

# The Parsons Advocate

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF TUCKER COUNTY SINCE 1896

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## 2026 GRADUATES PICTURED INSIDE



The Tucker County Chamber of Commerce was on hand Friday, May 29th in Thomas for the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Blackwater Galley on Spruce Street.

### Blackwater Galley Launches in Thomas

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

Up on the hill on Spruce Street in Thomas, next to the open lot with the picnic tables you will find a 1989 Honda XR 100 with a Dave Coombs memorial sticker on the front number plate in the window of the town's latest breakfast and lunch stop, Blackwater Galley.

Owned and operated by Curtis Carr and Seneca White. Carr, a Parsons native and U.S. Navy Veteran, currently lives in Bridgeport along with White.

"I grew up in the area," Carr said. "I grew up in Parsons. I spent most of my time on the mountain. I just love the area."

The Blackwater part of Blackwater Galley comes from the Blackwater 100, which was a staple for locals and the pinnacle of off road racing until it ended in 1993. White spent many years attending races along the East coast. She said that she likes to think that the Blackwater Galley is committed to preserving the heritage of the racing

See BLACKWATER page 2

### County Commission Approves \$7,750 in Funding Requests

By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

The Tucker County Commission approved a total of \$7,750 in funding requests from two organizations at the May 27th meeting in Parsons. The Historic Landmark Commission was approved \$7,000 towards improvements to the Historic Railroad Depot in Parsons and the Tucker County Little League Traveling Team were granted \$750 towards new uniforms by the Commissioners.



The Historic Landmark Commission submitted a formal request to the Commission for repairs to the Historic Railroad Depot in Parsons. While the organization had already had plans to repaint the roof with sealant, they also requested funding for underpinning of the building. The request for the underpinning came as a result of animals

See FUNDING page 12

### Rosenau Highlights Meeting With State, Fundamental Data



By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

Tucker County Commissioners, State officials and representatives from Tucker United met with representatives from Fundamental Data for discussions about the company's proposed power plant project, as well as a site visit of the location near the Tucker County Landfill where the power plant is slated to be constructed. Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau informed the public of the meeting during his Commissioner Report May 27th.

The meeting with Fundamental Data was arranged by the State of West Virginia, according to Rosenau. The Tucker County Commission, Mayor Jody Flanagan of Thomas, Mayor Al Tomson of Davis and representatives from Tucker United were invited to the meeting, Rosenau stated.

"I think they addressed a lot of the concerns people may have," Rosenau said. "There's still concerns. I'm not saying they answered them all at all. I'm saying they answered a lot of concerns."

Some of the concerns that were addressed at the meeting, according to Rosenau included the height of the smoke stacks, lighting, pollutants, diesel storage and water.

The stacks were said to be 100 feet tall, according to Rosenau. He said they were told that the stacks would not be

See ROSENAU page 2

### Parsons Police Chief Prepares Presentation For Public On Scams



By: Lydia Crawley  
The Parsons Advocate

City of Parsons Police Chief Kevin Keplinger and one of his staff attended a training in Buckhannon on white collar crime, electronic crime and phone crime hosted by the FBI National Academy, supported by the FBI in Pittsburgh. The training has lead Keplinger to want to inform the Tucker County public on what he has learned.

"I was absolutely amazed and shocked at the level of the stuff going on," Keplinger said.

Keplinger said he is putting together a presentation for any groups in the area that would be interested in learning more on the subject. Keplinger said that his goal is to inform the public, especially the elderly, who are a target for scammers. The FBI also supplies support and materials, as well.

"The outreach is enough that they said they would actually send (FBI) agents out," Keplinger said.

The State Attorney General was also present at the training, Keplinger stated. A fund now exists for victims of these types of crimes. Keplinger said that nothing like this existed before. In the past when victims lost sustained substantial losses, the money was just gone. With the fund, victims can recoup some of what was lost.

"I wasn't aware that there is actually a fund that we can point victims to now because we were never able to do that before, to help to recoup at least some of their losses back," Keplinger said.

Keplinger said that when looking at National GDP of the United States, Germany and China, when put together, they are number four in the world in GDP. Even nations are sponsoring and engaging in scam activity, according to Keplinger.

"I was under the impression that this was a couple of actors in Mumbai, India and its not," Keplinger said.

Keplinger said he is seeking civic groups, church groups and other organizations to present what he has learned to. To schedule a presentation for a group or organization, contact Chief Kevin Keplinger at the Parsons Police Department located at 341 Second Street in Parsons or at the Department's non-emergency number 304-478-3060.

"Reach out because this stuff, it is happening here in West Virginia," Keplinger said.



### High Water

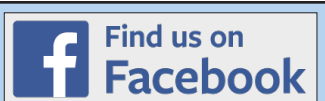
Those trying to get to or from Elkins from Parsons on Highway 219 Wednesday, May 27th during the day's rainstorm were in for a surprise or two. Several areas of the road were closed due to flooding, with some areas of the road seeing as much as

four feet of water over the pavement. Drivers were diverted along Pheasant Mountain Road throughout the day. The Tucker County area also saw reports of downed trees and road closures going up the mountain, as well. A flash flood warning for the County

was issued, driven by a slow moving storm that saw areas of rainfall in amounts of one to two inches per hour at times. Some residents were reporting up to seven or more inches of rain from the storm. Photo courtesy of Jessica Long.



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# News of Record

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

- **Alexander Keller**, was charged with one count of Trespass on property other than structure or conveyance. The complaint states that on Thursday, May 21, Cpl. Summerfield met with the owner of The Big Belly Deli in Davis who advised that he had a No Trespassing notice served on Alex Keller (accused). He advised that the accused violated the order. Summerfield obtained a handwritten and signed statement from the victim that summarized that while he was gathering trash, he found a coat, phone charger and a cup out back near the backyard gazebo of the restaurant. He assumed they belonged to the accused and brought them inside. He later saw the accused who asked him if he had seen the items. The victim told him that he had moved them inside because he is not to be there. When the victim returned the items to the accused, he took a video because he has a No Trespassing notice that was served on the accused by the Sheriff's office. Summerfield was provided a copy of the No Trespassing Notice which states that Ale Keller is hereby notified that he is not authorized, licensed or invited to enter in or around the property of

438 William Ave. This order was served to the accused on May 13, 2026 by Sheriff's Officer process Server Ernie Nestor.

- **Alexander Keller**, was charged with one count of Injuring or tampering with vehicle or special mobile equipment. According to the complaint, on Thursday, May 21 Cpl. C.R. Summerfield of the Tucker County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) received a call from Tucker County Communications (911) who advised that an individual was found sleeping inside of a parked vehicle located at 180 Thomas Ave in Davis. He was further advised that the vehicle owner made contact with the individual and identified him as Alex Keller (accused). The owner also stated that he advised the accused that he was not welcome there and asked him to leave. Summerfield arrived on scene and met with the caller and obtained a handwritten and signed statement that stated that him mom called him and said that someone was in his car. He drove over and found the accused laying in the back seat with the doors locked. He stated that the accused told him he was just looking for a place to sleep and to not call the cops. The victim told him to leave his property and not come back. He further

stated that his mom lives at that address and the vehicle was parked in her back yard. Summerfield observed mud on the back seat of the vehicle. He also spoke with the victim's mother and received a handwritten and signed statement from her. In summary she stated that she was out working on her flowers and saw someone with a white sheet go by her house. He went by the building, opened the car door and climbed inside. Summerfield later located the accuse in Davis wrapped in a white sheet.

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

- **James F. Gilbert and Gwenevere D. Gilbert**, Part of Lot 42 Donovan Addition and Part of Lot 29 Curran Addition to Lesley Nicole Stemple.
- **James H. Viers**, Black Fork District, Transfer on Death Deed – 22,500 square feet to James B. Viers and Christopher S. Viers.
- **Pat Nichols, Special Commissioner**, Clover District, Special Warrant Deed – 3.52 acres, Jonathan Run and .10 acres Parcel 2 to Paul J. Kinder, Jr. and Diana L. Kinder, \$86,500.
- **James F. Gilbert and Gwenevere D. Gilbert**, Parsons Corporation, Lot 3 Miller Addition to James T. Gilbert and Sarah Ann Gilbert.

## BLACKWATER

Cont. From Front Page 1



Blackwater Galley in Thomas offers customers a BYOB experience: Build Your Own Breakfast.



Curtis Carr and Seneca White opened Blackwater Galley in Thomas May 17th. The restaurant is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

community. She is also always on the lookout for more memorabilia to display at the restaurant.

The Galley is from Carr's five years in the U.S. Navy.

Carr is a Desert Storm Veteran. A galley is defined historically as a narrow confined kitchen on a vessel such as a ship or aircraft. The restaurant itself measures only 850 square feet.

White's great-grandfather owned a restaurant and candy company in Bridgeport. While she said she never got the chance to meet him, she feels he is a part of the restaurant since many family heirlooms are still used in the kitchen today.

"We saw some opportunities that we thought were needed for everyone, locals and tourists alike," Carr said.

Part of those opportunities include working with and supporting local small businesses. All of Blackwater Galley's suppliers are small businesses from no farther than 45 minutes away. Currently, they are sourcing from Bailey's Bread in Parsons, Carriage House Bakery & Foods in Aurora, Belington Bakery in Belington, Teets Meat Packaging in Elkins, Brookside Farm in Aurora, Still Hollow Spirits in Harman and R&A Honey and Bees in Rowlesburg. The Blackwater Galley is also always on the lookout for new local partners, as well.

In addition, the Galley offers "Galley Go-ers" gluten free, vegan and vegetarian options. While options are currently limited while they get started, they are available and Carr and White plan to expand the options going forward.

The menu is simple, built on the BYOB platform, Build Your Own Breakfast. Each menu item comes with a selection of choices, simple and streamlined. Choices include a selection of farm fresh meats, cheeses, french toast, made from scratch biscuits and gravy and a variety of baked goods.

"Our plan is to keep growing and serve the community for a long time," Carr said.

Another plan moving forward includes future expansion of hours. Currently, Blackwater Galley is only open on weekends, but White said the goal is to expand to full-time, but current careers, such as her career in marketing,

are taking precedent. Currently, the restaurant is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We have to hold down the fort Monday through Thursday," White said. "We have full-time jobs. The goal would be to transition into full-time, but we're not there yet. So weekends only right now."

The Blackwater Galley opened their doors May 17th and held a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on May 29th. The Blackwater Galley is located at 172 Spruce Street in Thomas. For more information on the Blackwater Galley, phone (681) 228-9013 or email: blackwatergalley@gmail.com. Blackwater Galley can also be found online at facebook.com/BlackwaterGalley, instagram.com/blackwatergalley and tiktok.com/@blackwatergalley.

## ROSENAU

Cont. From Front Page 1

able to be seen from any highway or the school. The lighting Rosenau was informed would be approved dome lights that would not affect the night sky.

The storage of diesel fuel on site was another concern addressed at the meeting, according to Rosenau. Fundamental Data representatives said that besides having an empty tank for emergency storage, Tucker County Commissioner Tim Knotts said the tanks were to be constructed of military grade armor-like material capable of withstanding impact. Rosenau also said that Fundamental Data is also looking into alternative back up fuel sources for the project.

As for concerns about water, Rosenau said that the representatives from Fundamental Data reiterated what was said in Davis a few weeks ago. The plan is to pump water from the Metikki coal mines that is currently pumped into a pond on the Continental Divide that feeds into the Chesapeake Bay watershed on the Grant County side, Rosenau said. The Ridgeline Project will tap into the discharge

from Metikki, which currently runs 900,00 to 1 million gallons of water in 24 hours, according to Rosenau.

"Some of the most monitored water in the whole United States goes into the Chesapeake Bay," Rosenau said.

The meeting included a site visit of the proposed location. Rosenau described the site as being in a bowl with high walls, foliage and trees all around the perimeter. In the center of the bowl is where the power plant is slated to be constructed, to obstruct the view.

"So it would be out of sight of everything from the way it looked from where it is located," Rosenau said.

Rosenau said that he was told the revenue for the County when the data center is built is estimated to be a little over \$26 million per year. The project is expected to include 80 permanent jobs at the power plant. Phase One of the project, which is the Tucker County project, includes a large solar field. In total, all jobs, including the solar field, is estimated at up to 110 permanent jobs.

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

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

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.

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# SPORTS

## Barb Soars to Gold as Tucker County Makes Noise at WV State Track Meet

By: Adam Freeman

Tucker County High School's track and field teams delivered a notable showing at the WVS-SAC Class A State Championships in Charleston, highlighted by Luke Barb capturing a state championship in the high jump and leading the Mountain Lions to a sixth-place finish overall in the boys team standings.

Barb soared to first place in the high jump, earning the title of State Champion and capping off an outstanding season for Tucker County athletics. His championship performance was one of several medal-winning efforts for the Mountain Lions during the state meet.

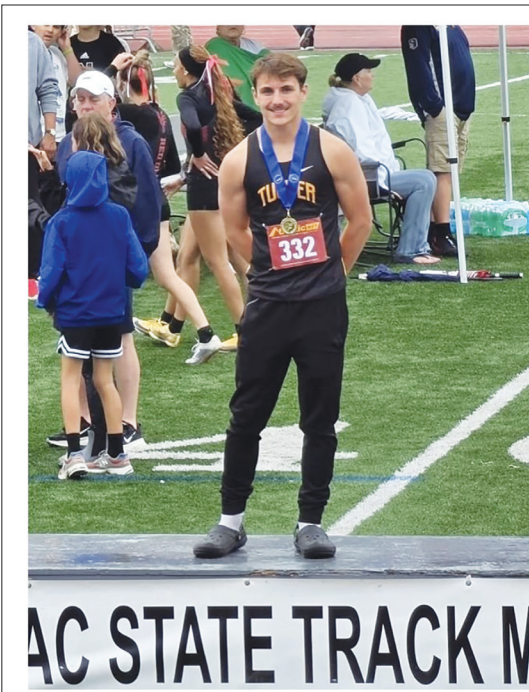
The Tucker County boys team totaled 46 points to finish sixth overall among Class A schools. Nate Ricottilli earned a third-place finish in the 400-meter dash, while distance runner Lynk Suesli also secured third place in the 3200-meter run.

Reid Kisamore contributed valuable points with a fifth-place finish in the 100-meter dash and an eighth-place finish in the 400-meter dash.

Tucker County also excelled in relay competition. The quartet of Nate Ricottilli, Keelyn Eichelberger, Luke Barb, and Reid Kisamore captured second place in the 4x400-meter relay, earning state runner-up honors and a new school record time. In the 4x800-meter relay, Cameron Judy, Landon Wilfong, Alex Collar, and Lynk Suesli brought home third place medals. Barb, Eichelberger, Ricottilli, and Kisamore also placed eighth in the 4x200-meter relay.

On the girls side, Tucker County finished 13th overall with 21 points and saw several athletes reach the podium.

Lela Wright led the Lady Mountain Lions with a third-place finish in the 100-meter dash and fifth place in the 200-meter dash. Estoria Chase added a seventh-place finish in the 3200-meter run.



Top left, Luke Barb receives gold on the podium; top right, Barb's high jump performance. Bottom left, Eichelberger hands off the baton to Ricottilli; bottom right, State Runners Up 4x400 relay team.

The girls relay teams also turned in solid performances. Mayah Gross, Addi Moats, Rachel Hile, and Wright earned seventh place in the 4x100-meter relay and fifth place in the 4x200-meter relay. The shuttle hurdles team of Addi Moats, Livey Mayne, Kenah Griffith, and Rachel Hile

placed seventh, while Moats, Griffith, Mayne, and Hile finished eighth in the 4x400-meter relay.

Every Tucker County athlete who finished in the top eight earned a medal at the state meet, capping a successful championship appearance for the Mountain Lions in Charleston.

## Hicks Twins Strike Again: Local Stars Help Propel Glenville State to Historic World Series Run



Addie Hicks walks across home plate in the World Series game vs. MO Southern State.



Katie Hicks slides into home plate at Super Regionals.



Hicks twins hoist the NCAA Super Regional Championship hardware.

By: Adam Freeman

The Hicks twins are going in the history books once again.

Former TCHS standouts and 2024 graduates, Addie and Katie Hicks, continued their winning ways at Glenville State University this season, helping the Pioneers softball team earn its first-ever NCAA Division II Women's Softball World Series appearance.

Glenville State punched its ticket to the national stage after capturing the NCAA Super Regional title, winning two of three games against Kutztown University in an exciting series showdown. The Pioneers then traveled to Chattanooga, Tennessee, for the NCAA Division II Women's Soft-

ball World Series at Frost Stadium, marking a milestone achievement for the program.

The twin sophomores became valuable contributors throughout the season, using their speed and athleticism to make an impact on the basepaths. Their aggressive baserunning and ability to create scoring opportunities added another spark to a team that made school history.

While Glenville State's World Series journey came to an end in Chattanooga, the accomplishment remains one of the greatest seasons in program history. The Pioneers opened the tournament with a hard-fought 5-3 loss to Missouri Southern State before falling 5-0 to North Georgia in an elimination game.

Although the two losses ended Glenville State's 2026 season, they take nothing away from what the Pioneers accomplished. Reaching the NCAA Division II Women's Softball World Series for the first time in school history is a feat that will be remembered for years to come.

For the Hicks twins, the journey from local high school players to national contenders has happened quickly, and their story is still being written.

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# What's? Happening

**Community Fellowship Meal,**  
Wednesday, June 3rd, 6 p.m. at St. Paul's Fellowship Hall.

**Food Handler's Training Classes**  
Sanitarian James Snyder announced that the Tucker County Health Department will be conducting Food Handler's Training Classes at the Senior Center in Thomas on Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026, at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Those people attending the class will be issued a food handler's permit which will be good for two years. A \$10.00 registration fee will be collected upon admittance. The classes will start promptly, and late arrivals will not be admitted.

**100th Anniversary Celebration**  
St. John's Church invites you to our 100th Anniversary of the rebuilding of St. John's brick structure where we worship God on Sunday mornings in spirit and in truth on Sunday, June 7 beginning at 10 a.m. worship, with singing at noon and lunch at 1 p.m. All are welcome to come celebrate this momentous celebration of God's faithfulness to His church!

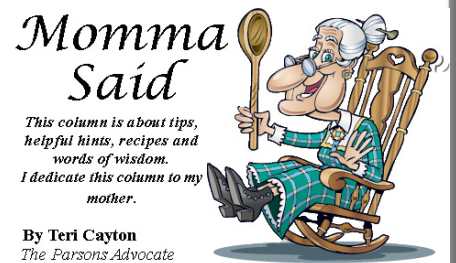
**Full Board Meeting**  
The Region VI Workforce Development Full Board will meet Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 10:30 am at the Marion County Convention & Visitors Bureau located in Fairmont, WV. For more information about the meeting, contact Maria Larry at 304-368-9530. Region VI is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. If you have a hearing impairment and need assistance, please call WV Relay 7-1-1. Projects and programs provided by Region

VI WDB are 100% funded with Federal WIOA funding by the U.S. Department of Labor through grant awards totaling \$2,462,559.00 No funding is being received from non-governmental sources for projects and programs provided by Region VI WDB at this time.

**FREE Movie Monday**  
Five Rivers Public Library Movie Monday: *Green and Gold*, June 11, Showings: 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. Free community event. Snacks provided. A fourth-generation dairy farmer on the brink of losing his farm to the bank wagers everything on a bet with his beloved Green Bay Packers while his granddaughter pursues music to save what they've worked for their whole lives

**Revival**  
Sunday, June 14 - Saturday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. Union Chapel Church, 162 Brushy Fork Rd. (off of the Clover Run Rd) Parsons WV. Guest speakers, Dan Stottlemeyer; Bob Dodson; Brian Marshall & Mike Flannery. UCC Pastor Bill Hardy.

**Father Grassi Silver Jubilee Celebration**  
Father Timothy Grassi, former Pastor of the Catholic community in Tucker County, will be returning on Sunday, June 14 to celebrate his Silver Jubilee as a priest. The parishioners from St. Thomas Aquinas in Thomas and Our Lady of Mercy in Parsons, along with all in the community are warmly invited to attend the Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. in Thomas to extend their well wishes to Father Grassi. All of the community are encouraged to come and extend their greetings, well-wishes, and congratulations to Father Grassi until 2:30 p.m.



We have experienced a very wet spring around here and I am about over it. This past week we had some massive storms blow through and experienced some localized flooding. There is a new highway going in here and apparently it had disrupted some springs in the area. We are now experiencing flooding in areas that never flooded before.

Water will take the path of least resistance and it sure did recently. West Virginia hollers have been carved out over the years by springs that pop up everywhere. Even in dry seasons you can find year-round springs just by shallow digging in the mountains.

These springs find ways to make it downhill no matter what you do to divert them and I think that is what has happened in the area. When you remove hilltops and fill in hollers that water is still there and it

will resurface somewhere else. **Momma Said**, "Water is a fickle thing and does pretty much what it wants no matter what you want it to do."

Mother Nature will have her say in the end no matter what man thinks he can do to change things. We have seen that all over the world and I think that will be our downfall. **Momma Said**, "We are not as smart as we think we are and nature is trying to tell us that, all we have to do is listen."

## Buffalo Chicken Crescent Rolls

### Ingredients

- 1 can (8 oz) refrigerated crescent roll dough
  - 1 1/2 cups cooked shredded chicken
  - 1/2 cup Buffalo wing sauce (adjust to your heat preference)
  - 4 oz cream cheese, softened
  - 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese (or a mix of cheddar and mozzarella)
  - 1/4 cup crumbled blue cheese (optional)
  - 1 tsp ranch seasoning or ranch dressing mix
  - 2 tbsp chopped green onions
  - 1 tsp melted butter (for brushing)
  - 1 tsp garlic powder (optional, for brushing)
  - Ranch or blue cheese dressing (for dipping)
- Instructions**
- Preheat your oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or lightly grease it.
  - In a medium bowl, mix the shredded chicken, Buffalo wing sauce, cream cheese, shredded cheddar cheese, blue cheese (if using), ranch seasoning, and green onions. Stir until well combined.
  - Open the crescent roll dough and separate it into triangles. Lay the triangles out flat on the prepared baking sheet.
  - Place about 1 to 2 tablespoons of the chicken mixture at the wide end of each crescent roll triangle. Roll them up, starting from the wide end, tucking in the sides as needed to secure the filling.
  - In a small bowl, mix melted butter with garlic powder (if using). Brush the tops of the crescent rolls with this mixture.
  - Bake in the preheated oven for 12–15 minutes or until the crescent rolls are golden brown and cooked through.
  - Remove from the oven and let cool slightly. Serve warm with ranch or blue cheese dressing for dipping.



Charleston WV – The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

**June 3, 1856:** Harriet B. Jones was born in Pennsylvania. After attending Wheeling Female College and graduating from the Women's Medical College of Baltimore, she opened a private practice in Wheeling, becoming the first woman licensed to practice medicine in West Virginia.

**June 3, 1861:** The first land battle of the Civil War between organized troops took place in Philippi. About 3,000 federal troops drove about 800 Confederates from the town.

**June 3, 1861:** A company of Confederate soldiers known as the Logan Wildcats was created at the Logan County Courthouse. The company, consisting of about 85 men, first saw action weeks later at the Battle of Scary Creek.

**June 3, 1880:** Benjamin Rosenbloom, to date the only Jewish member of Congress from West Virginia, was born in Pennsylvania. As a Republican representing Wheeling from 1921 to 1925, he was an outspoken opponent of Prohibition.

**June 3, 1936:** The first Strawberry Festival was held in Buckhannon. More than 6,000 spectators attended the festivities, which also included a parade of 30 princesses down Main Street.

**June 4, 1971:** A former Boone County coal miner hijacked a plane from Charleston and demanded to be flown to Israel. At Dulles Airport near Washington, he allowed the passengers and flight attendant to disembark but held the pilots and flight engineer at gunpoint for hours before they disarmed him. It is West Virginia's only documented hijacking.

**June 4, 1975:** Clark Kessinger died in St. Albans, Kanawha County. Kessinger was among the most prolific and influential fid-



**June 7, 1899: Congresswoman Elizabeth Kee was born in Radford, Virginia. In 1951, she became West Virginia's first female member of Congress.**

dlers of the 20th century. **June 5, 1859:** A great frost killed crops in Preston County. The fields were replanted with hardy buckwheat, which became a staple crop, celebrated in the annual Buckwheat Festival in Kingwood.

**June 5, 1915:** Four young people were killed at Rock Springs in Hancock County when the Old Mill ride caught fire. **June 6, 1919:** Historian Otis Rice was born in Hugheston, Kanawha County. Rice was named West Virginia's first HISTORICAL CONT. PAGE 7

Weather Totals May 19 - May 26, 2026		Nursery Bottom Parsons	
Temperature		Precipitation	
Max	85° F	Week	3.91"
Min	52° F	May 2026	5.69"
			18.48"
		Snowfall	
Winter Total			46.5"

U.S. Forest Service

## Super Crossword PUZZLING PERJURY

- |   |                           |                              |                                |   |                               |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                       | 46 "Fernando" group       | 90 Biceps locale             | <b>DOWN</b>                    | 37 Bush knife                                 | 82 Galaxy unit                |
| 1 Illuminated like quaint old streets               | 48 Ballet bend            | 93 Spiced tea                | 1 They may be AWOL             | 39 Fundraisers with food                      | 83 Supplication               |
| 7 "Taxi" mechanic                                   | 49 Settle the bill        | 95 Dueling tool              | 2 Old Glory's home             | 40 Bridge beam                                | 84 Hint of color              |
| Gravas  | 50 Bi- x four             | 96 Close enough to touch     | 3 Very eye-catching            | 41 "Wipeout" channel                          | 86 Dull hurt                  |
| 12 Shut noisily                                     | 51 Top 40 DJ Casey        | 100 People tending           | 4 Pick-me-up                   | 43 Et — (and others)                          | 88 Tablet extra               |
| 16 "If u ask me ..."                                | 53 "My life — open book"  | 103 Hunger sign              | 5 Atoll part                   | 45 Descended                                  | 90 Great-grandfather of Nero  |
| 19 Full of mischief                                 | 55 Clothing supporter     | 105 Et — (and others)        | 6 E'en if                      | 47 Vowel string                               | 91 Certain stag or doe        |
| 20 Dam on the Nile                                  | 59 Smidgens               | 106 Banked (on)              | 7 Señora, say                  | 52 Color of a forest                          | 92 Intentions to do evil      |
| 21 Very angry                                       | 61 Wild West's Wyatt      | 107 Diner bill               | 8 Court great                  | 54 Computer system modeled on the human brain | 94 Phishing crime             |
| 23 What you may feel after doing something very bad | 65 North of Iran-Contra   | 109 Gallery stuff            | 9 Little branch                | 55 Punctuation causing pausing                | 97 TV antennas                |
| 25 In a messy way                                   | 66 Decks in a boxing ring | 111 Get decayed              | 10 "Citizen" of film           | 56 Fake fat brand                             | 98 Zagreb locale              |
| 26 Be worthy of                                     | 67 Mediocre               | 112 Terse confession         | 11 Trig measure                | 57 Wagering everything                        | 99 Fedora or fez              |
| 27 Feudal sovereign                                 | 68 Loan shark             | 113 "Hold on just a minute!" | 12 Cousin of a custard apple   | 58 Viscid                                     | 101 — wave                    |
| 29 Big name in car rental                           | 70 New York Giants        | 117 Planted "pet"            | 13 "Casablanca" character Ilsa | 59 Japan's capital                            | 102 — Paulo                   |
| 30 Bad-mouth  | 72 Certain cereal bran    | 119 Nutty holiday dessert    | 14 ABA mem.                    | 60 Marvel superhero                           | 104 Accumulate                |
| 31 Currency in 60-Down                              | 74 In a macabre manner    | 122 Commit                   | 15 Med. scan                   | 61 Kitty —                                    | 108 Raft wood                 |
| 32 Hosp. zones                                      | 75 Down East dweller      | 125 Unsticks, as a sticker   | 16 "Uncle!"                    | 62 Come about                                 | 110 Ruby-hued                 |
| 33 James of "Gunsmoke"                              | 76 "Night" writer         | 126 Fifth wheel?             | 17 Actress McCarthy            | 63 Find new tenants for                       | 113 Hotel room service, often |
| 35 Sly plan   | 77 PE place               | 127 Caron of "Lili"          | 18 Homeric epic                | 64 Marvel superhero                           | 114 Helpful hints             |
| 38 Somewhat   | 79 Allayed                | 128 Letters before esses     | 19 "A Bell for —" (1944 novel) | 65 That gal                                   | 115 Oven output               |
| 42 Shed for watercrafts                             | 80 Wintour of fashion     | 129 Doing the job            | 20 Sky sphere                  | 66 "Listen, pal!"                             | 116 Irish humor               |
| 44 In — terms (not using technical jargon)          | 81 Thus far               | 130 1941 Oscar winner        | 22 Broadband inits.            | 67 Threw away                                 | 117 Ontario tribe             |
|   | 83 Major leaguer, e.g.    | 131 Park board               | 23 Gossipy sort                | 68 Don't                                      | 118 Nylon's, e.g.             |
|   | 85 Endure                 |                              | 24 Hoppy brew                  | 69 Intel org.                                 | 120 Intel org.                |
|   | 87 Fossil rock            |                              | 25 Up for debate               | 70 "Listen, pal!"                             | 121 Chili holder              |
|   | 89 Debt security          |                              | 26 Emu's cousin                | 71 Threw away                                 | 122 Urban trains              |
|   |                           |                              | 27 Full of feeling             | 72 Donate 10%                                 | 123 Whack down                |
|   |                           |                              |                                | 73 African land                               |                               |

## Weekly SUDOKU

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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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119									120	121				122			123		124
125														126			127		
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LEGAL

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**MUNICIPAL ELECTION**  
 City of Parsons, West Virginia  
 June 9, 2026

To vote for a candidate mark an "X" in the square opposite to and at the left of the name.

In order to cast a WRITE-IN vote, you may write the name and office of the candidate in any location on the front side of this ballot.

---

**FOR MAYOR**  
(Vote For ONE)

MICHAEL SHELDON MATLICK

---

JOSH MICHAEL

---

**FOR COUNCIL MEMBER**  
 Ward I  
 (Vote For TWO)

BOB PASE

---

MELISSA D. JONES

---

CHRIS DAVIS

---

LARRY ALKIRE

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**MUNICIPAL ELECTION**  
 City of Parsons, West Virginia  
 June 9, 2026

To vote for a candidate mark an "X" in the square opposite to and at the left of the name.

In order to cast a WRITE-IN vote, you may write the name and office of the candidate in any location on the front side of this ballot.

---

**FOR MAYOR**  
(Vote For ONE)

MICHAEL SHELDON MATLICK

---

JOSH MICHAEL

---

**FOR COUNCIL MEMBER**  
 Ward II  
 (Vote For THREE)

TIM TURNER

---

MICHAEL MASON

---

SETH ROSENAU

---

KATHY DIBACCO

---

MELLISA BONNER

LEGAL

**TUCKER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2027**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, TUCKER COUNTY, to wit:  
 In accordance with West Virginia Code §11-8-12 as amended, the Tucker County Board of Education proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by a levy of taxes for the 2027 fiscal year, and doth 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:

	General Current Expense Fund	Special Revenue Expense Fund
Estimated revenues:		
Local Sources:		
Property taxes (Net of allowances)	\$ 6,216,757	\$
Other local sources	40,000	
State Sources:		
State aid to schools	5,055,843	356,655
Other	3,489,966	
Federal Sources:		1,386,248
Total estimated revenues	<u>14,802,566</u>	<u>1,742,903</u>
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	32,701	432,464
Beginning balance	1,050,000	
Total estimated revenues & other financing sources	<u>\$ 15,885,267</u>	<u>\$ 2,175,367</u>
Estimated expenditures:		
Instruction	\$ 8,603,100	\$ 497,204
Supporting services:		
Students	806,658	229,757
Instructional Staff	83,259	195,208
Central administration	590,561	
School administration	776,572	
Central services	497,823	2,135
Operation & maintenance of facilities	1,567,681	
Student transportation	1,362,149	
Food services		1,223,362
Capital Outlay		
Total estimated expenditures	<u>14,287,803</u>	<u>2,147,666</u>
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	<u>1,597,464</u>	<u>27,701</u>
Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses	<u>\$ 15,885,267</u>	<u>\$ 2,175,367</u>

I, Alicia Lambert, Secretary of the Tucker County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proposed budget being considered for adoption by the board of education on the 28th day of May, 2026.

*Alicia Lambert*

LEGAL

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The Tucker County Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Owner, invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bids for HVAC Renovations to the Tucker County Courthouse Phase Two. Sealed bids will be received in the Old Courtroom of the Tucker County Courthouse located at 215 First Street, Parsons, West Virginia 26287 until 11:00 a.m. local time, July 8, 2026 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bids that are being mailed in must arrive prior to the Bid Date and Time and are to be sent to the following Address:

Shelia DeVilder, Administrator  
 Tucker County Commission  
 211 First Street, Suite 307  
 Parsons, West Virginia 26287  
 (304) 478-2866 x1207  
 (304) 478-2446 (fax)

Bids that are being delivered by hand are to be delivered by 11:00 a.m. local time, on July 8, 2026 at the Old Courtroom.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 11:00 a.m. local time, on June 17, 2026 in the Tucker County Courthouse Old Courtroom located at 215 First Street, Parsons, West Virginia 26287. Attendance at pre-bid conference is mandatory for prime bidders only.

The deadline for Bidders' questions is June 29, 2026 at 12:00 noon. Email questions to nhs@zmm.com Bidding Documents can be obtained by one of the following methods:

- Prime Contract Bidders only may contact ZMM Architects and Engineers Attn: Receptionist; reception@zmm.com and request information to access the firm's online ShareFile site for the HVAC Renovations to the Tucker County Courthouse Phase Two project. Once access is gained, Bidders can download Bidding Documents in the form of PDF files at no charge. Requests for access to documents must be made by email, and those requests received through mail, telephone, fax transmission, or other online communications will not receive a response.
- Hard Copies may be obtained from Charleston Blueprint (304-343-1063) by General Contractors, Subcontractors, material suppliers and dealers by paying the actual cost of printing, binding and mailing; however such cost is not refundable.

Bidding documents may be examined at Viewing Depositories listed in the Bidding Documents. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond, made payable to the Owner, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the base bid, in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, the right to waive minor informalities and procedures in bidding, and the right to withhold final award of contract for 60 days after opening bids. The bidder to whom the contract is awarded shall execute and deliver to the Owner within 10 days after the award, and before signing the contract, a Performance Bond and Payment Bond utilizing the bond forms bound in the Project Manual each in a penal sum equal to at least the contract sum and the cost of such bonds shall be included in the bid.

LEGAL

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**OF WEST VIRGINIA**  
**CHARLESTON**

CASE NO. 26-0508-E-42T  
 MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and  
 THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

Rule 42T tariff filing to increase rates and charges

**NOTICE OF EVIDENTIARY HEARING AND PROPOSED**  
**CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES**

Notice is hereby given that Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company, public utilities, have filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, tariffs containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing electric service to approximately 558,000 customers in northern, central, eastern and northwestern portions of West Virginia in all or portions of the following counties: Barbour, Berkeley, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzell, Wirt, and Wood.

If approved by the Public Service Commission, the proposed increased rates and charges will occur in two steps, with the first step effective August 1, 2026, and the second step effective June 1, 2027. The first step will produce an approximate \$37.9 million increase in revenues, or approximately 2.1%. The second step will produce an approximate \$37.6 million increase in revenues, which is an incremental increase of approximately 2.1% over the first step. The aggregate of both increases is \$75.6 million, or 4.25% as compared with present rates. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers are proposed to be changed as follows:

Average Customer Class	First Step Increase		Second Step Increase	
	Effective August 1, 2026		Effective June 1, 2027	
Residential	\$4.12	3.0%	\$4.11	2.9%
Commercial	\$6.88	1.7%	\$6.74	1.6%
Industrial	\$2,545.25	1.3%	\$2,508.64	1.3%
Street Lighting	\$9.60	2.0%	\$9.41	1.9%

There are no resale customers of Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company. The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing beginning at 9:30 a.m. on July 9, 2026, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Interested persons should monitor the Commission's web docket and website because the evidentiary hearing may be rescheduled or cancelled for good cause.

Anyone desiring to protest or comment should file a written comment prior to July 9, 2026. Anyone desiring to file protest or comments or participate on the record in public comment proceedings may do so without formally intervening. Protests and comments may be filed online through the Public Service Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us) using the "Submit Comment" link or may be mailed or hand delivered to the Executive Secretary Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

Anyone desiring to formally intervene must file for leave to intervene on or before June 26, 2026, and comply with the Public Service Commission's rules on intervention. Petitions to intervene must include a statement of the petitioner's unique interest in the outcome of the proceeding and reason for the intervention. Formal intervention is necessary for party status and to allow participation in the evidentiary hearings. Failure to formally and timely intervene will restrict rights to participate as a party. All petitions to intervene may be mailed or hand delivered to The Executive Secretary, at the same address as above.

A complete copy of the tariff filing, as well as a representative to provide information about the filing, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the Company offices at 5001 NASA Blvd., Fairmont, WV 26554. A copy of this tariff filing is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission.

Monongahela Power Company and  
 The Potomac Edison Company

# Hedrick Reunion

The descendants of Andrew Jackson and Rebecca Hedrick held their 61st annual reunion at the Flanagan Hill Community Building in Red Creek on Sunday, May 24, 2026. Four states represented were WV, VA, MD, and KY. Those attending were Anthony, Tina, and Andrew Bonner, Marie Smith, Jack and Jean Hedrick, Violet Charles, Betty and Jim Bonner, Travis and Michelle Eye, Clayton and Josie Eye, Frank and Donna Eye, John and Faye Hedrick, Suzie Pritt, Rich Hedrick, Scott, Amanda, and Lilly Hedrick, Justin and Kayleigh Hedrick, Rose Bennett, Karen Smith, Dean and Judy Smith, Katelynn Smith, Lindsey Thompson, Brayden Arbogast, Audrey Nelson, Janice Bonner, Wesley and Amanda Fink, Jeff and Lora Cutright, Julie Lewis, and Kaye Mallow.

*Serving the people of  
 Tucker County since 1896*

## LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
WOODLANDS DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
WOODLANDS ROUTE 33 FIBER

## General Notice

Woodlands Development Group (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

Woodlands Route 33 Fiber  
T30-11370

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Woodlands Development Group office located at 316 Railroad Avenue/Suite 310, Elkins, WV 26241, until Thursday, July 2, 2026 at 2:00 PM local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Woodlands Development Group EDA #01-79-15199 will be partially funded with federal funds from the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and therefore is subject to the Federal Laws and regulations associated with that program.

The Project includes the following Work:

The project consists of the installation of approximately 54 miles of aerial and underground fiber optic cable along US Route 33 from Elkins, West Virginia, through Bowden, Harman, and Canaan Valley, terminating in Davis, West Virginia, within Randolph and Tucker Counties. The fiber optic cable will be installed primarily as aerial attachments to existing utility poles within and adjacent to the West Virginia Division of Highways right-of-way, with select underground segments installed via conduit within the WVDOH right-of-way. Associated infrastructure includes the installation of conduit, hand-holes/vaults, and splice enclosures as required along the project route. This project provide high-speed broadband connectivity to underserved residential and business customers in Randolph and Tucker Counties, West Virginia.

Bids are requested for the following Contract: Woodlands Route 33 Fiber

The Work will be substantially completed within 200 calendar days after the date when the Contract Times commence to run, and completed and ready for final payment within 230 days after the date when the Contract Times commence to run. Liquidated damages shall be \$250 per day.

## Obtaining the Bidding Documents

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

QuestCDN: <https://tinyurl.com/zu5z8553>

or

[www.thrashergroup.com](http://www.thrashergroup.com)

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

**The Thrasher Group, Inc.**  
600 White Oaks Boulevard  
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office by paying the amount of each set listed below.

Bidding Documents may be purchased from the Issuing Office during the hours indicated above. Cost does not include shipping charges. Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, printed Bidding Documents or electronic documents will be transmitted to the prospective Bidder. The shipping charge amount will depend on the shipping method requested. Bidding Documents are available for purchase in the following formats:

- Bidding Documents issued as hard copy full-size drawings and hard copy specifications, are available for \$250.00 per set.
- Bidding Documents issued as hard copy half-size drawings and hard copy specifications, are available for \$125.00 per set.
- Bidding Documents issued as digital drawings and digital specifications, are available for \$40.00 per set via the following link:

QuestCDN: <https://tinyurl.com/zu5z8553>

Amounts paid are not subject to refund.

Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at

Woodlands Development Group  
316 Railroad Avenue/Suite 310  
Elkins, WV 26241

The Thrasher Group, Inc.  
600 White Oaks Boulevard  
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Contractor's Association of WV  
2114 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, WV 25311

A two-envelope system will be used.

Envelope No. 1 must have the following information presented on the front:

Name and address of Bidder

Bid on Contract - Woodlands Route 33 Fiber

Received by the Woodlands Development Group

Envelope No. 2 labeled "Bid Proposal" shall also be placed inside of Envelope #1.

Envelope No. 1 will be opened first and the Bid Opening Requirement items checked for compliance as outlined on the Bid Opening Checklist on page BOR - 1 of these contract documents. If such documents are found to be in order, Envelope No. 2 "Bid Proposal", will then be opened and will be publicly read aloud. If the documents required to be contained in Envelope No. 1 are not in order, Envelope No. 2 "Bid Proposal" will not be opened and the Bid will be considered non-responsive and will be returned to the Bidder.

A bidder may not withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date set for the opening of bids.

Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond payable to Woodlands Development Group in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the base bid.

Contractor is required to provide the Drug Free Workplace Certification in accordance with WV Code 21-ID-5. DBE Requirements - Each Bidder must fully Comply with the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, and Affirmative Action Requirements, as identified in the contract documents.

The Bidder agrees to make "positive efforts" to subcontract a portion of the total value of the contract to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. This shall be done in compliance with the six (6) affirmative steps as outlined in 40 CFR 33.240. Failure to demonstrate positive efforts to do so may lead to rejection of bids. For this program, the term "subcontract" includes all construction, modification, and service work contracted for by the bidder in the execution of the work under this contract.

**Suspension and Debarment** - Recipient shall not entertain the use of businesses that are listed on the "System for Award Management" (SAM) at [www.Sam.gov](http://www.Sam.gov) in accordance with 2 CFR Part 1532 and Subpart B and C of 2 CFR Part 180. The Bidder who is awarded the Contract must maintain and active SAM registration for the duration of the project.

Prospective Bidders should note that this Contract will include the following critical requirements as identified in the Contract Documents.

- Affirmative Action Program Requirements and Goals
- Certificate of Non-Segregated Facilities
- Specific Labor Standard Provisions
- WV Contract Licensing Act - All bidders are required to have a WV Contractor's License per Section 30-42-12 of the WV Code.
- American Iron and Steel Requirement - P.L. 113-76, Section 436.

**Build America, Buy America Requirements** - P.L. 117-58, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs (IIJA) Act, 2021 (Act), includes a "Build America, Buy America (BABA)" requirement in Sections 70911 through 70917 that requires federally funded assistance recipients to use iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials that are produced in the United States for projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works.

**Notice of Federal Wage Requirements** - Contractors are required to comply with all laws pertaining to federal wage rates as issued in accordance with the Davis Bacon act. The contractor will be required to pay the federal wage rates appropriate for each worker classification.

Every ARC grant, subgrant, and cooperative agreement must comply with governmentwide grant regulations at Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 200 ("2 CFR Part 200"). These regulations address administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards. They provide guidance for pre-award and post-award requirements in areas such as record retention, procurement, subaward management, and performance measures.

All Bidders are required to have a West Virginia Contractor's License per Section §30-42-12 of the West Virginia Code.

Bidders are advised that the Contract awarded under this Advertisement for Bids is to be funded (entirely/ or in part) by a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) and shall be referred to as Project #T30-11370 Woodlands Route 33 Fiber. Neither the United States nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this Advertisement for Bids or any resulting Contract.

Bids received after the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids will be returned unopened to the bidders.

The Woodlands Development Group reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

## Pre-bid Conference

A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 10:00 AM** at the Woodlands Development Group office located at 316 Railroad Avenue/Suite 310, Elkins, WV 26241. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

## Instructions to Bidders.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

## This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: Woodlands Development Group  
By: Dave Clark  
Title: Executive Director  
Date: June 2, 2026 and June 9, 2026

## LEGAL

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Williamson Architects Project  
2025-032

The Tucker County Board of Education, Parsons, WV, will receive bids for **Sprinkler Addition and Fire Alarm Renovations to Davis Thomas Elementary Middle School** until 1:00 p.m., local prevailing time on the 29th day of June 2026, at the office of the Tucker County Board of Education, 100 Education Lane, Parsons, WV, at which time and place, all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference, for General Construction, has been scheduled for the 11th day of June, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Davis-Thomas Elementary Middle School, 250 Quail Ridge Road, Thomas, WV 26292. A site visit will be conducted following the meeting.

The contract documents are available only from the architect's Project Management Website. Login credentials will be sent to plan rooms, all prospective contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers after the request is made to [biddocs@wsarch.com](mailto:biddocs@wsarch.com). Addenda will be only distributed electronically to bidders registered in attendance at the mandatory pre-bid meeting.

Each Bidder must be registered with the West Virginia Department of Tax and Revenue and the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office prior to the time and date for Receipt of Bids in order for his Bid to be considered. Each Bidder's registration certificate number shall be written in the space provided on the Form of Proposal.

All bidders are required to be licensed to perform work in the State prior to submitting a bid for this project as required by Chapter 21, Article 11, of the Code of West Virginia. Each Bidder's Contractor license number shall be written in the space provided on the Form of Proposal.

A satisfactory bid bond furnished by a solvent surety company authorized to do business in the State of West Virginia, in an amount equal to five (5%) of the total amount of bid, payable to the Tucker County Board of Education, shall be submitted with each Bid.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a satisfactory (100%) Performance Bond and Payment Bond, and the fee for the same shall be included in their bid.

No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids for at least **thirty (30) days**.

The Tucker County Board of Education, Parsons, WV, reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

THE TUCKER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ms. Alicia Lambert, Superintendent

## 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#

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

## LEGAL

The 2025 Form 990 - Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax for the Northpoint Property Owners Association is available for inspection at the offices of Mountaintop Realty LLC at 6379 Appalachian Hwy, Davis, WV 26260 by appointment during regular business hours.

## HISTORY

Cont. From Page 5

rian Laureate in 2003.

**June 6, 1954:** Award-winning children's author Cynthia Rylant was born in Hopewell, Virginia, but spent much of her youth in Raleigh County and earned degrees from Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston) and Marshall University. Her first book, *When I Was Young in the Mountains* (1982), is about growing up in southern West Virginia.

**June 6, 1979:** One of the oddest events in state history occurred when an old Douglas DC-6 cargo plane carrying 12 tons of marijuana plummeted over a hillside at Kanawha (now Yeager) Airport in Charleston. Hundreds of bales of marijuana spewed from the plane before it caught fire. Onlookers looted much of the marijuana before law enforcement officials could dispose of it.

**June 6, 1989:** During the Pittston strike, about 60 miners embarked on a four-day march from Logan County to Charleston, following the reverse path of the 1921 Armed March.

**June 7, 1905:** Fiddler David Frank "French" Carpenter was born in Clay County. A notable member of a famous musical family, he learned most of his music directly from his father, Tom, the "fiddling preacher." He influenced the great fiddler and fellow Clay Countian Wilson Douglas.

**June 7, 1926:** An explosion at a sand mining operation in Morgan County killed six men. Their deaths were the inspiration for the ballad "The Miner's Doom."

**June 9, 1915:** Storyteller Bonnie Starkey (Collins) was born in Doddridge County. In her 50s and 60s, the "Belle of Doddridge County" honed her storytelling skills and became a popular entertainer at the Morris Family Old-Time Festival, Stonewall Jackson Jubilee, state Folk Festival, Mountain State Art & Craft Fair, and Vandalia Gathering.

**June 9, 1927:** Karl Dewey Myers was named the state's first poet laureate by Governor Howard Mason Gore. Myers held the post for 10 years.

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

THANK YOU FOR READING  
THE PARSONS ADVOCATE

# 46th Challenge in the Hills Results

Flat Drags on Saturday May 23, 2026 - 54 Competitors

- Womens** –

*S class* – 1st Kiersten King TC4x4 Clarksburg WV

2nd Shelby Bennett TC4x4 Hambleton WV

*D class* – 1st Brittany Lewis Leon WV

*F class* – 1st Suzanne Allen Rosedale WV

*Top Eliminator* -Suzanne Allen Rosedale WV

- Pro Classes**

*S class*- 1st John Dotson Ripley WV

2nd Tyler Parker Weston WV

*H class* – 1st Caleb Allen Hambleton WV

2nd Dave Hebb Morgantown WV

*G class* – 1st Hunter Witt Ridgeley WV

2nd John Delsignore Wierton WV

*F class* – 1st Michael Simpson TC4x4

Hambleton WV

2nd Hunter Tanner Duck WV

*E class* – 1st Andy Flanigan French Creek WV

2nd Daniel Simpson TC4x4 Parsons WV

*D class* – 1st Justin Tanner Chloe WV

2nd Charles Cunningham South Charleston WV

*C class* – 1st Cole Carr Parsons WV

2nd Randy Thornton TC4x4 Bridgeport WV

*B class* – 1st Tom Hardy TC4x4 Hambleton WV

*Top Eliminator* – Justin Tanner Chloe WV

*Best Reaction Time* - .404 Caleb Shiflet

Hambleton WV

*Fastest Time* 3.495 – Tom Hardy TC4x4

Hambleton WV

*Sunday May 24, 2026 - Jr Drags – 21 competitors*

*0-10yrs Little Eliminator* – Luka Cutright TC4x4

Clarksburg WV

*11-15yrs Big Eliminator* – Jacob Jordan

Crawford WV

*4th Annual Dylan Marsh Top Eliminator* – Jacob

Jordan Crawford WV

*Mudpit results – 32 Competitors*

*Outlaw class* – 1st Ben Butler Cameron WV

*Modified Class* – 1st Brandon Pennington

Hambleton WV

2nd Kevin Vanmeter Elk Garden WV

*Super Modified class* – 1st Caleb Shiflet

Hambleton WV

*Little Outlaw class* – 1st Ben Butler

Cameron WV

2nd Aaron Robinette Keyser WV

*Super Stock class* – 1st Ron Allen Chloe WV

2nd Ryan Skidmore Sutton WV

3rd Suzanne Allen Rosedale WV

*Street Legal class* – 1st Tommy Simpson TC4x4

Parsons WV

2nd Brittany Gray Asbury WV

*Fastest Time* 2.986 - Ben Butler Cameron WV



# Meet the CLASS of 2026



Aaron Waybright



Addison Hunt



Addison Moats



Aiden Sigley



Alex Collar



Alexander Lambert



Alma Watson



Alyssa Bolyard



Andrew Moats



Annabella Gregory



Arya Goldman



Braxton George



Brock Hovatter



Brooklyn Frymyer



Brooklyn Lawrence



Cameron Judy



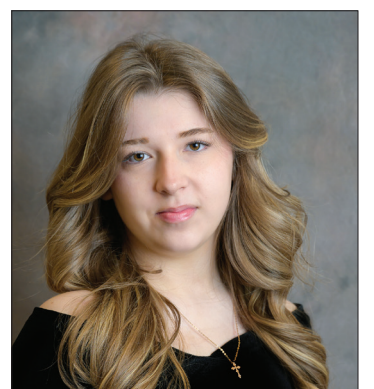
Carson Dearborn



Celina Shahan



Christopher Mullan



Cloe Slaubaugh



Coy Veal



Eian Mullenex



Eliza Fowler



Elizabeth Anderson



Emerson Cangley



Emma Cooper



Ethan Woodyard



Gabriella Gross



Gracie Grzasko



Hailey Supak



Isabella Bennett



Isabella Emerson



Isabella Loucks



Izabella Browning



Izek Eichelberger



Jacob Hensley



Jacob Waybright



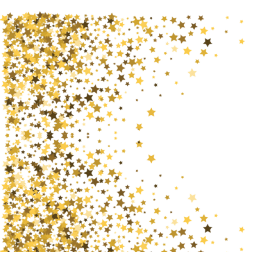
Jaden Cross



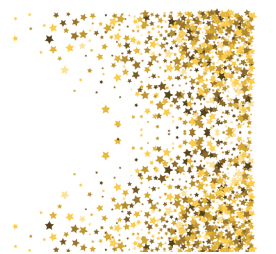
Jayden Robeson



Joanna Leary



# Way to Go!





# Meet the CLASS of 2026



John Sosa Rivera



JohnParker Ledden



Jonathan Black



Jonathan Donnellan



Jordan Robeson



Joshua Crossland



Kierstin Green



Kloee Jennings



Krista Weese



Kristen Ritchey



Leland Dumire



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



Reid Kisamore



Rileigh Russell



Ryder Thompson



Rylee White



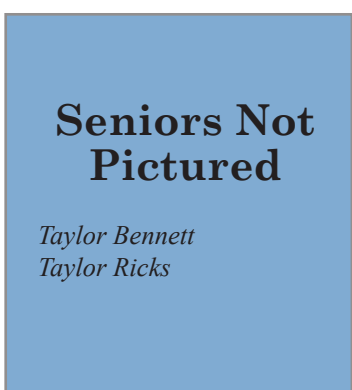
Sadie Ends



Samuel Marks

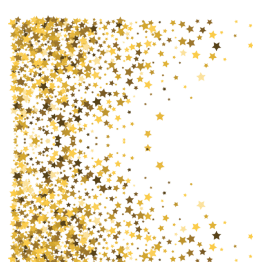


Taylor Scott

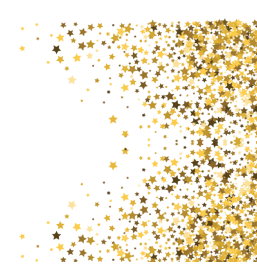


Seniors Not Pictured

Taylor Bennett  
Taylor Ricks



# You DID IT!



# Opinion

## Don't trust their empty promises: Data centers aren't inevitable

As the battle for the mountain drags on, we find ourselves finally coming face-to-face with the mysterious company behind the Ridgeline Project. In some ways, this meeting felt inevitable. The company man, growing tired of resistance and seeking to squash it, comes to town, flashes a cheap smile, and spins a tale of good faith to the locals. Closed-door meetings feature phrases like, "We hear your concerns. We care. Trust us. We will do the right thing." He even asks, "What can we give you to make you happy and feel better?" These empty statements are accompanied by elbow rubs and pictures of company leaders smiling with local politicians. But as the photos and rumors of the meetings start to trickle out to the broader community, it all looks as rancid as the water from the spigots down in Mingo County.

It's a tired play from a well-known playbook. From the Montana Mining Company in 1852 to the Justice family in the 2000s, we have seen it all before. Time and time again, extraction industries promise to do the right thing, only to fall short when it comes to actually putting their money where their mouths are. And as history starts to repeat itself yet again, I ask: "Do we bow down because the odds are stacked against us, or do we stay firm with integrity and challenge Goliath head-on?" For me, the answer is clear. We stand! We do not accept that "this project is inevitable."

If Mary Harris Jones had just accepted the inevitable, we would still be buying our milk and cheese with script from the company store. If the people of Tucker

County had just accepted "the inevitable" in the 80s, we would be adding out-of-state trash and waste to the already growing mound of landfill.

David fought Goliath and won because of his faith. Unjust policies and unconstitutional legislation are amended because those who oppose them do not falter when faced with uneven odds. So we march on. We do what is necessary to get the job done, and we do so with the strength of our backs and the sweat of our brows. We fight with courage and heart. And even if we lose the battle, we can always say that we never gave up. That, my friends, is showing courage in our convictions.

The Ridgeline Project in Tucker County is and will always be a wrong fit for our community. There is no way to spin that. There is no way for an out-of-state company to demonstrate integrity or expertise when it has no experience building such a project. There is no way to show integrity in a group of state leaders who enact a plan when they don't even have the blueprints completed.

To say, "It's unstoppable," and that "We just have to hope they do the right thing," is just wrong. We've fought against grandiose schemes and empty promises before, and we will do so again. To take the word of a stranger because he flashes a smile is just plain old ignorance. The company man has come before, and now he comes again, so ask yourself, what has changed? To me, the only difference is that he arrives in an SUV instead of by railcar.

Shaena M. Crossland.

Resident of Thomas, West Virginia

## Father Timothy Grassi

Father Timothy Grassi, former Pastor of the Catholic community in Tucker County, will be returning on Sunday, June 14 to celebrate his Silver Jubilee as a priest.

The parishioners from St. Thomas Aquinas in Thomas and Our Lady of Mercy in Parsons, along with all in the community are warmly invited to attend the Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. in Thomas. All of the community are encouraged to come and extend their greetings, well-wishes, and congratulations to Father Grassi until 2:30 p.m.

Of his twenty-five years as a faithful shepherd, Father Grassi was blessed to have spent seventeen years here in Tucker County, (2004-2021) a place he often referred to as "God's Holy Mountains". It was here that he labored tirelessly for the souls God entrusted to him.

The entire community welcomed him warmly. It did not take long for both his Catholic parishioners as well as those of other

faiths to realize what a "gift" God had given them. All were drawn to Father's warm simplicity, his genuine humility, and his self-giving love of others. He became "Father Tim" to everyone (drawn by that warm smile).

But it was primarily his deep Love of JESUS as evidenced in his priestly ministry that drew others to him. His early dawn prayers (walking at Blackwater Park or up and down the streets of Thomas) was his time with God, preparing him for the day's work among the sheep.

Father Tim loves being a "priest" - praying the Holy Mass his priceless gift. And now, he returns here to share this gift with his Tucker County family once more.

May God bless him abundantly with many more years of service to the people of God wherever that path takes him.

"Thou are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."  
Ps 110:4

## Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation Awards Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation \$12,000 Grant

Davis, West Virginia - The Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation (BWFSFPF) is thrilled to announce that it has recently been approved for a \$12,000 grant from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation to further its work towards International Dark Sky certification at Blackwater Falls State Park. Specifically, the grant will fund the replacement of all exterior lighting fixtures at the Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge that are not currently dark sky-compliant.

Dark Sky certification is granted by DarkSky International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to restore the nighttime environment and protect communities and wildlife from light pollution. Certifying and helping to conserve starry sky parks, communities, and other places around the world is one important component of DarkSky International's work.

The skies over Tucker County are some of the darkest in the state of West Virginia and, in fact, some of the darkest on the east coast of the US. Blackwater Falls State Park is already a premier destination for stargazers and astrophotographers or those who just want to marvel at the Milky Way, the planets, meteor showers, or other celestial events in the gorgeous natural setting provided by the park. The park already hosts annual astronomy and astrophotography conferences, and night sky-focused public programming will increase when the park is certified by DarkSky International.

Since 2022, the BWFSFPF has been raising the money for and working to replace all light fixtures in Blackwater Falls State Park that are not Dark Sky-

compliant with compliant fixtures. In 2025 alone, the BWFSFPF spent over \$14,000 to purchase and install dark sky-compliant lighting.

"We are exceedingly grateful for Dominion Energy's confidence and support of the BWFSFPF in its significant work with Blackwater Falls State Park as we pursue International Dark Sky certification," said Blaine Steensland, President of the BWFSFPF. "Specifically, this grant will be used to retrofit the Lodge's exterior lighting, making it fully compliant with Dark Sky requirements - a key project that was not financially feasible at this time without Dominion Energy's most appreciated involvement."

Added Judy Cronauer, Treasurer of the BWFSFPF, "The park's visitor lodge has 100 external fixtures, 71 of which are non-compliant. We received a quote of \$12,000 to purchase and replace the 71 fixtures with dark sky-compliant fixtures, which we did not have the funds to do. Because of the generosity of Dominion Energy, we'll be able to complete this critical phase of our work in 2026."

Separately, work has already begun to install dark sky-compliant lighting at the "classic" cabins (cabins 1-26) at the park, a project that includes replacing 56 fixtures at an estimated cost of \$7500.

DarkSky International requires that at least two-thirds of all light fixtures in the park are dark sky-compliant prior to applying for certification. To-date, the BWFSFPF has replaced (or certified as already compliant) 130 of the park's 324 light fixtures (40%).

"With the 71 fixtures at the lodge that will be replaced with the funding from



Rock Island Farm in the Potomac Valley Conservation District was one of the Sesquicentennial Farms recognized in 2025 through the West Virginia Century Farm program. (Photo courtesy of Allie Rohrbaugh)



Guyan Conservation District Supervisor Ken Brown (left), who oversees the West Virginia Century Farm program, with his family at their Cabell County farm in the Guyan district.

## 'Here's Your (Farm) Sign' to celebrate Century Farms, 250th U.S. anniversary

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- To celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, the West Virginia Century Farm Program wants to celebrate farmers by collecting photos of our participants' Century Farm signs across the state.

The "Here's Your (Farm) Sign" coordinators ask that you email, no later than June 22, a photo of your already posted Century Farm, Sesquicentennial Farm, Bicentennial Farm, or Sestercentennial Farm signs to Ken Brown at [retiredtch20023@yahoo.com](mailto:retiredtch20023@yahoo.com) and/or Davin White at [dwhite@wvca.us](mailto:dwhite@wvca.us). Please write in the email subject line: "Century Farm sign photo."

Submitted photos will be used to make a photo collage of the farm signs around the state, as well as a video celebrating the farms. The video will be shared widely on social media to celebrate July 4th and the 250th anniversary.

Photos can include family members gathered around the sign, or the sign alone. Brown also welcomes a scenic photo or two of the farm to accompany the primary Century Farm sign photo. Please limit submissions to no more than four photos. Historical photos contrasted with current (before and after) photos of the farm are welcome, too.

"Just as we are celebrating our nation's 250th birthday, we also want to celebrate the birthdays of our West Virginia family farms across the state," Brown, a Guyan Conservation District supervisor who oversees the Century Farm Program, said. "Farmers, we want to see pictures of your sign and your farm."

Brown, of Cabell County, also said that interest in the Century Farm program and in obtaining farm signs has increased tremendously this year.

The West Virginia Century Farm Program is designed to recognize those families who have been farming the same tract of land for at least 100 years. Century Farms, Sesquicentennial Farms, Bicentennial Farms and Sestercentennial Farms are recognized annually.

A Century Farm is one that has been in continuous operation by the same family for at least 100 years. A Sesquicentennial Farm (at least 150 years), a Bicentennial Farm (200 years) and a Sestercentennial Farm (250 years) has been in continuous operation by the same family for at least its minimum number of years.

For more about the Century Farm program, visit: [https://www.wvca.us/education/century\\_farms.cfm](https://www.wvca.us/education/century_farms.cfm).

Dominion Energy, and the 56 lights that we in the process of replacing at the "classic" cabins, we will reach and exceed the minimal threshold required to submit our application," said Steensland. "Once our application is approved and Blackwater Falls State Park is certified as an International Dark Sky Park, we will have 5 more years to reach the 90% compliance level, and 10 years for 100% compliance."

Dark sky-compliant lights are designed to minimize the amount of light that shines upward or outward. To accomplish this, they typically have shields on the top and sides of the fixtures so light only shines downward. Further, compliant lights have a warmer color and cooler temperature (less than 3000K) and reduced brightness. Dark sky lights generally use less energy than conventional outdoor lighting and so are less expensive to use. Many homes and businesses in Tucker County already have dark sky-compliant exterior lights, and the BWFSFPF hopes the dark sky project at Blackwater Falls State Park inspires more community interest in installing dark sky-compliant lights.

About the Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation

Formed in 2022, the Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation is a 501c3 chari-

table organization whose mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the Blackwater Falls State Park by providing leadership in communication, funding, and advocacy. To learn more about the Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation or to donate to the group's efforts, visit their website at <https://bwfspfoundation.org/> or on Facebook (search "Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation"). The group's mailing address is P.O. Box 120 in Davis.

About Dominion Energy

Dominion Energy (NYSE: D) provides regulated electricity service to 3.6 million homes and businesses in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and regulated natural gas service to 500,000 customers in South Carolina; is one of the nation's leading developers and operators of regulated offshore wind and solar power; and is the largest producer of carbon-free electricity in New England. Through its Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, as well as EnergyShare and other programs, Dominion Energy contributed more than \$40 million in 2025 to community causes. The Foundation supports nonprofit causes that meet basic human needs, protect the environment, promote education, and encourage community vitality. Please visit [DominionEnergy.com](https://www.dominionenergy.com) to learn more.

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

# Obituaries

## Sarah “Kathryn” Watring Knotts

Sarah “Kathryn” Watring Knotts, age 93 years, a resident of the Leadmine Community, Parsons, WV, departed this life Saturday morning, May 23, 2026, at her home, surrounded by her loving family, and under the care of West Virginia Caring.

She was born Friday, February 10, 1933, at Morgantown, WV, a daughter of the late Artennis Woodford Watring and Mary Jane Watring. On May 19, 1951, at Oakland, MD, she was united in marriage to Bernard Ray Knotts, who preceded her in death.

Surviving are two daughters, Barbara Jean Hottle and husband Donald of Shaffertown and Sandra Kay Owens and husband Doug of St. George; five grandchildren, Doug M. Owens and wife Wendy of New Creek, Ashlea Wolfe and fiancé Joe Harper of Pierce, Holli Rogers and husband Nathaniel of St. George, Wendy Wolford and husband Eddie of Clover and Matthew Hottle and wife Aimee of PA; sixteen great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews; and a special caregiver, Ronda Cavalier.



She is the last surviving member of her immediate family having been preceded in death by one son, Edward Carl “Sonny” Knotts; three brothers, Ralph Lee Watring, Jim Brooks Watring and Paul Woodford Watring; five sisters, Meredith Hope Cramer, Gayle Marie Strawderman, Ruby Louise Somerville, Ruth Ann Houser and Betty Jane Lipscomb; and three grandchildren, Chad Owens, Jaime Knotts and Justin Knotts.

She was a graduate of Parsons High School with the class of 1951. She was a member of the Parsons Seventh Day Adventist. She was a former employee of the Bausch & Lomb Co., the Cuppets

& Weeks Nursing Home, Garrett Memorial Hospital as a C.N.A., and retired in 1996 from the U.S. Forest Service, as a Lab Technician. Kathryn enjoyed gardening, canning, cooking and quilting, jigsaw and crossword puzzles. Most of all she loved spending time with her family and especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family received friends at the Lohr & Barb Funeral Home of Parsons, WV on Thursday from 4 PM to 7 PM. Final rites were conducted at the funeral home on Friday, May 29, 2026, at 11 AM. Pastor Roger Curtis and Matthew Donald Hottle officiated and interment followed at the Watring Family Cemetery at Shaffertown, WV. The family suggest that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to West Virginia Caring Hospice, 519 G Road, Arthurdale, WV 26520. The Lohr & Barb Funeral Home is honored to be in charge of the arrangements for Sarah “Kathryn” Watring. Condolences may be expressed to the family at; [www.lohrbarbfuneralhome.com](http://www.lohrbarbfuneralhome.com).

## John Ray Thompson

John Ray Thompson, 75, a resident of Parsons, passed from this life Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at his home surrounded by his loving family and under the care of Mountain Hospice.

John was born in Parsons on Friday, July 14, 1950, a son of the late Hobart Thompson and Sherlene “Shirley” Summerfield. On June 7, 1969, in Parsons, he married Debra Ann Napoleon Thompson, who survives. They had celebrated fifty-six years of marriage.

Left to cherish John’s memory are three children, John Patrick Thompson, Daniel Ray Thompson and wife, Melissa and Debra Lynn Thompson, seven grandchildren, McKenzi Leary, Lukas Thompson Moore,



Ryder Thompson, Mariah Parsons, Austin Parsons, Johnna Mullenex, and Camden Thompson, a brother, James A. Thompson and wife, Becky of Winder, Georgia.

John attended Tucker County schools. He had worked as police chief for the City of Parsons, as a police officer for the Town of Davis, and worked for Roberts Estates from

which he retired after many years. He had been a member of the Parsons Fire Department and was a member of the Mt. Top Hunting Club and enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. Over the years, he had become a master craftsman and built his own home and many of the furnishings in it.

Visitation was held at the Hostetler Funeral Home on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, from 11 am to 1 pm the funeral hour. Rev. Kevin Hostetler officiated, and interment followed at Thompson Family Cemetery in Parsons. The Hostetler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for John Ray Thompson. Send online condolences to the family at [www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com).

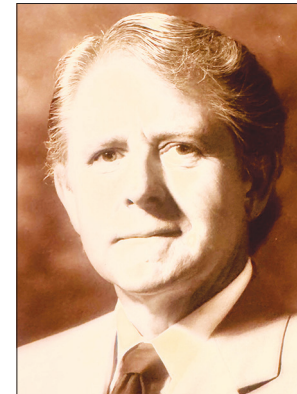
## William Lane Jones

PHOENIX-At the dawn of a new day on May 6, 2026, Bill was touched by God and now he sleeps in his eternal home.

Life began September 5, 1930, in the beautiful hills of Tucker County, West Virginia, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Jones of St. George, West Virginia where he remained until 1955.

He was married to his adored college sweetheart, Mary Josephine for 71 years. He was the proud and devoted father to one daughter Melody Tara Maynes and her husband Marc Vittorio Maynes of whom he idolized. Bill is survived by his wife Mary Josephine, daughter Melody and son-in-law Vito.

Bill grew up with five siblings, one brother, Jim Jones, and a sister Sandra



Lynn Hill, who preceded him in death. Bill is survived by three sisters, Judith Dianne Jacques, Carol Louise Crosten and Jane Elizabeth Shahan along with many nephews, nieces, and cousins. Bill completed a B. A. Degree at Davis and Elkins College, M. A. at West Virginia University, and a Doctorate at Arizona State University. Bill was a lifelong professional educator

starting his career teaching in a one room school house in St. George, West Virginia; ultimately becoming Superintendent of Glendale Union High School District and Dysart Unified School District. Bill was a Veteran serving in the Korean War. He served his community in many capacities through his involvement in professional, civic, social, and fraternal organizations. Bill will be deeply missed by his loving family, many dear friends, and respected colleagues. His daughter, Melody, will forever cherish the immeasurable blessing of being her father’s little girl. Private services will be held, and his remains will be interred in the Festival Gardens at Shadow Rock Church.

## The Grant County Bank Announces New Falling Waters Branch

Petersburg, W.Va. — The Grant County Bank, which will officially transition to Highlands Bank on July 1, 2026, is excited to announce the groundbreaking of its newest full-service banking location in Falling Waters, West Virginia, further expanding the bank’s commitment to serving communities across the region.

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, in Falling Waters and will include local and state leaders, community representatives, and members of the bank’s leadership team.

The new branch marks an important milestone as The Grant County Bank prepares for its official transition to the Highlands Bank name on July 1, 2026. While the new name has been publicly announced, the official logo and branding elements will not be unveiled until the July 1 launch date.

“This expansion represents an exciting step forward for our organization,” said George Ford, President and CEO. “As we prepare to officially become Highlands Bank, we are proud to continue investing in growing communities like Falling Waters while remaining committed to the local service and relationships that have defined our bank for almost 125 years.”

The Falling Waters branch will expand the bank’s presence into the Eastern Panhandle and support continued growth throughout West Virginia.

The following officials and representatives have committed to attend the June 3 groundbreaking ceremony:

- Darren Thorne, WV State Senator representing the Falling Waters District
- Chuck Horst, WV Delegate representing the Falling Waters District
- A representative from Congressman

Riley Moore’s office

- A representative from Senator Shelley Moore Capito’s office
- John Hardy, Berkeley County Commissioner, with additional Berkeley County
- Commissioners possibly attending
- Additional invited officials include State Senator Jason Barrett and WV Delegate Mike Hornby

Additional details regarding the new branch and the official Highlands Bank launch will be shared in the coming weeks through the bank’s website and social media channels.

*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.

The Grant County Bank is currently preparing to transition to Highlands Bank on July 1, 2026, reflecting a new name and brand that represents the communities we serve throughout the Potomac Highlands. While the name and branding are changing, our commitment to our customers, communities, employees, and local decision-making will remain the same.

## ERCC Received Prestigious Safety Designation From OSHA

Elkins, W.Va. — Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center was recently recognized for its efforts to provide the safest workplace possible.

Leadership at the facility recently received a letter from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration stating that ERCC had been enrolled in the federal agency’s Pre-Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (Pre-SHARP).

Pre-SHARP is an OSHA run program which identifies businesses that maintain a high quality of health and safety.

“We have worked extremely hard to achieve the level of quality in health and safety to be considered for the Pre-SHARP Program,” said Tara Shaver, ERCC’s administrator. “Very few facilities qualify for this program.”

Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center isn’t resting on its laurels. Shaver noted that leadership and staff at the facility are working hard to qualify for the SHARP program. The road to achieving SHARP status isn’t easy. A business must have comprehensive consultation with a complete hazard identification survey, and

they must correct all hazards identified in the consultation.

“This milestone demonstrates your small businesses’ commitment to improving workplace safety and health and meeting the requirements for SHARP,” according to the letter concerning the Pre-SHARP enrollment.

“We are absolutely thrilled to qualify for the Pre-SHARP program. We strive to go above and beyond in maintaining the health and safety in our facility. We intend to provide the best care to both our residents and employees,” Shaver said.

Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center intends to work toward full SHARP certification in the following months. In the meantime, they are proudly displaying their Pre-SHARP qualification letter in their facility.

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>.

## Blackwater Ridge Hosts Community Open House and Yard Sale on June 13

THOMAS, W.Va. — Blackwater Ridge invites the public to attend a Community Open House and Yard Sale on Saturday, June 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Blackwater Ridge campus in Thomas, West Virginia.

The event will give community members, prospective residents, and visitors an opportunity to explore the growing housing options available at Blackwater Ridge while enjoying a fun community gathering featuring local organizations, refreshments, giveaways, and live entertainment.

Guests will be able to tour available move-in ready condos and villas at The Pines, Blackwater Ridge’s active 55+ community designed for residents seeking mountain living with convenient access to outdoor recreation, shopping, dining, and healthcare services.

Attendees can also preview the ongoing construction at The Rapids Apartments, a new workforce housing development designed for individuals and families looking to live and work in the mountain region. The Rapids will feature modern 1- and 2-bedroom apartment units, with the first apartments expected to be move-in ready by the end of the summer. All apartments include all utilities and internet ser-

vice.

Several community organizations and local partners will participate in the event, including:

- Tucker County Animal Shelter
- Mountaineer Humane Society
- Preston-Taylor Community Health
- Cortland Acres Health and Rehabilitation
- Landis Realty
- WDNE 98.9 FM with a live radio broadcast from the event

The event will also include free coffee and pastries, yard sale vendors, giveaways, and additional family-friendly activities throughout the morning.

“This event is an opportunity for people to see the exciting growth happening at Blackwater Ridge and throughout the Thomas area,” said Blake Truman. “Whether someone is looking for an active 55+ lifestyle, affordable workforce housing, or simply wants to connect with local organizations and neighbors, we welcome everyone to come spend the day with us.”

For more information about housing opportunities or the June 13 Community Open House and -- Yard Sale, contact Blackwater Ridge at 681-228-9076 or [www.blackwateridge.org](http://www.blackwateridge.org).

## West Virginia Humanities Council Seeks Grant Applications

Charleston — The West Virginia Humanities Council announces an upcoming special grant deadline of August 1, 2026, for minigrants. The state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Humanities Council offers grants to nonprofit organizations and institutions that support educational humanities programming. Due to continuing uncertainty regarding Federal funding, this will be the Council’s only grant offering in 2026.

Council minigrants support humanities projects that request \$2,000 or less, including small projects, single events, lectures, small museum exhibits, and planning for larger projects. The humanities include fields of study related to the human experience, culture, and history.

For more information about the West

Virginia Humanities Council grants program, contact Humanities Council Grants Administrator Erin Riebe at (304) 346-8500 or via email at [riebe@wvhumanities.org](mailto:riebe@wvhumanities.org). Grant guidelines and applications are available on the Humanities Council website, [wvhumanities.org/grants](http://wvhumanities.org/grants).

The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit corporation, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.

**THANK YOU FOR READING**

# Red white and blue



Members of the Mountaineer Garden Club spent Monday morning placing our red, white and blue flowers around Main Street in Parsons in recognition of our Country's 250th Anniversary. We used white begonias, red Mandevilla,

and blue salvia. We added Old Glory to the planters. They are eye catching. In addition we also planted zinnias and begonias in the other planters around town and at the Parsons entrances. Thanks to Bonnie Watkins Smith, Linda

Shahan-Sherman and Faith Moore . A special thank you to Crystal Bilby Nelson who organized the selection of plants, purchasing and planting. Thanks for the support from Mike Simmons, Parsons city manager.

## WVABCA Expands Enforcement Efforts Under New Vape Safety Act

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) is expanding its public safety and enforcement responsibilities following passage of House Bill 5437, known as the "Vape Safety Act," which provides the agency with new authority to regulate, license, and enforce operating requirements for qualifying vape and smoke shops across the state.

"The Vape Safety Act provides important tools to strengthen accountability and improve oversight of products being sold in communities across West Virginia," said WVABCA Commissioner Fred Wooton.

"Our goal is to help ensure businesses operate responsibly while protecting children, families, and consumers from unsafe or improperly marketed products."

The legislation comes as vape and smoke shop businesses continue to expand rapidly throughout West Virginia, raising growing concerns among educators, medical professionals, law enforcement, and community leaders regarding mislabeled, unregulated, and youth-marketed products.

The law builds upon Senate Bill 679, passed in 2023, which expanded regulatory oversight of products including Delta 8, hemp, and kratom. Since that time, the

WVABCA has worked alongside the State Tax Division and other state and local agencies to strengthen enforcement efforts and improve compliance across the industry.

Under the Vape Safety Act, the WVABCA will oversee licensing, compliance, and enforcement requirements for qualifying vape and smoke shops operating within the state. Agency officials say the expanded authority will help improve consistency, accountability, and compliance with West Virginia law.

For more information about the Vape Safety Act and WVABCA enforcement responsibilities, visit WVABCA.

# Thank You!

Cottrill's Opera House would like to thank Grant County Bank for its generous support of magician/comedian Joey Stepp at ArtSpring 2026.



## FUNDING

Cont. From Front Page 1

and people infiltrating their way under the building. The request also stated that there are fears of people flicking lit cigarettes against cross ties, causing a fire at the structure.

"It is currently underpinned with railroad ties. There are some missing, as well," Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau read from the request.

The organization plans to place metal around the base of the building to protect the wooden underpinning and to keep people and animals out of underneath the structure. The total cost of the metal underpinning was estimated at \$7,000.

"I went over and looked at it and there are areas where people can crawl under it," Rosenau said. "There's been animals and people under there. There's McDonald's wrappers clear up under the building and cigarette butts everywhere."

The County has a line item in the Hotel-Motel Tax for Historic Preservation of Buildings, according to Rosenau. The \$7,000 request was approved by the Commission with a motion by Rosenau and voted on by Commissioner Knotts. Commissioner Davis was absent.

A request was made on behalf of the Tucker County Little League Traveling Team for uniforms. The League had raised all funding, with the exception of \$750, according to Rosenau.

"This is youth throughout the County, participates in this," Rosenau said. "They are requesting \$750, the total cost is \$3,500."

The \$750 request was approved in a motion made by Rosenau and voted on by Commissioner Knotts. Commissioner Davis was absent.

## TUCKER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

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