

The Parsons Advocate

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Guest Death Under Investigation at Timberline Mountain

By: Lydia Crawley

The Parsons Advocate

There was a death at the Timberline Mountain Resort Sunday, January 4th. Timberline Mountain released a statement Sunday evening confirming the death on their Facebook page after 6 p.m. that evening.

"It is with profound sadness that we can confirm the death of a guest at Timberline Mountain on Sunday, January 4th," the post reads.

In the post, Timberline confirmed that the death is under investigation, but did not provide any additional information surrounding the incident.

"The incident is currently under investigation," the post reads. "In consideration for the family's privacy, we ask for your patience and understanding that we have no further details to share at this time."

There have been unconfirmed reports from bystanders that the death was the result of a fall from the chair lift possibly due to a medical emergency and first responders provided CPR on site.

Timberline Mountain also sent their condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of the deceased in their post. Timberline also thanked the ski patrol, mountain staff and local emergency services for their rapid, professional response to the emergency.

"Our priority is always the safety and well-being of our guests," the post reads. "Our hearts go out to everyone affected and we thank our community for their support in the wake of this tragedy."

The Parsons Advocate reached out to the West Virginia State Patrol, but have not received comment by press time. We will print updates as they become available.



Fire Crews from all over worked together to fight the blaze that engulfed a home in Hambleton over the Holidays. Photo courtesy Tucker County Connection Facebook.

Fire Ravages Hambleton Home Over Holidays

By: Lydia Crawley

The Parsons Advocate

This year's Holiday Celebrations were devastated for one Tucker County Family this year when fire raised their home at 86 Center Street in Hambleton to the ground the late evening of December 29th. The family of three were able to make it out safely. It was reported the family had two dogs and three cats.

According to Parsons Fire Department Chief and Tucker County Director of Emergency Management Kevin White, the two story structure was completely engulfed in flames by the time fire crews arrived on scene.

"The structure was fully involved when we got there," White said. "It's basically leveled. It's on the ground. There's really nothing there."

White said that there were trees in the area that were

See FIRE page 10



Mon Forest Increasing, Adding Fees for Several Developed Recreation Sites

By: Lydia Crawley

The Parsons Advocate

The Forest Service announced December 5th that the Monongahela National Forest will be creating new and increasing fees for several developed sites. The fees are targeted towards maintenance and enhancing visitor experience. The fees are scheduled to take effect January 1, 2026, according to the Forest Service.

The fee changes incorporated public comments, level of amenities, services provided, cost of operations and market assessments, according to the Forest Service. The changes were approved by the West Virginia Recreation Resource Advisory (Recreation RAC) Committee and the Eastern Regional Forester, the Forest Service said.

Fee programs provide a source of funding to assist in maintaining and enhancing high quality recreation sites, according to the Forest Service. The fees go back into the forest to improve public access, safety and experience. The Forest Service said that visitors are expected to see improve-

ments in 14 developed campgrounds, two cabin sites and three day use/picnic areas.

Under the 2004 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the Forest Service is allowed to retain 95% of revenue collected at recreation sites and use the funds locally to operate, maintain and improve sites, according to the Forest Service. The funds reinvested into the recreation sites will be used for extra trash pickups at highly visited river campsites including Stonecoal, Williams River, and Cranberry River sites during peak angling season, septic and toilet pumping, painting, renovation of campsites to improve access for all users through installation of ADA accessible amenities, and improving surfacing of camping spurs and paths, enhancing patrols at highly visited fee sites such as Lake Sherwood and Red Creek to increase fee compliance and visitor safety, maintaining highly used trails, cabin/lookout rentals, campsites, and more the Forest Service said.

The following list of fees have been

See MON FOREST page 4

Blackwater Falls Makes Step Towards DarkSky Designation

By: Lydia Crawley

The Parsons Advocate

Blackwater Falls State Park is making progress towards its goal of becoming an International Dark-Sky Park. The Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation (BWFSPF) has announced plans to apply by the end of 2026, Board Member Kris Jordan reports.

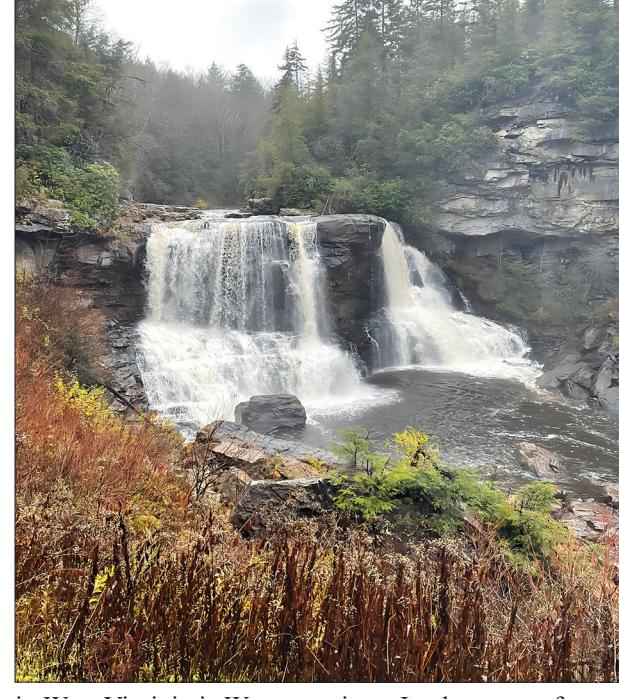
"We're hoping that this year in 2026, we can raise the rest of the money and get to the two-thirds point where we can apply," Jordan said.

Over the past couple of years, the BWFSPF has been working on raising money and replacing light fixtures in anticipation of applying for accreditation through DarkSky International, an international organization that accredits sites across the world based on ambient light levels and artificial lighting

parameters or "Lighting Zones" and CIE Environmental Zones which range from E0 Intrinsically Dark to E4 High district brightness.

The organization lists five distinct Lighting Zones from LZ0, which has no ambient lighting to LZ4 which has high ambient lighting.

Currently, the only



in West Virginia is Watoga State Park in Pocahontas County.

"Right now what we are doing is trying to raise the

money to replace all the light fixtures so that they are Dark Sky compliant, which basically means that they have an orange or amber color so they don't shed as much blue light and they point down so they're not shining up at the sky," Jordan said.

Jordan said that the process has varied in complexity. In the case of some fixtures, it has been as inexpensive and easy as changing the bulbs, but on more extensive and well lit areas, such as the sled run, entire fixtures will need replaced at costly estimates.

"In some cases it's as simple as replacing a bulb, in other cases, particularly the sled run, because that run is so well lit, it's going to be, I think the latest estimate is about \$30,000 to replace those lights," Jordan said. "All the fixtures

See BLACKWATER page 4

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News of Record

The following criminal complaints have been filed in the Tucker County Magistrate office:

• **Jason Wayne Crossland**, was charged with one count Leaving the Scene of an Accident and one count Failure to Maintain Control. According to the complaint, on Sunday, Dec. 14 Cpl. B.M. Gidley of the Tucker County Sheriff's Office received a call for service for a hit and run that occurred on WV32 going toward Canaan Valley. The complainant had called 911 to advise he had been hit by another vehicle in the rear end. He advised it was a white Nissan Frontier with a rack of some sort in the bed heading southbound towards Canaan Valley. The vehicle was spotted on a rollback by Animal Control Officer, C. Thompson and information for the owner, Jason Crossland was obtained by Cpl. Summerfield, photos of the vehicle showed front end damage.

On Thursday, Dec. 18 Cpl. B.M. Gidley went to the residence to talk to the owner but he was not home. The officer talked with his mother who advised that Crossland had crashed on WV72 not WV32.

On Saturday, Dec. 20 Gidley contacted Dave Ketterman in an attempt to get more information and he advised that he had towed the vehicle to an address in Davis. He had picked the vehicle up from the Canaan Valley Maintenance Garage. He advised the parents of the owner contacted him.

On Sunday, Dec. 21 Gidley attempted to contact Crossland and left a message.

On Monday, Dec. 22 Gidley attempted contact again and got to talk to J. Crossland. He advised Gidley that he had wrecked his truck on WV72 and not WV32 on Saturday, Dec. 13 and had his friend tow him to Canaan Valley Maintenance garage. The officer explained to him that the complainant had described his vehicle and he advised that his vehicle was at the Canaan Valley garage. Gidley then attempted to contact Crossland again with no answer and left a voice mail. Gidley then contacted the Director of Canaan Valley and asked for information about the suspect and he provided the officer with a time card that Crossland had clocked into work at 12:14 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14. Gidley and Chief Deputy Sigley then went to WV32 to locate any parts of the vehicles involved and located white pieces of bumper located near Lochoa Drive. They were collected for evidence. Officers then went to St. George Medical Clinic in Canaan to look at cameras and the Inn of Canaan. An employee from the clinic contacted Sigley and advised around 11:33 a.m. a vehicle matching the truck was seen on their camera system.

On Friday, Dec. 26 Gidley met with the General Manager of the Inn of Canaan and looked at camera footage, he watched the complainant's vehicle pass and behind was a white Nissan Frontier with a black rack in the bed. It passed by the Inn at approximately 11:33 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14. The Frontier had no apparent damage to the front on the footage. Gidley then looked at a different view and saw the same vehicle in question with no front-end damage. Gidley looked at photos provided by Cpl. Summerfield and the truck in the video footage matched the photos sent to him.

• **David Jefferson Boyles**, was charged with one count Domestic Assault. The complaint states that on Monday, Dec. 29, Trooper G.P. Hahn was dispatched to 132 Orchard Lane for a call of an active domestic. He was advised that the brother (David Jefferson Boyles, accused) of

the complaint. He had shown up to the residence unwanted and began tearing things up. Hahn arrived on scene and made contact with the complainant who stated that the accused had begun acting aggressive and tearing up the house. He also stated that the accused had struck his father who was no longer on the scene. He went on to say that Boyles was threatening to shoot the members of the household. Hahn was advised that Boyles had knocked holes in the walls and that he had taken a deer head off the wall and threw it against the ground destroying it. Hahn was advised that Boyles had at one point picked up a phone and threw it at his mother. Hahn asked the mother about this to which she stated that her heart rate was up and she didn't remember what happened. EMS was called to the scene for the mother who was said to have been going into AFIB because of the actions of Boyles. Hahn observed damage to the walls as well as the ceiling and floor from the deer head that was ripped off the wall and smashed. The complainant stated to this officer that the actions of Boyles and verbal threats made her fear for her safety.

• **Alexander Harris Keller**, of Davis was charged with one count of Petit Larceny. According to the complaint on Friday, Dec. 26 at approximately 9:38 a.m. Sr. Trp. R.S. Musgrave received a call complaint from the General Manager for BFS located in Davis. He wanted to report a shoplifting that happened earlier that morning. On this same date the officer arrived at BFS and spoke with the GM who advised he had security camera footage of Alex Keller stealing merchandise early that morning at approximately 1 a.m. Upon reviewing footage, the officer observed Keller enter the business and proceed to the back of the store. At this time, Keller returns to the front and proceeds to grab a display box and its entirety off the counter, run past all points of sale and exit out the front door. At this time Keller is observed running away from the business carrying the stolen items across the main road (WV32). The officer was able to identify Keller due to multiple Law Enforcement interactions.

The GM advised the officer of what was in the box and the quantity of each item. The GM advised the display box was approximately \$80 in value. The box was housing 11 large containers of Delta 8 7g (Sativa THC Flower) total value of \$582.88, four small containers of Delta 8 3.5g (Sativa THC Flower) total value \$66.87. All stolen items including the display box adding up to a total value of \$867.75.

At this time the officer obtained photos of the same merchandise that was not taken via body cam, along with a copy of the security footage. He also obtained two written statements from the GM and the employee who was working during the theft.

• **Alex Harris Keller**, was charged with two counts of Obstructing an Officer. The complaint states that on Monday, Dec. 29 Cpl. B.M. Gidley and Chief Deputy Sigley were patrolling the Davis area looking for a subject by the name of Alex Keller who had an active warrant for Petit Larceny. Officers located the subject on Henry Ave in a yard. Gidley got out of his cruiser and advised the subject to come to him.

The subject refused commands to stop. Officers then yelled to stop again and he stopped.

Officers were talking to the subject when Gidley advised he had warrants and he would be

going to the magistrate's office to take care of them. The subject then handed Gidley a dollar bill and when Gidley went to search the subject and place handcuffs on him, he then proceeded to run from officers. Officers pursued him on foot towards the Billy Motel, Davis Car Wash, into a tree line then behind EMS Station 2. Gidley kept yelling commands to stop multiple times and the subject refused to stop. He then ran down the bike trail on WV32 towards US 48 when a Wildlife officer stopped and pulled his taser out and advised him to stop. The subject then crossed the road on WV32 where he then stopped and surrendered to officers. Gidley advised the subject he was under arrest and he walked him down to EMS Station 2 when Gidley brought the cruiser to him. The subject was then placed into the back and transported to the WVSP detachment in Parsons for processing.

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

- **Jeffery S. Hardy and Cody Lynn Hardy**, Davis Corporation, Lot 9, Davis Annex, .38 acres to Ruth D. Bullwinkle, \$175,000.
- **Jodie Ann Dix**, Davis Corporation, Lot 101 and 102 to Wayne Timothy Clark, III.
- **Corey Bozic and Cole Bozic**, Dry Fork District, Lot 140 Northpoint Woods, .80 acres to Amon Moreira De Faria and Brittany Faria, \$550,000.
- **Albert M. Espinoza**, Dry Fork District, .662 acres land of Canaan to Carpathian Timberline LLC, \$740,000.
- **Kathleen L. Hoppe**, Dry Fork District, Lot 14 Deer Ridge Section, Timberline Subdivision, 5.34 acres to Kathleen L. Hoppe Trust; Kathleen L. Hoppe, Trustee.
- **Wayne A. Grinnick and Linda J. Grinnick**, Licking District, Revocable Transfer on Death Deed: 24 acres near Hannaahsville; Brian W. Grinnick, Beneficiary, Heather L. Williams, Beneficiary.
- **John A. Graham, Candida A. Barralaga, Gutierrez**, Licking District, Lot 59 Landboc Property Owners to Natalia E. Melendez.
- **Kristin Cantwell and Marc Cantwell**, St. George District, Lot 619, 2 acres to John A. Cantwell, Jr.

The Parsons Advocate

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West Virginia Century Farm Program Accepting Applications for 2026

Applications are now open for the 2026 West Virginia Century Farm Program, which recognizes families who have farmed the same land for generations. The program honors West Virginia farms that have remained in the same family for 100 years or more, celebrating the long-standing role of agriculture in communities across the state.

Farms are recognized in four categories based on years of continuous family ownership and operation:

- Century Farms (100 years)
- Sesquicentennial Farms (150 years)
- Bicentennial Farms (200 years)
- Sestercentennial Farms (250 years)

To be eligible, a farm must have been in continuous operation by the same family, include at least 10 acres of the original land, and generate more than \$1,000 annually from farm products. A family

member must have lived on the farm or played an integral role in the day-to-day operation of the farm enterprise. Ownership may pass through wives, husbands, children, brothers, sisters, nephews, or nieces.

Applications for the 2026 program are available in PDF format at https://www.wvca.us/education/pdf/centuryFarmAppl_U1225.pdf. Check with Tygart Valley Conservation District to find out when applications must be submitted by.

All conservation districts must submit their approved Century Farm applications to Ken Brown by April 1, 2026.

For more information about the West Virginia Century Farm Program, please contact Ken Brown at retiredtch20023@yahoo.com or by phone (304) 617-1682.

The Parsons Advocate

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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@parsonsvocate.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.

SPORTS



Rachel Hile in her wrestling debut.

After Nearly 40-Year Hiatus, Tucker County Welcomes Back Wrestling

By: Adam Freeman

It has been nearly 40 years since Tucker County High School outfitted a wrestling team, but that hiatus has come to an end for the 2026 winter sports season. Six student-athletes—Juniper Judy, Mitch Neil, Rachel Hile, Emi Arnold, AJ Maniscarco, and Evan Hexom—all donned the black and gold in a match

last week at East Hardy High School.

The team competed in five duals at the Baker Brawl tournament, with Mitch Neil securing a win. Substantial progress was shown by the first-year team across the board. The squad is coached by Leonard Gruppo, who is excited about the startup of the program and hopes this season sparks more interest for next year.

Lady Mt. Lions Stumble Against Wayne, Blow Past East Hardy

By: Adam Freeman

The Tucker County Lady Mt. Lions traveled to Summersville, WV, last week to participate in the Winter Classic and take on the defending AAA state champions from Wayne County. The Pioneers jumped out to a 17-0 lead against the Mt. Lions, who took some time to settle in after the long holiday layoff. At the end of the first period, Wayne led 24-7, extending that lead to 38-15 going into halftime.

The Lady Mt. Lions found their rhythm in the second half, outscoring Wayne 15-11 in the third quarter and 13-11 in the fourth. However, the deficit was too great to overcome, and Tucker fell 60-43.

M. Evans 10 Pts, 10 Reb, 3 Stl, FT 4-7; A. Moats 8 Pts, 2 Reb; I. Kitzmiller 8 Pts, 7 Reb, FT 0-2; C. Shaffer 6 Pts, 9 Reb, FT 2-2; P. Hicks 5 Pts, 3 Reb; M. Gross 4 Pts, 3 Reb; W. Carroll 2 Pts, 4 Reb.

3-Point Field Goals (3-18)

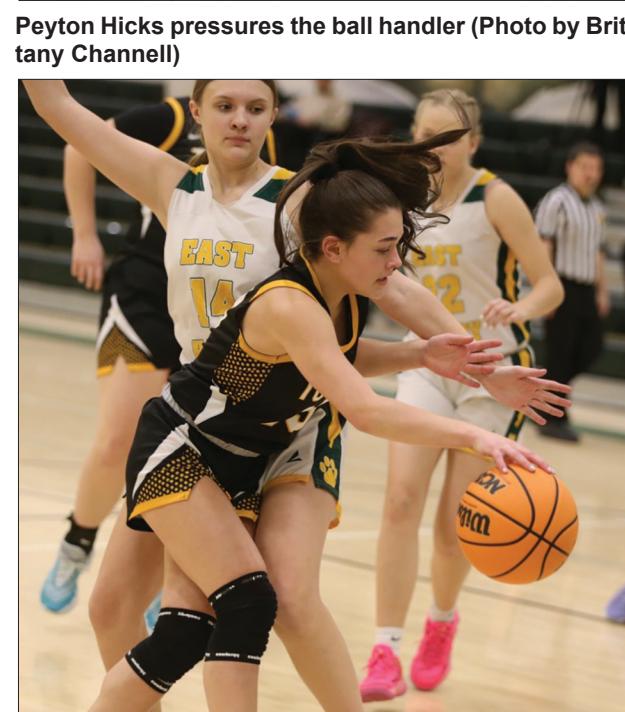
Kitzmiller (2) Hicks (1)

Tucker remained on the road at the end of the week, traveling to Baker, WV, to take on the East Hardy Cougars. Tucker shut out East Hardy in the first period, outscoring the Cougars 23-0. The second period offered more of the same, with Tucker County holding a 43-3 advantage. The Lady Mt. Lions cruised through the second half to secure a dominant 72-9 victory.

M. Evans 17 Pts, 10 Reb, FT 3-3; I. Kitzmiller 13 Pts, 5 Reb, 4 Stl, FT 2-2; A. Moats 11 Pts, 1 Reb, FT 1-2; P. Cross 9 Pts, 9 Reb, FT 3-4; P. Hicks 7 Pts, 5 Reb, 8 Stl; W. Carroll 6 Pts, 3 Reb, 2 Stl, FT 0-2; M. Gross 5 Pts, 3 Stl; Kitzmiller (1) Hicks (1)



Peyton Hicks pressures the ball handler (Photo by Brittany Channell)



Willow Carroll gets past the defender (Photo by Brittany Channell)

C. Shaffer 2 Pts, 7 Reb; A. Moats 11 Pts, 1 Reb, FT 1-2; P. Cross 9 Pts, 9 Reb, FT 3-4; P. Hicks 7 Pts, 5 Reb, 8 Stl; W. Carroll 6 Pts, 3 Reb, 2 Stl, FT 0-2; M. Gross 5 Pts, 3 Stl; Kitzmiller (1) Hicks (1)

Tucker improves its record to 5-1 on the young season. The team returns to action at home on Tuesday, January 6th, against Moorefield High School.

Mt. Lions Hang Tough in Gauntlet with Grafton, North Marion, East Hardy, and Tug Valley

By: Adam Freeman

Tucker County Head Coach Daniel Helmick said he wanted to simulate a state tournament-type run during the regular basketball season. He got just that with games against AAA Grafton and North Marion, followed by bouts with Class A #6 East Hardy and #1 Tug Valley.

Tucker began this gauntlet of games at home, playing host to Grafton High School. The Mt. Lions never trailed and settled in for a quality 65-53 victory over the Bearcats.

E. Cummings 19 Pts, 8 Reb, FT 6-8; S. Marks 12 Pts, 7 Reb, FT 2-3; M. Mitchell 11 Pts, 4 Ast, FT 3-4; X. Lambert 9 Pts, 5 Reb, FT 5-6; C. Dearborn 7 Pts, 1 Reb; C. Arnold 4 Pts, 1 Reb, FT 2-5; L. Barb 3 Pts, 2 Reb, FT 1-1
3-Point Field Goals (6-18)

Cummings (3) Dearborn (1) Mitchell (1) Marks (1)

The team then traveled to Summersville to take on one of the top-ranked teams in AAA, the North Marion Huskies. Tucker trailed by only two points, 26-24, at the halftime break, but offensive woes in the second half limited the Mt. Lions to just 11 points as they ultimately fell 52-35.

C. Arnold 13 Pts, 3 Reb, FT 1-2; E. Cummings 7 Pts, 3 Reb; X. Lambert 6 Pts, 5 Reb; S. Marks 4 Pts, 5 Reb; C. Dearborn 3 Pts, 1 Reb; L. Barb 1 Pt, FT 1-2; D. Simmons 1 Pt.
3-Point Field Goals (2-16)

Dearborn (1) Cummings (1)

The Mt. Lions returned home on Friday to take on the Class A #6 East Hardy Cougars. Tucker found themselves down 14-2 to start the game but battled back to trail by just three, 30-27, at the half. TC outscored the Cougars 18-8 to start the second half, powered by Cayden Arnold's career-high 25-point performance. Tucker pushed through to the end to secure a 59-51 win.

C. Arnold 25 Pts, 4 Reb, 4 Stl, FT 3-8; S. Marks 8 Pts, 4 Reb, FT 2-2; E. Cummings 8 Pts, 4 Reb, FT 1-4; C. Dearborn 7 Pts, 6 Reb, FT 2-2; L. Barb 4 Pts, 3 Reb; M. Mitchell 4 Pts, 1 Reb, FT 2-2; X. Lambert 3 Pts, FT 1-2

3-Point Field Goals (2-18)

Cummings (1) Dearborn (1)

Last, but certainly not least, a home matchup on Saturday with the two-time defending State Champion Tug Valley Panthers (both



Cayden Arnold rejects the shot (Photo by Brittany Channell)



Marks scores on the reverse layup (Photo by Brittany Channell)

against the Mt. Lions) wrapped up the busy week. The game started in an unusual fashion when a technical foul was assessed to the Mt. Lions for dunking during warmups; this gave Tug Valley a 1-0 lead before a single second had come off the clock.

The contest was a back-and-forth slugfest, with Tug holding a one-point lead (18-17) at the end of the first, a two-point lead (33-31) at the half, and a one-point lead (52-51) at the end of the third. With the Mt. Lions trailing by one heading into the final frame, both teams scored exactly 14 points in the fourth, allowing Tug to

maintain their narrow advantage for a 66-65 win. Tucker's "Slinging Sammy" Marks notched five triples in the effort to lead the Mt. Lions.

S. Marks 19 Pts, 3 Reb; M. Mitchell 16 Pts, 8 Reb, FT 2-2; E. Cummings 11 Pts, 3 Reb, FT 3-6; X. Lambert 9 Pts, 1 Reb, FT 3-4; C. Arnold 8 Pts, 7 Reb; C. Dearborn 2 Pts, 4 Reb.

3-Point Field Goals (11-24)

Marks (5) Mitchell (4); Lambert (2)

Tucker will return to the court on Monday, January 5th, at home against the Southern Garrett (MD) Rams. Tip-off is set for 7:00 PM.

SPORTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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Tucker Valley Wildcats
Davis Thomas Bears



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Sports

Cont. from page 3



Evans, left & Lambert, right, selected for All-Tournament team.

Tucker Valley Girls Finish Third in Belington Winter Classic

By: Adam Freeman

The Tucker Valley Lady Wildcats traveled to Barbour County to take part in the Belington Winter Classic. In the first round, Tucker was matched up against Barrackville Middle. The contest remained tight throughout, with Barrackville holding a 9-8 lead after the first quarter and a 15-14 lead at the half.

The Wildcats continued to battle back, outscoring their opponents 12-5 to start the second half as Tucker Valley took a 26-20 lead. However, the fourth quarter brought a scoring drought for the Lady Wildcats, who managed only 2 points to Barrackville's 11. The final score was 31-28 in favor of Barrackville. Mia Lambert led the Wildcats with 13 points, Ally Wright contributed 6, and Marlee Evans added 5.

Tucker moved on to the third-place game against Kasson Middle on Saturday morning. Tucker found themselves on the trailing end of a low-scoring first period, with Kasson holding a 4-3 edge. The Wildcats jump-started their offense in

the second period, pouring in 17 points to take a 20-12 lead into halftime. Tucker Valley maintained their lead through the third and fourth quarters, never trailing in the second half, to secure a 38-30 win.

Ally Wright led the Wildcats with 10 points, followed closely by Mia

Lambert with 9 and Marlee Evans with 5. For their outstanding efforts throughout the weekend, Lambert and Evans were both selected to the All-Tournament Team.

The Wildcats return to their home gym on Thursday, January 8th, against Webster County. Tip-off is set for 5:45 PM.

Lady Bears Get Pair of Wins Over Romney

By: Adam Freeman

The Davis Thomas Lady Bears made the trip to Hampshire County, WV to take on Romney in middle school basketball action.

The JV squad got things started by jumping out to an early 14-1 lead after the first quarter and a 21-7 advantage at halftime. Romney made a run in the second half, pulling the score closer at 25-17, but the Lady Bears held on late to secure a 34-28 victory. Stella Johnson and Elaina Pregley led the Bears with 13 points apiece, while Audri Mullenax added 6 and Shylah Wolfe chipped in 2.

Varsity action followed, with DT taking an early 11-2 lead. The Bears extended their cushion before the break to 17-6. DT remained steady, maintaining their lead through the third quarter and pulling away in the fourth to secure a 16-point victory, 38-22.

Addy Johnson led all scorers with 17 points, Morgan Simmons followed with 6 points, and Shay Wolfe finished with 5. Davis Thomas will return to action at home on January 7th at 5:00 PM.

Wildcats Drop Two Tough Ones in

Mountain State Middle School Invitational

By: Adam Freeman

The Tucker Valley Wildcats boys' basketball team traveled to Morgantown, WV, for one of the largest middle school basketball tournaments in the state this past week. The Wildcats took on Barrackville Middle from Marion County, followed by St. Francis Middle from Monongalia County.

In the matchup with Barrackville, TV found themselves in an early hole, trailing 10-2 after the first quarter and 22-11 at the break. The Wildcats continued to hang tough but could never close the gap, trailing 31-19 at the end of the third and ultimately falling 46-36. Titus Bowley led the way with 17 points, followed by Quinton Teter with 8 and Legend Harper with 6.

The Wildcats returned to Morgantown the following day to take on a private school in St. Francis. The game started out deadlocked at 9-9 to end the first period, but St. Francis



Legend Harper elevates to block the shot.

began to pull away before the half, leading 23-14. The Wildcats' offensive struggles continued in the second half, as they notched only 5 points in the third quarter and 2 points in the fourth.

The final score settled at

45-21. Quinton Teter led the team with 13 points, Titus Bowley added 6, and Blake Holland accounted for 2.

The Wildcats will return to action at the Buckhannon-Upshur gymnasium on January 6th at 6:00 PM.

Bears Drop Heartbreaker to East Preston, 50-48

By: Adam Freeman

The Davis Thomas Bears boys' team took on East Preston Middle School last week in what turned out to be a very memorable game. The Bears jumped out to an early 16-9 lead by the end of the first quarter, but East closed the gap before the break, leaving DT with a slight 23-22 edge at halftime.

The third quarter continued to be a dogfight, with DT maintaining a slim 35-32 advantage. The bout came down to the wire; with the score tied at 48-48, East Preston had possession of the ball. East

sank the final shot with just four seconds remaining, which proved to be the game-winner as East Preston took the victory, 50-48.

Elijah O'Brien led the Bears with 13 points, while Kevin Kerr and Nolan Luzzier followed closely with 12 points each. Jarrett Dearborn collected 9 points, and Westyn Huffman added 2 points.

The Bears continue to show signs of growth, development, and improvement early in the season. They will return to the court at home against West Preston on January 7th at 5:00 PM.

MON FOREST



approved:

Bear Heaven Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$10

Cranberry Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$15

•Double Site Fee: \$30

Williams River RUA Campground (Gauley RD)

•Single Site Fee: \$10

•Double Site Fee: \$20

Cranberry Mountain Nature Center, Group Picnic Site

•Day Fee: \$50 rate per group, Size: 75

Summit Lake Reservoir/Fishing Site, Group Picnic Site

•Day Fee: \$50 rate per group, Size: 75

Summit Lake Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$15

Cranberry RUA Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$10

•Double Site Fee: \$20

Red Oak Lookout

•Night Fee: \$100, Group size: 10

Middle Mountain Cabins

•Night Fee: \$100, Group size: 10

Island Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$15

Laurel Fork Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$15

•Double Site Fee: \$30

Stonecoal Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$15

Day Run Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$15

Tea Creek Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$15

Williams River RUA Campground (Marlinton RD)

•Single Site Fee: \$10

Red Creek Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$20

Lake Sherwood Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$25

•Double Site Fee: \$50

•Site w/ Electric Fee: \$35

•Tent Only Fee: \$20

Lake Sherwood Beach Swimming Site

•Day Fee: \$8 rate per vehicle

Blue Bend Campground

•Single Site Fee: \$20

•Double Site Fee: \$50

•Site w/ Electric Fee: \$30

BLACKWATER

Cont. From Page 1

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting

1 Useful

Use light only if it is needed

All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.



2 Targeted

Direct light so it falls only where it is needed

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.



3 Low Level

Light should be no brighter than necessary

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.



4 Controlled

Use light only when it is needed

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.



5 Warm-colored

Use warmer color lights where possible

Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.



need to be replaced."

Jordan went on to say that the application is quite extensive and lengthy. After application, the Park will have five years to complete replacement of the addition third of the lights in the park to meet the requirement to keep the DarkSky status.

"In order to actually apply for DarkSky status, about two-thirds of the lights in the area have to be compliant and then you can apply for the status," Jordan said.

Jordan said she was concerned over the possibility of the proposed Ridgeline Power Plant project with

its proximity to Blackwater State Park, especially the rumors that it would be used to power a future Data Center site in the area.

"Things like that could threaten our ability to get DarkSky status depending on exactly what kind of lights they use, how many and how they shine," Jordan said.

Jordan said that to prove true "Dark Sky" status, measurements must be taken that will determine the amount of light pollution in the area. One such test involves counting the number of stars in the Constel-

lation Orion, as well as prove light output. So far, Blackwater Falls qualifies, Jordan said.

"We have to take measurements of how dark it is when we apply and prove all that when we apply," Jordan said. "So far we're qualifying, we just have to replace the lights."

Jordan said that many home and property owners in the surrounding area are already helping by installing outdoor lighting fixtures to be DarkSky compliant. She said that some of the larger barn lights and commercial lights put off the most light pollution.

In 2025, the Foundation reported raising and spending over \$14,300 on the purchase and installation of dark sky compliant light fixtures. To date, 107 of the 326 Park's fixtures are compliant, about one-third.

The goal for 2026, the Foundation said is to raise the money to replace an additional 113 fixtures to bring the total number to the required 217 fixtures or two-thirds needed to apply for DarkSky status.

Additionally, in 2025, the Foundation has been working with Park Management to identify and support priorities for enhancements to the park. A new pickleball net was purchased and gravel for a new shed that was installed at the park's sled run was furnished. Efforts are also currently underway to raise money for new playground equipment for the park.

The Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation is a 501c3 charitable organization whose mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the Blackwater Falls State Park by providing leadership in communication, funding, and advocacy.

To learn more about the Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation or to donate to the group's efforts, visit their website at <https://bwfspfoundation.org/> or on Facebook (search "Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation"). The group's mailing address is P.O. box 120 in Davis.

The Parsons Advocate

P.O. Box 345
Parsons, WV 26287
304-478-3533

Fax: 304-478-1086
email: mikie@parsonsvocate.com
www.parsonsvocate.com

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8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday thru Friday

DEADLINE 3PM FRIDAY

CITY OF PARSONS 2026 HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

REGULAR PICKUP	RESCHEDULED PICKUP
Monday, January 19, 2026	Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Monday, February 16, 2026	Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Friday, April 3, 2026	Thursday, April 2, 2026
Monday, May 25, 2026	Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Friday, June 19, 2026	Thursday, June 18, 2026
Friday, July 3, 2026	Thursday, July 2, 2026
Monday, September 7, 2026	Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Monday, October 12, 2026	Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Wednesday, November 11, 2026	Tuesday, November 10, 2026
Wednesday, November 26, 2026	Tuesday, November 25, 2026
Friday, November 27, 2026	Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Friday, December 25, 2026	Wednesday, December 23, 2026
Friday, January 1, 2027	Wednesday, December 30, 2026

The City of Parsons reserves the right to change this schedule in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

If you have any questions, please contact the business office at: (304) 478-2311

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one bath. One day per
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Parsons, WV. \$20 per hour.
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historic Old Bank Building
in Davis. Huge 3rd floor
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Bill Peterson, leftbank@
mindspring.com.

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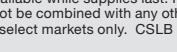


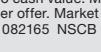
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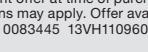
1-844-803-1282











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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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Press**
ASSOCIATION • SERVICES • FOUNDATION



What's? Happening

Buckwheat Dinner at St. John's Church, Parsons

Saturday, January 10th from 4pm - 6:30pm. \$12 donation for adult meal and \$6 for children 12 and younger. Carry out orders call 304-478-2620. Meal A - (5) buckwheat cakes & (2) cakes of sausage & (1) 4 oz. gravy & (1) biscuit. Meal B - (4) biscuits & (2) 4 oz. gravy & (2) cakes of sausage. Meal C - (4)

pancakes & (2) cakes of sausage & (1) 4 oz. gravy & (1) biscuit. Sponsored by St. John's Men.

The Tucker County Historic Landmark Commission

Meeting on Monday, January 12, 5:00pm at the Tucker County Historical Museum. The public is welcome to attend.



e-WV
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.

Jan. 7, 1910: A fire destroyed everything on Main Street in Bramwell from the train depot to Block Street with the exception of two buildings. The town quickly rebuilt, creating many of the beautiful Victorian houses that stand today.

Jan. 7, 1955: The Cedar Lakes Conference Center officially opened, though it was not named until 1957. The name was chosen for its two lakes and an abundance of native cedar trees.

Jan. 8, 1866: William Gustavus Conley was born near Kingwood (Preston County). Conley was West Virginia's 18th governor, serving from 1929 to 1933.

Jan. 8, 1919: The West Virginia legislature ratified the U.S. constitution's 18th Amendment in the Senate, 26-0, and in the House, 81-3. West Virginia was the 21st state to ratify the amendment. National prohibition went into effect under the Volstead Act on January 16, 1920.

Jan. 8, 1926: Comedian Soupy Sales was born Milton Supman. Raised in Huntington and graduating from Marshall College (now University), he achieved fame as a wacky television personality.



Jan. 8, 1926: Comedian Soupy Sales was born Milton Supman. Raised in Huntington and graduating from Marshall College (now University), he achieved fame as a wacky television personality.

no additional miners alive.

Jan. 11, 1865: Confederate forces under General Thomas Rosser burned the covered bridge at Beverly. Bridge builder Lemuel Chenoweth rebuilt the damaged span in 1872-73.

Jan. 11, 1893: U.S. Senator Harley Martin Kilgore was born in rural Harrison County. Kilgore served as a senator from West Virginia from 1940 until his death in 1952.

Jan. 12, 1869: Newspaperman Herschel Coombs Ogden was born near Fairmont. In 1888, he relocated to Wheeling and entered the newspaper business.

Jan. 13, 1905: Joseph H. Doss Debar died in Philadelphia. A supporter of the movement to create West Virginia, Doss Debar was commissioned in 1863 to design the Great Seal of West Virginia.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. For more information contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Jan. 10, 1925: Judge Elizabeth Virginia Hallinan was born in Charleston. She was West Virginia's first female federal court judge.

Jan. 10, 1928: Gov. Howard Gore appointed Minnie Buckingham Harper of McDowell County to fill the unexpired term of her husband, E. Howard Harper. She was the first Black woman to serve in a state legislative body in the United States.

Jan. 10, 1940: The Pond Creek No. 1 mine at Bartley in McDowell County exploded. The blast killed 91 miners, with another 47 escaping. Rescue teams worked five days to retrieve the bodies but found

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

Weather Totals

Dec. 23 - Dec. 30, 2025

Nursery Bottom Parsons

Temperature

Max 65° F
Min 18° F

Precipitation

Week 1.19"
December 3.02"
2025 52.17"

Snowfall

New Snow 1"
Snow on ground 1"
Winter Total 15"

U.S. Forest Service

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

By Teri Cayton

The Parsons Advocate

Our latest snowfall came at a very good time for the local ski resorts. Students are out on holiday break so everyone can enjoy the slopes all day and into the night. **Momma Said**, "Tried snow skiing once and that was enough for me."

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Christmas with friends and family and didn't overindulge on New Year's Eve. I can't stay awake long enough to watch the ball drop so I sure don't go out and party. **Momma Said**, "I can't even stay awake long enough to be a designated driver for anyone."

I don't know about everyone else but I do not do New Year's resolutions because I know I will not stick with it, whatever it may be. I try to be a good person

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



throughout the year and do my best to help people when I can, so I don't know what else I would make a resolution for. Maybe work smarter, not harder.

So far, we have not had a bad winter so if we can get through January and February, we will have another one behind us. I am happier each year that goes by to see Spring come along. I just don't like the darkness of winter. **Momma Said**, "I will have to hand it to the people in Alaska, I don't know how they cope."

Slow Cooker Chicken Burritos

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 15 oz can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1/2 tsp cumin
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 16 oz salsa
- 1 1/2 cups instant rice
- Tortillas, cheese, sour cream, and cilantro for serving

the slow cooker using two forks.

- Stir in the instant rice, cover, and let cook on high for an additional 20 minutes until the rice is tender.
- Warm the tortillas according to package instructions.
- To assemble the burritos, place a generous portion of the chicken and rice mixture in the center of each tortilla. Top with shredded cheese, sour cream, chopped cilantro, and other desired toppings.
- Fold in the sides of the tortilla and roll it up tightly to form a burrito.
- Optional: For a crispy exterior, heat a skillet over medium heat with a little oil. Place the burrito seam-side down and cook for 1-2 minutes on each side until golden brown.

Instructions

- Add the chicken, chicken broth, onion, bell pepper, pinto beans, chili powder, cumin, salt, pepper, and salsa to the slow cooker. Mix well.
- Cover and cook on low for 6 hours until the chicken is tender.
- Shred the chicken directly in

FAMILY EXPANSION

Super Crossword

ACROSS	43	Spool	78	Revise	122	Choose	28	Big name in	71	Nuclear trial
	44	Gets firm	80	Prepare to	123	Aden citizens	29	shortening	72	prohibition
	46	Produced a	81	give a ring?	124	French edict	30	Weedkillers	73	Catch cold
		napped	82	Horse father	125	site of 1598	31	Singly	74	Tartan skirt
7	Strip a dis-	surface on	83	Beijing-to-			32	James Fen-	75	sporter
guise from		Chart show-	84	Shanghai dir.			more Cooper	84	constitution	
	"Baby"	ing the highs	85	Shot fluids			novel, with	85	risen people	
	(#1 U2	and lows	86	84 "see it..."			"The"	86	Galileo's gp.	
	album of	of actress	87	One of the			opportunist	87	Inclined (to)	
1991)		Ellen's	88	Skywalkers			2 Singer	88	Petition, e.g.	
		career?	89	dressed up			Rawls	89	91 History unit	
			90	as St. Nick?			3 Dutch airline	90	92 Light refrain	
20	Arrive like	51 LP replacers	91	99 Kind of pear			4 Home to	91	93 Disinterest	
the tide		52 KGB's milieu	92	89 One of			edelweiss	92	(Uh-uh!)	
		56 "all over!"	93	98 Kind of			5 Probable	93	94 Glistening	
		57 Asian dress	94	pear			6 Architect	94	95 Hall-of-Fame	
21	Savage	58 Alex of "The	95	99 Kind of			Jones	95	footballer Mel	
22	Less dull	Godfather"	96	100 They negate			7 Alien craft	96	100 Flower organ	
23	Rural	61 Unmoving	97	deles			8 Writer Anaïs	97	102 Dry, white	
lumber-	jack resting	62 Orioles great	98	101 Afghan-			9 Not be joking	98	Italian wine	
jack	after	Ripken	99	wrapped			10 "Get Happy"	99	103 Strips for	
chopping?		Gp. for	100	football?			11 Highland	100	breakfast	
24	Lounged	Qatar	101	106 "Help!"			terrier, briefly	101	104 Currency	
around		64 Sea in 75-	102	107 Guthrie at			12 Saloon	102	unit of Laos	
		Across	103	Woodstock			barrel	103	105 Musical	
25	Dreamcast	65 "Now I see!"	104	108 B-to-F string			13 Figured out	104	exercise	
producer		66 Matchstick-	105	109 Thai tongue			the value of	105	111 Lab safety	
26	Get as clear	removing	106	110 "Think of			14 Stations	106	org.?	
profit		game								

West Virginia State Parks Foundation Announces the 'Mountains are Always Free' Photo Contest

West Virginia State Parks Foundation

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS



If you enjoy photographing West Virginia State Parks, Forests, and Rail Trails, the West Virginia State Parks Foundation invites you to enter your pictures in the **Mountains Are Always Free Photo Contest**.

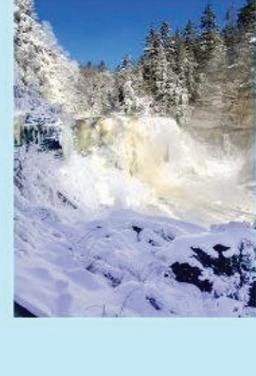
Send us your best winter shots in three categories:

✳ Winterscape – Stunning winter scenery or nature in any WV State Park area

✳ Fancy Facilities – Winter photos of unique park buildings, features, or facilities

✳ Outdoor Recreation – Your fave winter activities in the parks (hiking, fishing, etc.)

✳ Show us winter in the parks — your way!



From more information and rules visit:
<https://www.lovewvstateparks.com/events/>

Hurricane, WV: The West Virginia State Parks Foundation is announcing the commencement of the Mountains are Always Free Photo Contest. This contest, which will run through the end of February is intended to showcase the best of winter in West Virginia State Parks, Forests, and Rail Trails.

"West Virginia state park areas are absolutely beautiful in the wintertime", said Foundation Executive Director Brad Reed. "Our state is known as a four-season recreational paradise, and we would love to see those gorgeous landscapes and snowy weather family fun captured on film."

The contest is open to both amateur and professional photographers, and the winners will receive prizes from West Virginia State Parks. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: 1) Winterscape: photos of beautiful winter scenery/nature on WV State Park areas, 2) Fancy Facilities: winter photos of special WV State Park area buildings, facilities or features, 3) Outdoor Recreation: winter photos of your favorite WV State Park area outdoor recreation activities (hiking, fishing, etc.)

For more information and contest rules, visit <https://www.lovewvstateparks.com/events/>

About the WV State Parks Foundation:

The West Virginia State Parks Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to "preserve, protect, and enhance West Virginia State Parks by providing leadership in communication, funding, and advocacy in partnership with individual Park Foundations." Find them at www.lovewvstateparks.com.



Birth Announcement

"Max Steven Sponaugle was born Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at Tidelands Waccamaw Community Hospital in Murrells Inlet, SC. Max is the son of Steven and Danielle Sponaugle. He is the grandson of Steve "Dee" and Connie Sponaugle of Parsons, Rick and Dana Corcoran of Hambleton, Dwight and Debra Bible of Davis, and Bill and Cindy Snyder of Thomas. He is the godson of Jeremy and Amanda Hile of Horseshoe."

DEADLINE 3pm Friday



Sponsored by Mountain Valley Bank

AAA: Holidays Bring Lower Gas Prices to West Virginia

The average price for gasoline across Northern West Virginia is a penny cheaper this week at \$2.708 per gallon, according to AAA East Central's Gas Price Report.

Nationwide Trends:

As the holiday season is underway, motorists continue to find lower prices at the pump. Over the past week, the national average for a gallon of unleaded has fallen three cents to \$2.82. Gas prices have not been this low since December of 2020. Cheaper crude oil prices and increases in supply are contributing to the decrease in gasoline prices. Overall, 2025 has been a stable year for the national average with few fluctuations and no sharp spikes. Today's national average is 19 cents less than a month ago and 20 cents less than a year ago.

At the close of Friday's formal trading session, West Texas Intermediate fell \$1.61 to settle at \$56.74 a barrel. U.S. crude oil inventories are about 4% below the five-year average for this time of year.

The national average per kilowatt hour of electricity at a public EV charging station stayed the same this past week at 38 cents.

Northern West Virginia Averages

Today	\$2.708
One Week Ago	\$2.716
One Year Ago	\$2.934
Record Price Date	6/13/2022
Record Price	\$4.945

The average price of unleaded self-serve gasoline today in various areas:

\$2.579	Bridgeport
\$2.598	Clarksburg
\$2.746	Huntington
\$2.651	Martinsburg
\$2.823	Morgantown
\$2.491	Parkersburg
\$2.923	Weirton

\$2.856 Wheeling

Quick Gas and Electricity Stats

Gas

The nation's **top 10 most expensive gasoline markets** are Hawaii (\$4.44), California (\$4.29), Washington (\$3.89), Alaska (\$3.55), Oregon (\$3.46), Nevada (\$3.40), Pennsylvania (\$3.06), Vermont (\$3.05), New York (\$3.05), and Arizona (\$3.04).

The nation's **top 10 least expensive gasoline markets** are Oklahoma (\$2.25), Iowa (\$2.35), Colorado (\$2.39), Arkansas (\$2.39), Texas (\$2.41), Wisconsin (\$2.44), Tennessee (\$2.44), Kansas (\$2.45), Mississippi (\$2.46), and Louisiana (\$2.47).

Electric

The nation's **top 10 most expensive states for public charging per kilowatt hour** are West Virginia (53 cents), Alaska (49 cents), Hawaii (48 cents), Louisiana (45 cents), South Carolina (44 cents), New Hampshire (44 cents), New Jersey (43 cents), Tennessee (43 cents), Alabama (43 cents), and California (42 cents).

The nation's **top 10 least expensive states for public charging per kilowatt hour** are Kansas (26 cents), Wyoming (26 cents), Missouri (28 cents), Nebraska (29 cents), Utah (31 cents), Delaware (31 cents), Vermont (32 cents), Iowa (32 cents), Maryland (33 cents), and New Mexico (34 cents).

AAA East Central is a not-for-profit association with 69 local offices in Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia serving 2.7 million members. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. AAA East Central provides services to its members including Automotive, Insurance, Discounts & Rewards, Financial, and Travel. Find out more about AAA Membership and current savings here.

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Stevens' Florist

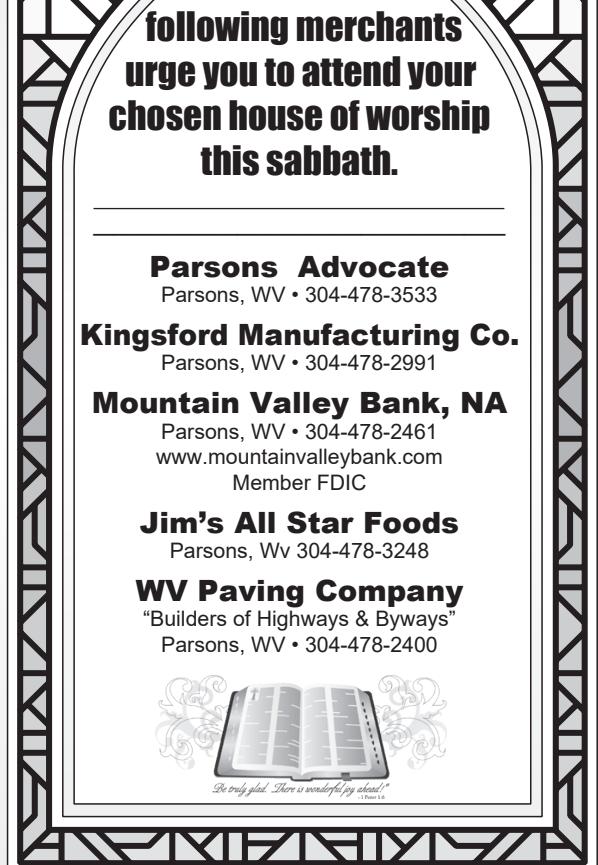
120 Poplar St., Parsons, WV 26287
(304) 478-2161

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

St. John's Church

River St., Parsons, WV 26287

(304) 478-2620



THANK YOU FOR READING
THE PARSONS ADVOCATE

Serving the people of

Tucker County since 1896



Sunset Berry Farm Announces 2026 Expansion: Growing With the Community Through SEED, Agritourism, and New Experiences in Alderson, WV

Sunset Berry Farm is taking agritourism to a new level in 2026 with a bold, new mission to strengthen families, food security, and community resilience. After years of selling to the community, the farm is shifting toward a new approach:

Sunset Berry Farm is no longer just selling to the community — it is growing with the community.

This transition is a direct response to changing needs across the region, including the soaring cost of living, job loss, rising electric bills, increasing housing instability, homelessness, and more multigenerational families living under one roof. At the same time, grocery prices continue to rise while the quality has declined.

“We’re hearing it and seeing it every day,” said Jennifer Gilkerson, founder of Sunset Berry Farm. “Families are trying to do more with less. They need affordable opportunities to grow food, learn life skills, and create income — while also having access to joyful, outdoor family fun.”

Gilkerson added that many families are also losing gardens year after year due to deer damage, weeds, lack of irrigation, and limited access to equipment and support. “That’s why it’s crucial for farms with the right infrastructure and safeguards to partner with families,” she said. “We want to give our community access to a successful garden system — with the safety nets, tools, and support that increase the odds of success.”

Introducing SEED: Skills for Eating, Earning & Developing community

At the heart of Sunset Berry Farm’s 2026 mission is SEED: Skills for Eating, Earning & Developing community — a community-driven initiative designed to help individuals and families build practical skills that increase food security, reduce costs, and create income opportunities through agriculture and entrepreneurship.

SEED is rooted in hands-on learning, shared resources, and local economic development — helping participants gain the tools needed to thrive in today’s economic reality.

New Programs and Experiences Launching in 2026

1) Sprout Garden Club (Ages 4–15)

A monthly club for children featuring essential life skills through interactive farm learning. Members meet on the first Saturday of every month at 11:00 AM to learn about gardening, feeding chickens, collecting eggs, fishing, entrepreneurship, teamwork,

and more, followed by active play in the new Adventure Farm Park.

2) Affordable Community Garden Rental Plots — Grow Extra, Earn Extra

A simplified gardening program designed for ease and accessibility, featuring:

- deer-free fencing
- raised beds
- plastic mulch for weed suppression and water conservation
- automatic irrigation

Participants can grow food for their families and also create income by selling or trading surplus through the on-site marketplace. The program is open to everyone, but folks within up to three hours of Alderson are encouraged to participate. Folks can plant and forget, then harvest and enjoy, since frequent trips to tend garden plots are not required.

3) Appalachian Marketplace (On-site)

A social enterprise designed to bring together gardeners, entrepreneurs, and artisans to barter, trade, and sell products to one another and to the community. The marketplace supports a sustainable local food system and a thriving Appalachian economy built on connection and creativity.

4) Educational Field Trip Opportunities — “Find Leo the Lion” Farm Scavenger Hunt

New interactive educational tours guide students through farm stations that teach where food comes from, including irrigation systems, raised-bed production areas with plastic mulch, deer-exclusion fencing, pollination zones, chicken coops, fishing ponds, and more.

The scavenger hunt also includes an Alderson history lesson tied to the legend of Leo the Lion, with the mission of finding him hiding somewhere on the farm.

5) Adventure Farm Park (Ages 2 to 92)

A family-friendly outdoor destination featuring a miniature zipline, giant bounce pad, working excavators, tractor-pulled rides, racing tracks, a huge Lego tunnel, and more. The park offers affordable recreation for families and opportunities for rest and wellness, including relaxing by the pond and optional chair massages.

Monthly Food Truck Festivals + Cultural Food Experiences

Beginning in April 2026, Sunset Berry Farm will

host a Food Truck Festival on the first Saturday of every month (April–October), creating a consistent gathering space for the community.

The farm is actively seeking a diverse lineup of food trucks so guests can experience a variety of food cultures — along with traditional food truck favorites. Local ingredients and Appalachian regional foods will also be featured alongside classic food truck eats.

2026 Festival Highlights Include:

- Food Truck Festival — First Saturday of Every Month (April–October)
- April 4 – Food Truck Festival & Easter Egg Hunt
- May 23 – Alderson Strawberry Festival
- July 4 – Freedom Festival & Food Trucks
- August 1 – Monroe County Peach Festival
- August 22 – West Virginia Watermelon Festival
- September 5 – West Virginia Sunflower Festival
- October 3, 10, 17 & 24 – Food Truck Festivals + Spooky Tractor-Pulled Trail Rides

Registration Links

- *Sprout Garden Club Sign-Up:* <https://grownby.com/farms/sunset-berry-farm-produce-llc/shop>
- *Community Garden:* <https://grownby.com/farms/sunset-berry-farm-produce-llc/shop>
- *Educational Field Trip Registration:* <https://sunsetfarm.ticketspice.com/2026-field-trip>
- *Vendor Registration:* <https://sunsetfarm.regfox.com/2026-vendor-registration-at...>

About Sunset Berry Farm

Sunset Berry Farm is an agritourism destination in Alderson, West Virginia, dedicated to strengthening families, supporting local food systems, and providing fun, affordable outdoor experiences for all ages. In 2026, the farm expands its mission through education, entrepreneurship, community gardening, and immersive family programming.

Sunset Berry Farm is co-led by Farmer Kent, a third-generation strawberry grower with roots in Fayette County, West Virginia. The farm is known for growing “the sweetest strawberries on the East Coast,” according to customers, and has won the Sweetest Strawberry Contest at the State Strawberry Festival in Buckhannon multiple times.

In addition to strawberries, the farm grows peaches, watermelons, triple-sweet corn, green beans, pumpkins, and flowers, celebrating the richness of Appalachian agriculture through seasonal harvests and community events.

WVDNR Reports Buck Firearms Season Harvest Numbers

Decreased harvest of 33,775 antlered deer reflects impact of abundant mast statewide and EHD in western counties



Charleston, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) today announced that hunters harvested 33,775 antlered deer dur-

ing the state’s two-week buck firearm season, which ran from Nov. 24 to Dec. 7.

According to preliminary data col-

lected through the WVDNR’s electronic game check system, hunters in Greenbrier harvested the most bucks (1,730), followed by Preston (1,349), Randolph (1,198), Hardy (1,165), Pendleton (1,135), Pocahontas (1,089), Monroe (1,057), Grant (1,039), Fayette (991) and Hampshire (923).

The 2025 harvest was 18.5 percent below the 2024 harvest of 41,435 bucks. All WVDNR districts registered a decrease in harvests, with the exception of District 4 which experienced a 7.5 percent increase compared to last year.

This year’s decreased harvest was caused by an increase in hard mast production, which often results in decreased harvests due to the difficulty of tracking and targeting game species spread out over a landscape. Several counties also experienced an outbreak of hemorrhagic disease, which likely impacted hunter success, especially in the western part of the state.

Hunters who harvested a buck dur-

ing a 2025 deer hunting season are also reminded to submit their photos for a chance to win prizes in the state’s fifth annual Big Buck Photo Contest. To learn more about contest prizes, rules and how to enter, visit WVdnr.gov/photocontest.

Additional Deer Hunting Opportunities

Several deer hunting opportunities remain for 2025. The state’s archery and crossbow season runs through Dec. 31, the traditional Class N/NN antlerless deer season will be open in select areas on public and private land Dec. 11-14 and Dec. 28-31, the muzzleloader deer season will be open Dec. 15-21 and the youth, Class Q and Class XS season for antlerless deer will be open Dec. 26-27 in any county with a firearms deer season.

To learn more, hunters are encouraged to consult the Hunting Regulations Summary, available to download at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUESTS RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Publication: January 7, 2026

Town of Davis
505 William Ave.
Davis, 26260
304-259-5302

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Davis.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after January 23, 2026, the Town of Davis will authorize the Woodlands Development Group to submit a request to the WV Office of Economic Development for the release of Appalachian Regional Commission funds under Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended, to undertake the following project:

DEADLINE 3PM FRIDAY

LEGAL

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

Deceased Personal Representative(s)
Sara Lea Carr Vickie Nestor
1st publication 01/07/26 600 Central Avenue
2nd publication 01/14/26 Parsons, WV 26287

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

ATTEST: SHERRY SIMMONS, TUCKER COUNTY CLERK

LEGAL

Public Notice of Blasting Operations

Notice is hereby given that:

Fairfax Materials, Inc.
25128 Seneca Trail, Thomas, WV 26292
(304-463-4575)

Thomas Quarry Permit Number Q013873 & Q201186

This is situated in Fairfax & St. George District of Tucker County, approximately 4.5 miles north of Thomas will be conducting blasting activities in accordance with all State and Federal Laws and as approved by the Department of Environmental Protection

Blasting activities will occur Monday through Saturday from “sunrise to sunset.” No blasting shall be conducted on Sunday. Blasting is to commence on January 1, 2026 and continue through December 31, 2026.

Ten minutes prior to and immediately after each blast, all access to the specific area will be safeguarded from unauthorized entry. The warning signal prior to each blast shall be from an air horn, siren, or other device audible to at least one-half mile from the blast. The warning will be given three (3) minutes prior to detonation and will consist of three (3) short blasts of five (5) seconds duration with (5) seconds between each blast. The all-clear signal shall be one long blast from an air horn, siren, or other approved devices of twenty (20) seconds duration.

Blasting shall be conducted in such a way so as to prevent adverse impacts to the public or the environment. Blasting activities will not be conducted at times other than those announced in the blasting schedule except in the event of an emergency situation where rain, lightning, or other atmospheric conditions, or operator, or public safety requires unscheduled detonations.

Serving the people of Tucker County since 1896

FIRE



A fire raged through a house in Hambleton December 29th displacing a family of three.

impacted by the fire down the road and across the street from the structure. However, due to wind direction and a vacant lot directly next door, neighboring structures were spared. White said that no neighbors have reported any damage to his knowl-

edge.

"The wind was blowing, what I would call, South in direction and there was a vacant lot there, so that was a large factor," White said. "That vacant lot kind of acted as a buffer."

There was a home nearby behind the structure fire, however, White said

the wind was blowing the fire in the opposite direction which allowed crews to get directly behind to keep the area wetted down to prevent spread of the fire into that area.

While efforts to suppress what remained of the fire continued until well into the night, White said there

Cont. From Page 1

was nothing of the home left to save. According to White, the house had burnt to the ground, which made determining a cause of the blaze nearly impossible to determine.

"We spent most of the night, until 2:30 this morning just wetting it down and things like that," White said.

Among those who responded to the fire, according to White were Leading Creek Fire Department, Thomas Fire Department, Davis Fire Department, Tucker County 911, Tucker County Emergency Management, Tucker County EMS, West Virginia State Police, Tucker County Sheriff's Department, PVFD Ladies Auxiliary. Red Cross have been notified of the family's need, White said.

A GoFundMe has raised over \$30,000 of a \$40,000 goal from 261 donations for the family of three. The fund was established to help the family rebuild their lives after the fire. The family lost everything, according to the fund. To support the fund go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-stephanie-and-her-kids-after-the-fire>.



The Grant County Bank Welcomes John E. Baker as Vice President and Senior Accountant

Petersburg, WV — The Grant County Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of John E. Baker as Vice President and Senior Accountant. In this role, Baker will support the bank's financial operations and strategic initiatives while working closely with Jeffrey Reedy, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Baker is expected to transition into the role of Chief Financial Officer following Reedy's retirement in July of this year.

Originally from Moorefield, West Virginia, Baker returns to the region after several years in Arlington, Virginia, where he built a strong background in finance and accounting. His professional experience includes work with prominent organizations such as the Washington Commanders, Monumental Sports & Entertainment, the Washington Nationals, and most recently as Director of Finance for Legends Global at Capital One Hall in Tysons, Virginia.

Baker's return to The Grant County Bank carries special significance. His great-great-grandfather, Bernard J. Baker, was one of the founders of the bank, making this appointment a meaningful full-circle moment for both Baker and the institution.

As Vice President and Senior Accountant, Baker will focus on ensuring financial strength, continuity, and long-term stability for the bank while preparing to assume expanded leadership responsibilities. His appointment supports a smooth and thoughtful leadership transition and reflects the bank's commitment to investing in experienced professionals who understand both the financial industry and the communities it serves.

The Grant County Bank is proud to welcome John Baker back to his hometown roots and looks forward to the leadership and expertise he brings as the bank continues serving customers and communities throughout the region.

About The Grant County Bank

The Grant County Bank was chartered as a West Virginia state bank on August 6, 1902 and began operations on August 15 with its first office in Petersburg, WV. Our mission of providing financial services and products to families, small businesses, and the agricultural community has served both our customers and the bank well over the years.

Subsequently, The Grant County Bank has expanded its marketplace throughout the Potomac Highlands and now operates a total of seven offices in six counties. After more than a century of continued service, The Grant County Bank is truly "Committed to The Communities We Serve" and is a subsidiary of Highlands Bankshares, Inc., also headquartered in Petersburg, WV.

Eastern recognizes Tucker County students for fall 25 semester honors

Multiple Tucker County residents achieved academic honors during the Fall 2025 semester at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Earning President's List honors, which requires completing 12 or more credit hours with a 4.0 grade point average, was county resident Lillian Callaway.

Dean's List recipients, earned for completing 9 or more credit hours with at least a 3.5 grade point average, were Isabella Bennett, Estoria Chase, Reid Kisamore, Miriam Spencer, Ava Wilson, and Lela Wright.

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 training programs in various formats under specializations of Agriculture Innovation, Allied Health, Artificial Intelligence, Career & Technical Training, Commercial Driver's License (CDL), Construction Trades, and Networking & Information Technology.

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.

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at Parsons Volunteer Fire Department
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JANUARY 10**

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Ladder
Jackpot
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Progressive
Co. 10
Jackpot
\$615

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