



Teacher of the Year Campbell and Eldon

pbell stated each he will recognize outstanding educator and one outstanding member of the service personnel. Recipients of awards for the month of October are Donald Eld, outstanding ser-

employee and Darburnside, outstanding Director. According to Camp- Canfield received award based on ser- "over and above he has to do at s-Thomas." Camp- said, "We tried to get to come and accept award tonight but he st a real shy guy. He he didn't feel like he led to be recognized, as just doing his job." pbell plans to present award for outstanding ice and dedication to field during his next to the school.

regarding the outstand- teacher award, Camp- said he spent time hanging around in the rooms to observe. said the recipient of award is an "amazing cher, who does amaz- things at Tucker Val- What I saw was abso-

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Homeland Security Grant, to advertise for RFP(s) for "Go Kits," and future purchases for the eight counties included in the grant. Counties included in the regional grant are Bar-

individuals submitted to the Tucker County office for reimbursement.

Darla Stemple, E911 Director for Tucker County, was appointed

land Security Emergency Management. The next meeting will be held at 4 p.m., Oct. 26, at the Tucker County Courthouse Court-

The Heart of the Highlands Holds Annual Meeting

By Penny Ellison
The Parsons Advocate

The Heart of the Highlands Trail System held its fourth annual stakeholders meeting last week at the Blackwater Falls State Park.

Project Administrator Julie Dzaack facilitated the informational meeting which had approximately 25 people in attendance. Dzaack gave a powerpoint presentation on the organization, its goals and objectives, its past accomplishments and future plans.

The organization, which came into being



Several individuals attended at Heart of the Highlands meeting.

Oct. 2008, is a collaboration of the five major land management agencies in

the mountain top area of Tucker County, as well as representatives from the

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What is the Role of The Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau

By Penny Ellison
The Parsons Advocate

Ask the average Tucker County resident what the role of the Convention and Visitors Bureau is, or how it operates and most probably won't know. The CVB is a private non-profit corporation funded primarily by 50 percent of the county's hotel/motel tax generated by three entities:

Tucker County, and the municipalities of both Davis and Thomas. Its purpose is to promote Tucker County as a vacation or travel destination

with emphasis on people or groups who use overnight lodging.

Started locally in the mid-1980's it is a self-governing organization run by a volunteer board of five directors. Three directors, taken from the Canaan Valley area, and one each from Parsons, and the Davis/Thomas area. All the volunteers serve a five year term and currently all the positions are filled.

Open positions are filled by appointment with an unanimous decision by the board. Cur-

rent board members are: Murray Dearborn, Tom Blanzly, Molly Fuller, Cade Archuletta and Jason Myers.

Even though they are self-governing the CVB is responsible for giving annual reports to the three tax generating entities listed above. They also voluntarily submit their operations for review to a Governor's appointed committee, the state CVB association, and West Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association; and are proud of the fact that for the last

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stakeholders group. All parties attending share a common objective of creating an inter-connected trail system between these five major areas using public lands and incorporating existing trail systems as available.

The organization's entire board was present and each gave a brief report on progress made in their area or plans for the upcoming years, as well as their own personal perspectives on the co-operation of the group itself. "It makes sense to provide connectivity to the other properties," said Rob Gilligan- Blackwater Falls State Park/ Canaan Valley State Park representative.

Canaan Valley Institute's representative Ken Dzaack reported: "CVI has received national recreational trails status. We

have 12 miles of sustainably built trails on our property. Work has continued on the splash dam south trail."

Stakeholder, Community representative, Jay Hamric says he's looking forward to getting our area kids out there to appreciate the trails. "It's a wonderful opportunity to get our kids and community working together on a project with long-lasting impact on our community."

Stakeholder, Tucker County Commission representative, Tom Carr explained: "All residents of the county will benefit from this. The trail system will generate overnight visitors to the area, which in turn generates hotel/motel tax, a portion of which goes to our EMS teams." When asked what he's most excited

about with The Heart of the Highlands, Tom said: "the progress that's been made in the last year and a half. The fact that it's gone from concept to progress and actual trail work".

When posed the same question, Jonathan Schafner, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge representative said "There needed to be connections, not just trails but relationships, citizens, county commission, congressional delegates, land managers. Through it we can become a stronger community. This has the opportunity to become one of the premier trail systems in West Virginia.

Several benchmarks were achieved over the last year. A project administrator was selected. The board of directors was expanded and filled to its full eleven positions with

monthly meetings being held. Website and email were established. Additional funding through the Secure Rural Schools grant was received.

The Camp 70 bridge was replaced.

Looking ahead they plan to continue to work toward the completion of the core loop trail, and maintain the existing trails. The plan to coordinate with volunteer trail crews and partner resources, as well as, pursue trailhead and kiosk opportunities, along with trail markers and a host of many other things.

Summed up in one sentence, the group hopes to be the gateway for sustainable tourism for the region.

For more information go to: www.heartofthehighlandstrail.org.

ge Groceries and Discount Appliances moves to new location



the doorway of KC's Salvage Groceries and Discount Appliances with Mayor Dorothy Johnson cutting the ribbon during the grand opening on Water Street

manufacturers. He said most of the products are simply overruns. Bott mentioned specific items at discount prices, many of which he claims to be the lowest in town. Everyday low prices include Colby cheese, milk, grade A large eggs, Ensure, 24 oz. soft drinks, chips, hoagie buns, hot dog and hamburger buns, white bread, wheat bread and Maxwell House Coffee. Bott said one of his specials is ice cream while the supply lasts.

Bott said he carries fresh tomatoes, peppers, celery, carrots and onions. Locally grown potatoes are available. He said he tries to carry seasonal produce, which is grown locally. He also carries deer corn when available. Bott asks customers to mention requests to the clerk and he will try to obtain the items for the store. Bott said the

Crystal Collar is employed as the clerk at KC's. Bott said she has been working for him for five months. "She does an excellent job, an excellent retail person," said Bott. He also said Lawrence Ends worked in the store until he was forced to stop because of health reasons. He hopes Ends will return.

Mayor Dorothy Judy, who joined Bott for a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday, said, "We appreciate every new business door opening in Parsons and will do everything we can to support them. Parsons is growing!"

Bott said, "We appreciate the support of the community. As long as people con-

tinue to support us, we will continue to offer products at discount prices. We will do what we can for the community. As things grow, we will grow. We are also working toward certification to accept food stamps. However, we are unable to accept WIC at this time." Bott explained, "It's not just about making money; it's about giving people jobs."

Bott asks customers to stop in KC's and pick up a coupon to present at Parsons Country Inn. For each coupon presented, Bott will donate \$1 per \$10 purchase to the Tucker County High School Freshman Class. The promotion lasts until the end of October.



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