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March 10, 2022



North Fork Residents Turn Out to Discuss Possible Closure of the Senior Center Later This Year

By Ken Bustin

Twenty-eight people assembled at the North Senior Center last Wednesday to listen and discuss as officials outlined tentative plans to close the Center this fall.

Janice Lantz, executive director of Pendleton Senior and Family Services, explained to the group that the Center was operating at a loss, and that this condition could not continue indefinitely. She said that officials had set September 30th as the deadline for finding solutions and making a final decision. She was joined by Director of the Upper Potomac Agency on Aging, Scott Gossard, as they outlined the issues and asked those in attendance to suggest possible solutions.

Lantz said that a primary cause of their consideration of closure was that the number of meals being provided had declined significantly in the past couple of years, distributing a chart which showed that, in the first quarter of fiscal year 2022 – October through December of 2021 – the number of meals served per month had declined to between 110 and 122, compared to a range of 270 and 448 for fiscal year 2020, creating a loss of \$8.00 per meal, or \$2,818.40 for the quarter. This level of loss, she said, was unsustainable, and something had to be done.

She told the audience that, since the meals were reimbursed to the agency, a greater number would mean more revenue and reduce the problem. In fact, however, the reimbursement received is only for



Pendleton County Senior & Family Services Executive Director Janice Lantz makes a point to the citizens gathered at the North Fork Senior Center to discuss possible solutions to avert closing the Center later this year. The Center is operating at a loss and officials are searching for answers.



Upper Potomac Agency on Aging Director Scott Gossard.

actual costs, so while the operating costs associated with providing the service would be spread out over a greater number of meals and reduce the loss per meal, the deficit would actually be greater. In fiscal year 2020, for example, although the loss per meal

was only \$3.77 instead of \$8.00, the total loss was \$9,853.58.

Lantz said that every cost-saving measure they could think of had been implemented, and they believed there was little, if anything which could be cut and not many other options available.

But some of the citizens present disagreed with that assessment.

Several felt that the falling numbers of meals being served was responsive to officials having decided to eliminate a cook on the premises and instead preparing meals in Franklin and transporting them to North Fork. The food didn't travel well, they said, and the quality of the meals had declined sharply under the new arrangement.

"Any of you who have had a grilled cheese sandwich made in Franklin and transported over the mountain know what we are talking about," declared one lady firmly.

They also doubted, they said, that the cost of packaging and transporting the food was less than the cost of a cook for the hours involved, and with the rapid increases in the price of gasoline, would likely only get worse.

If another cook could be hired for the North Fork location, they believed that patronage would be very likely to increase again. Besides the meals, the Center provided an important service as a place where seniors could congregate and socialize.

COVID had also negatively impacted turnout, many felt, especially senior citizens, as people were being advised to minimize personal contact.

But Lantz countered that the Center had operated in the red every year, including before the move to preparing meals in Franklin and transporting them. And, she said, the cost of transporting the meals from

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Tire Collection Set for Saturday

A tire collection will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Pendleton County Economic Development Authority on 100 Thorn Creek Road in Franklin.

Only tires from state residents will be accepted. Tires from businesses will not be accepted. A 10 tire per person limit will be strictly enforced. Tires must be off the rim. Only passenger car or light truck tires will be accepted.

Lenten Luncheons Begin Today

The annual Lenten Luncheons hosted by the Pendleton County Ministerial Association will begin at noon today at Walnut Street United Methodist Church in Franklin.

This year, people will drive through and get their food (soup, sandwich and dessert). Written messages will be provided in the bag with the meals. Recordings of the message will be available at churches' Facebook pages and websites around noon.

Today's meal will be provided by Circleville and Seneca Rocks Presbyterian churches and Riverton United Methodist Church with Pastors Jess and Jason Felicia delivering the message.

Next week's meal will be provided by South Fork United Methodist Church with Pastor Judy Vetter delivering the message.

UT Producers To Meet Monday

The Upper Tract Producers 4-H Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Upper Tract Training Center. The program will be "Purr-fect Paw-ty." Four-H'ers are asked to bring their P.A.W.S. donations.

Quilters To Gather

The Sew and Sews Quilt Guild will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at Faith Lutheran Church in Franklin. There will be a demonstration on how to use Stripology rulers.

Anyone interested in quilting is welcome to attend.

Ag Dinner Meeting Set for Monday

"Soil Testing and Fertility" will be the topic at the educational dinner meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Clinton Hedrick Community Building in Riverton.

Tom Basden, extension associate professor and nutrient management specialist with West Virginia University Extension Office, will focus on the new soil testing lab system, including a review of sampling methods, submission of prepared soil samples, new method of analysis, new recommendation system that includes determining the predominant soil series where the soil sample is taken.

For more information or questions, contact the Pendleton County Extension Office at 304-358-2286.

Judge Receives Additional Disciplinary Charges

By Shawn Stinson

MOOREFIELD – A circuit court judge is facing new disciplinary charges related to an August 2021 incident at the Walmart in Moorefield.

Members of the Judicial Investigation Commission on Feb. 14 filed a formal statement of charges against C. Carter Williams, a judge on the 22nd Judicial Circuit. The 22nd Judicial Circuit includes Hampshire, Hardy and Pendleton counties.

Authorities allege Williams left the Walmart on Aug. 18, 2021, without paying for approximately 10 items in the self-checkout line.

Moorefield Police Chief Stephen Riggelman was called to the Walmart nearly a month following the incident involving Williams to investigate a suspicious vehicle. During his investigation of the vehicle, Riggelman was informed by the store's loss prevention officer of the issue with Williams walking out without paying for the items.

Riggelman requested to watch the surveillance video of Williams exiting the store without paying for the items. In his report, Riggelman noted he contacted Hardy County Prosecuting

Attorney Lucas See regarding the incident.

"Due to this investigation, it was determined that the best course of action would be to contact Williams and direct him to pay for the merchandise," Riggelman wrote in the report.

See contacted Williams via text message asking if he would be in the office. Williams responded he would not due to an individual having exposure to COVID-19 in his household. See requested to speak with Williams on the phone. Follow-up text messages between the pair the next two days confirmed the cost of the items was \$44.21 and there were arrangements to pick up a check from Williams for Walmart.

Riggelman added in his report that the Walmart loss prevention officer said upon reviewing the August 2021 inci-

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Judge Carter Williams

Downed Frontier Utility Line Fouls Route 33 in Onego for 2-1/2 Hours

By Ken Bustin

Several weeks ago, Pendleton County filed a formal Complaint, now pending against Frontier Communications before the Public Service Commission. The matter – which is now in mediation – had a number of allegations, among them that Frontier had failed on one or more occasions, to respond to a call for emergency assistance at the scene of vehicle crashes which had damaged utility poles or downed roadside communication lines. The complaint asks for relief in the form of an Order directing Frontier to respond to all such calls in a timely manner.

The reason for Pendleton County's earlier Complaint and the need for such an Order became apparent once again in the past week.

On the evening of March 2nd, at about 7:30 p.m., a falling tree limb broke Frontier lines from a utility pole adjacent to Route 33 between Allegheny Mountain and Onego, only a short distance from the site of one of the very incidents which spawned Pendleton County's complaint to the PSC. The sagging lines were hanging about eight feet above the westbound lane, fouling the

roadway and requiring highway crews to remain on the scene to direct traffic safely around them.

The incident was reported to the Pendleton 911 Center, whose dispatcher contacted Frontier – with difficulty, thanks to Frontier's emergency reporting line having so much noise on it that conversation was nearly impossible – to report the event and request that a line crew be dispatched to the scene to remove the line from the roadway and secure it, citing the location and pole number. Frontier's agent took the information, but shortly thereafter, the 911 Center received a call back from Frontier, advising them that the pole in question did not belong to Frontier and it was not a Frontier line.

Pendleton 911 personnel next contacted Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone (SKSRT), which also has lines attached to the Frontier poles and asked that they dispatch an emergency crew. Shortly thereafter, SKSRT personnel arrived on the scene and advised personnel the downed lines did not belong to them and were Frontier lines.

Alerted to the incident, Pendleton County Emergency Services Coordinator, Rick

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Updated COVID-19 Protocols
February 24, 2022

DON'T FEEL WELL? STAY HOME

If you have the symptoms below, let your family and teachers know.

COUGH **FEVER** **SORE THROAT**

West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The most recent COVID protocols issued by West Virginia are simplicity itself. Originally 11 pages, the new guidelines can be stated on a single sheet, pictured above.

New COVID School Guidelines Are Simple & Streamlined

By Ken Bustin

The Pendleton County Board of Education made short work of a fairly short agenda at the March 1st meeting.

All members were present when President J. D. Wilkins called those assembled to order at the prescribed 5:30 p.m. start time.

Moving quickly through the opening exercises – the Pledge of Allegiance and a short prayer – Wilkins turned attention to the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion to approve them as written was swiftly made and seconded, and it carried with all in favor.

Staff recognition was at the top of the agenda, and he called on Superintendent of Schools Charles Hedrick to speak. Hedrick reported that Shelley Crites, the director of the Vo-Tech Center, had succeeded in obtaining a Career & Technical Education grant for \$15,000, for a Career Discovery Lab for grades 7 and 8.

Turning next to personnel, the Board voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Marcia Somerville, a homebound teacher.

There were seven candidates for regular school position, whose hiring required Board approval, and four confirmations needed for Summer Success Academy staff. Hedrick recommended approval of: Rod Cooper as head volleyball coach; Chad Propst as middle school head baseball coach; Jay Hartman as middle school assistant baseball coach; Lea Jones for an itinerant special education position at Franklin Elementary School; Roger Kelley as an elementary health and physical education teacher at FES; Josie VanMeter as a long-term substitute custodian at PCMHS; and Alyssa Morgan as a substitute aide. For the Summer Success Academy, he likewise recommended employing Robin Simmons as an itinerant aide; Elizabeth Warner as a Community in Schools coordinator; and John Swecker and Sam Harper as bus drivers. With a unanimous vote, the Board concurred with his recommendations.

With another unanimous vote, J.D. Heavner, Charles King, Jr. and Stephanie Hull were approved as both volun-

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OBITUARIES

Marvin Orlando Dice



Marvin Orlando Dice, 85, of Riverton passed away March 2, 2022, at Stonerise Keyser in Keyser.

He was born on Dec. 24, 1936, in Simoda, the son of the late Marvin and Lonnie Mary (Thompson) Dice.

Mr. Dice attended Mallow School and Circleville High School. He had worked for Hinkle Trucking, Dettinburn Trucking and Germany Valley Limestone and was a self-employed backhoe and dozer operator.

He had also worked as a mail carrier for 24 years, carrying mail from Petersburg to Franklin and from Franklin to Elkins. He retired in 2016.

On June 12, 1965, Orlando married Carol June (Mallow) Dice, who survives.

Also surviving are son, Marvin Dice Jr. (Lisa) of Shannon, North Carolina; two sisters-in-law, Karen Sue Sponaugle (Carroll Lee) of Franklin and Rhonda Mallow (Carl Thompson) of Riverton; a brother-in-law, Danny Mallow (Linda) of Franklin; four sisters, Leona Beard and Sheila Sites (Gerald), all of Petersburg, Helen Bostic of Centerville, Virginia, and Norma Wimer of Silsbee, Texas; a special niece, Melinda Mallow (DJ Kimble) of Seneca Rocks; a special great-nephew, Isaac Kimble of Seneca Rocks; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be held Sunday in the Basagic Funeral Home chapel with Pastor Cindy Skinner officiating. Interment was in North Fork Memorial Cemetery in Riverton.

Memorials may be made to PAWS or to donor's choice.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.

Ressie M. Kimble



Ressie M. Kimble, 93, of Upper Tract passed away March 4, 2022, at Grant Memorial Hospital in Petersburg.

She was born Sept. 29, 1928, at Smoke Hole and was the daughter of the late Osa Preston Alt and Ethel Hannah Shreve Alt.

Mrs. Kimble was a 1944 graduate of Franklin High School. She and her husband were in the restaurant business for more than 40 years, including Valley View Grill, Do Drop Inn, Midway Service Station, Dick's Restaurant and Trailer Court and the Upper Tract Restaurant. They also owned poultry houses. She was always willing to babysit. She was a member of the Wilson Chapel United Methodist Church.

On Nov. 23, 1949, she married Harlan W. Kimble who preceded her in death on May 17, 2016.

Surviving are five daughters, Brenda Judy and husband, Bill, Pam Kimble, Terri Kimble and Jill Liggett and husband, R.T., all of Upper Tract and Paula Kimble and fiancé, Quintin Gill of Buchanan, Virginia; two sons, Greg Kimble and wife, Debbie of Petersburg and Kent Kimble and wife, Donita of Upper Tract; a sister, Audrey Mowery of Upper Tract; 16 grandchildren, Kevin, Andrea, Scott, Jamie, Tonya, Jared, Preston, Carson, Paden, Matthew, William, Lance, Alexis, Ridge, Ross and Cheznie; 18 great-grandchildren, Carter, Ashlyn, Tyler, Cole, Peyton, Addie, Justin, Kaitlyn, Madison, Jada, Hailey, Cade, Kacie, Jaxon, Titus, Kadin, Kierstyn and Kinley; and a great-great-grandson, Trace.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Clinton Alt;

and a sister, Velma Kimble.

A funeral service was held Monday in the chapel of the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Brad Mitchell officiating. Interment was at Cherry Hill Cemetery in Upper Tract. Her grandsons served as pallbearers.

Memorials may be made to Upper Tract Vol. Fire Dept., PO Box 42, Upper Tract, WV 26866 or Upper Tract Rescue Squad, PO Box 1290, Upper Tract, WV 26866.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.kimblefuneralhome.com.

Dianna Fay Campbell



Dianna Fay Campbell, 73, of Franklin and formerly of Linthicum, Maryland, passed away March 2, 2022, at her home.

She was born on June 16, 1948, in Baltimore, Maryland, the daughter of the late Richard Kenny and Martha Ann (Wimer) Judy.

Mrs. Campbell attended Brooklyn Park High School and was raised as a Baptist. She was a homemaker.

On June 24, 1967, she married Richard Allen Campbell, who survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Nicole Campbell of Franklin; an aunt, Leona "Jean" Nicholas of Baltimore, Maryland; an uncle, Eldon Wimer of Baltimore, Maryland; and a brother, Dennis L. Judy (Hisami) of Mesquite, Nevada.

She was also preceded in death by a son, James, in 1993.

In honoring Mrs. Campbell's wishes, her body will be cremated with a celebration of life at a later date. Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.

County Commission Lends Support to Efforts to Have Seneca Rocks Named a Mon Forest Town

By Ken Bustin

All three county Commissioners were present when President Gene McConnell called the March 1st Pendleton County Commission meeting to order with some sharp raps on the tabletop with his knuckles.

"I'm going to have to invest in a gavel," he quipped with a shake of his head, adding, "My hand is getting tired of this."

The minutes of the previous regular session of the Commission on February 15, together with those for the special budget session February 23, were unanimously approved without discussion.

When McConnell called for a maintenance report, he came up dry, as Karen Pitsenbarger, county administrator, replied that there was nothing to report since the previous meeting.

He fared better with the 911 report, as 911 Director Diana Mitchell reported that the application period for 911 dispatcher positions had passed, and that three applications had been received and were being evaluated.

Emergency Management Services Coordinator Rick Gillespie reported that the policy manual, under revision for the past several months, had been finalized and was "in the book and out there." It took effect that day, March 1st.

McConnell remarked that there was a bill before the West Virginia Legislature (HB4282) regarding next generation 911 systems (NG911), which would require 911 systems to be able to handle Geographic Information System (GIS) data, and inquired if the new system which had just been approved would be compatible? Gillespie responded that the new system would put the county on track to be able to accommodate NG911 improvements.

Next, McConnell called on Pendleton County Economic Development Authority Executive Director, Laura Brown, for an update on broadband activities. Brown said that there had been no announcement of approval of any of the grant applications yet received, but that she believed that awards of additional grants would be announced prior to the end of the legislative session on March 12, and hoped the Pendleton County Line Extension Advancement and Development (LEAD) grant would be among them.

She said they are still receiving questions on the West Virginia grant applications, and that Lingo Networks, the county's ISP partner for the projects, was responding. McConnell lamented that "...the state sometimes asks the same questions over and over again in different ways..."

"It's Groundhog Day," retorted Brown, referring to the well-known movie in which the lead character gets trapped in a repeating cycle.

McConnell agreed, but observed that those acting on the grant applications were doubtless being very careful, as the federal guidelines were strict, and they were "trying to stay between the lines."

"I guess we need to cut them a little slack, because it's new to them, too," he concluded.

The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) grant application, made by a consortium of the Pendleton County Schools and the Pendleton County Library, was still awaiting approval, Brown said, but added that deadline for the completion of construction of any projects approved thereunder, has been extended for one year, to June 30, 2023, in deference to the delays in evaluating and approving grant applications. Previously, all construction work was to be completed by June 30, 2022, which raised concern that contractors would not be able to finish on time.

Steeptoe & Johnson has been retained as the attorney for the broadband projects, Brown reported, adding that the contract with Thrasher Engineering is being worked on and, once approved, the firm will begin the feasibility study.

Together with Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Ciara Lambert, Brown

discussed with the Commission the Mon Forest Towns (MFT) program conducted by the US Forest Service. Franklin is a member of MFT, and Lambert is the representative for Franklin. They proposed requesting the forest service to have Seneca Rocks added as a Mon Forest Town. Brown said she would serve as the representative for Seneca Rocks. A letter of support was needed from the Commission.

Durbin had also recently applied to be a Mon Forest Town, Brown said, and would be up for consideration, as well. But she said they intended to "hit them hard [at their meeting] on April 6th, with letters of support," and added with a grin to a round of chuckles from the room, "And, if they say no, they'll be held hostage in Pendleton County - we won't let them out."

After brief discussion, commissioner Carole Hartman moved that the Commission provide such a letter of support. It was seconded and passed with all in favor.

Brown and Lambert also asked the Commission to consider forming a planning commission, with an eye toward developing a strategic plan for the county.

Noting that there had been a planning commission a few years ago, McConnell suggested that they locate and review the old plan, saying, "I'll bet a lot of that information is applicable today. Let's not re-invent the wheel."

In the end, the matter was tabled again until the next meeting, with Brown and Lambert promising to review the previous plan in the interim.

Turning attention to an update on the courthouse annex project, McConnell reported that Omni Associates, the architects for the project, had recently toured the Pendleton County Board of Education central office, across the street from the courthouse. With the acquisition of the Lovegrove Building on Main Street and the impending relocation of the board of education to that facility later this year, their current building will become available, offering a possible alternative to new construction for the proposed annex. McConnell said that the examination of that building by the architects was to determine if remodeling that facility could be accomplished at less cost than entirely new construction. "I feel we owe it to the taxpayers of the county to explore that alternative," he said.

Pendleton County's share in the \$265 million opioid settlement would be around \$178,000, McConnell reported. Hartman observed that, though the distribution of these funds would be in April, the payout will take up to 18 years to complete. Though they can't be used to reimburse prior expenditures, these funds may be able to be used towards future jail bills. A vote was needed to authorize the attorneys to accept the settlement on behalf of Pendleton County, so commissioner Carl Hevener moved that the Commission sign a West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding accepting the settlement terms. Put to a vote, it passed unanimously.

Despite some board appointments being made at earlier meetings, there were some which were yet to be made, specifically to the Farmland Protection Board. Gary Swecker was re-appointed, and Lois Carr and Amy Batson were new appointments. After discussion, it was decided to change the length of the terms so that all expired on the same date, December 31. On a motion by Hartman, the three were appointed to four-year terms. Amber Nesselrodt had previously been appointed to the fourth slot at an earlier meeting.

The annual memorandum of agreement with the West Virginia University (WVU) Cooperative Extension Service was signed by the Commission.

The sheriff's office presented a list of several outstanding checks, some dating as far back as 2016, which

had never been cashed, and it was being requested that the Commission approve their cancellation. The Commission discussed with Morgan Basagic, chief tax deputy, the need to review outstanding checks more frequently.

McConnell said he felt, even at this late date, an attempt should be made to contact some of the payees, to be sure that the checks had actually been received, and to learn if there was any reason they had not been cashed? "My concern is that the person got the check," he said, adding, "If they got the check and chose not to cash it, we don't care."

Hartman asked if checks which were five years old or more needed to be turned over to the West Virginia Unclaimed Property office? Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting so Basagic could contact the unclaimed property division for additional information on how to handle the older outstanding checks.

By unanimous votes, the Commission approved fiduciary appointments and estate settlements. There were no exonerations to be approved.

As the Commissioners reviewed the bills presented for payment, McConnell asked if there was any other business to come before the Commission? Bruce Minor, Pendleton County Emergency Services director, informed the Commission that he was sending a revised version of the county's Flood Plain Ordinance to the state using their template. He also said that the county's mitigation plan was last updated in 2013.

He was told at a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) training session that adding a chapter on the emergency services plan would be sufficient for the update. Minor said that once the state approves the submission, he will present it to the Commission for their official approval.

He said that the local LEPC group is planning on getting active again after COVID. They have scheduled a meeting for March 10 and that various training exercises are also being planned again.

Commissioner Hevener said he had been contacted by the West Virginia Conservation Agency regarding the straight-line winds event in Brandywine in July 2021. A meeting is scheduled for March 24.

Minor and Gillespie reported that they had attended a meeting last week with the National Forest personnel and representatives from three other counties to discuss the additional load and stress on the 911 systems from stranded tourists. They also talked about the interoperability between the National Forest personnel and county personnel during forest fires on National Forest land. The radio equipment in the federal vehicles cannot communicate with the local personnel, so Gillespie suggested that Pendleton County provide a radio set for one of the federal vehicles, with the hope that the other counties would also do this.

Fire department personnel had recently been given a tour of the Columbia Gas compressor station in Seneca Rocks, though the purpose was mostly informational rather than a training session, as the crews of the gas company had been clear that they would handle any emergencies with their own personnel, and that the best thing local firefighters could do in such a situation would be to "stay out of the way."

An upcoming training session for emergency personnel would give instruction on how to rescue people trapped on lifts at the ski area, in the event of an extended power failure or other emergency.

The Commission proceeded to work on the fiscal year 2023 budget as its final order of business before adjournment.

The next regular meeting of the Pendleton County Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, at 9 a.m. in the Commission office at the courthouse.

North Fork Residents Turn Out to Discuss Possible Closure of the Senior Center

(Cont. from Page 1)

Franklin was significantly less than paying the wages of a cook from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. She also said the agency was having difficulty finding cooks.

She outlined other expenses which contributed to the loss. For example, the bill for propane since the beginning of the year, she said, had been about \$1,300.

Some in the group were unconvinced, however, that officials were always spending funds wisely. They cited as an example of the fact that two volunteers had offered to mow the lawn at the Center for a \$5 contribution toward their gas each time, but that instead officials had put the job out to bid and the cost had ended up being \$50 per time - 10 times as much.

Lantz suggested that citizens contact their legislators. She emphasized the importance of them hearing from multiple people - and repeatedly.

"If the representatives hear from one person," she opined, "it's not the same as hearing from 10."

One woman in the audience suggested contacting busi-

nesses in the community, to ask for donations and sponsorships. "Tell me what needs to be said and I'll make the calls," she declared. Lantz said that businesses had already been contacted by means of flyers, but several people felt that this was not as effective as personal calls.

Another complaint from some of those in attendance was that people were coming to the Center expecting to have a meal, and were instead finding a locked door.

One man opined that greater effort should be made to encourage younger people to come to the Center, noting that as older people died off, the numbers would decline further.

Pendleton County was not the only place considering closing a satellite center, Gossard reminded the audience. The problem was widespread.

Some members of the audience were annoyed because they felt that officials hadn't reached out to community members to ask for help. They had held fundraising events in the past, they said, and had done very well. One of the

last ones had raised \$3,500, a significant portion of the annual shortfall, which officials estimated at about \$12,000 annually. Some of the residents felt that undertaking such efforts again might produce similar results.

Lantz said they welcomed any suggestions or efforts that would help. "It's just basically going to boil down to the numbers," she concluded.

In answer to whether or not a fundraiser could designate its proceeds to assist just the North Fork Senior Center instead of the overall agency, Lantz and Gossard were equivocal. "Maybe," they replied.

The meeting adjourned without a clear conclusion. Some of those in attendance left vowing to find ways to save the Center, with Lantz having urged them to "...keep your minds open to new things."

PIECES FOR THE HEART

Sunday, March 13

Brandywine Family Dining

Hosting a Puzzle Competition Between

Joyce Moates and Tammy Mitts

as they compete to put

a 750-piece puzzle together.

Come Out and Support Bryer.

All Donations/Bids and 15% Of Sales

That Day Will Be Given to Autumn

Puffenbarger and Bryer to help with

Bryer's Open Heart Surgery Expenses.

Check our Facebook page

for bid information and live updates.

Rt. 33, Brandywine ~ 304-249-5616

NOTICE

Region VII Workforce Development Board Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, March 17

Meeting is being held via conference call and will begin at 6 p.m.

For meeting information, contact Stacy Swick at 304-530-5258.

An Equal Opportunity Program/Employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

SKSRT ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc. will award a \$500 scholarship to two graduating seniors whose parents or legal guardians are current customers of Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc.

Applicant must be a member of a current graduating class, must achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA or in the upper 1/3 of the class, and must be accepted as a full-time student in an accredited two- or four year college, university or vocational-technical school.

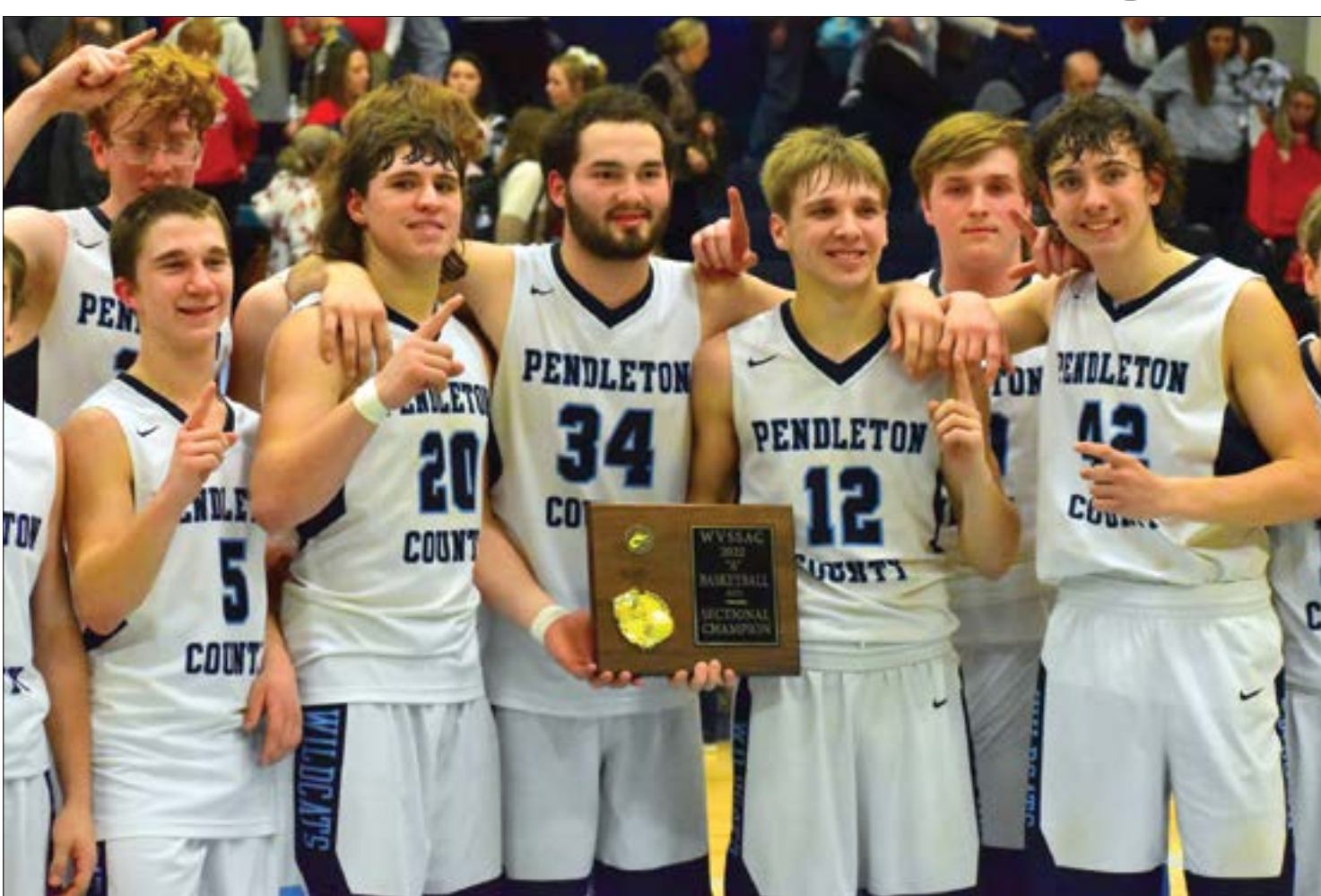
Applicant must have character that is respectful of students and teachers in a manner that shows leadership, honesty, responsibility, integrity and consideration of others.

Further information on eligibility and criteria can be obtained by calling 304-567-2121, M-F from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by e-mail at sksrts@spruceknob.net.

Applications are available at the telephone office or can be downloaded online at www.spruceknob.net.

Deadline for submission of application is April 19, 2022.

Wildcats Roar Past Bulldogs for Sectional Title



Pendleton players celebrate following the team's victory against Tygarts Valley in the Class A Region II, Section 2 championship clash.

By Shawn Stinson

FRANKLIN – The Pendleton County boys basketball team took another step to returning to Charleston by claiming a Class A Region II, Section 2 championship.

Pendleton knocked off Tygarts Valley, 72-53, on March 4 in Franklin. The victory allowed Pendleton to advance to its

fourth straight regional co-championship contest. Pendleton was scheduled to play host to East Hardy on March 9 in Franklin.

The Wildcats swept the season series with the Cougars. Pendleton posted a 68-51 victory on Jan. 4 in Franklin. The Wildcats knocked off the Cougars, 75-55, on Feb. 3 in Baker.

“East Hardy gave Tucker a

game at Tucker,” Pendleton coach Jeremy Bodkin said. “Obviously, they have gotten better and they’re doing some things differently. They have a matchup problem with us. We just have to do what we do. We can worry about what they do, but we have to do what Pendleton County does and that is we make people turn the ball over; we hit layups; we hit some shots;

we play very good defense; and we when we have to we will run our offense.

“We have to concentrate on this one to get where we want to be which is the state tournament.”

Clayton Kisamore averaged 23.5 points per game against East Hardy. Tanner Townsend averaged 17 points a game against the Cougars. Jacob

Beachler and Cole Day both averaged nine points a contest against East Hardy.

Dawson Price led the attack for East Hardy against Pendleton, averaging 18 points a game. Noah Lang and J.W. Teets scored 16.5 and 10 points a game, respectively, against the Wildcats.

Pendleton has posted an 8-1 record at home this season. The team's lone home loss came against Tucker County.

“That’s a big key, playing at home is always fun,” Bodkin said. “We have had a really good student section all season.”

Kisamore netted a team-high 17 points for Pendleton in the win against Tygarts Valley. Day added 13 points and Beachler knocked down 11. Braden McClanahan scored 12 points for the Wildcats. Beachler grabbed 16 rebounds in the win to finish with a double-double. Day just missed reaching a double-double, grabbing nine rebounds.

Kaden Moore had a game-high 20 points for Tygarts Valley in the loss. Garrett Gibson added 14 points for the Bulldogs.

Pendleton held a 17-14 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Wildcats blitzed the Bulldogs in the second quarter to seize a 40-26 halftime advantage. Pendleton extended its margin to 56-35 heading into the final period.

“I told them at halftime, I think we were up 14 at half,” Bodkin said. “I said let’s keep this going, keep doing what we’re doing. Act like it’s 0-0 and let’s go out and play like it and they did.”



Clayton Kisamore drives to the basket to score two of his team-high 17 points in the win against Tygarts Valley.

Day scored a game-high 20 points to lead Pendleton to a 65-23 victory against Pocahontas County in a Class A Region II, Section 2 semifinal contest on March 1 in Franklin. Day grabbed 10 rebounds to complete his double-double.

Kisamore added 15 points. Beachler netted 10 points for the Wildcats. McClanahan nearly recorded a double-double with nine points and 10 rebounds.

Pendleton limited Pocahontas to single-digit scoring in all four quarters. The Warriors scored six points in the first quarter, eight in the second, four in the third and five in the fourth.

The Wildcats raced out to a 14-6 lead at the conclusion of the first quarter. They extended their advantage to 31-14 at halftime. Pendleton stretched the margin to 43-18 heading into the final period.

Union Ousts Pendleton County



Pendleton's Avery Townsend, center, and Brandy Bowers, right, walk off the court as Union players celebrate following the final buzzer.

By Shawn Stinson

FRANKLIN – Members of the Pendleton County High School girls basketball team were able to mark off several of their goals.

They captured a sectional title and played host to a regional co-championship, with a berth in Charleston in the balance. Unfortunately, their goal of returning to the Elite Eight in Charleston was dashed by Union in the Class A Region II co-championship clash March 2 in Franklin. The Lady

Tigers claimed a 54-41 victory over the Lady Wildcats to advance to the school's first-ever trip to the state tournament.

“They made shots and we didn’t,” Pendleton coach Micah Bailey said. “I know it’s a cliché-thing to say, but that’s literally the difference. We shot in the low 20s and they shot in the high 40s. Defensively both teams made mistakes, we both went on runs, it’s just the ball wouldn’t go in the bucket.”

Pendleton grabbed a 15-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. Union

(16-5) rallied in the second quarter and seized a 27-21 advantage at halftime. The Lady Tigers continued to extend the margin in the third quarter, outscoring the Lady Wildcats by eight in the period to take a 41-27 lead into the fourth.

Three Union players scored in double figures led by Hailee Whitacre’s 16 points. Olivia Bomboy and Victoria Seabolt both netted 11 in the victory.

It was the third victory for Union in four contests against Pendleton this season. Bailey said there were no surprises in what either team attempted to establish in the contest.

“We knew what exactly what was coming,” he said. “We knew exactly how it was going to go ... we got the looks we wanted to get and we just missed.”

Ana Young netted a team-high

14 points for Pendleton in the defeat. She was held without a field goal in the final three quarters. Young connected on two 3-point field goal attempts. Avery Townsend scored nine and Brandy Bowers chipped in with eight for the Lady Wildcats.

“Basketball is a game of momentum,” Bailey said. “They had momentum at times and we had

momentum at times. It’s hard to gain momentum when you can’t make a basket. The majority of what they shot went in. There’s nothing much you can do about that. It wasn’t like they were shooting wide-open looks; they had contested looks; they were just knocking them down.”

Gilmer County (22-2) earned the top seed in the Class A tournament. Gilmer was scheduled to square off with Union, the No. 8 seed, at 5:30 p.m. March 8 at the Charleston Coliseum. Cameron (21-4) grabbed the No. 2 seed and was set for a 1 p.m. March 8 clash with No. 7 River View (16-8). Defending Class A champion No. 3 Tug Valley (17-5) was scheduled to open play at 9:30 a.m. March 8 against No. 6 Tucker County (18-6). No. 4 Doddridge County (19-6) and No. 5 Webster County (19-5) were set for a 9 p.m. March 8 clash in the final quarterfinal matchup.

Bailey added it was tough to not be able to make the return trip to Charleston, especially for the seniors.

“They wanted to make it back, I wanted to make it back,” Bailey said. “It was tough. Losing one you feel like you could have played better in and done more in.”



Pendleton coach Micah Bailey discusses strategy with his players during a timeout in the Class A Region II co-championship contest against Union.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the birthday cards and wishes.

Linda Gail Eye

Thank you ever so much

The many cards that I received for my 93rd birthday made the day extra special this year. Thank you friends and family for taking the time to remember me.

Betty May

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Locally Made Quilts Express Love To Worldly Neighbors

Sugar Grove

by Paula Mitchell

Knotting quilts was the "order of the day" for several weeks in the St. John Lutheran Church basement. These quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. Often, when natural disasters strike, or war drives families from their homes, hearts ache with compassion, but oftentimes, one doesn't know how to help.

Making these quilts is a tangible way to express love to neighbors in need. Quilts are used as warm bedding, simple tents, floor coverings and room dividers. Each quilt reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

An ingathering is a regional collection event where boxed quilts are dropped off to be delivered to either New Windsor, Maryland, or to South St. Paul, Minnesota, warehouses. Online tracking can be used to follow their journey to people who will enjoy them.

Lutheran World Relief distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war torn Europe following World War II. Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe to villages far removed from the world's attention. Today, an average of 3,000,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year.

Prior to having the quilts ready for knotting, tops are sewn together throughout the year. Two tops, measuring 60" x 80" each, with a filler in between, are hemmed and ready to be knotted. The quilters who gathered weekly to knot the quilts came from all parts of the community. The mornings began at 9 a.m. with music for background enjoyment. At the conclusion of the morning, soup and sandwiches were served. This past week was the conclusion of the quilting process with 200 being completed and boxed, followed with a church service blessing, and then, will be sent to the Weyers Cave, Virginia, warehouse in April. From there, the journey begins for the needy persons all over the world.

Even though this year's quilting project is completed, tops are already being sewn together for next year's project. Perhaps one doesn't have the opportunity to knot; however, dropping off material pieces, sheets, or blankets at the church basement is one way to be of assistance. And so, the cycle of love continues.

Life's daily reminders to be kind to each other include the following:

1. Smile when a person greets others.
 2. Call to check on someone living at home.
 3. Bake some "goodies" to take to someone grieving.
 4. Be kind to one's neighbor.
 5. Volunteer for an organization — to make this world a better place!
- The chorus frogs have been singing their praises for several weeks. Tom Mitchell has been enjoying their songs. Snow drop flowers are blooming everywhere. Jonquils (daffodils) have peeked their showy heads, as they sway in the breeze. This certainly is a sign that the earth is awakening and spring is on its way.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"In the past, those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside." — J.F. Kennedy

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and man." — Mark Twain

"The ache for home lives in all of us. The safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned." — Maya Angelou

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold; when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." — Charles Dickens

Life is better by the fireplace to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

Butchering hogs took place at the Mitchell homestead. Everything but the "squeal" was used. This is an old tradition that once roamed this community for many, many years. Few persons take part in this art today.

Justin Simmons and Sharon Crider planned an early surprise 40th birthday party for April Simmons. The writer wishes her many more birthday surprises.

Hendrix Bogan celebrated his fifth birthday Sunday at Rosalee Grogg's home. Helping him with his big day was Rosalee Grogg, Terri Grogg, Marleta and Junior Wimer, Leana Leap, Clint Davis, Madison Grogg and Asher Mauzy.

Evelyn Varner motored to Harrisonburg, Virginia, to attend the service for Sharon Smith. Joining her was her daughter, Judy Costello of Verona, Virginia.

Glad to hear that Diana Smith is feeling much better, following her surgery.

Clickety-clacks for the chin wagers are as follows:

- Quilting dates back to 3400 BC in Egypt.
- Paducah, Kentucky, claims the title of "Quilt Capital of the World."
- The United States Postal Service has featured Amish and Folk quilts on its stamps.
- The largest quilt is located in Antla, North Dakota. It is 11,390 square feet, depicting the state.



Watching Evelyn Varner and Wanda Pitsenbarger knot a quilt are, from left, front row, Rev. Jess Felici, Judy Waggy, Rev. Jason Felici, Lois Rigglerman, Jim Rexrode, Paula Mitchell and Jennifer Simmons; and back row, Tom Mitchell, Donna Hoover, Vicar Evan Christensen, Linda Rexrode, Janet Boggess and Sam Waggy. Absent from the photo are Beth Felton, Missy Harrison and Stephanie Harman.

•The quilts of Gees Bend are the most famous American quilts. Eugene and Evelyn Varner had their first mess of dandelion greens over the weekend.

The remainder of the March birthdays are as follows: Julie Smith, 16th; Gernon Hoover, 17th; Allison Hoover, Brad Gumm and Jaden Mitts, 18th; Jean Thompson, 19th; Jennifer Hoover, Sharon Harr, Robbie Sites, David Marsh and Cindy Wilkins, 21st; Shirley Pratt, Mike Eye, Christy Harper and Wanda Messerly, 22nd; Connor Armstrong, 23rd; Debbie Cayton, 25th; Krista Walls, 26th; Patty Harper, 27th; Andrew Kiser, 29th; Rudy Mitts, 30th; and Gene Boggs and Doyle Moats, Jr., 31st.

Concerns for this week are as follows: the Larry Blankenship family, Scherry Chambers, Charlotte Copley, Jeff Craig, Joy Darnell, Jeff Evick, Lee Roy and Ina Evick, Mary Eye, Ron Gilkeson, Lola Graham, Marlene Harman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Starr Hedrick, Winona Judy Hewitt, Virgil Homan, Jr., Lorena Hoover, Myrtle Hoover, Alice Johnson, Richard Judy, the Ressie Kimble family, Margaret Kiser, Rex Landis, Jay Linaberg, Angela Lung, Linda Malcolm, Morris and Sue Mallow, Yvonne Marsh, the Lanny Marshall family, Naomi Michael, Joe Moats, Ernie Morgan, Aaron Nelson, Kathy Nelson, Ken Nelson, Cheryl Paine, Sutton Parrack, Betty Lou Propst, Garry Propst, Nathan Propst, Sheldon Propst, Eldon Puffenbarger, Willard Rader, Don Rexrode, Bishop Matt Riegel, Donna Ruddle, the Janet Runion family, Barbara Simmons, Chloe Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Ona Smith, Ona Smith, Stanna Smith, Patricia Swecker, Harry Lee Temple, Charlotte Thompson, Rosa Tichenor, Sandra Vandevander, Jack Vogel, the Ruthene Warble family, Amby Waybright Jr., Ron White and Judy Williams.

Downed Frontier Utility Line Fouls Route 33 in Onego for 2-1/2 Hours

(Cont. from Page 1)

Gillespie, made another call to Frontier shortly after 9 p.m., eventually speaking to Frontier's hazardous conditions office, which took the information and issued a trouble ticket. Explaining that the lines were fouling the roadway of Route 33 and requiring department of highways personnel to remain on the scene to direct traffic, Gillespie asked for an estimate of the response time, and was told that an estimated time of arrival could not be provided until the line crew accepted the call — which apparently did not occur until about 10 p.m., two-and-a-half hours after the call was first reported to Frontier.

Meantime, the SKSRT line crew had assisted department of highways personnel on the scene in removing the lines safely from the roadway and temporarily securing them. Frontier crews had not arrived by the time the DOH and SKSRT personnel departed, according to Gillespie. He said he had "grave concerns" about how Frontier had handled the incident. He was most troubled by the fact that Frontier was unable to identify the scene from the pole number, or be aware that it was, in fact, their pole and line. It was unimaginable, he

felt, "...that, in this day and age, this information could not have been entered into Frontier's computer system and immediately pop out the location."

Taking two-and-a-half hours to dispatch a crew in an emergency was also "unacceptable response," in his opinion. Though Gillespie said he was relieved that this incident wasn't one which had posed an immediate threat of injury, he recognized that it could easily have been, and that in such a situation, time could have been very much of the essence.

Gillespie said he reported the incident to Frontier officials, who he said had replied that they found the matter "disturbing" and promised to investigate. The Times has contacted a Frontier spokesperson for official comment, but at press time had received no response.

The next mediation session for the original complaint is scheduled for March 8, at 9 a.m., in a virtual session before mediator Brigit M. Davis. If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved by mediation by March 14, it will then go before an administrative law judge, or the full Public Service Commission.

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Ag Department Accepting Applications for CSP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications from agricultural producers and forest landowners from West Virginia for the Conservation Stewardship Program. Agricultural producers and forest landowners looking to build on conservation efforts while strengthening their operation can apply for technical and financial assistance through CSP.

While USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service accepts CSP applications year-round, West Virginia producers and landowners should apply by March 31 to be considered for funding in the current cycle.

State technical committees, composed of conservation and agricultural-related agency and organization representatives, work with NRCS to identify resource priorities and how best to address them. NRCS then sets state-specific, ranking dates to evaluate applications for funding that account for producer

needs, staff workload and ensure potential participants have ample opportunities to apply. Find West Virginia's ranking dates for CSP and other conservation programs at www.nrcs.usda.gov/staterankingdates.

The program provides many benefits, including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to adverse weather. CSP is for working lands, including cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under Indian tribe jurisdiction.

Additionally, existing CSP participants may have an opportunity to renew their contracts in the first half of the fifth year of their five-year contract through a competitive application process.

Special provisions are available for **historically underserved producers**, which include those considered beginning, socially

disadvantaged and limited resource as well as military veterans. These producers are targeted funds.

Payment rates for conservation practices are reviewed and set each fiscal year for the state.

To apply for CSP, contact NRCS at one's local USDA Service Center. Local service centers can be found at www.farmers.gov/service-locator.

Service center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Contact a service center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. On farmers.gov, a person can create a secure account, apply for NRCS programs, electronically sign documents and manage your conservation contracts. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

Poultry Owners Urged To Increase Biosecurity Efforts

Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture are urging poultry owners to increase biosecurity efforts following the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Indiana, Kentucky and Virginia. In addition, a Eurasian strain of Avian Influenza virus has been detected via routine surveillance from hunter-harvested wild ducks in South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Florida. Poultry is West Virginia's number one agricultural commodity contributing \$334 million to the economy.

"With neighboring states detecting HPAI and other states finding avian influenza in wild fowl, it is time producers enhance biosecurity in West Virginia. Hopefully, increased biosecurity and the emergency action plans in those states will keep the disease contained," said

Commissioner Leonhardt. "The Department holds exercises to review our plans annually, so we are prepared and have mechanisms in place to deal with an outbreak."

Scattered infections of this virus strain have been detected this year in Europe, and in December, two cases were reported in eastern Canada. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza had not been detected in U.S. wild birds in five years. Also known as Bird Flu, this virus can sometimes pose a risk to people who have had direct contact with infected wild or domestic birds.

"We encourage producers to focus on biosecurity which is the mainstay for preventing introduction of this highly infectious virus," Leonhardt said. "Anyone involved with poultry production, from commercial operations to organic producers to backyard birds, should increase biosecurity for

their flocks to prevent exposure to the virus. Hopefully these measures will keep the disease at bay."

Increasing protection includes restricting access to properties, keeping wild birds away from poultry and enhanced biosecurity methods which are provided in detail at the following link: USDA APHIS | Defend the Flock Program. WVDA's Animal Health Division routinely conducts sick poultry investigations and the division's Moorefield Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory performs presumptive testing for Avian Influenza and other high-index animal diseases as a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

Poultry owners should immediately report unusual death loss, a drop in egg production or any sick domestic birds to animal health division at 304-558-2214.

West Virginia Firemen's Association Gives Support to Senate Bill to Provide Relief to Volunteer Fire Departments

There are 407 volunteer or partly-volunteer fire departments in West Virginia, and they are the last line of protection for the homes and property of thousands of families. But many – perhaps most – of these departments are facing funding and staffing shortfalls which could threaten their very ability to continue.

Senate Bill 513, if approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, would allow volunteers and part-volunteer fire departments to use state grants to enhance their recruiting efforts. It's only a small first step, but enough to have won the support of the West Virginia Firemen's Association (WVFA).

"Without relief, fire departments will close," predicted WVFA President G. T. Par-

sons. "Sadly, that would leave families and businesses without adequate emergency services, and we don't want that to happen."

Several have already closed their doors in the past few years. And "the problems we face today will doom other departments unless we find more support for our members," Parsons said, adding, "Too many must rely on hot dog sales and raffles to raise money – and do not have adequate funding to conduct successful campaigns for new members." He said the failure of local departments would create greater risks for West Virginians. He cautioned that the availability of fire and emergency services also has financial implications for families and businesses. "The strength and capabilities of local fire departments affect

residents' and businesses' property insurance rates, which depend, in part, on the proximity and quality of local emergency services," he explained.

"This is not a new problem, but it is a problem that has reached a critical stage," Parsons said. "By working with the Legislature, we can address this situation and allow our communities to continue to rely on local emergency services."

"We are grateful that members of the Legislature are interested in reversing this troubling trend," he said. "They understand the value of locally-based fire and emergency services. We must stop this decline now, or we'll pay the price both financially and through personal loss."

WV House Technology and Infrastructure Committee Amends & Passes Broadband Bill

By Matthew Young
WV Press News Service

CHARLESTON – The West Virginia House of Delegates Technology and Infrastructure Committee talked broadband last Thursday, ultimately sending an amended version of HB-4001 to the House Finance Committee.

The only bill discussed during the meeting, HB 4001, also known as the "Broadband bill," spawned lengthy, and at times contentious testimony. Initially introduced on January 13 by lead sponsor and Committee Chair Del. Daniel Linville (R-Cabell), the bill seeks to establish the "Legislative Oversight Commission on Department of Economic Development Accountability." This new commission would be endowed with funding authority and limited subpoena power over the state Treasury and Department of Transportation, as well as other miscellaneous powers related to broadband infrastructure.

In lieu of an overview bill, general counsel opted to explain the "strike and insert" amendment, as several changes had been made to the amendment since last presented to the full committee. Among those changes were provisions for confidentiality concerning utility-pole rights of way and easements, and the addition of language stating that rights of way be provided only when available. A new paragraph was also added to the bill which would increase confidentiality protection for documents provided to the newly-created legislative commission.

Mitch Carmichael, secretary of the Department of Economic Development, was the first to give testimony. After being sworn in, Carmichael provided

an explanation of the programs designed to be used for distributing broadband-funds made available through legislature and congressional-actions. There is a total of four programs intended for this purpose, with one "Major Broadband Project Initiative."

"We partner with Internet service providers that come to our office," Carmichael said. "We put in place a bid-mechanism, a program with guidelines, and so forth. This is to help with bigger projects that will establish 'last mile' connectivity."

Carmichael further stated that there are currently over 300,000 addresses without broadband in West Virginia as defined by the FCC, and that all distribution programs have been designed in anticipation of the receipt of additional federal funding.

Invited next to the podium was Kelly Workman, director of the Office of Broadband. After being sworn in, Workman stated "the federal funding that we're working with is part of the American Rescue Plan, and it is governed by the U.S. Treasury." Workman further stated that the Office of Broadband "has not imposed any requirements over those federal regulations."

Chairman Linville inquired as to the existence of any requirement that the state be repaid for its investment in the programs. Workman then advised the committee that there is indeed a requirement.

"Federal agencies may, and the key word is may, require the imposition of a lien on that property," Workman said. "What we are asking our local governments to do at this time is, if they are entering into a public/private partnership,

which we do encourage, that they negotiate that with the Internet service provider. We didn't feel it was appropriate to impose undue burden on those partnerships, provided that the local government is protected, and the federal investment is protected."

Workman went on to express her dissatisfaction with section E of the amendment, which requires that "all facilities purchased, installed or funded by any grant program offered by this state shall not be sold for a period of 30-years after the receipt of such funding."

Workman then explained how this requirement is non-existent in programs offered through the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, or the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

"We would be instituting a requirement over and above the American Rescue Plan Act if we required public ownership for 30-years," Workman said.

After several additional questions directed at both Workman and Secretary Carmichael, as well as statements of support and objection from numerous committee members, Chairman Linville called for a vote on "the amendment to the amendment." A count of hands resulted in nine votes for and nine votes against, resulting in a rejection. Linville then called for a vote on the amendment as originally submitted by Vice-Chairman Del. Zach Maynard (R-Lincoln). The second vote resulted in adoption of the amendment by the committee, prompting Del. Maynard to move for the bill to be passed as amended by the house after referral to the House Committee on Finance. That motion also passed.

Certain Powdered Infant Formulas Being Recalled

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, in coordination with local health partners, has confirmed the state's first case of salmonella in an infant likely related to consumption of recalled powdered infant formula.

Recently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced they were investigating four complaints of infant illness related to products from Abbott Nutrition's Sturgis, MI received from Sept. 6, 2021, to Dec. 18, 2021. Complaints included three reports of Cronobacter sakazakii infections and one report of Salmonella Newport infection in infants. All infants were hospitalized and there was one death.

Abbott has issued a voluntary recall of powdered infant formula from Similac, Alimentum or EleCare with the following product codes which can be found on the container:

- the first two digits of the code are 22 through 37 and
- the code contains K8, SH, or Z2, and
- the expiration date is April 1, 2022 (APR 2022) or later.

These products are widely distributed across the United States and other countries. Formulas matching the codes provided above could be contaminated with Cronobacter. These bacteria can cause severe foodborne illness in infants with newborns being especially high risk.

"Parents and caregivers with infants on formula should immediately review the formula to ensure they are not using a recalled product," said Dr. Ayne Amjad, state health officer and commissioner of DHHR's Bureau for Public Health. "They should seek immediate medical care if their infant has consumed recalled formula and their infant is experiencing signs and symptoms of Cronobacter or Salmonella infection: diarrhea, poor feeding, irritability, vomiting, or blood in their stool."

Parents and caregivers with a sick infant who has consumed a recalled product are encouraged to keep opened or unopened cans of recalled formula in the instance that the local health department would like to sample the product.

Cronobacter bacteria can cause severe, life-threatening infections such as sepsis, or meningitis. Symptoms of sepsis and meningitis include poor feeding, irritability, temperature changes, jaundice, grunting breaths, and abnormal movements. Cronobacter infection may also cause bowel damage and may spread through the blood to other parts of the body. Parents or caregivers noticing any of these symptoms in their children should seek immediate medical care.

Products that do not contain the information listed above are not impacted by this advisory. This advisory does not include liquid formula products or any metabolic deficiency nutrition formulas.

Healthcare providers and health departments are encouraged to report any confirmed cases of Cronobacter sakazakii to the DHHR's Office of Epidemiological and Preventive Services at 304-558-5358, extension 2.

Families who purchase infant formula with WIC benefits should reach out to their WIC clinic to return any open or unopened recalled products. WIC clinics must verify the products prior to replacing WIC benefits.

For more information visit:

- FDA: <https://www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/fda-investigation-cronobacter-and-salmonella-complaints-powdered-infant-formula-february-2022>
- <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/abbott-voluntarily-recalls-powder-formulas-manufactured-one-plant>
- To see if a lot number is part of the recall and for product return instructions, visit <https://www.similacrecall.com/us/en/home.html>.

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Judge Receives Additional Disciplinary Charges

(Cont. from Page 1)

ident, Williams appeared to accidentally leave the store without paying for the items and declined to file charges.

This is not the first time Williams failed to pay for items before leaving the Moorefield Walmart. Williams was alleged to have failed to pay for self-scanned items in July 2020. The items were valued at nearly \$300. Walmart officials also said it was accidental as Williams appeared "distracted" during both incidents and would "get to talking to somebody and not pay" for the items before walking out of the store.

There are questions if there was a similar incident the previous year involving Williams and the Walmart in Moorefield. The latest Formal Statement of Charges includes text messages between Christine Crites, the loss prevention officer at Walmart, and Williams. The pair exchanged messages in early August 2019.

"Thank you very much for letting me know about my payment issue from yesterday," Williams wrote in a text message. "I just paid it. My sincere apologies for the inconvenience to you all at Walmart. I had absolutely no idea I did that. Thank you again. Carter Williams."

Crites replied to the message and informed Williams incidents like that frequently occur at the store.

"No worries ... It happens more often than you would think," Crites wrote.

Williams responded, "It's called, having too much clutter in one's brain."

Williams was set to go before the Judicial Hearing Board on Feb. 23 from an incident in July 2021 with a Moorefield police officer. Williams is accused of verbally accosting Moorefield Police Officer Deavonta Johnson during July 11, 2021, traffic stop.

Johnson alleged Williams was driving with a cell phone in his right hand. Johnson's report states Williams quickly identified himself as "Judge Williams" and asked "in an angry tone why he had been stopped."

During the interaction between the pair, Williams declined to provide his license, registration and insurance to Johnson at least two times. At one point during the exchange, Williams stated Johnson "pulled me over for no reason" and to "give me a ticket." Johnson discovered Williams's license had expired several months earlier when he returned to his patrol vehicle.

Williams made a phone call to Lt. Melody Burrows of the Moorefield Police Department during the traffic stop. Burrows was not on duty at the time of the phone call. Williams is alleged to have referred to Johnson as "your boy" several times. Johnson is African American.

Burrows is believed to have told Williams she would contact Johnson and tell him to not issue a ticket. Burrows reached Johnson, who was still in his patrol car, requesting him to not write a ticket to Williams. Johnson

returned to Williams's vehicle and attempted to return the registration, insurance and license. Williams is alleged to have grabbed the items and drove off without waiting for Johnson to release him.

In addition to calling Burrows during the traffic stop, Williams is alleged to have called Riggelman, who was also off duty at the time, Steve Reckart, the former Moorefield police chief, and Burrows following the incident. Williams is also alleged to have driven to the home of Carol Zuber, Moorefield's mayor, to discuss the incident.

During the phone call with Reckart, Williams stated Johnson should not be a police officer due to an allegation of a wanton endangerment in 2020 in Mineral County. Johnson was off duty at the time of the incident and the charge was later dismissed without prejudice.

Riggelman is said to have met with See to inquire about filing a motion to disqualify Williams from hearing any of his department's cases. See contacted a former circuit court judge for advice. Donald Cookman told See to gather all the information and submit it to Chief Circuit Judge Charles Carl as well as the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

Williams was informed of these actions and elected to self-report himself on July 15, 2021, to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. Members of the counsel were working on the case at the time, but informed Williams

he could submit his own report.

Riggelman would later issue a traffic ticket to Williams charging him with improper use of a cell phone and driving without a valid license.

The judicial complaint against Williams cites additional traffic stops. The investigators concluded there is probable cause Williams has engaged in a pattern and practice of using his public office for private gain and violated state traffic laws. Investigators cited several instances of Williams failing to be issued a ticket for running a stop sign, letting his vehicle registration expire and failing to wear a seat belt.

Williams's hearing is now scheduled for 9:30 a.m. June 14 in the Berkeley County Judicial Center in Martinsburg. Williams' possible punishment ranges from admonishment, a fine, a suspension or the loss of his law license.

Williams is a native of Hardy County and received his bachelor's degree from West Virginia University in 1988 and his law degree three years later from the WVU College of Law. He was elected to the bench in the 22nd Judicial Circuit in May 2016 and was sworn into office in 2017 for an eight-year term.

Officials Announce Another Coronavirus Death

By Shawn Stinson

FRANKLIN – The latest coronavirus-related death was announced earlier this month.

Officials with the Pendleton County Health Department announced the death of a 93-year-old female on March 1 on the organization's Facebook page. The death was the 17th of a county resident since the start of the pandemic.

The last coronavirus death was revealed on Feb. 18 and was a 71-year-old male who had been in the hospital.

The total number of coronavirus cases in Pendleton County since the start of the pandemic inches closer to a milestone. County health officials announced there have been a total of 1,989 cases in the county. There were eight new cases announced since March 1 in the county.

Pendleton County remains listed as a green county on the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources coronavirus map. The county's positivity rate remained in the

green level at 0.86, 1.03 and 1.03 on the March 5, 6 and 7 updates. The county's infection rate was in the yellow level at 17.94, 17.22 and 17.22, respectively, on the updates.

The state coronavirus map listed 45 counties as green, eight counties were listed as yellow, one (Clay) was gold and another (Webster) was orange.

The number of breakthrough cases in the county increased to 244. There remains one breakthrough death in a county resident. A breakthrough case is defined as a positive test for the coronavirus in an individual despite being labeled as fully vaccinated by health officials.

During his March 7 coronavirus press briefing, Gov. Jim Justice announced the number of active cases in the state dropped below 2,000 for the first time since July 28, 2021. Justice said there were 1,909 active cases in state residents.

"We're continuing to watch and all of our numbers and maps look significantly better," Justice said.

Public Invited to Review Flood Maps in Pendleton County

FEMA is proposing updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Map for Pendleton County. Community partners are invited to participate in a 90-day appeal and comment period.

The updated maps were produced in coordination with local, state and FEMA officials. Significant community review of the maps has already taken place, but before the maps become final, community partners can identify any corrections or questions about the information provided and submit appeals or comments.

The 90-day appeal period began March 3. Residents, business owners and other community partners are encouraged to review the updated maps to learn about local flood risks and potential future flood insurance requirements. They may submit an appeal if they perceive that modeling or data used to create the map is technically or scientifically incorrect.

An appeal must include technical information, such as hydraulic or hydrologic data, to support the claim.

Appeals cannot be based on the effects of proposed projects or projects started after the study is in progress.

If property owners see incor-

rect information that does not change the flood hazard information — such as a missing or misspelled road name in the special flood hazard area or an incorrect corporate boundary — they can submit a written comment.

The next step in the mapping process is the resolution of all comments and appeals. Once they are resolved, FEMA will notify communities of the effective date of the final maps.

Submit appeals and comments by contacting Bruce A. Minor, Director of Pendleton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, at pcoem@pencovv.com. The preliminary maps may be viewed online at the FEMA Flood Map Changes Viewer: <http://msc.fema.gov/fmcv>. Changes from the current maps may be viewed online at the Region 3 Changes Since Last FIRM Viewer: <https://arg.is/WLT010>.

For more information about the flood maps:

- Use a live chat service about flood maps at <http://go.usa.gov/r6C> (just click on the "Live Chat" icon).
- Contact a FEMA maps by telephone; toll free, at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2627) or by email at FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. There are cost-saving options available for those newly mapped into a high-risk flood zone. Learn more about a person's flood insurance options by talking with one's insurance agent and visiting <https://www.floodsmart.gov>.

Pendleton County Flood Mapping Milestones

- April 15, 2021 — Flood risk review meeting to review draft flood hazard data.
- Sept. 7, 2021 — Preliminary flood insurance rate map released.
- Sept. 14, 2021 — Community coordination and outreach meeting to review preliminary flood insurance rate map and discuss updates to local floodplain management ordinance and flood insurance.
- On March 3, 2022 — Appeal period starts
- November 2023* — New flood insurance rate map becomes effective and flood insurance requirements take effect. (*Timeline subject to change pending completion of the appeal review process.)

For questions, please contact FEMA Region 3 Office of External Affairs at (215) 931-5597 or at femar3newsdesk@fema.dhs.gov.

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2016 FORD F-250 CREW/CAB S/BED 4X4, Platinum Series, 6.7 dsl., auto., ldd., lift kit, big tires, etc., black, must see	\$54,900
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2014 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW SHORTBED 4X4, 3.5 Ecoboost, auto., ldd., blue, only 42K miles	\$27,900
2014 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB 4X4, XL pkg., 5.0 V-8, auto., air, etc., white, one owner, 192K miles	\$17,900
2013 FORD F-250 REGULAR CAB LONGBED 4X4, 6.7 dsl., auto., air, etc, white, 270K miles, runs excellent	FOR ONLY \$16,900
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2003 FORD F-250 SUPERCAB 4X4 UTILITY TRUCK, V-10, auto., ldd., maroon, 273K miles	\$5,995
1999 FORD F-350 CREW DUALY 4X4, XLT pkg., 7.3 liter diesel, auto., ldd, white, rust free truck from Georgia, recent engine and transmission work, good cond.	\$23,900
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1980 MG MGB Series 2-dr roadster, 4-cyl., 4-spd., etc., yellow w/black top, only 65K actual miles, ex. cond.	\$13,900
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New COVID School Guidelines Are Simple & Streamlined

(Cont. from Page 1)

teachers and chaperones at PCMHS.

A planning period was approved for Rebecca Heavner with all voting in favor.

There were no leaves of absence to be considered.

Having dispensed with personnel matters, the Board moved on the agenda's next item, finances. J. P. Mowery, business manager, presented the Board with the bills to be paid, and gave a short overview of the highlights in the list.

The new computer program, Board Docs, on which the Board had received training prior to the previous meeting, was responsible for a \$2,700 charge. Clothing purchases for students in need were included in the period's disbursements. Mowery explained to the Board that, while the school system itself couldn't purchase clothing for students, the Community in Schools program did not have the same restriction, and these expenses were being passed on and accounted for through that mechanism.

Updating view boards accounted for an item in the period's disbursements, Mowery said, explaining that new technology had made the new purchases a substantial improvement over existing boards being used in the system.

A new freezer at North Fork Elementary School (NFES) was another significant one-time expenditure he highlighted, as was refurbished playground equipment at Brandywine Elementary School (BES). Other notable purchases had included a new roof top unit platform which had been fabricated by Mountain Metal, to allow safer access to heating and cooling units located on the roof of the school.

Replacing an engine in bus #5410 was a large expenditure, Mowery noted, explaining that, although under other circumstances it might not have made good fiscal sense to replace the engine in an older bus, this project would be 95% reimbursed, so its eventual cost would be only a fraction of what the initial outlay had been.

Overall, there were \$611,188.34 in payables, Mowery said.

After thanking Mowery for his report, the Board voted unanimously to accept it.

There were budget transfers to be made, as well – from Fund 11, the General Fund. Though there was an increase in the budget of

\$213,300, Mowery explained that all of the funds were being transferred from other accounts which had unused balances.

Overall, he said, things were in good financial condition. We are "still very solid," he concluded.

Mowery said that the ECF grant for broadband expansion although still pending, had changed the completion date for any construction to be undertaken from June 30 to June 30, 2023. Previously, the delays in obtaining approval had been the cause of concern that contractors would be able to complete the projects on time.

Tim Johnson, facilities director, reported next to the Board. He reported that the Halos had been installed – 17 units were now in place. He was now "meeting with the IT guys to get them online," he said.

Johnson was pleased with the sensitivity of the units. He said he had walked into a bathroom and slapped a wall, causing the alarm to go off. There would be some tweaking and adjustment to be done, he theorized, but thought they would work out well.

The split heating and cooling system for the server room, "Verizon room," and special education area had been installed. Once the system was running, Johnson said one of the ladies who worked in the Verizon room expressed her satisfaction with the result, telling him that it was "the first time she had been warm in a long time."

Following up on questions posed at an earlier session by board member Betty Kimble, Johnson reported that handrails for the bleachers at NFES were in the process of being fabricated. He was still researching the availability of a cleaning machine that could run down the rows between seats on the bleachers which Kimble had mentioned to him last month.

A stop sign which was very difficult to see had prompted a decision to paint the word "STOP" on the pavement at the troublesome intersection at PCMHS.

There advanced construction planning item on the agenda had nothing new to report.

Moving to old business, Hedrick reported to the Board that he was recommending that they post three afternoon activity bus runs for the next school year. Board member Sonny O'Neil asked why they were not going to start this year, and Hedrick responded that

this could be done, if the Board directed it. "I work for you," he said, promising to make a strong effort to implement it this year, but hesitating to promise that it could all be gotten in place that quickly. A motion, second and unanimous vote approved his recommendation.

New business brought a discussion of the Youth League Sports Program which had been recently implemented. O'Neil commented that he believed it had been "a very successful first year." He said that he had observed that "the kids had fun" and that he had been very pleased by the outcome.

The six-month attendance report showed FES once again taking top honors, with 94% attendance, reported Johnson, attendance officer. He predicted that BES's standing "will probably go up." There had been "two court complaints and one dropout," he said. In answer to a question from a board member, Johnson said that absences due to COVID did not count in the reported statistics.

Curriculum director Travis Heavner's report reiterated satisfaction with a good first year for the Youth Sports League. To facilitate use by younger students, the baskets needed to be adjusted. Those at FES could be lowered, but their counterparts at the PCMHS would need "hang-ons," he said.

Heavner said the Summer Success Academy had already registered 80 students, and he expected there would be more before the close of the registration period. Last year, there had been 130 participating, and he expected a similar number this year. The Community in Schools coordi-

nators were making telephone calls to reach out to prospective students.

Registration forms for enrolling students in pre-school were now available.

Heavner said that on a day when multiple schools had been doing concurrent online testing, only 12% of the bandwidth was being used. Ahead of time, school officials had worried that the bandwidth might not be sufficient when all of the schools were using it at the same time, but that the "Chromebooks seemed to use much less bandwidth."

Moving to the superintendent's report, Hedrick told the Board that there were new COVID guidelines, but that the new directives had been reduced from 11 pages to only a single page, which he distributed to the Board. The single page color flyer now says simply, "Don't feel well? Stay home. If you have the symptoms below, let your family and teachers know," and lists cough, fever and sore throat as the conditions for which people needed to watch out. Many schools had now dropped the mask requirement totally, Hedrick said.

Reporting on the final item on the agenda – the conference/meeting update – Hedrick said that he would be attending a conference in Charleston the following week.

Its business concluded, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

The next regular meeting of the Pendleton County Board of Education is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 15, at the Board of Education Annex at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

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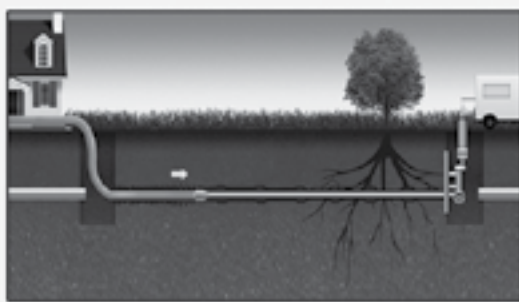
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3-10-4c

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No trespassing, no hunting or trapping of any kind and no running or retrieving of dogs on any of my lands on Snowy Mountain. Not responsible for accidents.
Frances Warner
1-3-eow

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the following estates is pending in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, 100 S. Main Street, P. O. Box 1167, Franklin, West Virginia 26807. The names of the personal representatives are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections that challenge the validity of the will, the qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Commission are required to file their objections with this Commission WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF THE NOTICE, whichever is later.

All creditors of the decedent(s) and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate(s) must file their claims with this Commission WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this No-

tice is March 3, 2022. Deadline for claims is May 2, 2022.

Wesley M. Teter Estate - Tonya Michelle Nesselrodt, Administratrix; Stanley Keith Helmick, Jr. Estate - Martha Helmick, Administratrix; John Robert Kemper Estate - Kathleen Lockard, Executrix; Jesse Ray Judy Estate - Arlie S. Judy, Jr., Executrix; James J. Garrett Estate - Patricia Alt, Executrix; Patti Jo Via Estate - Marilyn V. Bonnett, Executrix; Eston Wayne Propst Estate - Melissa Harrison, Executrix.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 28, 2022.

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 3-3-2c

NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that a foreign will or affidavit has been filed before Pendleton County Commission at 100 S. Main Street, Franklin, WV 26807.

That no appointment of administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of law but that a foreign will or affidavit of heirs of the decedent has been filed with the Pendleton County Commission, and is of record in the Pendleton 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 file with the Pendleton County Commission within 60 days after the date of first publication or within 30 days of the serving of this notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred.

First Publication Date: Thursday, March 3, 2022

Claim Deadline Date: Monday, May 2, 2022

Decedent: Richard Raines, Fairfax County, VA
Filed by: Sara Raines, Spouse, Herndon, VA

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 28, 2022.

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 3-3-2c

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Substitute Trustee, Pill & Pill, PLLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated September 23, 2005, executed by the Borrowers, Michael Alt and Denise Alt, to R. Vance Golden, III, the Trustee, of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Book 106, at Page 692. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of HC 62 Box 55B, Upper Tract, WV 26866. Pill & Pill, PLLC was appointed as Substitute Trustee by an APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE dated August 13, 2019, of record in the Clerk's Office in Book 161, at Page 580. The Borrowers defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustee has been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustee will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Pendleton County, in Franklin, West Virginia,

on the following date:
March 29, 2022 at 8:45 a.m.

That certain tract or parcel of real estate containing 0.40 acres, lying and being situate on the west side of U. S. Route 220 and 0.6 mile south of the intersection of said route and the Ridge Road in Mill Run District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and being more particularly described on a Plat of Survey and Description of Survey attached to a Deed conveying the property to Michael Alt and Denise Alt dated April 7, 2000 and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 153, at Page 95. The foregoing 0.40 acre is part of a 0.955 acre tract conveyed by Glodie and Curtis Alt to Glenville and Ilene Alt by deed dated April 10, 1986, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 115, page 492.

TERMS OF SALE:

- 1) The property will be conveyed in an "AS IS" physical condition by Deed containing no warranty, express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-way, easements, covenants, conveyances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.
- 2) The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia Code §11-22-1.
- 3) The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.
- 4) The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.
- 5) The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.
- 6) The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten (10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

BY: Richard A. Pill, Member

Pill & Pill, PLLC
85 Aikens Center
Edwin Miller Boulevard
P.O. Box 440
Martinsburg, WV 25402
(304) 263-4971
foreclosures@pillwvllaw.com 2-17-3-3-3c



Buckling Up Saves Lives

Spring will soon be here and when temperatures go up, more drivers are on the roads. The West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program is reminding all drivers of the importance of seat belt use. The GHSP is coordinating a statewide Click It or Ticket high-visibility enforcement mobilization that runs from March 4.

West Virginia law enforcement officers will be out in full force, ticketing seat belt violators who are caught traveling without a correctly buckled seat belt or transporting unrestrained children. This statewide seat belt campaign is aimed at enforcing seat belt use to help keep all vehicle occupants safe and is running in preparation of the national Click It or Ticket high-visibility enforcement mobilization in May, prior to the beginning of a summer travel season that is expected to be busier than recent years.

"We want every person in a vehicle - whether it's the driver, a passenger, or a child in a car seat - to be correctly restrained, every trip, every time," said Governor Jim Justice.

In 2020, 47 percent of all passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in West Virginia were unrestrained. To help save lives, seat belt enforcement, day and night, needs to be stepped up.

People who live in rural areas might believe that their crash exposure is lower, but in 2020, 64 percent of total vehicle fatalities in West Virginia occurred in rural

locations, compared to 36 percent in urban locations.

"Our seat belt usage rate went down in 2021. Roadway fatalities went up last year. We are going in the wrong direction and need to correct course so that no one else dies on West Virginia roads," said Bob Tipton, GHSP director.

"We have about 12 percent of West Virginia drivers and passengers who still aren't buckling their seat belts. We are working to change that. Our long-term goal is to have 100% of drivers in West Virginia correctly buckling their seat belts every time they travel in a vehicle. This change starts with statewide enforcement periods like this one," Tipton continued.

Wearing a seat belt is not just a good idea; it is required by law. Day and night, front seat and back, every trip, every time: Click It or Ticket. Don't just buckle up to avoid a ticket. The values of families' and friends' lives in West Virginia are priceless—and much higher in value than the money violators pay if ticketed. If a person is caught driving while unbuckled and gets a ticket, look at it as one's wakeup call. A ticket is less expensive than paying with a person's life or the lives of one's family and friends.

"Click It or Ticket isn't about citations; it's about saving lives. Buckle up for yourself, your family, and your friends," concluded Tipton.

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

Writer, Reporter

The Pendleton Times

is seeking a part time or full-time community news reporter and journalist to cover meetings, news, and local events in Pendleton County.

Coverage topics vary and include breaking news, crime, business openings, and local governmental body meetings and more. Compensation based on abilities.

If you would like an interesting job working to help improve your community newspaper and your community, call our office at (304)-358-2304 or contact the Publisher, Michael Showell at (304)-647-5724.

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Armentrout, Sites-Wood Named Students of the Month

Caleb Armentrout and Laney Sites-Wood have been named outstanding students of the month for January at Pendleton County High School.

Armentrout, a freshman, is the Academic Student of the Month. The son of Charles and Jennifer Armentrout of Circleville, he is the freshman class president. He is active in FFA, 4-H and is a member of the PCHS baseball and basketball teams. He plans to become a Department of Natural Resources officer.

A freshman, Sites-Wood is the James Huffman Responsible Student of the Month. She is a member of the PCHS soccer and track and field teams. She plans to obtain an art degree,



PCHS January students of the month are Caleb Armentrout, left, and Laney Sites-Wood.

apprentice under a tattoo artist, and become a successful tattoo artist herself. She is the daughter of Terri Elizabeth Selmon and the late Roy Eugene Woods II.

NFES Students Ski at Canaan Valley



On Feb. 9, the fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students at North Fork Elementary School enjoyed a day on the slopes at Canaan Valley Ski Resort. The students received a ski lesson and enjoyed a beautiful warm winter day skiing. A fun time was had by all. This trip was sponsored by Franklin Moose Lodge and the NFES PTSO. Ty Johnson, Alayna Huffman and Jacob Thompson, left, and Cameron Wyatt, right, are listening to instructors who are explaining how to ski.

Broadband Grant Applications Inch Closer to Decisions

Anyone closely following the progress of the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) broadband grant application submitted by a consortium of Pendleton County Schools and the Pendleton County Library might find themselves quietly singing the lyrics to *Tomorrow* from the play *Little Orphan Annie*. Indeed, "It's always a day away..." has seemed to be its recent theme. The decision – originally projected to have come between Thanksgiving and Christmas of 2021 – has several times seemed imminent, "due any day now."

But that's not to say that there hasn't been some change in condition, including an announcement last week that the deadline for completing construction of any approved projects, has now been extended to June 30, 2023, doubtless in recognition of the delays in making the awards, which would have

left contractors scrambling furiously to complete their work by the original deadline of June 30.

J. P. Mowery, Pendleton Schools business manager, confirmed the deadline extension to the *Times* on Monday and reported being told in his most recent conversation with ECF officials that the application is still in the review phase, this time from the additional questions to which the answers had been submitted three weeks ago.

Laura Brown, Pendleton County Economic Development Authority executive director, reported that the other grant applications, made by the Pendleton County broadband committee, acting on behalf of the county commissioners, were also in the "hurry up and wait" condition, but added, "Just last week, our ISP, Lingo Networks, together with the EDA and

Pendleton County Commission, answered additional questions from the WV Development Office in regards to our broadband applications. From our understanding, before the end of the West Virginia legislative session – which ends March 12 – additional awards will be announced for the LEAD applications. We are very hopeful for Pendleton County."

Brown recapped that, as a whole, there are now \$6.3 million of grant applications pending in the review stage and none of them have yet been rejected. She said that the broadband council is continuing to work with Thrasher Engineering as they begin a feasibility study for the county. She explained that the feasibility study is very important to identify and bring "shovel ready" projects to life for future broadband opportunities.

Hope Scholarship Application Period Open Until May 15

State Treasurer Riley Moore has announced applications to use the Hope Scholarship education savings account program for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year is available.

"We're pleased to announce the opening of the application period for this program, which has generated significant public interest over the past year," Moore said. "The Legislature passed the Hope Scholarship Act to help expand school choice options for West Virginia students and families, and we've been working tirelessly over the past year to ensure that vision becomes reality. "I encourage anyone interested to visit HopeScholarshipWV.com to apply," Moore said.

The application period for the upcoming school year will remain open through May 15.

The Hope Scholarship is an education savings account program available for kindergarten through 12th-grade students. It is designed to allow parents and families to use the state portion of their child's education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience that works best for their child.

To qualify for the Hope Scholarship, a student must be a West Virginia resident and be either:

- Eligible or required to be enrolled in a kindergarten program.

- Enrolled full-time in a public elementary or secondary school program in this state for the entire instructional term during the academic year immediately preceding the academic year for which the student is applying to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program.

- Or, enrolled full-time and attending a public elementary or secondary school program in this state for at least 45 calendar days during an instructional term at the time of application.

In addition to filling out the application, state law also requires participating families to fill out a notice of intent to

participate in the program with their local county superintendent. A sample template for that notice is also available online at

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Upper Tract Producers Celebrate 'Heart Health Month'



Four-Hers learning about a healthy heart were, from left, front row, Everett Boner, Easton Boner, Owen Champ, Carly Kimble, Isabella Hoover, Korbett Hammer and Clairra Kimble; middle row, Landyn Warner, Hannah Heavner, Brantley Propst, Bryce Propst, Britlee Basagic, Kallie Keyser and Alexis Hedrick; and back row, Kevin Raymond (instructor), Reagyn Atkins, Tanner Hedrick, Addie Rexrode, McKenna Hedrick, Katie Keyser, Kayse DiMarco and Krystal Raymond (instructor). Absent for the photo was Marley Champ.

Submitted by
Katie Keyser, reporter

The Upper Tract Producers 4-H Club held its monthly meeting on Feb. 10 at Raymond's Gymnastic Studio in Franklin. Twenty members attended this special meeting to discuss and celebrate the month of February which was "Heart Health Month."

Krystal Raymond shared some healthy tips and interesting facts about a person's heart and how to keep it healthy. Kevin Raymond led the members through the "Ninja Obstacle Course" and had the members evaluate their heart rate before and after completing the course.

The members enjoyed learning about activities to improve

their heart and health. The Upper Tract Producers 4-H Club would like to promote "Heart Health Month" and ask individuals to eat healthy, get active, stay at a healthy weight, quit smoking, keep one's cholesterol and blood pressure under control and manage stress.

CVB & EDA Represent Pendleton County at Hospitality University



Ciara Lambert, Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau director, and Laura Brown, EDA director, represented Pendleton County at the 12th annual Hospitality University held at the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs on February 26-28. This annual event brings together the tourism industry of West Virginia to hear from leading industry experts on tourism trends, creative solutions to attract visitors and innovative ways to grow their business, as well as giving participants the opportunity to take advantage of key networking opportunities with industry peers and service providers.

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<p>SGR203 0.72 Acres w/3 Bed, 1 Bath Ranch Home, Buffalo Hills Vista, Franklin District. NEW LISTING \$99,900.00.</p> <p>SGR200 0.23 Ac., w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home, Public Water/Sewer, Franklin Corp. NEW LISTING \$179,900.00.</p> <p>SGR197 557.7 Ac., Raw Land, Excellent Hunting, Joins National Forest, No Utilities, Potential Food Plots, Watering Holes, Bldg. Sites w/Views. Milroy District, Grant County. NEW LISTING \$1,749,000.00.</p> <p>SGR195 1.62 Acres w/3 Bed, 1.5 Bath Ranch Home, Smith Creek. NEW LISTING \$189,000.00.</p> <p>SGR194 280 Ac. Raw Land, Excellent Hunting, Views. Located in Cabins, WV. \$499,000.00.</p> <p>SGR192 40 Ac. +/- Raw Land, Mitchell Mtn. Pending Survey. NEW LISTING \$120,000.00.</p> <p>SGR191 1.62 Acres with 3 Bed, 3 Bath Home. Bonus Room w/Vaulted Ceiling, Concrete Stamped Patio, 2 Car Garage. Franklin District. \$269,000.00.</p> <p>SGR190 3.97 Acres, Raw Land, Hoover Mtn., Level Bldg. Site. Mature Timber. NEW LISTING \$49,900.00.</p> <p>SGR189 3.73 Acres, Raw Land, Hoover Mtn., Level Bldg. Site, Mature Timber, Views to East & West. NEW LISTING \$49,900.00.</p> <p>SGR188 22.72 Acres, Raw Land, Hoover Mtn., Hunting, Bldg. Sites. NEW LISTING \$179,900.00.</p> <p>SGR187 8.87 Acres, Raw Land, Hoover Mtn., Views, Bldg. Sites. NEW LISTING \$79,900.00.</p> <p>SGR186 3.74 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, Loft, Kile Knob, Franklin District. NEW LISTING \$179,000.00.</p> <p>SGR185 74.41 Acres, Strawders Run. Pasture, Hunting, Views, Look at Spring fed Pond. Franklin District. \$249,000.00.</p> <p>SGR182 Homesteaders Dream! 6.49 Acres, 2 houses, Guest Cottage, Barnhouses, Barn, Shop, Fenced Pasture, Mature Fruit Trees, Berry Bushes, Goldfish Pond, Bethel District. \$395,000.00 REDUCED \$300,000.00.</p> <p>SGR181 0.39 Acres, w/Brick Ranch, 3 Bed, 2-1/2 Baths, Full basement, Franklin Corp. NEW LISTING \$249,000.00.</p> <p>SGR176 2.02 Acres Raw Land, Rocky Mountain Rd, Deer Run area. Electric nearby. \$19,900.00.</p> <p>SGR174 8.94 Acres, w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Doublewide, unfinished basement, Heat Pump, Propane, Central AC, Shop. NEW LISTING \$299,000.00.</p> <p>SGR173 3 Acres, Raw Land, North Fork. NEW LISTING \$24,900.00.</p> <p>SGR168 0.37 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Home located in Franklin. \$279,000.00.</p>	<p>SGR165 1.1 Acres w/4 Bed, 2.5 Bath Ranch Home w/Attached 2-car garage. UNDER CONTRACT \$349,000.00.</p> <p>SGR164 0.28 Acres w/3 Bed, 3 Bath Home. Full Basement. Franklin Corp. \$199,000.00.</p> <p>SGR158 5 Bed, 4 Bath Victorian Home, located in Monterey, VA. \$525,000.00.</p> <p>SGR157 867.21 Acres w/3 Bed, 2.5 Bath Pole Barn Structure w/4-car garage, Cornfields, Pasture and Woodlands, Monterey, VA. \$525,000.00.</p> <p>SGR156 15.97 Acres, Rolling Hills Estate, Electric nearby, Water available. Hardy County. \$95,000.00.</p> <p>SGR154 39.80 Acres, w/1950's Renovated home, 4 Bed, 1 Full Bath & 1 Unfinished Bath, Circleville District. \$399,999.99 REDUCED \$380,000.00.</p> <p>SGR152 50.96 Acres w/1 Bed, 1.5 Bath, 1666 sq. ft. Cabin w/Loft, Franklin District. \$349,000.00.</p> <p>SGR148 137.68 Acres Raw Land, Building Sites w/Excellent Views, Active Spring, 2 Ponds. \$499,900.00.</p> <p>SGR130 0.36 Acres, w/House & Bunkhouse located in Harman, WV. \$269,000.00.</p> <p>SGR107 28.99 Ac, more or less, Raw Land, Eldon Heights, Franklin District. \$249,000.00.</p> <p>SGR104 7.68 Acres, more or less, former elementary school. UNDER CONTRACT. NEW LISTING \$449,000.00.</p> <p>SGR078 2181.4 Ac Farm w/Flood Control Dam, Springs, Waterfall, 1 1/2 miles of road, 3000 sq. ft. Home, on both sides of 2 Public Highways, Barn, 3 Silos, Pasture Fields and more. \$4,500,000.00.</p> <p>SGR042 Five Unit Townhouse property located in Brandywine. Each unit has 2 Bdrms, 1.5 Baths, LR and Large Kitchen. Near National Forest for hunting and fishing. Perfect for retirement income, live in one and rent the others! \$399,000.00.</p> <p>SGR980 6.69 Acres, Raw Land, Oakwood Estates Subdivision, Franklin District. \$40,000.00.</p> <p>SGR892 5.297 Acres, Raw Land, High Valley Subdivision, Franklin District. \$59,999.99 REDUCED to \$56,500.00.</p> <p>SGR634 2.77 Acres, Raw Land, Hawes Run, Great Commercial Property, on US 33, Brandywine. \$75,999.99 REDUCED \$69,500.00.</p> <p>SGR441 Residential lots, public water, protective covenants and restrictions. Oak Flat Estates near Brandywine on Rte 33 East of Franklin. Lots from \$20,760.00.</p> <p>SGR247 Residential lots with town water, sewer & underground utilities. Protective covenants and restrictions. Franklin Airport Development. Lots from \$14,630.00.</p>
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