The Parsons Advocate

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Volume 131 No. 28 | Wednesday, July 15, 2026 | $1.50 (tax incl.)



July 2026 began a new year and a new Council for the City of Parsons. Pictured from left: Council Members: Christopher Davis, Robert "Bob" Pase, James "Sam" Humphrey, City Manager Michael Simmons, Mayor Michael Matlick and Recorder Kathy DiBacco. Not pictured Council Members Seth Rosenau and Tim Turner.

City of Parsons Convenes New Council of 2026

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

July 2026 started in Parsons with a brand new City Council. July 7th, a new City of Parsons Council Convened at Charles W. "Bill" Rosenau Municipal Building located at 341 Second St. in Parsons.

Ward One saw whole new representation with both Council Members Melissa Jones and Josh Michael being replaced in the new session. A new Mayor was also present.

Representing Ward One: Christopher P. Davis, Robert W. Pase, Jr., James L. Humphrey, Jr.

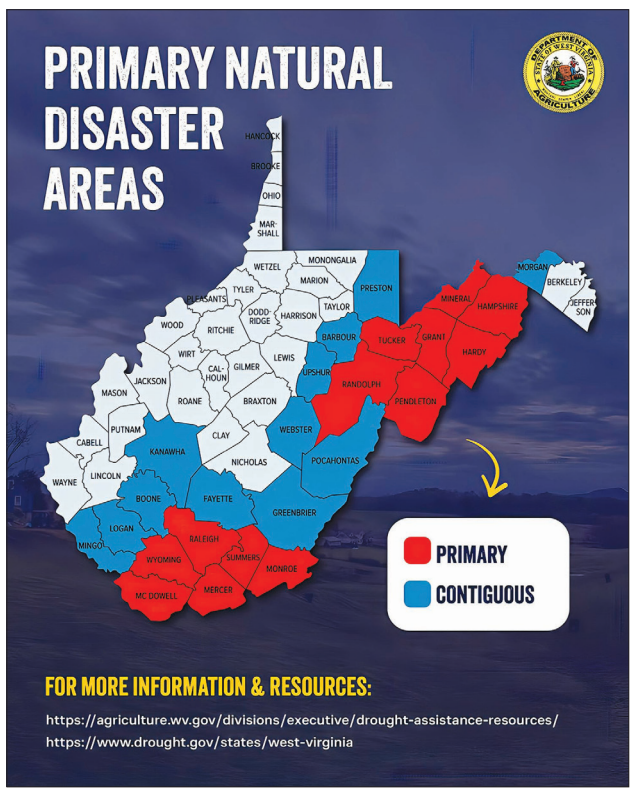
Mayor: Michael S. Matlick

Recorder: Kathy DiBacco

Ward Two: Seth Rosenau, Tim Turner

At the meeting, due to the sudden resignation of Recorder Rick Lemons, the Council voted to appoint Kathy DiBacco to the position of Recorder. Councilman Seth Rosenau was also voted to vacate his two year term to fill the remainder of DiBacco's remaining four year term, which would leave a vacant two year term to be filled on the Council.

The Council will be accepting applications for to fill the two year term and appoint a new member by vote at a later date based on the applications and an interviewing process.



USDA Designates Tucker County as Primary Natural Disaster Area

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Due to recent drought conditions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 13 West Virginia Counties, including Tucker, as Primary Natural Disaster Areas. Twelve additional contiguous Counties were also declared, as well. The West Virginia Department of Agriculture announced the development on July 9th in a Facebook post.

Farmers in these 25 Counties can apply to the USDA Farm Service Agency for emergency loan assistance, if they qualify. For more information, contact the local FSA office at fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/west-virginia.

For Farm Programs, the Randolph County Farm Service Agency at 200 Sycamore St. in Elkins serves Tucker County. The office is open Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call : 304-636-6703 or email tony.shaver@usda.gov.

See DISASTER page 2

Valley North Hosts Open House in Tucker County

What to Know About the Controversial Project

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Valley Link, the company behind the controversial Valley North power line project, held an informational Open House at Tucker County High School on Wednesday, July 8th hosted by Company spokesman Will Boye starting at 4 p.m. over 130 community members were in attendance for the event along with several members of local and State government including Tucker County Commissioners Mike Rosenau, Tim Knotts and Fred Davis, State Senators Robbie Morris and Bill Hamilton and House of Delegates Candidate Debbie Stiles.

Who are Valley Link

Valley Link Transmission Company LLC is a joint venture between Dominion Energy, Transource Energy (American Electric Power and Evergy) and FirstEnergy Transmission. A joint venture is when two or more companies come together for a specific project. There is no formal or legal structured partnership with clear roles or responsibilites, there was no merger or acquisition. The company was formed to build the Valley North Project across West Virginia to Maryland and the Joshua Falls – Yeat Project in Virginia, an 115 mile 765-kV line stretching across Central and Northern Virginia from Campbell

See VALLEY NORTH page 7

Fiscal Hiccup Causes Project Pause in Parsons

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Carrie Wallis of Region VII and Eric Sherrard from the Thrasher Group informed the Parsons City Council that there had been issues with the payment system from the EPA. The issues stemmed from access still being assigned to a former employee no longer with the City.

"We have payout number one and payout number two approved by the EPA," Wallis said. "Once they approve it, we can go into the federal drawdown system...and drawdown those funds. When we went to do that, we learned that a prior employee that is no longer here had

See FISCAL page 2

Valley North Transmission Line Project Comments
Located Under Opinions on Page 7

Road Work Information

County Route 25, Sugar Lands Road will have a full road closure, beginning Monday, July 13, 2026, through Friday, July 17, 2026, for embankment stabilization work.

TUCKER COUNTY, WV – County Route 25, Sugar Lands Road., between milepost 0.38 and milepost 1.41 will have a full road closure from 7:00am- 5:00pm beginning Monday, July 13, 2026, through Friday, July 17, 2026, for embankment stabilization work. Road closed signs will be placed at both ends of the road and at the work site for residents. All through traffic must seek alternate routes; no residents will be affected. Special allowance for emergency vehicles and United States Postal Service will be made; all motorists are to expect delays.

County Route 41, Government Road will have a complete road closure, beginning Wednesday, July 15, 2026, through Thursday, July 16, 2026, for a culvert replacement project.

TUCKER COUNTY, WV – County Route 41, Government Road., between milepost 3.63 and milepost 3.67 will have a full road closure from 7:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. beginning Wednesday, July 15, 2026, through Thursday, July 16, 2026, for a culvert replacement project. Road closed signs will be placed on the road. All traffic must seek alternate routes; there will be no special allowance for emergency vehicles and United States Postal Service.

Cub Scouts Coming to Tucker



Chris Wilson received a $500 grant from the Tucker County Commission July 8th towards the start-up of a Cub Scout Troop in Tucker County.

By: Lydia Crawley
The Parsons Advocate

Tucker County High School teacher Chris Wilson appeared before the Tucker County Commission July 8th to request funding for a new Cub Scout Troop. Wilson said he was appearing with no affiliation with the school,

See CUB SCOUTS page 2

Quilt of Valor



July 2nd before the historical reenactment at the Parsons Depot, there was a Quilt of Valor presentation. A Quilt of Valor was presented to local veteran Justin Vandevender. Debbie Stevens made the presentation on behalf of the organization. Vandevender had been nominated a couple of years ago, but Stevens said that it can take a few years for nominees to receive their quilts. According to Stevens, the organization has distributed 447,658 quilts as of May 31, 2026 and 11,679 in 2026 alone. Quilts of Valor was founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts when her son was deployed in Iraq. To nominate a service member of living veteran or for more information on Quilts of Valor go to qovf.org.

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News of Record

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

- **Sara J. Chua and Douglas E. Cowgill,** Davis Corporation, 1.66 acres +/- to John M. Bell, Trustee; John M. Bell Revocable Trust, $620,000.
- MTP-WV LLC, Dry Fork District, Confirmatory Deed: Parcel A – 2.45 acres, Parcel B - .69 acres and Parcel C – 3.54 acres to MTP-WV LLC.
- **Bruce Bland Jr, and Alissa Harvey Bland**, Dry Fork District, Land of Canaan Vacation Resort Unit C1 Wee 33 to Land of Canaan Home Owners Association Inc., $1,182.50.
- **Kasey Statum,** Dry Fork District, Land of Canan Vacation Resort Unit A5 Week 13 to Land of Canaan Home Owners Association Inc., $600.
- **Land of Canaan Home Owners Association Inc.,** Dry Fork District, Land of Canaan vacation Resort Unit C3 Week 9 to Brian Bellomy and Leigh Bellomy, $600.
- **Zachary David Adams,** Dry Fork District, Parcel one, 0.99 acres and Parcel Two, 0.85 acres to Lee Alan Falls and Bailey Falls, $260,000.
- **Connie L. Roth,** Dry Fork District, Unit A3 Week 24 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Rachel Ruffing and Michael Ruffing, $250.00
- **Linda J. Prickett and Donald R. Prickett**, Licking District, Transfer on Death Deed – Lot #5, East Side Cheat River to Jason B. Prickett.
- **John T. Johnson and Leana Johnson,** Parsons Corporation, Lot C-4, Lee Addition to Hunter L. Bohon and Elizabeth Bohon, $82,400.
- **Ethan Rouzee and Darby Rouzee,** St. George District, Partition Deed – establishing 7 Lots A-G to Samuel Hess, Erin Hess, Eric Hayes, Melissa Hayes, Steven C. Shaffer, Brittany Shaffer, Chad Metheny, Wendy Metheny, Michael Lipscomb, Jessica Lipscomb, Woodrow E. Turner, Tina Turner, Ethan Rouzee and Darby Rouzee.
- **Barry J. Penrod and Lori Turner/FKA/ Lori A. Penrod,** Thomas Corporation, 1.57 acres to Lori Turner.
- **Lori Turner,** Thomas Corporation, 1.55 acres to Benjamin Beasley, $47,500.
- **Western Pocahontas Properties Limited,** Thomas Corporation, Special Warranty Deed: 26.6 acres to Corbin Valley LLC, $199,500.

CUB SCOUTS

Cont. From Page 1

but rather as a Scout Master, in the hopes of bringing a Cub Scout Troop to Tucker County.

"I'm starting off a Cub Scout Troop. It is going to be headquarted up in Canaan Valley," Wilson said. "It will serve youth throughout the County."

Wilson said there hasn't been an active troop in Tucker County for at least a decade. He said the goal was to start up a troop that once started will have enough fundraising efforts to be self sustaining in the future.

"But for now we just need some money to get off the ground," Wilson said.

Wilson said there is a cost for equipment that would be owned collectively by the troop, rather than the individual scout members such as; tents, ropes, backpacks, etc.

"I wouldn't necessarily be asking new members to be buying that stuff if they aren't long-term members, it wouldn't be fair," Wilson said.

Wilson said the goal of the Troop is to help the children to learn hands on skills, build community and friendships outside their existing circles.

Wilson said that the Troop has solicited funds from the Tucker Community Foundation and Mountain Trials in Davis has donated equipment.

The Commission approved $500 of the Troop's $1,111 request with the caveat that after the Troop receives word from the other agencies that Wilson has solicited funds from, if the Troop still needs funding, he can come back to the Commission for a further request.

"I think that Scouts is a wonderful things," Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau said. "Just the history of it in our County. I'm glad you're starting it up."

The Troop's first meeting is September 3h. Wilson said that seven Scouts have already signed up and the there is room for 12 in the Troop. Yearly registration is $85, but scholarships are available if needed. Membership is open to boys and girls.

For more information on the Cub Scout Troop or to donate contact Chris Wilson at cthomaswilson1@gmail.com.

FISCAL

Cont. From Page 1

that access."

Wallis went on to say that Region VII went through the process of getting City Manager Mike Simmons assigned to the drawdown account, along with Carrie Wallis to the City of Parsons account. Wallis said she also had to edit the bank account because the prior bank account was closed, a process that takes 10-12 business days to add the new bank account.

Wallis said that, as of the meeting, it was "day 10" since the changes were made. Both she and Simmons were keeping a close track of the account for when the drawdown could be accessed and the contractor could be paid.

"We still can't draw it down, but it should definitely be there in the next two business days," Wallis said.

As a result of non payment, the contractor had "about a million into" the project, according to Sherrard. The non payment resulted in the contractor deciding to halt construction for a week, pending payment.

"I think they were in about a million dollars and they'd asked if they'd get punished if they sat tight until they at least got some of their payment," Sherrard said.

Wallis said that a payment arrangement has been made to tide the contractor by until the EPA money is available. The City will transfer funds from savings to pay the first two invoices, which will allow the contractor to return to work on the sewer project the following week.

"In the meantime, since First Fruits took this week off because they haven't been paid yet and this is payout number four that you're looking at right now, I went ahead a paid them for payout number one and payout number two out of the Governor's Fund," Wallis said. "Mike is going to transfer those from savings to checking tomorrow. So at least they are paid on those two and they will just have three and four outstanding."

The Governor's Funds will be reimbursed once the EPA funds are available for drawdown, Wallis said. A motion for the payouts was made by Councilman Tim Turner and passed unanimously.

"We are trying to make sure they are ready and scheduled for next week," Sherrard said.

Free History Program August 8 in Moorefield

On Saturday, August 8, 2026 from 4:00 to 5:00 PM, Friends of Blackwater will present a free, family-friendly, public history program at the South Branch Inn in Moorefield, West Virginia.

The program's title is "The African American Experience of Struggle and Achievement in West Virginia's Allegheny Highlands."

The program will feature two distinguished West Virginia scholars: Dr. Cicero M. Fain III, author of "Black Huntington: An Appalachian Story," and Dr. Tamara Denmark Bailey, Assistant Professor of History at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

The program will include a virtual tour of Black history sites in the Highlands, and selections from oral history interviews. A public reception with refreshments will follow.

"This is a great chance for people of all ages to learn from experts about West Virginia history!" said Tom Rodd, speaking for Friends of Blackwater.

Travel assistance scholarships are available for students, teachers, and community members. The program is a project of Friends of Blackwater and Aurora Research Associates, supported by the National Park Service.

For more information, and to RSVP, go to https://actionnetwork.org/events/black-history-in-the-highlands/ . Or, call Courtney Zimmerman at 304-685-7410; or email courtney@aurora-llc.com.

DISASTER

Cont. From Page 1

For Farm Loan Programs, the Grant County Farm Service Agency at 8 Maple Hill Ave. Suite 1, Petersburg serves Tucker County.The office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 304-257-4702 or email daniel.yokum@usda.gov.

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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

Tucker County Players Help Lead Citizens Bank to Elkins Babe Ruth Tournament Championship



By: Adam Freeman

Citizens Bank capped off its season in impressive fashion by winning the Elkins Babe Ruth "Fuzz Jones City Tournament", with a strong group of Tucker County players playing a major role in the championship run.

Five members of the championship team, Zane Carr, Quinton Teter, Wade Boyles, Braylon Simmons and Sawyer Supak, are from Tucker County. The team is also coached by Tucker County resident Dylan Warren, making the title a proud accomplishment for the neighboring community.

Throughout the tournament, Citizens Bank played solid baseball on both sides of the ball. The Tucker County players made valuable contributions all season long, helping the team come together when it mattered most.

For Carr, Teter, Boyles, Simmons and Supak, the tournament title is a memorable way to close out the Babe Ruth season. Along with Coach Warren, they represented Tucker County well and helped bring home the Babe Ruth End-of-Season Tournament championship.

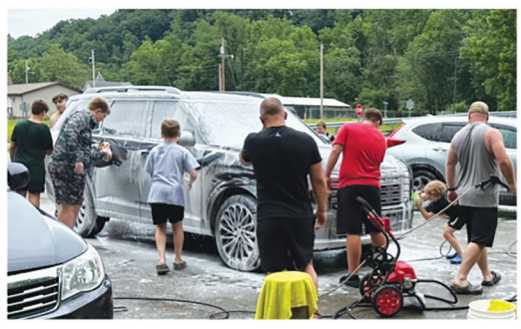
















Tucker Valley Middle School Football Team Scores Big with Annual Community Fundraiser

By: Adam Freeman

The Tucker Valley Middle School football team hosted its annual car wash, bake sale, and hot dog fundraiser this past Friday, enjoying another successful event thanks to the tremendous support of the local community and beyond.

Throughout the day, supporters stopped by to have their vehicles washed while browsing tables filled with homemade baked goods. Guests also enjoyed hot dogs topped with the football program's famous hot dog sauce and refreshing cold lemonade as they waited for their cars to shine. The fundraiser even welcomed visitors from five different states, with many complimenting the team's hospitality and the community's welcoming atmosphere.

Head Coach Freeman said the fundraiser is about much more than raising money for the program.

"These events are great for our boys in so many ways," Freeman said. "They build team bonding, teach work ethic and accountability, and give the players a little skin in the game. When they've worked to help earn their equipment, uniforms, and support for the program, they take more pride in it and have greater respect for everything they have."

Coach Freeman also expressed his gratitude to everyone who helped make the fundraiser a success.

"We are incredibly thankful for the support of our community," Freeman said. "A special thank you goes to the City of Parsons and the Park Board for generously donating the use of their facilities and water for the event. We also couldn't have done it without the many parents and volunteers who donated baked goods, gave their time, and helped run the fundraiser."

Freeman added that the continued support from the community is what makes the Tucker Valley football program so special.

"It really does take a village," he said, "and we have the best one."

The Tucker Valley Middle School football team and coaching staff extend their sincere appreciation to everyone who attended, donated, and continues to support the program throughout the year.

TCHS Boys Sports Success Lands Them in Top 10 of Champions Cup Standings

By: Adam Freeman

The Tucker County High School boys athletic program has earned statewide recognition, finishing 7th overall in the 2026 The Health Plan Champions Cup standings.

The Health Plan Champions Cup recognizes the top boys' and girls' athletic programs in each of the four classifications of the West Virginia Secondary School Athletic Conference (WVSSAC). Schools earn points based on their performance in state championship events across multiple sports. In addition to athletic success, programs receive points for their previous year's graduation rates, emphasizing excellence both on the field and in the classroom.

Tucker County's boys program accumulated 481 total points, securing a 7th-place finish among Class A schools. The top-10 ranking reflects the dedication, hard work, and success of the Mountain Lions' student-athletes, coaches, and supporters throughout the 2025-26 school year.

Tucker Boys Basketball Cruise Into Summer League Bracket Play as #1 Seed

By: Adam Freeman

The TCHS boys basketball team finished up their regular summer league schedule at Keyser High School last week. Tucker faced two opponents, the first being regional rival Pendleton County. The Mt. Lions absolutely ran the Wildcats out of the gym in this one, outscoring them 70-19 and finishing the game with a running clock.

The Mt. Lions were even shorthanded this week, as senior Ethan Cummings was sidelined with an illness. Tucker then faced AAAA Hampshire County. TCHS was battled in this one but pulled away from the Trojans, 56-45, to secure a double-digit victory.

Tucker now sits as the No. 1 seed heading into the league tournament. The date and time for their opponent are still TBA. The Mt. Lions do have another opponent to battle next week, and that is simply availability. With several players having vacations scheduled, Tucker isn't quite sure who will be suiting up next week.

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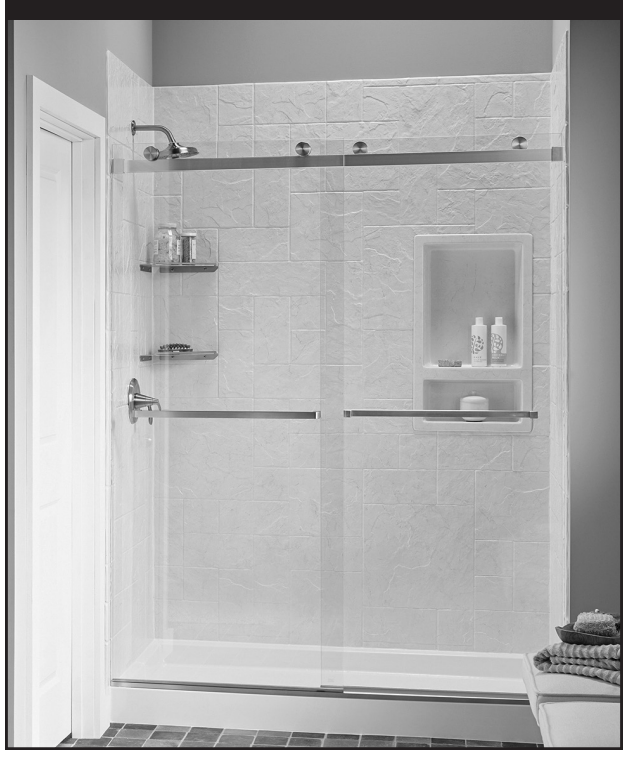
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WEST VIRGINIA Press
ASSOCIATION • SERVICES • FOUNDATION

What's Happening

Retired School Employees Meeting Wed July 15

TC Retired School Employees meeting is Wednesday July 15 at TC Senior Center in Parsons. Lunch is available at 11:30 if you wish, meeting to follow at 12:00 noon. All retirees are welcome.

Five Rivers Public Library

Wacky Water Wednesday, July 15 @ 1-3 pm. Free community event. Get ready to SPLASH into an awesome summer after noon. Join us for fabulous water games and tie dye your own library bag. Don't miss the wildest water party of the year, it's going to be wacky!

St. George Senior Outpost is Thursday July 16

St. George Senior Outpost is Thursday, July 16 at 6:00 pm at the St. George Community Church. Bring a covered dish and join us for good food and fellowship.

Heckler Family Reunion

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

The Tucker County Historical Museum

The Tucker County Historical Museum will be opened on July18 and July 25, 2026 (Saturdays) from 1:00 to 3:00. Everyone is welcome to visit.

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

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 15, 1886: Congressman Cleveland Monroe "Cleve" Bailey was born on a farm in Pleasants County. He represented West Virginia's third congressional district for eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1945–47 and 1949–63.

July 15, 1915: The West Virginia Folklore Society was founded in Morgantown by John Harrington Cox, Robert Allen Armstrong and Walter Barnes.

July 15, 1988: Interstate 64 was completed when the final section between Sam Black Church and the West Virginia Turnpike was opened to traffic.

July 16, 1791: Adam Stephen, a physician and Revolutionary War general often credited as the founder of Martinsburg, died at his home in that city.

July 16, 1869: Philanthropist Michael Late Benedum was born in Bridgeport. He made a fortune in the oil and gas business but is best remembered for establishing the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

July 16, 1877: The first nationwide labor strike in U.S. history began in Martinsburg, after the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad cut worker's wages. Federal troops soon put down the violence in Martinsburg, but the strike continued across the country for another 52 days.

July 17, 1775: Two months after the Revolutionary War started, Hugh Stephenson's 98-man rifle company left Shepherdstown, marched 600 miles in 24 days and arrived in Cambridge to help defend Massachusetts.

July 17, 1861: The Battle of Scary Creek took place in Putnam County. It was one of the earliest battles of the war and one of the first Confederate victories.

July 17, 1914: Singer Eleanor Steber was born in Wheeling. She made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1940.



July 21, 1924: Don Knotts was born in Morgantown. The comedy legend will be forever remembered for portraying Barney Fife on The Andy Griffith Show.

July 17, 1921: Marcenia "Toni" Stone was born in Bluefield. She was the first woman to play professional baseball for a previously all-male team. In 1953, she joined the Indianapolis Clowns of the old Negro American League, replacing the team's second baseman, Hank Aaron,

HISTORY CONT. PAGE 9

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!

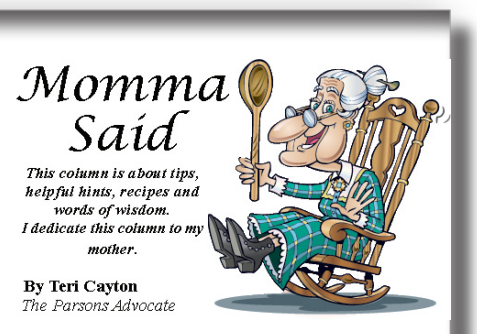
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Weather Totals June 30 - July 7, 2026

Nursery Bottom Parsons

Temperature		Precipitation	
Max	93° F	Week	0.91"
Min	66° F	July	0.91"
		2026	30.08"
		Snowfall	
Winter Total			46.5"

U.S. Forest Service



By Teri Cayton
The Parsons Advocate

The summer is already half over and it seems as if it just began. Days are flying by turning into weeks flying by. When we are doing the paper, we are always working a week ahead of time and that really seems to speed time up. **Momma Said,** "Blink too fast and you could teleport yourself into the future."

Some days it is as if I just start work and it is time to go home, then other days seem to be hours and hours before it is time to leave. It feels as if the aliens came down and put me in a time warp that never ends. And the weather makes it feels that I am in the story of The Three Bears, it is either too hot or too wet to do anything, never just right. But the fighter in me says whatever comes the job must be done.

I am complaining about the heat and rain, I guess before too long I will be complaining about the cold and snow. I can never be satisfied but the weather is something that you just put up with during West Virginia summers. **Momma Said,** "Just go with the flow because what will be, will be."

Cherry Galette with Almond Pastry Crust

INGREDIENTS

Almond Pastry Dough:

- ½ Cup Sliced Almonds Toasted
- 1 ¼ Cups All-Purpose Flour
- 1 Tablespoon Sugar
- ½ Teaspoon Salt
- 8 Ounces Chilled Unsalted Butter Cut Into Cubes
- ½ Teaspoon Lemon Juice
- 4 To 6 Tablespoon Ice Water As Needed

Cherry Filling:

- *3 ½ Cups Pitted Sweet Cherries Fresh Or Frozen*
- *¼ Cup Sugar*
- *2 Tablespoons Cornstarch*
- *Zest From 1 Orange*
- *1 Egg Beaten*
- *Raw Sugar*

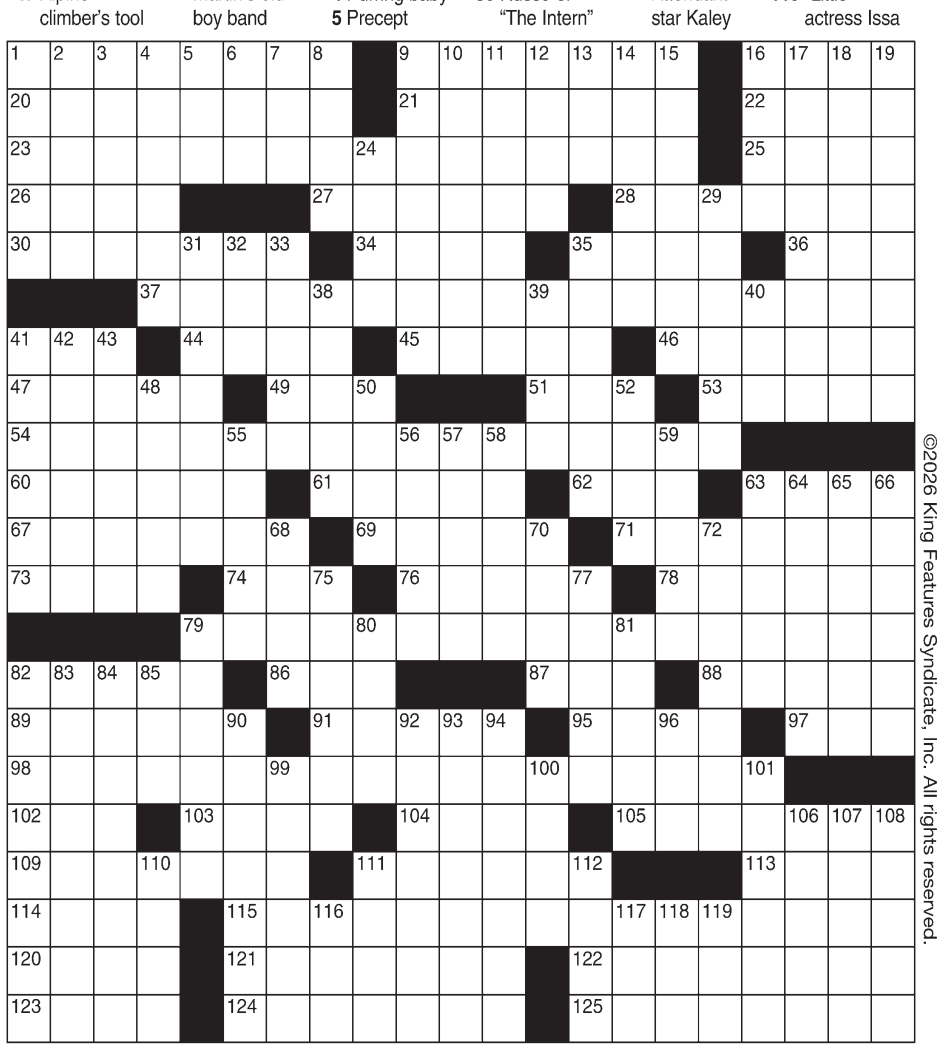
INSTRUCTIONS

- Freeze the butter cubes for 15 minutes before starting.
- Place the almonds in the bowl of a food processor and pulse a few times until coarsely chopped. Add the flour, sugar, and salt to the food processor bowl. Add the semi-frozen butter cubes and pulse together with the flour until the butter chunks in the flour are about the size of peas. Add the lemon juice and 4 tablespoons of water, drizzling over the flour as evenly as you can, and pulse the mixture again to get the dough to come together. You may need to add more water to get to this stage. (Alternatively, you can mix by hand using a pastry cutter or your fingers to cut the butter into the mixture until it resembles coarse crumbles. Then mix in the lemon juice and enough water to bring the dough together.)
- Transfer the dough to a counter dusted with flour and shape the dough into a disk. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least thirty minutes before using. You can also do this step a day ahead of time.
- When you're ready to assemble the galette, let the pastry sit out on the counter for 5 minutes just to soften slightly.
- Pre-heat the oven to 425°F.
- Roll the pastry out into an 11-inch circle about ¼-inch thick. Transfer the circle to a sheet pan lined with parchment paper.
- In a medium bowl, combine the pitted cherries, sugar, cornstarch and orange zest. Immediately place the fruit in the middle of the pastry circle, leaving a 2 to 3-inch border around the edge of the circle. Fold the edges of the pastry up around the cherry filling, pressing the pasty slightly so it stays in place. The center of the cherries should still be exposed.
- Brush the pastry with the egg wash and sprinkle with a little raw or sanding sugar.
- Bake at 425°F for about 35 minutes, until the pastry is nicely browned, and the cherries are bubbling.
- Let cool for at least 20 minutes before serving. Serve warm or room temperature with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. Garnish with toasted almonds if desired.

Super Crossword — CHARGING JOE

ACROSS
1 Reserves of stock
9 Person applying a mail stick-on
16 Understands
20 Actress Palicki of "Friday Night Lights"
21 Popcorn personage Redenbacher
22 Out of the wind, nautically
23 Start of a riddle
25 Watson of "Little Women"
26 Was bested
27 Rug threads
28 Emo of zany comedy
30 Crafty plans
34 Arnaz of "I Love Lucy"
35 Have in mind
36 King, in Paris
37 Riddle, part 2
41 Unhappy
44 Almonds, e.g.
45 See 63-Across
46 Jamaican music genre
47 Alpine climber's tool
49 Extra NFL periods
51 Actress Long of "Missing"
53 Nobelist Bohr
54 Riddle, part 3
60 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 film)
61 Check casher, e.g.
62 Pre-2001 space station
63 With 45-Across, informed on the latest
67 Lacking living organisms
69 Shampoo brand
71 Vidal — (shampoo brand)
73 Some till bills
74 Helium, e.g.
76 Dot in the ocean
78 Fife sound
79 Riddle, part 4
82 Pong producer
86 Tart's cousin
87 Capote, to his pals
88 "The First 48" network
89 Ricky Martin's old boy band
91 "Sir," in colonial India
95 "Hey there, tiger!"
97 Wee child
98 End of the riddle
102 Yoga chants
103 Loosen up
104 Tolkien trilogy initials
105 To some degree
109 Popular rum brand
111 Swindling guy
113 Really ruin
114 Scraped (out)
115 Riddle's answer
120 Give for a while
121 Determines the sum of
122 Thief's activity
123 Uno + dos
124 Some tax cheats
125 Lays out for proofing

DOWN
1 Cries loudly
2 Like a one-off committee
3 Fail suddenly
4 Purring baby
5 Precept
6 "Warzone" singer Yoko
7 Wildebeest
8 Narcissist's love
9 People crying loudly
10 Maple fluid
11 Greed for wealth
12 Russian-built fighter jets
13 Arafat's gp., once
14 Formed a secret union?
15 Ginger's trait
16 Scottish Celt
17 Suburb of Phoenix
18 Pertaining to time
19 Ocean coasts
24 "White Flag" singer of 2003
29 Have in mind
31 Tailless feline breed
32 Aussie bird
33 New Jersey's — Hall University
35 Smaller than large
38 Lens aperture setting
39 Russo of "The Intern"
40 Hi-tech movie effects
41 Hold to one's decision
42 Novelist Chinua
43 Buy and sell
48 Eldest of the Musketeers
50 Suddenly lose patience
52 Warts and all
55 Pal, in Peru
56 Song line
57 Kin of "Oy!"
58 Beautiful, in Bologna
59 Poetic Muse
63 Old Glory's land, informally
64 Really strong
65 City in Spain or Ohio
66 A short round of tennis
68 Al who drew the Yokums
70 For fear that
72 To the extent that
75 Bern's land, to the French
77 Australia Zoo owner Irwin
79 Not as messy
80 Harvest
81 "The Flight Attendant" star Kaley
82 Bandoleer, informally
83 Drink infusing device
84 Cutoff cry from a film director
85 Long to undo
90 Out with one's sweetie
92 Hint-providing columnist
93 "My thoughts exactly"
94 Alternatives to GIFs or JPEGs
96 Hulk Hogan's 1980s org.
99 Isaac of sci-fi
100 Actress Drescher
101 Sings in the Alps, perhaps
106 Perez of film
107 Quaint reply of denial
108 Canoodles, in Cambridge
110 Determines the sum of
111 Street rep
112 Hawk's home
116 Plato's "H"
117 Hog's home
118 Vivacity
119 "Little" actress Issa



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Puzzle answers page 4

FIND US ON

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that a foreign will or affidavit has been filed been before the Tucker County Commission at 211 First St., Suite 205, Parsons, WV 26287.

That no appointment or administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of law but that a foreign will or affidavit of heirs of the following decedent has been filed with the Tucker County Commission and is of record in the Tucker County Clerk's Office.

Any interested person objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this State must be filed with the County Commission within 60 days after the first publication date or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred.

1st Publication Date:	July 15, 2026
2nd Publication Date:	July 22, 2026
Decedent:	Todd Alan Isaacson, Sr.
Filed By:	Chelsea Kelley
	302 North Crestview Drive
	Moses Lake, WA 98837
Relationship:	daughter
1st Publication Date:	July 15, 2026
2nd Publication Date:	July 22, 2026
Decedent:	Mary Lee Slavin Isaaacson
Filed By:	Jesse Slavin
	3022 Pimlico Lane
	Corpus Cristi, TX 78418
Relationship:	son

Subscribed and sworn to before me on July 6, 2026
Barbara Evans
Tucker County Clerk

Letter to the Editor

I have been following the unfolding story about the AI data center plans for the past year and was struck by the very articulate and well-written letters about it from Shaena M. Crossland, Deborah Stiles, and Joseph Wilson Dumire. All three noted the lack of transparency from the developers and tech companies making promises and basically counting on the general pubic to be naïve and passive- only focusing on the promise of jobs and tax revenue, and how the Thomas data center would very negatively impact our way of life here. As Mr. Dumire pointed out, this is not how our government is supposed to function- and it's a symptom of a much larger, more pervasive problem taking hold in our country.

I recently came across a short story that had originally appeared in The New York Times, that was about another small rural community facing the same issue. In tiny Broadview Mont., population 140 souls about 30 miles from Billings. It's a rural farming and ranching community where residents enjoy fresh air, quiet, and the beauty of their environment. They are currently in the midst of exactly what we're going through here, only they are facing a mega data center on 5,000 acres, the size of 3,800 football fields. The approach of the tech companies and developers behind this is just what we've been experiencing in our community; representatives are coming into our meetings with scripted, pat responses to our questions, reassuring folks with "you just need to trust us" when asked about the proposed water and electricity use. The overall aim is to approach communities of interest in a quick and quiet way and move on to their next data center. Some town councils have been asked to sign nondisclosure agreements with developers to keep them silent about the project. Is this really how our country works these days? We all need to look to how other communities have organized to, at the very least, hinder these data centers.

In Montana, tech companies and their developers have currently already built 3 large centers and several smaller ones are proposed there- lured by a governor with a plan to make the vast open rural state a data center hub with promises of tax breaks. So let's have a quick primer on Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centers:

Q: What exactly is a data center?

A: Since we've had computers (started out with large mainframes in companies/institutions), there have been data centers… small remote ones. Data centers being built now are huge in size and scope to accommodate the tremendous processing power of the new AI models. A data center is a warehouse-size building that holds 'a sea' of computer servers that run 24/7 collecting, processing, and storing data. Data centers need a lot of water, in some cases more water than a small city needs -because the servers create intense heat and require continuous cooling. Water in rural Montana is a precious resource and folks already have low water flow in most areas. Additionally, data centers require massive amounts of electricity too. The proposed mega data center in Broadview manipulated the North Western Energy Co., Montana's largest power provider, to sign a letter of intent to provide up to 7,000 megawatts to the data center- more power than is generated by the Grand Coulee Dam- the largest power plant in the country….making this data center the largest in the world. When further questioned about this and the impact on power for the local residents, a spokesperson for the developer assured those in attendance that the data center would bring its own power (but refused any guarantees or details) and explained that power would be generated from solar and natural gas…..and that the data centers would not need "that terribly much water anyway". Folks in MT are concerned about their wells running dry and their electric bills becoming unaffordable. This has certainly been the case with many data centers across the country/world already in operation.

Q: What kind of jobs will the data centers bring to the community?

A: Most of the (temporary) construction will be done by crews who have built other data centers in the general area. As far as permanent jobs, these will consist of (depends on the size of the data center and again, nothing is guaranteed or in writing) about 30-50 unskilled positions such as janitors, maintenance workers and security guards.

Q: What can be done to stop or at least slow these data centers -and at least put in some guardrails?

A: The residents in Broadview, MT have one very determined woman, Kassi Solberg, who is at the helm of this issue in that community. She is pushing for zoning regulations/protections and moratoriums on data centers so their full impact can be studied. She is lobbying state legislators and looking at what other US communities have done as a benchmark for approaching what she calls "the monster coming". People across the country have been successfully recalling politicians who refuse to endorse moratoriums and storming town halls demanding concrete legal protections. Moratoriums on data centers were put on the ballot in Ohio but were tabled for now. The citizen-led zoning requires the approval of at least 60% of the landowners whose properties border the data center land and in MT, some ranchers have already leased their land to the developers. Basically, the developers are telling local residents that they can always just move. Most have been on their land for multiple generations.

Q: What if all this AI frenzy turns out to be a bubble that bursts?

A: In that case, and it could happen, there will be a lot of abandoned half built/built data centers left to beautify our landscapes. Just like AI itself, no guardrails have been placed on its use and everyday we're seeing the impact of that. The rush to get these huge data centers up and running -at all costs- will eventually bring misery to too many of us.

Dr. M. Selena Yearwood
Davis, WV

NOTICE TO MON POWER CUSTOMERS WITH RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY

Mon Power has contracted to maintain portions of its rights-of-way with an aerial saw consisting of approximately ten 24-inch rotary blades powered by a motor and suspended on a vertical boom beneath a helicopter. This maintenance method allows for the quick, safe, and efficient trimming of trees along our transmission lines. The aerial saw will be operating April through September 2026 in the following counties in West Virginia:

Tucker-Randolph-Pendleton Counties (William-Seneca # 160 138 kV)
A transmission line in Tucker, Randolph and Pendleton Counties, extending in a southeasterly direction from William Substation near Thomas, WV. The line crosses State Route 93 approximately one and one-half miles north of Davis and then travels in a straight-line east of Davis continuing through Canaan Valley, near State Route 32 and running along the ridges east of Harman. The line crosses the Allegheny Mountains near the Randolph/Pendleton County line, continuing near Onego and Teterton and ending near Germany Valley Limestone Company at Seneca Substation.

For more information about Mon Power's Transmission Aerial Saw Program, call 1-800-686-0022. When contacting, please alert our Representatives that your call is pertaining to our Transmission Aerial Saw Program.

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EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Policy of Nondiscrimination

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ADA Coordinator
Monica Wilson/
Student Services
316 Eastern Drive
Moorefield, WV 26836
304-434-8000

Title IX Coordinator/EEO/AA
Jaennae Snyder, HR Representative
316 Eastern Drive
Moorefield, WV 26836
304-434-8000

The College complies with applicable Federal, State, and Local laws including the following: 20 USC 1681 et. seq. (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972); 29 USC 206(d) et seq. (Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended); 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2 (Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act); 29 USC 621, et seq. (Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended); 42 USC §§ 6101-6107 (Age Discrimination Act of 1975); 29 USC 701 et seq. (Rehabilitation Act of 1973); 29 USC 791 et seq. (Rehabilitation Act of 1992); 38 USC 4301 et seq. (Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994); 42 USC 1981 et seq. (Civil Rights Act of 1991); 42 USC 12101 et seq, (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990-ADA); 42 USC 12101 et seq. (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008); 42 USC 2000e(k) (Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978); 42 USC §§ 2000gg-2000gg-6 (Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act of 2022); 42 USC 2000d-2000d-7 (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended); 42 USC 2000e et seq. (Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended); 42 USC 2000ff et seq., (Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008-GINA).

Degree Programs	Certificate Programs	Certification Programs
Accounting	Accounting	Certified Nursing Assistant
Associate in Arts	Allied Health Care	Dental Assisting
Associate in Science	Artificial Intelligence	Industrial Equipment Maintenance
Automotive Technology	Automotive Technology	Medical Assistant
Biological & Environmental Technology	Biological & Environmental Technology	Microsoft® Office Specialist
Board of Governors	Business Management	Pharmacy Technician
Business Management	Cyber Intelligence	Phlebotomy Technician
Cyber Intelligence	Electromechanical Technology	Residential Care Specialist
Early Childhood Development	Hospitality & Tourism Management	Welding
General Studies	Paraprofessional in Education	
Nursing	Technical Studies	
Technical Studies	Wind Energy Technology	
Wind Energy Technology		

General Admission Requirements for Eastern West Virginia and Technical College Students seeking admission to EWVCTC as a degree seeking student must submit the following: (Please see College Catalog for specific information).

1) Application for Admission
2) GED or HS Diploma or TASC Assessment
3) ACT/SAT/Accuplacer Scores
4) High school and/or College Transcripts

Some programs have limited enrollment and require additional requirements for admission. Please visit the website at www.easternwv.edu or call 304-434-8000 for further information.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PARSONSADVOCATE.COM

Opinion

Valley North Transmission Line Project Comments

I am opposed to the Valley North Transmission Line Project based on the following points:

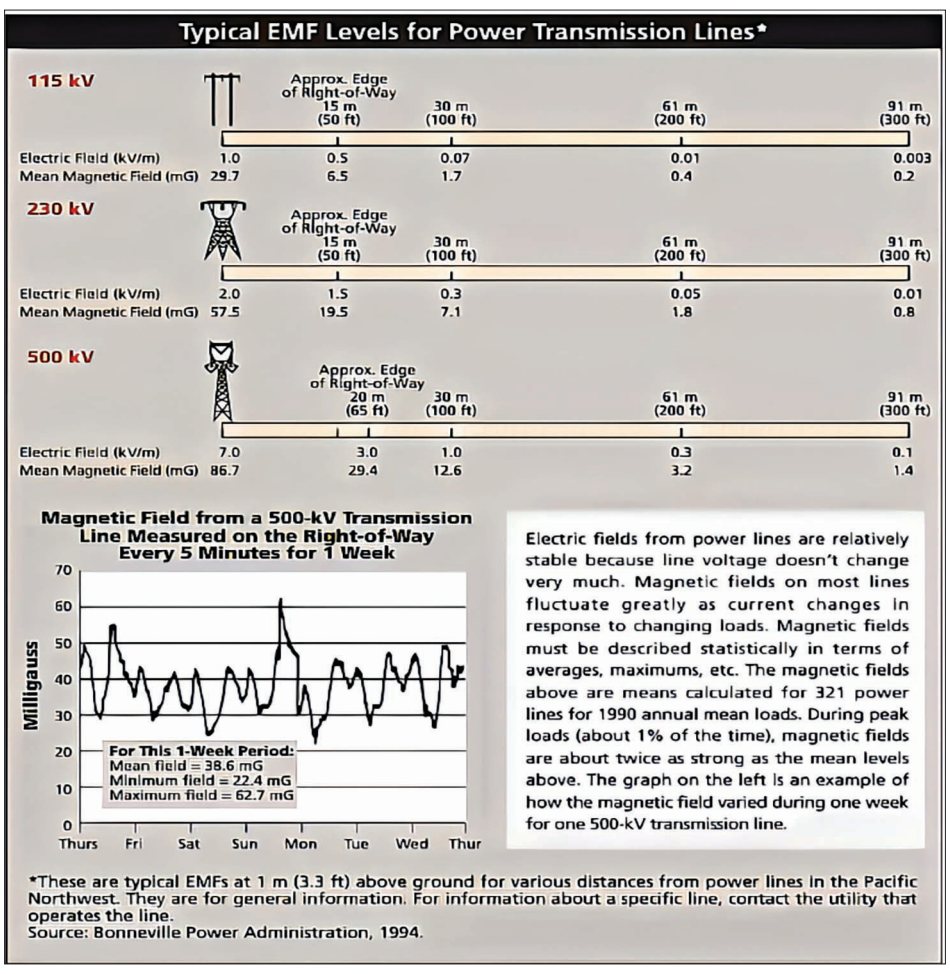
1. The path goes directly to Loudin County, VA which has been referred to as the data center capital of the United States. West Virginia should not be expected to bear the impact of this project that serves another state with no real long-term benefit to the State of West Virginia.
2. FirstEnergy wants to increase West Virginia utility rates to help pay for the project with no real long-term benefit to the State of West Virginia. If Virginia needs more energy to service its data centers, then let the State of Virginia suffer the consequences itself for the additional energy projects.
3. The negative environmental impact to the following:
   a. Slip Hill Mill Run, a Tier 3 native trout stream on Mullenax Road along Rt. 219 between Mackeyville/Wolf Run Roads and Tucker County High School
   b. Big Run Bog, a National Natural Historic Landmark on Forest Road 18 near Olsen Tower
   c. Overall effect on the view shed of the overall county due to the size of the line towers ranging in size from 150' - 175'
   d. The environmental impact of chemicals used to eliminate woody stems along the project path on a four-year cycle to eliminate woody growth and promote the growth of grass
   e. Impact on endangered species such as the Virginia Big Eared Bat which inhabits the Monongahela National Forest
   f. The deforestation of a section of the Monongahela National Forest. We have already lost too many of our trees in Tucker County to greed and mismanagement
   g. The negative impact on the local tourist industry which is a major player in the local economy. Tourists come here to enjoy the beauty of our trees and forests, the cooler climate, to hike amongst the beauty of our county, snow ski, golf, fish, hunt, etc. Tourists do not want to come here to see ugly electric towers that obstruct the viewshed, or barren hills so this would have a negative impact on the local economy
   h. The possibility of opening old mine voids and releasing acid mine draining into rivers, streams, and reservoirs in an effort to build base support structures for the electric line towers. Thomas alone sets on 9 abandoned deep mines. Douglas sets on at least 1 deep mine. Davis sets on at least 2 deep mines. Kempton, MD sets on at least 1 deep mine. Pierce sets on 2 deep mines. Benbush sets on at least 1 deep mine. Pendleton Creek between Thomas and Davis sets on abandoned mine voids and empties into the Blackwater Canyon, into the Blackwater River and eventually into the Cheat River. The Thomas reservoir and the Thomas dam which is going to be used as a backup water source both set on abandoned mine voids.
   i. The massive clear cutting that would be required to clear the path from Putnam County, WV to Loudin County, Virginia for the transmission line.
4. I am also opposed to the forced taking or leasing of the land of private owners for this project. Many of those landowners who would be impacted by the project have had their lands in their families for multiple generations.

A question I have is just exactly how many acres and how many square miles of forestation would be lost in Tucker County individually, and in the State of West Virginia collectively in order to build the transmission line?

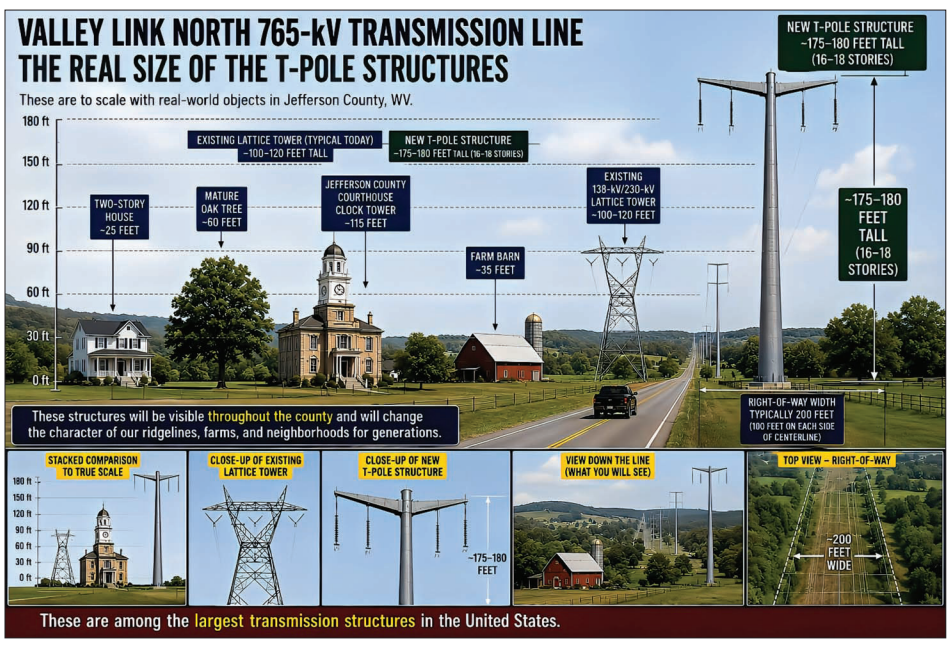
Yours,
Joseph Wilson Dumire
Thomas, WV

VALLEY NORTH

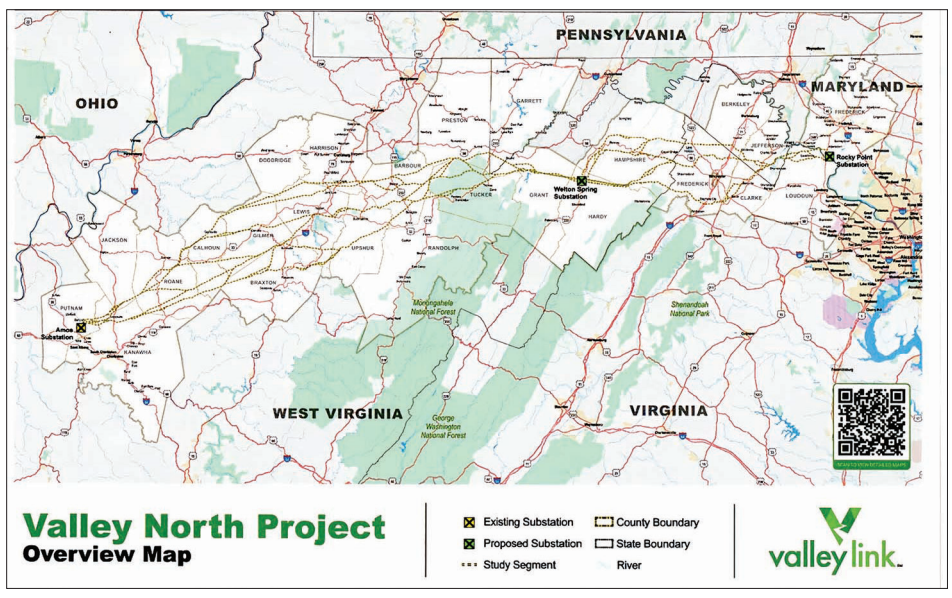
Cont. From Page 1



Health concerns sucb as EMF are common surrounding the high amount of electricity the proposed line will be carrying.



This size comparison, courtesy of Delegate Bill Ridenour shows the size of the structures that are proposed to be built to hold the lines needed for the Valley North Transmission Project.



The Valley North Project is slated to run over 260 miles of new 765-kilovolt transmission line across West Virginia to Frederick County, MD.

to Culpeper Counties.

What is Valley North Transmission Line Project

The Valley North Project is a transmission line project still in the development phase that is projected to stretch 260 miles of new 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission line across the state of West Virginia from Putnam County, WV to Frederick County, MD. The project is slated to include two new substations with one in Hardy County and one in Frederick County, MD. Valley Link said, "This new infrastructure will bring electricity to where its needed most and unlock new opportunities for communities along the route."

Valley Link said the need for the project stems from demand in the region expected to double over the next decade due to the fasted growth since the post-WWII era. This growth in demand has been driven by such factors as population growth, expanding industries, power plant retirements and advanced manufacturing.

Opponents say that the project is slated to fuel areas such Washington D.C. and more importantly, data centers in the Data Center Alley of Loudoun County, VA. Other criticisms raised by community members have included rate hikes to pay for the project with no benefits to West Virginians, leaving many to feel that West Virginia will be left to hold the bag for the project with nothing to show for it. Opponents questioned whether the project would even be considered if there were no data centers to feed.

The Company said the project will strengthen the grid and deliver more reliable, affordable electricity to places people depend on every day such as homes, hospitals schools and local businesses. The increased capacity on existing lines will reduce bottlenecks that can lead to service disruptions and outages, as well. The project also aims to strengthen the resilience of the energy system to help it withstand the extreme weather and unexpected challenges the West Virginia weather and mountains can provide.

The Company also said there will be benefits to local communities in the form of infrastructure investment leading to the generation of $1.50 to $2.00 in broader economic activity from every $1.00 invested. Other benefits, the Company said include: hundreds of local construction jobs; increased spending at local shops, restaurants and hotels; higher local tax revenues and ongoing support for essential services such as first responders, libraries and healthcare facilities.

What is a 765-kilovolt (765kV) Tower

A 765kV tower is a massive transmission tower far taller than your standard power pole along the highway. These structures are used to move bulk electricity across long distances with minimal power loss. They are generally steel lattice towers that measure 130 to 200 feet tall, the equivalent of a 15 to 19 story building and require a far wider easement that a standard power line.

These structures are costlier to construct, but are capable of transporting vastly more electricity more efficiently across longer distances with fewer structures needed. In damp or humid conditions, the high electrical fields are known to cause an audible "cracking" noise and are equipped with red marker lights for aviation safety due to their extreme height.

Open Comment Period and Open Houses

There are still other Open Houses being held across the State by Valley Link regarding this project. The goal of the Open Houses is to give the community the opportunity to meet with the Valley North Project team and review study segments, speak with project experts and share feedback that will help shape project decisions.

The final route for the project has yet to be decided, the Company said, and will be based on community input, surveys and study of environmental, cultural and historic resources.

Currently, there is a 30 day open comment period on the project in which the public can voice their opinions and thoughts on the project. To submit a comment online go to vltransmission.com/valley-north. The open comment period runs until August 14th.

The website also has a listing of upcoming area Open Houses in neighboring counties such as:

*Barbour County on July 15th at 4 p.m. at Philippi Middle School 611 Cherry Hill Road, Philippi

*Upshur County on July 16th at 4 p.m. at The Event Center at Brushy Fork, 929 Brushy Fork Road, Buckhannon

*Preston County on July 21st at the Craig Civic Center at 311 Tunnelton Street, Kingwood

*Grant County on July 23rd at Landes Arts Center at 20 Mountain View Street, Petersburg

The Timeline

As of now, the Company is in the second phase of their Project Timeline, the Open Houses and Community Input slated for Summer 2026. The next phase will be the Feedback and Study Segment Review in Late Summer/Early Fall of 2026 in which the Company will evaluate study segments based on the feedback and develop potential route alternatives.

A second series of Open Houses and Community Input sessions are scheduled for Late 2026 in which the public will be invited in order for the Company to share information about the project, potential route alternatives and gather feedback once again from the community.

The Proposed and Alternative Route Identification will occur in Early/Mid 2027, according to the Company's expected timeline. This phase will see the Company share proposed and alternative routes with the public and file regulatory applications in West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland. Permitting, Environmental Studies, Easement Acquisition and Construction will occur following the Regulatory Filings.

Construction of the project could begin in 2029, according to the Company with operation beginning in 2031.

What the Community is Saying

Strong opposition has already begun to gather in just two short days following the Open House. In that time, Social Media has erupted, Letters to the Editor have begun to come in and petitions have begun to gather signatures.

Community members such as the Stump Farm, Robert and Kathy Stump, have begun to speak out about how the project will affect their family farm. In an open letter to the Project, the Stumps, from Parsons, described how the project would divide their farm in half and place three towers in their front yard.

"If allowed to proceed the towers would take out a historical feature known as Indian Point," the Stumps wrote. "This is a ledge of ricks which one had a cave which the Indians used as a lookout point to watch the settlers in the valley along the Cheat River. At that time there was a fort named Fort Minear."

The Stumps also said that the towers threatened the source of their water. They rely solely on springs to supply water to their home and farm and live in an area on Misty Morning Road where public water will likely never be available.

"Water is life and without it nothing can live on our property," the Stumps write. "The way of life lived for centuries will be lost forever."

It is a story that is not unique. Many century farms in Tucker County are saying they are under threat of being divided in two if the project goes through. Questions also remain regarding access to the divided lands due to easement agreements. Many landowners fear having to drive miles in some cases and having to build second access roads just to access land they once had ready access to, should the project proceed.

Justin Davis on July 10th started a change.org petition called Protest Tucker County from the Valley Link Transmission Line. The goal of the protest was 500 signatures. As of Sunday, July 12th, the petition had reached half its goal, with 60% of its supporters from the surrounding area.

What Officials are Saying

Officials have begun to go on the record about the project. Prior to even having their Open House, the Upshur County Commission will consider a resolution opposing the project the week of July 13th, WV Delegate for District 100 Bill Ridenour (R, Jefferson) issued a statement on July 10th opposing the project and Senator Robbie Morris for District 11 (R, Randolph) who attended Wednesday's meeting, has also issued a statement on July 9th opposing the project.

State Senator Robbie Morris came out on July 9th, the day after the Open House and announced his opposition to the project in a Facebook post. In the post, he said he has fielded hundreds of constituent concerns over the project and after attending the Open House wanted everyone to know where he stood.

"I oppose this project," he wrote. "The

See VALLEY NORTH page 9

Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center welcomes Conkel to surgical team



Steven Conkel, MD

ELKINS, W.Va. – Vandalia Health is pleased to welcome Steven Conkel, MD, MS, FACS, to the surgical care team at Davis Medical Center.

A board-certified general surgeon and Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Conkel joins surgeon Ngoc Thai, MD, to provide comprehensive surgical services at Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center. Dr. Conkel specializes in general surgery and advanced robotic-assisted procedures designed to improve surgical outcomes, reduce complications and support faster recovery times.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Conkel to our surgical team," said Diana Landsverk, RN, BSN, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer of Vandalia Health Davis Medical Center. "His expertise in advanced robotic surgery, endocrine surgery and breast surgery enhances the level of specialized care available in our region. Patients can now access a broader range of advanced surgical services close to home, reducing the need to travel for treatment while benefiting from the latest surgical techniques."

Dr. Conkel earned his medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, West Indies, and completed his surgical residency at the Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a member of the American Board of Surgery and is Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certified.

Dr. Conkel sees patients at Davis Medical Center, located at 812 Gorman Avenue in Elkins. For appointments and consultations, call 304-637-3442.

For more information about surgical services, visit DavisHealthSystem.org/Surgery.

About Vandalia Health: *Vandalia Health, headquartered in Charleston, is a multi-state health system with locations across West Virginia as well as in Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Made up of CAMC Health System, Davis Health System and Mon Health System, Vandalia Health's 17 hospitals (including 3 affiliates) provide a comprehensive variety of services including the only kidney transplant center in southern West Virginia, the first freestanding women and children's hospital in West Virginia, a Level I Trauma Center (highest ranking), a Level I pediatric intensive care unit (highest ranking) and a Level III neonatal intensive care unit (with the most critical NICU resources). Vandalia Health also has over 220 outpatient locations, more than 14,500 employees and more than 2,000 doctors and advanced practice providers. Additionally, the Institute for Academic Medicine provides education, outreach and research support to student physicians and other medical professionals hosting more than 1,000 students in programs leading to degrees or certifications in health professions daily. For more information or a map of locations visit VandaliaHealth.org.*



Agency LMC Wins Three Telly Awards

Elkins-based agency earns national recognition for powerful storytelling

ELKINS, W.Va. — Agency LMC (LMC) was recently recognized with three 2026 Telly Awards, earning one Gold and two Silver honors for client video productions that demonstrate the agency's commitment to strategy-driven storytelling and meaningful creative work.

The Telly Awards celebrate excellence in video and television across all screens and remain one of the industry's most respected benchmarks for creative achievement. This year's awards received over 13,000 entries globally and from all 50 states. The Awards Judging Council is composed of over 250 executives from television networks, production companies, global agencies, immersive content studios, and streaming platforms around the world.

This year's winners highlight LMC's partnerships with Davis & Elkins College and The Grant County Bank (soon to be Highlands Bank). Each winning project was developed to meet a specific client goal, connect with a defined audience, and move people to action through authentic, intentional storytelling.

The Award-Winning Projects:

GOLD — Davis & Elkins College: Nursing Campaign

Category: General- Educational Institution

Official Listing: D&E Nursing Campaign

The Davis & Elkins College Nursing Campaign was developed to support enrollment growth for one of the college's most in-demand programs. Designed to reach prospective students and families, the video centered on the real experiences of D&E nursing students and the program's reputation for hands-on, high-impact learning.

The campaign helped strengthen awareness of the program's outcomes and reinforced the college's position as a regional leader in nursing education.

SILVER — The Grant County Bank: Mineral Fabrication Spotlight

Category: General- B2B: Business-to-Business

Official Listing: Mineral Fabrication Spotlight

Created as part of The Grant County Bank's ongoing effort to highlight local businesses, this spotlight video told the story of Mineral Fabrication, a company rooted in craftsmanship, innovation, and community impact.

The piece was designed to elevate the visibility of local industry while reinforcing the bank's commitment to supporting regional economic growth.

SILVER — The Grant County Bank: Stumptown Ales Spotlight

Category: General- Banking & Financial Services

Official Listing: Stumptown Ales Spotlight

This video profiled Stumptown Ales, a beloved West Virginia craft brewery known for quality, creativity, and local pride. The story focused on the people behind the brand along with their passion, their process, and their connection to the community.

The spotlight served as a key asset in The Grant County Bank's broader initiative to champion small businesses and celebrate the entrepreneurs who shape the region.

"We're grateful to our clients for trusting us with their stories and proud of the team for bringing them to life with intention and excellence," said Lori Chenoweth, LMC's Founder and Strategy Director. "Story is instrumental in communications and each of these video assets told a particular story that we hoped moved audiences to action. Pair that strategy with quality production and great creative and you can create magic."

Across industries, audiences, and objectives, the award-winning projects share a common foundation: strategy-driven storytelling that reflects the power of strong client partnerships. LMC is committed to helping organizations tell authentic stories that resonate, inspire, and create measurable impact.

About Agency LMC

Agency LMC is a boutique full-service advertising, marketing, and public relations agency in Elkins, West Virginia. Offering expert services in strategic planning, print design, web design, social media management, copywriting, outreach strategy, photography, and videography, among other capabilities, LMC strives to create and enhance brand position and awareness through strategic marketing and implementation. For more information about LMC and how we can help your brand shine, visit our website at agencylmc.com.

Highlands Bank Announces Leadership Promotions and Welcomes New Chief Information Officer

Petersburg, W.Va. — Highlands Bank is pleased to announce several leadership promotions approved by its Board of Directors at its most recent meeting, recognizing the dedication, expertise, and outstanding contributions of team members across the organization.

The following promotions have been approved:

- **G. James Cornett** – Executive Vice President & Chief Credit Officer
- **Gale Vance** – Senior Vice President, Operations
- **John E. Baker** – Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
- **Scotty Miley** – Senior Vice President, Lending
- **Shelley Mongold** – Senior Vice President, Loan Operations
- **Amber Kuh** – Assistant Cashier & Loan Operations Officer
- **Jessica Simmons** – Electronic Banking Officer
- **Carissa Iser** – Operations Officer

In addition, effective July 1, Dan Fabbri transitioned from our holding company, Highlands Bankshares, Inc. to Highlands Bank, where he will serve full-time as Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer.

"One of the greatest strengths of Highlands Bank is the talented people who make up our team," said George Ford, President and Chief Executive Officer of Highlands Bank. "These promotions recognize the hard work, leadership, and dedication each of these individuals has demonstrated throughout their careers. Their commitment to serving our customers and communities has been instrumental to our success, and I am confident they will continue to lead our organization forward in their new roles."

Ford added, "We are also excited to welcome Dan Fabbri to the bank's executive leadership team. His extensive experience and technology expertise will help us continue delivering innovative solutions while maintaining the exceptional customer service our communities have come to expect."

These promotions and leadership appointments reflect Highlands Bank's continued investment in its employees and its commitment to developing strong leaders who will guide the bank's future while remaining focused on community banking and personalized service.

About Highlands Bank

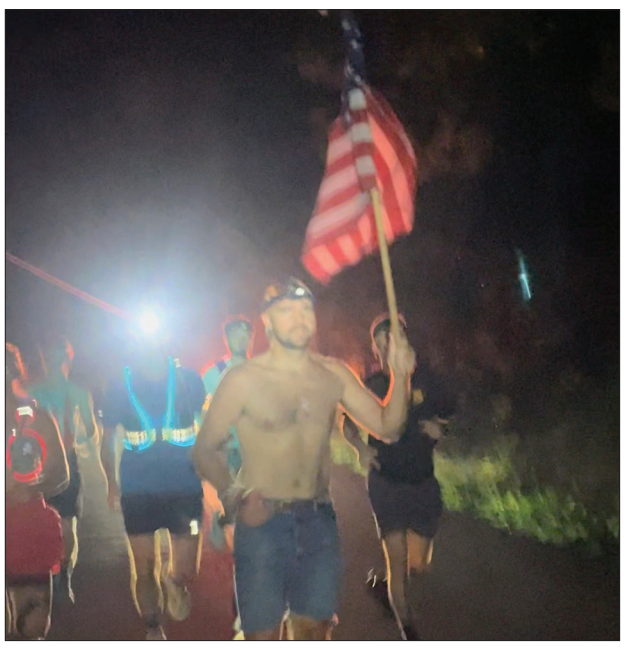
Highlands Bank was chartered as The Grant County Bank, a West Virginia state bank on August 6, 1902, and began operations on August 15 with its first office in Petersburg, WV. Our mission of providing financial services and products to families, small businesses, and the agricultural community has served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

Subsequently, the bank has expanded its marketplace throughout the Potomac Highlands and now operates a total of seven offices in six counties which encouraged the name change from its original name in July 2026. After more than a century of continued service, Highlands Bank truly embodies "Strong Roots, High Values" and is a subsidiary of Highlands Bankshares, Inc., also headquartered in Petersburg, WV.

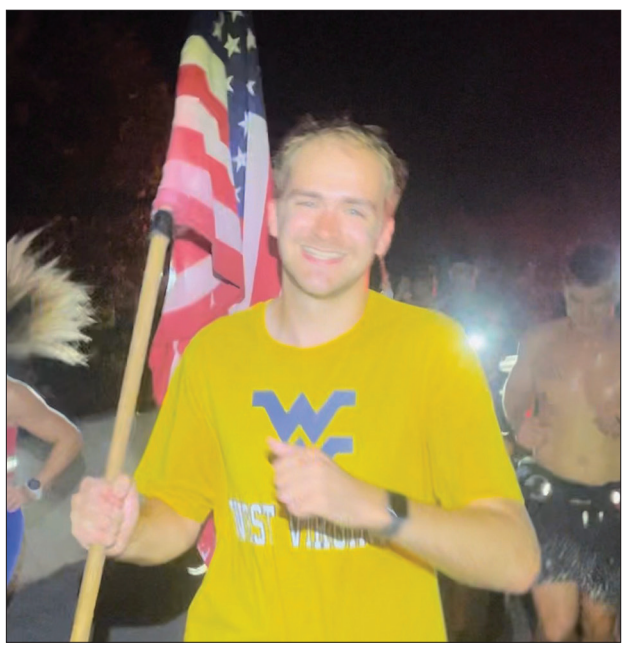
You can learn more by visiting www.highlands.bank.

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

Relay Across America Event for Veterans







Tucker Carr, Hayden Thomas, and Alex Royce (left to right) traveled to Hampshire County July 2nd to participate in Relay Across America. Contributed photos.

Obituary

Iona "Bobbie" McWilliams



Iona "Bobbie" McWilliams, 90 years old, born February 25, 1936, in Parsons, WV (Bretz) passed from this life on May 10, 2026 at her home in Lampasas, Texas.

She was married to Donald McWilliams, Sr and are now together with the Lord. She is the daughter of Harry Pennington, Sr and Alma Kelley Pennington, surviving Sisters are Patricia McClure, husband John, Dian Shifflet, husband Doug, Deceased siblings are Douglas Pennington, Harry, Jr. "Sut" Pennington, Delbert Pennington, Larry Pennington, Emma (infant), Sharon Lambert, Teresa "Mickey" Pennington.

Children are Susan Rich and husband the late Dr. James Rich, Sara Sims, Donald Jr. and wife Tina, the late Brenda Miller and husband Gary, Jimmy and wife Tammy.

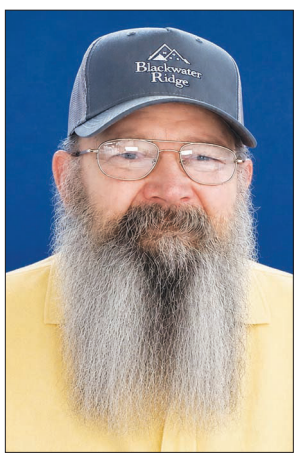
Her Grandchildren are Brent Rich, Breanna Rich, Shay Rich, Claire Smith (passed 1978), Valarie Wenzel, Megan Langley, Derek McWilliams, Corey McWilliams, Elizabeth Irvine, Emily Solt, Victoria Camardi and Bryan Bittorf, Mallory and Brendon McWilliams.

Her Great Grandchildren are Blake and Wyatt Rich, Kylee Rich, Olive and Indie Rich, Zachary and Matthew Lopez, Hannah Smith, Isaac Agee, Eli and Graham McWilliams, Miles, Olivia and Penolope Irvine, Rylee Miller, Lillian Solt, Blair, Hayden, Laniey Langley.

She was a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary in Parsons, WV, and a devoted member of the Christadelphian Church in Lampasas, TX.

A private ceremony will be held on August 11, 2026, where she will be laid to rest with her Husband, Don, in the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Edward Alan Ash



Edward Alan Ash - "Ed", 76, of Thomas, WV, passed away from this world on July 2, 2026, surrounded by his family at Davis Medical Center, in Elkins, WV. It is with profound sadness and deep love that we announce this. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Ed was born on December 12, 1949, in Clarksburg, WV, son of the late Randall B. Ash and the late Joan Stewart. He is survived by his siblings: Kathryn Palmer, "Kathy", Salem, Reva Nine (Luther), Parsons, and Kurt Stewart (Cindy), Enterprise, as well as nieces and nephews: Tonja Pringle (Andy), Karen Ayersman (Lawrence), Heather Tichnell (Sean), and T.J. Stewart (Kelsie). He was also survived by several great nieces and nephews and one great, great niece. Besides his mother and father, he was preceded in death by his brother, John R. Stewart, his brother-in-law, Timothy Palmer and his nephew, David Palmer.

Ed graduated from Bristol High School, Class of 1967, Bristol, WV. He went to WVU Potomac State College, Keyser, WV for 2 years and, then, transferred to WVU where he received the education for his life's career of Dairy Inspector out of Ohio. He lived in Gallipolis, Ohio, and after he retired, was happy to return to his home state of West Virginia. He enjoyed helping the farmers and dealing with the cows and traveling to various farms and locations. After returning to WV, he lived in Thomas and enjoyed volunteering and helping, especially with Bingo, at Cortland Acres Health and Rehab.

Ed was a beacon of strength, generosity, and unwavering kindness. He was a gentle soul and even though soft-spoken, his actions spoke volumes. He lived his life by a simple philosophy: to help anyone in need, without expectation of recognition or reward. His selflessness knew no bounds and everyone who knew him was blessed to experience his warm, welcoming presence. He leaves behind a legacy of love and compassion and will be forever deeply missed.

Upon his request, he will be cremated with Davis Funeral Home - Salem handling the arrangements. A special family only memorial service will be held at a later time.

Davis Funeral Home and Crematory in Salem is honored to serve the Ash family. Online condolences may be shared at www.davisfuneralhomesalemwv.com.

Robert Franklin Lambert



Robert Franklin Lambert, age 93 years, a resident of Elkins, WV, departed this life Monday morning, July 6, 2026, at his home with his loving wife by his side and under the care of West Virginia Caring.

He was born Tuesday, November 22, 1932, at Rowlesburg, WV, a son of the late Everett Elsworth Lambert and Leota Rosella Hebb Lambert. On April 6, 1951, at Mt Lake Park, MD, he was married to the former Julia Joanne Bozic, who survives. They had celebrated seventy-five years of marriage and spent most of their lives in Porterwood, WV. In addition to his loving wife, Robert is survived by his son, John Lambert and wife Karen of Grayson, KY; and daughter Charlotte Lambert Riffle of Oracle, AZ; four grandchildren, Robert E. Lambert and wife Jennie, Tracey Lambert Moore and husband Scott, Layla Riffle and Steve Riffle and partner Sarah; nine great grandchildren, Brittany, Austin, Sydney, Levi, Tyler, Brody, Seth, Jeffrey, Wyatt; and five great great-grandchildren, Jace, Hadley, Ainsley, Beau and Josephine.

Preceding him in death is one sister, Betty Bedford.

He attended Rowlesburg Grade School from kindergarten until sixth grade and was a graduate of Parsons High School with the Class of 1950. He then attended correspondence classes for the Ministry and was a Lay Speaker. He was a Certified Scuba Diver and a well-respected Taxidermist. He had previously worked at the Woolen Mill, had worked construction and retired as Postmaster. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, trapping, fishing and camping.

The family received friends at the Lohr & Barb Funeral Home of Parsons, WV, Friday, July 10, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Final rites were conducted at the funeral home, Friday at 1:00 PM. Pastor John Lambert officiated and interment followed at the Parsons City Cemetery at Parsons, WV. The family suggests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the Elkins First Church of the Nazarene, 201 Nazarene Loop, Elkins, WV 26241. The Lohr & Barb Funeral Home is honored to be in charge of the arrangements for Robert Franklin Lambert. Condolences may be expressed to the family at; www.lohrbarbfunealhome.com.

City Residents,

If you would like to file a formal complaint for the City to investigate, a Complaint Form is available on the City's website at https://cityofparsonswv.com/.

Forms are also available at the City Business Office during regular business hours.

Once completed, please return the form to the Business Office so it can be reviewed and forwarded for investigation.

Thank you,
City of Parsons

Parsons Police Department
341 Second Street, Parsons, West Virginia 26287
Phone: (304) 478-3060 - Fax: (304) 478-3321

Property Complaint Form

Please use this form to report a nuisance property; including high grass, graffiti, excessive noise, or other quality of life disturbances associated with a property.

Property complaints are typically investigated within five (5) business days. Names of the reporting party are considered confidential and not shared with others. If you have any questions or issues regarding city code or a property complaint, please contact the Parsons Police Department at the telephone number listed above.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Phone:_____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Have you filed a complaint on this property in the past?
YES NO

If so, when? _____

HISTORY

Cont. From Page 5

who had just joined the National League's Milwaukee Braves.

July 17, 1922: The Cliftonville Mine Battle took place east of Wellsburg, Brooke County. The gun battle between striking miners and sheriff's forces left at least nine people dead.

July 18, 1776: Methodist bishop Francis Asbury first set foot in present West Virginia outside of Berkeley Springs. He worked extensively in what is now the Eastern Panhandle, preaching and lecturing almost every day, before continuing farther into western Virginia.

July 18, 1865: Samuel Cabell was murdered at his Institute plantation by either pro-Union or pro-Confederate sympathizers, depending on the source. His widow and mother of his children, Mary Barnes Cabell, who he had previously enslaved, inherited all his property, including the land on which today's West Virginia State University was founded in 1892.

July 18, 1893: Spencer State Hospital opened. With its connected brick buildings, a quarter-mile in length, the hospital was sometimes referred to as the longest continuous brick building in America. It remained in operation until June 1989.

July 19, 1850: Pope Pius IX established the Diocese of Wheeling, naming Richard V. Whelan as its first bishop.

July 19, 1863: A Confederate raid led by Gen. John Morgan came to an end on Buffington Island, near Ravenswood. The Confederates were overtaken by federal troops, local militia and three U.S. Navy gunboats.

July 19, 1946: Author Stephen Coonts was born in Morgantown. After graduating from West Virginia University and serving in the navy during the Vietnam War, Coonts became a best-selling action and adventure novelist with the 1986 publication of Flight of the Intruder.

July 19, 1952: Novelist Jayne Anne Phillips was born in Buckhannon. After graduating from West Virginia University, her short stories and novels began receiving wide recognition. In 2024, she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her 2023 novel Night Watch, about a mother and daughter in West Virginia after the Civil War.

July 20, 2010: Carte Goodwin became the nation's youngest sitting senator. Goodwin was appointed to fill Robert C. Byrd's seat in the U.S. Senate following Byrd's death.

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.

VALLEY NORTH

Cont. From Page 7

families, farms, businesses, forests, and communities that make our part of West Virginia special deserve to have their voices heard. These are not just parcels on a map—they are people, livelihoods, heritage, and traditions."

Morris also stated that the West Virginia Public Service Commission is the agency with the legal authority over the project. He said they have the power to approve or deny the project. "While city councils, county commissions, legislators, and other elected officials can advocate for their communities and make our positions known, we do not make the final decision. That responsibility rests with the PSC," Morris wrote.

"I encourage everyone to stay informed, participate respectfully, and make your voice heard," Morris wrote.

This statement was followed on July 10th by a statement by WV Delegate Bill Ridenour in which he also voiced his opposition in a Facebook post. "I'm vehemently opposed to both the Valley Link North and MARL lines (that will be just south of Jefferson County). I've opposed them from their initial proposal as part of the NIETC during the Biden regime and will remain opposed until they are defeated," Ridenour wrote.

Ridenour blamed the need for the project on Virginia shutting down their coal and natural gas power plants and transitioning to solar and wind generation for power production. "That is why we have their ugly solar fields and now the planned transmission lines," Ridenour wrote.

"During the June interim committee hearings in Canaan Valley, I strongly voiced my concerns and outrage at Mountaineers being punished with not only the blight of these power lines, but also the cost to our rate-payers, all so Virginia can pretend to be 'green' and rake in more tax dollars," Ridenour wrote.

Ridenour said he co-sponsored an amendment to a bill (HB4012 HFA Anders et. al 2-9 #1) in the past session in a bid to stop the transmission lines from coming through West Virginia, which included major restrictions on eminent domain. "While the amendment was defeated, we managed to force through a competing amendment that may eventually make it harder for these lines to be inflicted on West Virginia," Ridenour wrote.

Ridenour said he plans to continue to work with a small group of delegates who have been actively trying to severely restrict state eminent domain powers and will again work to limit the use of eminent domain. He said he also intends to submit a bill to withdraw West Virginia from the PJM transmission system, which he said is driving these transmission lines.

What is the PJM Transmission System

PJM is the regional transmission organization (RTO) that coordinates movement of wholesale electrcity in all or part of 13 states and the District of Columbia. PJM includes: Delawhere, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. It is the largest RTO in the U.S. The RTO balances the electrical supply grid and demand in real time, oversees the wholesale energy market and plans regional transmission upgrades, which is where the Valley North project comes in. It operates as an independent non-profit company and does not actually generate power or own transmission lines.

PJM was founded in 1927 when three utilities realized the benefits and efficiencies of interconnecting to share generating resources and formed the world's first continuing power pool. PJM originally stood for Pennsylvania, (New) Jersey and Maryland when it was first founded.

For more information on Valley Link, the Valley North project or to comment on the project go to vltransmission.com. To contact the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, go to psc.state.wv.us or call 304-340-0300 to comment on the Valley North Transmission Line Project.

Rodeheaver steps down as GCF board chair

PAC and athletics campaigns took place on her watch

McHenry, MD – Carissa Rodeheaver, who led the Garrett College Foundation Board of Directors through two successive – and highly successful – capital campaigns, will step down as board chair on June 30th.

"There's a lot of change in my life right now with my retirement," said Rodeheaver, who recently retired as president, chief executive officer, and board chair for First United Bank & Trust. "When I commit to something, I want to be fully committed – and I wanted to be able to fully commit to the things I plan to do in retirement."

Rodeheaver will be succeeded as chair by current Vice Chair Rosie Versteegen.

Rodeheaver stepped into the GCF Board's chair role in 2022, just as Garrett College and the Foundation were planning the Performing Arts Center Capital Campaign. Cherie Krug, executive director of the Foundation, recalled "there was some trepidation about launching a campaign in COVID" – but the Foundation and the College raised $3.6 million on a $2.5 million goal.

"COVID was a difficult time for everyone, but I think at the heart of it everyone still has those things that are important to them," said Rodeheaver. "One of those things is philanthropy.

"I think it was a risk, but a risk that paid off," Rodeheaver added. "We had to do things differently in terms of meetings and discussions, but people are pretty agile and persistent – and you just figure things out."

There were also doubts about the viability of an athletics capital campaign, recalled Dr. Richard Midcap, Garrett College's president.

"We had never raised any appreciable amount for athletics," said Midcap. "We set out to raise at least $500,000 with a stretch goal of $1 million to help with the costs of the Athletic Building renovation. A lot of people were skeptical, but Carissa and the directors embraced the challenge – and we're going to get very close to or exceed $1 million raised when all is said and done."



Carissa Rodeheaver stepped down as chair of the Garrett College Foundation Board of Directors on June 30.

"Different people have different interests and are willing to make commitments to support those interests," Rodeheaver said of the success of the athletics campaign. "This also wasn't just about supporting the College. The new turf field opened up a lot of opportunities for the high schools and the youth leagues. This campaign benefits not only the College but the entire community.

"I'd like to commend staff and everyone who said, 'We need to do this, and we're just going to get it done,' " added Rodeheaver.

Rodeheaver and Versteegen were co-chairs of the College's first-ever capital campaign – the 2018-20 STEM campaign that raised $2.5 million for the Daniel E. Offutt III STEM Center that opened in 2018. Thus, Rodeheaver has had leadership roles in all three of Garrett College's capital campaigns, which have collectively raised over $7 million.

Rodeheaver – who has served more than two decades on the Foundation Board – said "seeing the College thrive" has been the most satisfying part of her time as Board chair.

"I use that word because it wasn't just that the College grew," added Rodeheaver. "The campaigns enabled the addition of the Performing Arts Center and the STEM building – which provided excellent opportunities for students in science and math. Seeing the new credit programs like radiologic technology and paramedics being added, I was pleased the Foundation could help the College find the resources to expand programs that are critical to our community."

Rodeheaver plans to stay on the Foundation board for the coming academic year to help in the transition to new leadership before stepping off the Board in 2027.

"While the College is still a passion, I also think it's important for organizations to periodically have new blood and new leadership," explained Rodeheaver. "I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Midcap and the Foundation team, past Chair Susie Crawford, and many people committed to the success of the College and our Community, and I am grateful to have been a part of the success."

Campbell named GC's volleyball coach

Coach seeks to provide players with 'opportunity for success'



Beth Campbell is Garrett College's new women's volleyball head coach.

McHenry, MD – Elizabeth "Beth" Campbell – with an extensive coaching resume across multiple sports and levels of competition – is Garrett College's new women's volleyball head coach.

Campbell has coached girls' volleyball at the club level, girls' basketball and softball at the high school level, and been an assistant women's softball coach at two universities. She's also been a volleyball official for more than 20 years.

"Coach Campbell brings the experience, leadership, and enthusiasm that align perfectly with our mission of developing successful student-athletes both on and off the court," said GC Operations Athletics Director Elizabeth Show. "We look forward to the energy, innovation, and positive impact she will bring to our volleyball team and our entire department.'

While Campbell has coached volleyball, basketball, and softball – in addition to being a collegiate standout in tennis – she said "volleyball is really my favorite sport." While that was a consideration, she said other factors led her to apply for the Lady Lakers' coaching vacancy.

"I like the area and really love the school," Campbell said of Garrett College. "Everyone is so friendly, and they're clearly committed to nurturing and supporting student athletes on their athletic and academic journeys."

Campbell – who is in the process of moving from Altoona, PA – is already on the job recruiting for the Lady Lakers.

"I've been spending most of my free time recruiting nights and weekends," said Campbell. "I've been going to leagues, camps, and clinics. It's a tough time because it's close to the end of the recruitment cycle – but it's also a time when kids are very receptive."

Campbell said her commitment is that players who "put in the time and do the work will have a path to success."

"Everyone who puts in the work should have an opportunity for success," said Campbell. "I had a great experience as a college athlete and that's my hope for everyone who plays for me."

Campbell led successful softball programs at Altoona Area High and Glendale High School, earning the prestigious Progressland Coach of the Year Award in 2021. She also coached girls' basketball at Glendale High School, winning the Progressland Coach of the Year Award in 2020 after guiding the program to one of its most successful seasons.

Campbell succeeds Brittany Jackson, who guided GC to a 26-49 record in four years. After going 4-32 in her first two campaigns, Jackson led the rebuilding Lady Lakers to a 22-17 record and two postseason berths over the last two seasons.

Eastern WVCTC Expands Workforce and Dual Enrollment Programs

MOOREFIELD, W.Va. — Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College recently hosted its Virtual District Consortium Meeting, highlighting major expansions in high school dual enrollment, affordable textbook initiatives, and new workforce training programs designed to boost regional economic mobility.

College leadership and consortium partners detailed the milestones and upcoming fall initiatives following the meeting.

Dual Enrollment and "Level Up" Expansions

Nearly 280 high school students participated in dual enrollment courses during the spring semester. Notably, four regional students earned their Associate Degrees prior to graduating high school, including three from Hampshire County and one from Moorefield.

College officials credited the Level Up funding program for continuing to eliminate tuition barriers for high schoolers. To meet demand, Eastern is expanding its Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways in Hampshire County to include business and auto technology. Additionally, Pendleton County High School will add in-person dual enrollment options in chemistry, biology, history, college algebra, and nutrition this fall.

Statewide Leadership in Affordable Education

Eastern continues to lead West Virginia in Open Educational Resources (OER), an initiative that uses openly licensed materials to reduce or eliminate textbook costs. Curtis Hakala, recently named the West Virginia Open Learning Educator of the Year, announced the completion of an OER Challenge Grant that has established entirely zero-textbook-cost pathways for both the Associate in Arts degree and the Allied Health Certificate.

Hakala also noted that Eastern is participating in the state's Common Course Numbering initiative. The program, slated for full implementation by 2027, standardizes course names, numbers, and learning outcomes across all West Virginia community colleges to streamline student transfers.

Financial Aid and Workforce Training Upgrades

The college highlighted critical legislative updates to the West Virginia Invests Grant program, a state-funded "last-dollar-in" financial aid program. Key changes include:

- Elimination of the drug screening requirement.
- Removal of the previous 90-credit-hour limit.
- Expansion of eligibility to students who already hold an associate degree.
- Prorated funding available for up to six semesters.

In response to local workforce demands, Eastern's workforce education sector is launching a Heavy Equipment Operator Training program this fall, featuring hands-on instruction for bulldozers, skid steers, and excavators. The college also acquired a new commercial driver's license (CDL) training truck and is expanding its welding program into Hampshire County.

In the medical field, Eastern's Allied Health programs boast a certification exam success rate of more than 90% through the National Healthcareer Association. The college is currently developing registered apprenticeships with EA Hawse Health Center. Most workforce programs remain eligible for West Virginia HEAPS funding.

Upcoming Community and Regional Events

Eastern announced several upcoming public events for the summer and fall terms:

- **College Open House:** August 7 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., held simultaneously at the Moorefield Campus and the Eastern Technology Center in Petersburg.
- **Agriculture Showcase:** October 9, featuring student competitions and cash prizes.
- **Annual Career and College Fair:** November 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the main campus, open to students, alumni, and community members.

Consortium organizers plan to reconvene in the late fall for an in-person District Consortium Meeting and learning session. For more information regarding enrollment, financial aid, or upcoming events, visit easternwv.edu.

About Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College

Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College, based in Moorefield, serves a multi-county district by providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality educational opportunities, workforce training, and community college services to the Potomac Highlands regional community.



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