

# The Parsons Advocate

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF TUCKER COUNTY SINCE 1896

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The family of Evan Wesley Rhoades with Tucker County Commissioners Fred Davis and Tim Knotts



The Rhoades to Recovery mission with Tucker County Commissioners Fred Davis and Tim Knotts

## Alcohol Awareness Month

### In Memory of Evan Wesley Rhoades

The family of Evan Wesley Rhoades, pictured with Tucker County Commissioners Fred Davis, left, and Tim Knotts, were on hand for the signing of the declaration for Alcohol Awareness Month. Angela McCrum, center, the mother of Evan Wesley Rhoades, spoke about her son and his battle with alcoholism until the age of 25. "Even in his hardest moments, Evan's heart was for others – he was the first to offer a hand and the first to say, 'Keep on Truckin' Brother' to anyone facing an uphill climb." Rhoades' family along with others with The Rhoades to Recovery mission attended.

## Fundamental Data Responds To U.S. Senate Request



Fundamental Data's Casey Chapman, pictured fore-front from the DEP Appeal Hearings in December of 2025, released a public response to the request made by the United States Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works in March. The request was released by Fundamental Data's Public Relations Firm, Khoury PR Media Group.

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

"The Ridgeline Facility will continue to move forward," Fundamental Data's Casey Chapman wrote in a letter to the U.S. Senate.

Chapman has issued a formal response to a request by the United States Committee on Environmental and Public Works in March. The request, issued in a letter dated March 13th and addressed to Chapman at the company's Purcellville, VA offices, was replied in a letter by the company dated March 27th, addressed to "The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Ranking Member, Committee on Environmental and Public Works, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510." In the letter, Chapman

“The Ridgeline Facility will continue to move forward,” Casey Chapman said.

addresses the concerns raised by the Committee members in their March 13th letter to the company.

"What we are building in West Virginia matters, to the state, to the nation, and to the industries and institutions that will depend on it. The intersection of energy infrastructure and advanced technology is one of the defining challenges of our time, and the decisions made in this decade will shape whether America leads or follows in that contest. We take that responsibility seriously," the letter states.

Chapman said that several of the statements in the letter were "inconsistent with the documented, publicly available information." See FUNDAMENTAL DATA page 9

## Cat Caught in Kill Trap in Parsons



A local man's cat was baited into a kill trap in Parsons early last week. The trap had been set on a sidewalk in the residential area of Spruce Street, according to witnesses. While the cat survived the encounter, it was injured. The incident is currently under investigation. Photo courtesy of Nicoda Evans.

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

The Parsons community is torn this week over an incident on Spruce Street involving the purposeful trapping of a cat in a Conibear kill trap on the sidewalk. The incident

first came to light on March 25th via Facebook through the "We Are Parsons – West Virginia" community page when Seth Roy posted a picture to the page with the telling of the incident.

The incident did not, however, occur the 25th, according to witness and Roy's fiance Nicoda Evans. The incident occurred previously, but was brought to light that day out of frustration at the lack of what she perceived as adequate seriousness by local law enforcement.

Evans said that she was on the phone and on en route to her sister, Melissa Coker, home when her sister's teens and a teen friend found and attempted to assist the cat. The teens at first thought they heard a cat fight and went to investigate and break up the fight when they made the discovery of the cat with its head caught in a Conibear trap on the sidewalk under a truck owned by Darrell (D.L) Tasker, a neighbor.

Coker and the teens asked Tasker for assistance, according to Evans, who was still on the phone with Coker. Tasker grabbed the chain on the trap and threw trap and cat into the bed of his truck and said he was "taking it to his garage" to remove and then proceeded to get into the truck to leave with the cat, Evans said.

"The gentleman said, 'You can't open that trap, you'll break a finger,'" Evans said. "And the boy said, 'Well, we're going to try.'"

Coker grabbed the cat and handed it to one of the teens and they gently set the cat on the ground. The picture, Evans said, was taken initially only for law enforcement evidence. The intent was never for malice, Evans said. Over the course of a half hour, the three teens attempted to pry the cat free until the trap was open, just wide enough for the girl to push the cat's head free. At which time, the cat ran off into the darkness. No one was able to catch it. The teens were crying, according to Evans, so she escorted them to the house while Coker and Tasker spoke

See CAT page 8

## ROAD DELAYS

Tucker County – US219 (Seneca Trail) will have one lane road closures, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, beginning Thursday, March 26 through Thursday, April 30. Work begins 2.70 miles north of the Randolph/Tucker County line and ends approximately .10 miles south of County Route 219/10 (Moore Station Road) for work related to Corridor H. All motorists are advised to plan accordingly and use alternate routes as necessary. This is a message from the Department of Transportation, Division of Highways.

## Mine Safety Report Issued on Mettiki Coal Death

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

The United States Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration has issued a Report of Investigation surrounding the November 6th, 2025 fatal accident at the Mountain View Mine operated by Mettiki Coal WV, LLC in Davis. The bituminous coal mine in the Upper Freeport coal seam that currently employs 242 miners has been slated for closure prior to the release of the report due to reduced demand of coal from the facility.

On November 6th, 2025 at 1:30 a.m., a 25 year old scoop operator with three years experience in the mines named Joseph Mitchell, Jr., died when the scoop he was operating was struck by an out of control supply train in the mine.

The overview section of the document outlines three points that lead to the accident: The operator did not: follow the established safeguard in place to ensure haulage clearance is obtained when mobile equipment is in use at this mine, establish a policy or procedure to ensure that operators maintain control of diesel powered equipment and establish a procedure to ensure the sanding devices on the locomotives were maintained.

The accident occurred when motor crew approached 41 block and attempted to slow the supply train they were operating. The rail in the area was found to be wet and muddy, which made the train unable to slow. The motor crew attempted then to operate the sanding devices to assist with the braking, but the supply train continued out of control, according to the report. The out of control train was seen by other staff and broadcast over the radio. The locomotive lights were flashed and the horn was blown to warn Mitchell who was operating his scoop down the line.

See METTIKI page 2

## Motion to Dismiss Denied in Federal Tucker County Ambulance Fee Case

By: Lydia Crawley

Chief Judge Thomas S. Kleeh of the Northern District of West Virginia issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order Denying Motion to Dismiss on March 17th in the ongoing case in federal court over the controversial Tucker County 2% Emergency Ambulance Fee Ordinance.

The fee, enacted by the Tucker County Commission became effective in January of 2025. The fee was imposed to fund the County's struggling ambulance service. The Ordinance imposed a 2% fee to the following in Tucker County: short term rentals, camping, boat and other water-based rentals, motorized off-road rentals, bus excursions and charters, downhill ski equipment and rentals including lift fees, cross country ski equipment and fees, other winter slope activities, scenic chair lift rides, outdoor game equipment rentals such as tennis, pickleball or swimming, hunting and fishing excursions, outdoor adventure activities such as zip line, rock climbing, paddle boarding, horseback riding, skeet shooting and paintball, virtual reality and/or AI gaming fees, mini-golf, golf and golf cart related rentals and fee, as well as any and all admission charges or cover fees for such events as music, concerts, comics, movies, plays, professional sports, gaming events, mud bogs, off road racing or trail riding. Registered non-profits are exempted from the Ordinance.

On September 16, 2025, the Tucker County Commission had filed a motion to dismiss in the case brought by Timberline Mountain Operations, LLC, Timberline Property Management, LLC and Valley Scenic View, LLC in the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia on August 13th of that year. A hearing on the motion to dismiss was held on January 7th of this year.

In the motion, attorneys for the Commission argued that the Ordinance did not violate Count Two of the case involving the Dormant Commerce Clause. According to the Library of Congress, the Dormant Commerce Clause is, "a legal doctrine inferred from the U.S. Constitution's Commerce Clause, preventing states from passing laws that discriminate against or unreasonably burden interstate commerce. It ensures a national market by limiting states' ability to erect economic barriers or "Balkanize" trade."

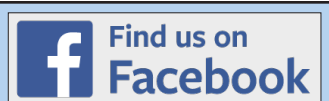
The Commission's attorney's argued that because the fee applied to activities engaged in solely within the confines of Tucker County, it did not violate the clause. It was further argued that the Ordinance required local enterprises to collect the fee from their customers. The plaintiff's countered that even if the Ordinance were exclusively local, local or intrastate activity could be subject to Commerce Clause scrutiny.

The memorandum states in its decision, "The [Supreme] Court has ... rejected any suggestion that a state tax or

See AMBULANCE FEE CASE page 2



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# News of Record

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

- **State of West Virginia, Christal G. Perry, Appointee, The Honorable Mark A. Hunt, State Auditor, Charles D. Simon Estate, Norma A. Simon Estate,** Clover District, Tax Sale Parcel: .313 acres. Rt BR 82. 5x165 Certificate # 2024-C-000012 to Red Shoulder LLC, \$186,05
- **John Anthony Pusateri and Leigh Majweski Pusateri,** Davis Corporation, Lot 110 Tuscan Ridge Sub-division, Section 1 to Christopher Henne and Gantsetseg Henne, \$43,000.

- **Robert Curtis Pusateri and Laurie Anne Pusateeri,** Davis Corporation, lot 111 Tuscan Ridge Sub-division, Section 1 to Christopher Henne and Gantsetseg, \$43,000.
- **State of West Virginia, The Honorable State Auditor, Mark A. Hunt, Christal G. Perry, Appointee, Roger L. Nesselrodt, Jr.,** Davis District, Tax Sale Parcel: 22.85 acres Surface to Red Shoulder LLC, \$2,800.
- **Ronald F. Hendrix and Beth E. Hendrix,** Dry Fork District, Interest in Unit A5 Week 46 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Ronald J. Hendrix, Trustee, Beth

- E. Hendrix, Trustee and The Hendrix Living Trust.
- **Peter G. Haller,** Dry Fork district, Confirmatory Deed: 4.92 acres to Peter G. Haller.
- **Peter G. Haller,** Dry Fork district, 4.92 acres to Knollwood Investments LLC, \$1,385,000.
- **MAT US Properties and MCH US Properties,** Dry Fork District, 1.89 acres – minus .003 Line Adjustment for USA to John Trumpfheller, \$525,000.
- **Bryan Jones and Kristin Jones,** Dry Fork District, Lot 20, Winterset to Kristin Hicks and Bryce Loidolt, \$685,000.

## METTIKI

Cont. From Front Page 1

The collision caused the No. 2 locomotive and five of the six supply cars to derail. The No. 1 locomotive and sixth supply car remained on the track.

One of the motor crew was knocked to the floor of the 30 ton locomotive, suffering head and leg injuries. Mitchell was found unresponsive under the first derailed supply car. Help was radioed for and 911 was called for at 1:32 a.m. Miners assisted in freeing Mitchell from under the supply car, as well as with resuscitation efforts prior to Tucker County Ambulance personnel arriving on scene. Mitchell was transported to Garrett County Regional Medical Center in Oakland, Maryland where he was pronounced dead at 4:16 a.m.

The Department of Labor National Contact Center was called at 2:01 a.m. and personnel were on scene at 5 a.m. MSHA's accident investigation team and West Virginia Office of Miner's Health Safety and Training conducted examination of the accident scene, photographed, interviewed miners and management, as well as reviewed conditions and work practices relevant to the accident.

During the investigation, it was found that despite no issues being reported on the locomotives and investigators being told both sanders were "filled and tested multiple times during the shift," when tested by investigators, neither locomotive had fully functioning sanding devices due to wet conditions which reduced the ability to deliver sand. It was further determined that the non-functioning sanders were not damaged as a result of the collision and

the moisture content of the sand contributed to the accident. The operational condition of the supply cars was not found to have contributed to the accident. All the workers involved in the accident were found to have received all their training in accordance with MSHA Part 48 training regulations.

The investigation found the Root Causes of the accident to be three fold.

1. *Root Cause: The mine operator did not ensure that the established policy and procedures included in the safeguard were followed.*

*Corrective Action: The mine operator re-trained all miners in the provisions of safeguard No. 9121435 informing miners of the requirements to obtain clearance from the dispatcher prior to moving mobile equipment on the track haulage.*

2. *Root Cause: The mine operator did not have a policy or procedure in place to ensure miners could maintain control of the diesel-powered locomotives.*

*Corrective Action: The mine operator has installed derails, warning signs, and a block light system at the beginning of all steep grades and developed procedures in their use. All miners were trained in the procedures.*

3. *Root Cause: The mine operator did not have a policy or procedure in place to ensure proper function of the machine-mounted sanding devices on the Brookville 30-ton locomotives.*

*Corrective Action: A safeguard was issued to require*

sanding devices to be maintained on all locomotives. Additionally, the sanding devices on all operating locomotives were examined and repaired.

The following enforcement actions were noted in the report: a 103(k) order, two 104(a) citations and a 314(b) safeguard. The 103(k) order was issued to ensure the safety of all persons at the time of the incident and secure the scene. Each of the two 104(a) citations carries penalties ranging from \$130 to over \$72,000 and requires immediate abatement, according to the Mine Health and Safety Administration.

A 314(b) safeguard exists to compel mine operators to correct or maintain specific safety measures to prevent accidents not already covered by existing safety standards. In the case of the Mettiki mine, it was issued to require track mounted locomotives to be provided with properly installed and maintained sanding devices at each wheel that will deposit sand in both directions to the track rails. The sanding devices and reservoirs were further required to be checked and filled with sand, as necessary, before the locomotive was placed into operation.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) completed the last regular (E01) safety and health inspection at the Mountain View Mine September 23, 2025, according to the report. The report stated that the 2024 non-fatal days lost incident rate for the mine was zero, compared to the national average of 3.02 for mines of its type.

## AMBULANCE FEE CASE

Cont. From Front Page 1

regulation affecting interstate commerce is immune from Commerce Clause scrutiny because it attaches only to a 'local' or intrastate activity." The statement was referenced to a court case called Commonwealth Edison Co. v. Montana from 1981.

The decision further went on to discuss the subject of discrimination as it applied to how the Ordinance applied to out of area versus locals. One case examined in the decision by Judge Kleeh was Camps Newfound/Owantonna, Inc. v. Town of Harrison. In this case from Maine, a statute was enacted, "creating a general exemption from real estate and personal property taxes for 'benevolent and charitable institutions' incorporated in Maine." The statute further went on to provide those that were, "conducted or operated principally for the benefit of persons who are not residents of Maine" with a more limited tax benefit. It was a burden the decision said was felt mostly by those from outside the State and deterred them from, "enjoying the benefits of camping in Maine."

"The Court found that such prohibitions on out-of-state access to in-state resources encourage economic isolationism and 'serve the every evil that the dormant Commerce Clause was designed to prevent,'" Judge Kleeh wrote.

The decision further stated that Timberline's attorneys argued that 75% of those who engage in recreational activity at the resort are from out of state. Timberline also argued that the Ordinance explicitly excludes a number or local organizations from the fee such as non profits, the Tucker County 4-H and the County Senior Centers. The decision stated that if the 4-H or one of the Senior Centers hosted an event, it would be attended by locals and not subject to the fee, but if Timberline, Canaan or Blackwater Falls hosted an event, it would be attended mostly by those from out of state and subject to the fee.

The decision found that the case was similar to the Camp case in Maine, "in which Maine engaged in dis-

crimatory taxation of Maine charities operating primarily to serve out-of-state residents" by indirect means of a tax on the entity transacting business with the customer. It further stated that the burden is felt hardest by out-of-state visitors.

"This amounts to a discouragement of 'out-of-state access to in-state resources' and the same type of economic isolationism that was found invalid in Camps Newfound," Judge Kleeh wrote.

The Order to Dismiss also addressed the Ordinance's use of the word "user." The Order said that the definition of "user" in the Ordinance was not neutral and not connected to the population who actually uses ambulance services.

"The Ordinance, rather, focus on tourism-based activities and the exempts activities presumably attended by Tucker County residents," Judge Kleeh wrote.

Judge Kleeh further states that the exclusion of the area Senior Centers from the Ordinance was evidence of discrimination, "given the amount of ambulance services used by their residents." The Order also states that while the Commission claims that all activities related to the fee are recreational, hotels, "are unrelated to recreation, and their inclusion in the tax is, at least arguably, evidence of discrimination, as well."

This denial of the motion does not end the case against the Tucker County Commission, however. It is just one of likely many legal battles to come over the controversial fee. Timberline has been one of the most outspoken opponents of the fee since its inception.

The plaintiffs are represented by David F. Nelson of Hendrickson & Long in Charleston and Joseph White of White Law Canaan, PLLC in Davis.

The Tucker County Commission is represented by Greyson Cole Teets, Jeffrey S. Zurbuch and Robert C. Chenoweth of Busch Zurbuch & Thompson, PLLC in Elkins.

## WVDA Announces Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Encourages Farmers to Apply Now

Charleston, W.Va. — The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is pleased to announce the return of the West Virginia Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) for the 2026 growing season.

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) provides eligible low-income senior citizens with access to fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. Seniors can sign up for vouchers through their local county senior services offices and redeem them at approved farmers markets and vendors across the state.

Vouchers, valued at \$30, will be available begin-

ning June 1 at local senior centers. Seniors interested in participating are encouraged to contact their local senior center for additional information.

Farmers wishing to participate in the program are encouraged to apply now. Applications are currently available and must be submitted by April 15, 2026. Program details and application materials can be found on the WVDA website: <https://agriculture.wv.gov/ag-business/senior-farmers-market-nutrition-program/>

For more information, contact SeniorFarmersMarket@wvda.us or Amanda Kittel at akittel@wvda.us or 304-558-2210.

# The Parsons Advocate

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TO THE VALLEYS  
YOUR HOMETOWN  
OR YOUR SECOND HOME

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## PARSONS ADVOCATE LETTERS TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# SPORTS



Lynk Suesli



Lela Wright, middle, gets set.

## Tucker County Track Teams Turn in Strong Showing at Craig Keller Invitational

By: Adam Freeman

The Tucker County High School track and field teams delivered a competitive performance at the Craig Keller Invitational, highlighted by a first-place finish in the boys' 4x800-meter relay and multiple podium finishes across both divisions.

On the girls' side, the relay teams set the tone early. The quartet of Lela Wright, Addi Moats, Lively Mayne, and Mayah Gross secured a fourth-place finish in the 4x200-meter relay. In the 4x100-meter relay, Wright and Moats teamed up with Rachel Hile and Gross to earn another fourth-place finish, showing consistency and strong baton exchanges.

4x800-meter relay, where Cameron Judy, Landon Wilfong, Alex Collar, and Lynk Suesli combined for a first-place finish, showcasing endurance and teamwork.

In field events, Luke Barb earned third place in the high jump and added an eighth-place finish in the long jump. On the track, Alex Collar placed sixth in the 300-meter hurdles.

## Mt. Lions Softball Kicks 2026 Off with Road Loss to East Hardy

By: Adam Freeman

The start to the 2026 Mt. Lions softball season was plagued by a lack of hits and defensive errors on the road in Baker, as Tucker fell 13-0.

Tucker failed to collect a hit against the Cougars, finishing with 15 at-bats and managing only two base runners via a hit-by-pitch and a walk. Standout junior Peyton Hicks got the start in the circle. The right-hander allowed just seven hits while facing 25 batters over three innings and surrendered only two earned runs, but defensive errors piled up, allowing East Hardy to pull away.

The season is just underway for Tucker, and the team will look to find its footing moving forward with a slate of upcoming games. Tucker will host Moorefield on Tuesday, the 31st, and Tygarts Valley on Thursday, the 2nd, before wrapping up the week with a trip to Gilmer County on Friday, the 3rd.

Individually, Tucker County saw several solid efforts. Lively Mayne placed sixth in the long jump, while Juniper Judy battled through the distance field to take sixth in the 3200-meter run. Addi Moats added a seventh-place finish in the 800-meter run.

Lela Wright led the girls' individual performances with a standout third-place finish in the 100-meter dash. She also contributed a sixth-place finish in the 200-meter dash, capping an impressive day on the track.

The boys' team was led by a dominant performance in the

Distance standout Lynk Suesli turned in a strong double performance, finishing fourth in the 3200-meter run and fifth in the 1600-meter run. Nate Ricottilli also reached the podium with a third-place finish in the 400-meter dash and placed eighth in the 200-meter dash.

Additional contributions came from Keelyn Eichelberger, who placed seventh in the 400-meter dash, and Landon Wilfong, who secured seventh in the 800-meter run. Reid Kisamore rounded out the scoring efforts with a fifth-place finish in the 100-meter dash.

## Wildcats Softball Splits Pair of Games in Opening Week

By: Adam Freeman

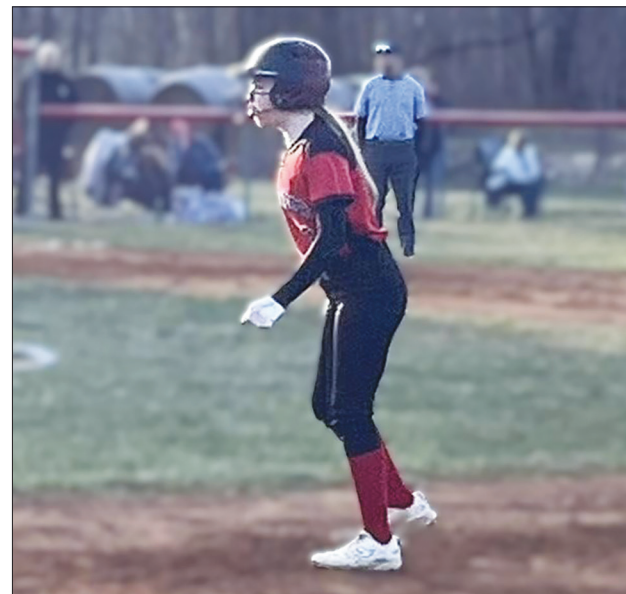
Tucker Valley's softball team opened play for the spring 2026 season last week on the road in Mill Creek, where they took on the Tygarts Valley Bulldogs. Tucker jumped out to a 9-6 lead after the first inning, with Mia Lambert and Morgan Simmons each scoring two runs for the Wildcats.

Tucker held the Bulldogs scoreless in the second inning while adding three runs of their own from Ary Neville, Aleena Reed, and Avery Decker. The Wildcats extended their lead to 12-6 heading into the third inning, where they put the game away by scoring 15 runs, securing a 27-6 mercy-rule victory.

Tucker then hosted its home opener on Friday, March 26, against the Pendleton County Wildcats. Lambert scored in the opening frame to give Tucker Valley a 1-0 lead. Aleena Reed added another run in the fourth inning, while Pendleton scored one run of its own to keep Tucker's lead at 2-1.

Pendleton outscored Tucker 5-0 over the next two innings. Tucker added one final run in the seventh inning, but the game ended with a 6-3 victory for Pendleton County.

The Wildcats will remain at home for their next matchup as they host Central Preston on Monday, March 30.



Lambert

## Wildcat Baseball Gets Long-Awaited Win to Start Season

By: Adam Freeman

Tucker Valley's baseball team hasn't had many marks in the win column over the past few seasons, but that changed last week as the Wildcats played their season opener at home on Thursday, March 26, against Central Preston.

Starting pitcher Bently Haddix recorded seven strikeouts as the seventh-grade hurler earned the win in a 7-5 victory. The Wildcats tallied 12 stolen bases, with Wade Boyles leading the charge with four of his own.

Rylan Sexton and Boyles each collected two RBIs, while Quinton Teter, Luke Lantz, and Haddix added one apiece.

The Wildcats also had several highlight-worthy defensive plays, with Lantz and Braylon Simmons each making a tough out. The defense was capped off by a 4-6-3 double play turned by Asher Kisamore to Haddix to first baseman Gunner Lester.

With the 7-5 victory, Tucker improves to 1-0 on the season and will return to the diamond on Monday, March 30, as they travel to Petersburg.

## 'Explore Garrett' Open House is April 11th GC event highlights academic majors, financial aid, athletics, and more

McHenry, MD – Garrett College is hosting an "Explore Garrett" Open House on Saturday, April 11th beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Garrett College.

Melissa Wass, director of admissions and recruitment, said the College is "looking forward to welcoming prospective students and parents to this year's event."

"Garrett College's Open House is an important opportunity for students and their families to experience campus, explore academic programs, and learn about the support available to help them succeed," said Wass. "We're proud to provide a welcoming environment where students can discover their path and feel confident about their next steps."

Those attending "Explore Garrett" will learn about GC's academic and workforce training programs through conversations with faculty and administrators, receive information about available financial aid and scholarships, take a tour of the campus, and discover "the many benefits Garrett College has to offer," said Wass.

Information will be shared about the admissions process, seamless transfer agreements, athletic programs, on-campus housing, placement testing, and



Professor Andy Hershey discusses the Outdoor Leadership and Adventure (OLA) Education program with attendees at the 2025 "Explore Garrett". This year's "Explore Garrett" Open House will take place on Saturday, April 11th beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Garrett College.

new student advising.

Wass noted the College is nearing completion of an ambitious, eight-year initiative to expand and enhance facilities. The latest project is a complete renovation of the 700 Building, which significantly expands intercollegiate athletics facilities.

The new center will service the four teams that play on the adjacent turf field – women's and men's soccer, baseball, and softball – as well as provide a new

home for the College's Gulf Atlantic District champion men's wrestling team. New locker rooms and athletic training space are all included in the project, which will be completed in late spring.

To RSVP for "Explore Garrett", visit <https://www.garrettcollege.edu/explore Garrett>. Contact the Office of Admissions at 301-387-3044 or [admissions@garrettcollege.edu](mailto:admissions@garrettcollege.edu) for additional information.



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



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[stgeorgeclinic.org](http://stgeorgeclinic.org)

# 34th annual Job Fair set for April 14th

Local industry professionals to be on site at George C. Edwards CARC

McHenry, MD – The 34th annual Garrett County Job Fair will take place on Tuesday, April 14th from 1-5 p.m. at the George C. Edwards Community Aquatic & Recreation Complex (CARC) on Garrett College's main campus.

The job fair is intended to connect employers with job-seekers. It's open to community members across the region, including surrounding counties and neighboring states. This includes college students, high school students, and entry-level and experienced candidates seeking full-time, part-time, seasonal, summer, immediate, and future positions.

Attendees may register on-site the day of the fair.

Fair attendees will be able to connect with industry representatives from education, retail, manufacturing, public safety/corrections, healthcare, real estate, human services, financial services, logistics/transportation, government, and construction to discuss career opportunities.

The job fair is a partnership between Garrett College, the Garrett County Department of Business Development, the Western Maryland Consortium, 104.5 KHJ, 92.3 "The Train", and 1050 AM WMSG.

For more information, contact Kaitlyn Grotfelty at 301-387-3770. Individuals may also visit the Job Fair website at [www.garrettcollege.edu/jobfair](http://www.garrettcollege.edu/jobfair), or check the Garrett County Job Fair Facebook page.

## LEGAL

### Tucker County Commission Levy Estimate (Budget) 2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
County of: Tucker, West Virginia

In accordance with Code §11-8-10, as amended, the Tucker County Commission proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the current year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

General Fund	Estimated Revenues
Fund Balance	\$ 1,274,864
Property Taxes Current Year	3,587,576
Prior Year Taxes	70,000
Tax Penalties, Interest & Publication Fees	30,000
Dog Taxes	500
Property Transfer Tax	150,000
Gas & Oil Severance Tax	20,000
Wine & Liquor Tax	20,000
Hotel Occupancy Tax	1,000,000
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	48,000
Federal Grants / Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes	325,000
State Grants	75,000
Sheriff's Service of Process	5,000
County Clerk's Earnings	20,000
Circuit Clerk's Earnings	6,500
Accident Reports	400
Motor Vehicle License Fee	2,000
Rents & Concessions	60,000
Special Patrol / Security Systems	300
Franchise Agreement	3,700
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)	30,000
Regional Jail Operations Partial Reimbursement	4,500
Interest Earned	10,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	20,000
Sheriff's Commission	15,000
Gaming Income	40,000
Video Lottery	2,000
Refunds / Reimbursements (External Sources)	900,000
Transfers Assessor's Valuation Fund	187,270
<b>Total Estimated General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 7,908,610</b>
<b>Coal Severance Tax</b>	<b>Estimated Revenues</b>
Assigned Fund Balance	\$ 42,659
Coal Severance Tax	1,000
<b>Total Coal Severance</b>	<b>\$ 43,659</b>

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	General Fund	Coal Severance Tax Fund
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		
County Commission	\$ 447,798	\$ 43,659
County Clerk	274,353	-
Circuit Clerk	241,515	-
Sheriff - Treasurer	428,353	-
Prosecuting Attorney	326,707	-
Assessor	251,383	-
Assessor's Valuation Fund	187,270	-
Statewide Computer Network	25,000	-
Agriculture Agent	140,693	-
Elections - County Clerk	179,452	-
Magistrate Court	10,000	-
Circuit Court	3,222	-
Courthouse	949,039	-
Regional Development Authority	2,563	-
Economic Development	92,000	-
Rehabilitation of Property	40,000	-
Contingencies - Not to Exceed 10% of Budget	75,000	-
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>3,674,348</b>	<b>43,659</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	911,621	-
Sheriff - Service of Process	108,062	-
Regional Jail	150,000	-
Emergency Services	163,311	-
Communication Center	745,948	-
Fire Department	140,000	-
Ambulance Authority	250,000	-
Dog Warden / Humane Society	273,247	-
Community Based Corrections Program	625,033	-
K-9	24,531	-
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>3,391,753</b>	
<b>HEALTH AND SANITATION</b>		
Local Health Department	60,000	-
<b>TOTAL HEALTH &amp; SANITATION</b>	<b>60,000</b>	
<b>CULTURE AND RECREATION</b>		
Parks & Recreation	120,000	-
4-H Camp	80,000	-
Historical Commission	10,000	-
Visitor's Bureau	500,000	-
Beautification	10,000	-
Library	28,500	-
<b>TOTAL CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>	<b>748,500</b>	
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>		
<b>TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES</b>		
Assessor	34,009	-
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>34,009</b>	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 7,908,610</b>	<b>\$ 43,659</b>

### TUCKER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA REGULAR CURRENT EXPENSE LEVY FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027

Current Year	Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
Certificate of Valuation			
Class I			
Personal Property	\$ 0	11.49	\$ 0
Public Utility	0		0
<b>Total Class I</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>		<b>\$ 0</b>
Class II			
Real Estate	\$ 447,033,440	22.98	\$ 1,027,283
Personal Property	3,181,509		7,311
<b>Total Class II</b>	<b>\$ 450,214,949</b>		<b>\$ 1,034,594</b>
Class III			
Real Estate	\$ 326,863,380	45.96	\$ 1,502,264
Personal Property	134,013,700		615,927
Public Utility	57,182,624		262,811
<b>Total Class III</b>	<b>\$ 518,059,704</b>		<b>\$ 2,381,002</b>
Class IV			
Real Estate	\$ 72,557,250	45.96	\$ 333,473
Personal Property	23,105,615		106,193
Public Utility	12,377,058		56,885
<b>Total Class IV</b>	<b>\$ 108,039,923</b>		<b>\$ 496,551</b>
<b>Total Value &amp; Projected Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,076,314,576</b>		<b>\$ 3,912,147</b>
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes	5.00%		195,607
Less Tax Discounts	2.00%		74,331
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable)			0
<b>Total Projected Property Tax Collection</b>			<b>3,642,209</b>
Less Assessor Valuation Fund	1.50%		54,633
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)			
<b>Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes</b>			<b>\$ 3,587,576</b>

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF TUCKER  
I, Barbara Evans, CLERK OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF SAID COUNTY, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING ARE TRUE COPIES FROM THE RECORD OF ORDERS MADE AND ENTERED BY SAID COMMISSION ON THE 25th DAY OF MARCH 2026.

*Barbara Evans*  
(Signature)

**CLASSIFIEDS FOR AS LITTLE AS FIVE DOLLARS**  
**CALL 304-478-3533**

**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)
Eric Scott Pennington	Kathleen Elen Coberly
1st publication 3/25/26	444 Brooklyn Heights Rd
2nd publication 04/1/26	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

## LEGAL

### FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027 LEVY ESTIMATE - BUDGET DOCUMENT

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
MUNICIPALITY OF HENDRICKS

In accordance with Code §11-8-14, as amended, the Council proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the current year, and does determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

REVENUE SOURCE	General Fund	Coal Severance
Assigned Fund Balance	\$ 500	
Unassigned Fund Balance		164,000
Property Taxes - Current Expense		42,174
Gas & Oil Severance Tax		1,200
Excise Tax on Utilities		13,000
Building Permit Fees		20
Miscellaneous Permits		20
Franchise Fees		200
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)		14,000
Municipal Service Fees		27,000
Gaming Income		10,000
Video Lottery (LVL)		90
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (GENERAL FUND)</b>	<b>\$ 272,204</b>	
<b>COAL SEVERANCE TAX FUND</b>		
<b>REVENUE SOURCE</b>		
Assigned Fund Balance (Coal Fund Only)	\$ 500	
Coal Severance Tax		950
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (COAL SEVERANCE FUND)</b>		<b>\$ 1,450</b>
<b>ESTIMATED CURRENT EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Coal Severance Fund</b>
Mayor's Office	\$ 4,800	\$ -
City Council	3,000	-
Recorder's Office	4,800	-
City Attorney	500	-
Custodial	500	-
Regional Development Authority	400	-
Elections	2,000	-
City Hall	41,804	-
Internal Audit	3,000	-
Contingencies	700	-
Streets and Highways	5,000	-
Snow Removal	2,000	-
Garbage Department	35,000	-
Landfill / Incinerator Department	-	1,450
Parks & Recreation	4,000	-
Beautification Programs	700	-
Capital Projects - General Government	164,000	-
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 272,204</b>	<b>\$ 1,450</b>

### MUNICIPALITY OF HENDRICKS

### Regular Current Expense Levy FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027

Current Year	Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
Certificate of Valuation			
Class I			
Personal Property	\$ 0	11.36	\$ 0
Public Utility	0		0
<b>Total Class I</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>		<b>\$ 0</b>
Class II			
Real Estate	\$ 6,540,230	22.72	\$ 14,859
Personal Property	11,448		26
<b>Total Class II</b>	<b>\$ 6,551,678</b>		<b>\$ 14,885</b>
Class IV			
Real Estate	\$ 3,016,790	45.44	\$ 13,708
Personal Property	3,352,940		15,236
Public Utility	475,467		2,161
<b>Total Class IV</b>	<b>\$ 6,845,197</b>		<b>\$ 31,105</b>
<b>Total Value &amp; Projected Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 13,396,875</b>		<b>\$ 45,990</b>
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes	5.00%		2,300
Less Tax Discounts (use Total Projected Revenue to Calculate)	2.00%		874
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable)			0
<b>Total Projected Property Tax Collection</b>			<b>42,816</b>
Less Assessor Valuation Fund	1.50%		642
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)			
<b>Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes</b>			<b>\$ 42,174</b>

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF HENDRICKS  
I, April R. Miller, Recording Officer of said municipality, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies from the record of the orders made and entered by the council of said municipality on the 10th day of March, 2026.

*April R. Miller*  
(Recorder)

**LEGAL**

**TUCKER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED LEVY RATES  
REGULAR CURRENT EXPENSE LEVY  
2026 - 2027**

The following is a true copy from the record of orders entered by TUCKER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION on the 16th day of March 2026.

(Signature) Melicia Lambert  
Secretary of the Board of Education

Column E Certificate of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
<b>Current Year</b>		
<b>Class I</b>		
Personal Property	\$ -	19.40
Public Utility	-	-
<b>Total Class I</b>	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Class II</b>		
Real Estate	\$ 447,033,440	38.80
Personal Property	3,181,509	12,344
<b>Total Class II</b>	\$ 450,214,949	\$ 1,746,834
<b>Class III</b>		
Real Estate	\$ 326,863,380	77.60
Personal Property	134,013,700	1,039,946
Public Utility	57,182,624	443,737
<b>Total Class III</b>	\$ 518,059,704	\$ 4,020,143
<b>Class IV</b>		
Real Estate	\$ 72,557,250	77.60
Personal Property	23,105,615	179,300
Public Utility	12,377,058	96,046
<b>Total Class IV</b>	\$ 108,039,923	\$ 838,390
<b>Total Value &amp; Projected Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,076,314,576</b>	<b>\$ 6,605,367</b>
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes	2.50%	165,134
Less Tax Discounts	2.00%	128,805
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing - see worksheet (Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)		
<b>Total Projected Property Tax Collection</b>		<b>6,311,428</b>
Less Assessor Valuation Fund	1.50%	94,671
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)		
<b>Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes for Budget Purposes</b>		<b>\$ 6,216,757</b>

**LEGAL**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
CITY OF PARSONS DEMOLITION PROJECT  
PARSONS, WEST VIRGINIA**

Sealed bids for the Demolition Project will be received by the City of Parsons, 341 Second Street, Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia until 11:00 AM, on Thursday, April 23, 2026; at which time, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The scope of the work to be bid upon is described as follows:

Demolition of the structures located at 126 Billings Avenue and 220 Poplar Street, Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia. Work shall include asbestos abatement, demolition, grading sites for positive drainage, and seeding and mulching the disturbed area. Contractor is responsible for all traffic control, all necessary federal, state, and local permitting, removal of debris to a licensed landfill, coordinating for the disconnection of all utilities, and any other miscellaneous work necessary for the demolition of said structures.

The contract will have a construction time limit of sixty (60) calendar days with liquidated damages of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars per day. Asbestos abatement must be performed in accordance with West Virginia Division of Health Legislative Rules Title 64 Series 63, OSHA Asbestos Construction Standard 29 CFR 1926.1101, and the EPA Asbestos NESHAP guidelines 40 CFR 61, Subpart M. A Notice of Abatement, Demolition, or Renovation form must be submitted to the proper agencies, and a 10-day notice given prior to the commencement of abatement on this project.

Bidding documents may be obtained or examined at the Parsons City Hall, City of Parsons, 341 Second Street, Parsons, West Virginia 26287.

A bidder may not withdraw their bid for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for the opening of bids. Bidders must hold a current West Virginia Contractor's License on the date of Bid Opening.

Bids received after the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids will be returned unopened to the bidders. The City of Parsons reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities.

Mike Simmons, City Manager  
City of Parsons

**LEGAL**

**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027  
LEVY ESTIMATE - BUDGET DOCUMENT**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
MUNICIPALITY OF THOMAS

In accordance with Code §11-8-14, as amended, the Council proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the current year, and does determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:

REVENUE SOURCE	General Fund	Coal Severance Fund
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ 4,000	
Property Taxes - Current Expense	115,754	
Gas & Oil Severance Tax	1,500	
Excise Tax on Utilities	29,100	
Wine & Liquor Tax	19,000	
Animal Control Tax	150	
Hotel Occupancy Tax	42,900	
Licenses	2,000	
Building Permit Fees	4,300	
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)	16,500	
Private Liquor Club Fee	6,500	
Parks & Recreation	200	
Rents, Royalties, and Concessions	100	
Refuse Collection	53,600	
Contributions from other funds	233,196	
Gaming Income	10,400	
Refunds	600	
Video Lottery (LVL)	200	
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (GENERAL FUND)</b>	<b>\$ 540,000</b>	
<b>COAL SEVERANCE TAX FUND</b>		
Assigned Fund Balance (Coal Fund Only)	\$ 100	
Coal Severance Tax	1,900	
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (COAL SEVERANCE FUND)</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>	
<b>ESTIMATED CURRENT EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Coal Severance Fund</b>
Mayor's Office	\$ 2,900	\$ -
City Council	2,200	-
Recorder's Office	1,200	-
City Manager's Office	67,600	-
City Clerk's Office	60,200	-
Regional Development Authority	703	-
City Hall	115,297	-
Public Works Department	152,500	-
Street Lights	16,800	-
Snow Removal	18,200	-
Garbage Department	59,500	-
Parks & Recreation	21,450	-
Visitors Bureau	21,450	-
Beautification Programs	-	2,000
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 540,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>

**MUNICIPALITY OF THOMAS  
Regular Current Expense Levy  
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027**

Current Year	Certificate of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
<b>Class I</b>			
Personal Property	\$ 0	8.81	\$ 0
Public Utility	0	-	0
<b>Total Class I</b>	\$ 0		\$ 0
<b>Class II</b>			
Real Estate	\$ 21,509,990	17.62	\$ 37,901
Personal Property	0	-	0
<b>Total Class II</b>	\$ 21,509,990		\$ 37,901
<b>Class IV</b>			
Real Estate	\$ 19,134,370	35.24	\$ 67,430
Personal Property	3,823,248	-	13,473
Public Utility	2,105,988	-	7,422
<b>Total Class IV</b>	\$ 25,063,606		\$ 88,325
<b>Total Value &amp; Projected Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 46,573,596</b>		<b>\$ 126,226</b>
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes	5.00%		6,311
Less Tax Discounts (use Total Projected Revenue to Calculate)	2.00%		2,398
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable)			0
<b>Total Projected Property Tax Collection</b>			<b>\$ 117,517</b>
Less Assessor Valuation Fund	1.50%		1,763
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)			
<b>Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes</b>			<b>\$ 115,754</b>

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF TUCKER  
MUNICIPALITY OF THOMAS

I, Stephanie Quattro-Bennett, Recording Officer of said municipality, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies from the record of the orders made and entered by the council of said municipality on the 16th day of March, 2026.

Stephanie Quattro-Bennett  
City Recorder

**LEGAL**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF WEST VIRGINIA  
CHARLESTON**

CASE NO. 26-0073-G-EFPP  
INTERSTATE GAS SUPPLY, LLC,  
d/b/a ICS ENERGY  
Enhanced Firm Pooling Program

**NOTICE OF FILING**

Application of Interstate Gas Supply, LLC, d/b/a IGS Energy (IGS Energy) for approval to offer, render, furnish or supply natural gas supply services to the public in West Virginia, in West Virginia Public Service Commission Case No. 26-0073-G-EFPP.

IGS Energy has filed an application with the West Virginia Public Service Commission ("PSC") for participation in an Enhanced Firm Pooling Program to provide natural gas supply services as a supplier or aggregator of natural gas services. IGS Energy proposes to sell natural gas and related services in all counties of West Virginia with the exception of Hampshire, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Taylor and Webster.

The PSC may consider this application without a hearing. Protests directed to the technical or financial fitness of IGS Energy may be filed within 15 days of the date of this notice with the Executive Secretary of the PSC, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, WV 25301. Please include the Case No. listed above on the protest.

Additionally, please send copies of any protest to IGS Energy's attorney listed below.

Susan J. Riggs, Esq.  
Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC  
P.O. Box 273  
Charleston, WV 25321-0273  
sriggs@spilmanlaw.com

**LEGAL**

**CANDIDATE FILING FOR PARSONS MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

Parsons, West Virginia - The filing period for local residents interested in running in the upcoming Parsons Municipal Election will open at 8:00 AM (EDT) on Monday, April 6, 2026, and continue through midnight (EDT) on Friday, April 10, 2026. This year's Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

The following positions will be open:

Position	Ward	Vacancies	Term of Office
Mayor (Four Year)	N/A	1	07/01/2026 - 06/30/2030
Council Member (Two Year)	1	1	07/01/2026 - 06/30/2028
Council Member (Four Year)	1	1	07/01/2026 - 06/30/2030
Council Member (Two Year)	2	1	07/01/2026 - 06/30/2028
Council Member (Four Year)	2	2	07/01/2026 - 06/30/2030

Candidates must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, a registered voter in the City of Parsons, and reside in the ward that he or she wishes to represent.

Candidate filing packets may be picked up at the Parsons Business Office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM (EDT) to 4:00 PM (EDT).

Early voting by mail for the Parsons Municipal Election begins Wednesday, May 30, 2026 and ends Saturday, June 6, 2026.

For additional information, please contact the Parsons Business Office at (304) 478-2311.

**LEGAL**

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT  
SOLID WASTE PERMITTING UNIT  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, 601 57TH STREET, CHARLESTON SE, WEST VIRGINIA 25304-2345 TELEPHONE: (304) 926-0440.**  
**APPLICATION FOR A WEST VIRGINIA SOLID WASTE FACILITY / NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PERMIT**  
**Public Notice No.:** SW-06-26 **Public Notice Date(s):** March 25, 2026 April 4, 2026

**Paper:** The Parson Advocate

The following has applied for a Solid Waste Facility / WV NPDES Water Pollution Control Permit for this facility or activity:

**Appl. No.:** SWF-8295 / WV0109126  
**Applicant:** Tucker County Solid Waste Authority  
284 Landfill Road  
Davis, WV 26260

**Location:** THOMAS, TUCKER COUNTY  
**Latitude:** 39° 08' 32" N **Longitude:** 79° 28' 20" W  
**Physical Location:** 0.3 miles northwest of the intersection of Route 32 and Route 93, between Thomas and Davis

**Receiving Stream:** Unnamed tributary of Pendleton Run  
**Activity:** Tucker County Landfill may receive municipal solid waste, including but not limited to, paper, glass, metal, food waste, construction/demolition debris, and household waste. No infectious or hazardous waste will be accepted at this facility.

Construct, operate, and maintain a commercial sanitary landfill, incorporating the activities of disposal, compaction, grading, construction, installation of a closure cap, covering, revegetation, vermin/pest control, drainage and sediment control, access control, leachate management, surface water control, gas management, groundwater monitoring, surface water monitoring, post-closure site monitoring, and construction of other structures and appurtenances as indicated in the attached permit documents.

To operate, and maintain a leachate collection, storage, and pretreatment system and best management practices comprised of a leachate collection system under the fill, and composite lined leachate basin/pretreatment system. The collected leachate will be trucked to the City of Fairmont's, the City of Thomas', the City of Weston's, the City of Elkin's, the City of Petersburg's, the City of Clarksburg's, and the Upper Potomac River Commission of Westernport, Maryland Wastewater Treatment Plants.

To operate and maintain a storm water management system consisting of three sedimentation basins. Sediment Basin 1 (1.8 ac-ft) discharges directly into an unnamed tributary of Pendleton Run 800 feet from the mouth. This discharge point is designated Outlet 001 at Latitude 39° 08' 36" N and Longitude 79° 28' 22" W. Sediment Basin 2 (2.9 ac-ft) discharges directly into an unnamed tributary of Pendleton Run 2200 feet from the mouth. This discharge point is designated Outlet 002 at Latitude 39° 08' 36" N and Longitude 79° 28' 34" W. Sediment Basin 5 (2.9 ac-ft) discharges directly into an unnamed tributary of Pendleton Run 1750 feet from the mouth. This discharge point is designated Outlet 005 at Latitude 39° 08' 44.64" N and Longitude 79° 21' 38.61" W.

**Business conducted:** Municipal Solid Waste Landfill  
**Implementation:** N/A

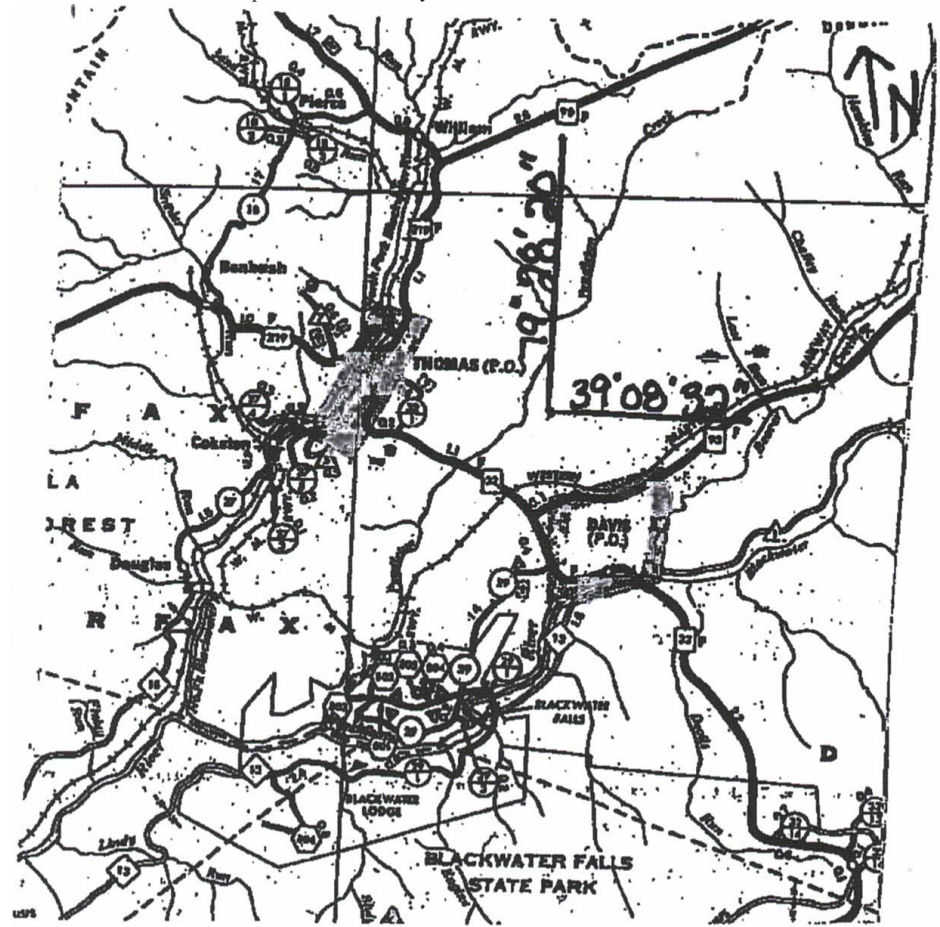
On the basis of review of the application, the "Solid Waste Management Act (Chapter 22, Article 15, Section 5(b) and 5(c)), the "Water Pollution Control Act (Chapter 22, Article 11-8(a)), and the "West Virginia Legislative Rules," the State of West Virginia will act on the above application.

Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and may request a public hearing by addressing such to the Director of the Division of Water and Waste Management within 30 days of the first date of the public notice. Such comments or requests should be addressed to:

Director, Division of Water and Waste Management, DEP  
ATTN: Kenneth Wandling, Solid Waste Permitting Unit  
601 57th Street SE  
Charleston, WV 25304-2345  
kenneth.wandling@wv.gov

The public comment period begins March 25, 2026 and ends on April 24, 2026.

Comments received within this period will be considered prior to acting on the permit application. Correspondence should include the name, address and the telephone number of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues raised. The Director shall hold a public hearing whenever a finding is made, on the basis of requests, that there is a significant degree of public interest on issues relevant to the Draft Permit(s). Interested persons may contact the public information office to obtain further information. The application, draft permit and any required fact sheet may be inspected, by appointment, at the Division of Water and Waste Management Public Information Office, at 601 57th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304-2345, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on business days.





# What's? Happening

## ATTENTION METTIKI EMPLOYEES, and others affected by the layoffs.

You may qualify for supplemental food. The Blackwater Ministerial Association's Food Pantry operates the first Wednesday of each month from 11:00 to 1:00 at 374 Quail Ridge Road (across from Davis-Thomas Elementary / Middle School. Stop by, sign up and bring home bags of food.

## Mountaintop Public Library's hours are as follows:

Monday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Tuesday, 2 - 7 p.m.  
 Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Thursday, 12 - 7 p.m.  
 Friday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## Lenten Services 2026

• April 2 Bill Hardy  
*Luncheon will be provided from noon to 1 pm.*

## Hendrick Free Methodist Church Easter Sunrise Service

At 6:00 A.M. Breakfast will follow at 10:00 A. M. There will also be a Good Friday Service on April 3rd at 12 noon. All are welcome to attend.

## Dairyland Donkey Ball, LLC from Chippewa Falls, WI and the Tucker Community Foundation present:

**WHAT:** Donkey Basketball Fundraising Show

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m.

**WHO:** This Donkey Basketball Fundraising Show Benefits the Miranda Trader Maxwell Memorial Fund!

**WHERE:** TCHS Gym

Online Advance Ticket Sales end on Thursday, April 2 at 6 p.m. Scan QR Code for advance tickets. Advance tickets \$10, at door \$15. Show code at door or will call table. Children under 5 admitted free.

## Corridor H Workshop

The Go North Alliance is hosting a Corridor H Public Information Workshop on April 7 at the Thomas Senior Center on Spruce Street. The event will run twice, once at 2 p.m. and once at 7 p.m. Come and learn what is going on with Corridor H and help us create a community-conscious Northern Route! Contact loki@saveblackwater.org for any questions.

## Food Handler's Class

Mt. Grove Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a food handler's class at the

dinner hall. Class is being taught by the Preston County Health Department on Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m., a \$10 fee is applicable if card is needed for work and the class is free for volunteers.

## The Region VI Workforce Development Board Executive Committee

Will meet on April 9th, 2026. The meeting will be held virtually through the Zoom platform at 3:00 pm. Anyone wishing to attend this virtual meeting must contact Executive Director Maria Larry to request an invite by 12 noon on April 8th, 2026 at 304-368-9530. Projects and programs provided by Region VI WDB are 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Labor through grant awards totaling \$2,462,559.00. No funding is being received from non-governmental sources for projects and programs provided by Region VI WDB. Region VI is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. If you have a hearing impairment and need assistance, call WV Relay 7-1-1.

## Membership Workshop

EXCEL Training & Microsoft WORD Overview (presented by Tucker County Chamber of Commerce)

Tuesday, April 14th

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Davis Town Hall

Led by Mayor Alan Tomson Learn from an expert. Retired US Army, Senior Executive specializing in business transformation.

No Registration Necessary

Bring a laptop if you have one

## Trip Committee

The Tucker County Senior Center Director is trying to form a committee to help plan fun and exciting trips. If you have interest in working on the committee please reach out to the Senior Center at 304-478-2423.

## Lancaster, PA Trip

The Tucker County Senior Center is hosting a trip to Lancaster, Pa. on June 16, 17 and 18. We will be seeing a new production of Joshua, The trip features: two nights lodging, 2 breakfast meals, 2 dinners – a Smorgasbord Dinner and meal at an Amish House, countryside tour, film presentation of Jacob's Choice and other stops as well. The price is \$569 per person Double Occupancy. Call the Senior Center at 304-478-2423 to sign up.

By Teri Cayton  
 The Parsons Advocate

It looks like the old adage is coming true again this year. March came in like a lion and going out like a lion. Hopefully this will be the last of the nasties and Mother Nature will give us a spectacular Spring. The flowering trees are starting to burst out here and I am getting anxious for the warmer weather. **Momma Said**, "Time for outside jobs to get started and shake off the stink of Winter!"

I have new neighbors that moved in next to me and it is a mother and daughter with two tiny dogs and one big dog. My girls are mad to have doggie neighbors so the lady asked me if I could help her repair a fenced in yard on the opposite side of the house, so I will be getting everything ready for that job.

I also had a lady call me to redo

## 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



a bedroom suite for her, sanding and painting, which I love to do. This will be a first to actually do something for someone other than myself. I am really, really excited about doing this and I hope everything goes well and she is pleased.

I must have the "Mom Gene" because I always want to help people. It is not that I am smarter than anyone, but I seem to see things from a different perspective and have ideas to fix things in ways that others don't see. **Momma Said**, "I guess I march to a different drummer."

## Monterey Spaghetti

### Ingredients

- 8 ounces spaghetti
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 (10-ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well-drained
- 2 (2.8-ounce) cans French-fried onions, divided

### Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish and set it aside.
- Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the spaghetti according to the package instructions until al dente. Drain and set aside, allowing it to cool slightly.
- In a large mixing bowl, whisk the eggs until smooth. Stir in the sour cream, Parmesan, and minced garlic until well combined.
- Add the slightly cooled spaghetti

to the egg mixture, tossing to coat thoroughly. Gently stir in the shredded Monterey Jack cheese, chopped spinach, and 1 can of French-fried onions. Mix until evenly distributed.

- Transfer the spaghetti mixture to the prepared baking dish, spreading it evenly. Cover with aluminum foil.
- Bake the covered dish in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Or until the casserole is warmed through and the cheese is fully melted.
- Remove the dish from the oven. Uncover and sprinkle the remaining can of French-fried onions over the top. Return the casserole to the oven. Bake uncovered for an additional 5 minutes or until the onions are golden and crisp.
- Let the casserole rest for a few minutes before serving. Enjoy the creamy, cheesy, and crunchy goodness!



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

**April 1, 1884:** Nurse Florence Aby Blanchfield was born in Shepherdstown. She served in the Army Nurse Corps during World War I, oversaw expansion of the corps from 1,000 to 57,000 during World War II, and became the first woman to hold a permanent commission in the regular army.

**April 1, 1934:** A sales tax went into effect in West Virginia for the first time. The two-percent tax helped fill the revenue void caused by the drop in property values during the Great Depression.

**April 2, 1900:** Marlinton, the county seat of Pocahontas County, was incorpo-

rated. The town is generally considered to be the site of the first European-American settlement in the Greenbrier Valley.

**April 3, 1755:** Frontier scout and "long hunter" Simon Kenton was born in Fauquier County, Virginia. Upon leaving home, Kenton first traveled north through present West Virginia to Pittsburgh and then explored, hunted and trapped through much of the Ohio Valley.

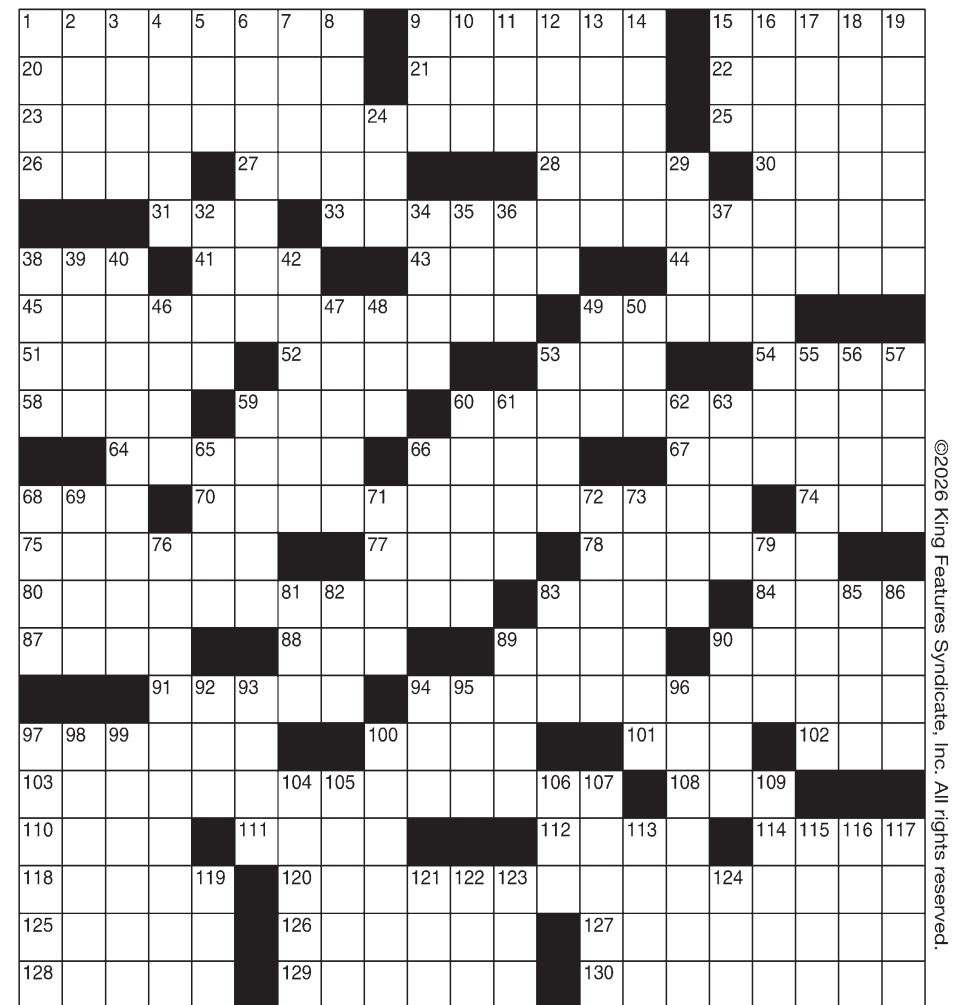
**April 3, 1908:** Samuel Starks died in Charleston. Starks became the first Black state librarian in the nation when he was appointed to the position in 1901 by Governor Albert B. White.

**April 3, 1945:** Medal of Honor recipient Walter Wetzel was killed in Birken, Germany, while serving in the Army during World War II. The Huntington native had

See HISTORY page 8

## Super Crossword LANGUAGE GROUP

- |   |   |  |                                |                                 |   |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                             | 54 Gas brand in Canada                      | 100 Precious   | 7 Bullet point                 | 46 — Reader (magazine)          | 90 Sport played on horseback                  |
| 1 Knee, elbow or shoulder problem         | 58 Speller's clarifying words               | 101 Pine— (disinfectant)                             | 8 Blood fluid                  | 47 Rodeo lasso                  | 92 Maui gift                                  |
| 9 Pop's Easton                            | 59 Mrs., in Essen                           | 102 Match unit                                       | 9 Mu — shrimp                  | 48 Debt note                    | 93 Like much music of the '90s                |
| 15 Koranic faith                          | 60 Rembrandt, Vermeer or Hals               | 103 5 and 10, but not V and X                        | 10 "— So Fine"                 | 49 Jan. preceder                | 94 Bit of a giggle                            |
| 20 Make hostile                           | 64 Hush-hush                                | 108 Rejections                                       | 11 Lifesaving sites, in brief  | 50 Infant's cry                 | 95 Corn serving                               |
| 21 "Omoo" writer Melville                 | 66 Horse father                             | 110 Short note                                       | 12 Political exile             | 53 Stair part                   | 96 Godzilla or Grendel                        |
| 22 Cheese, in Chihuahua                   | 67 Like galaxies such as maracas and congas | 111 Bandleader Arnaz                                 | 13 2020 U.S. Open winner Osaka | 55 Lost tabbies                 | 97 Stratagem                                  |
| 23 Instruments such as maracas and congas | 70 Alternative to Kool-Aid or Hi-C          | 112 LAX listings                                     | 14 Former U.N. chief Kofi      | 56 Oscar winner Penn            | 98 Ultimatum ending                           |
| 25 Slow-moving mollusk                    | 74 One or more                              | 114 Gp. for people 50 and up                         | 15 Mensa stats                 | 57 Paris airport                | 99 City near San Diego                        |
| 26 "Little" girl in "Hairspray"           | 75 Israelites' Promised Land                | 118 Intermingle                                      | 16 Most fancy duds             | 59 Swiss money                  | 100 Mendeleev who created the periodic table  |
| 27 Comment just after waking              | 77 Makes illegal                            | 120 Apt directive for solvers of this puzzle         | 17 Found out, to Brits         | 60 Entertainer Ross or Rigg     | 101 General site                              |
| 28 Certain Fed                            | 78 To a great degree                        | 125 Debate topic                                     | 18 Italian cheese              | 61 Banquet liquid holders       | 102 Self-description after a lifestyle change |
| 30 "Nuts!"                                | 80 The Bollywood film industry              | 126 "Pata Pata" singer Makeba                        | 19 Liquefied by heat           | 62 PC shortcut                  | 103 General site                              |
| 31 Angry rock subgenre                    | 83 "Ask — questions ..."                    | 127 Frat party dispensers                            | 24 IRS hiree                   | 63 Tennis Arthur                | 104 Self-description after a lifestyle change |
| 33 Loose-skinned citrus fruit             | 84 Self-motivation mantra                   | 128 Make fun of a lawn                               | 29 Central point               | 64 Folkie Phil                  | 105 Runner Bolt                               |
| 38 Upper-left PC key                      | 87 Snow vehicle                             | 129 Mystery  | 32 Cuts, as a law              | 65 Hard rain                    | 106 Zodiac lion                               |
| 41 Anxious condition, for short           | 88 Bumped into                              | 130 With 53-Across, section of the northern Atlantic | 34 Sign gas                    | 66 Old Thailand                 | 107 Ticket ends                               |
| 43 Tranquility                            | 89 "Je t'— ("I love you," in Paris)         | <b>DOWN</b>  | 35 — es Salaam, Tanzania       | 67 Folkie Phil                  | 108 Decaf brand                               |
| 44 City in Ohio                           | 90 Tranquility                              | 1 Indonesian island                                  | 36 Pack-carrying equine        | 68 Hard rain                    | 109 General site                              |
| 45 Famed ethnic fighters                  | 91 Skip off to the altar                    | 2 Mongolia's — Bator                                 | 37 Actress Issa or Charlotte   | 69 Hard rain                    | 110 Inferior grade                            |
| 49 Uncool character                       | 94 Adar, Nisan and Tishri                   | 3 Baptism or matrimony                               | 38 Blogger Klein               | 70 "Likely story!"              | 111 Inferior grade                            |
| 51 Big melees                             | 97 Flax-colored                             | 4 Expropriate  | 39 "Je —" ("I am," in Paris)   | 71 "I volunteer!"               | 112 Smoked thing, for short                   |
| 52 Pop's Celine                           |   | 5 Rustic hotel                                       | 40 Decorative enamelware       | 72 "I haven't gotten word yet"  | 113 General site                              |
| 53 See 130-Across                         |   | 6 Pudding thickener                                  | 42 "Celebrity Rehab" host      | 73 "I haven't gotten word yet"  | 114 A long time                               |
|   |   |  |                                | 74 Legal claim on property      | 115 A long time                               |
|   |   |  |                                | 75 Extra benefit                | 116 Floor decor                               |
|   |   |  |                                | 76 Bird's refuge                | 117 Mexican money                             |
|   |   |  |                                | 77 "— Ca-Dabra" (1974 hit song) | 118 Inferior grade                            |
|   |   |  |                                |                                 | 119 Inferior grade                            |
|   |   |  |                                |                                 | 120 Sumac of song                             |
|   |   |  |                                |                                 | 121 Sumac of song                             |
|   |   |  |                                |                                 | 122 Assoc.                                    |



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## Weather Totals

Mar. 17 - Mar. 24, 2026

Nursery Bottom  
 Parsons

**Temperature**  
 Max 83° F  
 Min 11° F

**Precipitation**  
 Week 0.63"  
 March 3.54"  
 2026 8.97"

**Snowfall**  
 New Snow 1"  
 Snow on ground 0"  
 Winter Total 46.5"

U.S. Forest Service

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 9

# HISTORY

Cont. From Page 7

thrown himself onto two live grenades to protect fellow comrades.

**April 4, 1833:** Newspaperman Archibald Campbell was born in Ohio. As editor and part owner of the Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, he was a key advocate for West Virginia statehood.

**April 4, 1948:** Renowned gospel singer Squire Parsons was born in Newton, Roane County. A graduate of Spencer High School and West Virginia Tech, he was best known for his song "Sweet Beulah Land." He died in 2025.

**April 4, 1974:** Tornadoes raced across McDowell, Wyoming, Raleigh, Fayette, Summers and Greenbrier counties, killing one and injuring more than 30. The event was related to a deadly outbreak that had struck Xenia, Ohio, the previous day.

**April 4, 1980:** Musician Red Sovine died in Nashville. Sovine, born Woodrow Wilson Sovine in Charleston, gained country music fame for his recitations, especially those with sentimental truck-driver themes.

**April 5, 1856:** Booker T. Washington was born enslaved in Virginia. In 1865, he moved with his family to Malden, in Kanawha County, to join his stepfather, who had escaped from slavery during the Civil War. He became one of the most influential educators in U.S. history.

**April 5, 1920:** Gifted hand weaver Dorothy Mayor Thompson was born. From an old schoolhouse in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, she taught generations of people about fiber arts. In 2000, she was named a National Heritage Fellow, the nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts.

**April 5, 2010:** An explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in Raleigh County killed 29 workers. Only two men escaped from the mine alive. It was the state's worst coal mine disaster since 1968, when the Consol No. 9 Mine at Farmington exploded, killing 78 workers.

**April 6, 1938:** The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established Camp Kanawha in Kanawha State Forest. The CCC removed all the abandoned houses, coal tipples, and other structures no longer in use, and constructed roads, the forest superintendent's residence, office, maintenance building, and picnic shelters.

**April 6, 1944:** Guitarist and singer David Morris was born in Ivydale, Clay County. With his brother John on fiddle, the Morris Brothers founded music festivals, supported union and environmental causes and promoted West Virginia traditional music nationwide.

**April 7, 1927:** A. James Manchin was born in Farmington. In 1984, the longtime secretary of state was elected state treasurer but soon fell into trouble. With a stock market downturn in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly \$300 million in investments.

**April 7, 1947:** Medal of Honor recipient Thomas W. Bennett was born in Morgantown. Believing it was wrong to evade the draft while others had to serve in Vietnam, he volunteered as a conscientious objector, serving as a non-combatant medic. He was killed by gunfire while dragging a wounded soldier to safety.

**April 7, 2004:** Gov. Bob Wise signed legislation that transformed four colleges into universities: West Virginia State, Shepherd, Fairmont State and Concord.



**April 6, 1964:** Brad Smith was born in Huntington and then grew up in Kenova. He became CEO of Intuit in 2008 and the 38th president of his alma mater, Marshall University, in 2021.

*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.*

# CAT

Cont. From Front Page 1

with authorities.

"The cat did survive, it is alive," Evans said.

Tucker County Sheriff Jake Kopec said that all agencies responded to the incident. The call was initially dispatched to City Police, but the Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction over the whole of Tucker County. Along with City and County, Animal Control, also responded.

Evans claimed the property owner had placed the trap under his truck on a public sidewalk within City limits. Other claims Evans made included that the property owner leaves cat food on his property for cats to lure them to the property and that prior to this incident, he had only used live traps. The day after, Evans said, a live trap was on his property.

"If you want to trap them because they are in your yard, first of all, stop baiting them to your yard, but if you're trapping them and you're calling the Animal Shelter, that's ok," Evanks said. "But what he used, that's vicious."

Evans said that she has remained in contact with the Parsons Police Department, Tucker County Sheriff's Department, Officer Prickett at the West Virginia State Police and has even placed calls to Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney Savannah Hull Wilkins office, but has not yet received a reply. When it comes to law enforcement, Evans said she feels like the case is being passed around.

"I'm upset about it in general, but I'm upset the cat went through that and that nothing seems to be being done about it."

The Parsons Advocate reached out to Tucker County Animal Shelter Director Stacey Canfield about the situation and what authority County Animal Control had over animal cruelty cases such as this.

"Unfortunately, as far as Animal Control goes, that would not fall under our department," Canfield said. "Our animal control response is to feline nuisance complaints, such as the TNR (trap and release), that we wish he would be doing, or dogs at large, barking dogs, biting dogs, things like that."

Canfield said that, while she felt truly sorry for what had happened, her department's hands were tied and the matter could only be handled by law enforcement. Canfield said there exists a City Ordinance

"We do not respond or have the legal authority to respond to anything that is cruelty or abuse related and obviously that is the category that, that would fall under," Canfield said.

Canfield said there is a City Ordinance in effect that states that if an individual is trapping cats, that only

non-lethal methods can be employed.

"Obviously that style of trap that was used, was not a non-lethal trapping method," Canfield said. "So that would fall under either the Sheriff's Department or City Police."

The Parsons Advocate spoke with Tucker County Sheriff Jake Kopec. He said while there are three things that the department would need to have to file charges for animal abuse, two of the most important factors cannot currently be met.

One of the largest barriers for the department currently is the lack of a victim coming forward. Kopec said that without an owner coming forward to claim ownership of the cat, as well as injury, no charges could be filed. Evans said that she had been in contact with a relative of the owner of the cat and that the owner wished to remain anonymous due to backlash from the community from people claiming the incident was his fault because his cat got out of the house.

"Could it be animal abuse? We've got to have a victim come forward," Kopec said. "No owner to this animal has come forward. There's no victim. There's no one that's said 'You've hurt my cat.'"

Kopec did emphasize however, that Tucker County and the City of Parsons both have leash laws in effect. While most people think of leash laws in regards to dogs, Kopec said according to his understanding the law applies to pet cats, as well.

"This really crosses some difficult fences," Kopec said.

Another barrier is a lack of confession. Kopec said that he knows no one is going to admit to purposefully laying the trap with the intent to injure or kill cats in the neighborhood. Kopec said he is aware of allegations that this has been happening for years, but without proof there is nothing his department can do.

"To convict someone or charge someone of a crime, we have to prove elements of a crime," Kopec said. "One: We have to prove that the trap was specifically set out to catch a cat and we have to prove that by somebody admitting to it. That has not happened."

Kopec said the only element that can be proved is that it was a trap used outside of trapping season. However, the incident did occur on private property, which in some cases can complicate matters.

"This is on private property," Kopec said. "His private property. What are you allowed to do on your private property? We've got to respect people's private property, as well."

The last element of the crime would be the question of animal abuse. To satisfy that, Kopec asked if the

animal belonged to someone and if someone had come forward. To that, the answer has been no.

The trap itself, would fall under Department of Natural Resources, according to Canfield. A lot of factors, however, would need to be determined: the size of the trap, whether or not it could be legally set on land or in water and the fact that the trap was set but not tagged properly with the owner's information, according to Canfield.

"DNR has gathered the trap and is doing an investigation because of it being a water-based trap and its not trapping season," Kopec said.

Kopec said that Tucker County has several large colonies of feral cats. Parsons is among the cities in the County with one of these colonies. The Animal Shelter is No Kill and runs a TNR program that traps, neuters and releases feral cats in the community. Kopec said the question of feral cats raises an even bigger question of whether they are classified as a wild animal because they were never owned by a human or as a pet because they are semi-domestic.

"I don't know how to feel about it," Kopec said. "All I can do is say what the law is."

The Parsons Advocate also reached out to City of Parsons Police Chief Kevin Keplinger who reiterated what Sheriff Kopec said on the issue of the cat's owner's wish to remain anonymous and not wanting to come forward.

"As far as we're concerned, no victim no crime," Keplinger said. "Without the owner willing to come forward, there really isn't much we can do."

Kopec said that DNR has confiscated the trap and has opened an investigation into the incident. The Parsons Advocate reached out to the Department of Natural Resources District office in Elkins for comment and was referred to the Captain, but was only able to leave a message. As of press time, no reply has been made.


**THANK YOU FOR READING THE PARSONS ADVOCATE**

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**DAVIS/THOMAS-INTERSECTION**  
**ROUTE 32 AND 48**  
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

ALL DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO WEATHER PERMITTING

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**START YOUR WEEK AT WORSHIP**

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

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## FUNDAMENTAL DATA

Cont. From Page 1

able record on Ridgeline.” The letter goes on to explain that the company writes to explain what Ridgeline is and offer a better understanding of the project and what it is designed for.

The first point the letter makes is in reference to the Ridgeline Project’s Air Quality Permit No. R13-3713. The permit was issued by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Department of Air Quality, in accordance with West Virginia Air Pollution Control Act and applicable federal law, the letter states.

“That permit was subjected to a full public comment process and survived an appeal before the West Virginia Air Quality Board. It is a public document that establishes specific, legally enforceable limits on every regulated pollutant Ridgeline’s gas generating facility is authorized to emit and imposes detailed requirements governing equipment specifications, control technology, operations, monitoring, performance testing, and reporting,” the letter states.

The letter further states that the permit “establishes the compliance obligations applicable to what has been approved to date” and advises the committee to review “this publicly available permit,” as it would answer many of the questions raised in the letter and “note that the permit record for this phase of the Ridgeline Facility was publicly available before your letter was written.” While, simultaneously, stating that Congressional oversight of energy and environmental matters “is both appropriate and important, and we welcome it.”

To the allegation that the Ridgeline Facility would “emit thousands of tons of health-harming local pollutants” each year, the letter disputes the claim by the Committee. The letter states the specific limits of several examples such as: “the maximum annual limit for nitrogen oxides is 99.35 tons per year; for particulate matter, 71.44 tons per year; for sulfur dioxide, 58.89 tons per year; for volatile organic compounds, 43.84 tons per year; and for total hazardous air pollutants, the category that encompasses any benzene emissions, 9.33 tons per year in aggregate.”

“These are not projections or estimates. They are maximum annual limits established by the permit and enforceable by the WVDEP,” the letter states.

As for the subject of benzene addressed by the letters, the Fundamental Data letter states that benzene is not regarded as a “standalone regulated pollutant in our permit.” As such, the letter said, it would fall under the Total Hazardous Air Pollutants category which has a maximum annual limit of 9.33 tons per year in aggregate across all hazardous air pollutants.

“Citing benzene as a distinct and specific threat to our neighbors, without reference to the actual permitted emissions profile of this facility, is not an accurate representation of the project,” the letter states.

The letter then addresses the assertion that the facility would produce “millions of tons of greenhouse gases every year” with a footnote citing a January 2026 article. The letter claims the article projected the lifetime emissions across every gas project currently under development in the U.S. and further asserted the figures were not derived from analysis of the specific Ridgeline Project itself.

“Applying a national aggregate statistic to a single specific facility (one with a defined permit imposing defined operating limits for air pollutants) does not reflect the actual facts of this project,” the letter stated.

The facility will operate with the installation and operation of “Selective Catalytic Reduction systems,” the letter rebutted to the assertion that the facility would operate without meaningful pollution controls. The systems would have a system on every turbine to monitor nitrogen oxide control and a CO catalyst system for carbon monoxide control on each, as well, the letter stated.

“These are best-available control technologies and required conditions of our permit, not voluntary commitments. We are legally obligated to install them, operate them, and maintain them in accordance with manufacturer specifications. The WVDEP and U.S. EPA have authority to enforce those obligations,” the letter states.

The facility will operate combustion turbines with Heat Recovery Steam Generating Unites, a combined-cycle configuration, “that represents the most thermally efficient and cleanest available approach to gas-fired generation at commercial scale,” the letter stated.

The Senate Committee letter also addressed the reduction of greenhouse gasses by 88.4% by 2032. Fundamental Data responded that the permit was issued under the West Virginia air pollution control law and referenced compliance with 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart KKKK, the applicable federal performance standard for stationary combustion turbines. It also acknowledged that the regulatory landscape of greenhouse emissions is constantly changing and that the project remains committed to compliance with any and all requirements as they become established by authorities.

“Our long-term development plan already incorporates carbon capture technology as part of this project’s future phases, not because we are required to include it, but because we believe it reflects responsible development at this scale,” the letter states.

Data Centers are discussed in the letter extensively. The letter discusses the need for more energy generation due to the increase in need, “driven by cloud technologies, artificial intelligence, electric vehicles and the early stages of an industrial resurgence” and called the current grid “structurally underprepared for what is already arriving.”

Statistics such as digital infrastructure that supports data center supporting personal devices and enterprise commuting that accounts for 6% of the nation’s power consumption, an acceleration in deployment of AI in sectors such as national defense, financial services and healthcare projected to “push that figure to 12% of total national capacity by 2030” are discussed as some of the core reasons for the project’s inception.

“The customers building and operating those systems are not waiting for the grid to be ready. They need power that is always on, always available, and sufficient in scale to support operations that the public depends on and that this country’s global standing requires. Ridgeline is designed to meet that need,” the letter states.

The letter argues that it is a matter of national standing and every other competing nation is perusing AI as a means to commercial dominance, military superiority and economic dominance in the world. Without energy infrastructure to support it, the United States will suffer consequences, “measured in jobs, in competitiveness, and in the standard of living of working Americans, the people who will bear the cost of energy scarcity and technological decline most directly” the letter asserts.

The letter states that Tucker County and specifically the site near the landfill between Davis and Thomas as scouted specifically and purposefully because this was never conceived to be “a modest project.” It was sited for its location next to the existing natural gas pipeline through the area and water resources, among other factors.

“Ridgeline is not a modest project, and it was never conceived as one. The strategic location provides proximity to the nation’s largest natural gas field, adjacency to one of the most critical transmission nodes on the eastern interconnection, abundant water resources, and a secured land position of significant scale in a jurisdiction that does not impose the local zoning, permitting, and regulatory layers that add cost and time to projects of this type elsewhere in the country. The site was chosen with a long view in mind. At more than 3,200 feet of elevation, it also provides a natural thermal advantage that meaningfully reduces cooling demands year-round, an operating benefit that no comparable site within this proximity to the mid-Atlantic corridor can replicate. The infrastructure we are establishing, the regulatory framework we are operating within, and the technology platform we are deploying are all designed to accommodate the scale of need that this industry and this country will require. We intend to grow with that need, through the proper regulatory channels and in compliance with all applicable law,

as we have done to reach this point.”

Among claims set forth in the letter is that the facility will contain renewable energy generation. The letter claims that the facility will include nearly 1.3 gigawatts of solar generation, a claim the letter states is “among the largest solar projects in the United States.”

“Our design uses solar capacity to actively reduce gas turbine output in real time: as solar production increases, gas consumption decreases. We are integrating renewables into this project by design, not as an afterthought,” the letter states.

The letter also went on to dispute the Senate Committee letter’s suggestions that renewable energy paired with battery storage could “serve as a straightforward alternative to the gas generation component of the project.” The letter disputes that the project is simply of such momentous scale that solar generation and storage to supply it would be impossible.

“The math does not support that conclusion at our scale. A single 1 gigawatt continuous load requires approximately 4 gigawatts of installed solar capacity to account for a 25% average capacity factor, and roughly 25,000 acres of land. Scaling that approach to meet only the 40 gigawatts of projected new AI demand nationally by 2030 would require approximately one million acres. To put that in perspective, one million acres exceeds the entire land area of Rhode Island. Global solar cell manufacturing capacity is currently only 6 gigawatts annually. Even if the United States absorbed the entire world’s supply, it would only meet roughly 15% of the projected energy need.”

The letter goes on to address the Senate letter’s suggestion of nuclear energy as a potential baseload solution. The letter states that while it is a technology that is being actively considered for future development in the project, “current U.S. development pipeline reveals that there is virtually no new nuclear capacity capable of producing energy by 2030.” Only a handful of projects are on track to deliver power before 2033, a timeline, the letter states, that shows the reality of nuclear energy and how projects are built.

In the case of nuclear energy, the letter asserts, environmental impact statements and other regulatory requirements can take two to four years before a formal technical review begins. The review process will add an additional 18 months to the process, the letter states, before a permit can be issued. Site preparation, module fabrication and commissioning can take several years, as well. In total, the letter asserts, best case scenario, it can be seven years from decision to when the lights first come on. A timeline, the letter said is not fast enough to meet the demands this country is facing in the next four years.

“That is not fast enough to meet the energy demands this country is facing between now and 2030. Nuclear has an important role to play in the future of American energy, but it is not a short-term solution to our pressing needs,” the letter states.

The letter also states that the facility is designed to change fuels and adapt in the future. It is designed to be fully hydrogen compatible with future development focused on incorporating advanced gasification technology and nuclear energy, supported by carbon capture, the letter states.

“We are not building a static asset. We are building a platform, one whose energy profile is intended to advance as the technology and the economics to support it mature,” the letter states.

The letter ended by stating that the project was permitted legally and through the proper channels, as well as reviewed by the appropriate regulatory authorities. A reiteration was made that the project meets the urgent and genuine needs of the nation’s energy consumption and the needs

The letter was cc’d to The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate and The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate.

## United Way Highlights Year of Impact, Welcomes New Board Members

The Tygart Valley United Way held their annual meeting of the organization virtually on March 17, 2026. During the meeting, leaders elected the officers and new members of the organization’s 2026-2027 Board of Directors.

Blaire Nuzum-Wise of TCR Companies will serve as Chair, Melanie Thompson of Huntington Bank, Vice Chair, Rebecca Miller of ND Paper, Secretary, Jennifer Wade of Conley CPA, Treasurer, and Kristie Vandevander of Kristie Vandevander CPA, Assistant Treasurer.

The board elected new members, including:

- Brandi Lemon- Clear Mountain Bank
- Diana Landsverk- Vandalia Health Davis
- Paige Gardner- Country Roads Moving
- Cindee Campbell- Blue Ridge Risk Partners
- John Cochran- Dyna-Tech Adhesives
- Cassie Zelenak- Preston Taylor Health Centers
- Lori Barman- Mon Power/First Energy
- Diane Hinkle- Tucker Community Volunteer

- Jayme Payton- WesBanco

Outgoing board members were honored for their service and include: Christina Gouzd, Christine Miller, Chuck Shields, Debby Michalski, Kevin Gessler, Jim Myers, Katie Willard, and Donna Heston.

“United Way’s Board of Directors is made up of dedicated leaders who care deeply about the strength and future of our community,” said Brett White, Chief Executive Officer. “We are especially grateful for the service of our outgoing board members, whose leadership and commitment have helped United Way continue to grow and evolve. They have given generously of their time, insight, and passion. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, I extend a heartfelt thank you for all they have done to advance our mission.”

United Way also presented the 2025 Annual Report, which highlights the activities and programs of the past year. For the second year, it has been presented digitally, making it more accessible and user-friendly. To view the report, visit <http://tvuw.us/report>.


### Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

### Super Crossword

Answers

B	U	R	S	I	T	I	S	S	H	E	E	N	A	I	S	L	A	M	
A	L	I	E	N	A	T	E	H	E	R	M	A	N	Q	U	E	S	O	
L	A	T	I	N	P	E	R	C	U	S	S	I	O	S	N	A	I	L	
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E	S	C	O	C	D	E	A	S	E	D	A	Y	T	O	N				
Z	U	L	U	W	A	R	R	I	O	R	S	D	W	E	E	B			
R	I	O	T	S	D	I	O	N	S	E	A	S	S	O					
A	S	I	N	F	R	A	U	D	T	C	H	M	A	S	T	E	R		
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O	H	O	H	A	W	A	I	I	A	N	P	U	N	C	H	A	N	Y	
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H	I	N	D	I	C	I	N	E	M	A	M	E	N	O	P	E	A	C	
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E	L	O	P	E	H	E	B	R	E	W	M	O	N	T	H	S			
G	O	L	D	E	N	D	E	A	R	S	S	O	L	S	E	T			
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M	E	M	O	D	E	S	I	E	T	A	S	A	A	R	P				
B	L	E	N	D	W	A	T	C	H	Y	O	U	R	T	O	N	G	U	E
I	S	S	U	E	M	I	R	I	A	M	B	E	E	R	K	E	G	S	
T	E	A	S	E	E	N	I	G	M	A	S	A	R	G	A	S	S	O	



**MUST BOOK BY 3/31**

### Grand Alaskan Cruise & Tour

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## Atom X



Audien Hearing

# MGC Spring Blossoms Winners



The votes are in at the Easter floral display at MVB and the winners are Connie Collins First place, Crystal Bilby Nelson second place and Faith Moore third. All the ladies who contributed to the display did a great job. A big thanks to MVB for sponsoring us each year. Their support helps us with our projects around town especially the sponsoring of 4-H kids to Camp Kidd. We would love to welcome you as a new member! Contact via FB Mountaineer Garden Club. We have exciting projects ahead.

**J.W. Ruby Research Farm at Reedsville**  
 Hazel Ruby McQuain Equine Education and Resource Center  
 A gift of the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust to West Virginia University  
 Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Design and the WVU Extension Service



Pictured left to right: Alyssa Lewis, Denton Streets, Kinsley Lewis, Hannah Lewis, Delbert Wilkins, Kenley Blamble, Shaylea Wolfe.

## 2026 Opening Dates for Monongahela National Forest Recreation Sites

Elkins, W.Va. —The Monongahela National Forest's opening dates for developed recreation sites are now available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/monongahela/recreation>. Local conditions can affect dates, please check the web often for updates.

Campground and picnic shelter reservations for some sites may be made at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Roadside camping, also called dispersed camping or boondocking, is available in many areas of the Forest year-round. For additional details on recreation opportunities and facilities, contact local offices: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/monongahela/offices>.

To ensure a safe visit, please remember that cell phone service is unreliable while in the Forest; please take a look at map options available: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/monongahela/maps-guides>. For other safety information to prepare for your trip visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/monongahela/safety-ethics>.

**About the Forest Service:** The Forest Service



has, for more than 100 years, brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology — and rooted in communities — the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest

Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

*The Monongahela National Forest spans nearly one million acres across 10 counties in the highlands of West Virginia. The national forest provides clean water, wildlife habitat, productive timber resources, and year-round recreational opportunities. It is a vital part of the region's economy and culture, while supporting some of the most diverse and scenic landscapes in the Appalachians.*

## First Livestock Judging Contest of the Season

On March 7th our 4-H Livestock Judging Team traveled to the WVU Reedsville Farm to participate in the 2nd Annual Block and Bridle Livestock Judging Contest. Participants evaluated two classes of beef, two classes of sheep, two classes of goats, answered questions, and crafted and delivered a set of reasons explaining their thought process for placing the class how they did. Congratulations to all our members for doing a fabulous job!

**Team Placing:**

- 3rd place overall
- 10th place beef
- 3rd place sheep
- 1st place goats
- 9th place reasons

**Individual Placing:**

- 4th Overall Junior - Delbert

- Wilkins
- 8th Overall Junior - Denton Streets
- 8th Overall Beef Junior - Kinsley Lewis
- 6th Overall Beef Junior - Kenley Blamble
- 3rd Overall Sheep Junior - Alyssa Lewis
- 5th Overall Sheep Junior - Shaylea Wolfe
- 2nd Overall Goat Junior - Delbert Wilkins
- 5th Overall Goat Junior - Alyssa Lewis
- 8th Overall Goat Junior - Denton Streets
- 9th Overall Goat Junior - Shaylea Wolfe

If you are interested in joining 4-H, call the Extension Office at 34-478-2949.

**BRUCE KOLSUN MEET & GREET**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 13th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm**  
*Piccolo Paula's Caffe, Parsons | Snacks Provided*



I am your Republican Candidate for House of Delegates District 85 which includes Tucker and Grant Counties.

As you know for the past 10 years, I have been working for the Citizens of Parsons as Councilman, Recorder, and now as Mayor.

I represent you on the Tucker Co. Development Authority, serve as a Board Member of the WV Municipal League and Mon Forest Towns and as a representative on the Regional Opioid Committee.

I take a common sense, honest approach to government.

We need to look at our big issues—50th in Education, Infrastructure, Health Care, and Economic Development, among others. This is NOT good enough.

Let's nix overspending, put away self-serving interests, and tackle these big issues to make WV move up from the bottom.

Come talk to me and tell me your issues. I'm listening!



**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**  
*BRUCE*

*Paid For By The Candidate*



**PARSONS CITY CEMETERY ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP**  
**APRIL 6 - 17, 2026**

Any flower arrangement that is weathered or out of season must be taken down this week. All new flowers should not be displayed until after the cleanup week. When arranging flowers, we strongly recommend using permanent vases. Flowers placed directly in the ground may be harmed by our moving and trimming equipment. We make every effort to safeguard items on display at each gravesite; however, we cannot be held responsible or liable for items that are damaged or stolen.

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## Citizens Bank Completes Acquisition of Miners & Merchants Bank

Elkins, WV — Citizens Bank of West Virginia, the banking subsidiary of Citizens Financial Corp. (OTCID: CIWV), has successfully completed its previously announced acquisition of Miners & Merchants Bank, expanding its footprint in West Virginia and marking the bank's entry into Maryland. The transaction was finalized after the close of business on March 20, 2026.

As a result of the acquisition, the former Miners & Merchants Bank locations in Thomas and Bayard, West Virginia, and Oakland, Maryland, officially opened as Citizens Bank on Monday, March 23.

"This acquisition represents an important step forward for Citizens Bank and the communities we serve," said Nathaniel S. Bonnell, President & CEO. "We are pleased to welcome customers and employees of Miners & Merchants Bank into the Citizens family. This expansion allows us to deliver an enhanced suite of products, services, and technology while continuing the personalized, community-focused banking experience that has been central to the mission of both Citizens and Miners for more than a century."

With the acquisition complete, Citizens Bank now has more than \$765 million in assets and serves communities through nine financial centers located in Elkins, Bayard, Beverly, Buckhannon, New Martinsville, Parsons, Snowshoe, and Thomas, West Virginia, as well as Oakland, Maryland. Citizens offers a wide range of integrated financial services, including retail and commercial banking, wealth management, and mortgage services.

Citizens Bank is 5-Star rated and ranked among the strongest banks in the nation by Bauer Financial—the nation's leading independent banking rating firm. The bank is also recognized as one of West Virginia's Top 10 Performing Banks by the prestigious Bank Performance Report. Citizens is ranked 22nd on American Banker's list of the Best Banks to Work For and has received numerous regional honors, including WV Living's Best Corporate Citizen; The Inter-Mountain's People's Choice awards for Best Bank, Mortgage Lender, Customer Service, and Employer; and The Record Delta's Best Place to Work and Mortgage Provider. Additionally, Citizens Bank has been named among American Banker's Top Performing Publicly Traded Community Banks under \$2 billion in assets and recognized by Newsweek's America's Best Banks list as the Best Small Bank in West Virginia. The bank has also been named SBA West Virginia Community Lender of the Year and ranked No. 9 nationally by the Independent Community Bankers of America in the consumer/mortgage category for banks with \$300M–\$1B in assets.

Learn more about Citizens Bank at [www.citizenswv.com](http://www.citizenswv.com).



ERCC recently donated \$1,200 to Project Lifesaver. The program is an initiative by the Randolph County Deputy Sheriff's Association. Pictured from left are Sgt. Brice Cogar, Cpl. Aaron Beverly, ERCC Administrator Tara Shaver, Cpl. Bryan Roy, Deputy Rocky Hebb and Sgt. Daniel Pennington. All of the officers are with the Randolph County Sheriff's Department.

## Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center Donates to Project Lifesaver

Elkins, W.Va. — Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center is showing its support for a local program designed to help locate individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, other cognitive disorders or autism.

ERCC donated \$1,200 to Project Lifesaver, a community initiative sponsored by the Randolph County Deputy Sheriff's Association. The donation will be used to purchase electronic bracelets that will be provided to those with cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's disease or people with autism so they can be found if they go missing.

"This is a great program and we're very happy to be able to participate," said Tara Shaver, ERCC administrator.

Every year, thousands of people with cognitive disorders or autism go missing. This can be combatted by location bracelets such as those that are purchased by this program.

"We have a memory care unit here at our facility," Shaver said. "We're very sympathetic to people who suf-

fer from these disorders."

Shaver went on to say that the families of people with these disorders suffer greatly when the individual goes missing. When an individual with a cognitive disorder goes missing, it can also trigger a large search operation.

"And sometimes they don't find the person, which is just such a tragedy," Shaver said.

ERCC wants to do everything in its power to make sure that people with cognitive disorders or those with autism can be found quickly and safely if they go missing, she added. This is part of the overall effort to help keep people in the community safe and secure, she said.

"If this donation helps police find just one person, then it is well worth it," Shaver noted.

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>.

## New medications usher in new era of kidney care at WVU Medicine

Morgantown, W.Va. — Chronic kidney disease affects millions of Americans, often with little notice. However, recent advancements are changing the way WVU Medicine physicians treat the disease and offering patients new hope.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one-in-three adults in the United States is at risk of developing chronic kidney disease, with diabetes and high blood pressure acting as the two main causes. Rates in West Virginia are still among the highest in the country.

Despite its prevalence, kidney disease frequently goes undetected until it reaches an advanced stage.

"Kidney disease is silent until very late in the disease process," Bethany Pellegrino, M.D., chief of WVU Medicine Nephrology, said. "You can have pretty advanced kidney disease and not know it, which is why screening and awareness are so important."

Chronic kidney disease is defined as a long-term decline in kidney function lasting at least three months. Such a decline can cause kidney failure and dialysis and potentially require a kidney transplant if left untreated.

Patients with diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, obesity, or a family history of kidney conditions are at higher risk. Because symptoms may not appear until the disease has advanced, routine blood work plays a critical role in early detection.

"We rely on lab testing, particularly creatinine levels and estimated glomerular filtration rate, to understand how well the kidneys are functioning," Dr. Pellegrino said. "The earlier we identify changes, the more we can do to slow progression."

Prevention methods mainly focus on managing underlying conditions and maintaining overall health.

"The things that are good for your kidneys are the things we already know we should be doing," Pellegrino said. "Keeping blood pressure and blood sugar under control, maintaining a healthy weight, and managing heart health all make a significant difference."

Within the past two decades, treatment options have expanded dramatically. Several newly approved medications, many initially developed for diabetes, are now proving effective in protecting kidney function and slowing the progression of kidney disease by reducing inflammation and scarring. These medications, combined with standard blood pressure therapy, help patients preserve kidney function longer.

Early results of these new treatments may already be reducing the number of patients requiring dialysis, and the impact could potentially reduce the need for dialysis

underserved areas."

UHC Family Medicine Residency has a proven commitment to the region, with nearly 70% of its graduates choosing to practice within West Virginia. To be considered for the program, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0tyNQRxZk> to submit your interest. The application deadline is April 1, 2026.

**About WVU Medicine United Hospital Center**

United Hospital Center (UHC) is the result of a merger between St. Mary's and Union Protestant hospitals in 1970. This bold move provides North Central West Virginia with a regional community hospital that offers a vast array of services. The new UHC



Bethany Pellegrino, M.D.

or transplants. Slowing disease progression may reduce demand for transplants, improving access for patients awaiting a new kidney.

At the same time, WVU Medicine continues to expand access to kidney care across the region. Through its growing network of nephrology specialists and clinics, patients can receive care closer to home.

The WVU Medicine Transplant Alliance has also grown, and as a result, more patients can be evaluated and treated in West Virginia.

Awareness and early action remain the most powerful tools in combating kidney disease.

"The most important thing is knowing you may be at risk and getting checked," Pellegrino said. "If we catch kidney disease early, we can protect not just the next few years, but decades of a patient's life."

In the latest episode of the Live Healthy West Virginia podcast, "Your Kidneys, Upgraded: New Meds Change the Rules of Kidney Care," Pellegrino discussed new treatment options available for patients diagnosed with kidney disease and ways to reduce risks. The podcast is available on WVU Medicine's YouTube channel and Spotify.

opened in 2010 and is located along I-79 in Bridgeport. The 736,403 square foot structure rises eight stories. It is designed around the environment with patients, family, employees, and community in mind, which includes enhanced patient privacy, a high level of technological integration, and improved access to care. The acute care facility has 292 private inpatient rooms and a medical staff that consists of more than 366 physicians, advanced practice providers, and allied health professionals. UHC has more than 2,613 employees and is a member of WVU Medicine (West Virginia United Health System). For more information about UHC, please visit [uhcwv.org](http://uhcwv.org).



Eric J. Radcliffe, MD  
Program Director  
UHC Family Medicine Residency Program

## United Hospital Center Launches Rural Scholars Program to Combat West Virginia Physician Shortages

Bridgeport, WV — The United Hospital Center (UHC) Family Medicine Residency Program is proud to announce the launch of its Rural Scholars Program, inviting dedicated third-year medical students to apply for an enhanced fourth-year experience designed to cultivate the next generation of rural physicians in West Virginia.

With more than 50% of West Virginia counties designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), rural communities face significantly higher chronic disease rates and reduced access to care. The Rural Scholars Program aims to reverse this trend by offering a tailored curriculum, financial incentives, and a streamlined pathway into the UHC Family Medicine Residency.

"Our mission is to establish long-term physician-community relationships and provide an exceptional level of care to rural populations," said Eric J. Radcliffe, MD, Program Director of the UHC Family Medicine Residency Program. "By investing in students passionate about serving rural West Virginia, we are not only offering financial relief during their training, but also building a dedicated workforce to combat chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension in

**THANK YOU FOR READING THE PARSONS ADVOCATE**

## WorkForce West Virginia to Host Apprenticeship Showcase at State Capitol

Charleston, W.Va. — WorkForce West Virginia and the West Virginia Department of Education Career Technical Education have partnered to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week by hosting the WV Apprenticeship Showcase. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the West Virginia State Capitol in the Upper Rotunda.

National Apprenticeship Week, observed from April 26 to May 2, 2026, highlights the essential role that apprenticeships play in developing a skilled workforce. This showcase provides a platform for West Virginians to learn about various pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship career opportunities available throughout the state.

"We are excited to bring together such a diverse group of industries to showcase the high-quality career paths available through apprenticeships in West Virginia," said Criss McCauley, Director of Special Programs/Apprenticeships at WorkForce West Virginia. "This event allows individuals to explore careers in everything from

childcare and construction to manufacturing and culinary arts, providing a direct link between talent and opportunity."

Attendees will have the opportunity to speak directly with employers and explore apprenticeship programs in a variety of fields, including:

- Construction Trades
- Manufacturing
- Culinary Arts
- Technology and Virtual Reality Demonstrations

The event will feature a range of industries and include virtual reality demonstrations for a hands-on look at modern career fields.

No registration is required for this event. All interested job seekers and students are encouraged to attend to discover how these programs can launch a successful career.

**About WorkForce West Virginia:**

WorkForce West Virginia is a state government agency funded through federal and state resources that provides assistance to both job seekers and employers.

## Annual Adopt-A-Highway Spring Cleanup set for April 25th

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) is now accepting registrations for the Adopt-A-Highway Spring Statewide Cleanup set for Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Individuals, families, churches, businesses, schools, civic organizations, government agencies and communities can register to pick up trash on almost any state-maintained road, back road or main route. Private roads and interstate highways are not eligible for adoption.

The Adopt-A-Highway program provides garbage bags, work gloves and safety vests to volunteers, and takes care of disposing of collected trash. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old to participate.

Groups must register in advance by April 17, 2026, and inform their county DOH garage if they need supplies. To register, call 1-800-322-5530 or email dep.aah@

wv.gov. If you reach the REAP voicemail, please leave your name, phone number, group name, date of cleanup, number of participants, and the county where your adopted road is located.

The 2025 Adopt-A-Highway Spring Cleanup had more than 1,900 volunteers from over 250 groups who removed nearly 79,000 pounds of litter from almost 600 miles of roadway.

Co-sponsored by the WVDEP and the state Division of Highways, the Adopt-A-Highway program is administered by

the WVDEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP). The REAP program empowers citizens to take ownership of their communities by providing technical, financial, and resource assistance in cleanup and recycling efforts.

For more WVDEP news and information, go to <https://dep.wv.gov>. Also, connect with the agency on all social media platforms. Follow @DEPWV on Twitter, Like us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/depwv/>, and find us on YouTube at Environment Matters.

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**BRUCE KOLSUN MEET & GREET**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 13th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm**  
*Piccolo Paula's Caffe, Parsons | Snacks Provided*

I am your Republican Candidate for House of Delegates District 85 which includes Tucker and Grant Counties.

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We need to look at our big issues--50th in Education, Infrastructure, Health Care, and Economic Development, among others. This is NOT good enough.

Let's nix overspending, put away self-serving interests, and tackle these big issues to make WV move up from the bottom.

Come talk to me and tell me your issues. I'm listening!

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**  
*BRUCE*

Paid For By The Candidate

# ATTENTION INDEPENDENT & UNAFFILIATED VOTERS!

## JOIN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Primary Election on May 12, 2026 marks the first time West Virginia's Republican Primary will be open ONLY to registered Republicans.

### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU?

If you want to vote in the Republican Primary for your District - including candidates for President, Statewide offices, State Senate and House of Delegates, and county and local races - you will need to change your political party from "Independent" or "Unaffiliated" to Republican by April 21, 2026.

### HOW TO DO IT:

Simply visit [www.GoVoteWV.com](http://www.GoVoteWV.com) or scan the QR code and request to update your voter registration. You can also contact your County Clerk's office in person or by mail. To find your County Clerk's office, visit [www.GoVoteWV.com](http://www.GoVoteWV.com). Register Republican.

If you have any questions, please call the Tucker County Republican Executive Committee Chairman, Bruce Kolsun at 304-382-1903. The Tucker County Republican Executive welcomes you to register as a Republican so you can exercise your right to vote in the Primary.

*Paid for by the Tucker County Republican Executive Committee*



## SCAN THE CODE TO GET STARTED!

**GO NORTH CORRIDOR H INFORMATION WORKSHOP**

Learn more about the northern alternative for Corridor H, and how the alternative route benefits our community!

**April 7<sup>th</sup> @ Thomas Senior Center 2pm & 7pm**

(Two opportunities to learn!)

**EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION :**  
 loki@saveblackwater.org

**Free & Open to the Public**  
**All are welcome!**