



CHIP ELLIS/DAILY MAIL

HIGH HOPES: David Weaver chucked a career in forensic science in Alaska for life as an artist in West Virginia, even though he had received national recognition for his high-tech device to make fingerprints permanent.



MIDLAND ARTWORK: Weaver and his wife, Chere, have opened Midland Trail Gallery at U.S. 60 and W.Va. 41 near Babcock State Park. His paintings, lithographs and pottery are for sale there, as well as the work of a few other artists.

Midland Gallery

By **MARTHA JACKSON**
DAILY MAIL STAFF

RAINELLE — He could be catching crooks, but he'd rather capture beauty now.

David Weaver has traded in the crime lab for life as an artist, giving up bitter winters for a place where his 9-year-old daughter can catch butterflies. Weaver has no regrets,

maybe because he got scenery and a strategic location in one package.

"I didn't know there was a state park nearby. From April to October that's a lot of business," said Weaver, 38, whose

Midland Trail Gallery on U.S. 60 is a stone's throw from Babcock State Park.

His surprise is understandable.

When Weaver, an Ohio native, tooled into West Virginia,

two years ago from Alaska, he bought his property almost on the spot. He said it was so fresh on the market the dirt around the "For Sale" sign was still wet.

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Former forensic artist takes refuge in W.Va.