

The Parsons Advocate

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Wood Responds to Davis Town Criticism

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Town of Davis Water Clerk Tina Wood responded July 24th to criticism brought forward at the previous meeting by Davis resident Lori Quattro regarding allegations by Quattro that the Town was not following the Open Meetings Act properly and lacked transparency. "I just want to clarify and straighten out some things to hopefully put this to bed," Wood said.

Wood handed out copies of the The Open Governmental Meetings Act that she had sourced from the Ethics Commission website. In the handout, sections were highlighted much as Quattro had the previous meeting. "Last meeting you were given a partial code of ethics," Wood said. "This is the full code of ethics for governmental meetings act."

According to Wood, the Town of Davis does not qualify as a regular meeting, but rather as "Other Governing Bodies" due to the established nature of the meetings and the set schedule the Town meetings follow. "Lori (Quattro) said we fall under the regular meetings, we do not," Wood said. "It falls under other governing bodies."

According to Wood the section regarding Other Governing Bodies addresses the nature in which the Council is required to give notice. "The first sentence says, 'Notice must be given in a reasonable manner. When a governing body meets in accordance with a fixed schedule, such as the second and fourth Monday of each month, it may comply with the meeting notice requirement in the Act by annually posting notice of the date, time and place of these regular meetings or regular committee meetings for the coming year and keeping this notice posted throughout the year.'"

Wood said the agendas, meetings and other documents are available on the Town's website. "We do have it on our website, since the website went live in 2019," Wood said.

Wood also addressed the issue brought up by Quattro regarding when the agenda was posted following the July 4th holiday. Wood said that the delay was due to last minute notification by the Governor that the day after the 4th would be declared a holiday. "We did post it in a timely manner," Wood said. "The Governor waited, we didn't get clarification until 3:30 that Wednesday that Friday was going to be a holiday. So we were closed Thursday and Friday. So first thing Monday morning is a reasonable manner and I did post it."

Wood said that she also placed the agendas in the kiosk and makes sure that it is posted on the web. "It is on our website, I do make sure it is out on our kiosk," Wood said.

Wood said that the Town goes beyond what is expected by the state by posting in multiple locations both in physical form and online. "We go above and beyond," Wood said. "We post it on our website, we

"We go above and beyond," Wood said.



post it on our social media page. This says right here that we only have to post it in the kiosk."

According to Wood, the Town has worked hard over the past couple of years to ensure transparency. "We have worked very hard over the past couple of years with our website with our information to make sure that we're transparent, as much as possible and to get everything out there," Wood said.

The effort, according to Wood, is to make accessing the information as easy as possible for both residents and visitors. "We want our residents, our visitors, media to access that information, but code of ethics says we only have to put it in the kiosk, but we want to make it as easy as possible," Wood said.

Wood also addressed public comment at meetings. "Are Governing bodies required to allow members of the public to speak at a meeting? No," Wood said. "The purpose of the Open Meetings Act is to allow citizens to observe the governing body for purposes of promoting transparency."

Wood also suggested that the Mayor and Council take a firmer hand in handling interruptions during meetings. "I think that Mayor and Council needs to maybe sometimes remind guests that they should not be interrupting people," Wood said. "That they should let people speak and when you are back in session, no one is to be talking. They are supposed to be observing."

Wood said she has learned new computer skills and worked with the Town's webmaster to ensure the information is available in a timely manner. "I want everyone to understand that we are doing everything," Wood said. "I have learned Word Press. I have worked with our webmaster. I get it out there. If for some reason I'm sick or on vacation, Joannie has copies of the minutes the next day if somebody needs to come in and get it."

According to Wood, she has strove to limit the criticism the Town receives. "I base my vacations around posting so that we don't get criticized," Wood said. "We never get compliments, we always get critiqued."



Sunset Picnic

A family enjoyed an evening picnic at the top of Backbone Mountain at Fred Long Centennial Park Overlook Saturday, July 20th.

Local Businesses Still Oppose Southern Route

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

A coalition of 32 Davis and Thomas business owners have banded together to continue to petition for a Northern Route for Corridor H. The

group has sent a letter to US Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg in Washington DC regarding the impact the group claims a Southern Route would pose to Tucker County.

The group consists of business owners from a variety of businesses across Davis and Thomas including: tourism, hospitality, retail, arts and the outdoors. In the letter, the group asks Secretary Buttigieg to, "please help us protect our community from the worst harms of highway construction."

The letter states that the group doubts that the West Virginia Department of Highways will take the matter or study seriously. "...despite the Federal Highway Administration's insistence that the state study this northern alternative, we are skeptical that it will be a serious study, or taken seriously, by the WV Division of Highways," the letter writes.

The letter goes on to quote the Secretary on the division of neighborhoods and the damage it causes. "Sometimes roads in the past have done the opposite of what they want to do...Dividing or damaging neighborhoods," the letter quotes Secretary Buttigieg.

The group asserts in the letter that the Southern 10 mile stretch of Corridor H proposed would harm the communities of Davis and Thomas. "ROPA, as designed, will do precisely what you addressed: sever links between different parts of our community and disrupt our local economy," the letter asserts.

The letter also asserts that the Southern ROPA Route would harm their economy and quality of life. In the letter, the group describes themselves as, "a thriving, sustainable tourism economy based on our assets: scenic beauty, the Blackwater River and Canyon, trails, wildlife, mountains and charming small towns alive with art and music."

The letter also asserts that a Northern Route would protect the communities and economies. "A well-designed northern alignment will protect our businesses, quality of life, connectedness, and serve the people who live and work in our community," the letter states.

Also included in the letter is a reference to the recent declaration by American Rivers that named the Blackwater on its list of the country's top ten most threatened rivers in the United States. The letter goes on to assert that the main threat stems from acid mine drainage that could be created during construction and released into the North Fork and Blackwater River, according to the group.

The letter also references the two State Parks and the National Forest in Tucker County, as well as two Wilderness Areas and the National Wildlife Refuge as bringing in tourist dollars through outdoor activities. The letter also lists several types of businesses that the group claims would be impacted by the Route decision.

In the letter, the group state the Secretary's desire to "build highways right" as well as assertions that communities across the country "went to sleep" from projects not completed correctly, according to the group. In its conclusion, the letter stated that a 30 year old highway design would be a fatal blow to the economy and way of life in the communities, according to the group. "We kindly ask for your support for the logical and best alignment for this ten mile stretch of Corridor H: the Northern Alignment," the letter writes.

The Southern ROPA Route has been supported by several local government entities on Tucker County. There is no word from the WVDOH on a route determination as of the publishing of this article.

Shahan Pleads Not Guilty on Burglary, Arson Charges

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Hunter Shahan plead not guilty to burglary, conspiracy and fourth degree arson charges July 22nd before Judge Courrier in District Court. The not guilty plea was part of an arraignment hearing following a Grand Jury indictment on the charges.

If convicted, Shahan faces 15 years on the Burglary charge, one to five years and \$10,000 fine on Conspiracy and one to two years on the fourth degree arson charge and a \$2,500 fine with the arson charge carrying a fixed term.

Shahan appeared in court via Teams from the Tygart Valley Regional Jail where he was incarcerated on a separate matter. Shahan's attorney Wes Mallow appeared in court along with Special Prosecutor Claire Neihaus who appeared via phone.

Judge Courrier granted the Grand Jury minutes to be distributed 10 days prior to trial.

City of Parsons Awarded RTP Grant

The City of Parsons has been awarded a Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP) through the West Virginia Division of Highways. The \$110,000 grant consisting of \$88,000 in state funding and \$22,000 in matching funds provided by the City, will be utilized for lighting at Corrick's

Ford Battlefield, according to the City of Parsons. The award letter, dated June 6 and addressed to City of Parsons Mayor Bruce Kolsun was presented to the City of Parsons Council at their July 16th meeting. The work is part of the Corrick's Ford Battlefield Project - Phase II.

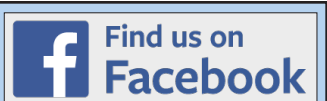
The Goose is Loose



A flock of geese enjoyed the Riverfront Park in Davis on Monday, July 22nd. The Town of Davis has been working to refinish all the wood on the equipment and picnic tables in the park.



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Hinkle Pleads Guilty

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Crystal Hinkle plead guilty July 22nd in District Court to one misdemeanor count of possession with intent to deliver and one misdemeanor count of driving while revoked second offense. Each count had the potential of one year with the driving while revoked had a fine of up to \$1,000. The plea given before Judge Courrier came as a part of a plea agreement.

Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney Savannah Hull Wilkins asked for concurrent sentences, suspended with probation pending the completion of a drug rehabilitation program and \$1,000 in restitution. Also asked by the prosecution was that the fine be commuted to 90 hours of community service.

Hinkle appearing in court accompanied by her attorney Morris Davis. Hinkle was sworn in to enter her guilty plea and was appraised of her rights and explained the trial option and process that she was waiving through the plea. When asked if she understood her rights, Hinkle said she did. "By entering a plea today...the case will be ended," Judge Courrier said. "Once I accept it today, you give up the right to challenge it."

The charges against Hinkle stemmed from a single vehicle crash on June 3, 2022 in which a vehicle operated by Hinkle crashed into a garage. During the investigation after the driver left the scene, multiple substances were found in the vehicle, specifically 14 Gabapentin pills were discovered without a valid prescription, according to Wilkins.

Judge Courrier said that while Hinkle was pleading guilty to a second offense driving while revoked, a third offense

would constitute a felony. "You get another one, it would constitute a felony," Judge Courrier said.

The only questions raised by Hinkle during the proceedings involved the amount of time she had to pay restitution and what the process would be for probation should she choose to move from the County. It was explained by Judge Courrier that it would be up to probation to determine the amount to be paid in installments. On the probation question, Hinkle was told that she would likely be required to meet with probation in Tucker County first, then transfer to her new location.

Following Hinkle's verbal guilty plea, Hinkle through her attorney, waived the presentencing report and chose to be sentenced at the hearing. Attorney Morris Davis spoke on her behalf during the proceedings, "Miss Hinkle comes before the court a much different person," Davis said.

According to Davis, Hinkle is currently enrolled in a rehabilitation program, is over 260 days sober and is moving in with a sister in another town to put herself in different surroundings where she is away from negative influences and improve her mindset. "We ask the court to allow her to continue to improve," Davis said.

Judge Courrier sentenced Hinkle to one year on each charge to be served concurrent, suspended; two years probation with the possibility to be reevaluation after a year if Hinkle is doing well and \$1,000 fine suspended to be served as 90 hours of community service. There will also be a \$5 per month supervision fee imposed. All other charges were dismissed. "We're also proud you have taken all these steps to improve yourself," Judge Courrier said.

News of Record

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

- Michael Gainer, Parsons Corporation, Lot #60 NS in the Davis Addition Block 6 to Timothy Leeson and Patricia Leeson, \$100,000.
- Peggy Bonner, Hambleton Corporation, 12,808 square feet to Jacob Phillips and Angela Phillips, \$36,000.
- Arthur Bert Thorsen and Ann Berry Thorsen, Davis Corporation, Lot 225 to Jacob A. Muscavage and Amy M. Hruska, \$189,200.

Mallow Case Headed to Trial; Character Evidence Excluded

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

The 34 count fraud indictment case against Clayton Mallow is set to go to trial in December. The development was part of a hearing that was set to involve a possible plea agreement on July 22nd. Mallow appeared in court before Judge Courrier along with his attorney James Fox. Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney Savannah Hull Wilkins represented the prosecution in the case.

There was a motion to exclude character evidence before Judge Courrier from a hearing on May 15th. In the motion, the defense sought to have character evidence pertaining to Mallow excluded. In his rul-

ing, Judge Courrier ruled to exclude the evidence, but that it could be included if Mallow claims up a lack of motive during testimony. During his ruling, Judge Courrier agreed with the Defense that the evidence could qualify as unfair prejudice.

Attorney Fox acknowledged that there had been plea negotiations, but rejected the offer set forth by Wilkins and the State and instead sought a trial date. Judge Courrier set a trial date in the case for December with pretrial motions to be heard in November.

Wilkins said that the plea negotiations are ongoing. "We have been going back and forth pretty consistently," Wilkins said.

Shaffer Pleads Not Guilty

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Chad Hinkle made his first appearance following a Grand Jury indictment on four felony charges. In the hearing before Judge Courrier, July 22n, Shaffer plead not guilty to the charges of Domestic Battery, Unlawful Restraint and two counts of strangulation.

Shaffer appeared in person accompanied by his attorney Morris Davis. Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney Savannah Hull Wilkins represented the prosecution in the case.

If convicted, Shaffer faces one year

and a \$500 fine on the Domestic Battery charge, one year and \$1,000 fine on the Unlawful Restraint charge and one to five years and a \$2,500 fine on each count of strangulation.

A no contact order with the victim remained in place by the court. Wilkins said that she wanted the court aware of third party contact attempts and requested that the restraining order remain in place. Judge Courrier continued the no contact order with an emphasis that no contact be maintained.

The Grand Jury minutes were granted by the court for 10 days from trial. Bond had previously been set and met in the case.

WV Caring's 36th Annual Dr. D. R. Davis Golf Tournament

Attention all golfers, on Sunday, September 8, 2024, WV Caring will host its 36th Annual Dr. D.R. Davis Golf Classic at the Preston County Country Club to benefit patient care for those with advanced life-limiting illnesses.

Golfers are needed to play, have fun, and make a difference in the lives of their neighbors and friends who are terminally ill. Individuals and teams can play for a cost of \$80 per player or \$320 per team. Registration includes: 18 holes of golf and cart, lunch, lots of prizes, games and refreshments. This will be a shotgun scramble with one tee time at 9 AM. There will be eligibility to win prizes for the top three place teams, closest to the pin, longest drive and a hole in one at designated tees.

There are a variety of sponsorships and ways to participate. For more information about these opportunities please contact Cindy Woodyard at cwoodyard@wvcaring.org. Individual and Team registration is available by calling 1-800-350-1161 or online registration is available at:

www.wvcaring.org.

WV Caring is dedicated to serving individuals and their families transitioning through life-limiting illnesses with palliative and hospice care, grief support, education, and outreach. WV Caring has the only Hospice Center in North Central WV, which is a hospital for hospice patients, and another inpatient unit on the way in Morgantown, WV.

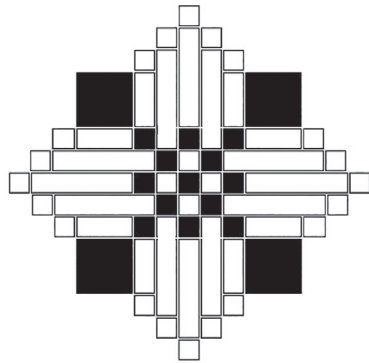
WV Caring, aka Hospice Care Corporation, is a 501 (c) (3), non-profit organization that is dedicated to serving the terminally ill and their families in 12 counties in North Central West Virginia since 1983. WV Caring is the only local, free-standing, community-based hospice in the area. WV Caring does not refuse patients based on the cost of their care, but solely on their right to receive it. For more information on the services provided, please call WV Caring at 1-866-656-9790 or visit our web site at: www.wvcaring.org.

Tucker Community Foundation announces new grant cycle

PARSONS – The Tucker Community Foundation has announced that their annual grant cycle has been moved this year. Grant applications will be accepted starting August 1st and the deadline to have grant applications turned into the Foundation is Friday, September 27th at 3pm. Tucker Community Foundation will be awarding grant funding to organizations, volunteer groups and people working to make a positive change in their communities in Barbour, Grant, Mineral, Preston, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker and Upshur counties in West Virginia, as well as Garrett County, Maryland. To be considered, groups must be working within the foundation's nine county service areas.

Michael Moore, Chief Financial Officer, said "to download a grant application, go online to www.tuckerfoundation.net/endowed-funds/grants/. Paper copies are available at the Foundation's office at 100 Education Lane, Parsons, WV. If you have any questions or need a paper copy mailed to you please feel free to call our office between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 304-478-2930."

Grant applications must be turned into the Tucker Community Foundation's office located at 100 Education Lane, Parsons WV 26287 by September 27th at 3 pm. They can also be mailed, to PO Box 491, Parsons WV 26287, with a postmark date of Sep-



tember 27th. Grants can be electronically submitted to: grants@tuckerfoundation.net.

"Grant season at the foundation is always a time of great excitement. Each year we are reminded of the efforts of hard-working folks who work to make our communities better" said Moore. As a community foundation, our mis-

sion is, "Creating opportunities for the individuals and communities we serve".

Grant applications can cover a wide range of charitable service areas including the arts, education, health and safety, emergency services, community development, parks, libraries, historic preservation and more. In years past, grants have helped a high school FFA group attend a national competition in Oklahoma or a food pantry to restock its shelves or for a volunteer fire department get new helmets.

The foundation's grant funding is due to the generosity of donors who have established and contributed to the more than 140 endowed funds and unrestricted funds established through the foundation. While some funds are targeted to support specific charitable areas, others are written to have a much wider reach. All grant awards are based on a competitive application process. To see the full list of endowed funds supporting this year's grant season, please visit www.tuckerfoundation.net/endowed-funds/grants

The Parsons Advocate

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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.

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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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Fairmont State’s aviation program sees growth in female pilots

In October 2018, Victoria Grace was celebrated as the first woman to complete her Private Pilot Single Engine Land Rating through Fairmont State University’s flight program. Grace went on to be the first woman to graduate from the aviation program and then became their first female flight instructor.

Since that time, the flight industry has seen a drastic decline in certified pilots. With the increased demand for air travel comes the urgent need for skilled aviators. Programs like Fairmont State are not just training and educating pilots, they’re shaping the future—a future where women will play a larger role in the aviation industry.

The United States is short roughly 17,000 pilots. With most pilots being men, diversifying the pool of talented aviators is one solution to the shortage. More and more women are joining the aviation industry and helping attract others to the career.

“We are definitely seeing an uptick in the number of ladies applying and being accepted to the flight program. Each one of these women is looking down the track of a six-figure career flying aircrafts,” said Chief Pilot and Director of the Aviation Center of Excellence Joel Kirk. “Due to the program being selective, those admitted must meet high-quality standards. These students are exceptional in every respect and this program is the best return on investment of any education program in the State. And it leads to the most exciting career one can imagine.”

Seeing the community of women pilots continue to grow through Fairmont State’s program is especially promising as the population of certified pilots is expected to continue to decline in the next decade. Fairmont State is addressing this by educating students to be well-rounded aviation professionals who will go on to be exceptional pilots. Many flight program alumni have already gone on to have successful careers in different areas of aviation.

“Fairmont State’s Aviation program was the first of its kind in West Virginia and remains second to none,” said President Mike Davis. “Aviation is a crucial, growth industry for the state, so it’s essential that we continue to create opportunities for women to excel in the field. Doing so will both help meet the industry’s need for exceptional pilots and provide pathways to rewarding careers for these talented women.”

Since 2017, five women have graduated and become certified pilots through Fairmont State’s program. Currently, 12 lady Falcons are flying in the program.

While there is a pressing demand for pilots, that does not mean any aspect of a Fairmont State student’s training is glossed over. The aviation program takes the time to skillfully educate future pilots. The program’s accomplished faculty and staff bring decades of

experience that is being passed on to new aviators and are always looking for professional development opportunities for their pupils. The most recent of these opportunities was the Women in Aviation International (WAI) 2024 Conference.

A group of 10 Fairmont State University female aviation students and alumni, dubbed the “Mountain State Fly Girls” attended the WAI Conference in Orlando, FL this spring.

Those who attended were:

- Isabella “BO-PEEP” DiSaia - TRIDELPHIA, WV
- Riley “NARCO” Thorpe - MORGANTOWN, WV
- Lauren “JENNY” Bubarth - CONNELLSVILLE, PA
- Natalie “SUNSHINE” Zemba - CHARDON, OH
- Willa “SCOOTER” Sharbaugh - FRIEDENS, PA
- Callie “JA-POOH” Carpenter - BELINGTON, WV
- Morgan “CARRIE” Domenico - HAGERSTOWN, MD
- Chloe “DIPSTICK” Blake - LEON, WV
- Heather Pitsenbarger - BRIDGEPORT, WV
- Makenzie “MUSH” Lundquist - ORLANDO, FL

“We were excited to send this first group of professional women pilots to the conference to represent the quality of aviators we train at Fairmont State. It was also exciting to see a local Fairmont State trained alumna Ms. Heather Pitsenbarger giving back by funding and escorting the group to Florida,” said Kirk. “Being an Aviator is undeniably thrilling. We hope that by creating and highlighting events like this, we will inspire young girls in the community who dream of pursuing one of the most extraordinary careers on earth.”

WAI is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the number of women involved in aviation and aerospace. Founded in 1990, and formally established in 1994, WAI has grown to be the largest organization of its kind in the world.

Each student who attended got to learn from industry professionals and network with other women who make up the small percentage of women pilots.

While students have much to learn at the Aviation Center of Excellence, professional development opportunities like the WAI Conference are essential to creating well-rounded aviators. Perhaps as the population of women in aviation grows, so too will the number of organizations and opportunities focused on enhancing the professional education of women pilots.

Learn more about Fairmont State’s Aviation program by visiting www.fairmontstate.edu/academics/programs/aviation-administration.



The 2024 Family Development Certificate Program class, jointly sponsored by Garrett College and Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc., recently graduated. Pictured, left to right, are (back row) Kelly Bernard, Amanda Sweitzer, Wendi Rodeheaver, Stacy Green, and Instructor Katie Harding; (front row) Moranda Bowman, Chelsie Warnick, and Instructor Amanda Reckart.

Garrett College graduates new FDC class Program offers family coaching skills training

McHenry, MD—Six students recently completed the Family Development Credential (FDC) Program offered through Garrett College’s Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) division and Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

The FDC Program provides frontline workers with the knowledge and skills needed to coach families to set and reach their own goals for healthy self-reliance in their communities. To earn the credential, a worker must complete 90 hours of interactive classroom instruction, prepare a skills portfolio with support of a portfolio advisor, and pass a state credentialing exam.

“This course was a perfect, well-rounded learning experience for me, as a rookie in the family worker field,” said Chelsie Warnick, transitional housing coordinator with the Dove Center. “It helped me learn a lot of basic interaction skills, and gave me a lot of things I could improve on and begin implementing immediately with the families with which I work.”

“The importance of self-care being highlighted in the class was not only a good reminder,” added Warnick, “but also felt like important and validating information to know that we must take care of ourselves.”

“This class is excellent for anyone who works with families in crisis or families that want to reach their goals,” said Wendi Rodeheaver, who works with Garrett County Community Action.

Warnick said she made valuable connections with classmates, and expanded her knowledge of community resources.

“There is a lot to be learned, but the most important takeaway I have is the shared-power method that is taught in the course,” Warnick said. The shared-power method emphasizes letting go of traditional frames of power and leading, and permits group members to have power and influence with the group.

The next FDC program will start in February 2025. For additional information, please contact Dr. Kimberly Govi at 301.387.3084, or Kimberly.govi@garrettcollege.edu.

GC, partners offer ‘Pathways to Entrepreneurship’

Comprehensive curriculum provides guidance, personalized support

McHenry, MD – Garrett College, working collaboratively with several partner organizations, will be offering an opportunity to turn business dreams into reality.

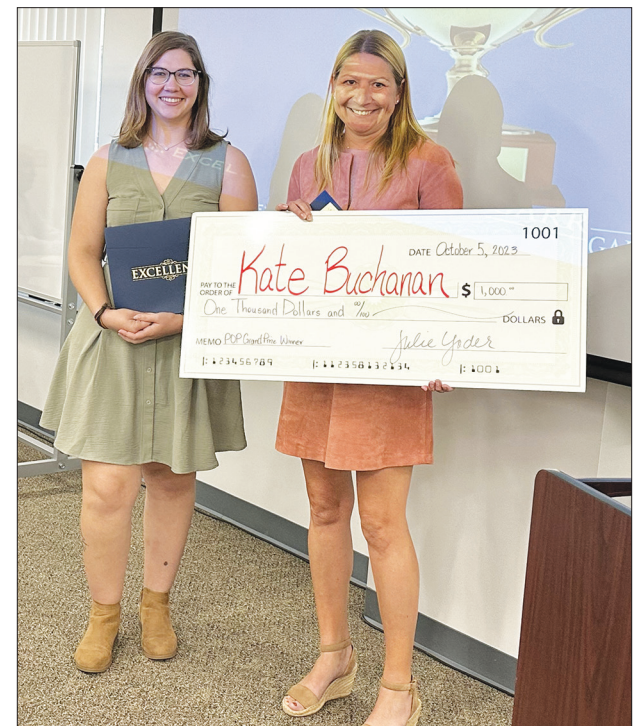
GC, the Western Region Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Garrett County Economic Development, and Carroll Community College are jointly offering “Pathways to Entrepreneurship”. It is designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the essential skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the competitive business world.

The program, which runs August 7th to October 14th, offers a comprehensive curriculum through a series of courses. Covered core competencies include market research, budgeting and accounting, human resources management, risk assessment, growth strategies, and more.

The curriculum is delivered through a series of courses, including Ready, Set, Go!, Keys to Effective Communication, Preparation for Pathways to Entrepreneurship, and the flagship Pathways to Entrepreneurship course.

“Participants will receive expert guidance and personalized support to navigate every aspect of launching and managing their own ventures,” said Dr. Kimberly Govi, Garrett College’s coordinator of professional development.

The journey begins with Ready, Set, Go!, an information session slated for August 7th that provides insights into the world of entrepreneurship.



Kate Buchanan, right, and her husband, Ken, won first prize in the 2023 Power of Possibility (POP) contest, with Claire Oreskovich, left, as the runner-up. This year’s POP competition will be the culmination of Garrett College’s “Pathway to Entrepreneurship” course, which is currently open for registration and begins August 7th.

“The session helps participants understand business entities, explore available resources, and examine financial considerations and marketing strategies,” Govi said. “Participants will gain a holistic understanding of the entrepreneurial landscape from this session.”

Other topics covered include the intricacies of business planning, legal considerations, finance management, funding sources, and marketing strategies. The course content is delivered through a blend of online coursework and one-on-one consultations.

In addition, Govi said an in-person networking event will take place on September 25th. This event will offer students the opportunity

to connect with local business leaders and leverage valuable resources for their ventures.

One of the highlights of the “Pathways to Entrepreneurship” program is the opportunity to participate in the prestigious “Power of Possibility” (POP) competition. POP, which takes place at Garrett College on December 10th, provides a platform for budding entrepreneurs to showcase their business plans and compete with peers for recognition and support.

Registration for the “Pathways to Entrepreneurship” program is now open. Interested individuals should contact Govi at (301) 387-3084, or kimberly.govi@garrettcollege.edu.

National Heritage Area to Host Regional Tourism Conference



Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area invites all tourism industry professionals to the annual Highlands Creative Economy Tourism Summit on Monday, August 5th at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf & the Blind in Romney. This year’s event will emphasize the importance of addressing accessibility in the tourism and hospitality sectors.

The Tourism Summit will feature presentations from regional experts and offer the opportunity to learn about tools and resources for tourism organizations, and to network with peers in the industry. This event is free to attend and open to anyone interested in tourism in the region. Register or learn more at www.afnha.org/news-archives/2024-tourism-summit.

Sessions will cover Accessibility, Agritourism, Hospitality, Community Development, Heritage Tourism, and more. The keynote address will highlight Eric Thompson of Access on the Go, a non-

profit organization dedicated to promoting accessibility and adaptive recreation opportunities throughout the Appalachian region. Thompson will discuss the need for and benefits of tourism and hospitality businesses to serve travelers with disabilities, and share the resources and tools organizations can use to make their communities more accessible.

Highlands Creative Economy (HCE) is a partnership between Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area and Eastern WV Community & Technical College. The HCE program hosts a monthly networking meeting for tourism-related organizations, training events, workshops, and the annual Tourism Summit. Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 10:00 am on Zoom. HCE is supported in part by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and the National Park Service. Learn more at www.afnha.org/creative-economy.



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Your healthcare.**

Good Luck!

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



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OBITUARIES

Katherine Louise Poling Pine

Katherine Louise Poling Pine, age 82 years, a resident of Parsons, WV, departed this life late Thursday evening, July 25, 2024, at her home, surrounded by her loving family and under the care of Mountain Hospice. She had been in declining health.

She was born Friday, August 22, 1941, at Parsons, WV, a daughter of the late Porter Poling and Glenda George Poling. On August 22, 1958, at Parsons, WV, she was married to Darl Franklin Pine, who preceded her in death May 6, 2014. They had celebrated fifty-five years of marriage.

Surviving are two sons, Dennis James Pine and wife Patty of Belington and Darrell Allen Pine of Parsons; one daughter, Darlene Louise Lambert and husband Thomas of Elkins; two brothers, Edward Poling and wife Eileen of Parsons and Richard Poling and wife Steffine of Keyser; one sister, Glenda Lipscomb of Parsons; six grandchildren, Aaron Greer,



Kevin Lambert, Jonathan Pine, Jessica Pine, David Pine and Ashley Pine; four great grandchildren, Josh Greer, Kaylin Long, Aiden Long and Bentley Swecker; three step grandchildren, Josh Arbogast, Lacy Arbogast and Travis Talbott.

She was a graduate of Parsons High School with the class of 1959. She was an employee of the former Dorman Mills, Parsons Shoe Factory, and the WV Children's Home as a cook. She also cooked for eight years at the Tucker County Jail when her husband Darl was Sheriff. She has worked for Shop & Save as a baker

for twenty-five years. Katherine was a member of the First United Methodist Church, the Women Society, and worked at the food pantry when it first started, and she remained there until June of 2024. She was also janitor at the church for several years and cared for the Nursery. She has belonged to the Gideons Auxiliary for thirty-five years.

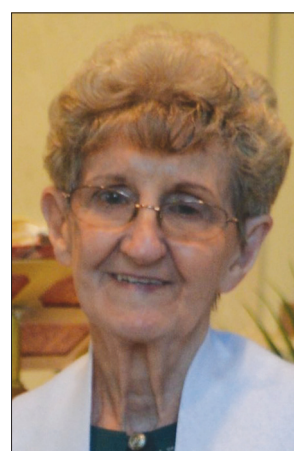
The family will receive friends at the Lohr & Barb Funeral Home of Parsons, WV on Monday, July 29, 2024, from 4 PM to 6 PM. On Tuesday morning, July 30, 2024, Mrs. Pine will be moved to the First United Methodist Church at Parsons, WV, where final rites will be conducted at 11 AM. The Reverend Julie Davis will officiate and interment will follow at the Parsons City Cemetery at Parsons, WV. The Lohr & Barb Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Katherine Louise Poling Pine. Condolences may be expressed to the family at; www.lohrbarbfuneralhome.com.

Shirley Simmons Wilson

Shirley Simmons Wilson, 80, of Manassas, VA, passed away on July 23, 2024, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's.

Shirley was born on January 24th, 1944, to John Andrew and Ruby Mary Roy Simmons in Lanesville, WV. She attended one-room Lanesville White School for grades 1 through 8. She graduated from Mountaineer High School in 1963. She left the mountains of West Virginia for Arlington, Virginia immediately after high school. She got a job with C & P Telephone Co., which became Bell Atlantic Telephone Co., and then Verizon Telephone Co., retiring after 32 ½ years. Many years were then spent catering to her prized yard and flower gardens and chasing after her grandchildren.

In late 1964, she met Daniel E. Wilson of Davis, West Virginia and they wed on July 17, 1965. Dan was her best friend and the love of her life. They lived in Arlington, Virginia, Falls Church, Virginia, and finally settled in Manassas, Virginia. They had 3 chil-



dren, Ron, Michelle, and Missy.

Shirley was a fiercely dedicated mom to all her children. Family came first and was above all else to Shirley, a value she instilled in all those around her. The hole left by her absence is impossible to fill.

Shirley was passionate about her grandchildren, but when she wasn't filling her home with warmth and the laughter of her grandchildren, she could be found working in her backyard doing some form of yard work. We will miss her greatly.

She was baptized into the Catholic faith with close family supporting her on July 11, 2020, after decades

of practicing the faith. She could not have been happier, stating it was one of the best days of her life.

Shirley was predeceased by John Simmons (father), Ruby Simmons (mother), Ronald Roy (brother), Rosilea Vance (sister), and Tommy Simmons (brother). She is survived by her husband, Dan, her son Ron (Lisa) Simmons, Michelle (Jesse) Zappia, and Missy (Nick) Long; her five grandchildren Josh, Michael, Nate, Dylan, and Jenna; her sister Norma Jean (Mark) Toth, sister-in-law Shirley Simmons, and several nieces and nephews.

The family requests that all flowers and notes are sent to Pierce Funeral Home. There will be a viewing at Pierce Funeral Home at 6pm-8pm on Thursday, August 1st. There will be a funeral mass at 11am on Friday, August 2nd at All Saints Catholic Church. Interment will be at Quantico National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Shirley's name to the Alzheimer's Association.

Treasurer Moore Announces Another Record-Breaking Year for Unclaimed Property Returns

Unclaimed Property Division Returned Nearly \$28 Million During Past Fiscal Year

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – State Treasurer Riley Moore today announced his Office's Unclaimed Property Division has once again set a new record for returning lost funds, with nearly \$28 million worth of unclaimed property returned to individuals, businesses and organization over the last fiscal year.

"I am once again proud to announce my Office continues to beat our own records for how much money we've returned to our citizens," Treasurer Moore said. "This is the third year in a row we've been able to set a new record for unclaimed property returns. Since I took Office in 2021, we have returned more than \$81 million to our citizens, and I know this record pace will continue.

"I'm proud of the hard work that's been put in by our entire team to ensure our citizens, businesses and other organizations are reconnected with their lost funds," Treasurer Moore said. "This is the people's money, and we're working diligently to get it back to them."

During Fiscal Year 2024, which ended June 30, the Unclaimed Property Division returned \$27,989,624.99 in funds, topping the previous record of \$26.8 million set during the prior fiscal year. Since it began in 1967, the program has returned more than \$311 million to rightful owners.

Treasurer Moore has taken several steps since taking Office in 2021 to modernize and streamline the unclaimed property process. That included working with lawmakers in 2022 to pass House Bill 4511, which improved both the process of claiming funds and how funds and properties are turned over to the Office.

This bill also allowed the Office to launch the successful "West Virginia Cash Now" program, which has automatically returned roughly \$7 million to individuals since its inception, with another \$3.3 million set to be returned this fall.

Additionally, the Office has ramped up its digital marketing efforts to help raise awareness of the program with various online and mobile audiences, and launched a mobile version of the website that features an SMS text feature which allows users to forward unclaimed property listings to family and friends if they see their names listed.

Also, to help assure residents of the legitimacy of the program, the state's unclaimed property website and database was migrated to a .gov domain – www.WVUnclaimedProperty.gov.

"One of the biggest challenges we

face is that people think this program is too good to be true – they can't believe someone from the government is trying to give them money instead of asking for it," Treasurer Moore said. "We've been working hard over the years to promote and educate people about this program to assure them that this is their money and they can rightfully claim it."

While the Office is returning money at the fastest pace in state history, it's also receiving new claims at a record pace too – thanks in part to the modernization and streamlining reforms contained in House Bill 4511.

The State Treasurer's Office now has more than \$440 million worth of listings in its database.

"We're receiving new listings on a continual basis, so that's why I remind people to bookmark and keep coming back to our website – www.WVUnclaimedProperty.gov – to check and see if we're holding anything for you," Treasurer Moore said.

What is Unclaimed Property?

Unclaimed property can include financial accounts or items of value in which the owner has not initiated any activity for one year or longer. Common examples include unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. (While the title includes the word "property," it does not however include real estate.)

West Virginia's unclaimed property laws protect the public by ensuring money and property owed to them is returned to them, rather than remaining permanently with financial institutions, business associations, governments and other entities. The Treasurer seeks to reunite the unclaimed property, including uncashed paychecks, stocks, or safe deposit box contents, with its owner.

Nationwide, nearly 33 million people in the United States – one in every 10 – are estimated to have unclaimed property available for them to claim.

How Can I Find Unclaimed Property in My Name?

West Virginians searching for lost financial assets can go to www.WVUnclaimedProperty.gov. In addition to finding property, the website will also help you track a claim.

A demonstration of how to use the Unclaimed Property search site is available on the Treasury's YouTube page, at: <https://youtu.be/K09yQ7YNKIE>.

To search for lost financial assets outside West Virginia, visit www.Missing-Money.com.

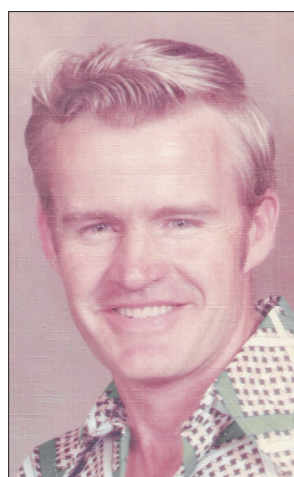
Melvin Richard Phillips, Sr.

Melvin Richard Phillips, Sr., 89, a resident of Parsons and Oakland Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Oakland, MD, passed from this life Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at the nursing home.

Melvin was born Saturday, April 6, 1935, a son of the late Walter Lewis Phillips and Beulah Virginia Knicley Phillips. On June 2, 1960, at Red House, MD, he married Shirley Ann Puffenbarger Phillips, who survives. They had celebrated sixty-four years of marriage.

Left to cherish Melvin's memory is his wife, Shirley and three children, Melvin Richard Phillips, Jr., Virginia Ann "Jenny" Phillips of Clarksburg, and Cheri Lynne Phillips of Parsons.

Preceding Melvin in death besides his parents



was a sister, Marie Black, and two brothers, Junior Phillips and Randal Phillips. Melvin was the last surviving member of his family.

Melvin attended the schools of Tucker County. He held various jobs over the years, helped to build a railroad in Idaho, helped with road construction on I-79, was a welder for Quail Ridge Construc-

tion and Kingsford Manufacturing Company, and retired as a self-employed tree trimmer.

Melvin attended the Rosendorf Pentecostal Church of God and the St. George Church of God. He enjoyed hunting and cutting wood. He loved reading his Bible, going to church, and would always kneel and pray before cutting a tree.

Visitation will be held at the Hostetler Funeral Home on Saturday, July 27, 2024, from 11am until 1pm, the funeral hour. Rev. Adam Snyder will officiate, and interment will follow in Bethel Cemetery in Holly Meadows. The Hostetler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Melvin Richard Phillips, Sr. Send online condolences to the family at www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com

West Virginia Department of Health Highlights Importance of Back-to-School Immunizations

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – As the new school year approaches, the West Virginia Department of Health (DH) underscores the importance of ensuring students are up to date on their immunizations. Immunizations (also called vaccines or shots) are one of the most important ways to protect children from diseases, and they are especially important for students, who are regularly in close contact with others.

For the upcoming school year, all children entering school in West Virginia grades K-12 must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and hepatitis B unless a medical exemption is approved by DH. Additional proof of immunization is required for children entering grades 7 and 12 for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and meningococcal disease unless a medical exemption is approved by DH.

After confirming that first positive measles case in Monongalia County back in April, state health leaders learned that 128 West Virginia residents from 30 counties and 24 out-of-state contacts from four neighboring states were potentially exposed to measles. While the DH's Bureau

for Public Health and local health departments worked tirelessly to successfully mitigate a measles outbreak through contact tracing and

other control activities, public health leaders hope their efforts show just how vital immunizations are to fostering a healthy society.

START YOUR WEEK AT WORSHIP

The following merchants urge you to attend your chosen house of worship this sabbath.

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WV Paving Company
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Stevens' Florist
120 Poplar St., Parsons, WV 26287
304-478-2161

THANK YOU FOR READING THE
PARSONS ADVOCATE

What's? Happening

Poling Reunion

The annual Peter T. Poling reunion will be held on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 1 p.m. at the Methodist Church in St. George. Everyone welcome. Bring a covered dish if you wish.

Friends of Cortland Acres

There will be a meeting of the Friends of Cortland Acres Aug. 5 in the Gathering Room at Cortland Acres at 1p.m. For

more information, call Marie Grafton, Activities Director, at 304-463-4181 Ext 218.

Helmick Reunion

The 98th annual Helmick reunion will be held Sunday, Aug. 4 at the Sugarlands Church of the Brethren. Sunday School will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by a basket lunch at 12:30 p.m. All family and friends are welcome to attend.

By Teri Cayton

The Parsons Advocate

Crisis with brother has been averted again. He is doing better and our sister is staying with him for a bit to make sure he does what he is supposed to. I don't know how much more my heart can take. Momma Said, "What don't kill you will make you stronger!" I should be able to lift a car by now but I am not going to try.

The weather has cooled a bit but we still need rain. I am sure we will have an early fall if this keeps up. The leaves will just fall off the trees without even turning color. All the creeks around here are dry and the bigger rivers are not showing up much better.

I hope we don't get a gigantic storm with the ground being this dry, it will run off and then everything will flood. Momma Said, "Our lives are either feast or famine." We have nothing or too much no middle ground anymore.

Momma Said

This column is about tips, helpful hints, recipes and words of wisdom. I dedicate this column to my mother.

By Teri Cayton
The Parsons Advocate



And that speaks for the pickle our country is in right now.

We are in serious trouble and nobody seems to notice. If we do not get our heads out of the sand and start taking interest in what is going on we are going to be just one flush from being in the sewer. I don't think the younger generation knows, or cares, what is going on in politics today. Momma Said, "Wake up people and take some action against what is happening." We are the laughing stock of the world. Now with the Olympics coming up that is going to take people's interest away from what is happening right under their noses.



The West Virginia Encyclopedia

www.wvencyclopedia.org



Aug. 3, 1897: Fire destroyed much of downtown Lewisburg. The town rebuilt and evolved in the next century into the hub of one of the state's major farming areas and a center for education and the arts.

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

July 31, 1932: Actor Theodore Crawford "Ted" Cassidy was born in Pittsburgh but was raised in Philippi. He was best known for his role as Lurch on The Addams Family.

Aug. 1, 1921: Baldwin-Felts detectives shot and killed Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers as they approached the McDowell County Courthouse in Welch. As Matewan's police chief, Hatfield had assisted the United Mine Workers' campaign to organize Tug Fork miners.

Aug. 1, 1940: Justice Franklin Cleckley was born in Huntington. In 1994, he became the first Black justice to serve on the West Virginia Supreme Court. The Supreme Court once referred to Cleckley's handbooks on evidence and criminal procedure as "the bible for West Virginia's judges and attorneys."

Aug. 2, 2009: Golfers Sam Snead and Bill Campbell became the first two inductees into the West Virginia

Golf Hall of Fame.

Aug. 3, 1907: Harley Orrin Staggers Sr. was born in Keyser. Staggers served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 32 years.

Aug. 4, 1824: John Jay Jackson Jr. was born near Parkersburg. Jackson was a prominent judge who became notorious among those trying to organize labor unions in West Virginia. He blocked an effort by Mother Jones and United Mine Workers leaders to organize the miners of northern West Virginia.

Aug. 4, 1897: Musician William Jennings "Billy" Cox was born near Charleston. Cox, known as the "Dixie Songbird," ranked as one of West Virginia's premier country music vocalists and songwriters during the 1930s.

Aug. 4, 1930: Lewisburg set the record for the state's hottest temperature ever: 112. Six years later, Martinsburg would tie it.

Aug. 5, 1958: Jennings Randolph defeated former governor William Marland in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate. Randolph soon became the senior senator from West Virginia and served for 26 years.

Hungarian Mushroom Soup

Ingredients

- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 1 lb. Fresh button mushrooms, sliced
- 2 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 1 Tbsp. Hungarian sweet paprika, or 1-1/2 tsp. Hungarian hot paprika
- 1 Tbsp. low sodium soy sauce
- 1 tsp. dried dill
- 1 cup milk
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 sp. Salt
- 1.4 tsp. black pepper

Instructions

1. Melt butter in a 4 to 5 quart pot over medium heat. Add onion; cook 5 minutes. Add mushrooms cook 5 minutes more. Stir in broth, paprika, soy sauce and dill. Reduce heat to low and simmer, covered, for 15 minutes.
2. Whisk together milk and flour in a small bowl, stir into soup. Simmer, covered stirring occasionally for 15 minutes.
3. Stir in sour cream, parsley, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Simmer, covered until heated through, 3 to 5 minutes. Garnish with parsley and croutons.

Super Crossword

GREAT PARKING SPOTS

ACROSS	53 Just one sip	97 -Cat	9 On - with (much like)	43 Very, in Paris	79 Stare stupidly
1 Fencing lunge	54 Riddle, part 3	98 Raw metal	10 Distribute	49 Long-winded	80 Unravels
7 Large wine bottles	58 Throw lightly	99 Rip up	11 At a future point in time	50 Limited	81 Envoy's skill
14 Derisive imitator	59 Shoe tip	100 It fixes off-key singing	12 Trio before Q	51 Gold, in Gijon	83 See 67-Across
20 Theater area	60 Puzzle cube creator Rubik	105 "I'd say," to texters	13 Blood fluids	52 Edinburgh inhabitant	88 Woe
21 U.S. soccer star Megan	61 Cousins of counties	107 Simple wind instruments	14 Simba's father in "The Lion King"	53 Patterned wool blankets	89 One who may study bonds
22 Chimney flue, e.g.	64 Baseball hitter's stat	112 Riddle's answer	15 Unfilled part of a schedule	55 Long deli sandwich	90 CIA spy Ames
23 Start of a riddle	65 Shows' actors	115 Enkindle	16 PC key near Shift	56 "Barnaby Jones" star	92 Accustomed
26 Woes	67 With 83-Down, Idaho's nickname	116 Peanut, castor bean or canola	17 2009-10 "American Idol" judge	57 Major protest	93 Test runs
27 Ketchup's color	68 TV drama of 2000-15	117 Long pastry	18 Scraped (out) Ericson	62 Kind of internal-combustion engine	94 Triads, e.g.
28 "The Great Gatsby" star	71 10K or marathon	118 Earned after taxes	19 Funny Foxx	65 Mollycoddle	95 Western U.S. gas brand
29 Running the show, for short	73 Con job	119 Cozies up	24 Viking	66 Battery liquid	101 Compulsion
31 Illinois' tree	74 Fabled bird	120 Taco exteriors	25 Funeral poem	68 Thing relied on for support	102 Color slightly
33 Twisty letter	75 Japanese wrestling	DOWN	30 Assemblage	69 Like a day in June, per a Lowell poem	103 Fail to include
34 Riddle, part 2	78 Riddle, part 4	1 Quick haircut	32 Mouths or faces, slangly	70 Roofing problem in cold weather	104 Inflation subj.
44 Made gentle	82 Ionize, e.g.	2 Old 45 player	34 Tiers	71 In favor of the idea	106 Pitcher
45 Source of some milk	84 Pioneered	3 Performs like Cardi B	35 Singer Swift	72 Activist Nader	111 Estonia and Latvia, once: Abbr.
46 Source of some milk	85 Alternative to Roy Rogers	4 Title bee-keeper of a 1997 film	36 Egg y entree	73 Long deli sandwich	113 Go fast, quaintly
47 Earthy color	86 Slightly	5 Raged violently	37 Remainder	76 "Nothin' doin' "	114 - Wee Reese
48 Dark deli breads	87 Protruding belly button	6 Subjects of discussion	38 Seaport on Italy's "heel"	77 - Hari (spy)	
49 Kind of internal-combustion engine	88 Tax mo.	7 City in central California	39 "That's a lie!"		
52 Bygone jet, for short	89 Tax pro	8 " -di-dah!"	40 Future docs' exams		
	90 Ghana's largest city		41 Very, very		
	91 End of the riddle		42 Match divisions		

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

Weather Totals

July 16 - July 23, 2024

Nursery Bottom
Parsons

Temperature

Max 95° F
Min 55° F

Precipitation

Week 0"
July 0.69"
2024 26.87"

Snowfall

New Snow 0"
Snow on ground 0"
Winter Total 28.75"

U.S. Forest Service

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle answers page 6A

The Parsons Advocate

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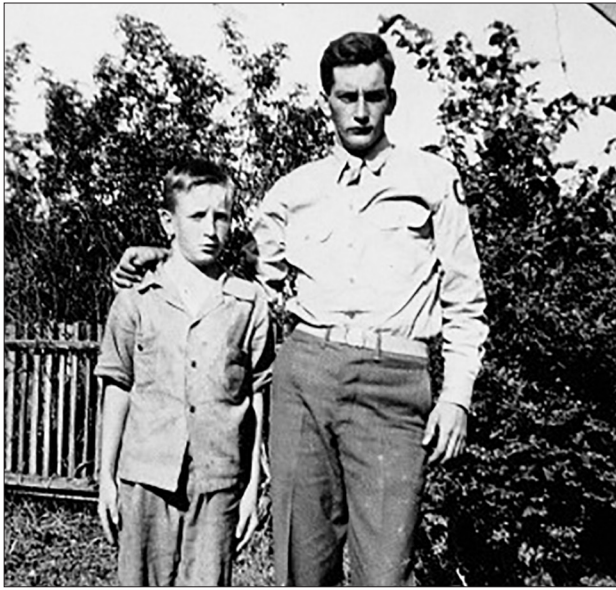
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DEADLINE 3PM FRIDAY

TURNER'S TIDBITS



This photo was already identified. The one on the left is identified as Jimmy Armentrout and the one on the right is identified as Forrest Armentrout. They are brothers and are children of Odith Sherman Armentrout (1897-1958) and Ethel Lena Vance Armentrout (1901-1964). The children of Odith and Ethel were: Forrest William (1919-1945), Hershel Paul (1921-1921), Elwood Gerald (1923-2008), Ruby Burnette (1925-1941) she was a sophomore and died on the school bus of an acute heart attack, Stanley Keith (1927-1975), James Shellace (1930-1951) he went Missing in Action while fighting in South Korea on May 18, 1951 and was presumed dead on December 31, 1953, Edward Fred (1932-1932), Erma Helen (1934-1935), Jackie Berlin (1938-1938). Ideas, comments, suggestions or items to share contact Tim Turner (304) 478-3389.

Bright's Chapel Homecoming

The Bright Chapel's Homecoming was held Sunday, July 28, 2024 at the Bright's Chapel church house pavilion with 97 in attendance. Norm Kight gave the blessing of the food. Karen Bright, Randy Thomas, and Thalia Bright entertained the family and friends with wonderful music.

Special prizes were given as follows: Woman who celebrated the most birthdays (Oldest woman): Sharlene Carr (87 years old), Oldest Man: Eston Bonner (86 years old), Couple married the longest – Dude and Lou Miller ((61 years), Couple most recently married – Thomas and Jamie Reeves (5 years). The youngest boy- Benjamin Bright (10 months), youngest girl – Lillie Bell Bright (4 years). Traveling the farthest were Jim and Jeannie Lewis (2000 miles from Arizona). The Special Appreciation award was awarded to Squeak Davis. All those who attended enjoyed reliving old memories, making new memories, eating delicious food, and listening to good music.

Those attending were: Randy Thomas, Daniel Jenkins, Jeff Carr, Don Kight, Danny Kight, Keagan Kight, Nathan Bright, Alicia Bright, Carl Hook, Norman Kight, Rita Kight, Jim Lewis, Jean Lewis, Karen Bright, Lillie Bell Bright, Mary Carr Etzler, George Duvall, Melanie Duvall, Dick Bonner, Jesse Ellison, Hoye Lynn Carr, Shirley Carr, John Kight, Tammy Kight, Cayden Kight, Charles Kight, Becky Kight, Mike Kight, Shane Bright, Peace Okojie, Pryse Okojie, Erica Bright, Mitchell White, Ruthann Carr, Eleanor Nestor, Eston Bonner, Sue Bonner, Buddy Rouse, Lisa Rouse, Cheryl Canfield, Gabe Bright, Brenda Eye, Bub Carr, Donna Carr Arnold, Michael Bowman, Xavier

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WATER WELL PUMPING SYSTEMS, SALES AND

INSTALLATION. Rowan Drilling WV004493 304-591-0272; 304-704-3764.

GARAGE SALE

Huge Yard Sale – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1, Friday, Aug. 2, Saturday, Aug. 3; ¼ mile past Hambleton intersection. Lots of new items. Open rain or shine.

HELP WANTED

WANTED: St. John's Church in Parsons is seeking a full-time pastor. If you are interested, please contact Curtis Wilfong at 304-621-3381. Please respond by Wednesday, August 21st.

Bowman, Camden Bowman, Linda Bowman, Terry Bowman, Cathy Carr, Andy Bright, Nub Davis, Tammy Davis, Sharlene Carr, Frank Carr, Paula Finster, Leonard Finster, Dude Miller, Lou Miller, Mark Harvey, Casey Smith, Gage Beckman, Melissa Miller, Samara Scott, Zander Scott, Marie Barr, Sean Bright, Shelley Bright, Benjamin Bright, P.J. Heater Betty Heater, Marie McDaniel, Bob Lambert, Sandy Lambert, Josh Remmell, Bill Bonner, Chris Bonner, Joe Summerfield, Dee Sponaugle, Connie Sponaugle, Bob Davis, Tammy Davis, Thomas Reeves, Jamie Reeves, Vladimir Reeves, Magnus Reeves, Nikolai Reeves, Cassidy Reeves, Ivan Reeves, Ryder Sponaugle, Charlie Sponaugle, Tom Bright, Thalia Bright, Brooklyn Bright, Sabrina Thomas, Alice Jones, and Matthew Bright.

Next year's reunion is scheduled for July 27, 2025 (4th Sunday in July, as always).

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HEALTH/MEDICAL

IS 2024 YOUR YEAR? We're here for it and here for you. Reach your goals this year with WeightWatchers. Get started with THREE months FREE, visit www.weightwatchersoffer.com/46

DONT LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-844-592-5113

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-274-3943

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Infor-mation Kit with all the details! 1-855-405-3412 www.dental50plus.com/press #6258

INTERNET/TV

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-736-4350

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SWITCH AND SAVE up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlim-ited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-615-6411

JOBS

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 877-635-0244. The Mission, Program Information and Tuition is located at Career-Technical.edu/consumer-information. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehi-cle pick-up and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-964-4167 today!

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime

warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 844-601-2044

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-295-2840

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Stand-by Generator. Act now to re-ceive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-901-2301 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company - 888-217-5559 or visit www.Life55plus.info/wv

SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-803-1282

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Answers

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Place YOUR statewide ad today
Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011



The 34th Annual Uncle Sam's Birthday Party Celebration



Solena and Kelly Roberts grand prize winners. Not pictured Fred Meyer.



Jason and Becky Myers with the eBike that they won at the event.



TCF Staff Mike Moore, Angie Pase, Nevaeh Nichols, Aggie Arnold and David Cooper.

PARSONS – The Tucker Community Foundation's 34th annual Uncle Sam's Birthday Party was held on July 5th in the Bear Paw Lodge at Canaan Valley Resort in Davis.

The event started with some social time and a dinner that included a petit fillet and crab cake before the elimination part of the evening started. During the elimination there were door prize winners and every 25th ticket drawn won \$150. The \$150 winners were Anne Berdlee, Shirley Dean, Ronnie Shaffer, Darrell Goff, Mike Bell, Doug Mayor, Ronald Martin, Kevin White, Joann Patterson, Bob Boone and Nancy Moore. Ticket # 250 was auctioned off for \$2,200 before the 246th draw. The group of Kelly & Solena Roberts and Fred Meyer had the winning bid. The last 5 tickets had the opportunity to split all of the remaining prize money. However, since one of the last 5 did not want to split they were eliminated one at a time until there was only one ticket left. The final five were Jerry Righman won \$200, Sondra Goss won \$300, Debbie Stevens won \$400, Jody Flanagan won \$500 and the grand prize winners were Kelly & Solena Roberts and Fred Meyer who shared \$5,000.

The Foundation sold raffle tickets during the event for 4 different prize packages. This year the packages were: The Greenbrier Package that included a 3 day 2 night weekend stay and \$500 to spend at the Greenbrier Resort, The eBike package that included an eBike and \$300 of accessories from Blackwater Bikes in Davis, and 2 Tucker Packages that were made of items and gift certificates from businesses in the surrounding area that totaled over \$6,000. Jane Browning won the

Greenbrier Package that was worth \$1,900. Jason and Becky Myers won the eBike Package that was worth \$2,000. Dennis Roth won one of the Tucker Packages that was worth \$3,100 and Elaine Moore won the other Tucker Package that was worth \$3,200. "This year the Tucker Community Foundation gave away \$18,250 worth of prizes for the elimination dinner and the four packages that were raffled off at

the event." said Michael Moore, Chief Financial Officer at the Foundation. "We had another record crowd at the event this year and everyone seemed to have a really good time and people were already talking about next year's event. Donna Patrick, chairman of the Uncle Sam's Committee, and the rest of the committee did a wonderful job as always. The Foundation wants to thank the people that

donated time, merchandise and money to make the event such a success. We couldn't do without everyone's help" said Moore.

The Tucker Community Foundation uses the proceeds from the event to help fund their schol-

arship and grant programs. These programs issue over \$1,300,000 in grants and over 45 different scholarships to students in our region.

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

LEGAL

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

Deceased	Personal Representative(s)
Carol Faye Pase	Tambra J. Hebb
1st publication 7/31/24	5312 Location Rd.
2nd publication 8/7/24	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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWN OF DAVIS WATER RATE ORDINANCE

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., on the following ordinance. Any person interested may appear before the Town Council of the Town of Davis (the "Town") at the Town Hall, 505 William Avenue, Davis, West Virginia, and present any comment or protest thereto. Following which hearing Town Council shall take such action as it shall deem proper. The proposed ordinance is titled:

AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS OF THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM OF THE TOWN OF DAVIS.

The proposed water rate ordinance may be inspected by the public at the Office of the Recorder in the Town Hall, 505 505 William Avenue, Davis, West Virginia, during regular office hours.

LEGAL

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE SITUATE IN TUCKER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA ST. GEORGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you that pursuant to the authority vested in the undersigned Substitute Trustee, Jaelyn L. Nichols, said Substitute Trustee having been appointed by Grant County Bank as Substitute Trustee, which document is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Tucker County Commission in Deed of Trust Book 323 at page 690 and pursuant to that certain Deed of Trust executed by Sarah D. Shipley and Stephen J. Plum, securing Grant County Bank, Petersburg, West Virginia, in the payment and performance of certain obligations set forth therein, which Deed of Trust bears date of June 15, 2023, and which Deed of Trust is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Tucker County Commission, Parsons, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 319 at page 154, and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by the secured party of the said Deed of Trust to foreclose thereunto and the makers of the said note and obligations having failed to pay the obligations as provided under the terms of the said Deed of Trust and Note and the holder of said Deed of Trust and Note having declared the whole of said indebtedness to be due and payable, and having requested the undersigned Substitute Trustee in writing to make sale of the said real estate, located in Hendricks Corporation, Tucker County, West Virginia and described in said Deed of Trust as follows:

Map: 2 Parcel: 65.1

The following piece or parcel of real estate, situate in Hendricks Corporation, Tucker County, West Virginia, together with any and all appurtenant easements which may benefit same, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

A piece or parcel of real estate being approximately 111 feet in width and 206.78 feet in length, containing .527 acres, more or less.

Being the same parcel of real estate conveyed by Deed of Brian L. Adkins to Sarah D. Shipley and Stephen J. Plum, as joint tenants with full right of survivorship, dated June 15, 2023, which deed is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Tucker County Commission in Deed Book 250 at page 486.

A mobile home is located on the real estate. The mobile home is identified as a 1998 CLAZ FH Mobile Home, serial nos. CLH023497TNA and CLH023497TNB.

I, Jaelyn L. Nichols, Substitute Trustee, shall offer for sale the above-described real estate at public auction at the front door of the Old Tucker County Courthouse, 215 First Street Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia, 26287 on:

August 14, 2024
At
2:00 P.M.

The real estate and mobile home identified above will be sold in its present (AS IS) condition, and the highest bid may be accepted by the Substitute Trustee, and the Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenants and/or persons occupying any of the above-described parcels of real estate to vacate the real estate. Any personal property remaining on the real estate after the date of the public sale will be disposed of and considered abandoned by the successful bidder or bidders.

TERMS OF SALE

- Cash in hand on day of sale or 10% of the purchase price by certified check or by a letter of credit from a leading institution on day of sale delivered to the Substitute Trustee and approved by the said Substitute Trustee, or such terms as agreed to by the Substitute Trustee.
- The above-described parcel of real estate will be sold subject to all prior liens senior in priority to the Deed of Trust, described above, the redemption right of the Internal Revenue Service as set forth in 11 U.S.C. Section 7425, and any and all unpaid real estate taxes or encumbrances and claims in favor of any municipality, county, or government entity, or other party, if any, and also further subject to any covenants, restrictions, conditions, reservations, rights-of-way and easements recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office prior to the Deed of Trust and affecting the subject real estate as well as any prescriptive easements that are unrecorded, if any, that may exist. The successful bidder shall pay all transfer stamps and recording fees, associated with the deed to be issued by the Substitute Trustee and the successful party shall have twenty (20) days to close the transaction after the public sale.
- The above-described real estate will be sold by the undersigned Substitute Trustee at public auction to the highest bidder subject to the right of the undersigned Substitute Trustee to reject any and all bids if, in his opinion, said bids are inadequate.
- The owner of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust shall have the right to bid at the public sale; and
- The public sale shall be without representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, and the Deed to be issued in this matter shall reflect the same and shall be a Special Warranty Deed.
- Such other terms as may be announced at the time of sale.

The undersigned Substitute Trustee reserves the right to continue the public sale or to adjourn the public sale for a time or from time to time without further notice other than oral public announcement at the time and place of sale as hereinabove set forth or at any continuance or adjournment thereof.

The sale shall be made WITHOUT WARRANTY OF TITLE of any nature. Any questions regarding the Public Sale should be directed to the undersigned Substitute Trustee.

Jaelyn L. Nichols
Attorney At Law
P.O. Box 201
Parsons, West Virginia 26287
434-409-9426
jackienicholsesq@gmail.com
WVSB 13730

Given under my hand this the 23rd day of July, 2024.

Jaelyn L. Nichols
Jaelyn L. Nichols
Substitute Trustee

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 October 08, 2024 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the construction of the following project(s):

Call Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Construction
001 2020000975	U342-92-33.32 00	STP-0092(118)D	PEDESTRIAN/BIKE FACILITIES
			DISTRICT 8 ADA RAMPS
			LOCAT
			COUNTY: PENDLETON, TUCKER,
			POCAHONTAS, RANDOLPH

DBE GOAL: 7% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

REMARKS:

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 include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check 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 deferment, 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

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE SITUATE IN TUCKER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA ST. GEORGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you that pursuant to the authority vested in the undersigned Substitute Trustee, Jaelyn L. Nichols, said Substitute Trustee having been appointed by Mountain Valley Bank, N.A. as Substitute Trustee, which document is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Tucker County Commission in Deed of Trust Book 317 at page 290 and pursuant to that certain Deed of Trust executed by Ashley R. Hebb and Robert Jesse Roy, Jr., securing the Mountain Valley Bank, N.A., Elkins, West Virginia, in the payment and performance of certain obligations set forth therein, which Deed of Trust bears date of December 31, 2008, and which Deed of Trust is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Tucker County Commission, Parsons, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 236 at page 42, and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by the secured party of the said Deed of Trust to foreclose thereunto and the makers of the said note and obligations having failed to pay the obligations as provided under the terms of the said Deed of Trust and Note and the holder of said Deed of Trust and Note having declared the whole of said indebtedness to be due and payable, and having requested the undersigned Substitute Trustee in writing to make sale of the said real estate, located in St. George District, Tucker County, West Virginia and described in said Deed of Trust as follows:

Map: 186 Parcel: 12.1

The following piece or parcel of real estate, situate in St. George District, Tucker County, West Virginia, together with any and all appurtenant easements which may benefit same, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Lot No. 4, Beginning at a set 5/8 inch iron rod, located 15 feet east of the center line of Secondary Rt. 9, from which the intersection of Secondary Rt. 9 and Secondary Rt. 9/2 near Laurel Run is N. 56-11 W. 27.52 feet to the west edge of Secondary Rt. 1, thence N 12-45-20 E, 770 feet to the center of the above mentioned intersection, thence from the said 5/8 inch iron pin, with the south boundary of a 18 foot right-of-way reserved by Robert Lipscomb, S 77-03-30 E, 261.97 feet to a set 5/8 inch rod, thence S 17-34-20 W, 104.81 feet to a set 5/8 inch iron rod, thence N 76-37-35 W, 233.09 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod, set 15 feet east of the center line of Secondary Rt. 9, thence N 1-41-40 E, 104.78 feet to the beginning, containing 25,939.69 square feet.

Being the same parcel of real estate conveyed by Deed of Ashley R. Hebb and Robert Jesse Roy, Jr. to Ashley R. Hebb, dated July 24, 2017, which deed is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Tucker County Commission in Deed Book 226 at page 46.

I, Jaelyn L. Nichols, Substitute Trustee, shall offer for sale the above-described real estate at public auction at the front door of the Old Tucker County Courthouse, 215 First Street Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia, 26287 on:

August 13, 2024
At
2:00 P.M.

The real estate and mobile home identified above will be sold in its present (AS IS) condition, and the highest bid may be accepted by the Substitute Trustee, and the Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenants and/or persons occupying any of the above-described parcels of real estate to vacate the real estate. Any personal property remaining on the real estate after the date of the public sale will be disposed of and considered abandoned by the successful bidder or bidders.

TERMS OF SALE

- Cash in hand on day of sale or 10% of the purchase price by certified check or by a letter of credit from a leading institution on day of sale delivered to the Substitute Trustee and approved by the said Substitute Trustee, or such terms as agreed to by the Substitute Trustee.
- The above-described parcel of real estate will be sold subject to all prior liens senior in priority to the Deed of Trust, described above, the redemption right of the Internal Revenue Service as set forth in 11 U.S.C. Section 7425, and any and all unpaid real estate taxes or encumbrances and claims in favor of any municipality, county, or government entity, or other party, if any, and also further subject to any covenants, restrictions, conditions, reservations, rights-of-way and easements recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office prior to the Deed of Trust and affecting the subject real estate as well as any prescriptive easements that are unrecorded, if any, that may exist. The successful bidder shall pay all transfer stamps and recording fees, associated with the deed to be issued by the Substitute Trustee and the successful party shall have twenty (20) days to close the transaction after the public sale.
- The above-described real estate will be sold by the undersigned Substitute Trustee at public auction to the highest bidder subject to the right of the undersigned Substitute Trustee to reject any and all bids if, in his opinion, said bids are inadequate.
- The owner of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust shall have the right to bid at the public sale; and
- The public sale shall be without representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, and the Deed to be issued in this matter shall reflect the same and shall be a Special Warranty Deed.
- Such other terms as may be announced at the time of sale.

The undersigned Substitute Trustee reserves the right to continue the public sale or to adjourn the public sale for a time or from time to time without further notice other than oral public announcement at the time and place of sale as hereinabove set forth or at any continuance or adjournment thereof.

The sale shall be made WITHOUT WARRANTY OF TITLE of any nature. Any questions regarding the Public Sale should be directed to the undersigned Substitute Trustee.

Jaelyn L. Nichols
Attorney At Law P.O. Box 201
Parsons, West Virginia 26287
434-409-9426
jackienicholsesq@gmail.com
WVSB 13730

Given under my hand this the 23rd day of July, 2024.

Jaelyn L. Nichols
Jaelyn L. Nichols
Substitute Trustee

2024 Tucker County Fair Contestants

Baby (0-2)



Adley Bryson; Daughter of Laina and Billy McConnell/Bryson of Tunnelton



Berklee Sandy; Daughter of Cierra and David Sandy of Belington



Heartlynn Arbogast; Daughter of Braxten Arbogast of Harman



Leah Sheppard; Daughter of Simeon and Lydia Sheppard of Elkins



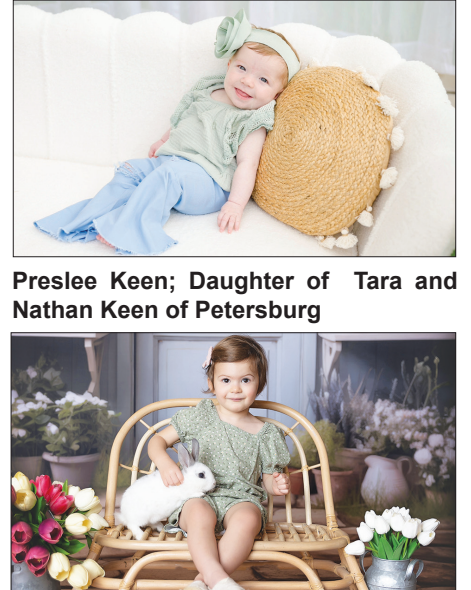
Sadie Mae Evans; Daughter of Theo and Kristen Evans of Parsons



Lavinia Brewer; Daughter of Michael and Tressica Brewer of Cabins



Cooper Tracy; Daughter of Bailey Tracy and Ryan Coffman of Elkins



Charlotte Nedrow; Daughter of Nick and Taylor Nedrow of Parsons

Tiny (3-4)



Kora Shifflett; Daughter of Christopher and Katelyn Simmons of Parsons



Breanne Pennington; Daughter of Cody and Amanda Pennington of Parsons



Delia Moats; Daughter of Dillon and Alison Moats of Moatsville



Kinlee Bolyard; Daughter of Brittany Bolyard of Moatsville



Alyvia Eye; Daughter of Shane and Shannon Eye of Kerns

Little (5-6)



Maggie Murray; Daughter of Gretchen Ours of Petersburg



MylRose Shifflett; Daughter of Lindsey Shifflett of Elkins



Olivia Leary; Daughter of Sabrina Leary of Parsons



Odessa Gilligan; Daughter of Robbie and Cheslea Gilligan of Hambleton



Elley Davies; Daughter of Felisha and Tyler Davies of Independence

Junior (7-9)



Harper Starr; Daughter of Danielle Stowe of Beverly



Eva Nazelrodt; Daughter of Sydney Nazelrodt of Petersburg



Brayleigh Moore; Daughter of Christian Moore of Parsons



Callie Jo Nestor; Daughter of Camey Nestor of Parsons



Madilynn Pugh; Daughter of Claudia Pugh of Parsons



Addalyn Dispanet; Daughter of David Redman of Petersburg

Preteen (10-12)



Lakynn Outlaw; Daughter of Jerrod and Lindsey Outlaw of Petersburg



Lily Helmick; Daughter of Chris and Anita Helmick of Montrose



Raelyn Davis; Daughter of Ashley and Seth Davis of Petersburg



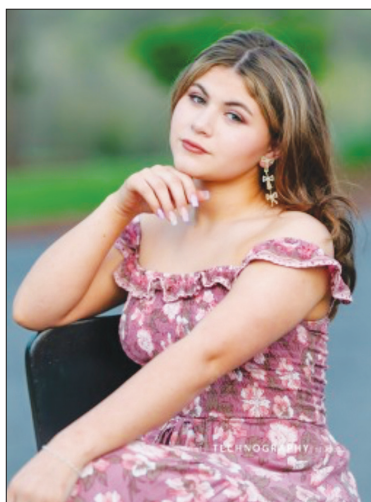
SkieLee Arbogast; Daughter of Jaymes and Cindy Arbogast of Coalton



Allison Bailey; Daughter of Courtney Sites of Petersburg

2024 Tucker County Fair Contestants

Teen (13-15)



Maggie Whetzel; 15; Petersburg



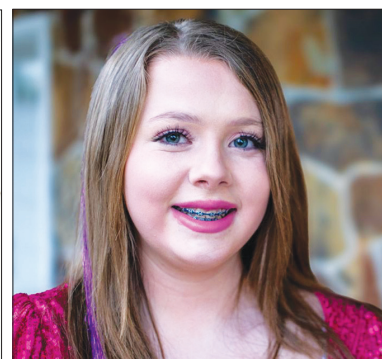
Madison Cutright; 13; Buckhannon



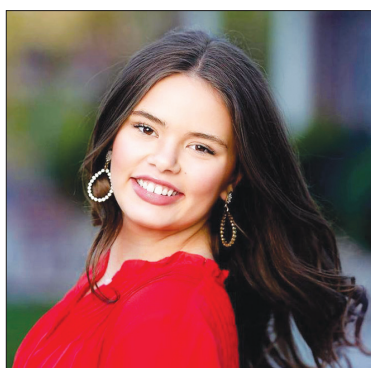
Nevaeh Atkins; 15; Arthurdale



Blaike Hepner; 15; Barrackville



Donna Cavendar; 14; Independence



Madelyn Cook; Petersburg



Amesley Channell; 13; Parsons



Jaylen Liedy; 14; Hendricks



Elizabeth Huffman; 14; Maysville

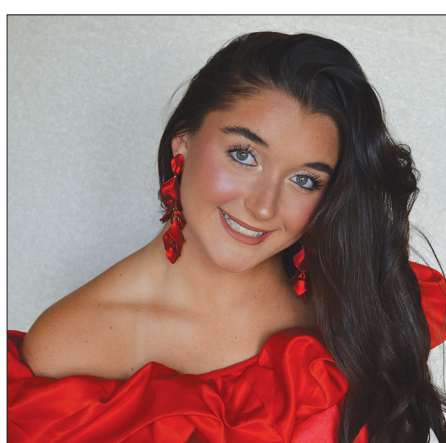


Autumn Shoemaker; 13; Arthurdale

Queen (16-21)



Kennide Helmick; 17; Parsons



McKenzie Sowers; 17; Keyser



Demi Arbaugh; 15; Moorefield



Lidia Midcap; 18; New Martinsville



Coray Martinez; 18; Moorefield



Kenleigh Leonard; 16; Webster Springs



Alicia Barb; 17; Parsons



Emily Snyder; 17; Parsons



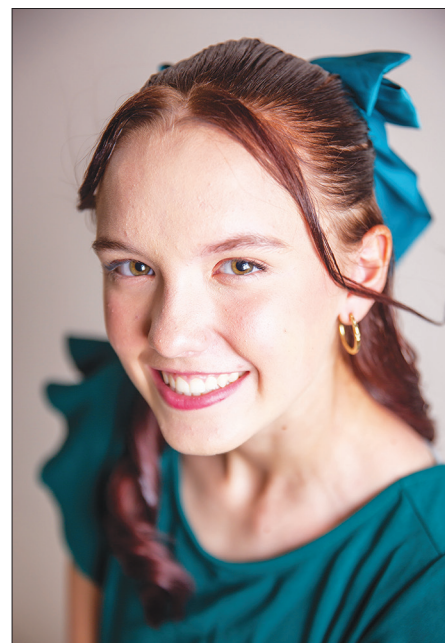
Bailee Kiger; 18; Sugar Grove



Sophia Lantz; 16; Buckhannon



Caitlynn Patterson; 19; Fairview



Lilly Hatcher; 16; Romney



Annie Long; 17; Parsons



Kelsi Taylor; 19; Durbin



Olivia Mitchell; 20; Masontown

THANK YOU FOR READING
THE PARSONS ADVOCATE
Serving the people of
Tucker county since 1896

Warner and County Clerks to celebrate August 1 as National Poll Worker Recruitment Day

Charleston, W.Va. – The state of West Virginia has teamed up again this year with the county clerks, the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission (EAC), and other states in a national poll-worker recruitment effort heading into the 2024 General Election.

According to Secretary of State Mac Warner, National Poll Worker Recruitment Day is a national effort to address the ongoing need for poll workers and to inspire civic engagement. Warner's administration has been recognized nationally for its efforts over the last seven years for working with veteran's groups, the WV Board of Realtors, and students to recruit poll workers.

"Poll workers are critical to facilitating the election process and instilling confidence in voters," Secretary Warner said. "To ensure that we have accessible, safe, and accurate elections we need to fully staff every polling place with trained poll workers."

Since 2020, the WV Secretary of State's Office has teamed up with the EAC and other stakeholders to promote National Poll Worker Recruitment Day and encourage registered voters to be poll workers for early voting and on election day. Currently there are 1,704 voting precincts throughout West Virginia, which requires more than 8,000 poll workers to adequately, safely,

and securely manage those precincts on election day.

"Being a paid poll worker is a great way to participate in our democracy right here in West Virginia," Warner said. "The most secure way to cast a confidential election ballot, free and clear of any undue influence or intimidation, is to do so at a polling place staffed by trained poll workers selected by the political parties. Ensuring there are enough poll workers to assist voters is always a priority for the Secretary of State's Office and the county clerks."

Poll workers in West Virginia must be registered voters. Individuals who volunteer to be poll workers in their home county are paid an amount set by the county commission for their services.

Secretary Warner is asking any registered West Virginia voter who would like to learn more about becoming a poll worker for the upcoming November 5 General Election to complete the short and easy Poll Worker Application on or before August 1.

For additional information on elections in West Virginia including voter registration and absentee ballots, please contact your local county clerk or visit the WV Secretary of State's secure website at GoVoteWV.com.

Lurch Fest Lurches Toward August 3

"Even the Tygart River has stakes in this year's Lurch Fest!" says a Lurch Fest spokesperson.

Saturday, August 3 kicks off the day's event with the Save the Tygart Lurch Fest Paddle. The 3.6-mile float down the mighty Tygart River begins at the iconic Philippi Covered Bridge with registration at 9:00 am at the boat ramp and the float starting at 10:00 am. The river remains the focus later in the afternoon when at 3:00 pm, the Strutters Baton Corp will have colorful rubber duckies racing down the river. Registration for the rubber ducky race will be on the patio of the BC Historical Museum earlier in the day.

Live music will be non-stop beginning at 12:00 noon with the line up showcasing Greg Short & Friends, The Greg Ice Band, Full Circle, Electric Blue, and Soda Pop Gypsies. To enjoy the music, guests to the day may bring their own chairs and pop up tents to place on the grass beyond the railroad tracks or find a chair near the bandstand.

Lots of food options will present themselves to Lurchers with nearly 15 food vendors and food tents offering a wide variety of sandwiches, specialty foods, and familiar festival foods. Lurchers can chase down their food with one of four craft beers or domestics or wine or sweet drinks from around the festival grounds.

Those festival grounds will be filled with 55 crafters, a silent auction, ax throwing/bow and arrow, antique hearses, a costume contest, photo ops with The Addams Family props, meeting with Sean Cassidy (Ted Cassidy's son) and Jeremy Ambler of "The Walking Dead," Lurch merch, misting stations, chatting with authorized Ted Cassidy biographer Christofer Cook, and the joy of being part of small-town Americana!

Both Sean Cassidy and Christofer Cook will greet guests at a pre-fest special evening event on Friday, August 2 at 6:30 pm



in 17N Event Center across the street from the Courthouse. The launching of Cook's biography "Lurching Forward: Ted Cassidy's Early Life, from Cradle to Creature" will take place at this event. Guests will also be part of a Q&A session between Cook and Cassidy, and the evening will end with a makeup transformation by Cook of Cassidy to his father's characterization of Lurch.

The Barbour County Office of Emergency Management has collaborated with law enforcement from Philippi and Barbour County to ensure a safe environment for Lurch Fest 2024. Here & There Transit has added to the collaborative efforts of the community by shuttling paddlers early in the day.

Parking for Lurch Fest is available throughout downtown Philippi. As Lurchers walk from their parked cars to Museum Street for the fest, they'll pass by business windows decorated for the annual celebration of Philippi's native son, Ted Cassidy. The businesses are competing for top window decorating prizes.

Lurch Fest 2024 begins at 12:00 noon and runs until 9:00 pm providing a day of fun for the thousands of anticipated fest-goers.

US Marshals arrest federal escapee in Clarksburg

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. – Members of the U.S. Marshals Mountain State Fugitive Task Force, working with the Clarksburg Police Department and the West Virginia Department of Corrections July 19, arrested in Clarksburg a federal fugitive who failed to report to a halfway house to complete his 2022 federal sentence for firearms trafficking without a license.

Edgardo Quinones-Hiraldo, 35, of Puerto Rico, was placed on escape status with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons July 18 after he failed to report to the Dismas Residential Reentry Center in Clarksburg.

Quinones-Hiraldo was taken into custody at approximately 6 p.m. July 19 at a residence in the 600 block of Hart Street.

After firearms were found in the residence, investigators notified the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and local agents reported to the scene. ATF conducted a search of the residence and removed several firearms from the residence to include an unregistered machine gun.

"The U.S. Marshals Service acted quickly to apprehend this fugitive who chose to not report to his facility as directed. In doing so, it also appears other criminal acts were thwarted, preventing additional harm to our community," said Terry Moore, acting U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of West Virginia.

U.S. Marshals task forces combine the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to locate and arrest the most dangerous fugitives. Dedicated to reducing violent crime by locating and apprehending wanted criminals, they also serve as the central point for agencies to share information on fugitive matters. Task force officers are state and local police officers who receive special deputations with the U.S. Marshals. While on a task force, these officers can exercise U.S. Marshals authorities, such as crossing jurisdictional lines.

For additional information about the U.S. Marshals Service, visit www.usmarshals.gov.

Gov. Justice announces State of Emergency for all 55 counties

CHARLESTON, WV — In an effort to support West Virginia's farming community, Gov. Jim Justice has declared a State of Emergency for all 55 counties due to a prolonged shortage of rainfall that has caused dangerous drought conditions. The U.S. Drought Monitor indicates extreme, severe, and moderate drought conditions have impacted the entire state.

"This drought has plagued West Virginia farmers, putting them at risk of losing everything," Gov. Justice said. "We cannot and will not stand by and watch our hard-working farmers suffer from this severe lack of rain. We understand the immense stress and hardship this drought has caused. Right now, our Emergency Management

Division is working tirelessly to secure disaster assistance for those in need. Until then, we are committed to doing everything we can to support our agricultural community during this challenging time."

With this proclamation, Gov. Justice has activated the Emergency Operations Plan, instructed personnel and resources to be ready to respond to any emergencies, and granted specific administrative powers to the Director of the West Virginia Emergency Management Division to ensure essential emergency services are provided efficiently.

This State of Emergency will remain in effect for thirty days unless terminated earlier by another proclamation.



OUTDOOR & INDOOR POOLS

OUR RESORT OFFERS THE INDOOR POOL, HOT TUB AND FITNESS ROOM ALONG WITH THE OUTDOOR POOL (SEASONAL) WHERE YOU CAN RELAX BY THE POOL AND ENJOY THE VIEWS AND WILDLIFE.

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A \$20 GPS RENTAL FEE IS REQUIRED.

MOUNTAINSIDE MUSIC SERIES

ENJOY FREE LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY STARTING AT 6 PM NOW THROUGH AUGUST 30TH. LOCATED ON QUENCHERS PUB PLAZA AT THE SKI AREA. (Street Tacos, Appetizers & Cold Beverages available for purchase. For Band Info Visit: www.canaanresort.com/events)

SCENIC CHAIRLIFT

GET A BREATHTAKING BIRDS EYE VIEW OF THE VALLEY AND ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS FROM OUR CHAIRLIFT. RIDE BOTH WAYS OR GET OFF AT THE TOP. TICKETS SOLD AT QUENCHERS PUB. Open Wednesday - Sunday, weather permitting.

GOLF

PRACTICE YOUR SWING WHILE SURROUNDED BY BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA COUNTRYSIDE. OUR 18-HOLE, PAR 72 GOLF COURSE FEATURES 65 SAND BUNKERS AND EIGHT WATER HAZARDS, PROVIDING THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF CHALLENGE FOR EXPERIENCED AND NOVICE GOLFERS ALIKE. COURSE DESIGNED BY GEOFFREY CORNISH.

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 Phone: 304-866-4121
 Toll Free: 800-622-4121
 Front Desk Open 24 Hours

ROAD CLOSURE

TUCKER COUNTY, WV – WV 72/1 (Seven Islands Road), Tucker County, will be closed from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., on Monday, July 29, 2024, through Friday, August 2, 2024, for paving and placement of

shoulder stone. Work will begin at the Preston County line and ends at the intersection of WV 72. There will be no through traffic during this project. The traveling public is advised to use an alternate route.

Thank You!

The Mountaineer Days Committee and the City of Thomas would like to thank all of the following businesses for sponsoring the 2024 Mountaineer Days.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The 2025 Mountaineer Days is schedule for Saturday, July 5.

Davis Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Celebrates Its 135th Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to Davis IOOF Lodge #103 as it observes 135 years of being in existence since their Charter was signed by the Grand Lodge of West Virginia on October 25, 1888. The names of nineteen of the original members are included on this Charter which hangs in the current Lodge Hall located at Fifth and Thomas Streets in Davis.

We look back to the history of why these founding members decided on forming this particular fraternal organization. What was about its purpose that attracted them? Does this purpose still hold the same bond now that it did back then?

The name itself, “Odd Fellows” strikes curiosity. Why such a peculiar name? Going back to the early roots of the organization in England in the 1700’s, it was formed by the common laboring men coming together to form a fraternity for social unity and fellowship and, most importantly, for mutual help in times of need. That laboring men should form such a union went against the trends of the times which found other fraternities being established by the more elite class or upper crust. Hence, they were described as “odd”. When legally incorporated, the title “Odd Fellows” was adopted. These original Odd Fellows developed their own unique rituals, philosophy and purpose which are still observed by current lodges.

The Odd Fellows started as a way to care for their members in a time when there were no systems in place to insure one’s welfare, health or job protection. Sickness or death of a breadwinner usually meant poverty and the responsibility of burial was on the family. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows took on the responsibilities of “visiting the sick, burying the dead, educating the orphans and caring for the widows” as a way to support widows, orphans and families in need. The three interlocked rings which is the Odd Fellows insignia stand for “Friendship, Love and Truth.”

In North America, the IOOF was officially organized on April 26, 1819 in Baltimore, Maryland, by Thomas Wildey and four other members of the fraternity from England. And since then, the IOOF has spread throughout the world with about 10,000 lodges in many countries.

In 1896, the World Almanac listed the Odd Fellows as the largest of all fraternal organizations. Many famous names have been on Odd Fellow rolls, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Wyatt Earp, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Charles Lindbergh and P. T. Barnum.

So, one hundred and thirty five years ago, what made nineteen Davis men decide to establish Lodge #103? It is important to describe what the town of Davis was like back then. The following is an excerpt from Pearl Mott’s History of Davis and Canaan Valley which she reprinted from the May 1, 1891 Davis City Times under the title of “Davis is Just Six Years Old”: “Six years ago the site on which Davis now stands was inhabited by wild animals, before the railroad was completed to this point. Many early settlers now reflect with pleasure upon the rapid strides made in the last six years. Upon the spot where six years ago there was nothing but a forest, through which roamed at will the deer, bear and other animals, there now stands a live business town having a population of 1,500 people, and where two large sawmills, a box factory, shingle mill, large tannery, mine and railroad with their rush and roar, give to our town the appearance already of what it will be in the near future. The prospects for Davis were never brighter than they are now. We are glad that this is so.”

It is evident that when Davis was just three years old, the men who made up the work force at the sawmills, factories, tannery, mines and railroad fit the description of the original “Odd Fellows” from Olde England; that being the working class. They found security in the purpose of what the Lodge was founded upon as they had no insurances or government safety nets. The Davis Lodge met at various halls until 1911 when they began meeting on the second floor of the Alliance Store at Fifth and Thomas Streets. This building was torn down and the new IOOF Hall was built on the same site during 1999. This is where both Odd Fellows and Rebekahs (the women’s arm of IOOF) meetings are held today. Both men and women can become members of both lodges.

On September 22, 1910, The Odd Fellows Home in Elkins opened its doors to the orphans, widows and elderly suffer-

ing from economic hardship. This massive and impressive building has a total of 137 rooms, including 99 bedrooms and 21 bathrooms. It sits on 16 acres of land with a pond. In times past, this home was totally occupied with those it was intended to help. But as more and more government entitlements, insurance and pensions helped keep people financially stable, the residency at the home declined and it shut its doors in for good in 2018 and is up for auction. Excerpts from stories by some of the people who were housed there gave testimony as to their having many good times and it was not sad at all. This writer remembers going with family in the early 1950’s to visit great uncle Brady Harr, who under the rules of the Order, turned over his Davis home’s deed to them in return for care for the rest of his life. He was sitting on the porch in a rocking chair while we visited him, looking as contented as a cat.

That was then, and this is now.

Yes, in 2024 Davis Lodge #103 is still an active lodge, but the members accept the fact that times have changed drastically over the past 134 years. The energies going forward are in the process of being refocused onto where best to apply our three links of Friendship, Love and Truth in Davis, Thomas and the surrounding areas. The members have made improvements to the Lodge hall, including a state of the art heating and cooling system. The interior is cheerful with new paint and a fully functioning kitchen. The members foresee more and more activities that center on social functions, taking into account that our hometown people still love to meet and eat. We are exploring a variety of ways to enhance our social endeavors which will probably evolve into a monthly meeting with some food, guest speakers, entertainment, games and other activities that spark interest with the local citizens. One meeting a month will continue to be dedicated to the ritual and business of the Lodge members. The Lodge members will lend themselves where possible to helping out in the community when a need arises. More volunteer help will go to the Food Bank, especially as they are building a new place in Thomas.

It is necessary to raise some funds to meet Lodge utility, insurance and other

expenses. Our most celebrated fund raising event is the sausage and pancake breakfast during Leaf Peepers. Our sausage patties are famous! Another event in the planning stages is our 134th Anniversary celebration currently scheduled for Saturday, August 3, at the Lodge. We will serve chili dog platters, using the recipe for chili sauce served at the old Likens restaurant and bar located in the red building that sits across from the Lodge hall. This is a heritage recipe from days gone by and was loved by all. To mark the anniversary celebration, each patron purchasing a platter or just a chili dog will get cake and ice cream. One more event is being planned for late fall to observe the good harvest time. Brunswick stew, breads, and apple dumplings highlight the menu. Every effort will be made to serve a full course meal that is affordable for families to be able to have a night out. We are also exploring opportunities to offer our very attractive Lodge hall as a venue for someone needing space; for example, to teach an art class, or line dancing.

The end goal is to attract new members into the Lodge by making it not only a fraternal organization with ritual and history, but also serving as a viable resource within the community for service and fellowship. If you are interested in receiving more information, drop a line to 93 Pipeline Lane, Davis, WV 26260. A member will contact you.

ODD FELLOW VALEDICTION

(Recited in unison at each meeting, going back to the Lodge’s beginnings in England)

I AM AN ODD FELLOW:

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man.

I believe in the Friendship, Love and Truth as basic guides to the ultimate destiny of all mankind.

I believe my home, my church or temple, my lodge, and my community deserve my best work, my modest pride, my earnest faith, and my deepest loyalty, as I perform my duty “to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan” and as I work with others to build a better world because in spirit and in truth, I am, and must always be, grateful to my Creator, faithful to my Country, and fraternal to my fellow man.

I AM AN ODD FELLOW

Eastern WV Community and Technical College Foundation Announces 3rd Annual Farm-to-Table Dinner

The Eastern WV Community and Technical College Foundation is thrilled to announce the 3rd Annual Farm-to-Table Dinner, set to take place at 5:00 PM on September 11, 2024. This highly anticipated event is being held at a new exciting location this year, Mountain View Barn at Miller Farms, celebrating the rich agricultural heritage of the Potomac Highland region.

The Farm-to-Table Dinner features a delectable menu crafted from locally sourced meat and produce, highlighting the finest offerings from surrounding farms. Guests will indulge in a true farm-to-table experience, enjoying fresh, seasonal ingredients that showcase the bounty of our region.

The Farm-to-Table Dinner has quickly become a cornerstone event for the Eastern WV Community and Technical College Foundation. In its inaugural year, the dinner raised over

\$10,000. Last year, the event nearly tripled its earnings, raising \$27,000 to support the College’s educational programming.

Attendees can look forward to a variety of activities, including a live auction, a silent auction, and a raffle featuring three distinct farm baskets. These baskets are filled with Potomac Highland produce, meats, jams, local honey, and other farm goods.

Tickets for the event are priced at \$75 each, with an option to purchase a whole table for \$500. Sponsorship opportunities are also available, offering a range of benefits for supporting businesses. Additional information about sponsorship levels and benefits can be found on the next page.

Tickets are available for purchase now and can be bought through the Eastern WV Community and Technical College Foundation’s website at <https://easternwv.edu/foundation/>

For more information, please contact:

Robert Burns, Director of Non-Profits, 304-434-8000 ext. 9233, robert.burns@easternwv.edu

Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating community, local agriculture, and the continued support of educational excellence.

The Eastern WV Community and Technical College Foundation is excited to announce the 2024 Farm-to-Table Dinner. Now in its third year, this event successfully raised over \$27,000 last year, with all proceeds supporting our educational programming. We invite you to become a sponsor and join us in making this year’s dinner even more successful. Our sponsorship opportunities are designed to provide valuable visibility and benefits to our partners.

Sponsorship Levels

- Bronze Sponsorship - \$1,000 Donation
- (4) complimentary dinner tickets
 - Social media feature
 - Your logo prominently displayed at the Farm-to-Table Dinner
- Silver Sponsorship - \$2,000 Donation
- (6) complimentary dinner tickets
 - Social media feature
 - Your logo prominently displayed at the Farm-to-Table Dinner Mention during the event remarks
- Gold Sponsorship - \$3,500 Donation
- (10) complimentary dinner tickets (1

table)

- Social media feature
- Your logo prominently displayed at the Farm-to-Table Dinner Mention during the event remarks
- Sponsorship mention during Farm-to-Table Radio ads

Platinum Sponsorship - \$5,000 Donation

- (14) complimentary dinner tickets (VIP table)
- Social media feature
- Your logo prominently displayed at the Farm-to-Table Dinner Mention during the event remarks
- Sponsorship mention during Farm-to-Table Radio ads

By sponsoring the Farm-to-Table Dinner, you are not only gaining valuable exposure for your business but also supporting the educational programs at Eastern WV Community and Technical College. Your contribution will help us continue to provide quality education and training to our community.

Thank you for considering a sponsorship. We look forward to partnering with you for a memorable and impactful evening.

For more information or to secure your sponsorship, contact Robert Burns, Director of Non-Profits, 3044348000 ext. 9233, robert.burns@easternwv.edu.

Commission Authorizes Donations



The Tucker Commission authorized donations to both the Davis and Thomas Fire Departments at their June meeting. Landfill Director Jody Alderman presented the donations to Davis and Thomas Fire Department Chiefs at the Tucker County Solid Waste Authority Office.

You are invited to come help us celebrate the
DAVIS IOOF LODGE #103
135th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, August 3
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Located at the Lodge Hall
Fifth and Thomas Streets, Davis

Delicious Chili Dogs
(Old Likens Restaurant Heritage Recipe)
\$2.00

Chili Dog Platters
Chili Dog, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Water
\$8.00

(Children age 12 and under ½ price)
Each patron will receive a helping of cake and ice cream.

We look forward to seeing you
Linked in
Friendship, Love and Truth

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

Alain Kieny Memorial Art Exhibit to open in Aurora

On Sunday, August 4, the Aurora Project will open an exhibit showcasing many of the original artworks of Parsons' artist Alain Kieny. The opening reception will be from 4-7 at the Old Aurora General Store on US Route 50 in Aurora, Preston County. The exhibit will remain open weekends through October 6 or by appointment.

Alain was born in Lyon, France soon after the end of WWII. He worked as a technical draftsman before being drawn to capture the beauty of the natural world and the ordinary through soft pastels. This area and its history was a frequent subject of his work, including a large-format painting of historic photos



Kieny's 2005 pastel of Parsons

of Tucker County which was exhibited in the Courthouse Annex during 2021.

Alain was co-owner of LaFontaine Bakery with his wife, Mimi Kibler. He died in February, 2023. This exhibit is co-hosted

by the Aurora Project and ArtSpring. The Aurora Project's mission is "Keeping the Arts Alive in Appalachia". ArtSpring's very similar mission is to act as "A Steward of Tucker County Arts".

Davis Medical Center is Recognized for Exceptional Care for Older Adults

Elkins, WV – In a remarkable achievement that underscores its commitment to providing exceptional care for older adults, Davis Medical Center (DMC) has been awarded Exemplar Status by the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) program. DMC is the only West Virginia hospital to reach the Exemplar level. The designation recognizes the medical center's dedication to meeting the unique healthcare needs of older patients and its success in implementing evidence-based practices to enhance their care experience.

"Davis Medical has designed a program and an environment that recognizes the unique needs and care for older patients," said Kim Ha her, RN, NICHE Coordinator. "Because more than 70% of our inpatient population is aged sixty-five and older, we invested in the education, training and resources necessary to improve outcomes and quality of care for older patients."

Achieving Exemplar Status illustrates the health system's ongoing efforts to prioritize the needs of older patients.

"We are incredibly proud of our care team for taking this program to highest level of achievement possible," said Ha her.

According to Ha her, DMC joined NICHE at the "Member" status in 2017. In 2018, they achieved "Senior Friendly" status, and now, in 2024 they reached Exemplar, which is the highest level achievable.

"Nurses are at the forefront of caring for our older patients," Ha her added. "They provide medical care, emotional support, advocacy, and coordination of

care. They have created an environment at Davis Health System where older patients feel valued, respected, and well cared for."

Ha her said Davis Medical expanded the program's reach by including a multidisciplinary care team in the training and education. "I am so proud of the providers, discharge planners, physical therapists, pharmacists, nutritionists, volunteers, and the Emergency Department for their participation. I need to thank Administration and the Davis Health System Foundation for their support."

"The leadership and staff of Davis Health System have demonstrated a tremendous ability to meet the needs of older adults," says Mattia J. Gilmar tin PhD, RN, FAAN, Executive Director of NICHE. "Their capacity to bring together geriatric nursing resources and support to enhance care marks them as a leader in the field and signals their resolve to provide high-quality, person-centered care for older adults."

The positive impact of DMC's NICHE program extends beyond the hospital walls and into the community, where older adults and their families benefit from the improved care experience. By implementing age-friendly practices and evidence-based interventions, the hospital is helping to improve outcomes, reduce hospital readmissions, and enhance overall quality of life for older patients.

The NICHE community includes more than 350 members across the globe. Of the 350, only 77 members, including Davis Medical, have earned Exemplar status.

MGC Yard of the Month



Red, white and blue were the colors of the month for MGC's July Yard of the Month and Debbie Kyle's Center street residence was selected. Her porch was accented by hanging Coleus, succulents and ferns. The yard was filled with spike mandevilla, weeping cherry trees, fire bushes, hosta, day lilies, begonias, marigolds and pansies.



Business YOM was awarded to Homeowners and business owners - April and David Simmons of All Tied Up In Shavers Fork, a Tie Dye home business. Located on Center Street.

The home was decorated with wandering lavender, fuchsia, million bells as well as cucumber, pepper and tomato plants on the porch. The yard had a variety of calla lilies, black-eyed susan, hydrangea wild flowers and Hybrid spring Phlox.

Run For It Team Registration Ends August 31st

The deadline to register a team for the 17th annual Run For It race is August 31st. Run For It is a 2k walk and 5k race hosted by the Tucker Community Foundation. The race is open to organizations and non-profits in the Foundation's eight-county service area to participate for cash with no strings attached. Currently, 46 teams are registered.

The race will start at 11:00 AM on September 28, 2024, in Davis, WV, in conjunction with the annual Leaf Peepers Festival. The 2k course is a 1.2-mile untimed walk around town, and the 5k is a 3.1-mile timed walk/run that winds through the town. The 5k is a USATF-sanctioned race open to walkers and competitive runners.

The registration cost is \$12, with half of the entry fee supporting a charity of the participant's choice. To register, individuals and teams can sign up online by visiting runsignup.com/Race/WV/Davis/RunForIt, or by completing the registration forms on the Foundation's website at tuckerfoundation.net/run. Team registration for in-person and virtual races ends on August 31, 2024, and individual registration for in-person and virtual races ends on September 21, 2024. In-person registration will be available at the Davis Fire Hall on Friday, September 27, 2024, from 5:00-7:00 PM and on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 8:00-9:30 AM.

"Run For It promotes healthy activity and encourages local philanthropy. Throughout the years, it has evolved into a solid challenge-grant program thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Foundation's staff, board of directors, and numerous volunteers," said



RFI Press Release #2 PNG file. Team registration for the 17th Annual Run For It Race will close on August 31, 2024. This year's race will start at 11:00 AM on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Individuals and teams can register online at runsignup.com/Race/WV/Davis/RunFort.

Angie Pase, Development Director for the Tucker Community Foundation. "The program aims to raise awareness and support for non-profits, civic organizations, and other charities throughout the Tucker Community Foundation's eight-county service area in West Virginia and Maryland."

The program supports non-profit and charitable organizations in raising funds through entry fees, team sponsorship, and race-day awards. 100% of team sponsor donations and race-day awards go towards the team's chosen cause, while half of the entry fees are donated. The program supports causes, including the arts, animal welfare, challenged athletes, charities, community improvement projects, and more.

"More than 100 cash awards are given to team charities that raise the most awareness and support, along with demonstrating the best effort," Pase said.

"We encourage non-profit organizations to form teams and enlist sponsors for their team's cause. If a group needs help setting up a team or has questions about how to register or how to leverage funds, please get in touch with us. We're happy to help."

Over the past 16 years, Run For It has positively impacted the local economy by attracting serious racers and families to the area and supporting local businesses. In 2023, the event attracted 1,389 walkers and runners and raised approximately \$287,595. These funds helped 79 non-profit organizations and groups in the Potomac Highlands and beyond!

To learn more about Run For It, please visit runsignup.com/Race/WV/Davis/RunForIt or tuckerfoundation.net/run. You can also contact the Foundation by email at runforit@tuckerfoundation.net or by phone at (304) 478-2930.

THANK YOU FOR READING

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