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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 site.”

Once finished, the trails on Dobbins Slashing will

provide important connections for the area’s current trail system.

“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.

About Eastern

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.

The Parsons Advocate

FROM THE MOUNTAINS
TO THE VALLEYS
YOUR HOMETOWN
OR YOUR SECOND HOME

We bring you news from
Tucker County every week.

Fill out this coupon to subscribe
today or visit us online at
www.parsonsadvocate.com

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ADDRESS:_____

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— Circle One —

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\$42/Year	\$47/Year	\$29/Year

Anywhere	Monthly
Print & Web	Print & Web
\$59/Year	\$5.75/Month
	<small>Autorenewal Credit/Debit only</small>

SEND CHECKS TO THE PARSONS ADVOCATE
P.O. BOX 345 PARSONS, WV 26287

The Parsons Advocate

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PARSONS ADVOCATE LETTERS TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

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

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 will not be published.

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

Virginia "Louise" (Froman) Lipscomb

Virginia "Louise" (Froman) Lipscomb 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 great grandchildren,



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.

Linda Lou Bright Helmick

Linda Lou Bright Helmick, 79, a resident of Hendricks, passed from this life Saturday, November 30, 2024, at Mon General Hospital in Morgantown. Linda was born Saturday, 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 wife, Tina, of Fairmont, Kevin Helmick and wife, Donna, of Hambleton, and Annette Rhodes and husband, Paul, of Hendricks, one sister, Shirley Far-



row of Pennsylvania, one brother, Eldred Bright of New York, four grandchildren, Bayli Helmick, Steven Rhodes, David Rhodes, and Jon Rhodes, four great grandchildren, Kylie Rhodes, Mad-die 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. She 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 no services will be honored. The Hostetler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Linda Lou Bright Helmick. Send online condolences to the family at: www.hostetlerfuneral-home.com.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

MERRY Christmas

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 Closed for the Holidays

If you have any inquires, questions, want to place an ad or pay for a subscription please call the Lewisburg 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

LET US KNOW "WHAT'S HAPPENING"

304-478-3533

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 observed:

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

MINERS & MERCHANTS Bank

Oakland, Md. Thomas, W.Va. Bayard, W. Va.

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.

START YOUR WEEK AT WORSHIP

Stevens' Florist

120 Poplar St., Parsons, WV 26287
(304) 478-2161

If you do not have a church, we invite you to consider

St. John's United Methodist Church
River St., Parsons, WV 26287
(304) 478-2620

CITY OF PARSONS PRESENTS

RED, WHITE, & BLUE Christmas

DECEMBER 14, 2024 | LINE UP 5 PM | BEGINS 6 PM

HOT COCOA | MUSIC | S'MORES

COME OUT AND JOIN US FOR A CHRISMAS SALUTE TO OUR HOMETOWN HEROS

FOR PARADE REGISTRATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY OF PARSONS AT (304) 478-2311 OR VIA EMAIL RWILFONG@PARSONSWV.GOV

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

Parsons Advocate

Parsons, WV • 304-478-3533

Kingsford Manufacturing Co.

Parsons, WV • 304-478-2991

The Grant County Bank

Davis, WV • 304-259-5201

Mountain Valley Bank, NA

Parsons, WV • 304-478-2461
www.mountainvalleybank.com
Member FDIC

Jim's All Star Foods

Parsons, Wv 304-478-3248

WV Paving Company

"Builders of Highways & Byways"
Parsons, WV • 304-478-2400

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
Riley 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 interest.

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 date 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 4, 2024
Decedent: John W. Wiles
Filed By: Karen I. Wiles
9645 Lismore Ln.
Mentor, OH 44060

Relationship: Wife
Subscribed and sworn to before me on November 26, 2024
Sherry Simmons
Tucker County Clerk

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 interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 1691.	\$ 153.08
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
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, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 938.71
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 1,366.37

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, West Virginia, on

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 follows:

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

Humanities 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

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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 date 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

Relationship: Daughter
Subscribed and sworn to before me on November 26, 2024
Sherry Simmons
Tucker County Clerk

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 .

Jennifer L. Morgan
Jennifer L. Morgan, Substitute Trustee

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

County Commission

Cont. From Front Page 1

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

Need for Fee

Cont. From Front Page 1

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

Support

Cont. From Front Page 1

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,” Showalter 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.”

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

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

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.

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 Garrett 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.

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 county commissioners have put in place. They say their authority to do this is state code 7-15-17. 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 busi-

nesses 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

WEST VIRGINIA CODE

≡ MENU

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND ...

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.

Article 14E

All Articles

Article 16

ARTICLE 15. EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE ACT OF 1975.

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



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. & Barbara 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 before.

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.

Attorney General Morrissey Urges Consumers to Be Cautious of Undeliverable Package Emails and Text Messages

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey 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 Morrissey 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 message.

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 precautions.

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.

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 the region.

"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 season.

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 Children's.

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 \$5,000

Granny Witch Gardens – Huntington \$4,038.74

Grow Ohio Valley – Wheeling \$3,825

Hampshire Co. Farmers Market – Romney \$4,958.63

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 \$4,961

Peppermint Acres – Kenova \$1,315.98

The Local Farmers Market – Sistersville \$505.93

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 markets 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 families."

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

SPORTS

Historic Season Ends in Semifinals with Loss to Wahama



Barb drives for extra yards



Reall finds the open field



Wilfong looks to make the reception (Photos by Brit-tany Channell)

By: Adam Freeman
Back-to-back undefeated regular seasons with back-to-back 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 two-point try was unsuccessful, but Tucker was on the board

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 turn-over 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

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 double-digit 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



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 scoring by Raven Mat-

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.

Lady Wildcats Fall to Tygarts Valley 23-16



Regan Wimer looks to make a pass

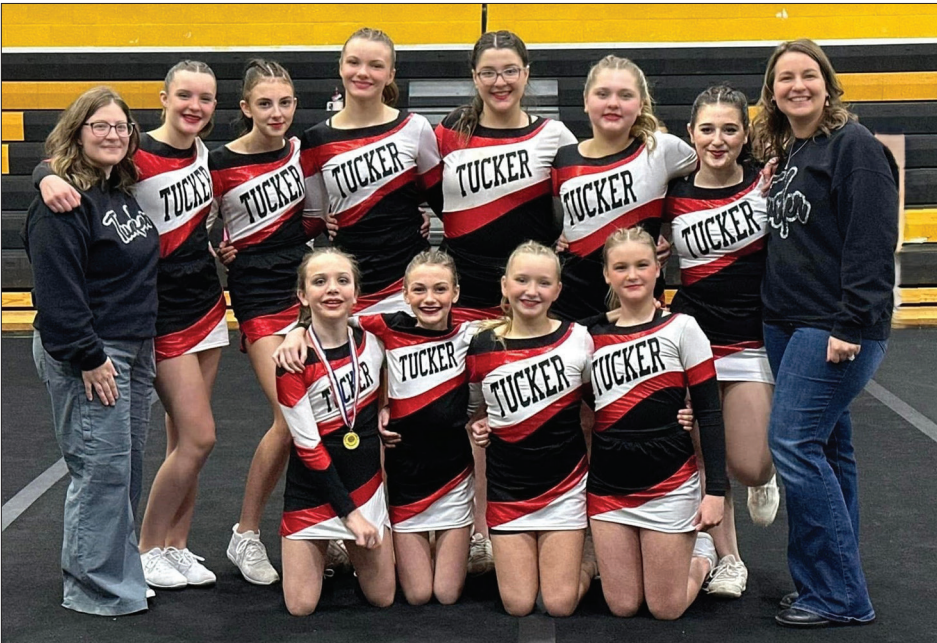


Marlee Evans with the put back (Photos by Brittany Channell)

By: Adam Freeman
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-

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

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.



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DT Boys Take Loss to Romney 42-21

By: 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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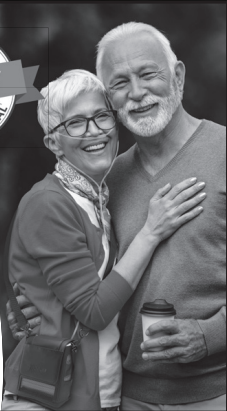
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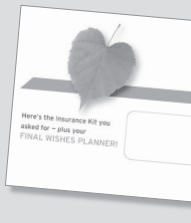
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TCF donates time to help feed the needy during the holidays



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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