



# Free, Community-Focused Tax Preparation Available Across West Virginia Through VITA Program

## Free, IRS- and State-Funded Tax Help Available Across West Virginia Through VITA

Tax season can be stressful—especially when commercial tax preparation services charge hundreds of dollars to file even simple returns. Fortunately, West Virginians have access to a free, trusted alternative through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, supported statewide by the West Virginia Alliance for Sustainable Families (WVASF).

All VITA services in West Virginia are funded by the IRS and through the West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS) via the Bureau for Family Assistance (BFA). The program is community-focused, ensuring residents receive reliable tax assistance in accessible, local settings.

January 29 marks Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Awareness Day, a national effort to raise awareness about one of the

most important tax credits for working individuals and families. Millions of eligible taxpayers miss out on the EITC each year, often because they are unaware they qualify or do not file a tax return. VITA sites help ensure eligible filers claim the credits they’ve earned.

VITA provides free tax preparation for eligible individuals and families earning \$69,000 or less in 2025. IRS-certified volunteers help prepare accurate returns, identify eligible credits, and reduce errors that can delay refunds or trigger issues with tax filings.

**Why Free Tax Help Matters**

Retail tax preparation fees continue to rise, often costing several hundred dollars. These expenses can significantly reduce refunds or place financial strain on working families, seniors, and individuals

### News of Record

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

- James R. Vance, Dry Fork District, Parcel A – House Parcel 0.672 acres to Travis Foster and Taylor Fosteer,

\$148,750.

- Peter R. Holden and Mary Gayle R. Holden, Dry Fork District, Deed of Gift: Unit H-4 Northwoods Condo to The Quintessential Family LLC.

on fixed incomes.

VITA helps eliminate that burden by offering professional, nonprofit-supported tax preparation at no cost, allowing taxpayers to keep more of what they earn.

**Navigating Tax Law Changes**

Tax laws continue to evolve, and recent changes can be difficult to understand. Topics frequently discussed include:

- No tax on tips
- No tax on overtime pay
- No tax on car loan interest for vehicles manufactured in the United States

Understanding how these changes may—or may not—apply to an individual return can be confusing. WVASF helps connect West Virginians to free assistance so they don’t have to navigate these complexities alone.

“As a nonprofit organization, our mission is to make sure people aren’t paying for help they can get for free,” WVASF representatives shared. “VITA is a trusted, community-based solution.”

**Finding Free Help**

VITA sites are available throughout West Virginia. Residents can find a nearby location by visiting WVASF.org, which lists available services across the state.

For those comfortable filing on their own, MyFreeTaxes.com offers free online tax filing, operated by the nonprofit United Way, with step-by-step guidance and secure submission.

Whether filing in person or online, VITA services provide West Virginians with safe, accurate, and free options during tax season.

### MCCLAIN

Cont. From Front Page 1



After six decades in Parsons, McClain Printing has closed its doors.

business was commercial printing,” Smith said.

Smith said that he is proud of his family’s legacy and that his family’s business was able to stay in Parsons for three generations. Smith is also glad that he was able to bring money to Parsons from outside the

State of West Virginia, as well.

“So probably the thing that I would be most proud of was the fact that we brought in a couple million dollars worth of printing into Parsons, West Virginia for many, many years,” Smith said.

The company had what Smith termed a “very expensive press repair last year” that contributed heavily into the decision to sell and close the facility. This repair was also coupled with a struggling year, as well. Smith said the decision was made to repair the press and keep the company in business the rest of the year.

“The first part of the year was really not good,” Smith said. “We lost a lot of money on it. The fall was typically the best time of the year for the company. So, I make the decision last May to keep the business open for the rest of the year and get into the fall portion of the year and try to make some of that money back, which we did. It was the right decision.”

The accounts were sold to Campbell Print Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia. All equipment from the operation was sold at auction January 20th. The publishing name and trademark was sold to West Virginia Book Company in Charleston. West Virginia Book Company purchased the right to use the name McClain Printing Company and the copyright book inventory to the company’s 38 books, Smith said. Smith is hopeful that the name McClain Printing Company will continue to live on.

“Now I have to do something with the building,” Smith said.

In total, Smith said including himself, the company employed 12 people, but at its peak had 25 employees.

### METTIKI

Cont. From Front Page 1

key customer.

Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau said he spent most of Thursday in contact with Delegates, Senators, the Grant County Commission and other governmental entities about the closure, all of which had no idea it had been announced. Rosenau said he was working to try to find assistance for the workers as soon as possible.

“The employees were surprised, they didn’t know it was coming,” Rosenau said.

The most jobs lost at the plant are in the positions of Belt Person, Fire Boss – Examiner – Hourly, General Underground, Mechanic/Electrician – E 1 Underground, Roof Bolter Operator and Scoop Utility.

Rosenau said that Grant County will see the largest decrease in Coal Severance funding from the closure, should production cease entirely. Grant County averages around \$400,000 a year in Coal Severance funding from the Mettiki operations, according to Rosenau.

“We don’t get a lot of the Coal Severance because the Coal Severance is in Grant County,” Rosenau said. “The coal reserves are basically in Grant County, they lie in Grant County.”

Tucker County, however, has much more to lose, according to Rosenau, in the form of Personal Property Taxes. Since the pit mouth is in Tucker County,

the County is entitled to all tax from equipment and buildings and should Mettiki cease operations and pull everything out, the County could stand to lose approximately \$440,350 a year in funds from taxing of mining equipment like miners, buggies, scoops and buildings.

“Its not only the tax revenue, but the loss of jobs,” Rosenau said. “Not only the 199 coal miners that are losing their jobs, its the spin offs from that. Its the contractors, its the trucking companies, its the little mom and pop gas stations that they stop at every day and get gas and buy their lunches and their snack cakes for work. Its going to be a trickle down effect for the whole community and its going to affect a whole lot more people than you think its going to affect.”

Mettiki in its statement said that it expects to fulfill its existing contractual commitments through March of 2026, primarily through existing inventory and that production would cease immediately. Focus would shift to evaluating its options concerning the mine’s future and the exact timing for permanent closure.

Any personnel not involved with reduced coal production is expected to focus of reclamation activities throughout the mine.

Mettiki Coal has operated in Tucker County for nearly 50 years.

LET US KNOW “WHAT’S HAPPENING”

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DEADLINE

3PM

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The Parsons Advocate (422-420) is published weekly at 219 Central Ave Parsons, WV 26287. Phone 304-478-3533. Fax 304-478-1086.; email [mikie@parsonsadvocate.com](mailto:mikie@parsonsadvocate.com). Yearly subscription rates: \$47 annually in West Virginia; \$52 annually outside West Virginia; Web Only: \$41; Anywhere Print & Web: \$69; Monthly Print & Web Auto-Renewal \$6.50. Periodical postage paid at Parsons, WV. 26287. Established Nov. 27, 1896. Member: West Virginia Press Association and National Newspaper Association. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Parsons Advocate, 219 Central Ave, Parsons, WV 26287. [www.parsonsadvocate.com](http://www.parsonsadvocate.com) “Without, or with, offense to friends or foes, I sketch your world exactly as it goes.”

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

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

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



# SPORTS

## Tucker Valley, Davis Thomas Split in “Glimpse of the Future”



Elijah O'Brien attempts to get past Wildcat, Titus Bowley.



Kevin Kerr takes the jump shot, Ashton Arnett gets the box out.



Jarrett Dearborn drives into the paint.



Addy Johnson drives down the court, met by Kosi Slaughtbaugh.



Group of Bears & Wildcats combined fight for the rebound.

**By: Adam Freeman**  
Both the boys' and girls' teams from Tucker County's only two middle schools, Tucker Valley and Davis Thomas, squared off against each other last Friday at TVMS. The boys' teams got the night started as Tucker Valley jumped out to a 17-4 lead over the Bears after one period of play and led by 20 at 32-12 going into the break. The Wildcats grew their lead to as much as 23 going into the final period, but the Bears showed a no-quit attitude, battling to the final horn as Tucker Valley took the win with a final score of 47-21.  
Quinton Teter led all scorers with 19 points for the Wildcats, while Legend Harper and Titus Bowley followed with 8 points each. For the Bears, Kevin Kerr led the team in scoring with 8 points. Elijah O'Brien had 7 points, with Nolan Luzier and Jarrett Dearborn scoring 2 points each. Tucker Valley will compete next at Tygarts Valley on February 3, with Davis Thomas playing South

Preston at home on February 2.  
The girls' matchup followed immediately after, with the Lady Bears holding the Wildcats scoreless and taking a 6-0 advantage at the end of the first quarter. Davis Thomas had their best scoring quarter of the night in the second period, outscoring Tucker Valley 11-4 to push their lead to 17-4 at the break. Tucker Valley followed up with their best quarter of the night in the third but still trailed 26-15 heading into the final frame. The Lady Bears' experience showed in the fourth as they put the Wildcats away for a final score of 31-17.  
Addy Johnson led all scorers for the Bears with 13 points. Morgan Simmons followed with 9 points, while Harper Wilt and Hadley Nestor scored 4 apiece. For the Lady Wildcats, Mia Lambert led the way with 6 points. Marlee Evans chipped in 4 points, with Maci Owens and Ally Wright scoring 2 points each. Davis Thomas will play again at home on February 2 against South Preston, with Tucker Valley hosting Green Bank on February 4.



Mia Lambert nails the three-pointer.



## Lady Mt. Lions Dismantle Union, 73-7

Kenzeta Warner (20), Courtney Shaffer (32), & Amesley Channell (34) working the defense (Photo by Brittany Channell)

## Tucker Beaten in Baker, Falls to East Hardy, 48-38

**By: Adam Freeman**  
After a long week of snow days and cold weather, the Tucker County boys basketball team traveled to Baker, WV, on Saturday to take on the Cougars of East Hardy. Tucker's shooting was also cold on this night, managing 40% from the field and 12% from behind the arc. East Hardy would hold a small lead after one period of play at 12-7. Tucker would, however, get some offense in the second quarter, scoring 13 points to the Cougars' 11, but East held the lead at the half, 23-20. Tucker again would fail to reach double digits in the third period, scoring just six points. East Hardy didn't exactly light the nets on fire themselves, as they only notched seven points to hold a four-point lead at 30-26 going into the fourth. East Hardy would have their best period of the night in the fourth with 18 points, putting the Mt. Lions away, 48-38, to split the regular-season matchups between the two at one win apiece.  
*Arnold 15 Pts, 2 Reb, FT 7-9; Cummings 14 Pts, 2 Reb, 4 Stl, FT 2-2; Marks 4 Pts, 3 Reb; Lambert 3 Pts, 3 Reb; Dearborn 2 Pts, 7 Reb.*  
*3 Point Field Goals (3-24)*  
*Cummings (2) Lambert (1)*  
Tucker's record falls to 10-6 with the loss, and they will return to the court on Tuesday, February 3rd, at home looking to avenge an earlier loss to Pendleton County. JV is set for a 5:45 p.m. tipoff.



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Your healthcare.**  
*Good Luck!*

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



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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).

**Feb. 4, 1845:** Doddridge County was formed from parts of Harrison, Lewis, Ritchie and Tyler counties. It was named for Philip Doddridge, a Western Virginia congressman, state legislator and member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829–30.

**Feb. 4, 1945:** The hotel at Minnehaha Springs was destroyed by fire. Built in 1914, it was the first facility in Pocahontas County built strictly for the tourist business and was a forerunner of today’s local tourism economy.

**Feb. 4, 1948:** Contemporary artist Charles Jupiter Hamilton was born in New Jersey. He moved to West Virginia in 1977. His artwork was exhibited in New York, Miami, Boston, Atlanta, Washington D.C., and the West Virginia State Museum. One of his last works, a large street mural, is on Charleston’s West Side on a street that bears his name.

**Feb. 5, 1784:** Nancy Hanks (Lincoln), the mother of Abraham Lincoln, was likely born in Hampshire County, Virginia, on Mikes Run at the bottom of New Creek Mountain in what is now Mineral County, although historical records of her early life do not exist.

**Feb. 5, 1889:** Fiddler and self-taught physician James Franklin “Doc” White was born near Ivydale, Clay County. White served the community as doctor, dentist and midwife, delivering more than 1,800 babies.

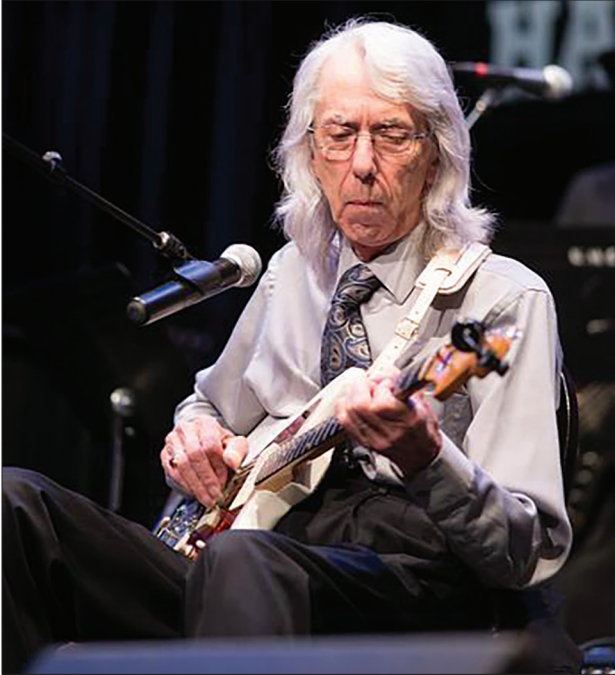
**Feb. 5, 1890:** Coach Eli Camden “Cam” Henderson was born in Joetown, Marion County. He is a revered figure in Marshall University sports history.

**Feb. 5, 1941:** Actor David Lynn Selby was born in Morgantown. His stage and screen credits include the outdoor drama Honey in the Rock, and the television shows Falcon Crest and Dark Shadows.

**Feb. 6, 1732:** Revolutionary War general Charles Lee was born in England. Late in his life, during the war, he moved to what is now Jefferson County.

**Feb. 6, 1882:** Poet Anne Spencer was born Annie Bethel Bannister in Henry County, Virginia. In 1886, she and her mother moved to Bramwell, where she spent most of her childhood and adolescent years.

**Feb. 6, 2007:** Selva Lewis



**Feb. 9, 1938:** Multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and sound engineer Wayne Moss was born in Charleston. He recorded with Brenda Lee, Roy Orbison, Dolly Parton, Bob Dylan, and many more, performed in the band Barefoot Jerry, and played a key role in developing Nashville’s studio system.

“Lew” Burdette, a native of Nitro, died in Florida. Burdette was an outstanding major league baseball pitcher who spent most of his career with the Milwaukee Braves. In 18 major league seasons, he won 203 games and lost 144. He was MVP of the 1957 World Series.

**Feb. 7, 1867:** West Virginia University was established by an act of the West Virginia legislature. The college, originally called the Agricultural College of West Virginia, opened its doors in September 1867.

**Feb. 7, 1889:** Nell Elizabeth “Pistol Nell” Walker was born at Sewell Mountain. Known as the “First Lady” of Fayette County, she served 12 terms as a member of the House of Delegates.

**Feb. 8, 1892:** Cartoonist Irvin Dugan was born in Huntington. For many years, his “Adam” cartoon character was a feature on the editorial pages of the Herald-Dispatch.

**Feb. 8, 1915:** Photographer Volkmar Kurt Wentzel was born in Dresden, Germany. He immigrated with his family to the United States at age 11. As a teenager in West Virginia, Wentzel took up with an eclectic group of people who had retreated to Youghiogheny Forest, a Preston County artists colony.

**Feb. 8, 1918:** Medal of Honor recipient Herbert Joseph Thomas Jr. was born. He excelled as a football halfback at South Charleston High School, and Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Hospital (now part of WVU Medicine) in South Charleston is named for him.

**Feb. 9, 1843:** Republican leader Nathan Goff Jr. was born in Clarksburg. In 1888,

Goff lost West Virginia’s most controversial gubernatorial election to A. B. Fleming. Goff’s initial 106-vote majority was challenged by Fleming, and both men were sworn in on inauguration day. The case dragged on until 1890, when Fleming was determined to be the rightful winner.

**Feb. 9, 1900:** “Aunt Jennie” Wilson was born near Henlawson. Wilson was a Logan County traditional musician, considered a master of clawhammer-style banjo playing.

**Feb. 9, 1950:** U.S. Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy’s speech to a group of Wheeling Republicans launched the 1950s red scare. McCarthy, a Wisconsin Republican, claimed in his speech to have a list of 205 communists who worked in the U.S. State Department.

**Feb. 10, 1904:** Jay Legg was shot and killed by his wife, Sarah Ann, in their home in Clay County. The trial, conviction, appeal and acquittal of Sarah Ann led to a popular West Virginia folk ballad, “The Murder of Jay Legg.”

**Feb. 10, 2010:** Frederick Appleton “Fred” Schaus, West Virginia University basketball All-American, coach, and athletic director, died at age 84 in Morgantown. Schaus coached WVU, 1954-1960, to a 146-37 record, and lost by one point in the 1959 national championship game.

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

By Teri Cayton

The Parsons Advocate

**Momma Said**, “We live to tell another tale, made it through Snowmageddon and out the other side.” It was not as bad in our area as it was called for, the snow didn’t amount to much but the ice is another story. I still have about three inches on the back cover of my truck. I am worried that the weight is going to damage it but it is a soft cover and I can’t pry the ice off.

It is still getting down into the single digits at night and not much more than that in the day. I just hope it doesn’t come off while I am driving down the road and get someone hurt but I can’t get it to melt off. The sleet was more than the snow, just the little frozen balls like pellets. I saw one picture where it was running off the side of a hill like a waterfall.

We get a blast straight from the North Pole and then get slammed with a Nor-Eastern weather event right after.

## 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



**Momma Said**, “This year we just can’t get a break.” I guess I was wanting weather cold enough to actually freeze the ground and I got what I asked for. Better be careful about want and wishes, you might get both.

Even Florida is not getting spared from the cold and the Snowbirds are wishing they had packed a few more tail feathers. Snow on the beaches and I just hope that everyone is safe and not being crazy with their driving. It is bad enough when it is hot, I don’t know how they are doing in the snow. **Momma Said**, “We Northerners wish you luck.”

## Million Dollar Spaghetti Casserole

### Ingredients

- 8 ounces dry spaghetti
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 14 ounces spaghetti sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 ounces reduced-fat cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup reduced-fat ricotta cheese
- 1 cup reduced-fat sour cream
- 3 green onions, sliced (reserve some for garnish)
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar-Monterey jack cheese blend

### Instructions

- Cook the spaghetti according to package instructions until al dente, then drain it and set it aside.
- In a large skillet over medium-high heat, cook the ground beef, diced onion, and minced garlic until the beef is no longer pink and the onion is translucent, about 6-8 minutes. Drain excess grease.

- Stir in the spaghetti sauce, salt, and pepper, and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer it for 20 minutes.
- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and lightly spray an 11×7-inch baking dish. In a small bowl, mash together the cream cheese, ricotta, and sour cream. Fold in the sliced green onions, reserving some for garnish.
- Spread the cooked spaghetti evenly in the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Top it with the ricotta mixture, spreading it evenly. Pour the beef mixture over the cheese layer. Sprinkle shredded cheese on top.
- Cover it with foil and bake it for 25 minutes. Remove the foil and bake it for an additional 5-10 minutes until the cheese is bubbling and beginning to brown.
- Sprinkle the reserved green onions on top and serve it while hot. Enjoy!

## Super Crossword

### FILLED FOOD

#### ACROSS

- 1 “Thank U, Next” singer Grande  
7 Yachts, e.g.  
12 Keto dieter’s nutrient calculation  
20 Right-rear bowling target  
21 Like Viking script  
22 Call to have food delivered  
23 Chief justice before William Rehnquist  
25 Runaway  
26 Fruity drink  
27 Reclined  
28 Actress Russo  
30 Chaplin of “Game of Thrones”  
31 Makeovers  
33 Application to improve blood flow  
39 Stew legume  
41 Glazer of “Broad City”  
42 Gold, in Italy  
43 Person not getting deserved acclaim  
48 Chilly tourist lodge  
53 New Mexico art mecca  
54 Old New York theater  
55 Whirled  
58 To a greater extent  
59 Phased-out cartoon storekeeper  
60 Greek cheese  
61 Easels, e.g.  
63 Susa’s ancient land  
64 Take care of  
66 Bikers’ association  
70 Tunes for two  
72 Permissible  
73 Tiny bits  
74 Curveball that breaks over the plate at the very last second  
78 Wine vessel  
81 Wrinkly tangelo  
82 “Joan of Arc” actress Sobieski  
83 Acorn trees  
85 Grassy tract  
86 Wrecked  
89 Santa — (some winds)  
90 Agra dress  
91 Feels ill  
92 Hip-hop band  
94 Thaw after winter  
96 Roadhouse  
97 Writer Wilde  
100 “Fancy that!”  
101 Pilot’s heading indicator  
108 Newton who was knighted  
112 Met solo  
113 Fishing rod  
114 \$5 bills, slangly  
116 H.S. lab class  
117 “The Velvet Fog”  
121 Its menu might include the ends of seven answers in this puzzle  
125 Web pop-up, e.g.  
126 Be of help to  
127 King of pop  
128 Salted-away sums of money  
129 Mails in, e.g.  
130 Isis’ brother  
DOWN  
1 In combat  
2 Novelist Charles

- 3 Way to mark losses  
4 Fourth mo.  
5 TV ratings name  
6 Chlumsky of “Veep”  
7 Musical Mars  
8 “— Gang”  
9 Filmmaker Lee  
10 — del Fuego  
11 TV part  
12 Center points  
13 Previous to  
14 NFL goals  
15 OK grade  
16 Bow go-with  
17 Turbine part  
18 — Vista, Mexico  
19 Purse piece  
24 Pen brand  
29 U.S. intel org.  
32 Musical work  
34 Like swamps  
35 Gp. in the Arab League  
36 Quadrennial games org.  
37 City near Provo  
38 NYC area near the Village  
40 Go along with  
43 37-Down’s state  
44 Wine valley of California  
45 Brief audio file  
46 All the rage  
47 Midterm, e.g.  
48 “500” race  
49 Mine vehicle  
50 Prevaricates  
51 Genesis twin  
52 Bausch & — cigars  
55 Cheap  
56 St. Patrick’s Day event  
57 “I give up!”  
60 Absconded  
61 — Artois  
62 — fi flick  
65 — it out (fighting)  
67 Mary-Kate of “Beastly”  
68 Latching, e.g.  
69 LGA info  
71 Fa-la linkup  
74 Aaron in “Hamilton”  
75 Water, in Chihuahua  
76 Get in return  
77 Mimic a lion  
79 Descended  
80 Toward dawn  
84 Actress Nicole — Parker  
87 Funny Idle

- 88 Fail to  
90 Agile  
91 City in Iowa  
93 Half of bi-  
94 Sink down  
95 Hired Japanese hostesses  
97 Yoko of “Two Virgins”  
98 Taco toppers  
99 Split with an ax, say  
101 Actor Matt  
102 Actress Ryan  
103 Small brooks  
104 Absorb the loss, in slang  
105 Opinion pieces  
106 Lou who won three Grammys  
107 Japanese sash  
109 Hate  
110 Garlic mayo  
111 Makes do  
115 Danish shoe brand  
118 Undivided  
119 Rule, informally  
120 Zine  
122 Delhi bread  
123 Carried out  
124 — Lanka

## Weather Totals

Jan. 20 - Jan. 27, 2026

### Nursery Bottom Parsons

#### Temperature

Max 42° F  
Min -1° F

#### Precipitation

Week 2.02”  
January 3.69”  
2026 3.69”

#### Snowfall

New Snow 5”  
Snow on ground 4.5”  
Winter Total 25.5”

U.S. Forest Service

## Weekly SUDOKU

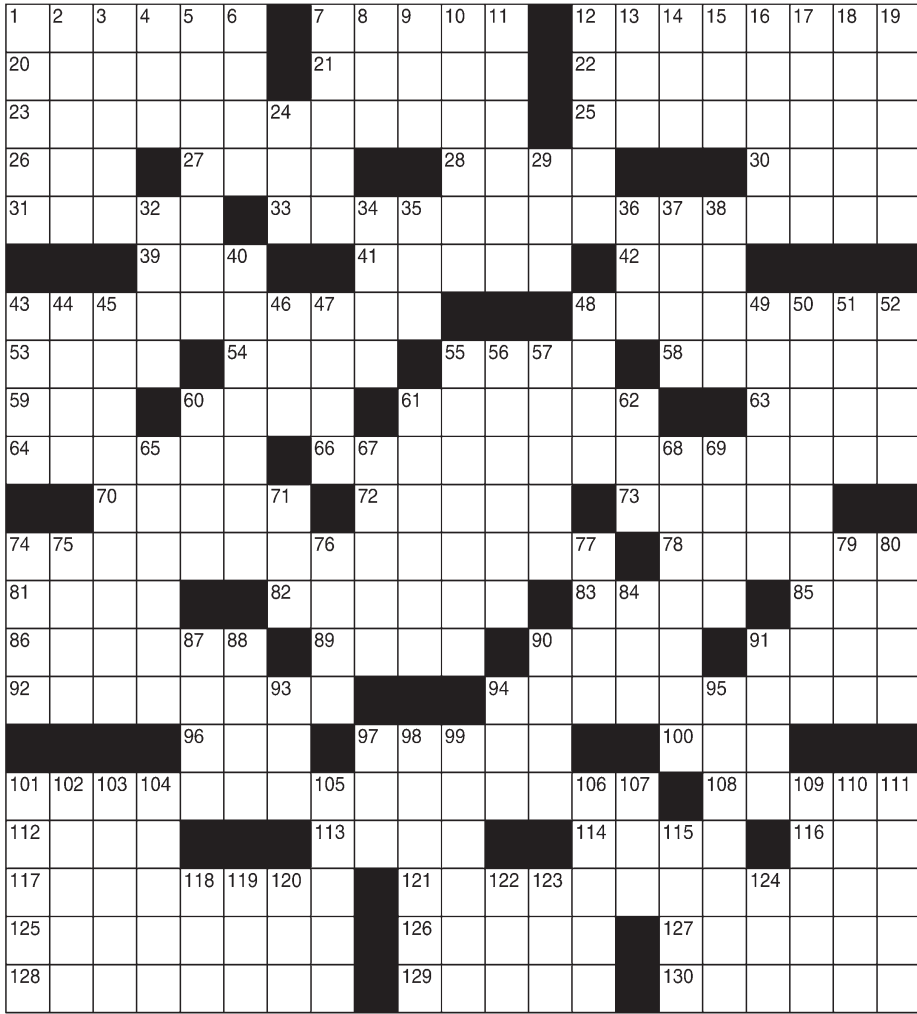
		7		5		1		
		6				5	3	4
	1	3						7
	6		7				2	
		2					4	6
		4			8	7		
	3	8	4			9		
	2			1	7			5
6			9					

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle answers page 6



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TUCKER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER



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# ==Citizens Bank of WV== Announces Promotions

William “Bill” Phillips

Nathaniel S. Bonnell, President & CEO of Citizens Bank of West Virginia, recently announced the promotion of William “Bill” Phillips to Financial Center Manager and Commercial Lender, and Sarah Carr to Assistant Financial Center Manager.

Phillips has been a valued member of the Citizens Bank team since 1998, bringing nearly three decades of banking experience to his new role. For the past 11 years, he has managed the Beverly Financial Center, where he was instrumental in cultivating strong customer relationships and guiding his team to deliver outstanding service.

In his newly expanded role, Phillips will assume oversight of operations at both the Elkins and Beverly Financial Centers. His focus will be on ensuring seamless service delivery, operational excellence, and maintaining the high standards of customer care that define Citizens Bank. Additionally, he will provide crucial assistance in Commercial Lending, leveraging his expertise to help local businesses achieve their financial objectives through tailored lending solutions.

Phillips obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Davis & Elkins College. He serves on the Beverly Elementary School Local School Improvement Council, is an active member of the Tygart Valley Lions Club, and attends Arbor Church.

Married to Julie Phillips, they reside in Beverly and have two sons, Logan and Mason.

Carr began her career with Citizens Bank in 2025 as a Universal Banker, bringing with her several years of valuable banking experience. In her new role, she will support oversight of the Elkins and Beverly Financial Centers. Carr will leverage her extensive background and training to help uphold the bank’s long-standing commitment to exceptional customer service.

A graduate of Tucker County High School, Carr attended

Sarah Carr

West Virginia University and Fairmont State University. She resides in Parsons and attends River Chapel Church in Porterwood. She is the mother of three children, Morghan, Jonathan, and Danni, and the grandmother of two grandsons, Thatcher and Cayce.

“We are excited to see Bill take on this expanded role and Sarah step into a new position,” said Nathaniel S. Bonnell. “Their proven leadership and deep understanding of our customers’ needs make them invaluable assets to our organization. We are confident they will excel in their new capacity.”

### About Citizens Bank of West Virginia

Citizens Bank of West Virginia, with \$705 million in assets, provides integrated financial services including retail and commercial banking, wealth management, and mortgage services from six financial centers in Elkins, Beverly, Buckhannon, New Martinsville, Parsons, and Snowshoe. The bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Citizens Financial Corp. (OTC: CIWV). Citizens Bank has been named among American Banker’s Top Performing Publicly Traded Community Banks under \$2 billion in assets nationwide and recognized by Newsweek’s America’s Best Banks list as the Best Small Bank in West Virginia. Citizens is ranked 22nd on American Banker’s list of the Best Banks to Work For in the country; WV Living Best Corporate Citizens; The Inter-Mountain’s People’s Choice Best Bank, Mortgage Lender, Customer Service, and Employer; and The Record Delta’s Best Place to Work and Mortgage Provider. Additionally, Citizens was named SBA WV Community Lender of the Year and ranked the nation’s no. 9 lender by the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) in the consumer/mortgage category for banks \$300M - \$1B in assets in this class. More information is available online at [www.citizenswv.com](http://www.citizenswv.com).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By flooding US cities with aggressive forces, our President may create enough disruption to cancel the midterm elections under emergency authorization. He has not only said he might do this but has recently requested additional Billions for these forces.

According to former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, we are in a complete dictatorship. Deceit, bribery and coercion have removed all restraints on Presidential power.

This may also be attributed to Citizens United, however. With the 2010 Supreme Court ruling, entities can anonymously donate any amount they wish to political campaigns.

Thus In order to compete with Republicans who openly legislate for big business, Democrats rely on Citizens United and do what their donors decree. Unfortunately, these donors usually ignore

the poor, sick or otherwise disadvantaged, public safety, infrastructure and the environment.

In 2016, even though her liberal competitor, Bernie Sanders, won the Democratic Primary in every WV county, Hilary Clinton was nominated WV Democratic presidential candidate.

Though polling showed that Bernie was the only candidate who could beat Trump, the donors didn’t want him. So ongoing disgust with establishment politicians gave us Trump.

People, nevertheless, have real power. If like me you are concerned for American democracy or just for preserving the midterm elections, please write or call Congress (Switchboard: 202 224 3121), inform friends, join rallies, start groups and UNITE! This is a true emergency.

Barbara Daniels  
Morgantown, WV

BINGO

at Parsons Volunteer Fire Department

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

First 30 Players in the door a chance at \$50 Cash

Progressive Ladder Jackpot \$610

Progressive Co.10 Jackpot \$725

Doors open at 6:00 with tip games bingo at 7:00

KITCHEN WILL BE OPEN WITH SEVERAL FOOD OPTIONS!

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www.parsonsadvocate.com



# Davis, West Virginia, records lowest temperature in contiguous United States at minus 28 degrees

**Staff Reports**  
*WVNews*  
Davis, W.Va. — A weather station located three miles east of Davis recorded a temperature of minus 28 degrees Fahrenheit early Saturday, the lowest temperature in the contiguous United States.  
The reading was included in the National High and Low Temperature Discussion issued at 1 p.m. EST by the National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland. The minus 28-degree mark was the coldest reported among all stations in the lower 48 states for the 24-hour period.  
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration noted that the data is preliminary and subject to revision pending final quality control by



The temperature hit negative 28 degrees near Davis, West Virginia, the morning of Jan. 31, 2026.

the National Centers for Environmental Information.  
Davis and the surrounding Canaan Valley are known for extreme cold due to their high elevation and unique topography. The area sits in a basin where heavy, cold air settles into the Allegheny Mountains.  
While the Saturday reading is among the lowest ever recorded in the area, it remains above the all-time state record for West Virginia. That record was established on Dec. 30, 1917, when the temperature dropped to minus 37 degrees Fahrenheit in Lewisburg.  
The minus 28-degree reading is also slightly warmer than a more recent local extreme. On Jan. 22, 2022, a station at the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge recorded a low of minus 31 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center Receives 4-Star Designation from U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



Tara Shaver, administrator

Elkins, W.Va. — The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recognized Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center for its quality service to residents and outpatients with a 4-star designation.  
The 4-star designation indicates that the facility is among the top of nursing homes in the state, accord-

ing to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website.  
“We’re very pleased that we’ve been recognized by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services),” said Tara Shaver, ERCC administrator. “We know that our staff work hard and that we provide the very best care to our residents and outpatients, but it is always good when a federal agency acknowledges that.”  
Shaver went on to add that employees at the facility routinely go above and beyond. She added that the designation is a testament to the hard work of all the staff, from the nursing department to the dietary staff, environmental services, and activity aides.  
“Everyone here works really hard to make sure we are the very best that we can be,” she said. “We treat all of our residents and outpatients like they’re family because we all want the very best care for our loved ones.”  
Shaver went on to say that although the facility has received the 4-star designation, employees will continue to provide exceptional care to their residents and outpatients.  
“We’re going to keep doing the very best we can do for everyone because that is our work ethic here at ERCC,” Shaver said.  
*ERCC is a 111-bed, non-profit, short and long-term skilled and intermediate care and rehabilitation facility located in Elkins, WV. A wide range of care and rehabilitation services is provided at the facility by more than 160 full-time and part-time employees. For more information: <http://www.ercc.biz>.*

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.PARSONSADVOCATE.COM](http://WWW.PARSONSADVOCATE.COM)

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**LEGAL**  
**The Region VI Workforce Development Board (RVI WDB) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the provision of Assessment and Case Management for Adults, Dislocated Workers, and employers in the thirteen-county area of Region VI.**  
Beginning February 2, 2026, interested organizations can contact the RVI WDB at (304)-368-9530 to obtain a copy of the RFP, OR a copy of the RFP can be downloaded from the RVI WDB website at [www.region-viww.org](http://www.region-viww.org). On the home page, click on About-Requests for Proposals.  
The period of service provision is from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with the possibility of a renewal contract negotiated for an additional two years, based on yearly performance and cost effectiveness. All parties interested in submitting proposals in response to this RFP **MUST** attend a Technical Assistance conference to be held at 2:00 p.m. on February 13, 2026, at the Region VI Workforce Development Board offices at 17 Middletown Road, White Hall. Further information on the Technical Assistance conference is included in the RFP.  
The proposal in response to this RFP is due by 4:00 p.m. on March 3, 2026, and must be received by post or by hand delivery in to the RVI WDB offices located at 17 Middletown Road, White Hall, WV, 26554. Fax or email submissions will not be accepted. Refer to the RFP for the complete details on the process for the submission of a proposal.  
The RVI WDB reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals submitted.  
For more information, contact Amy Hall at the Region VI WDB office at 304-368-9530.  
Projects and programs provided by Region VI WDB are 100% funded with Federal WIOA funding by the U.S. Department of Labor through grant awards totaling \$2,462,559. No funding is being received from non-governmental sources for projects and programs provided by Region VI WDB at this time. Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. WV Relay 7-1-1

**LEGAL**  
**The Region VI Workforce Development Board (RVI WDB) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the provision of a program of activities and services for Out-of-School Youth in the thirteen-county area of Region VI.**  
Beginning February 2, 2026, interested organizations should contact the RVI WDB at (304)-368-9530 to obtain a copy of the Request For Proposal (RFP), OR a copy of the RFP can be downloaded from the RVI WDB website at [www.regionviwv.org](http://www.regionviwv.org). On the home page, click on About-Requests for Proposals.  
The period of service provision is from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with the possibility of a renewal contract negotiated for an additional two years, based on yearly performance and cost effectiveness. All parties interested in submitting proposals in response to this RFP **MUST** attend a Technical Assistance conference to be held at 1:00 p.m. on February 13, 2026, at the Region VI Workforce Development Board offices at 17 Middletown Road, White Hall. Further information on the Technical Assistance conference is included in the RFP.  
The proposal in response to this RFP is due by 4:00 p.m. on March 3, 2026, and must be received by post or by hand delivery in to the RVI WDB offices located at 17 Middletown Road, White Hall, WV, 26554. Fax or email submissions will not be accepted. Refer to the RFP for the complete details on the process for the submission of a proposal.  
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**LEGAL**  
I have before me the accounts of the Executor or Administrator of the estates of the following deceased persons:  
Deceased Kenneth David Judy  
Personal Representative(s) Sherri Johanna Tharpe  
1st publication 01/28/26 133 Hunter Road  
2nd publication 02/04/26 Mauretown, VA 26269  
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**  
I have before me the accounts of the Executor or Administrator of the estates of the following deceased persons:  
Deceased Robert W Freeman  
Personal Representative(s) Heather M Clower  
1st publication 02/04/26 272 Hickory Orchard Rd  
2nd publication 02/11/26 Parsons, WV 26287  
Ann Kathleen Brobst  
Edward Brobst  
1st publication 02/04/26 147 Poplar Street  
2nd publication 02/11/26 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: Barbara Evans, TUCKER COUNTY CLERK

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Tucker county since 1896

**LEGAL**  
**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Division of Highways**  
**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**  
Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service ([www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com)) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until February 12, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):  

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
004	2022880006	S388-REC/AL-26 00	STBG-2026(011)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS ROADWAY STRIPING DISTRICT WIDE
				COUNTY: PENDLETON, POCAHONTAS, RANDOLPH, TUCKER


  
Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.  
The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on [www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com).  
The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.



# WV DMV Warns of Text Scam: We Will Never Send a Text Requesting Payment

West Virginia DMV  
will **NEVER** text you  
about "overdue accounts."

If it looks like a scam,  
it probably is.



Charleston, W.V. -- West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reaching out to warn citizens of text scams claiming to be DMV. West Virginia DMV will never text citizens requesting payment. Never.

- Some common tactics scammers use include:
- Setting urgent deadlines (do this now, or a bad thing will happen)
- Using language, logos or imagery similar to official content - but a little different
- Using texts to request money
- Playing on fear

If it makes you feel uncomfortable or immediately concerned, the sender is a scammer, not DMV. DMV deadlines are known in advance (such as the expiration date on your license plate.) DMV will treat you like a guest, whether in person or on the phone, and will not seek to make you feel alarmed. And, again, DMV will never request a payment via text.

If you are concerned that a text you have received may be a scam, your West Virginia DMV will answer any questions you have. You are welcome to stop by



your local office, or call us at (800) 642-9066.

Remember, if it is a text asking for payment, it is a scam. West Virginia DMV will never text you requesting payment.

*The mission of the Division of Motor Vehicles is to provide essential motor vehicle and driver services, facilitate interstate travel by promoting reciprocity for West Virginia vehicles and drivers in other states, promote highway safety, and collect revenue for highway maintenance and construction programs. For more information and tools for motorists, visit the DMV website.*

## ANIMAL COLLISIONS

Cont. From Front Page 1

Breeding season for these animals can cause animals to travel more than 10 miles outside of their normal territories, experts say, causing males to cross unfamiliar roads. Breeding animals will also be distracted by scent markers and territorial disputes among competing males.

Other species such as deer may change their normal patterns this time of year, experts say, due to the scarcity of food sources. Skunks cross roads slowly due to poor eyesight, according to experts, and opossums wander slowly in search of mates. Foxes and coyotes are most active at dusk and dawn during rush hours.

Experts recommend if drivers are on roads at dawn or dusk, to slow down, especially on rural roads, such as those found in Tucker County. High-beam headlights are recommended when there

is no oncoming traffic due to the possibility to seeing eye shine sooner. Drivers are encouraged to watch the road edges, not just the center, as animals will dart out from the sides of the road without warning. If one animal is seen, expect more, experts say, animals are rarely alone.

State Farm recommends that drivers stay alert and pay attention to deer crossing and wildlife crossing signs and be cautious in areas near woods or water. When using high beams, flicking the beams may encourage an animal to scurry away. State Farm also recommends that should a collision seem imminent, not to swerve, maintain control of the vehicle and stay on the road. Drivers should also brake as necessary if able to avoid hitting an animal and brake hard if no other vehicles

are behind. Other recommendations by State Farm include honking to alert other drivers.

West Virginia for well over a decade, according to State Farm data, has been the number one state in the Nation for animal collisions. Drivers in West Virginia have a 1 in 40 chance of being involved in an animal collision in the State, far higher than any other neigh-

boring State. Virginia has a 1 in 82 chance and ranks 10th in the Nation.

Rural areas such as Tucker County carry the highest danger, with a 30% to 50% increased chance in hitting a large animal such as a deer, especially during peak season. From January 1, 2023 to late November of that same year, 10,618 deer were reported hit on West Virginia highways along with at least 15 bears.

## TUCKER COUNTY DAY

Cont. From Front Page 1

in its grasp, the slopes still hold onto a snow depth of 16 inches on the ground at the end of the month, according to Snow Gallery reports.

In total so far this winter, as of January 31st, Tucker County has received a total of 103.7 inches officially.

The Snow Gallery reports are part of

the official National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) and have operated a station at Canaan Valley since July 1, 2002. Since August 1, 2023, Canaan Heights resident Bill Peterson has been the official National Weather Service cooperative weather observer for the location Davis 3SE.

# West Virginia ski resorts report best conditions of the season after winter storm

**Staff Reports**  
*WVNews*

Charleston, W.Va. — West Virginia’s five ski resorts are reporting their best conditions of the season following a winter storm and a period of colder temperatures this week.

The recent weather provided ideal conditions for snowmaking, which has increased coverage on all trails at Canaan Valley Ski Resort, Oglebay Park Resort, Snowshoe Mountain Resort, Timberline Mountain and Winterplace Ski Resort. These resorts currently have the most acreage open in the Southeast region.

"Everyone in the state’s ski industry agrees that we are currently experiencing some of the best slope conditions in recent memory," said Joe Stevens, executive director of the West Virginia Ski Areas Association.

The combination of natural snow and snowmaking has increased base depths, resulting in full slope coverage as the season enters its second half. West Virginia's ski season typically runs until late March.

"This winter season is shaping up to be one of the



**Conditions are prime at West Virginia's ski resorts. (Adobe stock)**

best we’ve ever had," said West Virginia Department of Tourism Secretary Chelsea Ruby.

The West Virginia Department of Highways reported that crews have kept roads to all five resorts open for travelers. Live conditions can be viewed via webcams at [resortcams.com](http://resortcams.com) or by visiting [GoSkiWV.com](http://GoSkiWV.com).

LET US KNOW "WHAT'S HAPPENING"

304-478-3533

DEADLINE  
3PM FRIDAY

## Obituaries

### David “Tyke” Bodkin

David “Tyke” Bodkin, 77, of Fairmont, WV passed away on Jan. 14, 2026 at the Fairmont Rehabilitation Center surrounded by family and friends.

Tyke was born on May 20, 1948, he was beloved son of the late Belva Bodkin and the devoted husband of the late Julie Esultante Bodkin. They shared 43 years of marriage.

Tyke graduated from Parsons High School class of 1966 where he lettered in baseball, football and basketball and was a dedicated member of the high school band.

He went on to graduate from Fairmont State College, earning a degree in engineering. He worked and retired in the field.

Interment is in Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Fairmont, WV.

**THANK YOU FOR READING  
THE PARSONS ADVOCATE**

*Serving the people of  
Tucker County since 1896*