services to be provided may include, but will not be limited to, the following: site design; preparation of all necessary permit applications; completion of an environmental report; preparation of construction plans, specifications, and bidding documents; assistance during bidding; construction administration services; and construction inspection services.

Procurement of said services will be in accordance with WV Code Chapter 5G and 2 CFR 200. All firms interested in being considered for this selection must submit by e-mail a proposal detailing qualifications, technical expertise, management and staffing capabilities, related prior experience, and professional references.

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

Please submit proposals by e-mail to: Jessica.Waldo@executive-director.tuckercounty.com and Visitors Bureau jessica@canaanvalley.org and Lisa Karickhoff to Alicia D. Bishoff by Deed dated April 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

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

Jessica Waldo, Executive Director
Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Parsons Advocate

Classifieds

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For rent - Really nice, 2nd floor efficiency, in Old Bank Building in Davis. Large south facing windows. Unfurnished, available now. Rent includes all utilities and high-speed internet. Historic Building: NO SMOKING! And no cats. Minimum 3-month lease. Available now.

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Interested in being a journalist or working in the media industry?

The West Virginia Press Association Foundation is accepting student applications for 2024 Summer Internships and 2024 Scholarships

If awarded, the WVPAF provides paid and unpaid internships at West Virginia newspapers and college scholarships up to \$4,000. Programs are open to journalism majors and students in related fields such as business management, human resources, advertising, social media and marketing, with preference given to students in at least their sophomore year of college.

Application deadline is Feb. 16, 2024.

Applications available on wvpress.org

For information or to have the applications mailed, contact Executive Director **Betsy Miles** at bmiles@wvpress.org, at 304-342-1011 or write to: WV Press Association Foundation, 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV, 25302.

Newspapers with a candidate for an internship or interested in having an intern should contact Betsy Miles.

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Set in a beautiful mountain area, Pineview Apartments are located in Thomas, WV adjacent to Cortland Acres. Community style living in one-bedroom apartments, that are all electric and maintenance free. Apartments are available to persons 62 years of age or older or disabled regardless of age. All apartments are HUD subsidized. Extremely low income is now defined as families whose income does not exceed the higher of 30% of area Median Income. For more information contact: Amy McDaniel, Housing Manager Cortland Acres 304-463-4181

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WVDNR stocks 25 waters

Anglers are reminded to purchase a 2024 fishing license and trout stamp

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced on Monday that the following waters were stocked during the week of January 22:

- Barbourville Lake
- Buffalo Creek (Logan)
- Cedar Creek Lake
- Cherry River
- Chief Cornstalk Lake
- Clear Fork of Tug
- Dry Fork (McDowell)
- Gandy Creek
- Greenbrier River (Durbin)
- Kings Creek
- Knapps Creek
- Krodel Lake
- Laurel Fork (Randolph)
- Mountwood Park Lake
- North Bend Tailwaters
- Panther Creek
- Pennsboro Reservoir
- Ridenour Lake
- Rollins Lake
- South Fork Cherry River
- Summersville Tailwaters
- Tomlinson Run
- Tomlinson Run Lake
- Tracy Lake
- Turkey Run Lake

While daily trout stockings are not announced in advance, the WVDNR publishes a list of recently stocked waters at WVdnr.gov/fish-stocking. Anglers may also find out what waters have been stocked by calling the stocking hotline at 304-558-3399. In inclement weather, missed stockings are made up by either additional stocking runs or additional fish added to upcoming stocking events. For more information about trout stocking locations, anglers should check pages 14-15 in the 2024 Fishing Regulations Summary, available to download at WVdnr.gov/fishing-regulations.

All anglers 15 years and older are required to have a West Virginia fishing license, trout stamp and a valid form of identification while fishing for trout. Licenses and stamps can be purchased at 175 retail locations across the state or online at WVfish.com.

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The Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau Supports the Heart of the Highlands Trail System With a \$4,000 Tourism Sponsorship

Davis, W.Va. — The Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is proud to announce the allocation of a \$4,000 Tourism Sponsorship to the Heart of the Highlands Trail System (HOH), a local non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing Tucker County's recreational potential through trail development and maintenance.

The funds from the Tucker County CVB's Tourism Sponsorship will directly contribute to supporting the HOH Project Coordinator position. This crucial role oversees the management of a Federal Lands Access Program grant for the construction of the Headwaters Trail, a three-mile stretch connecting the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Canaan

Valley Resort State Park. Additionally, the Project Coordinator is responsible for overseeing relationships and grants for trail signage, kiosks, boardwalks and more, covering over 100 miles of hiking and biking trails throughout Tucker County.

In 2023, the HOH accomplished over 500 hours of volunteer maintenance and construction work on the trail system. Celebrating its 13th year, HOH has become an integral part of the community, spearheading 98% of all trail-related efforts utilized by hundreds of thousands of tourists annually.

The HOH was founded in 2010, and focuses on connecting, improving, maintaining and promoting trail systems and

recreational amenities in and around Tucker County.

"As tourism in Tucker County continues to grow, trail maintenance, accessibility, signage and updated trail maps are critical for visitor safety, enjoyment and the preservation of the environment," said Lisa Sampson, HOH Board Member. "We are thrilled for the generous sponsorship from the Tucker County CVB to help us with these ongoing projects."

Jessica Waldo, Executive Director of the Tucker County CVB, encourages local businesses to explore the sponsorship opportunities offered by the CVB, emphasizing the two available programs: Tourism Sponsorship and Marketing Sponsorship.

"The Tourism Sponsorship program is designed to support tourism development and enhance the visitor experience in Tucker County. We are proud to be financial sponsors of organizations like the Heart of the Highlands that play a vital role in our community's well-being and recreational growth," said Waldo.

To apply for sponsorship opportunities, visit the Tucker County CVB website for an application form. Interested organizations should submit their forms at least 30 days before the next CVB Board Meeting, held on the second Tuesday of every month. A follow-up presentation is required within 90 days of fund utilization. For more information, visit gettucker.com/about.

Registration Open for 2024 Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Women's Commission (WVWC) today announced that registration is open for the 2024 Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature. The event will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston.

The theme for the 2024 Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature is "Girls Who Dream Become Women with Vision: Giving Voice to the Next Generation." The event will concentrate on actively engaging in the legislative process. Women and girls will have the opportunity to learn how to lead with their voices and influence, empowering them to contribute to the decision-

making processes that shape their communities.

"Fostering the empowerment of girls with dreams is key to developing women leaders with vision. This event offers a platform for the next generation to discover their voices and create a lasting impact," said Jill Upson, WVWC Executive Director.

Participants will meet with legislators, tour the West Virginia Culture Center and State Capitol building, visit the House and Senate galleries, and participate in roundtable discussions. Lunch will be provided to those who attend.

Teachers, students, individuals and organizations may register for the free event online at wvdhhr.org/wvwc/women_girls_day.html or by calling (304) 356-2023.



For more information about the WVWC, visit wvdhhr.org/wvwc/.

West Virginia bear harvest increases 64 percent in 2023

West Virginia hunters harvested 2,830 black bears

BECKLEY, W.Va. — Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced today black bear harvests in West Virginia dramatically increased in 2023.

"I couldn't be more proud because this is further proof that West Virginia is a hotspot

for bear hunters," Gov. Justice said. "The success of this program is a testament to the hard work of our WVDNR team and everyone who is making our state a hunting destination. Keep up the great work."

During the 2023 archery and firearms seasons for black bear, West Virginia hunters har-



vested 2,830 bears, which was a 64 percent increase over the 1,727 bears harvested in 2022.

"This impressive black bear harvest just goes to show that West Virginia has a wealth of hunting opportunities beyond the popular deer seasons," said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

WVDNR wildlife biologists projected increased black bear harvests for the state's archery and crossbow season and firearms season in the 2023 Mast Survey and Hunting Outlook. Both projections came true and can be attributed to favorable mast conditions.

"The statewide mast index for all species combined in 2023 was up 15 percent compared

to 2022," said Colin Carpenter, black bear project leader for WVDNR. "The best hard mast production in 2023 was recorded for red and black oak, which was up 138 percent over 2022, and scarlet oak, which was up 108 percent over 2022."

2023 Black Bear Harvest Numbers at a Glance

Hunters harvested 1,898 bears during the firearms season and 932 bears during the first segment of the 2023 archery and crossbow season, from September 30 to November 19.

Hunters harvested 470 bears with vertical bows and 462 bears with crossbows. The top five counties for archery harvests were Fayette (83), McDowell and Wyoming (71), Nicholas (62), Raleigh (59) and Greenbrier (55).

Hunters harvested 538 bears with a firearm in September and October (140 bears during the September youth, class Q/QQ and XS seasons, 10 bears during the October youth, class Q/QQ and XS seasons and 48 bears during the concurrent antlerless deer/bear season). Hunters also harvested 352 bears during the concurrent buck firearms and bear season and 1,007 bears during the traditional December season. One bear was harvested by a muzzleloader during the Mountaineer Heritage Season in January. The top five counties for firearms harvests were Boone (152), Nicholas (144), Randolph (133), Pocahontas (124) and Kanawha (124).


A complete list of black bear harvest numbers by county may be downloaded by clicking here.

The WVDNR is reminding black bear hunters to purchase their 2024 hunting license and bear damage stamp. Hunters are also encouraged to upgrade their license by purchasing a physical license card. To purchase a license and to learn more about license products, visit WVDNR.gov/2024-licenses.

YOU CAN HELP...

WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Local Children in Need



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

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

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

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

How will the children's clothing be purchased?

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

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

You can have goals... and pizza



Get started with 3 months free*

weightwatchersoffer.com/46



Weight Watchers

*With select plan purchase. Restrictions apply.