

## 2026 GRADUATES PICTURED INSIDE

### Mayor Kolsun Absent, Removes Name Plate From Council Chambers



By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

Speculation ran rampant at the Parsons City Council Meeting Tuesday, May 19th. On the dais in the council chamber, there was something conspicuously missing, the Mayor's name plate. Also absent from the meeting was the Mayor himself, Bruce Kolsun.

Mayor Kolsun's term is set to expire the end of next

month, with a new mayor set to take his place the first meeting of July.

While City financial accounts do have three signatories: Council Member Melissa Jones, Recorder Rick Lemons and Mayor Bruce Kolsun, the Council discussed concerns over how they would get paperwork signed that only the Mayor was able to sign with the Mayor "MIA."

The Council directed City Manager Mike Simmons to contact the City Attorney Tim Stranko about the situation and consult on what to do if the Mayor could not be reached to sign urgent City business forms. Such forms, apparently, were on the agenda that evening.

In a call to the Parsons Advocate, Mayor Bruce Kolsun said he was willing to sign any documents needed and would be available to sign any documents remotely, if necessary. Kolsun went on to say that he would be away on family vacation the month of June.

"I will miss working with the citizens of Parsons," Kolsun said.

Nothing in the City Charter allows for the forceful removal of a Mayor. Should Kolsun official resign, Recorder Rick Lemons would step into to position for the remainder of Kolsun's term, which would be through the month of June. At which time a new Mayor would take over.

At this time, Mayor Kolsun has not tenured a resignation and is still the Mayor of Parsons. Any meetings the Mayor may be absent from will be chaired by City Recorder Rick Lemons, who will step in as Acting Mayor.



Brian Quattro

### Quattro Takes Plea Deal in Attempted Murder Case

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

Brian Quattro, 55, appeared before Judge Shaffer along with his attorney John Rogers to accept a plea deal in a case that saw him accused of the attempted murder of his brother. Under the agreement, Quattro plead guilty to Malicious Assault, as well as Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer.

In total, Quattro plead guilty to one count of Malicious Assault, a felony punishable by two to ten years in a state correctional facility and to two counts of Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of nor more than \$500, one to 12 months in jail or both. He will also pay \$850.45 in restitution to the victim and \$136.00 to the State Police in restitution. Under the agreement, all other charges were dropped in the case, as was the entirety of a companion case.

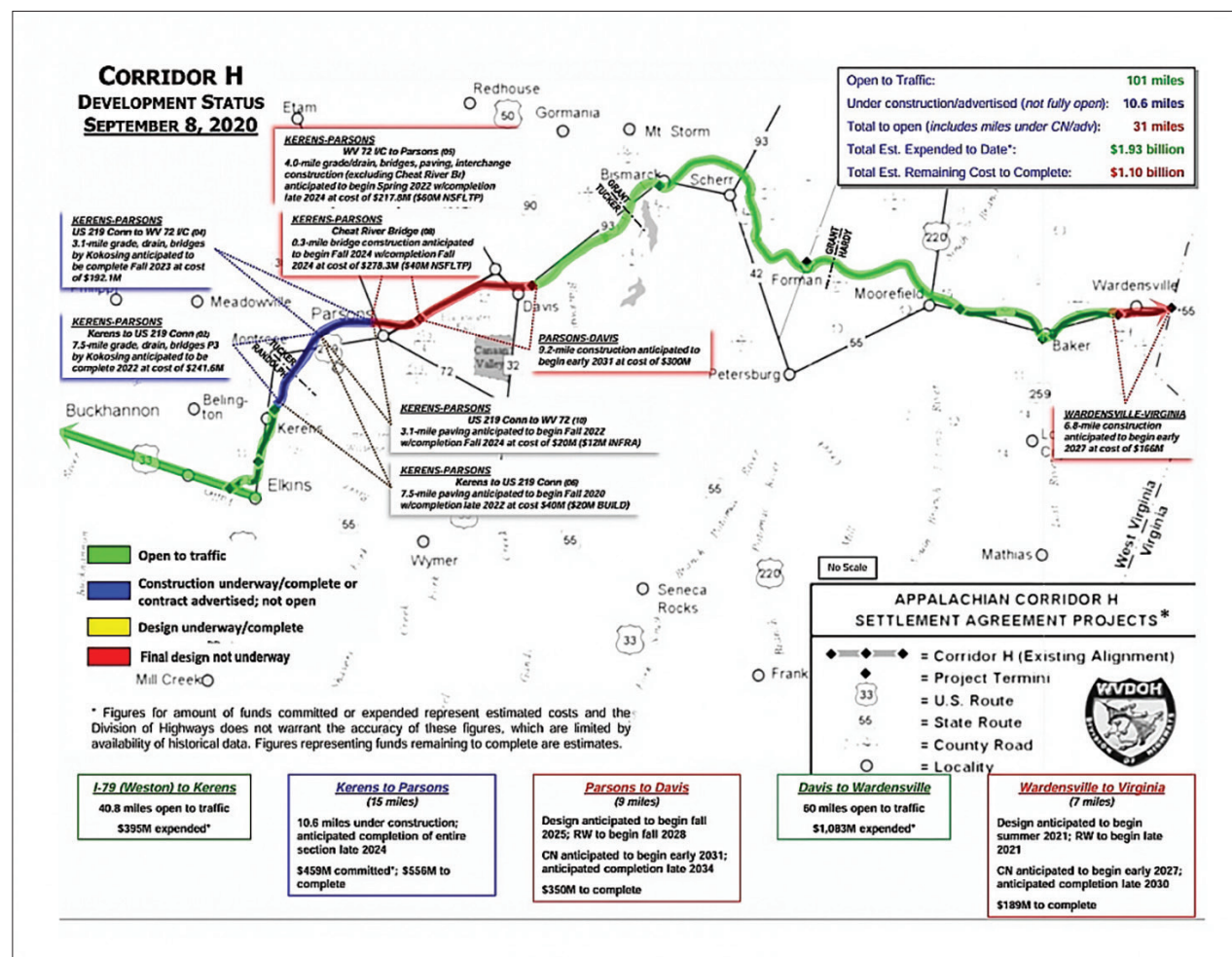
Under the original indictment from October of 2025, Quattro was charged with one count of Attempted Murder, one count of Malicious Assault, one count of Animal Cruelty, two counts of Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer and one count of Destruction of Property.

Tucker County Prosecuting Attorney outlined the particulars of the case in open court. On February 16th, 2025, Officer Summerfield responded to a call in which the victim, the defendant's brother, claimed to have been stricken in the head with a baseball bat. The victim also claimed the defendant has struck a dog at the property, as well with the bat. When the officer arrived on scene, the victim was bleeding profusely. Wilkins said it was bad weather night and the ambulance was delayed due to weather conditions.

The victim had been struck over the right eye, Wilkins said. The victim suffered from a previous traumatic brain injury and was blind in one eye from the previous injury, a fact the defendant was well aware of, she said. The assault created two new skull fractures and a severe hematoma,

See QUATTRO page 2

### WVDOH Miss Memorial Day Opening of Kerens to Parsons Corridor H



By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

The much anticipated opening of the approximately 15 mile Kerens to Parsons section of Corridor H has been delayed until June, according to the Corridor H Highway Authority.

The delays were reported to be from weather delays

that hindered progress over the winter. These delays have reportedly pushed back the opening deadline to the end of June, officials state.

While the West Virginia Department of Highways is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening, no date or time has been set, Corridor H Highway Authority

See CORRIDOR H page 2

### Co-Defendants in Parsons Burglary, Strangulation Case Take Deals



Cory DiBartolomeo

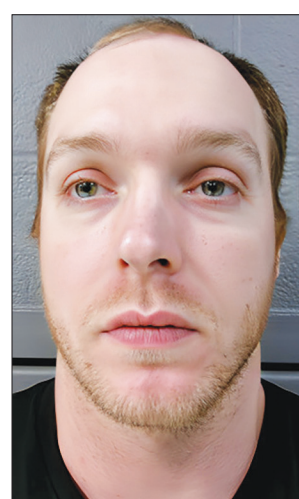
By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

The two DiBartolomeo brothers, Levi McCauley and Crystal Hensley have



Crystal Hensley

all taken plea deals in the April 2025 Burglary and Strangulation involving a residence on Overlook Drive Parsons.



Trenten DiBartolomeo

On May 4th, Trenton DiBartolomeo, 35, who initially faced the most serious and numerous charges, plead guilty in Judge Ste-



Levi McCauley

ven Shaffer's Court to: two counts of Strangulation, a felony punishable by no more than \$2500, one to

See CASE page 2

### Trixie's Day Out



Trixie, a hound at the Tucker County Animal Shelter enjoyed a day out Wednesday, May 20th. The staff said in a Facebook post, "In true hound fashion, her nose didn't leave the ground. She was so happy to have a new change of scenery for a few. Help us make this her reality!!" Trixie has been a resident of the Shelter for 266 days. "226 days of seeing the same old, same old and waiting for that to change," the post said. Trixie is on a daily seizure medication, but takes it remarkably well and has never given any issues, the staff reports. The staff said they are happy to discuss medications further with an interested family. For more information on Trixie or any of the other needy animals at the Tucker County Animal Shelter, check out their webpage at tuckercountyanimalshelter.com, check out their Facebook and Instagram pages at tcasanimalshelter, stop by at 586 Brooklyn Heights Road, Parsons, call (304) 478-6232 or email tcasdirector@tuckercountycommission.com.



# News of Record

**The following criminal complaint has been filed in the Tucker County Magistrate office:**

- **Rebecca Ann Hinkle**, of Parsons, was charged with two felony counts of possession of controlled substances with the intent to manufacture or deliver Schedule I or II Narcotics. According to the complaint, on Saturday, May 16 at approximately 9:29 p.m. Trooper D.M. Tate obtained a search warrant for the residence located at 105 price Street in Parsons. Rebecca Hinkle (the accused) is the resident of the property. At approximately 10 p.m. Tate, assisted by Tucker County Sheriff's Deputies Summerfield and Gidley, executed the warrant. During the search, Tate located multiple items of drug paraphernalia commonly used in the manufacturing, packaging and distribution of controlled substances, including scales, packaging materials, \$243 cash in a jar, marijuana, suspected methamphetamine, cocaine and suboxone. Prior to the discovery of these items Tate asked the accused several times whether she possessed anything other than marijuana in the residence and she repeatedly stated that she did not.

A further search of the residence revealed suspected methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana upstairs.

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

- **Cepropterties LLC**, Davis Corporation, Part Lot Y Fifth Street, 50'x110' to John E. Lake II, \$388,000.
- **James P. Pyon and Lisa M. Pyon**, Davis District, Lot 11 Canaan Heights Estates, 2.00 acres to James Bing Pyon, Trustee, Lisa Marie Pyon, Trustee; Pyon Family Revocable Trust.
- **Nicalas Christian Oliverio and Trey Oliverio**, Dry Fork District, Warranty Deed: Unit G-4, Northwoods Condo to James Scudere, Maria Scudere and Nunzio Bonamico, \$242,000.
- **Alix G. Bergstrom and Bud E. Bergstrom**, Dry Fork District, Unit 5 Black Bear Woods to Stephen Brawley and Stacy Brawley, \$225,000.
- **Danny R. Carr and Phyllis A. Carr**, Dry Fork District, Tract 1, containing 46.07 acres and Tract 2 containing 0.916 acres to Danny R. Carr and Phyllis A. Carr.
- **Danny R. Carr, Dry Fork District**, Revocable

Transfer on Death Deed: Tract 1 as 46.07 acres and Tract 2 as 0.916 acres to Stephanie Burns and Stacy Scott Carr.

- **Phyllis A. Carr**, Dry Fork District, Revocable Transfer on Death Deed: Tract 1 as 46.07 acres and Tract 2 as 0.916 acres to Stephanie Burns and Stacy Scott Carr.
- **Jacqueline A. Woody**, Dry Fork District, Land of Canaan Vacation Resort, Unit A6 Week 4 to Land of Canaan Home Owners Association Inc.
- **Robert Statum**, Dry Fork, Land of Canaan Vacation Resort, Unit G6 Week 18 to Land of Canaan Home Owners Association Inc., \$505.
- **Robert Statum**, Dry Fork, Land of Canaan Vacation Resort, Unit F4 Week 13 to Land of Canaan Home Owners Association Inc., \$505.
- **Robert Statum**, Dry Fork, Land of Canaan Vacation Resort, Unit C6 Week 13 to Land of Canaan Home Owners Association Inc., \$505.
- **Jeffrey Allan Jones and Amy Michelle Jones**, Parsons Corporation, Lot 10 and Lot 11, Hebb Addition to Jeffrey Allem Jones.
- **Stephen Allen Minear**, St. George District, .83 acres to William Wendell Cantrell, \$85,000.

## QUATTRO

Cont. From Front Page 1

Wilkins said. The defendant was also spotted on Ring Doorbell Camera with a baseball bat. The victim told investigating officers he was convinced that the defendant was trying to kill him, Wilkins said.

Quattro denied beating his brother with the bat, but did admit to hitting the dog out of fear of the 250 lb animal. He said he "somehow got the bat in his left hand" during the struggle with this brother. He did later admit that his brother was hit with the bat.

"I shouldn't have gone there at all," Quattro said.

The defendant was located near the Grant County Bank in Davis, Wilkins said. The Quattro was transported by Trooper Hawkins of the West Virginia State Police. Quattro was very combative, according to Wilkins, and caused the vehicle to crash. Due to weather, it was second time the Trooper's vehicle had crashed that day, Wilkins said.

Quattro also said he meant to kick the computer in

the patrol vehicle and only accidentally struck Trooper Hawkins.

"I never meant to kick him in the head," Quattro said.

Quattro is scheduled to be sentenced July 20th in Tucker County Court.

Quattro also admitted to drinking that night. He said that he had always tried to help his brother however he could his entire life.

## CORRIDOR H

Cont. From Front Page 1

chairman Robbie Morris informed the Parsons Advocate's sister paper The Inter-Mountain.

Once the new section of road from Kerens to Parsons is opened, the 15 mile stretch will offer drivers direct, high speed four lane travel directly from Elkins to Parsons, drastically reducing travel times between the cities and improving safety along Highway 219.

Historically, WV 219 is noted as one of the most hazardous highway stretches in West Virginia. It has been reported over a studied, multi-year period, approximately seven fatal crashes occurred in Tucker County alone. Contributing factors to accidents along this stretch include the area's narrow, sharp curves and windy roads, along with rugged rural terrain. Statistics also place alcohol-related traffic deaths relative to overall fatalities in West Virginia at 45% in Tucker County, near the highest in the state.

It is not just everyday drivers that have to deal with the current WV 219 curves and cliffs, Tucker County is a high risk corridor for tractor-trailer drivers due to the curvy, sharp turns, narrow roads, two lane nature, mountainous terrain and significantly heavy tractor-trailer traffic along the road. Statistics show that as of 206, rural, non-interstate roads, such as the current WV 219 experience fatal crashes at nearly double the rate of other roads.

Recently, incidents along Route 219 near Tucker County High School involving tractor-trailers have resulted in road closures on a number of occasions due to accidents,

especially during inclement weather. The hairpin turn and rapid deceleration in speed can be contributing factors even when the roadways are dry.

The rural nature of the roads can also lead to the exacerbation of obstacles on the road such as animals. Many accidents along the roadway are caused by animal-related incidents that cause loss of control. A 2023 accident was even reported to involve a tractor-trailer braking from a cow.

However, there are key risk factors for truck drivers along 219 in Tucker County. Speeding and aggressive driving has been an upward trend, according to statistics, with 57% of fatal crashes from 2016 to 2020 involving speeding or aggressive driving. Roadway hazards contribute to the majority of truck fatalities in rural areas due to roadway departures or rollovers, opposed to collisions, often caused by speeding on curved, undivided roads.

The mountain itself is a largely contributing factor, as well. Its steep grades and narrow, winding lanes increase the risk of brake failure (even with the existing pull off lanes) rollovers and loss of control for heavy vehicles. Tucker County is also known for snow and icy conditions, which are known to contribute to crashes.

Overall, in West Virginia, the state had the 3rd to 5th highest traffic fatality rate in the nation, according to 2024-2025 data, with an upward trend. Large trucks were involved with approximately 10.9% of fatal crashes in West Virginia, a rate higher than the national average

of 9.3%. The large majority of those fatal tractor-trailer crashes in the state are head-on or side-impact collisions, with many occurring in rural, non-interstate roads, such as Route 219.

## CASE

Cont. From Front Page 1

five years in prison or both; one count of Conspiracy, a felony punishable by two to ten years in prison; one count of Burglary, a felony punishable by one to 15 years in prison and one misdemeanor count of DUI. All other charges in his case were dismissed under the agreement.

On December 10, 2025, Levi McCauley, 34, appeared before Judge Shaffer to accept a plea deal in he plead guilty to one count of Burglary, a felony punishable by one to 15 years in prison.

Following the plea, McCauley's attorney made a motion to modify the terms and conditions of bond. McCauley, like the other co-defendants had been held without bond pending trial due to capital kidnapping charges in the case. The Court granted the motion and set bail at \$5,000 cash and/or surety bond permitting 10% of said bond to the Court with the remainder to be a recognizance bond.

McCauley was released to the supervision of the Tucker County Probation Office until further ordered by the Court. He was placed on home confinement under the supervision of Tucker County Community Corrections and ordered to be monitored by GPS until further notice. He was also ordered to pay a \$50 initial hook up fee for the GPS monitoring bracelet and \$5 per day while on home confinement.

On April 14th, Crystal Hensley, 46, appeared before Judge Shaffer to accept a plea deal in which she plead guilty to one count of Burglary, a felony punishable by one to 15 years in prison; one count of Conspiracy, a felony punishable by two to ten years in a correctional facility and on count of Battery, a misdemeanor punishable by no

more than a \$500 fine, up to six months in jail or both.

Hensley's attorney, James Hawkins, made a motion to reconsider bond. Hensley had been held at the Tygart Valley Regional Jail without bond pending trial since she was first arraigned on capital Kidnapping charges on October 22, 2025. The Court granted the motion and ordered a \$25,000 cash and/or surety bond for Hensley.

Hensley was placed under the supervision of the Tucker County Probation Office until further ordered by the court. She was ordered to home confinement and GPS monitoring. Hensley was further ordered to pay an initial \$50 for a GPS hook up fee for the monitor and then five dollar a day while on home confinement.

On January 7th, Cory DiBartolomeo accepted a plea deal and plead guilty before Judge Shaffer to one count of Conspiracy, a felony punishable by two to ten years in prison. The remainder of the charges were dismissed.

The Court placed Cory DiBartolomeo under Deferred Adjudication on the charge and released him on probation supervision for a period of three years. He was ordered to report immediately to the Tucker County Probation Office and to comply with all conditions and terms of his release set forth by the Probation Office and Probation Office.

It was further ordered by Judge Shaffer in all the cases, that the four co-defendants have no contact with each other either directly or indirectly. All four defendants were also to be jointly and individually responsible for restitution to the victim in the amount of \$7,700.

The three remaining defendants are scheduled to be sentenced June 18th by Judge Shaffer.

*The Parsons*  
**Advocate**

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

We bring you news from  
Tucker County every week.

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

— Circle One —

<b>In-State</b>	<b>Out-of-State</b>	<b>Web Only</b>
<b>\$47/Year</b>	<b>\$52/Year</b>	<b>\$41/Year</b>

<b>Anywhere</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
<b>Print &amp; Web</b>	<b>Print &amp; Web</b>
<b>\$69Year</b>	<b>\$6.50/Month</b>
	<small>Autorenewal Credit/Debit only</small>

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

# The Parsons Advocate

Publisher Michael Showell  
Associate Publisher Lydia Crawley  
Office Manager Teri Cayton  
Production Design Erika Wright  
Advertising Debra Smith - [debra@mountainmedianews.com](mailto:debra@mountainmedianews.com)

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

## 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.

**VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PARSONSADVOCATE.COM**

# SPORTS

## Tucker Baseball Season Ends at Regional Finals in Baker

By: Adam Freeman

The Mt. Lions' 2026 baseball season came to an end last week in Baker, WV, at the hands of East Hardy High School. Tucker started the week with a home loss to the Paw Paw Pirates. The Mt. Lions were ahead 4-3 at the end of the third inning, but the Pirates would score four runs to start the fourth to take the lead, 7-4, and would never surrender it again on their way to beating the Mt. Lions 16-11. Tucker struggled a bit at the plate, with no batter reaching double figures in hits. Owen Bolyard, Josh Crossland, Owen Helmick, Liam Gilligan, and Zane Carr all collected a single hit. Tucker would then wait for the loser of Paw



2026 Tucker County High School Baseball Team (Photo by Brittany Channell)

Paw and East Hardy, with the Cougars winning the matchup. TCHS was slated for another matchup with Paw Paw. The Pirates decided it was best to forfeit the matchup,

therefore setting up a showdown of the big cats in the regional finals. Tucker would travel to East Hardy on Wednesday, the 20th. Tucker was only down 1-0 after the first and just 3-0 after the second inning. The third inning saw the Cougars cross home plate four times, then six more in the fourth inning to shut out Tucker 13-0. Tucker faced three separate pitchers from East Hardy but was not able to get the bat on the ball against any of them. With the loss, the Mt. Lions' season concluded with an overall record of 2-18. Tucker says goodbye to a handful of seniors but returns the majority of the roster as they set their sights on 2027.

## Tucker County Set for the Next Level: Seven Senior Signees



Addi Moats & Mayah Gross (center table) commit to Potomac State College for basketball.



Cameron Judy commits to Fairmont State University for cross country.



Joanna Leary commits to Glenville State University for acro and tumbling.



Josh Crossland commits to Glenville State University for football.



Lynk Suesli commits to West Virginia Wesleyan for cross country.



Reid Kisamore commits to Glenville State University for football and track & field.

By: Adam Freeman

Tucker County High School celebrated a milestone day for its athletic program as seven senior student-athletes officially signed letters of commitment to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level.

Family members, teammates, coaches, and faculty gathered in the school gymnasium to recognize the seniors for their dedication, hard work, and achievements both in the classroom and in competition.

The signing ceremony highlighted the growing tradition of athletic excellence at Tucker County High

School and reflected years of commitment from the students, coaches, and families who supported them throughout their journeys.

The seven seniors will continue competing in a variety of collegiate sports, carrying with them the lessons learned during their time as Mountain Lions.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Your community.  
Your healthcare.

Good Luck!

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



St. George  
MEDICAL CLINIC, INC.

stgeorgeclinic.org

# The Parsons Advocate

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

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

Notary Services Available

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

DEADLINE 3PM FRIDAY

# Classifieds

## START YOUR WEEK AT WORSHIP

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

**Parsons Advocate**  
Parsons, WV • 304-478-3533

**Kingsford Manufacturing Co.**  
Parsons, WV • 304-478-2991

**Mountain Valley Bank, NA**  
Parsons, WV • 304-478-2461  
www.mountainvalleybank.com  
Member FDIC

**Jim's All Star Foods**  
Parsons, WV 304-478-3248

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

Protection your loved ones deserve ...

## GUARANTEED Life Insurance up to \$30,000.00

Modified Whole Life Insurance from Physicians Life Insurance Company

Imagine what \$30,000.00 could mean to your family after you're gone - cash to help pay your funeral, medical bills or other final expenses.

- Guaranteed acceptance for ages 45 to 85\*
- No medical exam, no health questions
- Lock in your rate for life

Find out how affordable this coverage can be - Call for your FREE Information Kit

**1-888-217-5559**

Life55plus.info/WV

- Plus - you'll also get a FREE Final Wishes Planner just for calling!



\*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Benefits reduced first two years. Insurance Policy LV70 (ID: LV70ID; OK: LV70OK; TN: LV70TN). 6236-0625

## NOTICE

**ALL STATE PAVING**  
Driveways, parking lots, basketball courts, resurfacing old asphalt, patchwork, seal coating - Machine laid and rolled - All Work guaranteed - Over 45 years experience - Licensed and insured- Competitive prices and discounts - Free

Estimates - 304-472-8097.  
WV014137.

**LUMP HOUSE COAL.**  
Adkins Home Center. 304-478-2488.

**CONTINUOUS GUTTER NOW IN STOCK ON A MOBILE UNIT.** Adkins Home Center, Parsons. 304-478-2488.

Breakdowns happen. We'll take it from there.



Let Cinch Home Services help you save on costly repair bills.

With nearly 50 years of experience, we are passionate about protecting our customers and their homes from the expensive costs that come with a home appliance or system breakdown. In fact, we've handled 1 MILLION+ service jobs in the last 3 years.



All covered repairs are backed by our industry leading 180-day Workmanship Guarantee!



**Our home warranty covers:**  
Furnace/Heating Systems  
Air Conditioning Systems  
Electrical System  
Plumbing System and Stoppages  
Toilets  
Refrigerators  
Water Heaters  
Interior Gas Lines  
Ceiling Fans  
Garbage Disposals  
And Much More!

Get 30% off your home warranty plan  
Don't wait! Call now for our best offer:  
**(855) 968-0741**

\*Discount applies to the first year of a new Repair Only Plan, Repair + Replace Plan or Repair + Replace Premier Plan. Excludes optional coverage and add-ons. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Not available in all states.

### Donate Your Vehicle

Call (888) 964-4167 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

**How it Works:**

1. Contact Us  
Call (888) 964-4167
2. Schedule Pickup  
We'll pick up your vehicle for FREE - at a time and place convenient for you.
3. Receive Top Tax Deduction  
You may qualify for a tax deduction.

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

**Donate Your Vehicle Today**  
**888-964-4167**  
www.veterancardonations.org/dnt36

## DEADLINE 3PM FRIDAY

## LET US KNOW "WHAT'S HAPPENING"

# 304-478-3533

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (888) 964-4167.

## HELP WANTED

**KIDWELL AUTO PARTS, INC.**  
Is Looking To Hire Part-Time COUNTER/DELIVERY PERSON AT THE THOMAS LOCATION.  
**APPLY IN-PERSON AT**  
Kidwell Auto Parts  
Parsons or Thomas Locations

**GENERAC**

## #1 standby generator worldwide.

Get whole-home power, automatically.

Call 844-901-2301 to schedule your free quote today!

\*Terms & conditions apply

# VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PARSONSADVOCATE.COM

### Answer

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

### Super Crossword

**Answers**

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

## West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

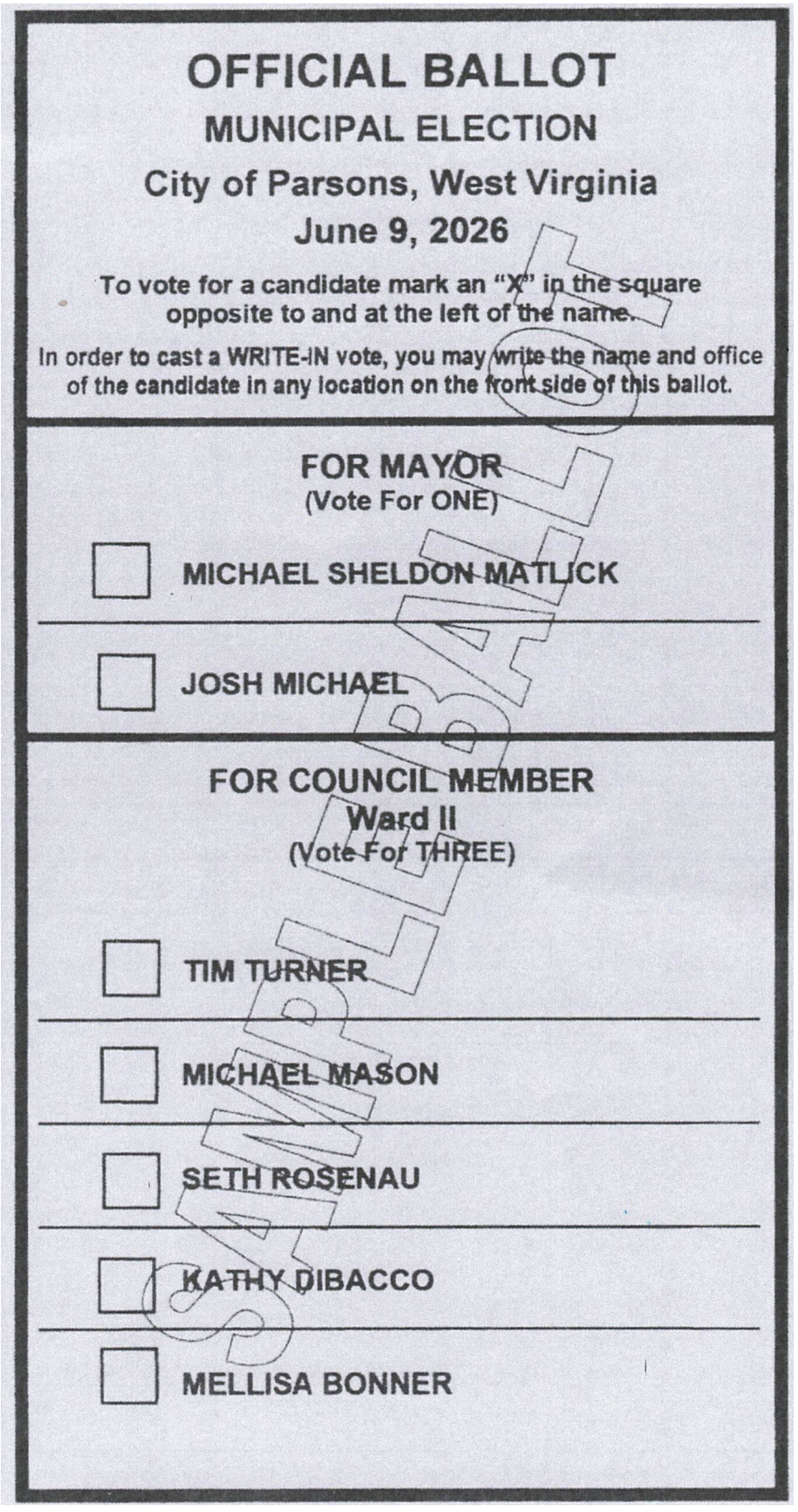
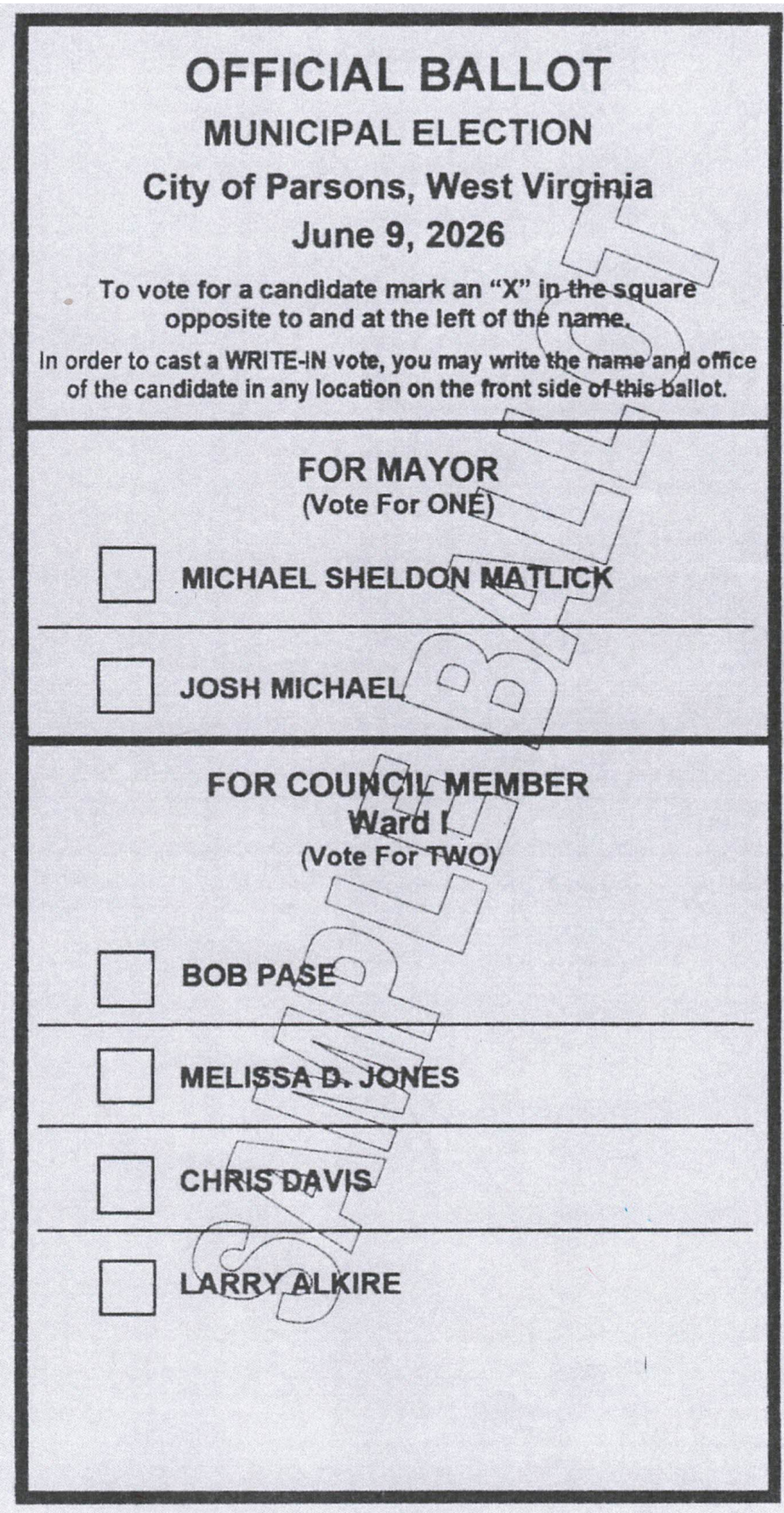
**HEALTH/MEDICAL**  
AUDIEN HEARING. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-866-327-9323  
DONT LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call Ameri-Glide today! 1-844-592-5113  
PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-274-3943  
DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-405-3412 www.dental50plus.com/press #6258  
**INTERNET/TV**  
GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 in Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-736-4350  
CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET WITH EARTHLINK. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation,

and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 844-230-3640  
**MISCELLANEOUS**  
DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK, BOAT, RV AND MORE TO SUPPORT OUR VETERANS! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-964-4167 today  
REPAIRING OR REPLACING APPLIANCES AND HOME SYSTEMS LIKE HEATING AND COOLING CAN BE COSTLY. A home warranty plan can help. Start saving and get 30% off any plan today. Workmanship Guarantee included. Terms apply. Call Cinch Home Services 1-855-968-0741  
JACUZZI BATH REMODEL can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/27/26.)  
CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-615-6411  
WE BUY 8,000 CARS A WEEK. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-844-640-0583  
PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-901-2301 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.  
UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company- 888-217-5559 or visit www.Life55plus.info/wv  
SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-803-1282  
NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferable warranty. Call today 1-844-295-2840 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.  
**TRAVEL**  
YMT VACATIONS. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sight-seeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-833-649-1532

Place YOUR statewide ad today  
Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011



LEGAL



LEGAL

**“NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING”**  
 The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has scheduled a public meeting on June 17, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the Draft Fiscal Year 2027 Intended Use Plan for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Program. A part of the Intended Use Plan is the Fiscal Year 2027 Priority List. The meeting will take place in person at the WV DEP’s Headquarters in Charleston, WV. An option to attend remotely or call-in is below. A copy of the draft Fiscal Year 2027 Intended Use Plan is available, and may be requested by calling, writing, or sending an email request to the address below. The plan can also be viewed on DEP’s web site.  
**Contact**  
 Katheryn Emery  
 WV Department of Environmental Protection  
 Division of Water & Waste Management  
 Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds  
 601 57th Street, SE  
 Charleston, WV 25304  
 (304) 926-0499 Ext. 43830  
 Katheryn.D.Emery(@wv.gov  
**Google Meeting information**  
 Video call link: [meet.google.com/hfk-ktgm-fei](https://meet.google.com/hfk-ktgm-fei)  
 Dial in number: (US) 1-352-888-6340  
 PIN: 710 382 982#

LEGAL

**IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF TUCKER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**  
 Civil Action No.: 26-M47C-00053  
 Michael Ingham et al  
 Plaintiff  
 v.  
 Nathan Badgett DBA Legendary Construction  
 Defendant  
**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
 The object of the above entitled action is Civil Complaint. And it appearing by an affidavit filed in this action that the Defendant was not served, either personally or by way of service upon an appropriate family member, after service was twice attempted by the Sheriff of the county in which the Defendant resides or is located.  
 It is Ordered that Nathan Badgett DBA do serve upon Magistrate Riley H. Barb, whose address is 211 First St., Parsons, WV 26287, an answer or other defense to the complaint filed in this action on or before 6/30/2026, otherwise judgement by default will be taken against Nathan Badgett DBA Legendary Construction at any time thereafter. A copy of said complaint can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.  
 Entered by the Clerk of said Court Tucker County Magistrate Court  
*Burde J Arnold*  
 Magistrate Court Clerk

LEGAL

Are you interested in becoming a Tygarts Valley Conservation District Supervisor representing Tucker County?  
 Are you a landowner in Tucker County?  
 Do you have a strong interest in the conservation of West Virginia’s natural resources?  
 A candidate for supervisor must have experience in agriculture. “Agriculture” means the production of food, fiber, woodland products, by means of cultivation, tillage of soil, and by the conduct of animal, livestock, dairy, apiary, equine, or poultry husbandry and the practice of forestry, silviculture, horticulture, or other legal plant or animal production and all farm practices.  
 If so, you may qualify to be a Tygarts Valley Conservation District Supervisor.  
 Application Deadline: open until vacancy is filled.  
**For more information, contact Tygarts Valley Conservation District (304) 457-3026 or TVCD@wvca.us**

**North Central Wv Community Action Open House May 20th Event**



Community Action Office. Pictured are Mayor Bruce Kolsun, and Community Action Board Member signing the May 2026 Proclamation for May being Community Action Month. Also in the picture are Chris Burky, Shelby Shuman, Debbie Stevens, Matthew Hinkle, Mohammad Bannazouza, Barbara Simmons, Susan Metzner, Jennifer B Parr, and Amy Owens.

North Central WV Community Action, Tucker County Office had their 2026 Open House Event on Wednesday May 20th, 2026. There was a great turnout for the event, and they gave out information on all their programs and services and served delicious refreshments, door prizes, and gave out Garden Program Vouchers.

Eastern Action was proud to be a part of North Central’s Open House where we could demonstrate our HOP (House of Pressure) and HAM (Heat, Air, Moisture) displays. These displays demonstrate how weatherization works to increase the energy efficiency of homes, while ensuring health and safety. Eastern Action also



Eastern Action Tucker County Weatherization Demonstration. Pictured are Daniel Barr, Anthony Bonner, Emily Siler and Matthew Hinkle.

represented their HVRP (Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program) which is a federally funded employment program

designed to help homeless veterans and those at risk of homelessness reintegrate into the workforce.

**VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PARSONSADVOCATE.COM**



# Meet the CLASS of 2026



Aaron Waybright



Addison Hunt



Addison Moats



Aiden Sigley



Alex Collar



Alexander Lambert



Alma Watson



Andrew Moats



Annabelle Gregory



Arya Goldman



Braxton George



Brock Hovatter



Brooklyn Frymyer



Brooklyn Lawrence



Cameron Judy



Celina Shahan



Christopher Mullan



Cloe Slaubaugh



Coy Veal



Eian Mullenex



Eliza Fowler



Elizabeth Anderson



Emerson Cangle



Emma Cooper



Ethan Woodyard



Gabriella Gross



Gracie Grzasko



Hailey Supak



Isabella Bennett



Isabella Emerson



Isabella Loucks



Izabella Browning



Jacob Hensley



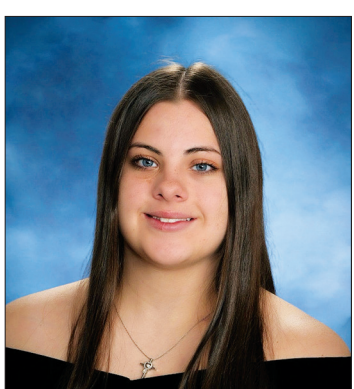
Jacob Waybright



Jaden Cross



Jayden Robeson



Joanna Leary



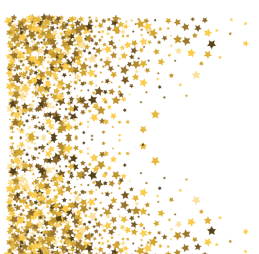
John Rivera



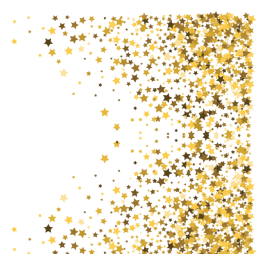
Johnparker Ledden



Jonathan Black



# Way to Go!



# Graduation 2026



Jonathan Donnellan



Jordan Robeson



Joshua Crossland



Kierstin Green



Kloee Jennings



Krista Weese



Kristen Ritchey



Lillian Snider



Lorelai Wilfong



Luke Bowley



Makenna Evans



Markus Wright



Mayah Gross



Maynard Suesli



Michael Mitchell



Michael Spessert



Michelle Louk



Micky Weese



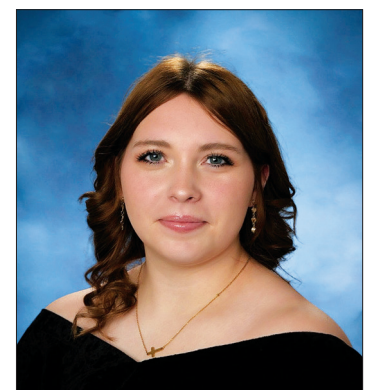
Myles Neil



Nathaniel Ricottilli



Nathaniel Ricottilli



Riley Russell



Ryder Thompson



Rylee White



Sadie Ends



Samuel Marks



Taylor Scott



## Ellen Freeman Named to SNHU President's List

MANCHESTER, NH -- Ellen Freeman of Parsons (26287) has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Spring 2026 President's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.



## West Virginia DMV to Guests: You Will Not Have to Re-Take Your Tests

Charleston, W.V. -- West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reaching out to make citizens aware of a "satire" post on social media stating that West Virginians will need to retake their driver's examinations. There is no such policy.

The post uses DMV's logo and may appear real to some social media users. It states that written, skills and vision

tests will be repeated due to a "vision screening law" and drivers who do not pass the tests within 30 days of a failed test will have their license suspended. It provides a "rollout plan" and an "official statement," then, at the end, contains the word "satire."

DMV is reaching out through our media partners to let the public know there is no such program. Drivers are not

being asked to re-take tests they have already passed.

Citizens who have questions can reach DMV at (800) 642-9066 from anywhere in the state, or stop by one of our regional offices. By phone or in person, DMV customers will be treated as welcomed guests and communications from the real DMV will not seek to make readers feel alarmed.

## HISTORY

Cont. From Page 5

ist raid on the town's armory in 1859.

**May 31, 1841:** Roman Catholic Bishop John Joseph Kain was born near Martinsburg. As bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling, he worked to meet the needs of newly arrived immigrants who came to labor in West Virginia's mines and factories.

**May 31, 1946:** Writer Meredith Sue Willis was born in Clarksburg and raised in Shinnston. Willis has authored books for children and on the subject of writing. Much of her adult fiction is set in West Virginia.

**June 1, 1880:** An 86-round bare-knuckle prize fight for championship of the world was held in the Brooke

County town of Colliers, between defending champion Joe Goss and challenger Paddy Ryan. Boxing was illegal in every state, and matches were often held in railroad villages to avoid big-city police.

**June 1, 1935:** Musician Hazel Dickens was born in Mercer County, the eighth of 11 children. She was a pioneering old-time and bluegrass musician, known for preserving the traditional vocal styles of West Virginia.

**June 1, 1858:** The Artists' Excursion left Baltimore on its way to Wheeling. A Baltimore & Ohio executive planned the rail trip to promote tourism. About 50

passengers were on board, including artist and writer David Hunter Strother, who described the experience in an article for Harpers magazine.

**June 2, 1951:** Cornelius Charlton died of the wounds he received in battle during the Korean War. Charlton, a Raleigh County native, was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

*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.*

## Trauma prevention experts urge focus, preparation ahead of summer activities

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – As warmer weather brings more travel, outdoor recreation, and seasonal celebrations, trauma specialists at WVU Medicine are reminding families that many serious injuries can be prevented through being alert, prepared, and aware.

Traumatic injuries can include everything from falls and motor vehicle crashes to ATV accidents, drownings, and fireworks-related injuries. According to providers at the WVU Critical Care and Trauma Institute, many of the injuries they treat increase during the spring and summer months.

"Most traumatic injuries have a source that we can look back and say, 'That was the hazard,'" Alison Wilson, M.D., executive chair of the WVU Critical Care and Trauma Institute, said. "There are certain things we can do to mitigate different types of injuries so we can enjoy this wonderful state but decrease our risk of injury while we are enjoying it."

Falls remain the leading cause of traumatic injury nationally, especially among older adults. Those injuries often include fractures and head injuries that can lead to serious complications.

"Fifty percent of geriatric patients who develop a hip fracture have a risk of mortality within three years," Dr. Wilson said. "It's really important not only to intervene on that injury, but also to intervene as to the cause of their fall."

To help make homes safer for seniors, providers recommend removing trip hazards, improving lighting,

staying current on vision prescriptions, and avoiding ladders or elevated work for individuals with balance issues.

The number of vehicular accidents tends to rise during prom, graduation, and summer travel seasons. As always, following necessary car safety precautions could save your life or the life of someone you love.

"When you're in a vehicle, wear your seat belts," Wilson said. "Avoid texting and driving. Save that text for later."

Water safety remains another major concern during the summer months. Trauma specialists recommend swimming with a buddy, supervising children closely, using life jackets during water recreation, and avoiding diving into unknown or shallow water.

"Feet first always," Wilson said. "You don't know the depth of the water."

Throughout all summer activities, Wilson said one message remains consistent: stay aware of your surroundings and speak up if you see someone taking unnecessary risks that could lead to injury – or worse.

"We have such a wonderful state with so many great activities," Wilson said. "I don't want people to be paranoid, but I want them to take certain precautions."

For more safety tips and insights from Dr. Wilson, listen to the latest episode of Live Healthy West Virginia, "Trauma Prevention: Stay Focused, Stay Safe," available on WVU Medicine's YouTube channel and Spotify.



Alison Wilson, M.D.

To learn about WVU Critical Care and Trauma Institute services, educational programs, and community outreach, visit [WVUMedicine.org/CriticalCare](http://WVUMedicine.org/CriticalCare).

## West Virginia Resource Advisory Committee is soliciting proposals for Title II projects

Elkins, W.Va. —The West Virginia Resource Advisory Committee (WVRAC) is soliciting proposals for Title II projects to be implemented across the National Forest. Project proposals will be accepted from May 22nd, 2026 through June 22nd, 2026.

Funding will be provided through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, which provides payments to counties as compensation for the loss of tax income associated with federal land within their boundaries.

By law, Title II projects must provide direct or indirect benefits to natural resources on National Forest lands. Projects must be located in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, or Webster Counties and can be on federal or private land. The proposed projects should aim to enhance forest ecosystems, improve

water quality or improve existing infrastructure within the Monongahela National Forest.

Previous projects have accomplished watershed restoration, stream stabilization, invasive plant treatments, native plant reestablishment, wildlife and fish habitat improvements, and trail or road maintenance. Selected projects are typically funded in the \$10k – \$50k range.

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit project proposals as early as possible. It is the responsibility of the proponent to coordinate with Forest Service staff and partner agencies to ensure that the proposal is complete and meets the intent of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The proposals must also be pre-approved by the district

ranger or forest supervisor where the project resides before being submitted. Project applications and instructions on how to submit a proposal are available online at the West Virginia RAC website.

The WVRAC, which represents a wide variety of citizen interests, will review all proposals, and recommend projects for funding. Proponents will be notified of the RAC meeting schedule and are encouraged to attend the meetings, which are open to the public, to answer questions about their projects.

Additional information about the Secure Rural Schools Act can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools>. Questions can be directed to WVRAC Coordinator, Kristopher Hennig, at [Kristopher.Hennig@usda.gov](mailto:Kristopher.Hennig@usda.gov) or (304) 635-4475.



## Foundation Announces 36th Anniversary of Uncle Sam's Birthday Party

PARSONS – The Tucker Community Foundation's 36th annual Uncle Sam's Birthday Party is scheduled for Friday, July 3rd, at the Bear Paw Lodge of Canaan Valley State Park with doors opening at 5:15PM and dinner will start at 6:00PM. Tickets are available now! Only 250 tickets are sold for the annual event that includes an elimination raffle, plated dinner, door prizes and additional raffle prizes. The tickets are \$150 each and entitle the purchaser to dinner for two and entry into the elimination drawing with a chance to win \$5,000! This year's dinner will be a petit fillet and shrimp, a vegetarian option will be available. There will be a cash bar at the event as well. The money prizes have been increased this year since it is the 250th anniversary of the United States, the prize amounts went up. Normally, every 25th ticket drawn during the elimination receives \$150, this year those people will get to do a punch board to reveal what they have won. The punch board holes will have different dollar amounts ranging from \$150 all the way up to \$500! The additional raffle with additional ticket purchase includes the popular Greenbrier Resort weekend package, which has been upgraded this year to include a weekend round of golf for two, if the winner does not golf it can be switched for credit at the Greenbrier's other amenities, except the casino. The annual Total Tucker package of local gift certificates to skiing, golfing, food venues, and other activities, pieces of artwork, and other locally themed items, has been divided into two packages because of the generous donations from local businesses. The last package this year, for the 250th Anniversary of the United States will be a weekend trip to historic Williamsburg. "Since the raffle packages have been upgraded this year for the 250th anniversary, and there will be an additional raffle for a red, white and blue patriotic quilt made by Bobbie Cippel, all people attending are encouraged to bring extra money this year to buy those raffle tickets. The dinner tickets are selling fast, purchase your tickets now before they are gone" said Michael Moore, Chief Financial Officer for the Foundation.

The Tucker Community Foundation uses the proceeds from the event to help fund their scholarship and grant programs. These programs issue over \$1,300,000 in grants and over 50 different scholarships to students in our region.

For tickets please ask any Foundation board member or contact the Foundation's office at (304) 478-2930. Additional information can be found on the Foundation's new website: [www.TuckerFoundationWV.org](http://www.TuckerFoundationWV.org).



## Monongahela National Forest Invites Families to Discover Nature Day at Seneca Rocks Discovery Center

Seneca Rocks, W.Va. —Monongahela National Forest invites kids and families to Discover Nature Day on Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Seneca Rocks Discovery Center, 13 Roy Gap Road, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884. Discover Nature Day is an interactive nature based educational event that celebrates the natural world and encourages visitors of all ages to get outside and explore.

Forest Service staff and partners will engage visitors with a variety of hands-on activities, including live snakes and birds, wildlife skulls and skins, and other nature- and outdoor-related experiences designed to spark curiosity and

learning.

The first 100 kids will receive goody bags filled with Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl giveaway items. A raffle will be held at the top of every hour beginning at 11:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m., giving participants the chance to win an outdoor or nature related prize valued at \$50.00.

Eventgoers will also have an opportunity to meet Smokey Bear and/or Woodsy Owl during the day. The event is free and offers families a fun way to connect with public lands, wildlife, and the outdoors.

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.

# Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center recognizes Haderman with DAISY Award for nursing excellence



ELKINS, W.Va. – Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center has recognized Janie Haderman, RN, with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses for providing exceptional compassionate care after receiving a heartfelt nomination from a patient.

The DAISY Award recognizes nurses who go above and beyond to make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and families through clinical excellence and compassionate care.

Haderman, a member of the hospital's Clinical Decision Unit, was praised for her attentiveness, professionalism and proactive approach during the patient's hospital stay.

"Throughout the entire day shift, I did not have to press my call button once," the patient shared in the nomination. "Janie consistently anticipated my needs and even identified ways to make me more comfortable. Water was brought without me having to ask, medications and IV care were handled promptly, and everything that was done was thoroughly explained so I could fully understand what was happening. Taking the time to explain each step helped ease my nerves and significantly reduced my anxiety during a stressful situation."

"Being recognized by a patient in this way is incred-

ibly meaningful," Haderman said. "I'm grateful to be part of a team that truly cares about making patients feel comfortable, informed and supported during difficult moments. Small acts of kindness and taking the time to listen can make a big difference, and I'm honored to be able to provide that care to our patients."

"Janie's dedication, clinical attentiveness and commitment to teamwork reflect the exceptional standard of care provided throughout Davis Medical Center," said Diana Landsverk, RN, BSN, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer of Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center. "The impact that nurses and caregivers have on patients during vulnerable moments cannot be overstated, and we are proud to recognize Janie for the exceptional care she provides."

The DAISY Foundation was established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes by members of his family after he died from complications of an autoimmune disease at age 33. The foundation honors nurses internationally through partnerships with health care organizations and nursing schools.

Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center presents the DAISY Award regularly to nurses nominated by patients, families and colleagues for outstanding compassionate care.

## Blackwater Ridge Foundation Announces Annual Photography Contest

The Blackwater Ridge Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of its annual Photography Contest, inviting photographers of all experience levels to showcase their creativity and unique perspective through images that celebrate the people, places and experiences of the Allegheny Highlands. The submission period for the 2026 contest opened May 18, 2026.

This year's exhibition theme, "Highlands Unfiltered: Coming Home," encourages photographers to move beyond scenic landscapes and capture the emotion, identity and connection that make the region feel like home.

The contest will be judged by acclaimed West Virginia photographer Clayton Spangler, whose work and artistic vision have long highlighted the beauty and authenticity of Appalachian life. Spangler selected this year's theme to inspire photographers to capture the essence of life in the highlands.

"The highlands of West Virginia and western Maryland are beautiful and it's not hard to take fantastic photos," said Spangler. "But the photos I treasure most give a sense of what it's like to live and breathe here. I would like images to show what it feels like to be here, not just to be present in its magnificence – but imagery that captures the moment of time in place and why people choose to stay in the highlands, or, if they move away, why they always come back. They come back to these iconic moments. Capture that feeling, that sense of home and belonging and show me and immerse me in in what it feels like to be a proud denizen of the Allegheny Highlands." Photographers are encouraged to use their imagination in interpreting the theme, differing interpretations will be accepted for consideration.

Fourteen winning photographs will be selected for large-format display in the Cortland Acres Health & Rehab rehabilitation wing, where the images will remain on exhibit for one year to inspire residents, staff, families and visitors. In addition to the featured exhibition will be selections for The Gallery, a dedicated exhibit space located in the Pendleton Lounge within the Blackwater Short-Term Rehab Center common area. The Gallery will include approximately twenty-two feet of display space featuring a variety of image sizes and orientations, allowing even more local photographers and regional talent to be showcased. Following the one-year exhibition period, the displayed prints will be offered for sale, with proceeds supporting the mission of the Blackwater Ridge Foundation.

This year's photography contest marks an exciting new chapter for the organization formerly known as the Cortland Foundation. In November 2024, Cortland Acres Association divested its nursing home operations, allowing the organization to renew its focus on affordable housing and community development initiatives. With its continued commitment to serving seniors, low-income families and the regional workforce, the organization rebranded as the Blackwater Ridge Foundation.

"We are excited to continue this meaningful tradition with Cortland Acres Health & Rehab of celebrating the incredible talent found throughout our region," said Crystal Boone, Foundation Director. "This exhibition not only highlights the beauty and spirit of the Allegheny Highlands, it also creates moments of joy, comfort and connection for the resi-

dents, families and staff at Cortland Acres Health & Rehab. Through the partnership between Blackwater Ridge and Cortland Acres, these photographs become more than art — they become reminders of home and the love of their community."

Today, the Foundation continues its focus on strengthening the health and wellbeing of the community by collaborating with partners such as Cortland Acres Health & Rehab. As part of this ongoing partnership, proceeds from the Photography Contest and Exhibition will continue to support projects and programs benefiting residents of Cortland Acres Health & Rehab and the surrounding community.

From the exhibition's statement of purpose: "Desired subjects should highlight the beauty and activities found in the northern West Virginia and western Maryland highlands and be representative of the people, places, and pursuits found in this region." Photographs will be judged on creativity, composition, technical proficiency, emotional impact and interpretation of the exhibition theme.

Photographers interested in participating may submit entries through the Blackwater Ridge website: <http://photocontest.blackwateridge.org/>. Submissions will be accepted through June 30, 2026. Contest rules and guidelines are available on the website. Questions regarding the contest may be directed to: David Johnston at [dsjohnstonWV@gmail.com](mailto:dsjohnstonWV@gmail.com) or calling 681-228-9076.

Winning photographers will be notified by mid-July 2026. The official unveiling of the exhibition will take place during ARTober Fest at Timberline Mountain Resort, October 2-4, 2026.

## Shaffertown Cemetery joins the Tucker Community Foundation Family

PARSONS - The Shaffertown Cemetery created an endowment with the Tucker Community Foundation to provide perpetual funding for the ongoing maintenance, upkeep, and preservation of the Shaffertown Cemetery located in Shaffertown outside of St. George, Tucker County, WV. The fund will be named the Shaffertown Cemetery Fund.

The Shaffertown Cemetery was established on May 13, 1921 with land purchased by the Methodist Protestant Church for \$100 from P.J. Evans and his wife Annie S. Evans. At that time Shaffertown was a lumber town filled with the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

In 1976, the cemetery was enlarged with land given for the price of \$10 by Theodore and Lavera Kelley. Today, the cemetery grounds are maintained by their son, Lee Kelley and Mary Jane Smith as financial caretaker.

The Shaffertown Cemetery is located in the community of Shaffertown, just outside of St. George in Tucker County, West Virginia. The families wish to ensure that there is funding available every year so that the cemetery can continue to be maintained. If there is a year where they don't need the yearly allotment to maintain the cemetery, that money can be left in the fund to help draw more of a return for the next year.

"We are so excited to be working with the Shaffertown Cemetery to help preserve the history of Tucker County," said Michael Moore, Chief Financial officer for the Tucker Community Foundation. "If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Shaffertown Cemetery Fund, make checks

payable to TCF, and note Shaffertown Cemetery Fund in the memo line and mail to the Tucker Community Foundation, P.O. Box 491, Parsons, WV 26287. Online donations can be made at [www.tuckerfoundationwv.org](http://www.tuckerfoundationwv.org).

The Tucker Community Foundation manages more than 160 endowed funds providing annual scholarships and grants to nonprofits and charitable causes throughout its ten-county service area. Inspired by the flood of 1985, the mission of the Foundation is "to create opportunities for the individuals and communities we serve". For more information on how to set-up an endowed fund or to learn about the foundation, call 304-478-2930.

## 2026 Nursing Cohort Honored at the Eastern Nursing Pinning Ceremony

MOOREFIELD, W.Va. – Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College hosted its 2026 nursing pinning ceremony at Moorefield High School on Friday, May 8. Held bi-annually the evening before commencement, the ceremony celebrated students' completion of the two-year registered nursing program.

Alicia VanMeter, MSN, FNP-BC, Eastern's nursing program director, welcomed friends and family to the event. Keira Ridgeway performed the national anthem and Alec Kidwell gave the invocation.

Thomas Striplin, Ed.D., president of Eastern, addressed the graduates on the importance of patient care.

"I've been in healthcare for over 40 years, and one word stands out: care," Striplin said. "I'm going to ask you to do a few things every day for the rest of your journey. First, always introduce yourself to the patient. Second, let them know why you are there and what you are doing. Third, say hello to the family; put a smile on their face and your own. Even when you are having your worst day at work, the patients in the hospital are having a much more difficult day."

Representatives of 40 & 8 Hardy County Voiture 1623, longtime partners of the college and the nursing program through the 40 & 8 scholarship spoke to the history of the organization and provided encouraging words to the graduates. They provided the cohort with pins from their organization.

Student speaker Madison Miller, a 2026 RN graduate, delivered an emotional speech thanking family, friends, and faculty.

"In such a short time, you became so much more than instructors; you became my mentors," Miller said. She then led the graduates in the Nightingale Pledge.

"The pin you are about to receive may be very small, but what it represents is immeasurable," Goodwater said. "It reflects years of sacrifice, resilience, and perseverance. It is more than a symbol; it is a calling. In many ways, it is your superhero badge. Nursing is not simply a career that you choose; it is a calling you feel in your soul."

In total, 22 students received their pins and caps: Tara Aylor, April Blackburn, Jennell Borrer, Lillian Callaway, Avery Colebank, ShyAnna Feagans, Brittany Goldizen, Jasmine Hall, Chloe Herron, Samantha Long, Treavor Mayle, Madison Miller, Nikole Miller, Caleb Nelson, Charlotte Ockerman, Shana Price, Rachael Anne Spencer, Cheryl Lynn Sanders, Missy Simon, Joelle Strietbeck, Maria VanMeter, and Marissa Ward.

A recording of the ceremony is available on Eastern's Facebook page.

About Eastern's Nursing Program The nursing program at Eastern dates back to 2006. After initially operating as a division of Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Eastern adopted the curriculum and earned independent accreditation from the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses. The two-year RN program is also accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). For more information, visit <https://easternwv.edu/academics/nursing-program/>.

**Vote for Mike Matlick**  
**Mayor of Parsons**  
*Paid For By Candidate*

**ERCC** ELKINS REHABILITATION & CARE CENTER  
*Complete Compassionate Care*

**CNA TRAINING COURSE**

- 6 Weeks of Classroom and Clinical Studies
- No cost to participants
- For persons interested in working at ERCC
- Classes will begin soon
- Complete an application and indicate "CNA Training Course"
- Please submit applications ASAP
- Application is available at [www.ercrc.biz](http://www.ercrc.biz)

Forward application information to:  
Grace Roy, Director of Human Resources  
2533 Beverly Pike • Elkins, WV 26241  
or email to [groy@ercrc.biz](mailto:groy@ercrc.biz)

ERCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug-Free Workplace.



**PATRIOT**



**1<sup>ST</sup> CUSTOMER FIRST**  
—AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE—



**JD POWER**  
2020 CERTIFIED



**CHRYSLER DODGE // RAM Jeep**  
**KING OF THE 4WD**

www.PATRIOTCHRYSLERDODGEJEEP.com - 2499 Maryland Highway, Oakland - 301.334.2137

## Obituaries

### Sandra Kay Ball Coberly

Sandra Kay Ball Coberly, age 69 years, a resident of Beverly, WV departed this life Tuesday morning, May 19, 2026, at the University Hospital Geauga Medical Center at Chardon, OH.

She was born Sunday, November 25, 1956, at Parsons, WV a daughter of the late W. Gay Ball and Pearl L. Strawderman Ball. On March 3, 1993, at Beverly, WV she was married to Gary Lynn Coberly, who preceded her in death September 22, 2008. Surviving is one daughter, Lori Ann Cale and husband Roger of Parsons; two grandchildren, Bailey Cale and Dylan Cale; two sisters, Virginia "Vergie" Rosier of St. George, and Margaret A. Williams of Pifer Mountain; her companion, Robert Thompson of Beverly; several nieces, nephews and friends.

Preceding her in death are one brother, Bobby



G. Ball; and three sisters, Delores F. Morral, Mary O. Kisamore, and Betty J. Godwin.

Sandra attended St. George Elementary School and was a graduate of Parsons High School with the Class of 1975. She had worked as a Cook at Blackwater Falls State Park and was a member of the Orlena United Methodist Church, where her and

her sister enjoyed singing together.

Sandra enjoyed word search puzzles, working puzzles, watching Gunsmoke and game shows. She loved interacting with her friends, had a very close relationship with her family and loved spending time with her grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the Lohr & Barb Funeral Home of Elkins from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Tuesday, May 26, 2026. Final Rites will be conducted at the funeral home, Tuesday, at 1:00 PM. The Reverend Jerry L. Helmick will officiate, and interment will follow at the Mount Vernon Cemetery at Beverly, WV. The Lohr & Barb Funeral Home is honored to be in charge of the arrangements for Sandra Kay Ball Coberly. Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.lohr-barbfuneralhome.com](http://www.lohr-barbfuneralhome.com).

## UPDATE: Governor Morrisey, DMV and WV Tourism Unveil United States 250th Anniversary Limited Edition License Plate: How to Get Yours



Charleston, W.V. -- July 4, 2026 marks the Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. West Virginia DMV has released a limited edition license plate to mark the occasion.

"It's wonderful that the DMV has made available this license plate commemorating the 250th anniversary of our great nation, and to allow the citizens of West Virginia to show their patriotism," said Transportation Secretary Todd Rumbaugh.

Governor Morrisey unveiled the plate at a ceremony at the Culture Center at the West Virginia State Capitol Complex on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, to officially kick off West Virginia's celebration of the 250th anniversary.

"We're so excited to kick off all things America 250 in West Virginia, and this commemorative license plate is a great place to start," said West Virginia Department of Tourism Secretary Chelsea Ruby. "This is such an important milestone for our country that we plan to honor and celebrate accordingly."

In celebration of the United States 250th anniversary, the license plate design features stars, stripes and fireworks in a way that is uniquely West Virginian, with the New River Gorge Bridge and mountain scenery below a night sky. Available for a limited time only, the design makes use of bright colors which provide a distinctive look even at a distance.

"From the hollows to the mountaintops,

this license plate is not only a testament to our country, but a memorial to the men and women who have served and sacrificed so that America remains free," said Division of Motor Vehicles Commissioner, Everett Frazier. "This is not just a license plate. This is an opportunity to be inspired by their lives, to remember them, and to have pride in their contributions to keeping us free."

*Here's how to get the plate:*

The new, limited edition plate will be available at all DMV offices within the state by the end of the week. The plate is available on a first come, first serve basis, with no personalization or special characters. Guests returning an existing license plate for the new one will receive credit for the time still available on the old plate. For this reason, guests are advised to get their plates either in person or by working with a customer service agent through the call center at (800) 642-9066, where their prorated amount can be calculated. Guests receiving their plates at local DMV offices will receive them the same day.

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

## Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center earns NICHE Exemplar redesignation for excellence in care for older adults

ELKINS, W.Va. – Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center has once again achieved Exemplar status for its Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) program, earning a redesignation that reflects the hospital's sustained commitment to providing quality, specialized care for older adult patients.

The NICHE Exemplar designation is the highest level of recognition awarded by the program and highlights Davis Medical Center's continued success in implementing evidence-based, system-wide initiatives that improve outcomes and enhance the patient experience for older adults.

Davis Medical Center first achieved NICHE designation in 2016 and reached Exemplar status — the program's highest level — in 2024. This redesignation marks the hospital's second time earning Exemplar recognition and reflects its ongoing commitment to advancing geriatric care through evidence-

based practices and interdisciplinary collaboration.

"Older adults often have unique needs during hospitalization, and NICHE helps ensure we approach their care in a thoughtful, evidence-based way," said Kim Haher, BSN, RN, Gero-BC, NICHE Coordinator at Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center. "This redesignation reflects the dedication of our nurses, providers and interdisciplinary teams to creating an environment where older patients feel supported, respected and safe throughout their care experience."

Davis Medical Center submitted a comprehensive report of its NICHE program activities for review by NICHE faculty. Based on established criteria, the program was recognized for its sustained commitment to excellence and innovation in geriatric care. As an Exemplar NICHE member, the hospital will continue advancing interdisciplinary, patient centered practices that support improved

## Road Closure

US 219 (Seneca Trail) will have lane closures, beginning Wednesday, May 27, 2026, through Wednesday, June 3, 2026, (including the weekend), for work related to Corridor H.

TUCKER COUNTY, WV – US 219 (Seneca Trail) will have lane closures from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., beginning Wednesday, May 27, 2026, through Wednesday, June 3, 2026 (including the

weekend), for work related to Corridor H. Traffic will be controlled by flagging operations beginning at milepost 2.50 and end .50 miles south of County Route 219/10 (Moore Station Road). Allowance for emergency vehicles, school buses, and United States Postal Service will be made; all other motorists are to expect delays and/or seek alternate routes..

## Fairmont State University DECA Students Represent West Virginia at International Conference in Louisville



Damrien Newbraugh and Colton Clingenpeel

Fairmont State University's DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) chapter represented the university and state of West Virginia at the Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference in Louisville, KY. DECA is a student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in business disciplines like marketing, finance, management, and hospitality. The Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference is an opportunity for DECA members to come together and engage in competitions, professional development, networking, and more.

Fairmont State Chapter President Colton Clingenpeel (Bridgeport, WV), Vice President Damrien Newbraugh (Grafton, WV), and Faculty Co-Advisor Dr. Billy Stone took part in an exciting week of leadership, experiential learning, and professional engagement. Clingenpeel reflected on his time at the DECA conference saying, "The DECA International Career Development Conference was an unforgettable experience. It provided numerous opportunities for experiential learning while also allowing us to build meaningful connections with respected professionals across a variety of industries. Executive

leaders from Adobe shared valuable insights and highlighted exciting career opportunities within their organization."

Throughout their time at the conference, Dr. Stone, Clingenpeel and Newbraugh were able to compete in business case analysis and sales presentation events as well as explore the history of the Kentucky Derby and its economic impact on Louisville.

Newbraugh said, "One of the most impactful takeaways was seeing how Louisville has leveraged its existing strengths to become a leader in marketing and brand development. The city's ability to maximize its assets was evident, especially through the scale and influence of the Kentucky Derby, which continues to drive significant attention and economic impact."

Fairmont State University provides students with experiences like these to build connections across their respective industries, network with fellow students from other institutions, and to see real-world examples of their academic studies outside of the classroom.

To learn more about Fairmont State's DECA chapter, visit [www.fairmontstate.edu/coba/students/business-student-organizations.aspx](http://www.fairmontstate.edu/coba/students/business-student-organizations.aspx).

## The Grant County Bank Announces New Name

Petersburg, W.Va. — The Grant County Bank has officially announced its intention to transition its name and brand to Highlands Bank to better reflect the extended service area across multiple communities in the region.

"This is a thrilling time for all of us as we prepare the transition to the Highlands Bank brand," shared George Ford, President and CEO. "Our employees have known about the announcement since late last year, and we wanted to formally announce our new name ahead of the branding update, which will modify the look and feel. We think you'll like what you see!"

This change reflects an update to the bank's branding only. There will be no changes to ownership, customer accounts, services, or day-to-day banking operations.

The Grant County Bank encourages the community to keep an eye on its website and social media channels, as well as on the billboards in Keyser, Moorefield, and Petersburg, for more details in the coming weeks. The

community is invited to join in the rebranding celebrations at any of our banking locations on July 1 - more details to follow.

### About The Grant County Bank

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

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

You can learn more by visiting [www.grant-countybank.com](http://www.grant-countybank.com).

clinical outcomes and quality of life for older adults.

"Achieving this level of recognition requires engagement across every area of patient care," said Diana Landsverk, RN, BSN, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer of Vandalia

Health Davis Medical Center. "Our nursing teams continuously work to strengthen the way we care for older adults through education, collaboration and evidence-based practices that support both patients and families."

"As the population we serve continues to age, programs like NICHE play an increasingly important role in helping patients remain healthier and more independent," said Jeff Goode, Executive Vice President, Van-

dalia Health. "This redesignation reflects the hospital's long-term commitment to investing in care models that improve the experience and outcomes of older adults across the region."

"The leadership and staff of Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center have demonstrated a tremendous ability to meet the needs of older adults," said Mattia J. Gilmartin, PhD, RN, FAAN, Executive Director of NICHE. "Their capacity to bring together geriatric nursing resources and support to enhance care marks them as a leader in the field and signals their resolve to provide quality, person-centered care for older adults."

For more information, visit [VandaliaHealth.org](http://VandaliaHealth.org).

# The Mountaineer Garden Club has selected the May Yards of the month!



The business yard of the month selected in the Parsons Firehall, adorned with large ferns that are a great contrast to the brick building. Eye catching!

The first residential yard of the month selected is the home of Chopper and Barbie Evans. The charming irises along with the hostas outlined by a beautiful natural stone border is a welcomed spring addition.

The next residential selection is the residence of Bob and Debbie Gutshall. They have a beautiful red white and blue arrangement of flowers against their home with multiple bird feeding stations and yard statues that are welcoming and interesting. Go see these for yourself!



## WVFF Marks Three Years of Purpose-Driven Impact Across West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA - The West Virginia First Foundation (WVFF) is reflecting on three years of progress, partnership, and purpose-driven investment ahead of the Foundation's three-year anniversary on May 18.

Created through the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding to steward opioid settlement funds with transparency, accountability, and long-term vision, WVFF was founded with a singular mission: empowering West Virginians to prevent substance use disorder, support recovery, and save lives.

To date, WVFF has awarded 171 projects statewide and reinvested nearly \$40 million throughout all six regions of West Virginia. Those investments have supported prevention, treatment, recovery, workforce development, youth services, diversion efforts, recovery housing, and community-based solutions designed to create lasting change.

"Three years ago, this Foundation was created out of one of the darkest chapters in our state's history," said Jonathan Board, Executive Director of WVFF. "What we have built together since then is rooted in hope, accountability, and the belief that West Virginia deserves lasting solutions. Every investment represents people, families, and communities fighting for a better future, and we are proud to stand beside them in that work."

WVFF has deployed funding through major grant cycles as well as its Direct Funding Model, each serving a distinct purpose within the Foundation's overall approach to statewide impact.

- The Initial Opportunity Grant (IOG) program was designed for rapid, community-informed stabilization efforts and awarded nearly \$17 million across 94 projects.

- The Momentum Initiative Grant (MIG) program focused on long-term impact and sustainable solutions, resulting in nearly \$18 million awarded across 76 projects.

- Through its Direct Funding Model,

WVFF approved a \$1 million strategic investment in Jacob's Ladder, a nationally recognized residential recovery program located in Aurora, West Virginia known for its long-term, outcomes-based therapeutic model.

Under the leadership of its volunteer Board of Directors and Expert Panelists, WVFF has also earned national attention for its innovative and transparent grant-making structure, emphasis on measurable outcomes, and commitment to ensuring opioid settlement funds are invested responsibly for future generations.

"While we recognize there is still much work ahead, this milestone is a reminder of what is possible when people come together with purpose," said Greg Duckworth, Chairman of the Board for WVFF. "We have seen communities step forward with innovative ideas, compassion, and determination. WVFF is honored to help support that work and remain committed to building a healthier future for West Virginia."

As WVFF enters its fourth year, the Foundation remains focused on long-term, outcomes-driven investments that strengthen communities and guide future solutions throughout West Virginia. That work includes the launch of the West Virginia Wayfinder, a statewide needs assessment led by the West Virginia University Health Affairs Institute in partnership with the Institute for Policy Research and Public Affairs and Data Driven WV to help identify gaps in services and inform future funding decisions.

Earlier this month, WVFF also released a Request for Applications (RFA) for its next funding opportunity, the Community Catalyst Grant (CCG), a \$9.87 million investment designed to reduce substance use, strengthen public safety responses, and improve

rehabilitation and prevention systems in West Virginia. Applications will open at midnight on June 1, 2026.

For more information about WVFF, visit [wvfirst.org](http://wvfirst.org).

## Kitzmiller: Fate drove paramedic grads 'We were meant to be here' valedictorian tells her fellow students

McHenry, MD –Ashley Kitzmiller, valedictorian of Garrett College's Paramedic Class of 2026, doesn't believe in chance.

None of us are here by accident," Kitzmiller told her classmates, as well as the Class of 2025 hybrid format graduates who were also being honored last Tuesday night. "We were meant to be here before we knew it. This is a calling that we couldn't ignore."

"It took a community to get us all here today," said 2025 hybrid class valedictorian Alexandria Curry, who found out she was pregnant two weeks after being accepted into the program. Curry thanked family and friends who supported her through her personal journey through the program.

Mahlon Peachey, salutatorian of the Class of 2026, said completing the program required all of the students to give more than they thought they could.

"There were moments when just getting by seemed like a real goal," said Peachey, who thanked Lead Instructor Josh Hook "for pushing us when we



were stressed, exhausted, and just wanted to give up."

Thirteen students were honored, 11 from the Class of 2026 and two from the 2025 hybrid program.

Clinical Coordinator Steve Adams noted the demanding requirements of the program, including "575 instructional hours . . . and a minimum of 480 clinical hours across multiple clinical settings." Adams said the students being honored combined to serve on 749 emergency calls and had over 3,200 patient interactions.

Dr. Janelle Martin, the program's medical director, issued two challenges to the graduating classes.

"First, go save lives – that's what we're here

for," said Martin. "Second, always be respectful and never lose the compassion you have for your patients."

James Koon, the program director, had similar advice for the graduates, telling them to "cultivate your hearts to become healers."

The graduates honored were:

**Paramedic Certificate Class #22 (Class of 2025):** Alexandria Curry and Connor Woodring.

**Paramedic Certificate Class #23 (Class of 2026):** Sadie Bennett, Kaitlyn Derham, Nicholas Green, Justin Hogue, Allison Kamauf, Ashley Kitzmiller, Vanessa Mongold, Mahlon Peachey, Rodney Ryan, Kylie Tull, and Justin White.

LET US KNOW "WHAT'S HAPPENING"

304-478-3533

TUCKER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

304-478-6232    304-704-4405

Sponsored by Mountain Valley Bank

THANK YOU FOR READING

Expert

General Surgery

Now seeing patients in Elkins

Ngoc Thai, MD

Vandalia Health

General Surgery