The Parsons
Advocate
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF TUCKER COUNTY SINCE 1896

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Mother Nature couldn't stop Mountaineer Days celebrating America's Semiquincentennial.

Tucker County Celebrates America's Semiquincentennial

Tucker County brought in America's 250th birthday with a bang. From a block party and mural dedication in Parsons, a time-traveling journalist from Philadelphia interviewing Martha Washington and Salathiel Goff at the Depot, a fun-filled Uncle Sam's Birthday Party or Mountaineer Days and the largest fireworks display to date, there were no shortage of events to choose from this 4th of July Weekend.

Parsons activities started off on Thursday, July 2nd with Belva Dilly giving a walking history tour of Parsons. This was followed by the presenting of the flag by the Tucker County Veterans, the National Anthem by the Blackwater Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, comments by Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau and the presentation of a new mural for America's 250th. A block party followed presented by the City of Parsons and the Tucker County Courthouse was open for self guided tours. The Five Rivers Library was also in on the fun with goodies and give aways for participants.

See AMERICA page 8



Highlands Bank's Celebration July 1st in Petersburg included activities for the kids including face painting.

Highlands Bank: New Name, Same Service

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Petersburg, WV – The Grant County Bank is now Highlands, but don't worry, nothing else has changed about the 124-year old bank. The name launch and rebranding was kicked off with a celebration Wednesday, July 1st at the Highlands Bank Petersburg location.

"The Grant County bank been in existance over 120 years, a community bank, a growing bank," Board of Directors Member Kirk Wilson said.

Wilson explained that a year ago, the bank was a $300 million institution, but has grown in that time to now $400 million.

"A little over a year ago, out stock, Highlands Bankshares was trading it in the low 30s, today its trading at 47," Wilson said. "We're a growing bank because of that."

Wilson said that branches exist currently in counties surrounding Grant County. In January, the Bank plans to open a branch in Berkeley County.

"And it doesn't make sense to have the Grant County Bank in Berkeley County," Wilson said. "That's why we're changing our name."

Wilson said that people are used to Highlands Bankshares, the holding company of the Grant County Bank (now Highlands Bank) and Capon Valley Bank. According to Wilson, the change was meant to be reflective of where the bank comes from and be recognizable to the community. "We started as a small community bank and we're growing, but we're still like that small community bank," Wilson said.

"We are growing because we have good leadership in our bank and we have great employees that make people feel comfortable," Wilson said. "We just work hard at customer service and serving our community."

Wilson said that the bank strives to develop relationships with their clients and have clients that have been with them for 30 or 40 years.

See HIGHLAND page 9

Road Work Information

US 219 will continue to have delays; through late December 2026, excluding weekends, for work related to Corridor H

TUCKER COUNTY, WV - US 219 will continue to have delays; traffic will be controlled by flaggers from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., through late December 2026, excluding weekends, for work related to Corridor H. The work is .50 miles south of County Route 31 (Wolf Run Road) and County Route 219/4 (Mackeyville Road) and US 219 intersections. Special allowance for emergency vehicles and United States Postal Service will be made; all motorists are to expect delays and/or seek alternate routes.

Gas Explosion Destroys Home in St. George, Injures Occupant

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Friday, July 3rd, just before 10 a.m, the 8800 block of Holly Meadows Road in St. George was rocked by a house explosion. The gas leak fueled explosion destroyed the residence and injured the occupant, Diana Wyatt, a female in her 60's and left her dog, Axel, in the care of a local veterinarian, according to reports.

Tucker County 911 reported an active call of a structure fire at 8839 Holly Meadows Road in the St. George area of Parsons near Academy Lane and Location Road. The caller was reported to be in a safe place. However, the call was dispatched as meeting the criteria for a "Priority 1 Call," meaning it was an emergency situation involving an immediate threat to human life or severe physical injury, requiring the fastest possible response.

Parsons Volunteer Fire Department, along with Thomas and Davis VFD and Leading Creek VFD responded to the incident, as well as the Tucker County Sheriff's Depart-

See GAS EXPLOSION page 6

TCSWA Responds to Davis Landfill Concerns

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

The Tucker County Solid Waste Authority responded to concerns raised by the Davis Town Council recently over such matters as odor from the Landfill and windblown debris from the facility, during their latest meeting on June 29th at the TCSWA Office.

Tucker County Commissioner and TCSWA Board Member Fred Davis said he had spoken to representatives from the Davis Council. One of the things that the Town Council would like to get started, Davis said was recycling. Davis said that he informed them that recycling has taken a downturn lately and it was not fiscally viable for a while. However, the Board was open to discussions with the Council and perhaps something could be "figured out."

As far as odor complaints, Davis explained that much of the issue comes from how a landfill operates. When old layers are dug up odors can be released, Davis explained. Old layers and dirt are dug up to allow for proper water drainage.

"A lot of people don't understand when you dig the trash, when you go put another layer of trash in, you got

See TCSWA page 8

Pow Wows in Parsons



Members of the audience were encouraged to participate in the couples dance during the Pow Wow in Parsons June 27th.



The Children's Dance offered children a chance to have some fun, explore their heritage and collect a little candy along the way.



Participants of all ages wowed at the Pow Wow in Parsons June 27th and 28th.

The Annual Pow Wow In Parsons was held June 27th and 28th at the Five River Camp Ground in Parsons. This annual event braved heavy rains on Saturday, but the gathering went on despite the weather. Dancers, Drummers, Singers and Storytellers from across not only the Country, but the World, were in attendance. A variety of dances were performed, including a couples dance where everyone present was encouraged to join in. Keith Colston was the Emcee, Louis Campbell was the Arena Director, Jason Warwick was the Head Male Dancer, Adrienne Harmon was the Head Female Dancer, Raggie Rain once again brought her Stories to life for the crowd, the Host Southern Drum were the The Zotigh Singers and the Host Northern Drum were the Scuffletown Society. All ticket sales were donated to Circle Legacy Center, a nonprofit organization in Lancaster, PA dedicated to supporting and empowering Native Americans through a variety of cultural events, community projects and business assistance. For more information on Circle Legacy Center go to circlelegacycenter.com.

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News of Record

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

- **Joan Catherine Safino.** Davis Corporation, 193 Henry Avenue to Brian Sarfino.
- **Brian Sarfino.** Davis Corporation, 193 Henry Avenue to WV Cvechko Investments LLC, $375,000.
- **Christy R. Hughes,** Davis Corporation, lot 314 Kent Avenue, Davis to Jean Bridwell, $255,000.
- **Timothy Argabrite and Natelie Argabrite,** Dry Fork District, Unit/Lot 14, Section A, Black Bear Woods to Colleen Burkhart, $238,000.
- **John Korn and Amie Korn,** Dry Fork District, lot 18 Pointy Knob Sub-division, 2.00 acres to Bryan R. Lewis and Virginia H. Lewis, $65,000.
- **Donald K. Thomas and Denise L. Thomas,** Dry Fork District, Transfer on Death Deed: Lot 11 Wood Terrace of Timberline, 2.16 acres to Kayleigh Williams and Morgan N. Worstell.
- **Alexander Seleznyov and Darla V. Seleznyov,** Dry Fork District, Lot 56, Black Bear Woods to W. Gerrod Parrott and Laura J. Rosenthal, $267,500.

TCSWA

Cont. From Page 1

to take the dirt and old trash out for the water to seep through it for it to do it correctly," Davis said. "So when you pull the old trash out that's been in there a few years, its going to smell for a little bit until they get the new trash put on it and get it covered again. That just happens."

Most of the work that is being done on the high spots to allow for drainage was anticipated to be completed by the end of the week. Work in the low areas, Davis said do not carry the smell as badly as work on the higher areas do.

Other causes of landfill smell that cannot be avoided, the Board discussed was methane production. With the withdraw of the renewable natural gas company project, the Landfill currently has no way to trap or mitigate the release of methane from the facility. However, there has been preliminary interest from a company that specializes in smaller production landfill methane producers for methane capture and sale. But talks are in the very early stages, according to Landfill Director Jody Alderman.

"Until we can get through the gas either by flare or by somebody that wants to buy it, we're going to have or you're going to have some extra odor," Alderman said.

The Board has discussed the possibility of a flare for the facility in the past, however, with interest from companies wanting to buy the gas produced by the landfill, financially, it does not seem reasonable to spend $300,000 on a flare when one of these companies will come in and collect the gas at their expense.

"There is still hope that we will still get something done for free and get paid for the gas before we go out and spend $300,000 or more just to burn off the gas," Alderman said.

On the issue of windblown trash, Alderman had this to say, "I think we've had less windblown than we've ever had since I've been here."

Davis said that he was pleased to see the difference from when he worked there in the 1980's. TCSWA Vice Chair Dennis Filler said that it seemed most of the windblown trash was caught by the facility's fencing, especially the portable fencing that has been invested in the past two years. Alderman said that the new cell will also help windblown by allowing crews to dump trash low in the winter during high winds and higher areas in the summer when winds are lower.

Much of the windblown, however is likely not even from the facility itself. It is coming from or leaving the facility in trucks that are not properly swept or covered. It was discussed that what is in the Landfill has no way to leave the facility.

"They're not seeing our trash leaving on the highways, they're seeing it on the trucks that's bringing the trash in," Alderman said.

"I guess about all we can do is remind the drivers to cover their loads," Filler said.

Alderman said that West Virginia has a tarp law. The West Virginia tarp law and unsecured load regulations comes under Chapter 17C. Traffic Regulations and Laws of the Road.

"(a) No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be operated on any highway unless such vehicle or combination of vehicles is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping therefrom, except that sand may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, or water or other substance may be sprinkled on a roadway in cleaning or maintaining such roadway.

(b) It shall be unlawful to operate on any highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles with any load unless said load and any covering thereon is securely fastened so as to prevent said covering or load from becoming loose, detached, or in any manner a hazard to other users of the highway."

According to the West Virginia Department of Transportation, first offense is a $250 fine, second offense is a $500 fine, third offense within a year is a $1,000 fine with a potential permit revocation and the possibility of jail time and personal injury/damage will cause fines to increase significantly if the escaped debris results in damage or an accident.

Best practice advice includes the use of a heavy duty mesh or solid tarp that completely covers the top of the truck bed or trailer. Also, ensure the tarp is tight enough to secure the front, sides and rear to prevent the wind from lifting the tarp or the cargo beneath. Remove or sweep any loose surface debris from the vehicle prior to driving to avoid windblown debris on roadways.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation supplies the following tips to properly secure cargo:

- "Tie cargo down with rope, netting, or straps.
- Tie large objects directly to the vehicle or trailer.
- Consider covering the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting.
- Don't overload the vehicle or trailer.
- Always double-check the load to make sure it's secure.

For more information on this campaign, visit https://www.nhtsa.gov/drive-safe-secure-your-load

For more information about the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program, visit highwaysafety.wv.gov or call 304-926-2509."

Tucker County Schools Superintendent Evaluation

Tucker County Board of Education has completed its annual evaluation of the Tucker County Schools Superintendent and is pleased to report an excellent performance rating for the 25-26 school year.

The Board finds that the Superintendent has demonstrated exceptional leadership, strong operational oversight, and steadfast commitment to the success of all students and staff within Tucker County Schools.

Based on these findings, the Board commends the Superintendent for exemplary service and leadership. Tucker County Schools has benefited greatly from the Superintendent's dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to educational excellence.

The Board looks forward to continued progress under this strong and effective leadership.

Garrett College offering summer athletics camps

Softball, baseball, volleyball, soccer, and basketball camps slated

McHenry, MD – Garrett College will be offering summer athletics camps in five sports, with each three-day camp running from 9 a.m. to noon and open to all genders.

Soccer (July 13-15, ages 4 to 15) and basketball (July 28-30, ages 8-16) are the other two athletics camps.

The cost per camper is $100, plus a $3 registration fee.

Please go to www.garrettcollege.edu/camps to register for any of the athletics camps. For more information, please contact Andrew Catone (andrew.catone@garrettcollege.edu, or 301.387.3129).

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The Parsons Advocate

Publisher Michael Showell
Associate Publisher Lydia Crawley
Office Manager Teri Cayton
Production Design Erika Wright
Advertising Debra Smith - debra@mountainmedianews.com

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PARSONS ADVOCATE LETTERS TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

Submitting a letter does not guarantee it will be published. All letters become property of The Parsons Advocate. The Parsons Advocate reserves the right to edit and/or reject letters. Personal attacks, lies, and etc. will not be published.

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

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

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

SPORTS

New Face at the Helm for Tucker County High School Volleyball



Megan Helmick, TCHS Volleyball Head Coach

By: Adam Freeman

A new era is set to begin for the Tucker County High School Lady Mountain Lions volleyball program as Megan Helmick has been named the team's new head coach.

Helmick, who serves as assistant principal at Tucker Valley Elementary Middle School, accepted the position after carefully considering the opportunity that became available this past winter. Joining her on the sidelines will be assistant coach Valerie Eye as the pair look to build a competitive and unified program.

"The position at the high school had opened up this winter. I thought long and hard on it before finally deciding I would take the position and bring Valerie Eye with me," Helmick said. "I know there is a lot of good talent in this county, and I want to see it through."

Helmick's coaching philosophy centers on commitment, effort, and making every opportunity count.

"My philosophy is show up, work hard, show effort, and every ball matters," she said.

Having watched many of the incoming players compete against one another over the past three years, Helmick is excited to finally bring them together as teammates. Preparation will begin immediately during flex days with conditioning, skill development, drills, and scrimmages.

"I have watched the freshman girls face each other for three years, cheering all the girls on, knowing they would be together one day," Helmick said. "The girls know they have to put time in on and off the court."

For her first season, Helmick's goals extend beyond the scoreboard. She hopes to develop a close-knit group that enjoys playing together while continuing to improve throughout the season.

"The goals I have for this year are to develop a cohesive team of girls who want to play and play well together," she said. "Also, winning a few games would be nice too."

Helmick and Eye place a strong emphasis on team chemistry and trust, believing those qualities are just as important as athletic ability.

"Volleyball is a game of skill and trust," Helmick explained. "At the beginning of the season, the girls will set personal and team goals. We will revisit these goals after each game."

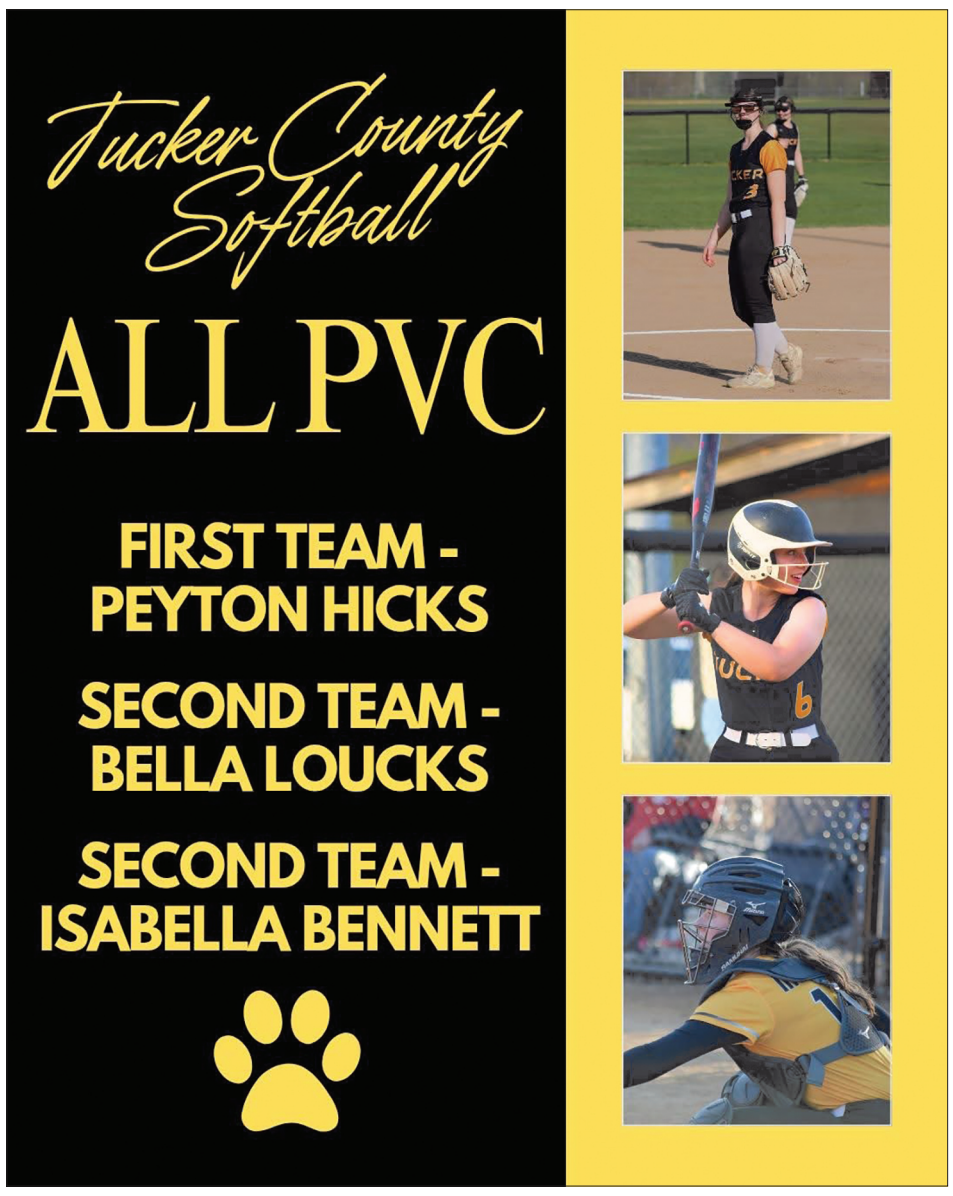
She also made it clear what the coaching staff expects from every player who wears the black and gold.

"Our players are wearing black and gold representing Tucker County High School," Helmick said. "They know our expectations are to check your attitude at the door, we have no time for that, and leave the drama at home. We expect them to show up, put effort in, and play volleyball."

As the Lady Mountain Lions prepare for the upcoming season, Helmick is optimistic about what lies ahead.

"We are looking forward to the new adventure and representing Tucker County High School," she said. "The future of volleyball is promising."

Fun Fact: *While Helmick has moved three different times throughout her life, she has always lived on the same street.*





WVSSAC Release

The WVSSAC acknowledges the U.S. Supreme Court decision in West Virginia v. B.P.J. upholding the Save Women's Sports Act. The underlying litigation involved the WVSSAC and others and has been ongoing since May 26, 2021. The United States Supreme Court reversed the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and remanded the matter to the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia for proceedings consistent with the decision. The WVSSAC will be looking for the District Court's guidance as to implementing the Supreme Court's directives for the State of West Virginia and, accordingly, the WVSSAC. The WVSSAC appreciates the patience of our schools, students, and families throughout this process.

House Bill 2917

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated ***§18-9A-27,*** *relating to creating the "Save Women's Sports Act;" requiring, for an official or unofficial school-sanctioned athletic or sporting event, that each athlete's participation in the athletic or sporting event be based on the athlete's biological sex as indicated on the athlete's original birth certificate issued at the time of birth; providing a revised designation for sporting events; and providing a means by which civil actions can be commenced.*

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Tucker County Class of 1986

The class of 1986 is planning a 40th high school reunion for July 18th at the Parsons Fire Hall

Social Hour begins around 4 p.m. and a catered dinner from Piccolo Paula's begins around 5 p.m.

The cost per person will be $25.00

For additional information or to RSVP please contact either Angie Pifer Jennings at 304-614-0719 or Kim Lipscomb Day at 304-614-5227.

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Super Crossword

Answers

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What's Happening

Sunday School Convention
The annual Sunday School Convention will be held at noon on Sunday, July 12 at St. George Park. Everyone is welcome to join us at 10:30 a.m. for Sunday School, followed by a covered dish lunch and singing in the afternoon.

Arnold Reunion
The annual Arnold Reunion will be on Saturday, July 11 at the Arnold Park in Leadmine. Bring a covered dish and lunch will be at noon.

Tucker County Historic Landmark Commission meeting
There will be a Tucker County Historic Landmark Commission meeting Monday, July 13, 2026, at 5:00, at the Tucker County Historical Museum. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Heckler Family Reunion
July 18th, 2:00 at St. George park.

BMA Food Pantry Open House and Dedication
The Blackwater Ministerial Association Board of Directors and Food Pantry Volunteers invite you to join us Thursday, July 30 from 2-4 PM at our new site located at 374 Quail Ridge Road in Thomas. Light refreshments will be provided.

ZOOM Meeting
The Tucker County Democratic Executive will hold the 2nd qtr meeting via ZOOM on July 30 @ 6 PM.
Use this link to join the meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86841525368?pwd=KZcBypEIvCnbx7gIthp8PpCJd8Wmmp. Meeting ID: 868 4152 5368 Passcode: 443757.

e-WV The West Virginia Encyclopedia



July 9, 1989: Treasurer A. James Manchin resigned after being impeached. With a stock market downturn in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly $300 million in investments for which he was responsible.

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.

July 8, 1894: Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photographer, Aegerter built both a studio and a darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement. The glass plate negatives survive today in several archived collections.

July 8, 1924: Rock 'n' roll pioneer Johnnie Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as "Roll Over, Beethoven." Berry's hit "Johnny B. Goode" was supposedly written as a tribute to Johnson.

July 8, 1961: Sutton Dam was dedicated by Governor Wally Barron. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam for purposes of flood control, low-flow augmentation and recreation.

July 9, 1923: Singer Molly O'Day was born in Pike County, Kentucky. After becoming a child star on radio stations in Charleston, Williamson, and Bluefield, she helped pioneer solo female singing in country music. Later, she and her husband, Lynn Davis, dedicated their careers solely to sacred music.

July 9, 1942: An explosion at the Pursglove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in an eight-month period.

July 10, 1769: Physician Jesse Bennet was born. He performed the first successful caesarian section in America in 1794, on his own wife and without proper equipment and with no antiseptics. He later established a large practice in Mason County and served as an Army surgeon in the War of 1812.

July 10, 1889: Author and historian Boyd B. Stutler was born in Gilmer County. He served as managing editor of the national American Legion magazine for 18 years and became one of the leading historians on West Virginia in the Civil War and John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry.

July 10, 1936: The temperature in Martinsburg reached 112 degrees. It tied the record for the state's hottest recorded temperature, which had been set August 4, 1930, at Moorefield.

July 11, 1861: The Battle of Rich Mountain was fought in Randolph County. Union troops under Gen. George McClellan defeated Confederate forces, helping to secure northwestern Virginia (now West Virginia) for the North.

July 11, 1867: John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County. He served as the 15th governor of West Virginia.

July 11, 1976: Gov. Arch Moore dedicated the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston. The facility was built to showcase the Mountain State's artistic, cultural and historic heritage.

July 12, 2003: The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston opened to the public. It combines a modern performing arts center with a visual arts museum and an interactive science center.

July 13, 1861: The Battle of Corricks Ford took place in Tucker County. Confederate Gen. Robert S. Garnett was killed. He was the first Confederate general killed in the Civil War.

July 14, 1861: Union troops under Gen. Jacob Cox drove Confederate militia and cavalry out of town during the Battle of Barboursville. Union forces remained in control of Barboursville for the remainder of the war.

July 14, 1900: Gangster William George "Big Bill" Lias was born in either Wheeling or Greece. From the 1920s until his death in 1970, he was recognized as the leading organized crime figure in Wheeling.

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.

THANK YOU FOR READING

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Momma Said

This column is about tips, helpful hints, recipes and words of wisdom. I dedicate this column to my mother.

By Teri Cayton
The Parsons Advocate



I want to thank all the veterans, past and present, that have or are now fighting for our freedom. That is what this holiday is all about because without them who knows where we would be. We are one of the top countries in the world that can exercise the freedoms that we do and we have them to thank for it. ***Momma Said,*** "Some gave the ultimate sacrifice and many are still fighting their own personal battles, so don't disrespect them."

I hope everyone had a fun and safe Independence Day holiday. As usual I stayed home with my three 77 pounds scaredy cat dogs. It wouldn't be quite so bad if the neighbors didn't start the week before the 4th putting off fire crackers and whatever, and they don't stop when the holiday is over. It goes on for weeks so by the time they finally run out of fireworks the dogs are a nervous wreck.

I did get some medicine from the vet that helps them calm down some but I don't want to turn them into zombies every night for two weeks. I wish I had about 100 acres on top of a mountain somewhere so I didn't have to worry about anything like this happening. ***Momma Said,*** "Wishes in one hand and crap in the other and see which one gets full first."

We are into the full swing of summer now and the temperatures are soaring higher all the time. I hate staying in the house but it is so hot and humid I can't seem to get anything done outside. I break into a full sauna sweat every time I walk outside and I feel like I am going to melt. I can't see what I am doing for sweat in my eyes my clothes are soaked. But I will put up with it because living in this part of the country is worth it.

FROZEN TREATS FOR YOUR DOG

INGREDIENTS
- *Strawberries*
- *Blueberries*
- *Carrots*
- *Cucumbers*

INSTRUCTIONS
- Slice all ingredients and place in bowl or jello mold, cover with water or broth. Freeze until solid and then place outside for your dogs to enjoy on a hot day. You just have to be careful of bees so one solution is make some smaller molds instead of a big one.
- You could also cut up and blend some watermelon and cucumber, freeze in ice cube molds and let them have a Pupsicle.

Weather Totals
June 26 - June 30, 2026

Nursery Bottom
Parsons

Temperature		Precipitation	
Max	88° F	Week	3.48"
Min	50° F	June	6.51"
		2026	29.17"

Snowfall

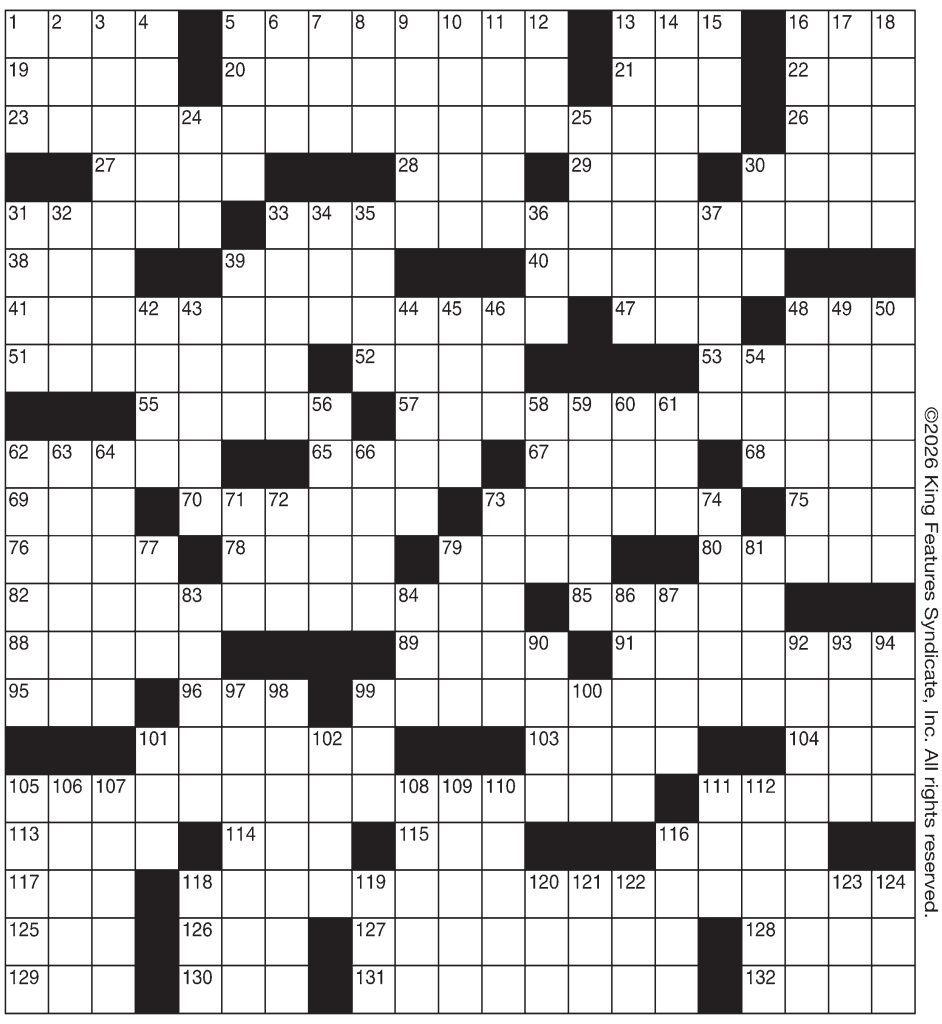
Winter Total	46.5"

U.S. Forest Service

Super Crossword — Q2 REPORT

ACROSS
1 Pet plaguers
5 Keg party dispensers
13 Iranian city with a 1,200,000+ population
16 Brainpower stats
19 Cries of awe
20 Having hay fever, say
21 Italian "a"
22 Bring to court
23 More proficient than anybody else
26 Tchr.'s union
27 Figure skating leap
28 Sauna setting
29 Photo lab blowup: Abbr.
30 Barbie or Ken
31 "He wouldn't hurt —"
33 Fairly often
38 Kung — chicken
39 Extremist sect
40 Female graduates
41 Ball hitter in a certain court
47 Center or glottis lead-in
48 Old JFK jet
51 Tallinn locale
52 — Christian Andersen
53 She sang "Skyfall"
55 Grandma, in Italy
57 Sri Lankan monkey with a hatlike whorl of hair
62 Nosy sort
65 Yuletide poem opener
67 Skip out (on)
68 Business attire
69 French "the"
70 Dental buildup
73 Joked around
75 Cooler cubes
76 Competent
78 Gallivant
79 Doubt-free
80 Deep-seated
82 Cartoon short featuring a bird who was a precursor to Tweety
85 Lamp cover
88 Sheer
89 Gooey cheese
91 Designer with the fragrance Lucky Wish
95 Quaint suffix with poet
96 Reply to "Are you?"
99 Dropping extra work and "acting your wage"
101 Wicca's realm
103 Jethro — (rock band)
104 Excavate
105 NHL team that became the Colorado Avalanche
111 Saintliness
113 Draws upon
114 Nutrition fig.
115 Debt memo
116 Tear apart
117 — Lady of Fatima
118 Algebraic statement graphed as a parabola
125 Bi- plus one
126 Poet's dusk
127 Counterpart of digital (Var.)
128 Norway port
129 Kong, for one
130 1950s prez
131 Actor Clint
132 "Sheesh, close call!"

DOWN
1 Hitter Gehrig
2 Tiny particle
3 "Calm down!"
4 Suffix similar to "-ish"
5 Joan of folk
6 Letter after kay
7 English cathedral city
8 Necessary: Abbr.
9 Have faith in
10 Visibly awed
11 Relative of risotto
12 — -fi
13 Latin for "five"
14 A single block of sugar, say
15 Irate
16 Playground comeback
17 Subdue
18 Serta rival
24 Stage actress Hagen
25 Have a hunch
30 Genetic stuff
31 Vaulted church area
32 E-help pages
33 Sacred book of Islam
34 Suffix with form
35 Hanker (for)
36 Disloyal type
37 Seminal '40s computer
39 Goatee spot
42 Top-shelf
43 Pig's noise
44 Doha locale
45 Pizza chain, informally
46 Atty.'s title
48 Costume spangle
49 Channel for excess water
50 Move like a seesaw
54 Govt. lawyers
56 "Shaq —!" (O'Neal memoir)
58 Lyft rival
59 Makes lighter
60 Sch. close to Harvard
61 Heady drink
62 Dental buildup
63 Disproves
64 Land specks in the sea
66 Bank bought by Chase in 2008, in brief
71 Financier Onassis
72 "Apollo 13" director Howard
73 Andrews of "Mary Poppins"
74 Failed to
77 Dallas-to-Nashville dir.
79 Assistant on iDevices
81 Uncluttered
83 In a — (very quickly)
84 — Dhabi (emirate)
86 Schleps
87 Deep blue dye
90 Dying rebuke from Caesar
92 Course part, in an eatery
93 Course part, in school
94 — Azalea ("Fancy" rapper)
97 Like built-up interest
98 Ordinary
99 Div. of an NBA game
100 "— Sera, Sera"
101 Drs. who deliver babies
102 Washerful
105 Sales target number
106 Seize illegally
107 Hair-raising
108 Pop diva Ross
109 Teensy bits
110 Thick cover
111 Item in a pod
112 Being pulled
116 Regretted greatly
118 End-of-proof abbr.
119 TV actress Charlotte
120 Dairy beast
121 Psyche part
122 Status —
123 Corrida cry
124 This minute



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Puzzle answers page 4

Letter to the Editor

They Think They Don't Need You

By Loki Kern

"Two external forces pressing upon this county convinced me that this was the time to document [Tucker] county as I've known it," explains Carl Feather in anticipation of his 600-page memoir detailing Tucker County's history and culture: Corridor H and Fundamental Data. Some may think these projects are a done-deal simply because our state government wants them, but history tells us otherwise - West Virginians have always advocated for what's best for their communities, whether or not the project was rubber-stamped.

Just one of these projects would be enough to change the nature of Tucker County, but together, the effect would be enormous. Both are proposed to lie within a few miles of Blackwater Falls State Park and between Thomas and Davis. Fundamental Data's power plant, only a piece of the 10,000 acre complex, would smother our skies while Corridor H's interstate-grade chaos subsumes our streets.

Data centers are a new form of resource extraction for a digital means, and Corridor H plays a part. It's been framed by state officials as a lifesaver for small towns like Thomas and Davis, but in truth, the WVDOH's preferred four-lane highway would become part of a typical extraction economy.

When Corridor H's rough route was drawn in the 1960s, coal's heyday had passed but it was still in the game. Legislators noticed Appalachia's lag in economic growth and believed an infrastructure project would attract new capital, continuing West Virginia's export of resources. Fast forward 50 years later, and American manufacturing has fallen off. West Virginia is consistently losing population. Coal used to employ over a million people and now employs 20,000. Yet, the WVDOH wants the same highway.

To companies in coal's "golden era," low pay was key, and even when good pay was negotiated, the industry continued mechanizing to reduce labor costs. Nowadays, data centers require few workers, and instead need even more massive amounts of capital investment, including fiber optic cables, natural gas pipelines, million-dollar facilities, and suitable road infrastructure - all without much concern or need for local populations and workers.

So when officials tell you these projects are going to lift up our state's economy, but the money only goes back to Charleston, you should be concerned. New coal is back in town, and worse than old coal, it doesn't even need you to work. All you need to do is lay back, accept the devastation of our communities, and sleep soundly in your bed, periodically awakened by the local data center's blinking lights and the sound of self-driving trucks.

Corridor H's route is undecided, and a public comment period is coming up on August 5th, 2026 I believe the Northern Route makes much more sense for the mountaintop area - go to go-northcorridorh.org/ to learn more.

Fundamental Data's air quality permit was approved by the WVDEP last fall. To get involved, head over to tuckerunited.com.

Carl's new book "Wandering Tucker County, W.Va." is now available for sale at thefeathercottage.com.

LEGAL

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

Deceased	Personal Representative(s)
Ruth Ann Cooper	Steven H. Cooper Jr.
1st publication 07/8/26	620 N. Tenny Drive
2nd publication 07/15/26	Buckhannon, WV 26201
	Stephanie Simmons
	1315 Frosty Hollow Rd
	Fisher, WV 26818

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

ATTEST: Barbara Evans, TUCKER COUNTY CLERK

FIND US ON

Summer Reading Program 2026



Top Readers were: 3rd place- Quinn Hovatter; 1st place- Annabeth Evans; 2nd place- Lorelai Evans



Children that registered this year were: Luke Rippy, Madison Mayberry, Makayla Mayberry, Millie Miller, Nova Miller, Mason Hackney, Lucas Hart, Avery Lycliter, Addy Lycliter, Reid Smith, Claira Smith, Jax Pennington, Baylah Pennington, Isabell Martin, Annabeth Evans, Lorelai Evans, Jayden Knotts, Idalee Godwin, Ryder Glover, Colt Glover, Quinn Hovatter, Gage Hovatter, Iris Nease, Lyle Nease, Zander Coffman, Eve Carrico, Hadley Parsons, Callen Parsons, Kai Margolies-Moore, Juni Margolies-Moore, Anika Brolis, Zinija Brolis, Granite Simmons, Carson Simmons, Sage Warner, Luka Moreno Pase, Israel Morneo, Beau Smith, Cameron Smith, Noah Adams, Randy Canfield, Lincoln Keller, Dayton Delaney, Aria Fravel, Jovie Fravel, John Funk, Athena Rabideau, Mara Rabideau, Miles Rabideau, Colson Howell, Asher Howell, Camden Thompson, Jack Barb, Finn Auvil, Clayton Paugh, Nova Paugh, Karsen Crudup, Amiyah Crudup, Izaelia Huffman, Aura Huffman, Silas Roberts, and Gracie Evans. Thanks to our volunteers: Daniel Smith, Tabitha Hebb, Rowan Dilly, Brittany Knotts, Addalyn Browning, & Gabby Cussins. Your extra hands and smiles were very much appreciated!

Five Rivers Public Library's summer reading program entitled "Unearth a Story" was June 10th, 17th, 24th and 30th. Books were read to the children with weekly themes being: Soil & Roots: Where Roots Begin; Dino-Mite Adventures; and Construction: Dig, Dump, Build. The final party was held at the Parsons Splash Park with Parsons City workers, providing grilled hotdogs, buns & supplied condiments & drinks for the children.

The crafts, games, snacks & activities were geared towards the theme of the Summer Reading Program. Week 1, the discussion was all about roots. The children planted seeds, talked about plant roots and composting, and caught earthworms. Next they discussed the layers of soil ending by assembling layered parfaits representing the layers of soil.

Week 2, there was fun "hatching" dinosaur eggs with vinegar droppers making them fizz with a dinosaur prize inside. Then they made and erupted volcanoes, made fossils and also dug for specific dinosaur fossils, played Dinosaur BINGO, and dug for arrowheads and made a necklace with their findings.

Week 3, the children made a handprint stepping stone as a very nice keepsake. They made slime, ran an obstacle course, and dug for gemstones in the sand. The City of Parsons supported us by bringing a vac truck and a street sweeper to the library. Each week a complete lunch was provided by the Tucker County Extension Service.

All children received goodie bags, with the top three readers receiving a special tote filled with a variety of items. Our top three readers were, 1st place Annabeth Evans, 2nd place Lorelai Evans and 3rd place went to Quinn Hovatter.

Of the reading lists that were turned in, 1,834 books were read for the 3 weeks of the program as well as 282 people attending. To encourage the kids to read, they could earn free food items around town by either reading or having someone read to them. There were several businesses who contributed certificates to the reading program: Piccolo Paula's Caffe, McDonalds, Sunrise Coffee Company, Black Fork Pizza, Bethany's Cakes & Cupcakes, Mr. Pizza, Happy Jax Frosted Memories and Shop & Save.

We would like to thank Tucker County Extension Service for providing all activities for the first week as well as providing lunches for the children every week. Thank you also to Tucker County Community Action for supplying chips and juice for our program this year, to Wendy Niceler from The Health Plan for being an extra set of hands for crafts, and to Alisha McCune for reading to the kids one week.

We appreciate the businesses for their support! We also appreciate all the parents, grandparents, etc. who brought the children to our program! The kids had a great time as did the volunteers and library staff!

GAS EXPLOSION

Cont. From Page 1



A natural gas explosion destroyed a house in St. George on Friday, July 3rd and injured one woman and her dog.



The ruins of a house in St. George destroyed by a natural gas explosion was still smoking the next afternoon.



The damage from the explosion and fire destroyed a truck parked next to the house.



Initial reports said debris was thrown 30 – 40 feet from the house during the explosion.

ment and the West Virginia Fire Marshal's Office. The woman's injuries required the need of the landing zone at the St. George Medical Clinic for Healthnet to land for evacuation. Command at the scene did advise at the time that it was a natural gas explosion with debris thrown 30 to 40 feet from the scene.

Wyatt was taken to Pittsburgh for treatment. As of July 4th, Wyatt's relative Christal Marshall has reported through Facebook that Wyatt is "doing well and in good spirits" and "still has a long road of recovery ahead." Marshall said that there is no word on Wyatt's two cats. Wyatt thanked friends and the community and asked for kindness towards her family following online speculation surrounding the explosion.

An account has been set up for donations at Citizens Bank of WV in Parsons.

Garrett College sets summer enrollment mark

College grows credit hours by nearly 17% over summer 2025

McHenry, MD – Garrett College has set a summer enrollment record for the third consecutive year, college officials announced on Tuesday.

A total of 190 students registered for 881 credit hours, a 16.8 percent increase in credit hours over summer 2025.

"Summer has been our fastest-growing semester over the last four years," said Dr. Robert "JR" Kerns, Garrett College's dean of student affairs. "Credit hours have increased 102 percent and student headcount has grown by nearly 70 percent since summer 2022."

The College grew credits hours despite a small decline in headcount from last summer's 192 students. Associate Dean Kim DeGiovanni, who also serves as GC's registrar, said this summer's enrollment spike has several contributing factors, including students taking more credits hours on average.

"Forty-three percent of this summer's students are enrolled in more than four credits, up from 25 percent last summer, indicating students are taking heavier course loads," said DeGiovanni.

Robin Swearengen, registration and records assistant, said one new program and one expanded program are also playing a role in the summer increases.

"Our 14 radiologic technology students are all registered for a five-credit course," said Swearengen, "and the Outdoor Leadership Adventure (OLA) Education students are taking a two-course option that totals four credits."

While High School Dual Enrollment (HSDE) headcount declined by three students this summer, it's still playing a key role in GC's strong enrollment. Over 34 percent of Garrett's summer headcount is comprised of HSDE participants.

"High school students choose summer courses as a way to build flexibility into their schedules during the school year," said Director of Admissions and Recruitment Melissa Wass, who oversees the College's HSDE program. "By earning credits in the summer, students can balance their high school commitments while continuing to make meaningful progress toward their college goals."

Professor Christa Bowser, Garrett's chief academic officer, said the College has been attempting to strategically grow its summer enrollment over the last decade.

"The growth in our summer session since 2017 is truly incredible – from 51 to 190 in headcount, a 273 percent increase, and from 203 to 881 in credit hours, which represents a 334 percent increase," said Bowser.

"The growth in HSDE has been even more dramatic, going from no high schoolers in 2017 to 65 this summer," Bowser continued. "That increase has principally been driven by the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future's* emphasis on students acquiring college credit while still in high school."



A family in full Addams family regalia at the 2024 Lurch Fest with Greg Popovich's now famous Grafton Monster, known in the area since 1964, lurking over their shoulders. "Come join us in Philippi this August 1 for a day filled with live music, great foods, craft beers, almost 50 crafters, and numerous food vendors," said a Lurch Fest spokesperson.

Lurch Fest Costume Contest Set for Aug. 1 Lurch Fest

On Saturday, August 1, characters from the Addams family tv series and other costume-clad characters will be parading the cobble stone street in front of the BC Historical Museum to treat Fest-goers to the creativity of local and regional cosplay visitors.

Lurch Fest 2026 will once again feature its costume contest. This year the costume contest has three categories: Best Addams Family Costume, Best Original Costume, and Best Ted Cassidy Costume. Winners of the costume contest will receive a monetary gift card and a certificate. Each category will have three winners, 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place. No pre-registration is required. Costumed people will find a registration table at Lurch Fest where they will sign up and receive an "Official Number."

Organizing this year's contest is Greg Popovich, well-known digital content creator and expert of all things "monster." As an added attraction to Lurch Fest this year, Popovich will also be sharing his Interactive Monster Museum.

A spokesperson for the 2026 Lurch Fest says, "Come and join us in Philippi and join in the fun of this noon to 9:00 pm all day festival!"

Garrett College to host summer adventure camps

Mountain biking, rock climbing, paddle sports, and leadership on tap

McHenry, MD – Garrett College will be hosting a series of 10 Outdoor and Adventure Summer Camps throughout July and early August.

Three mountain bike camps will be offered based on age: Mountain Bike Madness (July 6-9, 8-10-year-olds), Mountain Bike Magic (July 20-23, 11-13-year-olds), and Mountain Bike Masters (July 27-30, 14-16-year-olds). Those camps run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily and are $250 per camper.

Paddle Adventurers (July 13-16, 8-to-10-year-olds), Paddle Navigators (July 20-23, 14-16- year-olds), and Paddle Voyagers (July 27-30, 11-13-year-olds) run 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, with Adventurers and Voyagers registration costing $380 per camper, and Navigators costing $435 per camper.

Three climbing camps will also be offered: Rock Climbing Road Trip (July 6-10, 14-16-year-olds), Climbing Crushers (July 13-16, 11-13-year-olds), and Climbing Critters (July 20-23, 8-10-year-olds). The Road Trippers costs $730 per camper and includes four overnights while Crushers ($525) has one overnight and Critters ($335) has no overnights.

The Trailblazers Leadership Trek, which includes four overnights, is $730 for 17-18-year- olds and will take place August 3-7.

Please go to www.garrettcollege.edu/camps to register for any of the outdoor adventure camps. For more information, contact Ryan Walton (ryan.walton@garrettcollege.edu, or 301.387.3327).



Garrett College President Dr. Richard Midcap stepped down June 30th as chair of the Maryland Community Colleges Council of Presidents (MCCCP).

Midcap completes Presidents Council chair term

Development of MACC's new strategic plan key 2025-26 achievement

Annapolis, MD – Dr. Richard Midcap, Garrett College's president, completed his term as chair of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) Council of Presidents on June 30th.

"It was an interesting experience," said Midcap of chairing the Council, which is comprised of the presidents of Maryland's 16 community colleges. "It forces you to step outside of the narrow scope of your individual college's interests and consider what's best for the whole. I'm definitely glad I did it."

Midcap said MACC executed several major initiatives during the past year, including developing a new, five-year strategic plan for the Annapolis-based advocacy organization. The plan – titled Collective Impact: MACC's Strategic Direction, 2026-30 – laid out four overarching goals during the plan's lifetime:

- Secure sustainable and predictable funding to support operating and capital needs for community colleges;
- Capitalize on strategic partnerships to address workforce development needs;
- Improve internal and external communication and engagement;
- Enhance collaborative partnerships, including seamless coordination with four-year institutions and state agencies.

"I think the presidents and the MACC staff did a very nice job of zeroing in on what will enhance access and student success over the next five years," said Midcap, who also served this year as vice president of MACC's Board of Directors. "The thing I like most about the plan is that it has clear targets and an assessable structure."

Midcap credited the MACC staff, led by Executive Director Dr. Brad Phillips, with making his year as chair "a lot easier than I expected."

"We have a highly professional and goal-driven MACC office," said Midcap. "They not only implement the objectives of the presidents, they help guide us in prioritizing and strategizing on how to meet those objectives."

Midcap was succeeded as Presidents Council chair by Dr. Jim Klauber, Hagerstown Community College's president. Klauber was vice chair of the President's Council this past academic year.

"Jim will do a great job," said Midcap. "A lot of this role is advocating with state legislators to help achieve priorities that support our students. Jim is an attorney and former state legislator in South Carolina who's been a college president in three states, so he knows how to operate effectively in that environment."

MACC was formed in 1992 to serve as the unified voice of Maryland's 16 community colleges. Phillips, as executive director, acts as a liaison for community colleges with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the University System of Maryland, and other relevant state and federal organizations.

MACC also has a significant government relations role, maintaining relationships with the Maryland General Assembly, the office of Governor Wes Moore, and other state departments and agencies. It has in recent years taken on a significant grants-management role, serving as the grant recipient for a host of federal and statewide grants in the cybersecurity field that support training at the 16 community colleges.

Midcap, who has been Garrett College's president since 2017, will continue to serve on MACC's Executive Committee as the immediate past chair. He has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2021.

GC's Broadwater named NJCAA All-American

Laker sophomore claims 3rd-team slot after leading GC to region finals



Garrett College sophomore shortstop Noah Broadwater has been named an NJCAA Division II third team all-American in baseball.

McHenry, MD – Garrett College sophomore Noah Broadwater has been selected for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II baseball all-American squad, earning third-team honors.

Broadwater led NJCAA Division II Region 20 in batting average (.469) and runs batted in (school-record 88) while tying for fourth in the region with 14 homers. His stellar season helped the Lakers (33-18) reach the Region 20 title game and set a school record for wins over a two-year period (69).

Even with that kind of stat sheet, the unassuming shortstop said he wasn't expecting the national accolades.

"I was kind of shocked, you know?" Broadwater said. "I wasn't thinking about that at all."

"Noah represented all of us very well this year," said GC head coach Eric Hallenbeck, who won his 500th game with the Lakers during the 2026 season.

Broadwater capped off his JuCo career by hitting .467 with three home runs, 10 RBIs, and five runs in four Region 20 tournament games. The third-seeded Lakers eliminated both second-seeded CCBC-Essex and seventh-seeded Allegany College of Maryland to reach the Region 20 title game against eventual champion Frederick Community College.

Broadwater and teammates Hunter Dakan and Jesus Fermin were all named to the all-Region 20 Division II tournament team.

Broadwater was also Region 20 Player of the Month in April, when he slugged .759 as the Lakers went 13-7 for the month.

Broadwater earned an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Sport Management this spring, finishing with a 3.23 grade-point average.

Broadwater is the second Laker in as many seasons to be named to the NJCAA's all-American baseball team, following Brandyn Gonzalez's selection to the first team last spring. Broadwater credited his all-American campaign to several factors.

"I think I just tried to trust the process and trust the coaches," said Broadwater. "Having really good teammates and having a really good time with the team also helped."

AMERICA

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Local Historian Belva Dilly provided a walking history tour of Parsons. Participants included two Corrick descendants.



Captain Salathiel Goff (Marcus Mason) sits down for a visit with Martha Washington (Cynthia Phillips Kolsun) and a female (how scandalous for the time) Philadelphia Journalist (Debbie Stevens) at the Parsons Depot July 2nd.



The door prizes at Uncle Sam's Birthday Party focused on America's historic birthday.



This year's raffles included a Colonial Williamsburg getaway and a bourbon package that included $1,776. These packages complemented the other local raffle packages such as the Greenbrier getaway, two Get Tuckered Packages and much more.





Maid Silvia for the 88th Mountain State Forest Festival in September, Miss Emma Grace Snyder was on hand at Uncle Sam's Birthday Party July 3rd and helped Uncle Sam select a raffle ticket.



This year, select ticket holders could participate in "Patriotic Plinko" for a chance to win $150 to $500.





The final five ticket holders, minus Lowell Moore who could not attend and did not have a proxy named, await the outcome of the final drawings July 3rd. Lowell Moore was the final ticket holder of the evening and was the winner of the $5,000 grand prize.





That evening, Captain Salathiel Goff (Marcus Mason) sat down for a visit with Martha Washington (Cynthia Phillips Kolsun) and a female– how scandalous (for the time) - Philadelphia journalist (Debbie Stevens) at the Parsons Depot as part of Parsons America's 250th Main Street Celebration. Kolsun is a 6th generation descendant of Goff.

The Annual Uncle Sam's Birthday Party on Friday, July 3rd, featured expanded raffle items, including a Colonial Williamsburg getaway package, a bourbon package that included $1,1776 and a "Patriotic Plinko" game for amounts ranging from $150 to $500. The final ticket was raffled for $2,000 to the Roberts Family. The grand prize of $5,000, however went to Lowell Moore, who was not in attendance and had no proxy. Under the rules of the Party, the cards had to be drawn until his number was pulled before the others in attendance could decide whether to split. The 36th annual event was a fundraiser for the Tucker Community Foundation and helps to fund the organization's philanthropic endeavors throughout the year in Tucker, Randolph, Barbour, Grant, Preston, Garrett (MD), Mineral, Pendleton and Pocahontas Counties. For more information on the Tucker Community Foundation and their 36 years of "Good Work, Done Together," go to tuckerfoundationwv.org.



Mountaineer Days 2026 on July 4th, had the wind from an incoming storm threaten to ruin the fun during local artist Heather Hannah's performance. Vendors along the rail trail began to quickly pack up. The wind, however was short-lived and the rain passed by, with only a few drops before the fireworks to try to dampen the festivities. The party, however, went on regardless to what Mother Nature attempted to throw at America's Semiquincentennial in Tucker County.

July 5th had the Celebration of the Arts at Canaan Valley Resort's ski area. The event featured a free concert by the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra.



WVDNR Releases Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for 2026-2027 Seasons

Updated guide details changes to season dates, weapon regulations and bag limits

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) today released its Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for the upcoming 2026-2027 seasons. The annual publication outlines important regulations and season dates designed to manage West Virginia's wildlife resources while maximizing outdoor recreation.

"Hunting and trapping are a vital part of our state's heritage and these updated regulations are designed to sustain both our wildlife populations and our outdoor traditions," said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. "We encourage everyone to review this year's summary and get their licenses early so they can head into the woods this fall fully prepared for a safe and rewarding season."

The regulations summary available to download at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations. Hunters who wish to obtain a printed copy should contact their local hunting and fishing license agent or WVDNR district office. Copies will also be available at the WVDNR's operations center in Elkins and headquarters at the state Capitol in Charleston by July 1.

Hunters and trappers are strongly encouraged to carefully review the new summary, as it includes several notable modifications from previous years:

- The WVDNR has implemented adjustments to both big and small game season dates and designated open counties.
- Within Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties, bear and turkey may now be taken with any weapons that are legally permitted during the statewide Mountaineer Heritage Season.
- Youth hunters and Class Q permit holders are now permitted to take one antlered deer during the special split youth and Class Q seasons.

In addition to reviewing the regulations, hunters who have not yet purchased their 2026 West Virginia hunting license and stamps are encouraged to do so before hunting and trapping seasons start this fall. To purchase a license and stamps, visit WVhunt.com.



Leadership Garrett County graduated its 10th class last Thursday. Pictured, left to right, are Garrett College Coordinator of Professional Education Kimberly Govi, David Middleton, Andrew Tichinel, Anca Johnson, Chelsie Warnick, Kimberley Harless, Mandy Sturtz, Jeff Hovis, Director of Community & Professional Education Kaitlyn Glotfelty, and Registration Associate Emily Germond. Photo by John Rudd.

Leadership Garrett County graduates 10th class

Group takes on volunteerism challenge as cohort mission

McHenry, MD – Leadership Garrett County's Class of 2026's goal was simple – but that didn't make the objective any easier.

"We knew many people were interested in giving back to the community – they were just unsure where to begin," said Andrew Tichinel, a Garrett County Government employee who was one of the seven members of this year's class. "Our goal became to find practical and sustainable ways to increase awareness of community service opportunities."

The 10th LGC class, which graduated last Thursday, met at Garrett College throughout their five-month program. After much consideration, the group settled on one major strategy and several related initiatives to support their ultimate goal.

"We developed a volunteer interest survey," reported LGC participant Kimberley Harless, who works at First United Bank & Trust. "The survey identified past experiences, interests, and volunteer categories that could help match volunteers with organizations."

Respondents to the survey, launched at this spring's Garrett County Job Fair, identified those community service initiatives they would most be interested in supporting. More than 54 percent indicated animal services while 47 percent identified environmental/outdoor/parks as an interest. (Respondents could identify more than one choice.)

Class member Jeff Hovis, who works for the Green Room Lounge, said the "challenge was to create a catalyst to get from Point A" – willingness to be involved – "to Point B" – actually becoming a community volunteer. The survey ended up being an effective strategy toward that goal.

While the survey provided important information, it didn't achieve the cohort's ultimate goal – providing an online opportunity to connect potential volunteers with organizations needing additional volunteers. The cohort is looking for a local entity to step forward and match volunteers with organizations needing assistance.

Class of 2026 member Mandy Sturtz, a mortgage officer with First Peoples Community Federal Credit Union, said local businesses can play a huge part in supporting community engagement. She noted several of the community-related initiatives First Peoples supports.

"First Peoples offers employees time off to participate in volunteer activities," said Sturtz. "They provide employees the opportunity to take Volunteer Time Off [VTO] in increments of eight to 16 hours."

First Peoples also tracks volunteer hours so that employees can qualify for the company's annual Volunteer Award while providing "dollars for doers" – a program where First Peoples permits employees to designate funding to benefit volunteer organizations they support.

Anca Johnson (Ace's Run), Chelsie Warnick (Dove Center), and David Middleton (Garrett County Government) were also honored as graduates of the seven-member class.

Notes: Representatives of Leadership Garrett County's Class of 2024 and Class of 2025 also provided updates on their projects as part of the LGC graduation, which took place in the Performing Arts Center at Garrett College.

The 2027 Leadership Garrett County cohort will start in February 2027. Individuals interested in applying for a slot in next year's cohort should contact Kimberly Govi at kimberly.govi@garrettcollege.edu or 301.387.3084.

Obituary

Anthony Aaron "Tony" Loughry



Anthony Aaron "Tony" Loughry, age 84, passed away peacefully at his home on June 27, 2026. He was born in Rowlesburg, WV, on October 22, 1941, the son of the late Howard Dale Loughry, Sr. and Maxine Virginia (Hoff) Loughry.

Tony is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Lorraine Carol "Miss Sue" Loughry; his sister, Mary Louise Reeb (Irvin); two brothers, Howard Dale Loughry (Pearl) and Ronald Lee Loughry (Bethany Breetz); and close friends, Terry and Ruth Hart. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Irvin H. Reeb, Sr., and mother-in-law, Dorothy Lorraine (Everley) Reeb.

He attended Patterson Senior High School in Baltimore, MD and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating in 1960. He completed marksman specialist training at both Fort Jackson and Fort Bragg before being stationed overseas in Fulda, Germany. Following his military service,

Tony worked at Baltimore's legendary White Coffee Pot diner, as well as Baltimore Gas & Electric and Bethlehem Steel, before embarking on a successful career in the railroad industry. Over the years, he served as a brakeman, qualified foreman, and engineer for Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, Chessie System, and CSX Transportation.

Beyond his career, Tony was a dedicated and valued member of the Corinthian Lodge No. 93 A.F. & A.M. in Towson, MD. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Friends and family will be received at Hastings Funeral Home, 153 Spruce St., Morgantown, on Friday, July 3rd, from 12:00 p.m. until the time of funeral service. A funeral service was held at Hastings Funeral Home in Morgantown on Friday, July 3rd at 2:00 p.m., officiated by Pastor Donna Dalton.

A committal service will be held at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens, 10201 Bird River Rd., Baltimore, MD on Monday, July 6th at 1:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tony's memory to the Cool Springs Community Fire Department, 2760 Kingwood Pike, Morgantown, WV 26508.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.hastingsfuneralhome.com.

HIGHLAND

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There was live music at the Celebration for the rebranding of Highlands Bank in Petersburg July 1st.





Community members and staff mingled with members of the Board, the President & CEO of the Bank, the Petersburg Mayor, President of the Grant County Chamber of Commerce and more as Highlands Bank celebrated their rebranding in Petersburg July 1st.

As far as the customers checks, bank cards and accounts are concerned, Wilson said there is nothing to fear, it is business as usual. "Nothing changes," Wilson said. "Your passwords don't change, your log-ins don't change."

Facial recognition will ask for your password as a one-time log in to register a new facial recognition in the system, Wilson said, but otherwise, everything stays the same. Customers can even continue to Google Grant County Bank and it will link to Highlands Bank.

Customers can keep using Grant County Bank checks until they run out, at such time, Highlands Bank checks will be issued. Likewise, when bank cards and credit cards expire, new Highlands cards will be issued.

"I was up early this morning pushing the button to make sure, but everything works great," Wilson said.

Grants supporting another athletic campaign

Oakland couple, prominent in SGHS project, give to College initiative

McHenry, MD – Bill and Laurie Grant, who were prominent in raising funds for the Southern Garrett High School field house, are now part of the Garrett College Foundation's Athletics Capital Campaign.

Bill Grant said there were two key factors in their support of the Garrett College initiative: "Our love for Garrett County, followed by our love of the College."

"We've always put a high value on higher education," said Grant, who served on the Garrett College Board of Trustees in the 1980s, while Laurie – a retired Certified Family Nurse Practitioner (CFNP) – previously taught medical terminology at GC. "Garrett College feels like a second home for us."

The Oakland couple are the first Gold Tier donors on the donor wall in the 700 Building, which is being renovated as additional athletics facilities for GC's expanding intercollegiate athletics program. The renovated 700 will include locker rooms for the four teams serviced by the adjoining turf field – baseball, women's softball, women's soccer, and men's soccer – as well as new athletic training space, a wrestling room, a conference room, and coaches' offices.

"Bill and Laurie have been long-time generous donors to the College," said Dr. Richard Midcap, Garrett College's president. "I'm grateful they viewed this campaign as something they wished to support."



Laurie Grant, left, and husband Bill Grant are the first Gold Tier donors on the donor wall in Garrett College's 700 Building, which is being renovated as additional athletics facilities for GC's expanding intercollegiate athletics program.

"God ordained I wasn't going to be much of an athlete myself, but I've always loved athletics," said Grant. "Athletics is a great character builder. It can be a very important part of rounding out a student's education."

Grant, who spent nearly 20 years as president and chief executive officer of First United Bank & Trust before retiring in 2016, played a leading role in the Southern Garrett High School project as president of the SGHS Alumni Association. The association raised more than $450,000 of the cost for the new Southern field house, which includes two team rooms, bathrooms, and a large concession area.

Midcap said the GCF Athletics Capital Campaign is approaching $800,000 in gifts and pledges, and expects to close above $900,000 when the campaign is completed later this year.

"We currently have only four of 27 major gift opportunities remaining," he reported. "We are currently engaged with potential donors for the available namings, which are the four remaining spots on the Donor Archway."

Individuals interested in information about giving to the GCF Athletics Capital Campaign should contact Cherie Krug at cherie.krug@garrettcollege.edu or 301.387.3100.

4th Annual St. George Academy Homecoming



The fourth annual homecoming of the historic St. George Academy Saturday, June 27, 2026 was well attended with many of the attendees coming from out of state. Attendees viewed museum items honoring local heritage, looked-for old-school pictures of dates they attended the school as well as it's history. Local authors, Tom Felton, Carl Feather and Laura Mauzy were there autographing their books. Paul Mauzy, Board President, announced and crowned the 4th Academy Homecoming Queen, Priscilla (Nestor) Flanagan. She attended the Academy when she was in the 7th grade and recounted things she had learned and from her teacher, Mr. Alston White. After the queen crowning, punch and cookies were served and Mitch McClure, paraded the queen through St. George in his side by side. Mitch also supplied music for the event. A yard sale and snow cones were sold to raise money to paint the Academy. Donations are welcome and needed for the Academy restoration and can be sent to the St. George Academy, One Academy Lane, Parsons, WV 26287.

National Forensic Interviewers Week Kicks Off

Why the Forensic Interview is the Foundation of Child Abuse Investigations

Elkins, WV — Today kicks off National Forensic Interviewers Week – a week-long recognition for the forensic interviewers at Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) for the work they're doing with children daily when there is a disclosure or suspicion of abuse. A CAC provides a safe, child-friendly facility where child protection, criminal justice, and child treatment professionals work together to investigate abuse, hold offenders accountable, and help children heal.

Last year, West Virginia's 21 CACs served 4,734 children. Of those, 4,603 forensic interviews were conducted with 66% of children disclosing abuse. Locally, the Randolph Tucker CAC conducted 84 forensic interviews. Even when a child does not disclose, the multidisciplinary team may still have good cause to investigate the reports that prompted the child's services at the CAC.

Forensic interviews are the foundation for multiple CAC/Multidisciplinary Team functions including child abuse investigation, prosecution, child protection, and implementation of appropriate services, and may also be the beginning of the road toward healing for many children and families. The way a child is treated during the initial forensic interview may significantly impact the child's understanding of, and ability to respond to, the intervention process and/or criminal justice system.

Every CAC adheres to research-based forensic interview guidelines. They must monitor these guidelines over time to ensure they reflect current practice and best standards. At a minimum, any professional in the role of forensic interviewer must have initial and ongoing forensic interviewer training that is approved by the National Children's Alliance.

Forensic interviews are coordinated to avoid duplicative interviews and are conducted in a manner that is legally sound and of a neutral, fact-finding nature. This aims to prevent the added trauma to a child of re-telling their story to multiple agencies. When a child is unable or unwilling to provide information regarding any concern about abuse, other interventions to assess the children's safety and experience are required.

Most forensic interviews conducted by Randolph Tucker CAC involved allegations of child sexual abuse. If you suspect abuse or want to learn how to help, please contact us. We are here to help.

Created by Guardify, a Digital Evidence Management System, National Forensic Interviewers Week has been honoring the work of forensic interviewers across the country for five years now.

To learn more about forensic interviews and the services at Randolph Tucker CAC, visit rtcac.org.

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Welcome to Highlands Bank.

Visit Highlands.Bank or stop by your local branch to learn more.

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