

THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Thursday
February 2, 2023

Nesselrodt Named New Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director



Amber Nesselrodt, who has been working for the county EDA, officially started promoting Pendleton tourism as the new CVB director.

By Stephen Smoot

As Pendleton County sets its economic development sights on tourism, the Pendleton Convention and Visitors Bureau board of directors named Amber Nesselrodt its new executive director. She was selected after an exhaustive search that commenced last October and will take over officially on Feb. 2.

The CVB in Pendleton County primarily exists to increase recreational tourism in the area. Other counties, such as Kanawha, focus on both

tourism and also attracting business and even government related meetings and events. Nesselrodt explains that “the CVB markets Pendleton County’s tourism related businesses, lodging facilities, recreation areas and historic sites.”

Nesselrodt is a lifelong resident of West Virginia and has lived in Pendleton County for 13 years. For approximately a year, she has worked in the Pendleton County Economic and Community Development office as an assistant to Laura Brown, executive

director. With the county commission’s blessing, the EDA under Brown has focused increasingly on supporting the tourism industry in the area. As Nesselrodt explains, the state’s tourism numbers have risen even while the industry has seen setbacks nationally. She says that “in Pendleton County, economic development and tourism go hand in hand. Tourism leads to more economic development while also supporting a lot of our existing businesses.”

The county offers a great
Continued on Page 5

WVBOE Approves Flexibility For Teacher Candidates

By Stephen Smoot

Late last year, the State of West Virginia identified a teacher shortage issue that continues to bedevil local school systems. Huntington’s WSAZ news in November reported on a key indicator. In 2015, approximately 600 classrooms were led by teachers not certified in the subject they taught. That number doubled by 2020 and rose this year to 1,544.

The problem has deep

roots, some of which were anticipated for decades. In 2008, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago reported that “we find that teacher hiring needs will continue to rise over the next decade, and a good portion of this will be due to retirements.” Additionally, “In particular, there should be more research into which communities might be most in need, especially if the burden falls on schools that traditionally have had the most difficulty

recruiting.” The same paper reported that the other consequence of mass generational retirement lay in a combined loss of experience.

At the time it was expected that the generational transition might take a smoother path, but no one anticipated how the onset of the pandemic would affect how that played out. The pandemic caused a sharp rise in retirements for a variety of reasons besides fear of catching

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Old Man Winter Visits Pendleton County



Winter cold and snow returned last week, bringing three and more inches of snow to the western end of the county and higher elevations.

Community CALENDAR

Library Friends To Meet Tuesday

The Friends of the Library will gather at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the meeting room at Pendleton County Library in Franklin. Plans will be finalized for the annual meeting.

Post 30 To Meet

American Legion Pendleton Post 30 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Star Restaurant in Franklin.

Post 9666 To Meet

VFW Post 9666 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at the post home in Sugar Grove.

TMF Association Meeting Scheduled

The Treasure Mountain Festival Association will meet at 6 p.m. Feb. 9 at the bowling alley in Franklin.

Yokum’s Family Tradition of Hot Dog Excellence Recognized In Fourth Place Ranking

By Stephen Smoot

Northern West Virginia trumpets the pepperoni roll as the official state food. Southern West Virginians and traditionalists still say its brown beans and cornbread with a bit of sliced onion on top. The entire state agrees, however, that West Virginia sits right alongside New York City and Chicago as one of the best places to eat a great hot dog.

But who has the best?

Over the past two years, Joel Bennett and Jay Silverman went from Harpers Ferry to Kenova, from Bluefield to Weirton, and every-

where in between in search of the absolute best that the Mountain State has to offer.

Two years and a mind boggling 284 establishments later, they ranked the top 50. Yokum’s Grill at Seneca Rocks earned a fourth-place nod, beating out a lot of heavy hitters in state frankfurter enjoyment.

On their You Tube video listed on the Have Fun WV channel, the two weiner wanderers praised the West Virginia style hot dog served up. A traditional West Virginia hot dog is covered with a chili sauce and topped with cole slaw. Yokum’s did not disappoint. One said “it’s like

Grandma’s slaw,” and added that he “never loved slaw so much.” They also raved over the chili sauce, saying “it’s bangin,” a youthful slang term meaning absolutely delicious.

Luke Yokum stated that “the guys were impressed at the fact that they’re deep fried.” Deep frying helps to create a firmer exterior while keeping the juices sealed inside. He added that “the cole slaw is a special recipe. It’s got a sweet tang that’s really good.”

While the gentlemen raved that the slaw tasted like “Grandma’s,” the chili
Continued on Page 3



Yokum’s shares their love of hot dog excellence with visitors from all over. Pictured, from left, are Judy Thompson, Mary Vandevander, Rena Vance, Linda Wimer, Alex Harvey

Pendleton Partners With Grant in Application for Economic Diversification

By Stephen Smoot

As part of an effort to work together to solve regional problems, Pendleton and Grant counties have applied to participate in an initiative designed to diversify economic development in the region.

The Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities, or BRECC, grant comes from the National Association of Counties. As the National Association of Counties website explains, “supported by the U. S. Department of Commerce Eco-

nomics Development Administration (EDA), BRECC will serve coal communities seeking to revitalize and diversify the economies.”

West Virginia’s dominance in coal production over the 20th century also led to dependency. As the fortunes and prices of the coal industry rose and fell, the state’s economy rode the same roller coaster. While Pendleton County did not directly experience the impact of coal on the county economy, it still felt the ripple effects in a state overly reliant on a single industry.

Grant County, however, shares a coal production area that extends into Tucker and Mineral counties, as well. As Kevin Hagerty, newly elected Grant County Commissioner, explains “it’s essentially for coal counties to diversify their economic opportunities.”

With grant funds, Hagerty says, “We want to expand broadband to help small businesses prosper. We also have opportunities for remote work.”

Laura Brown, Pendleton County Economic and Com-

Continued on Page 5

Christian Assistance Network Holds Annual Meeting to Discuss Plans for the Coming Year

By Stephen Smoot

“Thank you for the blessings of this community that allows us to continue this ministry and . . . the generosity of folks who continue to support us.”

Those sentiments came from the prayer that opened the 2023 annual meeting of the Christian Assistance Network last week. Meeting topics focused on accomplishments of 2022 while looking ahead to projects and work in the coming year.

One of the first orders of business lay in approving a slate of officers and board members for 2023. The board approved the continuance of the Reverend Jason Felici as

president, Carol Windett as vice president, Sherry Crigler as secretary, and Sheila Davis as treasurer.

The 2023 board of directors will be composed of Eve Firor, Shirley Shank, Betty Horan, Tom DeByl, Edna Mullenax, Sheila Rexrode, Sandy O’Gorek, Debbie Thompson, Judy Grimm, Robin Kile, and Fran DeByl.

Next, the officers and board members heard a presentation on their food operations in the previous year. According to Rev. Felici, “our mission is to assist residents of Pendleton County with food insecurity by distributing food that has been donated and purchased from Mountaineer Food Bank.

Windett shared that C. A. N. received 47,000 pounds of food. Grimm added that almost 1,100 families received assistance in 2021, but that 1,284 were served in 2022. Overall, the reports indicated that “a lot of things are going good.”

Typically, C. A. N. receives food donations locally from local churches, the county school system, T&K Markets, civic organizations, scouting groups, 4-H, Pendleton Manor employees, generous local individuals, local businesses, and Walmart. Unfortunately, donations from Walmart dropped somewhat. The school system runs a “12 Days of Christmas” drive

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Joseph L. "Joe" Laskey

Joseph L. "Joe" Laskey, 81, of Marlinton passed away Jan. 29, 2023, at Stonerise Lewisburg Nursing Home in Ronceverte.

He was born June 6, 1941, at Titusville, Pennsylvania, and was the son of the late Joseph Laskey, Sr. and Martha Harkless Laskey Black.

Mr. Laskey was a 1959 graduate of Townville [Pennsylvania] High School.

He worked for C.J. Clark (Hanover Shoe), owned and operated J.S. Home Theater & Laundry and retired from Denmar Correctional Center. He was a member of the Marlinton Lions Club and the New Hope Lutheran Church at Minnehaha Springs.

On April 26, 1975, he married Sue C. Dunkle Laskey, who survives.

Also surviving are a brother, John Laskey and wife, Barbara of Apex, North Carolina; a sister-in-law, Peggy Jo Pitsenbarger of Franklin; and a number of nieces and nephews in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Melvin Laskey.

A funeral service was held Wednesday at the Kimble Funeral Home in Marlinton with Pastors Jason and Jess Felici officiating. A graveside service and interment were held Wednesday at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to the Marlinton Lions Club, c/o Phyllis Lucas, 2637 Sunset Road, Marlinton, WV 24954 or New Hope Lutheran Church, 9280 Huntersville Road, Marlinton, WV 24954.

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



Barbara A. Simmons

Barbara A. Simmons, 83, of Franklin died Jan. 25, 2023, at Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born July 29, 1939, in the Dahmer community near Franklin and was the daughter of the late Emery Clinton Rexrode and Mary Susan "Sudie" Propst Rexrode.

Mrs. Simmons was a 1957 graduate of Franklin High School. During the 40 years that she worked as a bank teller at Pendleton County Bank, she made many friends. Both her co-workers and the bank customers spoke highly of her, and enjoyed not only her dedicated work ethic and efficiency in helping with banking needs, but also her welcoming smile, pleasantness, and laughter.

She was a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. After the Mt. Zion church closed, she served on the annual homecoming planning committee, and as treasurer of the Church Preservation Association. She became a member of St. John Lutheran Church, where she attended regularly, was Sunday School treasurer, helped with Vacation Bible School and served the church in a number of other capacities.

She enjoyed spending time cooking and baking in her kitchen, and she loved sharing the food she prepared with her family and friends. No visitor to her home ever left hungry. Taking care of her flowers was also a favorite hobby. She always showed her support to local community organizations by attending gatherings such as lawn parties, benefit dinners, music shows and other

fundraising events.

On Sept. 21, 1957, she married Claude M. Simmons, who preceded her in death on Nov. 5, 2015.

She was the last surviving member of her immediate family.

Surviving are a daughter, Terry Simmons and her fiancé, Maurice Davenport of Harrisonburg, Virginia; two sons, Kent Simmons and wife, Jennifer of Franklin, and Brad Simmons of Elkins; five grandchildren, Brittany Gumm, and husband, Brad, Kelsey Jamison, and husband, Brian, Vanessa Moats and husband, Andre, Dustin Simmons and Philip Simmons; three great-grandchildren, Liam Gumm, Everly Gumm and Jackson Simmons; a step-great-grandson, Brayden Friend; a sister-in-law, Fran Rexrode of Linville, Virginia; numerous nieces and nephews; a former PCB co-worker who remained her special friend and constant companion over the years, Shirley Wimer of Franklin; and her caregiver for the past year, Nancy Pultz of Moyers.

She was also preceded in death by three sisters, Geneva (Day) Dahmer, Mary Catherine Rexrode and Dorothy L. Judy; two brothers, Philip Edward Rexrode, and Daniel Clinton "Clint" Rexrode; three nephews, Edwin Ray Day, Rod Day and Don Rexrode; a daughter-in-law, Marsha Simmons, a step-granddaughter, Jennifer Friend, and a brother-in-law, Omer C. Judy, Jr.

A funeral service was held Saturday at St. John Lutheran Church in Moyers with Pastors Jason and Jess Felici officiating. Interment was at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Church, 26 Black Thorn Road, Sugar Grove, WV 26815 or Pendleton Manor, PO Box 700, Franklin, WV 26807.

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

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin.



Ann B. Wimer

Ann B. Wimer, 87, of Brandywine passed away Jan. 28, 2023, at Sentara RMH in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

She was born Sept. 19, 1935, at Cumberland, Maryland, and was the daughter of the late Blair and Marnie Bishop.

Mrs. Wimer was employed at Paul Kesner Accounting for 30 years.

On Dec. 14, 1985, she married Shirl O. Wimer, who survives.

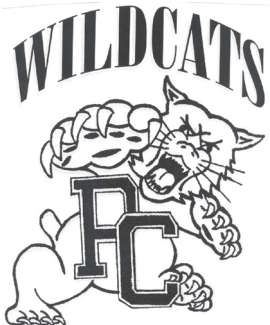
Also surviving are two stepsons, Troy O'Neil Wimer (Kimberly) of Stanardsville, Virginia, and Tracy O'Dell Wimer (Margaret) of Harrisonburg, Virginia; a sister, Cindy Fines (Dennis) of Richmond, Virginia; a niece, Shannon Derico of North Carolina; seven step-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Nancy Cook; and a step-grandson.

Her body has been cremated and her life will be commemorated at a later date.

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

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin.



Rexrode Named To Dean's List

Hannah Rexrode has been named to Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College Dean's List for the fall semester.

Sites Earns 4.0 Academic Honor

Regan Sites of Sugar Grove has been named to the President's List for the fall semester at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. She achieved a 4.0 grade point average.

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Summit To Acquire PSB Holding Corp.

Summit Financial Group, Inc. and Provident State Bank Holding Corp. have announced the signing of a definitive merger agreement between Summit and PSB.

Subject to the terms of the merger agreement, PSB shareholders will receive 1.2347 shares of Summit common stock for each outstanding share of PSB common stock. Based upon the 20-day average closing price of \$28.35 per share of Summit's common stock through Dec. 8, 2022, this equates to \$35.00 per PSB common share and an aggregate transaction value of approximately \$53.9 million. As of Sept. 30, 2022, the combined company would have had approximate total assets of \$4.5 billion, gross loans of \$3.5 billion and deposits of \$3.6 billion.

The transaction has been approved by each company's board of directors and is expected to close in the second quarter of 2023, pending regulatory approvals and the approval of PSB's shareholders. Following consummation of the merger, PSB's bank subsidiary, Provident State Bank, Inc., will be merged with Summit's bank subsidiary, Summit Community Bank, Inc.

"This transaction represents an exceptional opportunity for Summit to combine with a financially strong and exceptionally well-managed bank possessing a culture and core values similar to ours, as well as the same commitment to build long-term client relationships by providing 'Service Beyond Expectations,'" stated H. Charles Maddy, III, Summit's president and chief executive officer. "Partnering with PSB not only further expands Summit's community banking footprint to the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware, but also permits both PSB's and Summit's clients the added convenience of enhanced banking services at more locations. Our top priority now is to assure PSB's clients experience a smooth transition."

"We are excited about our combination with Summit. They are a larger institution with a breadth of products and services," said Melissa Quirk, president and chief executive officer of Provident State Bank. "Summit is just as committed to community banking as we are. Together we will continue our commitment to the communities that we serve, with the personal banking experience our customers expect. By joining forces, we can continue to bring opportunities and benefits to our shareholders, customers and communities."

PSB was advised by the investment banking firm of Piper Sandler & Co., and was represented by the law firm of Holland & Knight LLP. Summit was represented by the law firm of Bowles Rice LLP.

Pendleton Students Graduate from WVU

Five Pendleton County students attending West Virginia University were awarded diplomas during commencement ceremonies held Dec. 17 in the WVU Coliseum.

Earning degrees were Isaiah Murphy of Circleville (energy land management), Kaylee Edwards (regents bachelor of arts) and Joshua Witt (environmental microbiology), both of Franklin, Jessica Stevens of Seneca Rocks (political science) and Zeb Mallow of Upper Tract (post-MSN psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner).

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Simmons Leaves a Gift of Family Legacy

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come; My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Those were the words taken from scripture that Pastor Jason Felici introduced his eulogy Saturday for Barbara Rexrode Simmons. (Both Pastor Jason Felici and Brittany Simmons Gumm shared eulogies on which much of the following are touched on in this article)

When visiting Barbara, one would be drawn to her picture window in her living room where the beauty of the country-side expanse could be enjoyed. This was a place that made one realize how God creates for each one of us to care for and enjoy to the fullest extent. She loved and tended her beautiful flowers, with her porch being in perfect condition - always.

Barbara's life was not easy, but she certainly used her talents and gifts to serve others. She cared for her children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren, teaching them life's lessons along the way. (Her family pictures were placed all over her house.) As her granddaughter, Brittany Simmons Gumm, stated, "there were lots of lessons she taught them, such as never buy cheap make-up, no need for alcohol in one's life (other than rum cake and communion wine), be presentable in public, never let guests leave without offering cookies, cake, ice cream, and Sprite, go to reunions, church homecomings, family nights and funerals, and class reunions, send cards for other's birthdays, anniversaries, graduation, happy and sad moments and to attend church every week."

Barbara was always on the go. She was the primary caregiver for her husband, Claude, visiting her brother, Clint, and sister, Dorothy, at the Pendleton Manor at least three times a week. Somehow, she found time to do this even though she still worked at the local bank. Not only that, she was the Sunday School treasurer, made food and baked a cake for every church function (making cruellers on Shrove Tuesday was a tradition she loved to fix for and to pass on to her family), collecting money at lawn parties, attending the annual Mt. Zion homecoming, and serving on the board of the Historic Preservation Association.

As a bank teller, she enjoyed those who brought cash to her window. The cash was readily received if it was counted out and placed properly from highest to lowest denominations, facing in the right direction! Working at the bank was really a social event for her, because she loved seeing people and talking with them—to truly know how they and their families were getting along. Her smile was contagious, and she soon became a friend to many!

Barbara took great pride in honoring and remembering where she came from, which included the people who helped shape her life along the way. She could claim some of her family roots through the Propst, Bowers and Swadley names back to the pioneer era. She graduated from Franklin High School in 1957, and on Sept. 21, 1957, at Moyers she married Claude Simmons. Together they had three children, Terry, Kent and Bradley.

She relied on the promises of God in her life. She had her priorities in order — first: The Lord and her faith, worshipping every Sunday, reading her Bible, having daily devotions, and praying for those on the prayer list; second: family, and third: friends.

The last piece of rum cake has been eaten, her flowers have faded and gone, but her memory will be treasured for a lifetime.



Barbara Simmons

One of Barbara's favorite hymns, which she requested for her funeral, was "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I am found, Was blind, but now I see."

Sympathy is extended to Barbara's family.

Life's little instructions to make one's day better include the following:

1. Travel whenever possible.
2. Smile often and be honest.
3. Stay humble.
4. Never stop learning.
5. Take lots of photos.

On Feb. 6, the Snow Moon will be seen. It is commonly called Snow Moon or the Hungry Moon. Typically, February is the snowiest month, and as a result, Native Americans found it to be the most difficult month in which to hunt, prompting the name Hungry Moon.

Rain showers were brought on by warmer temperatures. It sure feels like a touch of spring.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough." — Melody Beattie

"Problems never stay long, they just put the signature in the experience book of your life and move away." — Unknown

"You can't get too much winter in the winter" — Robert Frost

"Good friends, good looks, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life." — Mark Twain

"When it snows, you have two choices: shovel or make snow angels." — Unknown

It is so much better to sit by the fire to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

"Pidge" Anderson continues to do consultations with her doctors.

Michael Fisher spent the weekend with his grandparents, Bob and Brenda Fisher. Together, they went to Franklin to see the fifth- and sixth-graders play ball, of which Michael participated.

Last weekend, Evelyn Varner spent the weekend with her daughter, Judy Costello of Verona, Virginia. Together, on Monday, they attended the funeral of Philip Smith.

Vance Grogg celebrated his first birthday on Jan. 31. Happy birthday! Madison Grogg will celebrate her birthday on the 13th. Visitors of Rosalee Grogg were Marleta Wimer and Terri Grogg.

This week's clickety-clacks for the chin waggars are the

following:

- It takes about 70 pieces of wood to make a violin.
- The first watch had one hand and was so heavy it hung from a belt around the waist.
- The apple is a member of the roe family.
- Everybody in China celebrates their birthday on New Year's Day.
- It takes Saturn 29.5 earth years to revolve around the sun.

Concerns for this week are many, and they are as follows: "Pidge" Anderson, Roger and Joan Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Vernon "Fuzzy" Baldwin, Nathan Beachler, Lynn Beatty, Bill Brackman, the Tom Burgoyne family, Jed Conrad, Rachel Felton, Donna Fleisher, Ron Gilkerson, Lola Graham, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Gary and Jackie Hills, Virgil Homan, Jr., Myrtle Hoover, Debbie Horst, Anna Gae Hughes, Doris Hull, Alice Johnson, Kim Kline, Richard Judy, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Rex Landis, Angel Lung, Linda Malcolm, Betty Mallow, Roger and Skip Mallow, Jamie Mitchell, the Eldon Moats family, Melvin Moats, Aaron Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Cheryl Paine, Sutton Parrack, the Pond family, Shirley Pratt, Kathy Propst, Sheldon Propst, Verla Puffenbarger, Gary Rexrode, Jason Rexrode, Jimmy Rexrode, Art Sawyer, the Barbara Simmons family, Robbie Sites, Ona Smith, the Ed Troutman family, Sandra Vandevander, Pam Rexrode, Max Rodriguez, Donna Ruddell, Annie Simmons, Barry and Phyllis Simmons and Davey Simmons.

Yokum's

Continued From Page 1

li sauce actually is a generations old family recipe. Mary Vandevander, who has worked at the site since 1992, has overseen the chili. Vandevander now splits time between taking care of the books and helping in the kitchen.

Judy Thompson, who has 13 years of experience at Yokum's, currently makes the sauce. Thompson, however, insists that "it's a team effort. Everyone pitches in and does their part." The cole slaw is made by Rena Vance, who has worked at Yokum's for two years. Thompson and Vance, who both graduated from Circleville High School together, were present when Bennett and Silverman sampled their work. The attention received has quickly made Yokum's a favorite for frankfurters even outside of the state. Linda Wimer, who has worked at Yokum's between four and

five years, says "they ask for them because they hear they are really good. They compliment them and tell us they'll be back. We're selling them really fast."

Wimer added that, "people from all over come in and say can we try that?"

Receiving recognition for great food options is more than just a feather in the cap. As Amber Nesselrodt, the new Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director noted, "it's a great complement to our beautiful scenery and other tourism options to have great places for people to stop and eat." She added, "It's helpful when both visitors and locals are familiar with the local restaurants and specials that they have to offer."

The visit and attention will not be forgotten soon. "We're pretty tickled about it," Yokum said. "It made the employees' day."

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- Upper back or neck pain
- Indigestion •Heartburn
- Nausea •Vomiting •Dizziness
- Extreme fatigue •Shortness of breath

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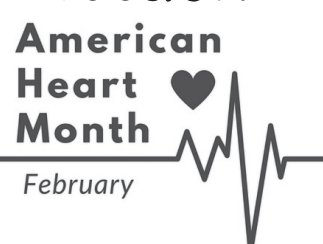
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10 Years Ago
Week of January 31, 2013

Appalachian Sayings Are Rich in Culture

SUGAR GROVE

The Appalachian culture is full of rich character in sayings that are used on a regular basis. Listed are the following sayings and their translation:

Like a chicken with its head cut off—lots of confusion
 Butter my biscuits—isn't that something

Snowball's chance in hell—not likely to happen

Argue with a fence post—stubbornness

Heebie jeebies—feeling similar to the chills

Short end of the stick—treated in an ill mannered way

Half cocked—lacking all of the facts

Ruffled her feathers—upsetting

Chewin' the fat—talking about nothing in particular

I declare—I did not know that

In a coon's age—a really long time

Can't see the forest for the trees—unable to see the big picture

Barking up the wrong tree—going in the wrong direction

Caught with my pants down—caught off guard

Two peas in a pod—identical

Like white on rice—characteristics that cannot be separated.

20 Years Ago
Week of January 23, 2003

Four Safety Warnings Listed For Refueling of Vehicles

Hopefully, most everyone has heard that it's unsafe to smoke or use the cell phone while pumping gas.

Now there's another safety warning one should know about concerning static electricity. To sum it up, there are four rules for safe refueling: 1) turn off the engine; 2) don't smoke; 3) don't use the cell phone—leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off; and 4) don't re-enter the vehicle during fueling.

40 Years Ago
Week of January 27, 1983

Assets of Pendleton County Bank Now Exceed \$40 Million

Pendleton County Bank assets grew last year to a new high of \$40,954,255.83, it was announced Monday at the annual meeting of stockholders at Thompson's Restaurant.

Monterey Fire Damage Estimated at \$72,500

The Franklin Volunteer Fire Department helped fight a fire at Monterey, Virginia, early Thursday morning which resulted in damages estimated at \$72,500.

The fire started in the D.

King's, Inc., store owned by Ellis D. King and then spread to the attic of Highland Wool, Inc., owned by Fred Leustig.

Damage was estimated at \$40,000 to the King store building and \$30,000 to the contents and \$2,500 to the Highland Wool, Inc., store.

Monterey firemen said when they arrived at the fire the King store building was engulfed in flames. They called the McDowell and Franklin firemen at 1:10 a.m. The Franklin firemen arrived 25 minutes later. The South Branch Fire Department was called to Franklin to stand by while the Franklin firemen were in Monterey.

Franklin fireman Jim Turner said water froze in the streets and on the firemen in the sub-freezing temperatures.

Firemen fought the blaze for 4-1/2 hours. Participating in the joint effort were Monterey Fire Department with 22 men and four fire trucks, McDowell Fire Department with 12 men and three fire trucks, Franklin Fire Department with 14 men and a pumper, tanker, panel truck and crash truck and two units of Highland County Rescue Squad.

Pendleton Rescue Squadmen Traveled 22,844 Miles in 1982

Charles Waggy, president of Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, Inc., in a report on the activities during the past year said county rescue squadmen traveled 22,844 miles and chalked up 2,594 man-hours answering these calls.

Difference Between Land and Country Explained

By: Raymond Blum

Recently I was reading a chapter in a book that dealt with the quality of the land and perhaps more importantly, how people see the land, whether it be forests, plains or lakes. The writer made me stop and think of different places I have walked and to identify the qualities of rich country.

There is a lot of confusion between land and country. Land is the place where cattle are raised, corn planted and mortgages grown. Country is the personality and character of the land, that makes each acre special. Country is oblivious to its various owners. It matters little whether the owner be a pauper or a king.

Anyone who has ever traveled through our state knows that poor land may be rich country and vice versa. Rich country may look poverty stricken and its riches might not be apparent at first glance or at all seasons. I can remember walking the sand dunes along Lake Michigan during the winter and thinking how barren the land was, but to walk the same place during other seasons and hearing

the honk of a goose or seeing the delicate blue flower of the fringed gentian told you that here was a special place. This same concept holds true for many of the places here in West Virginia that I've found, whether it be in the shale barrens, river bottoms or mountainous sections of the state.

Some areas of the land may be barren of vegetation, but full of charm. This charm is probably a collection of many factors: the eeriness of the stunted spruce on Dolly Sods, a sense of history from the logging days, and the many views, all make this area special. For those who think history is taught only in school, have not seen a railroad rail protruding from the bank on Rocky Point Trail or seen the remains of log homes in remote areas. In West Virginia, this history can be experienced first hand and deeply felt.

Other places, while they look inviting on the outside, are noticeably lacking charm on the inside. I have a special fondness for pines, yet, whenever I walk into a large pine plantation I'm always disappointed. There is little underbrush or low vegetation because of the deep layer of pine needles on the ground. The forest looks sterile and there is a lack of wildlife. The edges of such plantations may harbor deer, grouse and turkey, but in the middle of the stand, a red squirrel may be all that is found.

This same idea holds true for other places as well. Native trout can make the difference between a brook or just a stream and a brier patch without rabbits will never be more than a thorny thicket. The idea that wildlife is only to be shot at or trapped is the grossest of fallacies. Wildlife can mean the difference between land and country.

In country, as in people, a plain exterior often conceals hidden riches that may require years of association with which to understand. A plain March field is no longer drab when the first woodcock calls and a marsh takes on a new life when the many frogs come alive in the spring. Likewise, it may take years of working or living with a person before we see the true person or before we see the true warmth of a person's heart.

As you can see, a close look is required in order to find the country that lies throughout the land.

50 Years Ago
Week of January 25, 1973

Pendleton County Bank Assets Top \$11 Million

Assets of the Pendleton County Bank climbed to \$11,486,330.29 in 1972, according to a report of the bank's condition made Monday afternoon at the annual stockholder's meeting.

Cashier Tom Mitchell told stockholders that assets climbed more than \$2

million during 1972 from \$9,416,884.14 at the beginning of the year.

Mitchell attributed the increase in deposits to the fact that the bank pays the highest interest rates the law permits on savings accounts and certificates of deposit.

60 Years Ago
Week of February 7, 1963

100 YEARS AGO By LON K. SAVAGE

Editor's Note—The following is one of a series of articles on the Civil War. Each weekly installment covers events which occurred exactly 100 years ago.

Grant Starts Digging To Reach Vicksburg

More than 100,000 men had come South with the army of General Ulysses S. Grant to fight Confederates along the Mississippi River, but many of them found themselves digging in dirt 100 years ago this week.

As February, 1963, got off to a start, Grant's men were busy blowing up levees, digging out river channels and riding in steamers and gunboats through the bayou country of Louisiana and Mississippi.

Their goal: to get behind or south of Vicksburg and fight the Confederate army dug in around the city.

The Yankees' problem at Vicksburg could be explained partially by geography. The city lay on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River from the east. Confederate guns on the bluff were too much for an army to assault the city from the waterfront. North of the city, the swollen Mississippi flooded out into a myriad of swamps, bayous, streams and rivers that effectively blocked a land march from that direction. Hence, to fight the army at Vicksburg, Grant either would have to get south of the city and attack north—or get behind the city to the east and attack west.

To do this, Grant had three rather fantastic plans working 100 years ago this week. The first one appeared the most fantastic—to change the course of the Mississippi.

Just north of Vicksburg, the Mississippi veered sharply to the northeast, made a hairpin turn to the south again, forming a peninsula inside the hairpin turn. Vicksburg lay on the opposite bank from this peninsula. The plan was to enlarge an existing mile-long ditch across the base of the peninsula and divert the Mississippi into it. The river, according to the plan, would pour through this ditch, scour out a new channel across the strip of land, and leave Vicksburg high and dry. Grant's army could then sail down this new channel, land and march north to the city.

While 4,000 men worked on this project, others began

work on a second plan. That was to cut through a levee on the Mississippi's west bank about 50 miles above Vicksburg, allowing water to flow into Lake Providence in Louisiana. With that done, it was hoped, boats could sail into Lake Providence and move south through a series of bayous to the Red River which emptied into the Mississippi south of Vicksburg. Grant, himself, went to Lake Providence February 4 to supervise this job. He observed immediately that there was little hope of its successful completion.

The third plan was somewhat similar to the second. That was to blow up a levee on the Mississippi's east bank opposite Helena, Ark., nearly 200 miles north of Vicksburg, allowing the river to flow directly into Yazoo Pass, a body of water in northern Mississippi. From Yazoo Pass, according to the plan, boats could travel into the Coldwater River, then into the Tallahatchie River. From there, the vessels could sail down the Yazoo River which flowed in behind Vicksburg.

On February 2, the levee was blown up, and nine feet of water hurtled through it, sweeping all before it into Yazoo Pass. Five days later, the first steamer went swirling through, and the attempt to reach Vicksburg via the bayous had begun.

Grant wrote later that he never had much hope that any of these plans would work.

Next week: "Copperheads."

Christmas Tree Sales In West Virginia Total 1-1/2 Million Dollars in 1962

Christmas tree sales in West Virginia totaled over an estimated 1-1/2 million dollars on the retail market in 1962, according to a survey made by county foresters of the Department of Natural Resources' Forestry Division. According to Jack Warder, assistant state forester, some 554 thousand trees were harvested, 9% of which were sold within the state's borders.

70 Years Ago
January 29, 1953

County Library Moves To Court House

The Pendleton County Library will be moved in a short time from its present location to a room in the Court House.

The County Court has given the Library Association permission to use permanently the north room on the second floor. The Board of Education in co-operation hires the librarian, Mrs. Katherine Campbell, and the Library Association expresses thanks to all who have helped as this is countywide work.

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Smith Creek/ Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

The month of January is over for this year and only six more weeks of winter is left. There was not much snow in January compared to last year.

Soon the maple syrup will start flowing.

Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins - Mary Mitchell, Shelda Warner, Vestyl Bible, Bucky Moyers, Pam Riner, Anna Tesi, Ruby Propst, Alice Johnson, Arlin Dale and Freda Jamison, Hazel Simmons, Mary Alice Simmons, Reva Hartman, Sandy Washburn, Sandra Vandevander and Larry Moyers; prayer list - Richard Campbell, Brian Wilton, Tyler Moore, Tristan Hartman, Ronald Hayes, Becky Hedrick, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Doug Judy, Ronnie Bowers Sr., Allen Kile II, Ruth Simmers, Roberta Bennett, Raven Hoke, Harry Allen Warner, Quinley McConnell, Etha Mae Bowers, Mary Jo Wilfong, Kenny Williams, Dennis Mitchell, Olin Hoover, Debbie Horst, Rodney Crites, Charlotte Copley, Randy Bennett, Carolyn Gilbert, Glenn Sites, Billy Rowe, Myrtle Hammer, Kathy Propst, Jimmie Bennett, Sandy Bennett, Pam Rexrode, Wendell and Darlene Nelson, Jack Judy, Ruthalene Judy and Jason Rexrode.

Prayer thought: "It's a remarkable truth that God delights in us and wants a relationship with us. Even when we struggle with living today, we have a God who loves us."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Jan. 23 through Jan. 29, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Jan. 23 - 36°, 30°, .02" (39°, 17°); Jan. 24 - 45°, 27°, .25" snow (40°, 16°); Jan. 25 - 34°, 29°, .5" snow + .17" (39°, 20°); Jan. 26 - 37°, 26° (28°, 13°); Jan. 27 - 39°, 27° (40°, 4°); Jan. 28 - 51°, 35° (39°, 19°, 2.25" snow) and Jan. 29 - 44°, 38°, .01" (21°, 7°).

Does Your Car Shake, Wobble Or Pull? If So...Then Let the Experts at

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WVBOE Teacher Assistance

Continued From Page 1

COVID.

Pendleton County, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, and West Virginia University at Parkersburg have forged a partnership to try to identify potential future teachers early on. It also provides a program to encourage that they work in the communities in which they grew up.

Charles Hedrick, Superintendent of Pendleton County Schools, explains that “the Grow Your Own program is designed to facilitate a career path for students to a career in education.” He added that the program will help high school students interested in teaching to “fast-track into their careers through a combination of dual credit/advanced placement courses, and an accelerated pathway.”

That partnership is happening under the statewide “Grow Your Own” initiative. According to Curtis Hakala, dean of academic services for Eastern, “West Virginia’s ‘Grow Your Own’ Program not only provides an early start for students interested in a career in education but also the opportunity for them to graduate from college in three years and be well-prepared to make a difference in the classroom.”

The “Grow Your Own” pro-

gram starts in high school. According to the state Teach WV website at <https://teach-wv.com/grow-your-own>, high schoolers start the process by speaking to high school guidance counselors and college faculty advisors. Students can take up to 30 hours of dual credit courses that advance students toward both a high school and a college degree. Upon graduation from high school, the student can enter college as a sophomore.

Additionally, as Sherry Michael, Eastern’s education program coordinator says, “these courses require classroom observation hours so students can get that firsthand experience of being in a classroom.”

The first two years in college will see the student completing the rest of their coursework. After that, the student will enter a year-long residency that works along the same lines as an apprenticeship. The county system will provide a cohort supervisor to mentor, coach, and support multiple teacher residents serving as teachers of record. Next, as the Teach WV website explains, “the county system will provide a cohort supervisor to mentor, coach, and support multiple teacher residents serving as teachers of record.”

One of the benefits of the

program lies in the reduced cost of earning a degree. Dual credit courses cost the student relatively little or nothing. Students can take the college courses virtually, saving the costs of room, board, and other fees on a college campus.

Hedrick added that “the ‘Grow Your Own’ resident teacher will hold a unique permit that allows them to serve as the teacher of record under the parameters of the West Virginia Residency model.” This could include both Residency 1 and 2. Also, “the county will provide a cohort supervisor to mentor, coach, and support multiple teacher residents serving as teachers of record in Residency Hubs or multiple schools.”

Students in their third year of residency would become eligible for pay.

Michael adds that, “the last two semesters of the bachelor program students will be completing their residency. The residency can be completed in the local counties of Grant and Hardy. If we have students interested in completing their residency in Hampshire or Pendleton counties, we can discuss the options and possibly decide to establish a Memorandum of Understanding to meet the needs of the students.”

Christian Assistance Network

Continued From Page 1

where students bring in donations for each day.

One of the issues in donations from large scale sources lay in inconsistency and miscommunication. Volunteers bring their own vehicles to pick up donations, but sometimes “not knowing if they are getting four cases or 14.” Also, C. A. N. cannot donate produce that was fresh in the store, but frozen after purchase for safety reasons.

Next, discussion centered on the organization’s facility. The board agreed to renew the lease with the Pendleton County Board of Education that will come up this summer. It was explained that the board is restricted by law from making more long-term agreements and that the board of education would wait until the summer to take up the agreement.

Following a short discussion on the lease came a longer examination of how to work around needed

construction over the next year, especially the replacement of the floor. Rev. Felici stated that the school system “is paying everything for construction.”

One of the chief challenges of the floor remodeling will be moving shelves and other items before and after construction. With some of the shelves possibly needing to be “tweaked and shored up,” the group discussed the purchase of new shelving. Many of the shelves remain in good shape and only need to be disassembled, moved, and reassembled. Rev. Felici estimated that four new shelving units could cost up to \$1,400. The board approved a motion to allow up to \$5,000 for construction related costs so that it did not have to reassemble to approve unexpected cost overruns.

Afterwards, the board turned to an offer from Elizabeth Scott, executive

director of the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce. When asked about the possibility of social media exposure through the chamber, it was shared that Scott said “all we have to do is pick up the phone and call. She’d be glad to do that.” That gesture included events, requests for special food items, “or anything else needed.”

Finally, the board heard about an estate gift from James Simpson totaling \$15,000. Simpson was a regular donor and a Clarksburg native who owned land in the area and shared his generosity with C. A. N. for many years.

C. A. N. distributes food on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. They do not ask for proof of income, but require that recipients be a resident of West Virginia. Operations are run by volunteers who pick up food, organize it onto shelves, and distribute it.

CVB Executive Director

Continued From Page 1

deal of options for those who enjoy outdoor sports and activities. “Pendleton County has something for everyone,” she says, adding that “we have cycling, hiking, golf, rock climbing, horseback riding, and historical exploration.” Nesselrodt added that she sees exciting opportunities with maple and other food based tourism, particularly since agriculture remains the county’s other important industry with growth potential.

Last year, outgoing county commissioner Gene McConnell described in community forums and elsewhere the importance of developing rock climbing opportunities. While all of West Virginia has incredible beauty and scenery, Pendleton County is one of the few areas that has a competitive advantage in rock climbing offerings. Nesselrodt stated that the county already attracts some outside enthusiasts “because of our unique rock formations and climbing opportunities.”

N Rocks allows tourists and locals alike to take advantage of professional services to help climbers enjoy the fun of rock climbing, but safely.

What Pendleton County has to offer does not stop with adventures on its mountains and rivers. “We recognize the value of tourism to help to showcase and also preserve our rich history and traditions,” Nesselrodt said. Tourists come in large numbers to enjoy events highlighting the area’s rich frontier history, such as the Fort Seybert reenactment during the Treasure Mountain Festival. The area also has a number of Civil War sites due to its division between Union and Confederate forces.

Convention and visitors bureaus in the State of West Virginia receive direct support under the law from the hotel and motel taxes, which also include rentals of cabins and Air BNBs. Last year, Pendleton County enjoyed the highest collections of this tax ever, in-

dicating that tourism numbers spiked here as well. In the past, Pendleton County combined the CVB and Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce in a single entity. Differences in mission and difficulties in keeping the finances of the operations separate led the county to approve division into two organizations.

One of the most important requirements for the position comes in love of place, which Nesselrodt expressed repeatedly. “I am so proud to call Pendleton County home,” she stated. Then added “I am excited to be a part of helping to support our businesses while bringing more people to enjoy the wonders that we have here.”

Economic Diversification Initiative

Continued From Page 1

munity Development director, added, “We applied using our joint asset, the Smoke Hole Canyon region, for a remote work program, similar to what WVU offers in the Ascend program.” She said that she hopes that the county obtains “the resources to make a plan for a comparable program in our area with this technical assistance grant.”

Over the past year under Brown’s leadership, the Pendleton County EDA has promoted tourism and remote work as part of the economic future of the region. The BRECC grant’s goals align well with those plans.

Hagerty explains the importance of the two counties working together, stat-

ing that “we have worked together in the past with tourism and broadband.” He added that “it will further the relationship that we already have, since we are alike in so many ways.” Hagerty also said that Grant County hopes that this and other projects might help to ease the congestion at Dolly Sods.

BRECC offers four core activities. It creates a national network “open to all local, state, and national stakeholders focused on coal communities.” That will help to foster a “leadership and peer-learning network” enabling innovators to share ideas. The Coal Communities Action Challenge will provide technical assistance for up to 15 coal communities who

will “receive coaching and capacity-building support to develop an economic diversification plan.” Finally, the National Storytelling Campaign helps coal communities take their voices to a national audience.

During the national rollout of the initiative last September, Matthew Chase, executive director of the National Association of Counties said, “We are pleased to lead this initiative to help communities overcome coal-related economic challenges, and we thank the EDA for investing in our local economic resilience.”

Hagerty stated that the initiative receives funding from the American Rescue Plan and Economic Development Administration.

Check Out Our Website
Pendletontimes.com



Safely Rolling to My Destination

Community in Schools is offering the

2023 School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest to Pendleton County Students

Details for the poster:

https://www.napt.org/files/NATIONAL%20SCHOOL%20BUS%20SAFETY%20POSTER%20CONTEST_Web.pdf

There will be 5 divisions:

Division #1 - Grades K-2

Division #2 - Grades 3-5

Division #3 - Grade 6-8

Division #4 - Special Education (Grades K- 12)

Division #5 - CAD (Computer Aided Drawing)

Prizes for EACH division will be:

First Place: \$25 gift certificate to The Gateway Restaurant

Second Place: \$15 gift certificate to Fox’s Pizza

Third Place: \$10 gift certificate to Potomac Highlands Recreation Center

Completed poster size must be 11” x 17” or 12" x 18". Posters may be illustrated vertically or horizontally.

First place winners will be submitted to the West Virginia Department of Education to compete on the state level. A poster must win at the state level to be entered into the national contest, so please do not mail your posters directly to the NAPT.

Posters must be submitted by February 28, 2023 to a school Community in Schools (CIS) Coordinator:

Brandywine Elementary School: Manda Teter

Franklin Elementary School: Wendy Kisamore

North Fork Elementary School: Elizabeth Harper

Pendleton County Middle/High School: Lesley Cook or Elizabeth Warner

Please contact a CIS Coordinator for the required paper for the poster or if you have any questions.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS

The family of the late Johnny Rexrode would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the outpouring of love and acts of kindness extended to our families at his passing.

We would like to thank Pastor Jerry Smith for the visits, prayers, and funeral service, Dave Basagic and his staff. To Pendleton Manor, we thank you for making it possible for Pam to attend all services. Andy and Jess, THANK YOU! We say a big thank you to the many friends Johnny was blessed to have, the kind words, cards, memorial donations, gifts, phone calls, and beautiful floral arrangements.

To the ladies of St. Paul Lutheran Church and community friends, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the bountiful meal. The generosity of many made it possible to feed two families, the second being the late Eddie Malcolm Family, two days later. Johnny would have been well pleased as he and Eddie were good friends.

God bless each and everyone.

The Johnny Rexrode Family

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, memorial donations and St. Paul Independent Church for the food after the loss of our loved one, EDDIE MALCOLM.

A special thanks to Obaugh Funeral Home and Pastors Tim Johnson and Jerry Smith.

Jerry, Gary and Andy

Wildcat Defense and Balanced Offensive Attack Steals Viking Hopes of Victory in 67-50 Win

By Stephen Smoot

“Our defense was where we’ve been trying to get them all year,” Coach Jeremy Bodkin said of Monday night’s winning effort on the part of his team. Pendleton County controlled the game early through suffocating defense, then held Petersburg off the rest of the night for a crucial win.

Petersburg came into the action Monday night with a record of 5-8, losing to mutual opponents such as Tygarts Valley, Frankfort, and Keyser. The Vikings had upended rival Moorefield, however.

Pendleton County controlled the tip and pretty much the entire action in the first quarter. Wildcat pressure knocked the Vikings off their game early. Chase Owens came up with two of the six steals taken by the Wildcats in that quarter as part of eight total turnovers by the Vikings.

The game opened with a Josiah Kimble three off an assist by Jacob Beachler. Then, only a minute and a half into the game, Owens swiped the ball at midcourt and drove in for a layup. After another turnover, Petersburg called time out at the 6:28 mark but could not slow down the Wildcats. Beachler and Clayton Kisamore both scored off of offensive rebounds with Kisamore’s shot putting his team up 12-0 with 4:42 left in the quarter. Dusty Smith then broke up a Petersburg fast break and shortly thereafter took a hard foul at the basket, converting a free throw to extend the lead to 19-3 with only 1:23 left in the quarter.

For much of the night, Pendleton County used light pressure to harass the Vikings in the backcourt, then used a suffocating half court trap to disrupt the offense.

Dustin Vandevander’s shooting helped to keep Petersburg at bay in the early minutes of the second quarter, hitting three three-point shots in the opening minute, the second one off an assist by Dillon Smith. The Wildcats remained relentless on defense. Evan Teter broke up a pass to the post to force a turnover at the 6:30 mark while Connor Armentrout ended a Viking fast break with a blocked shot almost a minute later.

Petersburg stayed within shouting distance of the Wildcats

the entire night with opportune three-point shooting. Pendleton County, however, always had an answer to prevent Viking runs before they started. With 4:20 left in the second, Petersburg hit a three to close within 28-17. Immediately after, Owens answered with a three. Kimble followed Owens with a baseline drive ending in a pull up six-foot shot and a subsequent three-pointer to push the lead out to 36-17.

While Beachler did not rack up as many blocks, his presence had an effect. He disrupted shots near the basket all night and, along with Kisamore, punished Petersburg with relentless offensive rebounding to keep plays alive. Kisamore also had multiple effortless looking drives past Petersburg defenders for easy shots near the basket. One drive at the 50 second mark saw him leave four defenders in his wake as he put his team up 38-20.

The second half opened with Owens finding Dusty Smith open for a layup only 35 seconds in. Petersburg tried to foil Pendleton County with a full court press for a time, but could not slow down the Wildcats. Kimble hit a three-pointer off of a Brayden Beachler assist to give his team a 43-24 lead. Brayden Beachler hit a three of his own from the right corner shortly thereafter at the 3:43 mark.

Coach Bodkin over the past few weeks has worked to extend his bench. He said it’s “very important to have everyone available to us who is available.” Bodkin added that “we’re finally getting healthy. It’s a lot of fun right now.” Having a deep bench and a healthy squad is pivotal as the post season approaches.

Petersburg continued to make three-pointers to keep their hopes alive. In the last three minutes of the third quarter, they used long range shooting to go on a 13-5 run. They also used a 2-2-1 zone full court press to slow down the Wildcat offense as they closed to 53-37 with 50 seconds left, but a Kisamore three with 27 seconds put the lead back out to 19 to end the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Wildcats continued to make big plays to put the Vikings away. Owens scored a layup while taking a hard foul at the 6:11 mark, followed by a beautiful Kisamore drive punctuated by a graceful finger roll. Dusty



Evan Teter defends his man as Petersburg pushes up the court.

Smith then hit a three to extend the lead to 63-40. Jacob Beachler blocked a shot at 4:32, then a minute later wrestled away an offensive rebound to score a layup. Thirty seconds later, he took an inbound pass for an alley-oop that built the lead to 67-42.

Scoring closed when Dillon Smith took a foul that sent him to the line. His free throw set the final score at 67-50.

Scoring: Owens 12, Kisamore 11, Kimble 11, Jacob Beachler 10, Vandevander 10, Dusty Smith 6, Dillon Smith 5, Brayden Beachler 3

In other action, Kimble had a huge night last week as the Wildcats also defeated Tygarts Valley on the road 53-43.

Scoring: Kimble 23, Kisamore 15, Owens 6, Brayden Beachler 3, Dusty Smith 2, Vandevander 2, Jacob Beachler 2

The Wildcats travel to East Hardy today and will host Moorefield on Saturday.

Lawmakers in House and Senate Eye Changes to WV Hunting, Fishing, And Trapping Laws

By Stephen Smoot

As the yearly battles on key legislative issues play out in the legislative chambers and the press, both House and Senate leaders proposed changes to state laws governing hunting, fishing, and trapping.

One of the first addresses the tracking of animals mortally wounded while being hunted. Bill Hamilton, chair of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, served as lead sponsor on the bill. He, along with Senator Robert Karnes, represents Pendleton County.

The bill adds “mortally wounded elk, turkey, wild boar, and bear to list of wounded animals that may be tracked and located using a leashed dog.” Additionally, Class Q permit holders or “certain physically disabled hunters” can select another state licensed hunter to accompany the dog handler to dispatch the wounded animal.

The animal will go toward the bag count of the person who fired the first shot. Trackers may not assist in dispatching the animal.

On the House of Delegates side, HB 2285 originated in the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, but then passed to Judiciary. The bill proposes “the requirement that open

hunting season for big game begin on a Saturday.” Although the introduction states a focus on scheduling the opening of hunting season, the body of the bill proposes 33 “additional powers, duties, and services” of the director of the state Division of Natural Resources. Many of these deal with aspects of long-range conservation planning.

Delegate Marty Gearhart of Mercer County introduced HB 2369 to address damage committed by “deer or other wildlife” to the property of “landowners or lessees.” The bill specifically names damage to “cultivated crops, fruit trees, commercial nurseries, homeowners’ trees, shrubbery, or vegetable gardens.”

Those experiencing such damage, if this bill passes, can submit a report to the “natural resources police officer or biologist of the county.” The landowner or lessee can either get a permit to dispatch the animal or animals, but can also under this legislation hire a third party to help protect their property.

Anyone engaged in hunting allowed under this bill must obey all laws governing firearm and bow use while hunting the same animal during their regular hunting seasons.

Delegate Pat McGeehan

from the Northern Panhandle introduced HB 2117, which will help farmers and others concerned about property damage from coyotes more than recreational hunting or trapping. The bill would remove restrictions on hunting coyotes, including “year-round hunting of coyotes using artificial light or night vision technology and permitting hunting of coyotes at any hour.” The bill does not change these prohibitions as they apply to recreational or other hunting of game animals.

In 2013, then State Agricultural Commissioner Walt Helmick told the Bluefield Daily Telegraph that “coyotes are our biggest problem. More of them are being born than we’re removing. They’re winning the battle.”

The sheep industry, important in Pendleton County, has suffered losses in that battle. Helmick said in 2013 that “for the rebirth or growth of the sheep industry, it would be almost impossible with the amount of coyotes we now have on the loose.”

In 2018, the DNR estimated the population of coyotes in West Virginia at between 11,000 and 12,000. In 2018, National Geographic estimated that nationally, “coyote populations are likely at an all-time high.”

WVDOT Bridge Design Build Contest Accepting Entries

Students in West Virginia middle schools and high schools have until March 1 to enter the 2023 West Virginia Bridge Design and Build Contest, hosted by West Virginia Department of Transportation for more than 20 years. Registration is entirely free and available on the website [wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com](https://www.wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com).

“We have schools that have come back to the competition for 20 years and counting,” said Jennifer Dooley, of WVDOT’s Public Relations Division. “With WVDOT, we have scholarships, Co-Op programs, tuition reimbursement, and training opportunities; backing up our dedication to being the best educated WVDOT in the country. The competition helps us reach students with the message that there are great careers available in their home state.”

The competition focuses on engineering, using real world design principles in the software with which students design their bridges; however, Dooley stresses that the competition is not just for students who already feel they would be good at engineering.

“All students are encouraged to give it a try,” said Dooley. “This contest can reach any school, any student, and it’s a level playing field. It’s exciting to see a seventh grader give it a try and find out they can do it. Students need to know that it’s okay to be a beginner and start where they are. This contest teaches them about engineering without expecting them to

already know.”

Secretary of Transportation Jimmy Wriston, P.E. served as a classroom volunteer in the early years of the competition and developed a process for coaching West Virginia’s students that blends hard work with creativity. In 2016, Wriston created a tutorial for students outlining a step-by-step process for using the software. That tutorial, which starts at the beginning and moves logically through steps, is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E84yQRxzee4&t=202s>.

The qualifying round of the contest will end on March 1. Competing in the contest to qualify for the final competition is open to middle school and high school students, but siblings, families and teachers are encouraged to submit designs as well in open competition just for fun. Participation in the contest is entirely free, with software available for download on the website [wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com](https://www.wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com).

Students in grades 6-12 attending a West Virginia public, private, or home school may enter individually or in teams of two. For teams of two, the team captain should be the only one to register. The team captain must include the contact information for oneself, one’s parents, and one’s teacher.

“Teachers can email us at any time until February 17 to request volunteer assistance,” said Dustin Feazell, Transportation Engineering Technologist with the WVDOT Information Technology Division. “It helps students build the foundation for what they want to do in the future.”

Approximately the top 25 individuals/teams with the lowest cost designs will be invited to participate in the finals, hosted this year at the WVU Institute of Technology Campus in Beckley.

Finalists will be notified by March 3 with an invitation and details of the finals event. Finalist notification deadline is March 10. The finals event is scheduled for April 1.

Last year, more than 80 schools and over 200 individual teams participated. All finalists will be awarded cash prizes between \$100 and \$400 plus. There is also a prize for the Most Aesthetic Bridge.

To get details, read the rules, register, and download the bridge design software, go to the contest website.

With work continuing in all 55 counties across the state, the West Virginia Division of Highways and the West Virginia Department of Transportation remind the public of the importance of keeping everyone safe in work zones by keeping “Heads up; phones down!”

With Much Appreciation

We would like to thank everyone for their phone calls, food, memorial donations, cards, flowers and any other acts of kindness shown to us during the passing of our loved one. Your love and acts of kindness, no matter how small, were deeply and greatly appreciated. We are truly blessed to live in a community that has shown us so much love. May God bless each one.

The Charles Lee Whetzel Family

Heartfelt Thanks

The Edwin Troutman Family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the kind gestures expressed through phone calls, cards, visits, foods to the home and church, emails, memorial donations and other means of support. A special thanks to Pastor Tim Weaver and Rev. Larry Hakes for their wonderful service and comforting words.

In Appreciation

The FAMILIES OF THOMAS MOYERS AND DWAIN GILLISPIE wish to thank all our friends and family for the visits, calls, cards, prayers, food and any other acts of kindness given to us during and following their unexpected deaths.

Sincere Appreciation

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Proposed West Virginia Guardian Program Would Enlist Veterans To Help Protect State Schools

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the Jackson County sheriff's department reported that it "responded to a call for service regarding a potential school shooting threat" aimed at Ripley Middle School. The department added that "under further investigation, the threat appeared to be sincere in nature and somewhat thought out by the suspect." Sheriff R. H. Mellinger added "thank you to all that have aided in this quick intervention."

Jackson County's successful foiling of a school shooting plot comes as Amy Grady, Senate Education Committee chair and one of the state senators representing the area, has joined four other senators in sponsoring a bill to create the West Virginia Guardian Program.

The purpose of the bill would allow county school boards to "contract with an independent contractor who is an honorably discharged veteran, former state trooper, or former federal law enforcement officer to provide West Virginia Guardian services." These services include providing for "public safety and/or security to protect life and property."

Contractors would have to meet a stringent set of standards designed to protect children and schools. While they are "considered an authorized individual for purposes of the Gun Free School Zones Act of 1990,"

contractors under this legislation have no arrest powers. Contractors may carry a concealed weapon, however.

Last fall, Charles Hedrick, superintendent of Pendleton County Schools, spoke in support of a county levy to enhance school safety that ultimately did not pass. The bill provides a list of required training in order for the contractor to be employed. Additionally, these contractors have no eligibility to participate in public employees' insurance, workers' compensation, retirement, or other state employee benefit plans.

"So in a nutshell this bill reduces the cost of the school resource officer that our proposed school levy would have funded," Hedrick said. He raised concerns, however, that the lack of employee benefits could keep many from seeking the role.

According to Grady, "local school systems should support this legislation because it is a positive and safe way to provide extra safety measures in schools." She also stated that "those retired officers and veterans will be there because they want to be there. Positive interaction can come from students seeing these people on a daily basis and can give students a positive outlook and opinions of veterans and law enforcement."

Traditionally, West Virginia school resource officers are pulled from the top tier of experienced law enforcement

officers. The ideal school resource officer understands how to build a trust-based rapport with students. Students who trust their school resource officers have confidence in sharing what they see and hear, helping officers to head off problems before they harm children and school staff.

According to West Virginia Metro News, Rob Cunningham, deputy secretary of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security, helped to put together the bill. He told Metro News that "we have several holes throughout the state in each of our schools when it comes to safety." He added that "the training aspect will be key" in helping veterans learn a "quasi law enforcement role."

Grady explains that "this idea was actually brought up by a group of veterans who were interested in how they could help school safety." She and other legislators "heard ideas from all kinds of angles," and said that "this idea helps to not only improve school safety, but it provides an important role for our veterans and law enforcement retirees."

Earlier this week, the bill passed the Senate 32-0 and moves on to the House of Delegates for consideration. Hedrick stated that "if this bill does become law, Pendleton County Schools will take an in-depth look at the potential employment costs of the West Virginia Guardian program."

Delegates Mull Electric Bicycle Regulations to Expand Tourist Use of Trails

By Stephen Smoot

Electric bicycle use across the United States has exploded in the past two years. While city residents see them as an easier alternative to automobile or public transportation, much of the growth in use has come in tourism. Older individuals who may struggle with long distance hiking or traditional cycling now find electric bicycles as a less strenuous and more convenient option to access trails and sites.

Because of the rise in popularity, the West Virginia House of Delegates is considering two bills to modernize the code regarding these vehicles.

House Bill 2753 seeks "to more closely comport to federal law; creating new definitions of e-bikes in West Virginia; permitting Class 2 e-bikes to use throttles; allowing e-bikes to be operated on public lands so as to increase their usage and accessibility; and stating that e-bike users will not be given special privileges not otherwise given to similarly situated riders."

If passed, the legislation would replace the current legal definition of an e-bike and what it can do with federal rules. Currently, e-bikes conforming to federal rules can use trails on US government owned trails, such as those traversing the national forest. The same e-bikes cannot be used on

state forest or park trails because of more restrictive state laws.

Additionally, the legislation states an intent "to facilitate increased access to public lands that may otherwise be inaccessible to those with disabilities, health issues, or age-related limitations."

E-bikes come in three classes. The legislation will allow trail use for classes one and two, but not for class three. One of the key differences lies in the fact that the first two classes do not allow for additional power when the vehicle hits 20 miles per hour. A class three e-bike will continue adding power until the vehicle reaches 28 mph.

The bill also prohibits modification of a class one or two e-bike to bypass the 20 mph limit.

House Bill 2198 proposes safety standards, including requiring a speedometer on class three e-bikes and age limitations on their use. E-bikes will not have to follow laws on registration, drivers license, title, and other requirements applied to automobiles and other motor vehicles.

One of the driving forces behind the rising use of e-bikes lies in how they help older or disabled individuals to enjoy access to places now mainly accessible by traditional bicycle or hiking.

If the State Legislature eases regulations on their

use, Pendleton County and other tourist areas in the state could see benefits. Amber Nesselrodt, the incoming Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director noted that "this will help draw a wider variety of tourists with a different dynamic."

Laura Brown, Pendleton County Economic and Community Development executive director, added that "there is a market in Pendleton County for electric bikes. The majority of the users are middle-aged people who still enjoy biking, recreational activities and enjoying the outdoors." Brown explained that "local businesses can take advantage of this new recreation opportunity by offering food, lodging, specialized equipment, and welcoming visitors into our county." She added that the new Sweetwater Farms trail system near Sugar Grove is just another opportunity for e-bikes.

Other tourism-oriented states have seen major growth in use of e-bikes. Chris Skilling, vice president of rural biking at VBT Bicycling Vacations, a Vermont-based international excursion provider, explained to USA Today magazine last month that, "About 25 to 30 percent of our guests opt for them now, and I wouldn't be surprised if that is over 50 percent in the next five years."

WV Seat Belt Usage Hits All-time High

Gov. Jim Justice and his Governor's Highway Safety Program have announced that the statewide seat belt usage rate for 2022 came in at 92.5%, a new record. This rate exceeds the national average of 90%.

"It just doesn't get better than being able to say West Virginians are using their seatbelts more than ever before," Justice said. "These seatbelt numbers are off the chart impressive, and I'm so glad to know West Virginians are being as safe as possible when they're on our roads. Especially this time of year when the roads are getting slick, and it gets dark early, making sure you're safe in a vehicle is important. Thank you, West Virginia for taking care of yourselves and your family."

Seat belt utilization has increased substantially over the past nine years. The passage of the primary seat belt law in 2013 and continued effort by the GHSP's Click It or Ticket campaigns, high visibility law enforcement, and education are instrumental in increasing West Virginia's seat belt usage.

"West Virginians are getting the message: seat belts save lives," Bob Tipton, GHSP director, said. "Roadway fatalities in West Virginia have decreased from 432 in 2007 to 267 in 2020. Crash data shows that seat belt use saves lives and prevents serious injuries. We strive to make sure drivers and passengers know how to correctly buckle up and to ensure children are properly restrained in a car seat or booster appropriate for their weight and height."

Research shows using lap and shoulder combination seat belts reduce risk of a fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and reduce the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent (NHTSA, 2011). Drivers and passengers of light trucks reduce their risk of fatal injury by 60 percent (Kahane, 2015).

To conduct the scientific study, observations were randomly scheduled for all days of the week during daylight hours between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Observers recorded the use of seat belts and mobile devices while driving, along with other information. An independent consulting firm has certified the results, ensuring their accuracy and objectivity.

For more information about seat belts, visit nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts. To contact the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program, visit highway-safety.wv.gov.

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SNAP Emergency Allotments Are Ending

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Family Assistance is reminding residents receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits that the last issuance of COVID-19 SNAP Emergency Allotments will be in February due to the funding being discontinued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Since April 2020, DHHR has issued SNAP EA which increased the household's monthly SNAP benefit to the maximum benefit allowable by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Effective March 1, monthly SNAP benefits will return to the pre-COVID-19 Public Health Emergency level and will again be based on the household's income, assets, household size and other non-financial factors.

Each SNAP household will receive a letter from DHHR notifying them of this change and provide direction on any questions they may have.

"We were pleased to be able to provide this extra assistance during the Public Health Emergency to combat hunger," said Janie Cole, interim commissioner of DHHR's Bureau for Family Assistance. "We encourage SNAP recipients to begin today to budget their family's benefits in preparation for this benefit change."

Questions related to SNAP may be directed to DHHR's Office of Constituent Services at 1-877-716-1212 or a local DHHR office.

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FSU Announces Fall Honor Lists

Fairmont State University has released the fall President's List and the Dean's List to recognize high-achieving students for their academic distinction.

Pendleton County students earning recognition on the President's List were Joshua Alt, Brooklyn Aumann, Brandy Bowers, Cameron Kisamore, Rachel Loudermilk and Hannah Swigunski.

Named to the Dean's List were Dalton Hedrick and Makai-Lyn Ruddle.

Full-time students achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average are named to the President's List. Full-time students who earned a 3.4 or better grade point average are named to the Dean's List.

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Franklin Elementary Students Earn Academic Recognition

The faculty at Franklin Elementary School has released the following honor rolls, citizenship awards and top five Accelerated Readers for the second nine-weeks grading period.

A Honor Roll

1A (Ruddle) — Brinleigh Bishop, Abigail Cayton, Madalyn Griffin, Hunter Hedrick, Maddie Grace Nesselrodt, Rosalyn Nesselrodt, Baylee Ours, Kylie Raymond, Rylan Stager and Nathanael Vincell;

1B (Nicely) — Mattox Ayala, Keylan Bailey, Madison Borrer, Lola Brooks, Mia Dudley, Chase George, Dani Hoover, Jaycee Jameson, Urban Jones, Kaci Keller, Ariel Martin, Chandler Mauzy, Madison Mongold, Mason Mowery, Alexander Plaugher, Emmett Sisson, Kieley Wheeler and Colton Whetzel;

2A (Simmons) — Sydney Demers, Dallis Hull, Sunny Milstead and Zaidex Somerville;

2B (George) — Sicily Flanigan, Gracie Hedrick, Adelynn Miller, Ava Rose and Jaedynn Severance;

3A (Kimble) — Tinley Basagic, Raelynn Bergdoll and Gracelyn Mongold;

3B (Dove) — Bristol Bowers, Ella Dudley, Emma Felici, Riley Hawk, Bella Kimble, Connor Raines and Deken Somerville;

4A (Cook) — Braxton Beachler, Madison Kirk, Acie Tilley and Bentley Wimer;

4B (Eye) — Brianna Connor, Garrett Lambert, Emma Nesselrodt and Roscoe Pownell;

5A (Alexander) — Alaska Kimble, Lacey Mullens and Aliviah Smith;

5B (Plaugher) — Beckett Aumann, Allison Barbour, Bella Eye, Daisy Hartman, Kallie Keyser, Lainey Simmons, Branson Smith, Josie Verdoni and Makynna Whetzel;

6A (Griffin) — Tatum Aumann, Ziva Jones, Katelyn Myers, Evie Nulph and Bryce Propst; and

6B (Shreve) — Cohen Hiett and Aubreyana VanMeter.

AB Honor Roll

1A (Ruddle) — Dylan Harper, Finley Harper and Leah Wheeler;

1B (Nicely) — Alexis Michael;

2A (Simmons) — Lukas Baldwin, Silas Calhoun, Greyson Eckard, Luke Kimble and Eowyn Propst;

2B (George) — Chase Bennett, Krislee Hammer, Kyle Ice, Remington Kimble, Landon Mallow, Hunter Price and Leah Puffenbarger;

3A (Kimble) — Isabella Hoover, Natalie Ice, Julian Jackson, Destiny Michael, Brynleigh Ruddle and Bentley Varner;

3B (Dove) — Olivia Caplinger, Hyrum Hartman, Wyatt Hott, Clairra Kimble and Brantley Propst;

4A (Cook) — Eli Boyer, Adalycia Davis, Kamden Hawk, Wyatt Haynes, Alexis Hedrick, Breyman Keesecker, Cooper Roberson, Cambria VanMeter and Cayli VanMeter;

4B (Eye) — Ava Davis, Jacob Harman, Alaina Hedrick, Cambri Hiett, Tucker Minor, Addison Shreve and Marion Williams;

5A (Alexander) — Reagyn Atkins, Weston Boyer, Carmella Paugh, Journey Rowe, Lori Wehrle and Aiden Whetzel;

5B (Plaugher) — Greyson Boggs, Kya Brogan, Michael Haynes, Hannah Heavner, Parker Hedrick, Shane LaMaster and Chase Rohrbaugh;

6A (Griffin) — Blaine Cook, Landon Davis, Colton Drake, Tia Heavner, Carly Kimble, Hayden Kimble, Jude Propst, Jaxon Simon and Avionna Thurston;

6B (Shreve) — Haileigh Alt and Jackson Wimer.

Citizenship

KA (Flanigan) — Solomyn Bowers and Maci Raines;

KB (Kimble) — Charles Caplinger and Emma Humphrey;

1A (Ruddle) — Everly Bowers and Hunter Hedrick;

1B (Nicely) — Madison Mongold and Mason Mowery;

2A (Simmons) — Charlotte Kimble and Luke Kimble;

2B (George) — Vince Herb and Landon Mallow;

3A (Kimble) — Tinley Basagic, Vincent Haynes, Connor Judy and Gracelyn Mongold;

3B (Dove) — Ella Dudley and Hyrum Hartman;

4A (Cook) — Adalycia Davis and Cooper Roberson;

4B (Eye) — Alaina Hedrick and Tucker Minor;

5A (Alexander) — Journey Rowe and Aliviah Smith;

5B (Plaugher) — Beckett Aumann and Josie Verdoni;

6A (Griffin) — Blaine Cook and Ziva Jones;

6B (Shreve) — Haileigh Alt and Kolby Kimble.

Top 5 Accelerated Readers

KA (Flanigan) — Eve Hott (20.6 points), Kinley Minor (13.5 points), Hendrix Bogan (6.9 points), Bryer Moyers (5.7

points) and Lane Nesselrodt (4.1 points);

KB (Kimble) — Jase Mitters (28.8 points), Paisley Hott (15.3 points), Payton Demers (10.8 points), Anasen Bishop (8.8 points), Cash Varner (3.9 points) and Charli Hiett (3.9 points);

1A (Ruddle) — Abigail Cayton (79.4 points), Maddie Grace Nesselrodt (65.3 points), Brinleigh Bishop (34.7 points) and Madalyn Griffin (28.7 points);

1B (Nicely) — Rylan Warner (34 points), Mattox Ayala (30 points), Lola Brooks (29 points), Mia Dudley (29 points) and Urban Jones (28 points);

2A (Simmons) — Sunny Milstead (112.3 points), Sydney Demers (27.7 points), Dallis Hull (25.3 points), Zaidex Somerville (17.3 points) and Eowyn Propst (17 points);

2B (George) — Gracie Hedrick (44.6 points), Adelynn Miller (20.3 points), Kyle Ice (19.5 points), Ava Rose (18.1 points) and Sicily Flanigan (15.8 points);

3A (Kimble) — Gracelyn Mongold (38.9 points), Raelynn Bergdoll (30.6 points), Tinley Basagic (26.8 points), Isabell Hoover (21.3 points) and Greyson Alt (19.4 points);

3B (Dove) — Emma Felici (106 points), Deken Somerville (41.2 points), Wyatt Hott (32.5 points), Bristol Bowers (30.2 points) and Bella Kimble (28.3 points);

4A (Cook) — Eli Boyer (146.8 points), Braxton Beachler (53.6 points), Cambria VanMeter (45.9 points), Cayli VanMeter (38.4 points) and Bentley Wimer (35.1 points);

4B (Eye) — Alaina Hedrick, Jacob Harman, Emma Nesselrodt and Cambri Hiett;

5A (Alexander) — Weston Boyer (96.3 points), Lacey Mullens (77.7 points), Eulaila Dahmer (62.9 points), Maiya Mongold (46.6 points) and Journey Rowe (31.2 points);

5B (Plaugher) — Lainey Simmons (85.2 points), Branson Smith (35.8 points), Bella Eye (37.1 points), Kallie Keyser (35.6 points) and Parker Hedrick (34.2 points);

6A (Griffin) — Evie Nulph (204.2 points), Katelyn Myers (86.4 points), Avionna Thurston (47.2 points), Bryce Propst (45.1 points) and Ziva Jones (43.4 points); and

6B (Shreve) — Jackson Wimer (53.2 points), Ryder Eustler (20 points), Aubreyana VanMeter (19.9 points), Ashlyn Wimer (19.8 points) and Gemma Bancroft (18.8 points).

Changes to State Pandemic Homeowner Relief Program Could Offer More Assistance

By Stephen Smoot

Residents of West Virginia still experiencing financial difficulties related to the COVID 19 pandemic may qualify for expanded assistance.

The West Virginia Housing Development Fund received approximately \$50 million from the United States Department of the Treasury to set up the West Virginia Homeowner Rescue Program. Funds are meant to support those struggling to pay for their homes or home related expenses. The program marks Jan. 21, 2020, as the start date of consideration, but hardships that started before that date may be considered.

One important change allows a homeowner to apply for mortgage assistance after being 60 days behind. Prior to these changes, one had to wait 90 days. The cap on payments also increased from \$15 - \$20,000. State officials acknowledged to West Virginia Metro News that the changes occurred because “people needed more help and they needed it sooner.”

Jessica Greathouse, a special programs manager for the WVHDF, told West Virginia Metro News that “you don’t have to have a mortgage to qualify. If you own your home outright, you’ve paid it off, and you just can’t keep up with your taxes, utilities, and insurance, for instance, you can still apply.”

According to the WVHDF website, applicants “must currently own and occupy the property as their primary residence.” Also, the property must lay within the State of West Virginia and household income cannot exceed

150% of the Area Median Income or 100% of the median income of the United States, whichever is greater.

For Pendleton County residents, the income limit for applicants up to three people in the household is \$79,000. A four-person household can earn up to \$82,000, five \$88,000, six \$95,400, seven \$101,950, and a household of eight has an income limit of \$108,550.

Homeowners can apply for relief to help with the following conditions: job loss, reduced income, significant health care costs, or some other hardship caused directly or indirectly by the COVID pandemic.

Applicants for relief will need documentation to demonstrate household income, qualifying hardship, proof of both ownership and residency, documentation of eligible expenses, and evidence of the qualifying hardship. The application will also require a current mortgage statement (if applicable), proof of identification, proof of residency, proof of income (for those over 18), utilities and internet bills within 45 days of the application, and expenses documentation.

Applicants cannot get assistance for second homes, vacant or abandoned properties, or investments. Other restrictions include co-owners being unable to file separate applications. Funds used from this program are ineligible for use for expenses that have been or will be reimbursed by federal, state, or local efforts. Loan related restrictions can also apply to applicants.

The WVHDF operates a portal for applicants to use

online. Those lacking internet service can call 1 (844) 542-0035. Applicants can also email wvhr@wvhdf.com. Check out the site WVHDF.com/west-virginia-homeowners-rescue, or look up West Virginia Homeowners Rescue for complete detailed information.



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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS Continued from Page 9

Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must submit electronically with their bid a Proposal Guaranty Bond for \$500.00 or 5% of total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR ATTORNEY

SERVICES FOR THE PENDLETON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT'S ROUTE 220 (JAKE HILL ROAD) WATER EXTENSION PROJECT

The Pendleton County Public Service District, Pendleton County, West Virginia is in the process of obtaining PSC ATTORNEY service for its water system extension project. Procurement for services shall be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. Contracts are to be awarded on an hourly fee basis. All interested firms and individuals interested in being considered for this project must submit a letter of interest detailing qualifications, expertise, and related prior experience. The proposal must also provide hourly fees for services. The object of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm/individual who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents may be interviewed.

Please submit all requested information to Angie Curl, Project Specialist, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 no later than 4:00 p.m., Thursday, February 9, 2023.

Attention is directed to the fact that the proposed project is to be undertaken with Federal and State funds and all work will be performed in accordance with the regulation issued those agencies and the State of West Virginia. The selected firm will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Section 109 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to Records provisions.

The Pendleton County Public Service District will afford full opportunity for minority business enterprises to submit a show of interest in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any interested firm or individual on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin in the contract award.

This contract will be awarded to the responsible responder whose proposal is within the competitive range and determined to be the most advantageous to the Pendleton County Public Service District's price and other factors considered.



1-26-2c



JOB OPENINGS

POSITION: FULL TIME MEDICAL ASSISTANT- PHYSICIAN CLINIC — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Days with occasional weekends. Current MOA certification is preferred. Strong medical and anatomy terminology skills, required. Experience taking vital signs, preferred. Excellent customer service skills, a must. Required to work or cover other physician clinics, as needed. Must be highly empathetic, dependable, and be able to deal with high stress levels. Should always be courteous and use integrity and discretion when collecting and accessing private information. Must pay very close attention to details and have enough visual acuity and manual dexterity to work in a clinical setting one on one with the provider. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 02/10/2023**

POSITION: FULL TIME LPN PHYSICIAN CLINIC — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Days with occasional weekends. Current WV LPN license and prior clinic experience, required. Must be highly empathetic, dependable, and be able to deal with high stress levels. Required to work or cover other physician clinics, as needed. Should always be courteous and use integrity and discretion when collecting and accessing private information. Must pay very close attention to details and have enough visual acuity and manual dexterity to work in a clinical setting one on one with the provider. Must be capable of multitasking and have critical thinking skills. Excellent customer service skills required. Current CPR certification at BCLS level. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 02/10/2023**

POSITION: FULL TIME RN FOR MEDICAL SURGICAL/ SPECIAL CARE UNIT — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Nights – (3) 12-hour shifts per week, with rotating weekends and holidays. Current West Virginia RN license required. BLS, ACLS and PALS certifications recommended. Reliable and detail oriented, exhibits good judgment and promotes teamwork. Must be capable of multitasking and have critical thinking skills. Excellent Customer Service Skills required. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 02/03/2023**

POSITION: FULL TIME PATIENT CARE ASSISTANT – SPECIAL CARE UNIT — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Days (3) 12-hour shifts per week with rotating weekends. Excellent customer service skills and special care experience preferred, but not required. Must be capable of multitasking. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 02/03/2023**

POSITION: FULL TIME RN - OPERATING ROOM/OUTPATIENT SURGERY DEPARTMENT — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday with occasional evenings and nights. No call hours. Will also float to Outpatient and PACU Departments, a few days late shifts. Will learn to circulate eyes/endoscopy cases. Prior Operating Room experience preferred but not required. Excellent Customer Service Skills required. Current West Virginia RN license required. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 02/28/2023**

POSITION: FULL TIME RN FOR MOTHER INFANT CARE CENTER — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Nights – (3) 12-hour shifts per week, with every other weekends. Current WV license required. Excellent customer service skills and previous labor and delivery experience preferred, but not required. Must be capable of multitasking and have critical thinking skills. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 2/28/2023**

To apply go to www.grantmemorial.com click resources, opportunities and then pick the job you want to apply for

Human Resource Office
Grant Memorial Hospital
PO Box 1019, Petersburg, WV 26847
304-257-1026

EOE

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CLASSIFIED BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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STORAGE SPACE

Storage Spaces Available Now
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E-ZEE SELF STORAGE
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304-358-3651
Inside Units
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FOR SALE

GUNS! GUNS! GUNS! You want them. We got them. Hundreds in store, even more online. Buy. Sell. Trade. Pendleton County Outdoors, Franklin, WV 26807, 304-358-3265, www.penco-outdoors.com, www.facebook.com/penco-outdoors. 10-12-tfn

FOR RENT

RENT TO OWN mobile homes in Monterey Community starting at \$750 per month. 1-26-4p
BISSELL CARPET Shampooer for rent. Bowman's Do It Best. Call 304-358-2303.

HELP WANTED

PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR—The Region 8 Planning and Development Council has an opening for the position of Project Administrator. The position requires a bachelor's degree in public administration/business administration or a related field. Also, an associate degree with related experience will be considered. Primary responsibilities will include the development of community development projects for local government projects, grant writing, and special projects as assigned. Strong analytical, written, and oral skills are required. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Fringe benefits for the position include health insurance, retirement, vacation and sick leave. Please submit your resume with a cover letter to Project Administrator Position by 4:00 p.m. on February 17, 2023. Region 8 PDC, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 and tively@regioneight.org. The Region 8 PDC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 2-2-2c

CAREGIVER FOR elderly Riverton man with dementia. Monday thru Friday, 5 hours a day beginning April 3rd. Housekeeping, meal preparation and companionship, \$250 per week. Must have safe, reliable transportation. Contact Lynn at 203-297-3572. 2-2-2p

HOMEMAKER wanted—\$15.32/hour, 154 hours monthly. Must have CPR, First Aid, driver's license, vehicle, 304-567-2791. 1-26-2c

IMMEDIATE Opening for full time office/shipping personnel—Position to include answering phones, wrapping and shipping orders, occasional travel to trade shows and a high level of customer service. Must be highly motivated and ready to learn. Apply at CMI Corp next to the town pool in Franklin, WV. Will provide on the job training. Apply at CMI Corp, 338 Mill Road, Franklin, WV 26807. Open Mon-Fri 7:30am-4pm. Call 304-358-7041. 2c

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN BOND ORDINANCE

A public hearing will be held on the following entitled Ordinance at a regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Franklin (the "Town") to be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall, Franklin, West Virginia, and at such hearing any person interested may appear before the Town and present protests, and all protests and suggestions shall be heard by the Town and it shall then take such actions as it shall deem proper in the premises upon an Ordinance entitled:



SPECIAL NOTICES

NOTICE RECOVERY CELEBRATION Saturdays at 6 p.m., Fairview-Bethel United Methodist Church, Siple Mountain Road, Fort Seybert. (signed credit available) Meet-Greet-Eat. 5-12-tfn

POSTED NOTICES

POSTED NOTICE 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 ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONVEYANCE OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROPERTY (Valley Chapel United Methodist Church, Pendleton County)

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will, on or after February 9, 2023 QUITCLAIM, GRANT AND CONVEY to William A. Botkin and Pamela L. Botkin all of their right, title and interest in and to a certain lot or parcel of real estate situate, lying and being near and east of the Village of Riverton on Roots Run in Union District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, described as follows:

BEGINNING at a post against a hillside, corner of Ted Hinkle's lot, thence N. 32 1/2 W. 5.84 poles to a black walnut sapling against said hillside, S. 29-3/4 W. 17.28 poles down said hillside to a stake by a stone pile, S. 43 1/2 W. 13.68 poles crossing the road to a point in the run, thence up the same S. 31 1/4 E. 4.52 poles to a point in the same, S. 61 1/2 E. 3.96 poles to a point in said run at or near Ted Hinkle's corner, thence with said Hinkle's line N. 30 - 3/4 E. 30.28 poles to the beginning and containing 1.1 acres be the same, more or less.

And being the same property conveyed to V. Roy Bowers et als, Trustees of the Valley Chapel Methodist Church of Riverton, West Virginia from Russell Lawrence et ux by deed dated January 26, 1942 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia in Deed Book 67, at Page 183, reference to which is hereby made.

Said Valley Chapel United Methodist Church was declared closed effective on November 16, 2022 by a majority of the District Superintendents of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Dated the 25th day of January, 2023.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By: Robert N. File,
Chancellor
130 Main Street
Beckley,
West Virginia 25801
(304) 253 - 3358
2-2-2c

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN BOND ORDINANCE

A public hearing will be held on the following entitled Ordinance at a regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Franklin (the "Town") to be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall, Franklin, West Virginia, and at such hearing any person interested may appear before the Town and present protests, and all protests and suggestions shall be heard by the Town and it shall then take such actions as it shall deem proper in the premises upon an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONS, BETTERMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING PUBLIC WATERWORKS SYSTEM OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN AND THE FINANCING OF THE COST, NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED, THEREOF THROUGH THE ISSUANCE BY THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN OF NOT MORE THAN \$2,000,000 IN ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF WATER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2023 A (WEST VIRGINIA DWTRF PROGRAM); AND NOT MORE THAN \$2,500,000 IN ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF WATER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2023 B (WEST VIRGINIA DWTRF PROGRAM/FORGIVABLE); PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OF AND SECURITY FOR THE REGISTERED OWNERS OF SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS; APPROVING, RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING A LOAN AGREEMENT RELATING TO SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND PROVIDING FOR THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF SUCH BONDS AND ADOPTING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING THERETO.

The above quoted title of the Ordinance describes generally the contents thereof and the purposes of the Series 2023 A Bonds and Series 2023 B Bonds (collectively, the "Series 2023 Bonds") contemplated thereby. The Town contemplates the issuance of the Series 2023 Bonds described in the Ordinance. The proceeds of the Series 2023 Bonds will be used to (i) to pay a portion the costs of acquisition and construction of certain additions, betterments and improvements to the existing public waterworks system of the Town (the "Project"), (ii) to fund the Series 2023 A Reserve Account, and (iii) to pay certain costs of issuance of the Series 2023 Bonds and related costs. The Series 2023 Bonds are payable solely from revenues to be derived from the ownership and operation of the waterworks system of the Town. No taxes may at any time be levied by the Town for the payment of the Series 2023 Bonds or the interest thereon.

The above-entitled Ordinance was adopted by the Council of the Town of Franklin on second reading on January 24, 2023. A certified copy of the above entitled Ordinance is on file with the Town Clerk for review by interested parties during regular office hours.

Following the public hearing, the Council of the Town of Franklin intends to enact the Ordinance upon final reading.

/s/ Frank Wehrle
Town Clerk
2-2-2c

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 Notice is February 2, 2023. Deadline for claims is April 3, 2023.

Earl B. Bible Estate - Benjamin W. Heavner, Executor;
Eunice Kisamore Estate - Connie White & Timothy W. Kisamore, Co-Executors;
Denton Kisamore Estate - Connie White & Timothy W. Kisamore, Co-Executors;
Steven Craig Judy Estate - Brianna Bruns, Administratrix;
Bernice Thompson Estate - Mark D. Bennett, Executor;
Charles E. Nesselrodt Estate - Joshua T. Nesselrodt, Executor;
Betty Lou Propst Estate - Douglas Reedy, Executor;
Edward J. Gaus, II Estate - Amy C. Gaus, Executrix;
Edwin L. Troutman, Jr. Estate - Helen E. Troutman, Executrix;
Clemet Halterman Estate - Sherry Mongold, Executrix;
Sue Ann Sharp Estate - Gregory L. Sharp, Administrator.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on January 27, 2023.

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

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR THE PENDLETON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT'S ROUTE 220 (JAKE HILL ROAD) WATER EXTENSION PROJECT

The Pendleton County Public Service District, Pendleton County, West Virginia is in the process of obtaining ACCOUNTING service for its water extension project. Procurement for services shall be in accordance with 2 CFR 200. Contracts are to be awarded on an hourly fee basis. All interested firms and individuals interested in being considered for this project must submit a letter of interest detailing qualifications, expertise, and related prior experience. The proposal must also provide hourly fees for services. The object of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm/individual who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly, qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents may be interviewed.

Please submit all requested information to Angie Curl, Project Specialist, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 no later than 4:00 p.m., Thursday, February 9, 2023.

Attention is directed to the fact that the proposed project is to be undertaken with Federal and State funds and all work will be performed in accordance with the regulation issued by those agencies and the State of West Virginia. The selected firm will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Section 109 of

the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to Records provisions.

The Pendleton County Public Service District will afford full opportunity for minority business enterprises to submit a show of interest in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any interested firm or individual on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin in the contract award.

This contract will be awarded to the responsible responder whose proposal is within the competitive range and determined to be the most advantageous to the Pendleton County Public Service District's price and other factors considered.



NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE PENDLETON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT'S ROUTE 220 (JAKE HILL ROAD) WATER EXTENSION PROJECT

The Pendleton County Public Service District, Pendleton County, West Virginia is in the process of obtaining LEGAL service for its water extension project. Procurement for services shall be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. Contracts are to be awarded on an hourly fee basis. All interested firms and individuals interested in being considered for this project must submit a letter of interest detailing qualifications, expertise, and related prior experience. The proposal must also provide hourly fees for services. The object of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm/individual who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly, qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents may be interviewed.

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WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bids.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until March 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the construction of the following project(s):

Call 023
Contract 2021000793
State Project
S399-RPM-23 00
Federal Project
HSPJ-2023(055)D
Description
PAVEMENT MARKINGS
2023 RPM
PAVEMENT MARKINGS
COUNTY: STATEWIDE

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of

Legal Advertisements Continued on Page 8

phg Potomac Highlands Guild is hiring!

PHG Regional Youth Suicide Intervention Specialist (RYSIS)

Full Time Position requiring a Bachelor's Degree in a Social Services field

This position provides health promotion and wellness, advocacy, consumer/family education, consultation with care-givers, peer support, and other primary prevention activities. Strong benefits package offered.

Check out our website at www.thephg.org for other available positions.

Please send resume and letter of interest to:
Potomac Highlands Guild
Attn: Amy Dean
PO Box 1119, Petersburg WV 26847
or email amy.dean@phgmail.net
EOE M/F/D/V

WV DHHR Office Assistant II

Providing Services to Children & Families

We are looking for self-motivated individuals with a strong work ethic, the willingness to succeed and the desire to help families. We offer a friendly work environment, a secure future and a full range of benefits. These benefits include: retirement, medical, agency paid life insurance, sick leave, vacation and holidays. There are also many other optional benefits such as dental and vision.

This position is a permanent, full time opening.

Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from a standard high school or the equivalent. Two years full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience in routine office work.

Interested applicants must apply through the <https://personnel.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx> and be tested for this position in order to be interviewed.

If you have questions, please call Megan Pugh at (304) 257-4211.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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