SERVING THE PEOPLE OF TUCKER COUNTY SINCE 1896

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## **County Commission Sees Dissension on Fee**

The Tucker County Commission while receiving some praise for their recent passage of a 2% amusement fee in the County, has also received a fair bit of criticism from the business community. The Commission held a Special Session December 4th to meet with members of the business community and the public to discuss their concerns over the fee and the roll out.

Commissioner Fred Davis described the process of drafting and roll out of the fee as "fast and furious" due to the imminent danger the ambulance service sees itself in currently. Commission President Mike Rosenau said that efforts have been ongoing for 30 years to fund EMS and businesses and the community should not be surprised by the effort. Commissioner Tim Knotts describes the measure as much needed and the fairest way he could see.

Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau said that he recently received a phone call from an attorney in Charleston over the fee. The attorney represented State Tourism and Commerce, Rosenau stated. "But not everybody feels the same way we do," Rosenau said. "This week alone, yesterday, I received a phone call from Garner Marks, Chief Counsel for Tourism and Commerce for the State of West Virginia. He feels 'Users' of the ambulance service are tourists. Just residents and the residents are the only ones who should pay. That's from State Tourism."

Rosenau went on to say that the Commission has also received FOIA requests from attorneys as well over the fee. "We also have a call from an attorney in Charleston who wanted a FOIA request," Rosenau said. "We answered the FOIA request and the things that he asked for were things that we're not even at liberty



Tom Price, General Manager of Timberline, addresses the Tucker County Commission on his opposition to the 2% amusement fee during a Special Session of the Commission December 4th.

to even have. Most of those things were funding, how its spent. All those are questions for the Ambulance Authority Board."

Tom Price, General Manager of Timberline admitted during the meeting to seeing the FOIA requests and reviewing the documents. "I did see the FOIA requests," Price said.

Rosenau said that he wanted the room to know that there was much opposition to the measure, including State Tourism. "Just so that everybody is aware, there's several people that aren't in favor of the fee," Rosenau said. "Including State Tourism."

Rosenau described a meeting he had last week in which someone suggested that everyone in Tucker County pay \$100. Rosenau said he does not agree that would be a fair solution. "One of the meetings I sat in on last week, one of the members of the CVB Board said you've got 7,000 people in Tucker County, just charge everybody \$100 then you've got it covered." Rosenau said. "\$700,000. That

didn't even make good sense to me. So if I'm a family of four, I'll pay \$400 and I'm already trying to put food on the table, pay my electric bill. I don't get that. How is that a solution?"

Tom Price, General Manager, Timberline, spoke out against the measure at the meeting. Timberline was mentioned several times by supporters on both sides of the issue during the meeting. "My name got mentioned quite a bit," Price said. "I'm General Manager at Timberline...I want to just explain that I am not against this, I am against how this was rolled out."

Price said that Timberline had folded in the past and that the ski industry is not an easy one to make a profit in. "Timberline went out of business in the past," Price said. "It is not an easy business to operate and make a profit. We've put an enormous amount of money into it in order to make it successful and that could be taken away very quickly."

Price said that his company is very cost conscious and weighs the impact of pricing on their customers heavily. "Two percent sounds small," Price said. "But we are very, very careful about how our customers are impacted by what the costs must be. One of the biggest barriers to the ski industry is cost and there are other places, there are places all over the country where people are charged more and there are also places like where my roots are from in the Midwest, where people charge a lot less. So, we are really, really conscious about it."

According to Price, their profits for the year are made in the 20 week winter ski season and those profits have to get them through the remainder of the year. "Its hard to imagine the fact that we make essentially all of our money in 20 weeks," Price said. "And we have to float the rest of it the rest of the entire period. So it may seem like there is ton of money rolling in during the winter, but in July its pretty tough."

Price said that Timberline is trying to create new jobs and be a successful business and community partner. "We are trying really hard to be a good business and grow, trying to create good jobs, which we have been successful doing," Price said. "Some of our employees are volunteer fire fighters and they are contributing members of the community. Its really, really important to us."

Price said he heard of the fee, he felt he was being targeted and made to be villain. "When I heard about this fee, it was offensive to us because we feel that we are doing our best to be really good contributors to the community and we are being made out to be villains," Price said.

Price said Tourism is about jobs. "And that is just tough for us as tourism," Price

See COUNTY COMMISSION page 6



Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau addresses a packed house December 4th during a Special Session of the Tucker County Commission to speak on issues surrounding the Commission's new 2% amusement fee.

## **Rosenau Addresses Need for Fee**

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau addressed the need for the fee during a Special Meeting of the Commission December 4th for the implementation of the Commission's 2% amusement fee. The fee was implemented to fund the Tucker County Ambulance Authority following the announcement that the Authority would no longer be able to fund two ambulances and would likely become

insolvent by July 2025 if a change to one

crew 24/7 is not put into place.

Rosenau said that over the past 30 years, the County has made numerous attempts at the State and local level to come to a solution for EMS funding, but had met opposition along the way. "There isn't a person in this room that doesn't know that funding for EMS has been an issue for 30 years," Rosenau said. "There's been public meeting after public meeting on this."

Rosenau said that the Ambulance Authority Board attended several meetings to explain the need for EMS funding over the years and the County has fulfilled the requirements outlined in State code for meeting requirements. "When we tried to get the levy passed, the Ambulance Authority Board came to several meetings," Rosenau said. "Explained the need for funding for EMS in our County. So we've covered that past what State Code said."

The population of Tucker County as of 2023, according to the US Census Bureau is 6,604. According to the Tucker County Commission, Tucker County routinely hosts an average of a million visitors a year. "We've had Timber in our County, we've had Coal Mines in our County, now we have Tourism in our County," Rosenau said. "First they came and cut all the trees. Then we had the coal mines. The

people had to work their butts off in unsafe conditions and had to go from what it was to fight for years, people lost their lives to have safe working conditions working in the coal mines. Now we have tourism."

Rosenau said that Emergency Services were an issue that should be addressed at the State level, but had instead been repeatedly sent to the County level. "Every time we go to Charleston, we have an issue with Tourism at the State Legislature," Rosenau said. "We all know this is a statewide problem with Emergency Services throughout the State. We all know it. The State should have taken the responsibility upon themselves and not put it back to the counties. But since they have, they shouldn't fight us for trying to make it better."

Rosenau said that previous attempts at funding at the State Level were thwarted in the House by the Tourism Committee. "We sent in and Randy Smith tried to get an Amusement Tax passed for Tucker County, well basically the State of West Virginia, a dollar on the tickets," Rosenau said. "In order for a law to pass in Charleston, I just want to give you a little bit of advice, in order for a law to pass in Charleston, it has to pass the Senate and the House. In order for it to be called to the floor, to be voted on in the House, it has to to do a Committee. The Senate passed the bill, we used a lot of the language it used in what it covered in the fee. It goes to the House, the first Committee that it had to go to, was Tourism. The Chairman of that Committee, and correct me if I'm wrong, I'm telling you the God's truth, the Chairman of that Committee would not bring it to his Committee to be discussed to be sent to the House to be voted on. So that bill stalled so it wouldn't even go to the House. That's the power Tourism has in the State of West Virginia. That's the Power they have and that's the obstacles that we've had to deal

See NEED FOR FEE page 6

# Commission Receives Support for Fee

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

The Tucker County Commission received praise for their new 2% amusement fee during a Special Session of the Commission December 4th. The meeting was held to hear from members of the business community and public on the issue. Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau opened the meeting with a statement on the history of the issues surrounding the need for EMS funding and the difficulties the Commission has faced at the State and local levels in acquiring funding. Rosenau also read the State Code that allowed the implementation of the fee.

Rosenau read some letters the Commission had received recently in support of the fee. "You have done all you have said you would do for the citizens of Tucker County," one resident wrote. "They are affected from the newborn to the elderly. From the rich to the not so rich. You have gone the extra mile to ensure that all of Tucker County has Emergency Medical Protection. Thank you again and again. I know this is not an easy task you took and countless hours and time have gone into find a way to solve one of Tucker County's largest problems. All of this was done with the love and care for all of Tucker County.

Thank you." Rosenau also said the Commission had received letters from those outside the Tucker County community. "My wife and I live in a close suburb of Pittsburgh," a nonresident wrote. "We enjoy vacationing in Tucker County and have always felt welcome. I have followed your issues in providing emergency services over the last several years. Like many of your one plus million visitors, we are accustomed to having police, fire and EMS services at our beck and call. In my community response time for all three are under three minutes. I expect that most of your visitors from urban areas have similar first responder time and have no idea the problems you have. Your actions to solve a serious problem is a tribute to your political courage, common sense and example of how local government should work. By the way, I was president of our council for two years and have some idea of the difficulties you face. Finally, we can't imagine that a 2% user fee can have any real adverse effect on

tourism business. If I can afford a hundred dollar ticket for a ski lift, I can certainly afford a two dollar life insurance policy. Good job and thank you."

According to Rosenau, several letters had been received from those outside of Tucker County. "I read you two of the several that we got in our office," Rosenau said. "People from out of state, I don't know where they hear this stuff from, but thanking us for improving or the potential for improving EMS services in our County."

Thomas resident James Nelson was the first to speak in support of the fee. Nelson said that the fee did not go far enough in its scope and proposed an additional 5% fee to go towards the residents of Tucker County. "This fee that you put on is not nearly enough," Nelson said. "All you need to do is get on the internet and find out what these other State Parks and things are charging out of the State of West Virginia. It should be a 5% to go to the local people of Tucker County because of this Tourism that is coming in here."

Nelson said that traffic is one of the biggest problems with Tourism in Tucker County. "Number one is you can't get home every night," Nelson said. "They're parked in Davis. You got a Mayor in Davis that won't do anything. He's in Virginia someplace. You got a Mayor sitting here in Thomas. He won't enforce things that are going on in Thomas. I was Mayor in Thomas for almost eight years."

Nelson also said that Tourism has impacted the residents of Tucker County financially. Nelson had a lot of support from others at the meeting regarding his comments. "This Tourism that is coming into Tucker County has just about ruined the local people," Nelson said. "You got the Tourism tax on food, you got the Tourism tax on gasoline. How is these people with a fixed income making it? You got people coming in here, million dollar people, go to Canaan Valley, nothing, a \$100 is nothing for them to get a lift ticker or what ever else."

Resident Stan Dracovich said he supported the measure, as well and said that there was no way to put a price on a human life. "I'm wondering how you can value someone's life for a couple of dollars," Dracovich said. "That just doesn't make

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## WWW.RUSTICRENTALS.NET VACATION RENTALS IN TUCKER COUNTY

## The Nature Conservancy in WV **Acquires New Flagship Preserve**

1,393 Acres of Dobbins Slashing property to connect nearly 80 miles of trail access in Canaan Valley/Dolly Sods landscape

Davis, WV—The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia (TNC) recently acquired 1,393-acres known as Dobbins Slashing adjacent to Canaan Valley/Dolly Sods that will protect an area of world-class biodiversity and connect nearly 80 miles of trails in this recreational area.

TNC will keep the property, sold by Western Pocahontas Properties, as a flagship preserve to conserve and manage the biodiversity, rich sphagnum bogs and headwaters of Red Creek. In addition to biodiversity conservation of this important land, TNC will work to enhance tourism and recreation. This property adds to the current preserve complex that already includes the iconic Bear Rocks Preserve and the Allegheny Front Preserve. The property will play an important role in connecting nearly 80 miles of trails in this popular recreation landscape.

Dobbins Slashing has been a target property for TNC and the conservation community for decades due to its high-elevation wetlands, unique biodiversity, headwater streams and location within a significant climate corridor, which is important for plants and animals moving in response to climate change. Its position within the Appalachians, a focal landscape for TNC, also makes its protection of upmost importance to increase impact and progress toward TNC's ambitious 2030 goals to slow climate change and biodiversity loss.

This property also adds to the Resilient Connected Network (RCN) of lands. TNC is working to create a network of lands across the United States with unique topographies, geologies and other characteristics that can withstand climate impacts.

"TNC has a vision to conserve the resilient and connected Appalachian forest landscape as quickly as possible, safeguarding the rich biodiversity of the region, tackling climate change by enhancing forests' ability to absorb and store carbon, and ensuring that both people and nature benefit," says Thomas Minney, executive director of The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia. "When we are successful, the impacts of completing projects like Dobbins Slashing will leave positive, lasting impacts for nature and people well into the future."

The Dobbins Slashing property is the primary connector between the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Monongahela National Forest's Dolly Sods Wilderness. The headwaters of Red Creek originate on this tract that comprises the largest peatland wetland in the Sods. These types of peatlands are the most efficient carbon sinks on the planet because the peat absorbs more carbon dioxide than it releases.

This property is also one of the largest privately owned wetlands in Central Appalachia with over 800 acres of high-quality, high-elevation acidic bog habitat. The wetlands act like a sponge and help absorb large rain events and allow water to drain slowly to help regulate flooding events. The flood attenuation qualities of the wetland rank in the top seven percent in importance for West Virginia. These high-elevation wetlands also contribute to clean and healthy water for downstream communities. The water quality benefits these wetlands provide rank in the top one percent in West Virginia by the West Virginia Wetland condition score.

"The Dobbins Slashing tract has been desired to be in public agency or long-term conservation ownership since at least 1970 when the property was considered as the upper storage installation of the Davis Power Project," says Mike Powell, director of land management and stewardship. "Protection of this property will allow for stream, wetland, forest management and restoration, and provide public access to this scenic and important

Once finished, the trails on Dobbins Slashing will

provide important connections for the area's current trail

"Existing trail networks in the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area and Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be connected to provide continuity of nearly 80 miles of public trails," continues Powell. "This will provide more options for visitors and residents that want to engage in cross-country exploration between these public lands. Although difficult to get to, Dobbins Slashing will be a destination for the curious and adventurous explorers that regularly recreate in the area."

While Dobbins Slashing is not open for recreation yet, TNC is currently developing its recreation plan for the property. Plans for a spring celebration are underway. This project was made possible through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. We are tackling climate change, conserving lands, waters and oceans at an unprecedented scale, providing food and water sustainably and helping make cities more sustainable. Working in more than 80 countries and territories, we use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners In West Virginia, we have protected more than 130,000 acres of critically important and biodiverse land and are enabling pathways for economic diversification and a low-carbon future for the Mountain State. To learn more, visit nature.org/westvirginia.

## Eastern College's Fully Online Cyber Intelligence Program has new Coordinator

Moorefield, W.Va. — Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College recently hired Isaac Winfree as the Cyber Security program coordinator/IT faculty. Winfree will oversee the Cyber Intelligence program, which can earn student completers a two-year degree, a one-year academic certificate, and two micro-credentials in cyber intelligence. Eastern is currently enrolling students for the Spring 2025 semester, including courses that fulfill cyber intelligence requirements, such as CIS 197-Intro to Cyber Security, IT 137-Intro to Cyber Intelligence, and IT 138-Intro to Cyber Threats and Actors.

Winfree, a Charleston, WV, native, earned a bachelor of arts in criminal justice and a master of science in forensics and cybersecurity from Marshall University in Huntington, WV, completing his master's degree in May 2024. "I studied abroad at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Be'er Sheva, Israel, as part of my master's program at Marshall," said Winfree. "I have served for over a year as a digital forensics consultant for Operation Underground Railroad, providing open-source intelligence (OSINT) and digital forensics expertise to law enforcement agencies across South America. My work included ground operations in Peru and Argentina." Winfree also brings experience as an IT Support Analyst at Marshall University.

The Cyber Intelligence Program is designed for flexibility, with all courses, including general education requirements, available online-making it accessible for individuals balancing work and household responsibilities. Additionally, the program will be offered in area high schools, enabling students to earn a cybersecurity micro-credential by completing four core courses.

"There is an incredible need for cyber intelligence experts worldwide, with an estimated 700,000 job openings and growing," said Dr. Tom Striplin, president of Eastern. "Cybersecurity is now a critical component of our national defense strategy, and we are seeking students eager to help protect the United States against this escalating threat."

"I enjoy the strong sense of community at Eastern and the institution's forward-thinking leadership," said Winfree. "I believe the Cyber Intelligence Program is an important next step, and I am glad to be part of a team that shares this vision."

For more information on the Cyber Intelligence Pro-

gram, visit easternwv.edu/cyber-intelligence or email

Isaac.Winfree@easternwv.edu.

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, located in Moorefield, serves six rural counties in the Potomac Highlands. The college offers 14 degree programs (including six fully online), 12 certificates, and over 30 transfer pathways to four-year schools. Its Workforce Education department provides 15+ training programs in various formats and specialized Agriculture Innovation training, including mentorship opportunities for Farm Fellows. Eastern supports students and the community through its Career Center, offering job placement, resume help, and interview preparation. The college is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

## St. Paul's United Methodist Church Toy Drive

St. Paul's United Methodist **Church Christmas Toy Drive** 

We are accepting new and gently used toys to help local families celebrate the Christmas season. Donations are being accepted between now and Dec. 7 at St. Paul's Church 203 Central Ave and The County Extension Office 215 1st St. Courthouse basement.

Toy drive through distribution at St. Paul's Church Dec. 8 – 15 from 2 -7 p.m. by appointment. NO DELIVERIES.

#### To Sign up to **Receive Toys:**

Call or text between now and Dec. 15 to sign your child/ children up for The Wish List. Text: Melissa Miller 304-704-5685 or Marie Barr 304-621-5133 or you can message The Toy Drive Facebook Page.



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## PARSONS ADVOCATE LETTERS TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

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

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.

## Virginia "Louise" (Froman) Lipscomb

(Froman) Lipise" scomb passed away on November 20, 2024, in Thomas, WV. Born on October 6, 1931, she was the daughter to the late Henry Clay Froman and Sarah

Alice (Digman) Froman.

She married Warren William Lipscomb at the age of 16 and went on to have three daughters, Sheryl Joan, Linda Sue, and Victoria Ann. She remained married to Warren until

his death in 2000. Throughout her life, her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great grandchildren, great



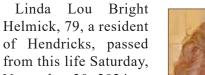
along with her favorite sports teams were her biggest joys.

She is survived by her daughter, Sherry (J.D. Bubba) of Vero Beach, Florida; her grandchildren, Todd, Robyn, Tammy, Shelly, Travis and Donley; her great grandchildren, Heather, Steven, Shawn, Trace, Kyndall, Tanner, Malina, Mandi, Madison, Macie, Joshua, Mackenzie, Miranda and Valerie; and her great great grandchildren, Gabriel, Raelyn, June, Carmen, Evelyn, Tucker, Lawson, Finn, River, Tobias, Fletcher, Sutton, Cheyenne, Kenzee and Corbin.

In addition to her parents and husband. she was preceded in death by her daughters, Linda and Victoria.

A memorial service to honor Louise will be held during the Spring of 2025.

The Hinkle-Fenner Funeral Home is honored to be serving Louise's family.



of Hendricks, passed from this life Saturday, November 30, 2024, at Mon General Hospital in Morgantown.

Linda was born Sat-

urday, September 8, 1945, in Parsons, a daughter of the late Buddy Bright and Ruth Irene Carr Bright. On July 12, 1963, in Oakland, MD, she married Donald Wayne Helmick who survives. They had celebrated sixty-one years of marriage.

Also left to cherish Linda's memory are three children, David Helmick and Tina, of Fairmont, Kevin Helmick and wife, Donna, of Hambleton, and Annette Rhodes and husband. Paul, of Hendricks, one sister, Shirley Far-

Linda Lou Bright Helmick

row of Pennsylvania, one brother. Eldred Bright of New York, grandchildren, Bayli Helmick, Steven Rhodes, David Rhodes, and Jon Rhodes, four grandchildren, great Kyliey Rhodes, Maddie Rhodes, Wrenley Rhodes and Aspen Kline Rhodes, several nieces and nephews, and one great grandchild on the way.

Linda was a graduate of Parsons High School. She had worked for Parsons Footwear, the Parsons

Hospital, and for many years as a waitress at Canaan Valley Resort. Before retiring, she managed the Fairview Senior Center. loved baking and cooking, and was known for catering weddings, and baking both wedding and birthday cakes. She was gifted with an ability to make moist cakes, pepperoni rolls, and bread chocolate chip cookies. She was a member of the Parsons Church of God. She will be missed by her family and friends.

Linda's request for cremation with services will be hon-The Hostetler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Linda Lou Bright Helmick. Send online condolences to the family at: www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com.



The Tucker Community Chorus will have their Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Davis and Monday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at First Methodist Church in Parsons. Please join us in our joyful celebration of the birth of Our Lord Jesus.

## ATTENTION

The office of The Parsons Advocate will be closed from Tuesday, Dec. 24 through Tuesday, Dec. 31 for vacation.

# We will be

If you have any inquires, questions, want to place an ad or pay for a subscription please call the ewisburg office at 304-647-5724. Thank you for your patronage and we will see you in 2025.

# THANK YOU FOR READING THE PARSONS ADVOCATE

Serving the people of Tucker county since 1896



#### **HELP WANTED**

The Town of Davis is accepting applications for a utility billing/receiving clerk.

Job includes- duties of Town Water Clerk, posting & overseeing the Town Social Media pages and learning Word Press to post to the Town Website. Computer knowledge is a must with Excel and Word. Would also prefer applicant to have knowledge of the QuickBooks program and Publisher.

Applicant will work with Chief Water Operator & Town Staff in various capacities, including overseeing reading meters. Job includes overseeing & documenting the Davis Cemetery records and cross-training with the Town Clerk on payroll, budgets, paying bills, and other duties as assigned

This is a full-time position with benefits. Salary will be discussed at interview. Applications can be picked up at the Davis Town Hall, 505 William Ave., Davis, WV 26260.

Applications/Resumes can be returned by mail at P.O. Box 207, Davis, WV 26260, or in person at the Davis Town Hall Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm by December 13th, 2024. Applications received after this time/date will not be considered.

The Town of Davis is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## With You In Mind at Christmastime During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. To our loyal customers and friends, we extend our sincerest best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year. Directors, Officers & Employees **NOTICE**

So that our staff may enjoy the holiday season, the following holiday closing schedule will be

December 24, 2024- Closed at 12:00 Noon December 25, 2024– Closed December 31, 2024- Closed at 12:00 Noon January 1, 2025- Closed

## tevens' Florist

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#### LEGAL

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATES To the Creditors and Beneficiaries of the following decedents' estates: JOSEPH MICHAEL NELSON Kassidy Denise Nelson, Executrix JANE H. BARB

Rilev H. Barb, Executor

The Final Settlement and/or Waiver of Final Settlement in the above captioned estates have been presented before me by the respective Fiduciaries of said estates for approval, which reports were retained in my office at 14 S. Randolph Ave., Elkins, West Virginia.

I have approved these reports of Settlement as presented and will file the same with the Honorable County Commission of Tucker County, West Virginia, on or after December 18, 2024

Any person having any interest in said estate may appear before the Honorable County Commission to protect their interests as they may appear or else may be forever thereafter barred from asserting such in-

Given under my hand December 4, 2024

/s/ John J. Wallace, IV John J. Wallace, IV Fiduciary Commissioner Tucker County, West Virginia

#### LEGAL

#### CITY OF PARSONS FIRE FEE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Our essential and excellent fire protection and emergency services in Parsons are funded through our municipal fire service fee. The owner of each protected structure in the City is required by law to pay this fee. The revenues collected from this fee are dedicated funding for these critical public services

Most Parsons property owners support these services by paying the required fire service fee. Unfortunately, some property owners have not kept current on their fire fee account. Financing adequate emergency services works only if everyone pays their share of these costs.

If you own property in Parsons, please check your records to ensure that your fire fee account is current. If you are uncertain of your account status, please call City Hall at 304-478-2311 to review your payment record.

If you have a delinquent fire fee account, please make payment to bring the account current or make payment arrangements with the City Manager to satisfy the delinquency. If a delinquent account is paid in full by December 31, 2024, the City will waive any interest charges associated with this late payment

Please note that delinquent accounts as of January 1, 2025, will be referred to the City Attorney for legal proceedings to collect this debt, including collection of interest payments and any associated court costs.

Thanks for your kind consideration of this notice, and for your willingness to share in the costs of public safety in Parsons.

#### LEGAL

#### NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that a foreign will or affidavit has been filed before the Tucker County Commission at 211 First St., Suite 205, Parsons,

WV 26287. That no appointment or administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of law but that a foreign will or affidavit of heirs of the following decedent has been filed with the Tucker County Commission and is of record in the Tucker County Clerk's Office.

Any interested person objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this State must be filed with the County Commission within 60 days after the first publication sate or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred.

December 4, 2024 1st Publication Date: John W. Wiles Decedent: Karen I. Wiles Filed By: 9645 Lismore Ln. Mentor, OH 44060

Relationship: Subscribed and sworn to before me on November 26, 2024

Sherry Simmons

## **Humnaities Council Seeks Grant Proposals**

Charleston – The West Virginia Humanities Council announces its upcoming February 1, 2025, grant deadline for three grant categories: Major grants, awarded twice a year for projects requesting up to \$20,000; Fellowships of \$3,000, awarded annually for scholarly research projects; and Minigrants, awarded four times a year for projects requesting \$2,000 or less.

The Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities. A variety of matching grants are offered by the Humanities Council year-round to nonprofit organizations in West Virginia that support educational programming. See below for complete descriptions of grant applications due February 1:

Major grants. This category supports public programs including, but not limited to, lectures, school projects, symposia, panel discussions, reading and discussion series, exhibits, reenactments, and conferences. Major grant proposals may request up to \$20,000. Applicants must allow 12 weeks between the deadline and the start of the project. Fellowships. Stipends of \$3,000 are awarded once a year to West Virginia college and university humanities faculty and independent scholars for research and writing projects. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the study of interpretive archaeology; the

history, theory, and criticism of the arts; ethics; history; jurisprudence; modern and classical languages; linguistics; literature; philosophy; comparative religion; and philosophical and historical approaches to the social sciences.

Minigrants. These grants support small projects, single events, lectures, small museum exhibits and brochures, consultation needs, and planning for more complex projects. Minigrant deadlines are February 1, April 1, June 1, and October 1 for projects requesting \$2,000 or less. Applicants must allow six weeks between the deadline and the start of the project.

For more information about the West Virginia Humanities Council grants program, contact Humanities Council grants administrator Erin Riebe at (304) 346-8500 or via email at riebe@wvhumanities.org. Grant guidelines and applications are also available on the Humanities Council website, www.wvhumanities.org.

The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.

## Four Kids Adopted from Cindy's Giving Tree



The St. George Ridge Runners 4-H club adopted four kids from Cindy's Giving Tree. They took a trip to Walmart and afterwards enjoyed lunch at Pizza Hut. Submitted by Baylee Lewis, Reporter.

#### LEGAL

(2023-C-000003 - TUCKER COUNTY - MYE-JAKS)

To: WILLIAM BOWDEN, JR., MELISSA D. SNYDER, WILLIAM BOWDEN, JR., WILLIAM BOWDEN, JR., WILLIAM BOWDEN, JR., MELISSA D. SNYDER, MELISSA D. SNYDER, MELISSA D. SNYDER, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CLOVER MAP 242 PARCEL 0026 0001 0000

You will take notice that MYE-JAKS, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert. No. 2023-C-000003, located in CLOVER District, 1 AC EAST PIFER MT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of BOWDEN WILLIAM B SNYDER MELISSA D, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of TUCKER County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on June 14, 2024. MYE-JAKS requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after April 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with 153.08 interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 1691. Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for 0.00 ticket number Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 1706. 63.28 Additional taxes with interest. 0.00 Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest. 211.30 Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, 938.71 Secretary of State with interest. Additional Statutory Fees with Interest. 0.00 Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, \$ 1,366.37 certified or personal check.

You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand October 25, 2024

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr. Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East **Building 1, Room W-114** Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

## TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in him by that certain Deed of Trust, dated March 25, 2022, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Tucker County, West Virginia, in Document No. 159236, in Book No. 312, at Page 627, Larry Kieth Clark did convey unto David G. Palmer, Trustee(s), certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Seneca Trustees, Inc., as Substitute Trustee; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by Nexus Nova LLC to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Tucker County Courthouse in Parsons,

January 8, 2025 at 12:15 PM

the following described real estate, together with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in 08 - Hendricks District, Tucker County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as

All of the following real estate situate in the Town of Hendricks, Tucker County, West Virginia, described as follows:

That certain parcel of real estate lying along the old county road and containing 3-7/8 acres, more or less; And Being the same real estate conveyed to Thomas Eugene Merilic and June Elaine Merilic from David A. Heckler, Sr. and Roberta L. Heckler by deed dated March 27, 2003 and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Tucker County, West Virginia in Deed Book 174 and at Page 405.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have an address of: 1021 Hendricks Hill Road, Hendricks, WV 26271.

The referenced real estate will be conveyed with no covenants of warranty, and subject to all covenants, restrictions, easements, rights of way and reservations which may be a matter of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office or visible upon the ground, all prior liens and encumbrances, including, without limitation, liens for real estate taxes, incinerator, sanitary and sewer charges. The purchasers at the sale shall be responsible for paying the recording costs and also the tax on the privilege of transferring real property (the cost of the tax stamp to be affixed to the deed). The purchasers shall be responsible for payment of all real estate taxes.

The subject property will be sold in "AS IS" condition. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: \$9000.00 in cash and/or certified funds as deposit at the time of sale with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

FEDERAL TAX LIEN: In the event that there are Federal Tax Liens against the property, the United States would have the right to redeem the property within a period of 120 days from the date of such sale or the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust, the Trustee may postpone the sale by public announcement at the time and place designated or by posting a notice of the same, and act by agent in the execution of the sale. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at such sale.

SENECA TRUSTEES, INC. 5000 Coombs Farm Drive, Suite 104 Morgantown, WV 26508 (304) 413-0044 (304) 292-2918 Toll free: (888) 534-3132

Reference File No. 90069

## LEGAL

NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that a foreign will or affidavit has been filed before the Tucker County Commission at 211 First St., Suite 205, Parsons,

That no appointment or administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of law but that a foreign will or affidavit of heirs of the following decedent has been filed with the Tucker County Commission and is of record in the Tucker County Clerk's Office.

Any interested person objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this State must be filed with the County Commission within 60 days after the first publication sate or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred.

1st Publication Date: December 11, 2024 Decedent: Donald G. Thomas Filed By: Tracy A. Thomas 16923 15th Street Parkersburg, WV 26101

Daughter Relationship:

Subscribed and sworn to before me on November 26, 2024 Sherry Simmons

Tucker County Clerk

ucker county since I 00

LEGAL

## NOTICE OF SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST

Notice is hereby given that, under authority of a certain deed of trust hereinafter described, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will, at the front door of the Tucker County Courthouse, in Parsons, West Virginia, on January 15, 2025 11:00 a.m.

offer for sale certain property described in that certain deed of trust executed by JOSEPH M. NELSON to Jonathan Robeson, as Trustee, which deed of trust is dated the 3rd day of November, 2022, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Tucker County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 316, at Page 645; and given to secure Pendleton Community Bank, Inc., the payment of a note therein described.

By Substitution of Trustee dated November 20, 2024, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Tucker County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 325, at Page 286, Jennifer L. Morgan was appointed Substitute Trustee.

The premises subject to the above-described deed of trust, which premises will be sold at the above stated public auction all that tract of land situate in Dry Fork District, Tucker County, West Virginia, being approximately 0.25 miles north of the intersection of State Route 32 and 72, and lying on the south side of Route 32, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a 1-inch steel rod found, the southern corner of Robert J. Harman's lot (162/4560; thence S 48 42 45 E 198.01 feet to a 1-inch steel rod set; thence S 24 06 33 E 198.56 feet to a 1-inch steel rod found in the center of a 20 foot right of way, and being a corner between lots 25 and 26 of Ridgeview Estates Subdivision; thence with lot 25 of said subdivision (David McGinnis 146/349) and the center of said right of way S 59 29 11 W 170.10 feet to a point in the center of a 20 foot right of way from WV State Route 32 to Ridgeview Estates Subdivision, thence with the center of said right of way for two lines N 28 32 45 W, 77.51 feet to a point; thence N 39 02 54 W, 403.41 feet to a point in the center of said right of way on the southern right of way boundary of WV State Secondary Route 32; thence with said road boundary for three lines N 46 47 00 E, 63.00 feet to a concrete right of way marker found; thence S 43 13 00 E, 20.00 feet to a 1-inch steel rod set; thence N 46 47 00 E, 100.00 feet to a 1-inch steel rod found, the western corner of Harman (162/456); thence leaving Route 32 and with Harman S 43 13 00 E, 110.00 feet, to the beginning, containing 2.03 acres, as surveyed by Jack D. Hedrick in October, 1984.

TOGETHER WITH a non-exclusive easement over and upon the 20-foot wide right of way for the purpose of ingress, egress and regress to and from the subject property to Route 32.

There is excepted and reserved therefrom a right of way 20-feet in width over, along and across the subject property, for the purpose of ingress, egress and regress to and from other lots in said subdivision and Route 32. And being the same lot, tract or parcel of real estate as conveyed to Joseph M. Nelson by Deed from Robert J. Harman and Jeffrey Adam Judy dated May \_\_\_\_\_, 2007, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Tucker County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 199, at page 90.

This conveyance is made subject to any and all reservations, restrictions, exceptions, rights-of-way and easements as set forth in prior instruments of record in the chain of title to said real estate.

The above-described property will be sold subject to all reservations, restrictions, exceptions and conditions contained in all prior deeds conveying said real estate except those pertaining to race, color or creed, and subject to all unpaid levies and assessments including real estate taxes. TERMS OF SALE: Cash in hand on day of sale, or ten percent (10% down), or approved line of credit with

closing to occur within thirty (30) days . Purchaser accepts subject real estate "AS IS" The undersigned Substitute Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids received, and to continue said

sale from time to time, upon announcement thereof given verbally, on day of sale and any continuance thereof. Dated this 5th day of December, 2024.

Junifu L. Mrcgau Jehnifer J. Morgan, Substitute Trustee

#### **Christmas Concert**

The Tucker Community Chorus will have their Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 at St. John's Lutheran Church in

Davis and Monday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at First Methodist Church in Parsons. Please join us in our joyful celebration of the birth of Our Lord Jesus.





Dec. 16, 1897: The last public hanging in West Virginia occurred in Ripley. John F. Morgan had been convicted of murdering Chloe Greene and two of her three children in the Grass Lick area of Jackson County.

*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.

Dec. 11, 1905: "Pare" Lorentz, known as "FDR's filmmaker," was born in Clarksburg. In 1933, Lorentz created The Roosevelt Year: 1933, a pictorial review of FDR's first year in the White House.

Dec. 12, 1931: Attorney George Daugherty, better known as the comic singer, storyteller, and songwriter "The Earl of Elkview," was born upstairs over a Mannington silent movie house.

Dec. 12, 1942: Internationally known jazz pianist and recording artist Bob Thompson was born in Jamaica, Queens, New York. He studied music at West Virginia State College (now University) and is the house pianist for the Mountain Stage radio program.

Dec. 12, 1953: Chuck Yeager set a speed record by flying two-and-a-half times the speed of sound in a Bell X-1A. Yeager, who grew up in Hamlin, had broken the sound barrier six years earlier on Oct. 14, 1947.

Dec. 13, 1861: The Battle of Allegheny Mountain, one of the bloodiest conflicts of the Civil War's first year, took place in Pocahontas County.

Dec. 13, 1926: Wheeling radio station WWVA-AM began broadcasting. The 50-watt station operated from the basement of John Stroebel's house for most of its first year. Stroebel was a physics teacher and wireless pioneer.

Dec. 14, 1910: The accidental death of a Chesapeake & Ohio Railway engineer near St. Albans led to the popular train song "Billy Richardson's Last Ride."

Dec. 14, 1857: Coal operator Justus Collins was born. He owned mines at Glen Jean and Whipple, and the octagonal Whipple company store survives today as a local landmark.

Dec. 15, 1879: Roman Catholic Bishop John Joseph Swint was born in Pickens. He was responsible for building many religious institutions in the Diocese of Wheeling (now the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston).

Dec. 15, 1953: Blacksmith Jeff Fetty was born in Spencer and later graduated from Spencer High School. In 2012, he was named one of the world's top metal designers by the International Metal Design Annual—becoming only the sixth American to receive the honor.

Dec. 15, 1967: The Silver Bridge at Point Pleasant collapsed, killing 46 people. The Silver Bridge was opened to traffic on May 19, 1928. The accident led to the passage of legislation for a national bridge inspection and safety

Dec. 15, 1972: An explosion at a Weirton Steel coke plant on Browns Island killed 19 men and injured 10 others. It was the worst industrial accident in Weirton's history.

Dec. 16, 1893: Alexander Martin died at the age of 71 in Greencastle, Indiana. Martin was the first president of the Agricultural College of West Virginia, which was renamed West Virginia University at his recommendation in 1868.

Dec. 17, 1957: The J. L. Stifel & Sons calico plant at Wheeling closed. For most of its history, Stifel & Sons produced indigo-dyed prints and drills for clothing manufacturers. At its peak, the plant produced 3.5 million yards of cloth per month.

# Randolph Judge Available for Christmas Weddings

ELKINS, W.Va. - Twenty-Second Family Court Circuit Judge Lori Haynes will be performing Christmas weddings from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, December 19, in her courtroom in Suite 202, 32 Randolph Avenue, Elkins.

The courtroom will be decorated for the

Anyone who wants to be married by Judge Haynes on that day should contact her office at 304-630-1169.

## **Weather Totals**

Nov. 26- Dec. 3 2024

**Nursery Bottom Parsons** 

<u>Temperature</u> 50° F Max 9°F Min

**Precipitation** 

Week 0.62" November 4.35" 0.62" December 2024 46.73"

**Snowfall New Snow** 1" Snow on ground 0.5" Winter Total

U.S. Forest Service

## Weekly **SUDOKU**

3			1		7	2		6
3 5		6	4	2			1	
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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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#### By Teri Cayton

The Parsons Advocate

It looks as if winter has settled into West Virginia for a time anyway, the ski resorts are absolutely loving it and with the cold weather, they can make snow round the clock. Momma Said, "Just the opposite of making hay while the sun shines but the same principal, work hard, play harder."

The weather is calling for rain next week so I hope it stays cold enough in the mountains to keep their base and let them continue to make snow. We have had so many disappointing ski seasons lately, they really need a break. It doesn't take long in a seasonal based business to lose respect with customers and they just go somewhere else. I know as well as they do that we can only do so much with what the weather hands us. Momma Said, "Or so the talking heads say!!!"

I don't put anything past what can be done today and supposedly slipped by the American public. So many people walk around Momma ( Saíd This column is about tips helpful hints, recipes and words of wisdom. I dedicate this column to m By Teri Cayton

with their heads in the sand and just don't care. As long as they have WiFi signal and internet in their homes and businesses, they just scroll past the serious stuff to watch cat videos.

We are becoming a society of nonchalant, disinterested puppets that don't care what is happening around us until it affects our internet connected lives. How long has it been since you just simply looked up to gaze at the beautiful sky or look at the stars?

## KITCHEN SINK COOKIES

- 1 cup salted butter softened
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 21/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup crushed pretzels
- 1 cup potato chips
- 4 graham crackers broken up
- 1 cup toffee bits Flaky sea salt for garnish

#### **Instructions**

- Preheat the oven to 375°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
- In a large mixing bowl with an electric mixer, or in the bowl of a stand mixer, beat together the butter and the sugars until they are creamy and combined, about 2-3 minutes using the paddle attachment of a stand mixer or an electric hand mixer.
- Add in the vanilla and the eggs and beat again, scraping the bottom and sides of the bowl until everything is evenly mixed together.
- Stir the flour, salt, and baking soda into the wet ingredients and mix just until they are incorporated. It is okay if a few streaks of flour remain since the dough will continue being mixed together while adding the mix-ins.
- Add the milk chocolate chips, semisweet chocolate chips, crushed pretzels, potato chips, graham cracker pieces, and toffee bits into the flour mixture and stir just until evenly distributed.

- 6. Using a medium size cookie scoop, scoop balls of cookie dough onto the cookie sheets lined with parchment paper. Space them about 1 to 2 inches apart to allow for spreading.
- Bake the cookies for 10-12 minutes until golden brown and set around the edges. Top with the flaky sea salt. Let the cookies cool for 5 minutes on the baking sheet before transferring them to a cooling rack.

#### **NOTES**

- Make Ahead: The cookie dough will keep in the refrigerator for up to 4 days if covered with plastic wrap or stored in an airtight container. When you want to make cookies with it, simply let it come to room temperature, form it into balls, and bake, or shape the cookie dough into balls first before refrigerating and bake immediately when you are ready. You can also freeze the dough to bake much later. To do this, flash-freeze cookie dough balls on a baking sheet and store them in a freezer bag in the freezer for up to 6 months. To bake from frozen, decrease the baking temp to 325°F and increase the baking time to 16-18 minutes.
- Storage: Store your cookies in an airtight container or a Ziploc bag, at room temperature for up to 7 days.
- Freezing: You can freeze baked cookies, once they have completely cooled, in a freezer-safe container or a freezer bag for up to 3 months. Put a piece of parchment paper or plastic wrap between each layer of cookies to prevent them from sticking together.
- **Yield:** This recipe makes 18 generous sized cookies, 12 BIG cookies, or 24 small cookies.

## **Super** Crossword

**TEEPEES** 

83 Festivity

84 Pigeon

87 Males

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(Easter

Island)

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de León

#### 90 Inherent **ACROSS** 46 Pie — mode 6 Indian dish The United **49** Abbr. on a hanging-7 Height: Prefix road map States' down 8 The whole landmass. 50 With position? 9 King, in Caen with "the" 96 SeaWorld

whale, once

to snoop a

44-Down 9 Rafter's decay of 100 Fake identity building challenge 15 Shul scroll timbers **101** Fuels (up) 51 Colon part 20 Another 102 "It won't hurt similar thing 52 Communist 21 Barack and Joseph

Michelle 22 Give the slip 23 Like babies who throw tantrums when you try to put diapers strike? 25 News outlets

26 RBI or ERA 27 Film lead-in to "Cop" 28 Photo 29 More nimble 30 Trellis climber 32 Having a

sore mouth from working long hours at a kissing booth? 36 Joint a sock often covers

39 Chipped in, in poker 40 Beckett title

an energy

collage? 72 The "A" of "A-Rod" 73 Depart 74 Air out horse

muscle character 41 Intense fire used as

little!"? 55 Egyptian god 107 Body of eau of the dead 108 Kind of acid 57 Declaration in vinegar while pointing 109 Debt note at a group of 110 Architect Saarinen workers on 112 "Slung" food 62 Scent sensor 116 St. 63 George at (Caribbean Gettysburg 64 Airy melody 117 Hassle of 65 Statement tracking down when you're a missing nearly ready retirement to complete a payment? **121** Vintage song 122 Stress 123 Spiritual self

124 Foundations 125 Peanut butter 77 Mesmerizing cup brand **126** Bread movement? browners 83 Limb-bending **DOWN** 85 Is theatrical 86 Pod item

1 Cobra types 2 Castle ditch 87 Color grade 3 Avenger Peel 88 Actress 4 Lizard, e.g. Gasteyer 5 British verb 89 Tangle of hair

10 Belly muscles 11 Jean (perfume brand) 12 Windows ad

catchphrase 13 Language of Copenhagen, to locals **14** New jet in '68 15 Worked as an office sub 16 Carry too far 17 Howard Stern's area

18 "Bye, Brigitte" 19 Bodily pump 24 Conductor Georg 29 "Every seat sold" abbr 31 "La Traviata" composer 33 Spy novelist Deighton

34 Shareable PC file

35 Vainglory 36 Chef's tie-on 37 "Untrue!" 38 Maryland congressman – Mfume 39 Even a

12

**44** See 50-Across 45 High degree 47 Falsification 48 Cookout

90 Rapa pest 52 BBQ rod 53 Mosaic 91 Solar beam 92 Frazier foe piece 54 On the go 93 Sheet fabric 56 Withdraw 94 Website Aviv visit unit 95 Pilot Amelia 58 Deli meat

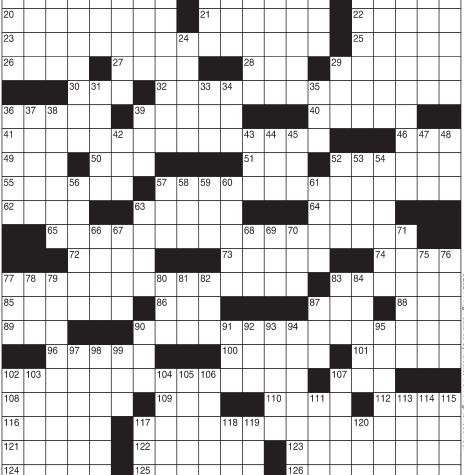
59 Foofaraw 97 Actress 60 Model S car McDaniel of 61 Otherwise 63 Long skirt the Wind" 66 Balm plant 98 Comes up 67 Meshes 99 Nero's 2,100 68 A fifth of fifty **102** Bigwig 103 Florida city

69 D.C. donor 70 Abbr. on a 104 "Uncle!" crier, road map 105 Explorer 71 Dallasites or Houstonians 75 — word

106 Stratagems 107 Disney film (singleoccasion of 2016 111 Nevada coinage) 76 Plate 113 Highest holders 77 Skirt edge

point **114** — -Pei 78 Diva Sumac **115** Mama 79 Broken bits of ceramic birds 117 Golf material 80 Tax doc. pro average 118 Ending for 81 House

animal opal 119 Extra NBA 82 Novelist periods 42 Taxing gp. Santha 43 Mag bigwigs 120 — Plaines 13 18



Puzzle answers page 9

## **County Commission**

said. "Really I kind of hate the word tourism, its really small business. We are people who are trying to run small businesses in the community that is going to contribute back. Have jobs for your children, have jobs for you, have jobs for all these people. Without the jobs, without the community support."

According to Price, for the past three years, Timberline has hired EMS crews crews during their peak times to be on hand. "EMS wise, I have been working with EMS for the last 3 years," Price said. "I guess, the first year we did Randolph County because you guys weren't quite ready. But we have been bringing in an ambulance on our highest times, paying for it out of our pocket, so that there wasn't a burden on the community. I thought that that was the responsible thing for a business to do was and it worked really well."

Price said the fee would end Timberline's ability to hire EMS crews this coming season. "I was really happy working with Tucker County making that work. It was good for them, it was good for us," Price said. "We aren't going to be able to do that this year, unfortunately. This fee is going to impact our bottom line."

One of the largest complaints that the business owners had was that they were not consulted on the fee or how it would be rolled out. Greg Downing, owner of the Alpine Lodge in Davis said that he felt the process could have been more collaborative, It was a sentiment that was expressed by Price and many others during the meeting. "I wish this could have been more collaborative," Downing said. "I know you guys could have done it the way you did it, that doesn't mean you should have done it the way that you did it."

Price said the fee is going to be a shock to Timberline's system and will effect not only their bottom line, but also their employees. "It is going to be a shock to our system and it is going to affect our employees and that is who I care about more than anything, more than our customers, more than anything," Price said. "Its going to affect them because it is going to affect our bottom line and they make money off our bottom line."

Rosenau responded to Price's comments by addressing the subject of a meeting he said they had in Charleston with Jessica Waldo of the Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau in State Senator Randy Smith's office. "We set a year ago in Randy Smith's office in Charleston, West Virginia, at that point we had a meeting with Senator Smith, we had a meeting with Jessica Waldo and we had a meeting with you when an amusement tax was being discussed," Rosenau said. "You've known for years that we've worked on stuff like this. You told us then, there's no way you would support it because it would put your company out of business and that the EMS problem was

a problem of the County."

Price denied the comment. "That doesn't sound like something I would say," Price said.

Jessica Waldo of the Tucker County CVB spoke on comments made by Rosenau in his opening statements, as well as on the overall nature of Tourism in the County. "I don't want there to be a thought that over the years Tourism hasn't contributed," Waldo said. "The Hotel/Motel Tax has contributed to Fire and EMS."

Waldo said that whenever the County has brought concerns to the CVB, they have tried to addressed them immediately. "The CVB is the Convention and Visitors Bureau for Tucker County, when it has been brought to my attention that it feels slighted, we work really hard to try to change our ways in the way that we do things to try to be as fair around the county."

Waldo also said that the CVB operates according to their laws of operation and funding distribution. "We also abide by the law that is wrote on how we are supposed to operate," Waldo said. "And we do abide by the minimum ways that we are supposed to spend our funding. We exceed those numbers and continue to exceed those numbers on the way that our budget is spent."

According to Waldo, she presents an annual report to the Commission and local municipalities in the Spring. Waldo also said that budget, reports and other financial documents are always available for review upon request. "Every year in the Spring, I come down to the Commission and the Municipalities and present my annual report," Waldo said. "Which I will be working on and submitting soon."

Waldo said the CVB exists to promote Tourism in the County and support the economy. "Our mission is to promote Tourism in Tucker County and I am just paraphrasing here, but we are here to promote Tucker County as a Tourism destination and in turn increasing tourism in the area and people traveling and visiting, benefiting the tourism part and the economy of Tucker County," Waldo said

Kevin White, CVB Board Member and Parsons Fire Chief, said he felt he was the man walking a tightrope because he was not only a member of the CVB, but a stanch supporter of the County Commissioners and the 2% fee. White spoke out in verdant support of the measure. "So I'm the guy walking the tightrope tonight," White said. "I'm part of the CVB. I'm one of the seven board members...I support the CVB. I know what wonderful work they do to promote our County and to bring Tourism here and to bring jobs here. I can understand what they are going through."

White invited the room to attend CVB meetings and praised the work that the organization does. "If you

could come to some of our meetings, which you can, and see the work that these people put in, and the tireless hours Jessica puts in to make sure that Tucker County has what it has, you would truly understand the purposes," White said.

However, White said he was 100% behind the Commission on the measure. He said his stance stemmed from his understanding of the importance of EMS and the work they do. "Now, I'm 100% behind the County Commission," White said. "That's why I'm the guy on the tightrope. Because I understand the importance of EMS. I understand the importance of finding that financial component that is fair as possible to everybody to suit everybody and it has."

White said he has been a fireman for 38 years and Chief of Parsons for 12 years and understands the unique burden EMS workers face. "I've been a fireman for 38 years," White said. "I've been the Chief of Parsons Fire Department for 12 years. I have brothers in black that have been with me for just about as many years as that. I understand what they go through on a daily basis, the burden and I'm not putting our burden on the people or the guests that come here. The burden is on our entire County. We still have to find a way."

White said that he does not have the answer, but feels this is the most equitable and fair option he has seen. "I'm not saying that I have an answer," White said. "I'm saying over the 38 years that I have been doing this, this is possibly the quite fairest proposal I've heard of because even me if I go golfing, I will pay. I go kayak I will pay it. So as Commissioner Davis said, it goes to everybody. If I have my family come in, we are going to pay it."

White said he felt that the County Community are a Team and the businesses and the County Commission need to find common ground in order to come together to make the fee work. "We are a team here, somehow, someway, we have to figure out a way to find common ground, come together and do this," White said. "I can't tell you that this is going to fix all of our problems, I pray it does, I truly do, because I understand what me and Sheriff Kopek is doing, some State Police, EMS. We spent 14, 16 hours last Thursday night standing out in Canaan Valley, out in 219, out on 72 and out on the Tucker County line, trying to make sure the people in this county were safe. A lot of those people were volunteers. And they don't get paid nothing for it and some of them even miss work to do this. Our Team consists of every single individual in this room. Somewhere we have to find common ground and make this work."

For more on the 2% fee, see our other companion pieces on the positive comments and Mike Rosenau's address to the crowd in this issue.

**Cont. From Front Page 1** 

#### **Need for Fee**

with in trying to get EMS funded."

Rosenau said that in July of 2025, due to financial restraints and shortfalls, the Ambulance Authority will be forced to reduced service to one ambulance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "In order to keep our County safe, we know we don't have the funding for ambulance service," Rosenau said. "24/7, at least two crews. In July of 2025, we will be down to 1 crew 24/7. That's the reality of everything."

According to Rosenau, 40% of EMS calls in the County are from out of County residents. "With 40% of the calls being billed outside of the County, the only fair way we can see for everybody to pay the fair amount, is this," Rosenau said.

Rosenau said that the 2% fee doesn't include the efforts of the volunteer fire crews in the County that often include accident scene duties and lost hiker recoveries. "When you want to talk the 40% of the bills outside our County, that's not including, that's not including, that's just EMS, the volunteer firemen we have for the accidents along the road that stand out there while we're sitting at our house drinking a cup of coffee," Rosenau said. "Guiding traffic so we are safe. So every resident and every guest coming to our County are safe. We don't talk about the tourists that these firemen are out for three or four days in Blackwater Canyon and trying to carry them out after

we get them. This is not even part of that."

Tucker County Commissioner Fred Davis said that not only visitors will pay under the new fee, but residents, as well. Davis said it is not all about out of state visitors paying, but anyone who uses the amusements and amenities. "Its about life. Its not all about money," Davis said

Davis said it is his responsibility as a Commissioner to insure that an Ambulance Service remains in Tucker County and that meant that when he was informed that come June or July the Ambulance Authority may not be able to meet its obligations, the Commission had to take action. "We meet with the Ambulance Authority, we meet with everyone," Davis said. "When they come to me, as a Commissioner, one of my books says my rule for me is make sure there is an Ambulance Service. When they come to me and said that in June and July they might not have one, that's on me. We got to do something."

Long term plans for the Commission and the Ambulance Authority include upgrading the crews to ALS status crews with two full time ambulance crews for the County and increasing wages to be more competitive in the market. "The main thing is we have to have an Ambulance Service, two crews, ALS crews, not BLS crews," Rosenau said. "What we have now is EMTs

because that is all we can afford. Then we can't even be competitive...competitive wages."

Rosenau said that the lack of paramedics on crews means that on some calls, Tucker County must rely on the assistance of other Counties. "So we have to if we have somebody with a cardiac arrest, we have to call Randolph County to meet us at the County line or Garret County or Preston County because we don't have a paramedic," Rosenau said. "Because we cannot afford the cost of a paramedic."

Rosenau said that given the financial restraints and the crew upgrades needed, he cannot see how anyone could not understand the need for the fee. "I can't understand how somebody cannot see the need," Rosenau said.

Tucker County Commissioner Tim Knotts said the Commission worked long and hard to come up with a fair and equitable solution. Knotts said he felt the fee was the fairest way he knew of to address the issue.

Rosenau said that the County strives to serve both residents and visitors with the services it has equally and in the best way possible. "In Tucker County we serve the guests and the residents the very best we can with what we have," Rosenau said.

For more on the 2% fee, see our other companion pieces on the positive comments and the negative comments in this issue.

## **Support**

sense to me."

Dracovich said he had heard of several calls to Timberline in which the individuals refused to go to the hospital. These calls, according to Dracovich were on days when only one ambulance was in service in the County. "I've heard in the last short while, that the ambulance has been called up to Timberline four times in two days, there was only one crew on, they were called up there and the guy wouldn't go to the hospital," Dracovich said. "So that is a wasted call that they can't collect nothing for. Not only that, what if somebody down here, a child, got hit by a car or something? There was only one unit. So what are you going to do...its just not right. I commend you guys for doing this."

Longtime resident Joy Showalter thanked the Commission for the fee. "I would like to thank you Commissioners for putting that fee on," Showater said. "I agree 100% with it and I want you all to know that I have been a resident of Tucker County ever since 1960 and since I've been here they have absolutely took Tucker County over and I am so glad you Commissioners are standing up for the residents and taking care of us and I'd like to thank you and appreciate you."

Local short term rental owner Jeremy Hile said he supports the fee and cannot understand how any of his fellow business owners could oppose it. "I would like to thank you coming up with this," Hile said. "As you all know, if I disagree with something I will be here giving you all a headache. I'm not here to do that tonight. This works. I have a rental cabin here in the County. People that come to this County are not going to not come because of a 2% fee. It is a great fix to a problem that has been a long time problem in this County...I cannot understand where the opposition is to this."

Hile said he feels blessed to be able to travel and expects to pay fees while on the road. "I am blessed to be able to do some traveling with my family and when we travel, we expect that we are going to pay some fees," Hile said. "I mean if you can't afford it, don't do it, but that's not going to happen in this County. People that are going to come ski, are going to come kayak, or whatever, are going to still come. Two percent is not even going to make people – especially when we put it on (there)."

Hile said the fee is going to be placed along with the other taxes on the receipts, invoices and bills. Hile said the fee is a matter of safety while in the County. "She's going to put it on there exactly what it is," Hile said. "You got your 6% tax, 6% hotel/motel tax and your 2% ambulance fee. People are going to look at that and be happy. I have a way to be taken care of when I'm in this County. I cannot understand the opposition. Its not coming out of my pocket. Its coming out of the tourist who expect to have to pay their fair share for their safety in this County."

Hile said a lack of ambulance service would have a far greater negative affect on tourism than a 2% fee. Hile also vowed to support the Commission in any way he could on the matter. "I would be more reluctant to come to this County for lack of safety then to pay a 2% fee to know that when I call I'm going to get an ambulance," Hile said. "So thank you, guys . I agree with this. I just can't understand the opposition that I've heard for any of the businesses. You're going to tack it on, its that simple. I'm going to pay it if I go up and ski, I'm fine with that. If I go to Morgantown, there's a City Use tax that we pay above and beyond 6%, every time we go to every city around us, except for Tucker County. What are we here griping about? I can't understand it. But thank you, thank you for hearing me. I will support you in any way I can."

Cont. From Front Page 1

Owner of the Ski Barn, Whit Carmenetti said that a similar fee was put into place successfully in Pocahontas County. "We had a very similar situation that was imposed by the Commission of Pocahontas County called the Resort District Fee," Carmenetti said. "It was used for more than just an ambulance. It was used to subsidize the old fire station at Snowshoe that is now a paid service. It has worked out well. I am pretty neutral on the political side of things here. As a business, I am pretty interested to see how it goes through and it processes and how it will be collected. Just interested in more fact finding and more information. Thank you guys for having this meeting tonight."

Rosenau said he had spoken to Pocahontas County regarding their fee and its impact. "I talked to the President of the Commission in Pocahontas County," Rosenau said. "I talked about lift ticket prices, I talked about what their hotel/motel fund coming in was for them and Pocahontas County, Snowshoe, the lift ticket is average more expensive then it is in Timberline."

According to Rosenau, the fee had no negative affect on business in Pocahontas County. "But the revenue generated from their hotel/motel tax the percentage that goes to their County Commission, we have, in our County hotel/motel tax goes a half million dollars," Rosenau said. "In Pocahontas County they are over two million. So what that tells me, even with the fee they have in Pocahontas County, the increased prices of lift tickets in Pocahontas County, they still have more tourism. So it did not affect the tourism in Pocahontas County. Its proven."

However, not all comments during the meeting were positive on the matter. For more on the 2% fee, see our other companion pieces on the negative comments and Mike Rosenau's address to the crowd in this issue.

## We Get Letters

#### Letter to The Editor

I'm writing this letter to the residents of Tucker to give you my opinion on the EMS fee that our commissioners county have put in place. They say their authority to do this is state code7-15-17. I say this code does not give them the authority to put the fee on as they have. The first sentence of the code I quote "A county commission may, by ordinance, impose upon and collect from the users of the emergency ambulance service within the county a special service fee, which shall be known as the special emergency ambulance service fee". This code has been on the books since 1975. This the same code they used a few years ago and put a \$50.00 fee on all property owners and it was not right then.

This code gives them the authority to put on special service fee on the USERS of the emergency ambulance service. This would be a fee that is added to the user's bill like a surcharge when they use the service. This code does not give them the authority to just pick part of the local businesses of the county to collect and pay it. It wasn't right before and it not right now.

When you are following code, you must follow it to the letter. You just can't take the name of it and make the rest up as you go along. If I had a business that they were saying had to pay this fee I would tell them that only after it has gone thru the courts.

I'm not a lawyer and don't pretend to be, but I have talked to some over the past few years about this and they say the same thing this is not right. This code has been on the books since 1975, if it could be this way don't you think the rest of the county's thru out the state wouldn't have used it.

Let me say I'm not against the EMS; I'm against the way they are trying to run it. This is a business, and the county should not be trying to run a business. Our county commissioners are there to govern and lead the county. Ours does neither. The only things that grow in this county is the size of the county government and our taxes. The popu-

lation is down more than 50% in the last 50 years, and the amount of people working for the county government has more than double. They create jobs instead of using contractors that will put more money into the local economy. They are working on building a campground down at camp kid. They are using tax dollars to build it, then it will compete with local campgrounds, this is not right. Their job is to govern not waste taxpayers' money.

It's a shame that we don't have competent people to govern our county.

I also wanted to say that if this letter upsets anybody I don't care the truth normally hurts. There are a lot of things going on within Tucker co government that's not right, this is just the first they will be more letters in the future.

I was just thinking about that maybe we should have some signs thru out the county that says. Welcome to Tucker County home of dumb, dumb and dumber. Maybe I'll order some.

Harry Hardy

## **Attorney General Morrisey Urges Consumers to Be Cautious of Undeliverable Package Emails and Text Messages**

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey urges consumers to be extra cautious if they receive emails or text messages about an undeliverable package.

The advice comes as part of the Attorney General's Holiday Consumer Protection Week.

"Online shopping is convenient and brings many retailers to our fingertips," Attorney General Morrisey said. "Scammers will try to take advantage of increased online commerce during the holiday season so consumers should be extra cautious if they receive notifications about an undeliverable package."

When you buy something online, retailers typically send several notification emails or texts about your order including an order confirmation email, a shipping notification, and when your package has been delivered.

Scammers try to take advantage of consumers by sending fake emails or texts with a message about an undeliverable package and that in order to get your shipment, you should click on a link to provide more information. Fraudsters could also send a message that your purchase is ready to ship but you need to update your shipping preferences.

One tactic these scammers use is making the messages sound urgent by saying if you don't respond quickly, your package will be returned to the sender.

What should consumers do if they receive a message like this? Here are a few tips to protect your personal identifiable information and banking information:

If a message tells you to click on a link

to update your information, do not click the link.

If you think it could be about a purchase you have recently made, go to the website where you made your order and check the status of your shipment.

If you think the message could be legitimate, contact the shipping company using a phone number or website you know is real. Do not rely on the information in the

This scam surfaces throughout the year but is especially prevalent during the busy holiday season. When you contact the scammer, they will ask for verification of your accounts or other identification to be able to access your account. No matter what time of year it is, consumers need to take precautions to protect their personal information.

In addition, packages arrive at doors more frequently during the holiday shopping season because of the popularity of online shopping. Thieves have been known to pilfer packages from porches, so it is important for consumers to take pre-

Consumers should consider having packages shipped to their workplace or to a trusted neighbor's house instead of allowing packages to be left unattended at home. Consumers can also opt to have their packages shipped to a local post office or authorized FedEx or UPS locations for pick up.

Anyone who believes they have been the victim of a scam should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 800-368-8808 or file a complaint online at www.ago.wv.gov.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA CODE**

**MENU** 

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND ..

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.

All Articles Article 14E ARTICLE 15. EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE ACT OF 1975.

§7-15-17. Imposition and collection of special emergency ambulance service fee by county commission.



Article 16

A county commission may, by ordinance, impose upon and collect from the users of emergency ambulance service within the county a special service fee, which shall be known as the "special emergency ambulance service fee." The proceeds from the imposition and collection of any special service fee shall be deposited in a special fund and used only to pay reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred and the cost of buildings and equipment used in providing emergency ambulance service to residents of the county. The proceeds may be used to pay for, in whole or in part, the establishment, maintenance and operation of an authority, as provided for in this article: Provided, That an ambulance company or authority receiving funds from the special emergency ambulance fees collected pursuant to this section may not be precluded from making nonemergency transports.

## **Renovations Completed** on UHC Oncology

## Helping to meet the needs of an ever-increasing number of cancer patients in Central West Virginia

Bridgeport, WV—The Cecil B. Highland, Jr. & Darbara B. Highland Cancer Center at WVU Medicine United Hospital Center (UHC), has been a part of the Bridgeport campus with the opening of the hospital in 2010. Since then, patient volume has steadily increased, which necessitated the renovation of the oncology patient waiting area.

"The need for this renovation became more apparent with the continued patient growth at the UHC Cancer Center, as we have become a regional referral center for the central part of West Virginia," said David F. Hess, MD, president and CEO. "Patients can continue to expect to have access to the latest cancer treatments and care from our team of trusted doctors, advanced practice providers, nurse navigators, nurses, and staff."

UHC design and construction teams collaborated with doctors, employees, and patients to create an environment that cultivates healing and focuses on a patient-centered experience. The goal was to create a clinical setting to best satisfy patient and visitor needs, while at the same time provide a more efficient environment for staff.

"I think our patients and visitors will find that it is more than just a refresh of the waiting room space," said Meredith Williams, MPH, RN, OCN, director of

Cancer Services. "The new look is an inviting and healing surrounding, but it is also a reflection of the high level of care provided at UHC."

As patients and visitors enter the waiting area they will experience artwork of prominent scenic West Virginia destinations with enhanced LED accent lighting. Laminate flooring has been installed with a design that is representative of the local topography.

New wipeable furniture throughout the space features additional seating than

For enhanced comfort, a new cooling station features complimentary bottled water for visitors and patients. Additional restroom, office space, treatment bays, and exam rooms round out the updated offerings.

"It was important during the project to minimize any disruption of patient flow. Great care was taken to isolate construction activity and preserve waiting area access," Charlie Papa, vice president of Facilities Management said. "The oncology waiting room marks the fourth renovation project this year at UHC."

UHC's comprehensive community cancer program has been approved by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons since 1989.

## **Mountain Loggers Group brings** holiday spirit to WVU Medicine Children's with record gift

## The \$212K gift is the organization's largest single gift to the hospital

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. - One West Virginia organization's holiday tradition has continued to spread seasonal cheer with its yearly gift to WVU Medicine Children's. Mountain Loggers Group, Inc., donated more than \$212,723, a holiday tree, and toys that will support patients and families receiving treatment at the hospital.

Members of the Mountain Loggers Group joined WVU Medicine Children's for a check presentation and toy delivery outside the hospital prior to the hospital's annual "Holiday Lights & Good Nights" tree lighting on Dec. 4.

The Mountain Loggers Group raises funds through its annual Log-A-Load for Kids auction held in Elkins. This year's gift sets another record for the group's single largest contribution.

"The Mountain Loggers family is such an important part of our family here at WVU Medicine Children's," Amy L. Bush, B.S.N., M.B.A., R.N., C.N.O.R., chief administrative officer for WVU Medicine Children's, said. "We are so appreciative of their continued support of our mission to create healthier futures for our kids. Their gift is extra special at this time of year because of the holiday tree that will bring a smile to the faces of so many of our kids."

This year the donation will support the continued growth and impact WVU Medicine Children's has on patients and their families across

"We are thankful for the generosity we see within the logging industry and the community

who supports our events," Danny Sines, president of the Mountain Loggers Group, said. "It's such a proud tradition for us to be able to give back to WVU Medicine Children's. We enjoy being able to help them make a difference in the lives of so many kids and their families."

The holiday tree donation is a tradition that began with the opening of WVU Medicine Children's Hospital in 2022.

This year's tree is a 33-foot-tall Douglas fir tree that was donated by Mark Sturgill of Sturgill Tree Farms in Pocahontas County. The Mountain Loggers Group also decorated the tree with about 4,000 lights.

Sines wishes to thank J&L Trucking for delivering the tree, JR Gordon and The Welding Rod who provided crane services to lift the tree into position, and RDR Energy Services for the oversized presents that hold the tree in place all

The Mountain Loggers Group includes about 50 members spanning three states - West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Since the mid-1990s, its members have contributed more than \$2.6 million to benefit WVU Medicine

The Mountain Loggers' gifts are made through the WVU Foundation, the nonprofit organization that receives and administers private donations on behalf of the University and its affiliated entities.

## **Mini Grants Provide Essential Support** for Farmers Markets Statewide

Charleston, W.Va. - The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) teamed up with the West Virginia Farmers Market Association (WVFMA) to offer the 2024 WVFMA Mini-Grant Program which helps fund needed improvements/upgrades to farmers markets across the state. The WVFMA received 43 applications from traditional farmers markets, mobile markets and on-farm stands totaling \$194,000 in funding requests. This year, 14 markets were awarded a total of \$51,052. Eleven projects received full funding; three received partial awards.

While each market had their own specific needs, cold storage, site improvements, marketing materials, and wi-fi connectivity were the most requested items.

"Farmers markets across the state offer access to fresh produce, meats, herbs, flowers, and value-added products grown and made right here in West Virginia. Not only do these grants benefit the markets, they also benefit the people who shop there. Better access to home-grown, fresh food means better health for the people of West Virginia," stressed Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt.

The grant awardees are:

Blands Home and Farm Service - Dunmore

Granny Witch Gardens \$4,038.74

Grow Ohio Valley – Wheeling \$3,825

Hampshire Co. Farmers Market - Romney

Lewis Co. Farmers Market - Weston \$4,964.51

Lisa's Jars of Love - Huntington \$930 Jeans Farm Fresh – Burlington \$5,000 Mineral Co. Farmers Market - Keyser \$1,064 Morgantown Farmers Market - Morgantown

Peppermint Acres – Kenova \$1,315.98 The Local Farmers Market - Sistersville

Trailhead Farm – Gassaway \$4,956.56 White Picket Farm – Elizabeth \$4,944.95

WVU Parkersburg – Parkersburg \$4,587.63 "This program has allowed us to reach mar-

kets that are typically ineligible for grant funding or lack experience in applying for it," explained WVFMA Executive Director Holly Morgan. "Often, something as simple as a point-of-sale system can completely transform a market. In the 2023 mini-grant cycle, we saw smaller markets flourish. The ability to accept card payments allows these markets to process debit/credit cards and SNAP/EBT transactions, expanding their reach to more customers and keeping dollars in West Virginia to support local farm fami-

The WVDA provided the funding for the Mini-Grant Project and the WVFMA administered the grants.

For questions about the grants or the grant funding, contact Holly Morgan at executivedirector@wvfarmers.org or call 304-398-5214.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials who sits on the Board of Public Works.

DEADLINE **3PM FRIDAY** 

## Historic Season Ends in Semifinals with Loss to Wahama



Barb drives for extra yards

#### By: Adam Freeman

Back-to-back undefeated regular seasons with back-toback losses in the state semifinals is the result for the 2024 Mt. Lions football team. After a season full of big wins, big plays, and big numbers, it all came to an end last Saturday in Parsons with a 29-6 loss to the talons of the Wahama White Falcons. Tucker came out hot with a 70-yard run by Jared Reall on the opening possession that set up a 2-yard plunge into the end zone by QB Sam Marks. The twopoint try was unsuccessful, but Tucker was on the board



Reall finds the open field

first 6-0. Wahama would then score 16 unanswered points before the break, making the score 16-6 at the half. The White Falcons got the ball to start the third quarter and mounted a four-minute, 85-yard drive for a touchdown. The Wahama two-point conversion was no good keeping the game within two scores at 22-6. Tucker only possessed the ball once in the third quarter and it resulted in a turnover for the Mt. Lions. Wahama would find the goal line once more to start the fourth quarter and that would be the final score in the contest at 29-6. Tucker was led on the



Wilfong looks to make the reception (Photos by Brittany Channell)

ground by senior Jared Reall who had 19 carries for 143 yards and a touchdown, Sam Marks was 12-27 passing for 172 yards and one interception, Luke Barb had a game high 60 receiving yards and senior Garrett Wilfong led in receptions with 5 for 40 yards. The second undefeated regular season in a row, for head coach AJ Rapp ends with the loss to the Wahama White Falcons who will take on the Cameron Dragons next week for the State Championship in Charleston.

## Lady Mt. Lions Take Opener Over Tygarts Valley 68-33

#### By: Adam Freeman

The Tucker County Lady Mt. Lions basketball team made the trip to Mill Creek last Tuesday to take on the Bulldogs of Tygarts Valley for their season opener. Tucker got a doubledigit first quarter from senior Raven Matthews with 10 points. Matthews went 6-6 from the free throw line in the quarter as well. Tucker would hold the lead at 14-7 after one quarter of play. In the second quarter, the Lady Mt. Lions would get points from six different players and pushed their lead out to 35-20 at the half. Tucker would assert their dominance on defense in the scoring by Raven Mat-



Raven Matthews takes the shot amongst the defending Lady Bulldogs

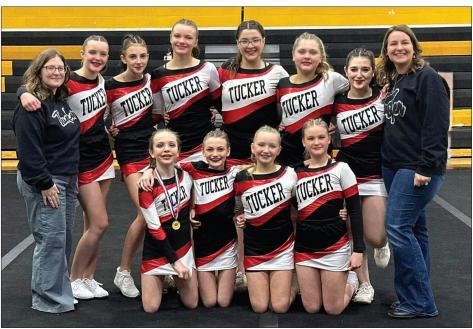
second half, as the Lady Bulldogs failed to reach double digits in either of the final two quarters. The Lady Mt. Lions would get the win with a final score of 68-33 over the Bulldogs. Tucker was led on the night in

**Lady Wildcats Fall to** 

**Tygarts Valley 23-16** 

thews who notched a game high 24 points, Addi Moats pitched in 12 points and Mayah Gross was double figures with 10 points. Tucker's next game will be on Wednesday, December 11th at Lincoln, JV tipoff is set for 5:45pm.

## **Tucker Valley Cheer Squad Hosts First Competition, Awarded Runners-Up**



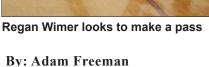
2024 Tucker Valley Competition Cheer Squad

## By: Adam Freeman

Three squads met at Tucker County High School this past Saturday morning to compete in a stand-alone Holiday Cheer Competition, with Tucker hosting for the first time. Squads included Elkins Middle Hornets, Belington Middle Hawks, and Tucker Valley Wildcats.



The squads all performed a technical cheer which had to be at least 30 seconds long but no more than 40 seconds and include two jumps. The squads then showcased a 2:30 second routine consisting of dance, tumbling and stunting. Elkins received first place and Tucker Valley took runners up. Of Tucker Valley, Mia Lambert was recognized as an "All-Star Cheerleader". The Tucker Valley Wildcats Cheer squad is coached by Dani Pennington and Marcy Hebb.



The Tucker Valley Lady Wildcats opened their season last week at home against the Tygarts Valley Lady Bulldogs. At the end of one quarter of play the game was close with a score of 9-5 in favor of the Lady Bulldogs. Tucker would fail to muster a basket in the second quarter and the Lady Bulldogs went up 13-5 at the break. Tucker would outscore Tygarts Val-



Marlee Evans with the put back (Photos by Brittany Channell)

ley 5-3 pushing the score to 16-10 at the end of the third. The Lady Wildcats couldn't complete the comeback, eventually falling in the contest with a score of 23-16. Tucker was led in scoring with 5 points by Regan Wimer, and 4 points by Amesley Channell. Tucker's next contest will be at home on Tuesday, December 10th against Kasson, tip off is set for 6:00pm

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**DEADLINE 3PM FRIDAY** 

## **DT Boys Take Loss to Romney 42-21**

**Bv: Adam Freeman** 

The Davis Thomas boys' basketball team opened their season this past week at home against Romney Middle School. Romney jumped out to lead of 10-4 at the end of the first quarter. DT would continue to battle and at the half, the score was 26-12. Romney's lead would grow in the third quarter to 33-16, with the eventual final being 42-21 in favor of the Romney Pioneers. DT was led in scoring by 6th grade guard Nolan Luzier with 10 points, Jarrett Dearborn and Elijah O'Brien both chipped in 4 points. The



Nolan Luzier sets for the free throw

Bears will play again on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00pm in Moorefield.



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## THANK YOU FOR READING

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## YOU CAN HELP...

## WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Local Children in Need



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

## How can I help?

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

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

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

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

## How will the children's clothing be purchased?

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

#### CLIP & MAIL

Enclosed is my donation to the WARM THE CHILDREN FUND. Make checkspayable to WARM THE CHILDREN FUND.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

MAIL TO: WARM THE CHILDREN FUND

c/o The Parsons Advocate P.O. Box 345, Parsons, WV 26287

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

# TCF donates time to help feed the needy during the holidays



The Tucker Community Foundation recently donated money and time at the Mt. Storm Power Plant to help pack food boxes for the needy, in the surrounding counties. Several organizations came together to purchase and pack food boxes for the needy. The volunteers were able to pack 1850 boxes during the one day event, that was enough to provide food and other essentials to 270 different families in the surrounding counties. Each family receives 5 boxes, each one with different items like canned goods, pasta and other dry goods, paper products, and cleaning products, each family receives over \$300 worth of products to help during the holidays. Pictured at the box packing event is TCF staff left to right: Taylor Ambrose, Angie Pase, Aggie Arnold, Mike Moore, and David Cooper. Also participating but not pictured was Dr. David Moran, TCF Board President.

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