







# OBITUARIES

## Marie Ellen Crossland

Marie Ellen Crossland, 88, of Davis, passed away on March 9, 2025, at the Stonehaven Home in Home in Belington. Born on August 30, 1936, in Lanesville, she was the daughter of the late Joyl and Mary (Collins) Crossland.

Marie retired from the City of Alexandria, VA, where she worked as a secretary. She enjoyed playing bingo and board games. She grew up on country music and would go square dancing any chance she had.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl Robin



Hassinger; a grandson, Cole Jones; two siblings, Richard Crossland and wife Wanda, and Elaine Kackley; a sister in law, Sharon Crossland; and a host of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two siblings, Dixie Lea and Allen.

Friends will be received on Friday, March 14, 2025, from 10 AM to 12 PM, at the Fredlock & Fenner Funeral Homes, 567 Thomas Avenue, Davis. A funeral service will be held at 12 PM in the funeral home with Pastor John Callaway officiating. Interment will follow in the Buena Cemetery.

The Fredlock & Fenner Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Crossland family.

## Cecil Junior “C. J.” Streets

Cecil Junior “C. J.” Streets, 77, a resident of Parsons, passed from this life Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Mon General Hospital in Morgantown.

CJ was born Friday, January 2, 1948, in Brushy Fork, a son of the late John William Streets and Mae Godwin Streets. In August of 1981, in Thomas, he was married to Mary Lorraine Swanson Streets who survives. They had celebrated forty-three years of marriage.

Also left to cherish CJ’s memory are two sons, John Makepeace and wife, Denise, of Lacrosse, WI, and Benjamin Makepeace and wife, Kathy, of Austin, TX, two granddaughters, Leah Makepeace and Luna



Makepeace, two sisters, Dora Jean Poling and Patty Sue Snyder, and many wonderful cousins, nieces and nephews.

Preceding CJ in death besides his parents were three brothers: Robert Dale “Bob” Streets, Asa “Sonny” Streets, William Dorsey “Dorse” Streets, and a sister, Dottie Grace

Snyder.

CJ attended Murphy’s School and Pifer Mountain School. He had worked in timber, as a coal miner, and as a self-employed contractor. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, working on his farm, country and gospel music. He loved his family and was a loving husband, father, brother, and friend to all. He was a “true dag gone WV boy” all the way through.

CJ’s request for cremation will be honored. The Hostetler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Cecil Junior “C. J.” Streets. Send online condolences to the family at: [www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com).

## LILLER

Cont. From Front Page 1



Sherry Simmons hugs Slater Liller in thanks during Liller's award ceremony March 12th.

tor in charge that night, told me that if it wasn't for the quick response that Bill received from all persons involved, he would not be here today.”

Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau thanked Liller for his efforts on behalf of the Tucker County Commission. “On behalf of the Tucker County Commission, I want to thank you for all that you do,” Rosenau said. “For the life saving that you have committed and done here beyond your call of duty. When Sherry was talking about Bill, you

saw that right outside the window of the 911 Center. So, you didn't hesitate to go assist and that is beyond anybody and I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do.”

## In Appreciation

*The family of Donald Lee Knotts wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to all our family and friends for their support during the loss of our loved one.*

*We deeply express our appreciation for the food, flowers, calls, cards, gifts, texts, visits and prayers.*

*We want to extend special thanks to WVU St. Joseph's Hospital, Tygart Valley Health and Rehab, Belington, Mountain Community Living, Anita and Nick Barb and Lohr & Barb Funeral Home, pall bearers, Rev. Carolyn Shreve and Rev. James Snyder, for the beautiful service, The St. George Church of God, Kasson Church and anyone that contributed in any way to the delicious bereavement dinner.*

**The Donald Lee Knotts Family**

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**MARCH 23, 2025**

*Doors open at 2:00 pm*

**St. Thomas Aquinas Social Hall**

*Next to the Catholic Church in Thomas*



*Raffles to be sold | Payouts based on number of players*

**Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 2010**

**THANK YOU FOR READING THE PARSONS ADVOCATE**

**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

**TUCKER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER**

304-478-6232 304-704-4405



**Sponsored by Mountain Valley Bank**

**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  
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Parsons, Wv 304-478-3248

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



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THANK YOU FOR READING  
THE PARSONS ADVOCATE  
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Tucker county since 1896*

DEADLINE  
3PM FRIDAY

Congratulations Tucker  
County Girls Basketball Team!  
*I Wish You The Best  
In The State Championship!*  
21 Years Straight!



Tim Knotts  
Tucker Co Commissioner

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LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE  
STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

A meeting of the Stockholders of Miners & Merchants Bank of Thomas, West Virginia will be held at the Bank's Main Office Building located at 16000 Appalachian Highway, Thomas, West Virginia on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m., for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year and transacting any other business that may properly come before the meeting.  
Given under my hand this 4th day of February 2025.  
Jennifer Newland  
CEO

LEGAL

The Town of Davis is accepting applications for a general labor position. The job entails all work associated with the Town, including, but not limited to, trash pickup, grass cutting, snow plowing/removal, general town maintenance, water/sewer line repairs, cemetery work, and assisting other jobs when needed.  
The Town of Davis offers full-time employment with full benefits after a 90-day probation period. Pay is discussed upon interview based on qualifications.  
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 Town Hall Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by March 21, 2025.  
The Town of Davis is an Equal Opportunity Employer

LEGAL

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

Deceased	Personal Representative(s)
Rodney D. Liller	Hannah Liller
1st publication 3/19/25	PO Box 177
2nd publication 3/26/25	Davis, WV 26260

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

LEGAL

(2022-C-000013 - TUCKER COUNTY - CATO ENERGY LLC)  
To: LARRY POLING ET AL, 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 9999 PARCEL 0020 1090 0000**  
You will take notice that CATO ENERGY LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2022-C-000013, located in CLOVER District, MIN INT IN 70.35 AC, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of POLING LARRY A ET AL, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of TUCKER County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on June 27, 2023. CATO ENERGY LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after June 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before May 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 2021 - 2054.	\$	108.99
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 2022 - 2067.	\$	15.63
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	158.70
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	637.25
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	409.43
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,330.00

  
**You may redeem at any time before May 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand March 4, 2025  
**Christal G. Perry**  
Christal G. Perry  
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

(2022-C-000037 - TUCKER COUNTY - CATO ENERGY LLC)  
To: NADA MURPHY, 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 LICKING MAP 9999 PARCEL 0090 0081 0000**  
You will take notice that CATO ENERGY LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2022-C-000037, located in LICKING District, I/7 M 188 ACRES, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of MURPHY NADA, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of TUCKER County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on June 27, 2023. CATO ENERGY LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after June 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before May 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 2021 - 8435.	\$	98.33
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 2022 - 8473.	\$	5.97
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	110.91
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	637.25
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	409.43
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,261.89

  
**You may redeem at any time before May 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand March 4, 2025  
**Christal G. Perry**  
Christal G. Perry  
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


Tucker County Commission Levy Estimate (Budget)  
2025 - 2026 Fiscal Year

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA County of: Tucker, West Virginia			
In accordance with Code §11-8-10, as amended, the Tucker County Commission proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the current year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:			
<b>General Fund</b>		<b>Estimated Revenues</b>	
Fund Balance	\$	1,000,000	
Property Taxes Current Year		3,428,797	
Prior Year Taxes		65,000	
Tax Penalties, Interest & Publication Fees		30,000	
Dog Taxes		500	
Property Transfer Tax		125,000	
Gas & Oil Severance Tax		20,000	
Wine & Liquor Tax		15,000	
Hotel Occupancy Tax		1,000,000	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes		45,000	
Federal Grants / Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes		300,000	
State Grants		50,000	
Sheriff's Service of Process		3,000	
County Clerk's Earnings		20,000	
Circuit Clerk's Earnings		6,500	
Accident Reports		400	
Motor Vehicle License Fee		16,000	
Rents & Concessions		50,000	
Special Patrol / Security Systems		300	
Franchise Agreement		3,700	
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)		30,000	
Regional Jail Operations Partial Reimbursement		4,500	
Interest Earned		10,000	
Miscellaneous Revenue		21,285	
Sheriff's Commission		15,000	
Gaming Income		40,000	
Video Lottery		3,000	
Refunds / Reimbursements (External Sources)		700,000	
Transfers Assessor's Valuation Fund		177,482	
<b>Total Estimated General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,180,464</b>	
<b>Coal Severance Tax</b>			
Assigned Fund Balance	\$	33,667	
Coal Severance Tax		5,000	
<b>Total Coal Severance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>38,667</b>	
	<b>General Fund</b>		<b>Coal Severance Tax Fund</b>
<b>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
County Commission	\$	436,618	\$ 38,667
County Clerk		320,762	-
Circuit Clerk		218,520	-
Sheriff - Treasurer		411,308	-
Prosecuting Attorney		346,614	-
Assessor		239,440	-
Assessor's Valuation Fund		177,482	-
Statewide Computer Network		18,000	-
Agriculture Agent		128,031	-
Elections - County Clerk		105,617	-
Magistrate Court		10,000	-
Circuit Court		6,222	-
Courthouse		867,550	-
Regional Development Authority		2,563	-
Economic Development		92,000	-
Rehabilitation of Property		40,000	-
Contingencies - Not to Exceed 10% of Budget		75,000	-
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>3,495,727</b>		<b>38,667</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>			
Sheriff - Law Enforcement		720,067	-
Sheriff - Service of Process		105,151	-
Regional Jail		150,000	-
Emergency Services		91,054	-
Communication Center		683,950	-
Fire Department		140,000	-
Ambulance Authority		250,000	-
Dog Warden / Humane Society		190,541	-
Community Based Corrections Program		538,761	-
K-9		11,428	-
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>2,880,952</b>		
<b>HEALTH AND SANITATION</b>			
Local Health Department		35,000	-
<b>TOTAL HEALTH &amp; SANITATION</b>	<b>35,000</b>		
<b>CULTURE AND RECREATION</b>			
Parks & Recreation		120,000	-
4-H Camp		80,000	-
Historical Commission		20,000	-
Visitor's Bureau		500,000	-
Library		27,500	-
<b>TOTAL CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>	<b>747,500</b>		
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>			
<b>TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES</b>			
<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>			
Assessor		21,285	-
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>21,285</b>		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 7,180,464</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>38,667</b>

TUCKER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
REGULAR CURRENT EXPENSE LEVY  
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026

Certificate of Valuation			
Assessed Value	Levy	Taxes	
for Tax Purposes	Rate/\$100	Levied	
<b>Current Year</b>			
Class I			
Personal Property	\$ 0	11.28	\$ 0
Public Utility	0		0
<b>Total Class I</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>		<b>\$ 0</b>
Class II			
Real Estate	\$ 448,089,110	22.56	\$ 1,010,889
Personal Property	2,872,327		6,480
<b>Total Class II</b>	<b>\$ 450,961,437</b>		<b>\$ 1,017,369</b>
Class III			
Real Estate	\$ 314,004,660	45.12	\$ 1,416,789
Personal Property	130,947,857		590,837
Public Utility	56,407,222		254,509
<b>Total Class III</b>	<b>\$ 501,359,739</b>		<b>\$ 2,262,135</b>
Class IV			
Real Estate	\$ 69,648,760	45.12	\$ 314,255
Personal Property	22,271,249		100,488
Public Utility	9,919,412		44,756
<b>Total Class IV</b>	<b>\$ 101,839,421</b>		<b>\$ 459,499</b>
<b>Total Value &amp; Projected Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,054,160,597</b>		<b>\$ 3,739,003</b>
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes	5.00%		186,950
Less Tax Discounts	2.00%		71,041
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable)			0
<b>Total Projected Property Tax Collection</b>			<b>3,481,012</b>
Less Assessor Valuation Fund	1.50%		0
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)			
<b>Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes</b>			<b>\$ 3,481,012</b>
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA			
COUNTY OF TUCKER			
I, Sherry Simmons, CLERK OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF SAID COUNTY, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING ARE TRUE COPIES FROM THE RECORD OF ORDERS MADE AND ENTERED BY SAID COMMISSION ON THE 12th DAY OF MARCH 2025.			
			





# What’s ? Happening

### Buckwheat Cake and Sausage Dinner

The Maple Spring Church will have a buckwheat cake, sausage and gravy dinner from 3 – 8 p.m. Saturday, April 5 in the Family Life Center. There will be a bake sale as well. Donations are \$12, children 6 – 10 years, \$6 and children 5 and under eat free. Proceeds go to Family Life Center. For more information please call 304-735-5202.

### TC Retired School Employees meeting March 20 at noon

TC Retired School Employees meeting is March 20 at TC Senior Center in Parsons. Senior Center choir sings at 10:30. Lunch is available at 11:30, meeting to follow shortly after 12:00 noon.



## The West Virginia Encyclopedia

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](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

**March 19, 1936:** The Ohio River crested a record 15 feet above flood stage at Wheeling.

**March 19, 1992:** Four miners were killed at the Blacksville No. 1 Mine in Monongalia County while it was being sealed. Drainage pipes were being welded together, and a spark fell into the shaft, igniting methane gas.

**March 20, 1849:** Businessman James Kay was born in Scotland. He constructed the coke ovens at Hawks Nest, installed a cable car to carry coal across the New River, and installed a tramway to move miners and coal up and down the gorge face at Kaymoor.

**March 20, 1897:** Musician Frank Hutchison was born in Raleigh County. With a slide guitar sound akin to the bottleneck style, he helped instill a blues strain into modern country music and was influential among coal-field musicians.

**March 20, 1936:** Recurring storms led to major flooding on the Potomac River, hitting record levels in Harpers Ferry. The Ohio River at Parkersburg reached 10 feet above flood stage.

**March 21, 1914:** The first West Virginia boys’



**March 19, 1925: Basketball teams from 11 of West Virginia’s 24 Black high schools took the court at West Virginia State College (now University) in Institute for the first West Virginia Athletic Union (WVAU) state basketball tournament. Lincoln High School of Wheeling defeated Kimball, 25-24, in the final game to win the championship.**

high school basketball tournament began in Buckhannon. The event was sponsored by West Virginia Wesleyan College, which at the time had the state’s largest and finest gymnasium.

**March 21, 2018:** Sculptor Frank Gaylord died. Born 1925 in Clarksburg, his best-known work is “The Column,” a platoon of 19 larger-than-life, stainless steel soldiers comprising the central element of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington.

**March 22, 1922:** Physician Mildred Mitchell Bateman was born in Georgia. She became the first Black woman in West Virginia to hold a high-level state administrative position when, in 1962, Governor Wally Barron appointed her director of the Department of Mental Health.

**March 23, 2003:** Private Jessica Lynch of Pal-

estine, Wirt County, was serving as a supply clerk with the Army’s 507th Maintenance Company when she was captured by Iraqi forces after her group was ambushed.

**March 24, 1890:** Confederate General William Lowther “Mudwall” Jackson died in Louisville. Jackson, who was born in Clarksburg, joined the Confederate Army as a private. After helping to organize an infantry unit, he was promoted to colonel. He served on the staff of his cousin, Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, and was jokingly nicknamed “Mudwall.”

**March 25, 1878:** Attorney General Armistead Abraham “Cousin Abe” Lilly was born at Jumping Branch, Summers County. Lilly appealed the Virginia Debt Suit to the U.S. Supreme Court; when settled, it was estimated that Lilly had saved the state a large sum of money.

## Tucker County Road Closure

**County Route 1/15 (Bob Smith Road), Tucker County, will have delays beginning Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

TUCKER COUNTY, WV – County Route 1/15 (Bob Smith Road), Tucker County,

will have delays from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. beginning Wednesday, March 12, 2025, through mid-April, for setting up steel girders. Work will begin at the intersection of County Route 1 (Holly Meadows Road) and County

Route 1/15 (Bob Smith Road) and ending at Jersey Lane. Accommodation for emergency vehicles, school buses and United States Postal Services; all other motorists are to expect delays or to seek alternate routes.

## Weather Totals

Mar. 4 - Mar. 11, 2025

Nursery Bottom  
*Parsons*

### Temperature

Max 68° F  
Min 23° F

### Precipitation

Week 0.66"  
March 0.66"  
2025 8.91"

### Snowfall

New Snow 0.75"  
Snow on ground 0"  
Winter Total 47"

U.S. Forest Service

## Weekly SUDOKU

1	4		8		3		6	
3	2	5	1	4		7	9	
	9				2			1
	5	4						
	1	9	3			4		
						5		9
4	3		6	1	8		5	
5		1				8		4
9			5	2				6

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!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

**By Teri Cayton**  
*The Parsons Advocate*

I was coming to work this week and saw something that really blew my mind. Ahead of me I saw an animal crossing the road so I slowed down to let it pass. As I got closer the shape and gait of the animal were unmistakable. It was a very large otter. It was dark, almost black and about three feet long. I have lived my entire life in West Virginia and outside an animal park that is the first one I have ever seen.


What really baffled me was how far it was from the nearest body of water. The closest water is a small stream that meanders through some bottom land but I would not think it would have the amount of fish an otter would need to sustain itself. Also they are usually in a large family unit.

It hasn’t rained much lately to have misplaced it so I am just baffled. I know otters are native to West Virginia but to have gone this far in

## Momma Said

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

**By Teri Cayton**  
*The Parsons Advocate*



life and this is my first sighting I am elated. I don’t know much about that area as far as how the land lies because it was a massive dump area for dirt when the four lane highway went through. I don’t know if there are ponds behind this mountain of dirt or not.

I am so intrigued that I would even go so far as to stop and ask permission to walk through the area and see if I can find where it lives. Momma Said, “I just hope it does not meet a grizzly fate on the highway.” It was a pleasure for me to see something that I would have never have guessed to see in the wild.

## Cranberry Bliss Bars

### INGREDIENTS

**FOR THE BARS**

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, melted
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries, roughly chopped

**FOR THE FROSTING AND TOPPING**

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries, chopped
- 1/2 cup white chocolate, melted for drizzling

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a 9×13-inch baking pan with parchment paper, leaving an overhang on the sides.
- In a large bowl, beat the melted butter and brown sugar until combined. Whisk in the eggs and vanilla until smooth.
- Sift the flour, baking powder, and salt in a separate bowl. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and mix until just combined. Do not over mix. Fold in the white chocolate chips and cranberries.
- Spread the batter evenly into the prepared pan. Bake for 20-22 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow the bars to cool completely in the pan.
- Make the frosting: In a medium bowl, beat the cream cheese with an electric mixer until smooth. Add the powdered sugar and vanilla and beat until light and fluffy.
- Spread the frosting evenly over the cooled bars. Top them with cranberries and drizzle with melted white chocolate. Lift the bars out of the pan using the overhang. Cut them into 24 squares.

## Super Crossword

### CROSS WORDS

#### ACROSS

1 Swing by  
6 Sop up  
12 Fez or beret  
15 General — chicken  
19 Preface  
20 "Hello" singer  
21 Santa — winds  
22 Eight, in Berlin  
23 Alternative to poststickers  
26 Trevi  
27 Fountain city  
28 Golf prop  
29 Requiring lots of attention  
30 L-P linkup  
31 "— Up My Heart" (1997 \*NSYNC song)  
32 Call before the court  
35 Touchy topic  
37 Skit-filled NBC show, in brief  
38 Texas-Louisiana border river  
41 Three, in Paris  
42 H.G. Wells' Doctor Moreau, e.g.  
46 Penetrating

#### DOWN

1 Panorama  
2 Entomb  
3 Navigate  
4 A Gershwin brother  
5 Male tabby  
6 Eve of old TV  
7 — one's time  
8 Missile in the Gulf War  
9 "Heavens!"  
10 Shred  
11 — Stakes (horse race)  
12 Kayak cousin  
13 "Gemini Man" director Lee  
14 Grazing land  
15 "Proud Mary" star — P. Henson  
16 Makes the Billboard Top 40, e.g.  
17 Of a resistance unit  
18 Artery insert  
24 Like Brits  
25 Pertaining to  
31 Black, to Poe  
33 Aide: Abbr.  
34 U.S. "Ltd."  
35 Female sib

89 An ex-Trump  
92 Fix typos, say  
93 Plus more: Abbr.  
94 \$5 bills, in slang  
96 Intense controversy  
99 "That doesn't ring —"  
101 Regressed  
102 — -la-la  
103 Group of warriors in "Kung Fu Panda"  
106 Church part for the clergy  
110 Chant  
111 Boxing great  
112 Flummoxed  
115 Suffix with Motor  
116 British prep school  
117 Oxidizer in liquid rocket propellants  
122 Swedish soprano Jenny  
123 '50s prez  
124 — Mae (HUD corp.)  
125 Yo-yo part  
126 Lucy's guy  
127 Toon Flanders  
128 Villains' looks

129 What nine key words in this puzzle are synonyms of  
36 Dutch artist Jan  
38 — -Cat  
39 From — Z  
40 Lettuce type  
42 Option list  
43 East Asian nanny  
44 Platter  
45 — Lodge (motel chain)  
46 Actor Harvey  
48 Heredity unit  
49 Wolfs down  
52 Malaise, with "the"  
53 Horse colors  
55 Little — (the Ocean State)  
57 Proposal  
58 Original NYC subway line  
59 State exec.  
60 Before surgery, in brief  
62 "Star Trek" lieutenant  
64 Agave plants  
65 Salt Lake City native  
69 Additionally  
70 Fertilizable gametes  
71 Chimp's kin  
72 Book division  
73 Vexed state  
74 Dairy case containers  
78 Musical finale  
79 Somewhat  
80 Act of liturgy  
82 Film units  
83 Uses a trowel  
85 Noodles in peanut sauce  
90 Battle (for)  
91 Additionally  
92 Israel's Abba  
94 Vast stretch  
95 Large tuna  
96 Wild rants  
97 Gorilla, e.g.  
98 Historic time  
100 Olympic swimmer  
101 Actress  
103 Grazing land  
104 De-knot  
105 Renowned  
106 Asteroid found in 1801  
107 Chocolate drink  
108 T-man Ness  
109 Big dipper  
112 Comic  
113 Rake prong  
114 Mix, as paint  
118 Luau guitar, for short  
119 Martini liquor  
120 Longtime CBS series  
121 30-day mo.

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## St. George Medical Clinic Welcomes New Doctor

St. George Medical Clinic is excited to announce that Dr. Lydia Davis, DO joined their team in January 2025. Dr. Davis sees patients primarily at the St. George Canaan Valley Clinic located at 6368 Appalachian Highway, Davis, WV, in addition she sees patients periodically at our other St. George Medical Clinics as well. Dr. Davis received a degree in Psychology from the University of Virginia then went on to obtain her medical degree from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, WV. She completed her residency at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. Dr. Davis is excited to make Tucker County her home and

to join the St. George Medical family. She said, “I’ve been looking for the right community to put roots and Tucker County is the right place to do just that.” Dr. Davis enjoys skiing, hiking, hunting, fishing and all things outside and looks forward to enjoying those activities in beautiful Tucker County. When not outdoors, she enjoys music, spending time with family, and cooking. The addition of Dr. Davis is just another example of St. George Medical Clinic’s dedication to maintaining a highly skilled and professional staff to deliver family centered health care to its service area in Tucker and surrounding counties.

# WVRAC is Soliciting proposals for Title II projects

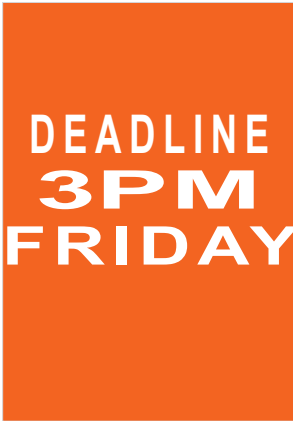
ELKINS, West Virginia. — The West Virginia Resource Advisory Committee (WVRAC) is soliciting proposals for Title II projects to be implemented across the National Forest. Project proposals will be accepted from March 6th, 2025 through May 6th, 2025. Funding will be provided through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, which provides payments to counties as compensation for the loss of tax income associated with federal land within their boundaries. By law, Title II projects must provide direct or indirect benefits to natural resources on National Forest lands. The proposed projects should aim to enhance forest ecosystems, improve water quality or improve existing infrastructure within the Monongahela National Forest. Previous projects have accomplished watershed restoration, stream stabilization, invasive plant treatments, native plant reestablishment, wildlife and fish habitat improvements, and trail or road maintenance. The projects must be in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, or Webster Counties and can be on federal or private land. By law, Title II projects must provide direct or indirect benefits to natural resources on

National Forest lands. Selected projects are typically funded in the \$10k – \$45k range. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit project proposals as early as possible. It is the responsibility of the proponent to coordinate with Forest Service staff and partner agencies to ensure that the proposal is complete and meets the intent of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. The proposals must also be pre-approved by the district ranger or forest supervisor where the project resides before being submitted. Project applications and instructions on how to submit a proposal are available online at the West Virginia RAC website. The WVRAC, which represents a wide variety of citizen interests, will review all proposals, and recommend projects for funding. Proponents will be notified of the RAC meeting schedule and are encouraged to attend the meetings, which are open to the public, to answer questions about their projects. Additional information about the Secure Rural Schools Act can be found at [fs.usda.gov/main/pts/home](https://fs.usda.gov/main/pts/home). Questions can be directed to WVRAC Coordinator, Kristopher Hennig, at [Kristopher.Hennig@usda.gov](mailto:Kristopher.Hennig@usda.gov) or (304) 635-4475.

## Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center Launches New Support Group Focusing on Diabetes Education and Management

ELKINS, W.Va. (March 13, 2025) –Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center will host a new support group to educate and empower community members with diabetes, pre-diabetes and their caregivers. The group’s first meeting will be at Noon, April 3, in the Davis Medical Center boardroom. The free event is open to all individuals seeking guidance on managing Type 2 and Type 1 diabetes and prediabetes as well as family members and caregivers who want to learn more about providing support. “We understand that living with diabetes can be challenging, so we want to provide the resources and support our community members need to live healthier, fuller lives,” said Jim Severino, Dietician and Certified Diabetes Educator for Davis Medical Center. “This group will not

only provide access to useful information but also create a community of individuals who can support and motivate each other along their health journeys.” Attendees will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of educational resources provided by Davis Medical Center health care experts, including diabetes-friendly recipes and practical ideas for meal planning, making it easier for individuals to enjoy food that is both satisfying and helpful for diabetes management. Participants will have the chance to ask questions, share experiences, and learn from both health care professionals and their peers. The April 3 meeting is the first in a planned series of sessions, with each gathering focusing on a specific aspect of diabetes management, from nutrition and exercise to medication and mental health. For more information, visit [DavisHealthSystem.org](https://DavisHealthSystem.org).



## Blackwater Chapter DAR Honors Sarah Fletcher



Each year, the month of March is designated as “Women in American History” Month in which notable women and their accomplishments are recognized and celebrated. The Daughters of the American Revolution’s “Women in American History” Award is being presented during “Women’s History Month” by DAR chapters across our country. It is meant to honor great women – past or present – who have made a notable contribution in their communities resulting in a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals. At their March 8 meeting, Blackwater Chapter members honored the late Sarah Thompson Fletcher with this prestigious award. Sarah was born in Arthurdale, WV to Ben and Dorothy Mayor Thompson and was a descendant of the owner of the Thompson Lumber Company and of hard-working farmers who owned a few thousand acres of land in Canaan Valley where she was raised. Her life was characterized by a passion for learning, service, and adventure. Her education began in the two-room Cosner Grade School in Canaan Valley. She then, graduated from Mountaineer High School in Thomas. Sarah pursued her passion and became a nurse. She continued her education and earned a master’s degree with the first graduating class from the WVU Advanced Nurse Practitioners Program. Dedication to healthcare led her to work in labor and delivery, and later with Youth Health, where she assisted teenage girls during their pregnancies. She also served with Hospice of Randolph County before her retirement. Sarah’s impact extended beyond her professional life. Besides being a loving wife and mother, she was a devoted member of the Buena Chapel United Methodist Church in Canaan Valley, where she held a representative position for the con-

ference, and served as a lay preacher and a Sunday school teacher. With a caring heart, she sponsored two boys at the Living Hope High School in Kenya, Africa and visited them on multiple occasions. Her thirst for knowledge took her on numerous other domestic and international trips, including visits to Alaska, Israel, and Italy. Sarah’s mother, Dorothy, was a weaver and a National Heritage Fellow who learned to weave at the Arthurdale Homestead. She taught Sarah the art and the love of weaving. Sarah and her mother were known state-wide for many decades, and they taught weaving to scores of individuals. Sarah was a talented weaver and assumes the operations of her mother’s business, the Ben’s Old Loom Barn in Canaan Valley, continuing her family’s legacy. She was a remarkable individual and left an indelible mark on her community. Her love for volunteering earned her the prestigious “Tuckineer” Award from the Tucker County Chamber of Commerce in 2016. She was a member of the Canaan Valley VFD Ladies Auxiliary, the local book club, the American Nurses Association and the WV Nurses Association, who once recognized her with their “Nurse of the Year” Award. She was also a naturalist and volunteered for the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Sarah actively participated in walking, knitting, and reading groups. She enjoyed sharing her family’s history, investing in her community, and keeping her mind sharp until the end. Sarah passed away in 2023 at the age of 80. Sarah’s son, Ben Fletcher and her niece, Jennifer Snyder were present to accept this award presented by Blackwater Regent Cathy Hebb. Also attending the ceremony was Sarah’s nephew, Mike Fletcher.

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# Snowshoe Artist Now on Display at WV State Capitol



On Friday, March 7th, Maurer personally delivered four of her paintings to the \*\*West Virginia Secretary of State's Office\*\*, where they are now on loan. This opportunity arose after Secretary of State Kris Warner, impressed by her talent, approached Xandria after Governor Morrissey's inauguration and invited her to contribute works that embody the natural beauty of Appalachia.

The four paintings—"On the Lake," "Majestic Cascade Falls," "Song of the Forest," and "Morning Majesty"—are part of Maurer's acclaimed "Into the Heart of Appalachia" series. Each piece captures the essence of the this beautiful region, from its cascading waterfalls to its tranquil lakes and mist-covered mountains. More details on these paintings can be found on her website: (<https://awakenimagination.com>).

Maurer, whose work has been exhibited at \*\*luxury resorts, private collections, and cultural events worldwide\*\*, is known for her ability to bring nature to life on canvas. Her paintings are deeply inspired by her time spent in the Amazon rainforest and the mountains of Norway during her childhood and formative years and now her deep connection to the Appalachian landscape.

## *WVDOT awards contracts for road striping*

CHARLESTON, WV – On Thursday, March 6, 2025, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOT) awarded nine construction projects to paint road stripes around the Mountain State. The bid awards were from two special bid lettings conducted on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, and Thursday, February 27, 2025.

**Contracts awarded were:**


- Mid Atlantic Maintenance Inc. was the low bidder on a project to paint road stripes in District 7, with a bid of \$334,375. (Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, and Lewis counties)
- Roadsafet Traffic Systems Inc. was the low bidder on a project to paint road stripes in District 8, with a bid of \$362,090. (Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, and Tucker counties)
- Highway Safety Inc. was the low bidder on a project to paint road stripes in District 9, with a bid of \$366,310. (Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, and Nicholas counties)
- Mid Atlantic Maintenance Inc. was the low bidder on a project to paint road stripes in District

6, with a bid of \$353,875. (Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, and Ohio counties)

- Highway Safety Inc. was the low bidder on a project to paint road stripes in District 10, with a bid of \$366,310. (McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, and Wyoming counties)
- Mid Atlantic Maintenance Inc. was the low bidder on a project to paint road stripes in District 4, with a bid of \$359,000. (Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, and Monongalia counties)
- Mid Atlantic Maintenance Inc. was also the low bidder on a project to paint road stripes in District 3, with a bid of \$359,400. (Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, and Ritchie counties)
- Highway Safety Inc. was the low bidder on a project to paint road stripes in District 1, with a bid of \$358,810. (Boone, Clay, Kanawha, and Mason counties)
- Highway Safety Inc. was also the low bidder on a project to paint road stripes in District 2, with a bid of \$358,810. (Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, and Mingo counties)

Several factors are considered before awarding a bid, including whether a bid falls above or below the WVDOT Engineer's Estimate and by what percentage. In cases where a bid is above the Engineer's Estimate, WVDOT must consider the project need, repercussions of not awarding the project, additional funding sources, and whether sufficient reasons exist for the differences in estimates. Most projects are reviewed, analyzed, and awarded within a week of the bid letting, but the process can take longer.

When the Division of Highways has a project that is determined to be best constructed by a contractor, it is processed through the bid letting system. A letting is a scheduled opportunity for contractors to review and bid on several construction projects at one time. Lettings are held either once or twice per month and conducted through the Bid Express System online at [www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com) and handled through the Contract Administration Division. Contractors need to subscribe to Bid Express before bids can be accepted on any project.



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**Saturday, March 15, 6:00 – 7:00 PM**  
Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center


**Sunday, March 16, 2:00 – 3:00 PM**  
Historic Railroad Depot in Parsons

**Saturday, March 22, 2:00 – 3:00 PM**  
Buxton and Landstreet Building in Coketon

**Admission is free; tickets are not necessary. To reserve seats and help us plan, please RSVP online at <https://saveblackwater.org/moonshine-memories>; Email at [info@saveblackwater.org](mailto:info@saveblackwater.org); Or Call 304-345-7663.**














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2025 Single A Region 2 Champions.

# Tucker Advances to State Tournament with Pounding of Pendleton 82-37

By: Adam Freeman

The Tucker County Boys' Basketball squad took on the Pendleton County Wildcats in the regional finals this past week, with the chance of making it to the State Tournament on the line. Tucker would start off slow hitting just one basket in the first 5:00 minutes of the first quarter. However, that would all come to an end as the Mt. Lions would hit a season high 18 three pointers by the final horn, in what was a masterful display of shooting. Tucker held the lead at the end of one quarter at just 12-9. The second quarter

would be a different story as the shooting would heat up, with sophomore guard, Ethan Cummings, who hit 3 triples in the period and Tucker would score 26 points to go with it, taking the lead 38-20 at the break. The Mt. Lions dropped 6 more threes and scored a massive 32 points in the third quarter to make the advantage 70-30. Tucker would find its lead at 45 points before it was all over with a final score of 82-37. The win garnered Tucker the #2 seed in the Tournament just behind rival, Tug Valley. This sets Tucker with a matchup against the #7 seed of Magnolia High School on Thursday, March 20 at 1:00pm

inside the famed Charleston Coliseum. Tucker played Magnolia in the Rotary Invitational at Magnolia High back on January 21, with Tucker taking the win 81-51. Tucker finishes play with a 20-2 overall record.  
Bonner 16 pts, 7 reb, 7 ast, FT 2-4; Carr 12 pts, 4 reb, FT 0-2; Cummings 12 pts, 5 reb; Mitchell 11 pts, 2 reb, 4 stl, FT 0-2; Lambert 11 pts, 7 reb, Marks 9 pts, 2 reb; Felton 3 pts, 2 reb; Ricottili 4 pts; Arnold 2 pts, 7 reb; Dearborn 2 pts, 1 reb  
3-Point Goals 18-50: Cummings (4) Carr (4) Mitchell (3) Lambert (3) Bonner (2) Marks (1) Felton (1)

# Lady Mt. Lions Tripped Up in State Tournament, Fall to Greenbrier West 74-67



Matthews takes it to the basket.

By: Adam Freeman

The Lady Mt. Lions of Tucker County High School ended their season this past week with a first-round loss in the State Tournament at the hands of Greenbrier West. Tucker found itself in foul trouble early on with starters Raven Matthews and Makenna Evans with 2 fouls a piece. The Cavilers would take advantage and go on a 9-0 run in the first, and they would hold the lead at 23-12 to end the first quarter. Greenbrier West



Gross gets around the defender.

would continue to give Tucker problems with their pressure defense forcing multiple turnovers. The Lady Mt. Lions were only outscored by one point in the period and the Cavilers had the lead at the half 42-30. Tucker would dig deep in the second half and mount a monstrous comeback. The Lady Mt. Lions would go on a 14-2 run in the third erasing the Cavilers double digit lead and outscoring them 21-14 to make the score 56-51 going into the final period. Tucker would continue to claw their way back and would even take the lead late



Evans drives the ball up. (Photos by Brittany Channell)

in the quarter. However, Greenbrier West would pull through in the end and claim the victory. The Lady Mt. Lions finish their season 16-8. Tucker's senior forward, Raven Matthews, was chosen to the Single A All-Tournament Team.  
Matthews 33 pts, 17 reb, FT 7-9; Gross 15 pts, 1 reb; Evans 6 pts, 10 reb, 9 ast, FT 2-2; Moats 6 pts, 1 reb; Herron 3 pts, 6 reb, FT 1-4; Kitzmiller 2 pts, 2 reb; Shaffer 2 pts, 3 reb  
3-Point Goals 3-17: Moats (2) Gross (1)

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Tucker Valley Wildcats  
Davis Thomas Bears



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4th Grade Boys, Champions!



2/3 Girls, 4th Grade Runners-Up.

## Tucker Youth Travel Teams Take Champions and Runners-Up in Moorefield

By: Adam Freeman

This past weekend, four Tucker Youth Travel Teams, competed in the Moorefield Invitational Tournament and continued to prove the future for Mountain Lion Basketball is bright. The Tucker Boys’ 4th

grade took home the trophy, winning the championship against Petersburg. The Tucker 2nd/3rd Girls competed in the 4th grade division and took Runners-Up against Romney. The teams will be back in action March 28-29 at the Bridge Complex.

## Tips Shared To Keep Lungs Healthier

With the New Year just underway, it’s a great time to set some lung health-focused goals. With each of the 23,000 breaths a person’s lungs take daily, they perform essential work to support overall health.

Whether a person is managing asthma, quitting smoking, or simply looking to keep one’s lungs strong, here are some tips from the American Lung Association in West Virginia.

- Get Regular Check-ups. Regular check-ups help prevent diseases, even when a person is feeling well. This is especially true for lung disease, which sometimes goes undetected until it’s serious. During a check-up, a healthcare provider will listen to one’s breathing and one should share any concerns a person may have.

- Quit Smoking: The American Lung Association encourages people who smoke, vape or use tobacco to resolve to begin their quit journey in 2025 and provides tips and resources at Lung.org/quit-smoking or call the LungHelpline at 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872). Tobacco remains the number one cause of preventable death in the United States, and here in West Virginia. E-cigarettes are not a safe or effective way to quit. Many health insurance plans cover quit aids and counseling.

- Take the Quiz. In the United States, 14 million people are at high risk for lung cancer and are eligible for life-saving lung cancer screening. Here in West Virginia, only 20.7 percent

of residents at high risk for lung cancer are screened for the disease each year. If a person smoked, the low-dose CT lung cancer screening test could save one’s life. Lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths, is more treatable when caught early—survival rates increase by more than four times. If a person is aged 50-80 and smokes or has quit within the past 15 years, one may be eligible for screening. Take the 2-minute quiz at SavedByTheScan.org.

- Stay Up-to-Date on Immunizations. Get COVID-19 and flu shots (and RSV and pneumococcal pneumonia, if eligible). The best way to stay healthy and protect others is to be up-to-date on the recommended immunizations and make sure all of one’s loved ones – from those aged 6 months to 100+ years – are also current on theirs.

- Limit Exposure to Air Pollutants. If possible, avoid environments with high levels of air pollution, chemical fumes, secondhand smoke and other lung irritants. It’s also essential to test the home for radon, a leading cause of lung cancer, and take action if levels are elevated. If a person has asthma or other lung health concerns, regularly monitor daily air quality forecasts to take precautions against outdoor air pollution. Conditions in one’s area can be checked at Airnow.gov.

Learn more about how to protect one’s lung health in 2025 at Lung.org or call 1-800-LUNGUSA.

## Safety Tips Shared for Residents Awaiting Power Restoration

As a severe winter storm impact the region, thousands of residents may be without power in freezing temperatures. The West Virginia Department of Health is urging residents to take immediate steps to stay warm, healthy, and safe while waiting for power to be restored.

For those who lose power, the safest place to be is inside their home. Gather in one or two rooms and close off any unneeded spaces to conserve heat. Use blankets, sleeping bags, or clothing to stay warm. For those with a fireplace or wood stove, use it cautiously and ensure proper ventilation. Never use a gas stove, charcoal grill, or portable heater indoors, as these can cause dangerous carbon monoxide poisoning.

Layer clothing to trap body heat and insulate against the cold. Wearing a hat and warm socks can help prevent heat loss, while mittens or gloves will keep hands warm. These simple steps can go a long way in maintaining body temperature during prolonged exposure to the cold.

Anyone with access to a generator or space heaters should make sure they are placed in a well-ventilated area, and far from any flammable materials. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions carefully. Never run a generator indoors or in an attached garage, as this can lead to carbon monoxide exposure.

Close any windows and doors, even if storm windows or plastic are already in place, to prevent drafts. Placing towels or blankets under doors and around windows can help minimize heat loss. With a fireplace, it is important to make sure the damper is closed when not in use to prevent cold air from entering the home.

For those with access to a gas stove or who can safely use a portable stove, consider heating up soups, stews, or hot drinks. Eating snacks like nuts, granola bars, or dried fruit can be an effective way to maintain body

temperature.

Even in cold weather, it’s essential to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of fluids, especially if you are exerting energy outside in the cold. Be aware of the signs of frostbite, hypothermia, and dehydration. Symptoms of frostbite include numbness, tingling, or pale skin in exposed areas.

Hypothermia can cause confusion, slurred speech, and extreme shivering. Anyone showing any of these signs should seek medical attention immediately.

In addition, please make an effort to check on elderly or infirm neighbors, particularly those who live alone. They may be more vulnerable during power outages. For those who are able, offer assistance with food, heat, or transportation to a warming center. Ensure they have blankets, warm clothing, and access to emergency supplies.

It’s also a good idea to be prepared for an extended power outage. Make sure there are enough emergency supplies on hand, including flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food, medications, and other necessary items.

“Safety and preparedness are critical when facing extreme winter conditions,” said Sherri Young, cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health. “We urge everyone to take these precautions seriously and help look out for those in our community who may need assistance during this difficult time.”

Residents in need of emergency assistance should call 911.

For updates on the availability of warming centers, they can also contact their county’s non-emergency line at <https://cmd.wv.gov/About/News/Pages/WV-Counties-Non-Emergency-Assistance.aspx>.

For residents seeking additional resources, please contact West Virginia’s 2-1-1 hotline, hosted by United Way, by calling 2-1-1 or visiting <https://wv211.org/>.

## New West Virginia Vacation Guide Available

Governor Patrick Morrisey unveiled the 2025 West Virginia Vacation Guide, the state’s official travel magazine. Packed full of stunning imagery and hidden gems, this guide makes the perfect tool for travelers to plan their 2025 getaway to the Mountain State. Travelers can request a free copy of the new guide online to be sent to their doorstep or pick one up at one of the state’s welcome centers.

“This guide tells the story of West Virginia,” said Morrisey. “It highlights our natural beauty, growing recreational opportunities and thriving towns filled with local businesses. I encourage everyone to get a copy and discover for themselves what makes West Virginia the shining state in the mountains.”

Organized by experiences, the new guide highlights ways to explore the outdoors, experience mountain culture, escape and unwind. It also gives insider tips on Appalachian eats, Almost Heaven swing locations and how to best enjoy West Virginia in each of the four seasons. From extraordinary overnight stays and historic hubs to natural wonders and thrilling adventures, the new vacation guide uncovers the abundance of activities awaiting in West Virginia.

“The 2025 guide will inspire you to spend your vacation days in Almost Heaven,” said Chelsea Ruby, West Vir-

ginia Department of Tourism secretary. “Whether you’re a traveler planning to visit for the very first time or a local looking for new ways to experience every corner of the state, this guide showcases all the unique and amazing experiences awaiting you. So, bring along the entire family and all your friends - we can’t wait to welcome you to West Virginia!”

The 2025 Vacation Guide was produced in partnership with Dotdash Meredith, a leading publisher producing Southern Living, Real Simple, and Parents magazines. By partnering with Dotdash Meredith, the new guide will accompany 100,000 Travel + Leisure magazines and be mailed to West Virginia’s target markets to encourage travel to the Mountain State. Last year alone, the West Virginia Department of Tourism distributed over a quarter of a million printed guides to travelers across the nation and around the world.

To request a free copy of the 2025 West Virginia Vacation Guide go to <https://wvtourism.com/information-and-press/free-travel-guide/get-a-free-wv-travel-guide/>. To access a digital version of the guide, go to [https://digital.emagazines.com/West\\_Virginia/20250106/index.html?t=c385fbae-eff7-44a8-b0ee-361ae856034d&err=true&utm\\_campaign=testlink\\_west\\_virginia&utm\\_source=EG&utm\\_medium=EG#pl](https://digital.emagazines.com/West_Virginia/20250106/index.html?t=c385fbae-eff7-44a8-b0ee-361ae856034d&err=true&utm_campaign=testlink_west_virginia&utm_source=EG&utm_medium=EG#pl).

## REAL ID Enforcement Begins May 7

The Transportation Security Administration has published a final rule providing a framework for federal agency phased enforcement of REAL ID requirements. Federal agencies, including TSA, will begin REAL ID enforcement on the deadline — May 7, 2025.

Starting on May 7, only state-issued driver’s licenses and identification cards that meet the security requirements established by the REAL ID Act will be allowed for official purposes, including boarding commercial aircraft. The final rule provides necessary flexibility for federal agencies to begin enforcement in a manner that takes into account security, operational risk and public impact.

Federal agencies that use a phased enforcement approach must also coordinate their enforcement plans with TSA and make them publicly available on agency websites. TSA will provide additional information about its use of phased enforcement authority on TSA.gov.

“Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2005 to enhance security standards for identification, directly in response to the security vulnerabilities highlighted by the 9/11 attacks,” said David Pekoske, TSA administrator. “Identity verification is foundational to security. I urge those who use a driver’s license or state-issued identity card as their primary form of identification to access federal facilities or board commercial passenger aircraft, to ensure these credentials are REAL ID-compliant. We are committed to engaging with the public, licensing jurisdictions and states to facilitate a smooth transition to REAL ID enforcement beginning May 7, 2025, which this rule supports.”

All states are issuing REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses and identification cards. TSA continues to urge travelers to obtain a REAL ID-compliant state-issued driver’s license, state-issued identification card or another form of acceptable ID before May 7 to avoid delays at airport security checkpoints.

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# Arbor Day Foundation honors Garrett College



Garrett College staff and students have been collaborating with the Mountain Laurel Garden Club (MLGC) and the Maryland Forest Service on an initiative to transform the College’ physical environment with a series of campus plantings.

## GC named 2024 Tree Campus for its work with MLGC, Forest Service

McHenry, MD – The Arbor Day Foundation has designated Garrett College as a 2024 Tree Campus.

In recently announcing the award, the Foundation said Garrett College earned that designation through a review of its “commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and community engagement.” Garrett College staff and students have been collaborating with the Mountain Laurel Garden Club (MLGC) and the Maryland Forest Service on an initiative to transform the College’ physical environment with a series of campus plantings.

“We were successful in forming an advisory committee, writing a campus tree care plan, and creating a service-learn-

ing project aimed at engaging the student body,” said MLGC co-President Linda Harris. “This allowed us to be organized in our goals and objectives, and to work toward beautifying and improving the campus green spaces.”

Harris commended Western Region Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Katherine Phillips and Maryland Forest Service Garrett/Allegany Project Manager Melissa Nash for their assistance, including helping to “choose great plants for our landscaping projects.”

Harris also praised Garrett College’s collaborative nature in creating a plan that resulted in the 2024 Tree Campus designation.

“Our partnership with Garrett College has been exceptionally rewarding and successful because of the support the Col-

lege has given us to lead planting projects on campus,” said Harris. “The support has come from many different departments and people at the College.”

Dr. Richard Midcap, Garrett College’s president, said the partnership with MLGC and the Maryland Forest Service is “dramatically improving our campus outdoor environment.”

“We appreciate the efforts of the Garden Club and the Forest Service in enhancing the College’s green spaces,” added Midcap.

“Trees on campus improve air quality and boost physical health benefits for students and staff,” said Harris. “Trees also improve students’ mental and cognitive health, providing an appealing aesthetic for campuses, and create shaded areas for gathering and studying.”



# Garrett College spring headcount grows 8%

## Number of spring credit students is highest since 2016

McHenry, MD – Garrett College recorded its highest total of spring semester credit students in nine years this semester, according to data released by the College’s Office of Records and Registration (ORR).

GC has 677 credit students this spring, an increase of eight percent, the highest since the College enrolled 693 students in spring 2016. This spring’s enrollment is the second-highest headcount in the last 12 years.

“We’re very pleased to see enrollment continuing to grow,” said Dr. Richard Midcap, Garrett College’s president. “With spring enrollment now finalized, we’ve seen credit enrollment growth for three consecutive fiscal years.”

Total spring credit hours taken by Garrett’s students increased 8.4 percent, rising from 5,650.50 in spring 2024 to 6,126.50 in spring 2025. That’s the highest total since spring 2020, when the College logged 6,190.75 spring credit hours.

The College’s headcount enrollment has grown 28.7

percent over the last four years, according to ORR data. GC’s spring credit hours increased 23 percent over the same four-year time period.

“Our student headcount is almost 12 percent higher than spring 2020, which was our last pre-COVID semester,” said Dr. Robert “JR” Kerns, GC’s dean of student affairs. “That’s really quite an achievement.”

Kerns said new academic programs, including sport management, and expansion of the College’s intercollegiate athletic program have both played roles in GC’s enrollment growth.

“We’ve been intentionally trying to expand opportunities that provide enrollment growth potential,” said Kerns, adding he expects the radiologic technology program that launches in June and the men’s soccer program that starts in August to further expand enrollment.

Ongoing increases in the number of High School Dual Enrollment (HSDE) students is helping to drive headcount increases, according to Dr. Kelli Sisler, GC’s director of institutional effectiveness.

“HSDE grew almost 15 percent from last spring to this spring,” said Sisler, noting that the Garrett College Scholarship Program continues to fund HSDE. “The five-year trend data is even more impressive – there has been an 85 percent increase in the number of HSDE participants this spring compared to spring 2020.”

Professor Christa Bowser, GC’s chief academic officer, said implementation of The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future by Garrett County Public Schools (GCPS) and Garrett College has played a key role in expanding HSDE.

“The Blueprint emphasizes public schools and colleges working collaboratively to offer high school students a dual enrollment option, which GCPS and the College have worked extensively to provide,” said Bowser. “GCPS and the College already had a close working relationship, but the Blueprint sparked an even higher level of collaboration.”

GC’s part-time student population hit an all-time high this spring with 369 part-time students, which Bowser said is largely due to the increase in HSDE.



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