

THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Thursday
March 23, 2023

Pendleton County Robotics Team Places 6th in Competition Finals

By Stephen Smoot

A team of Pendleton County Middle School students showed their technical savvy recently, placing sixth in a robotics competition held last month at Fairmont last month. The team, called "Chaos Crew," is composed

of Alex and Zander Adams. The story actually starts in 2017 when Carrie Ruddle applied for and won a \$10,000 grant to start up a robotics team. These teams compete as part of the West Virginia Robotics Alliance, which is managed by the Educational

Resource Center team at NASA's Katherine Johnson facility in Fairmont. Pendleton County's WVU Extension Service office sponsors the teams.

Ruddle explained that "in a rural area, we have to make

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The Pendleton County robotics team engineered a strong finish in state competition.



Plans are proposed to improve safety conditions on Allegheny Mountain. The plan offers solutions to only one of the three most dangerous curves on the mountain. County officials are concerned with the plan since it does not address crashes that occur on the downhill Horseshoe Curve and the one below it.

Proposed Upgrades on Allegheny Mountain Not Seen As the 'Real Fix'

By Stephen Smoot

Last month, the West Virginia Department of Transportation announced plans to improve safety conditions on U.S. Route 33 on the mountain west of Seneca Rocks.

According to a press release from the WV DOT, "The project will build a large retaining wall and install reinforced guardrails

along a steep hairpin turn on US 33 as it descends Allegheny Mountain in Pendleton County. The guardrail project is intended to keep vehicles from going off the side of the mountain."

Guardrails will align on both the front and back of supports. Plans include sinking supporting posts deeper into the ground to handle potentially heavier trucks,

since they do sometimes lose control on the steep grade and curvy road.

"This section of road has a historically high crash rate," said Jason Foster, P.E., West Virginia Department of Highway chief engineer of development in a press release. "We're trying to reduce those crashes by installing a barrier."

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Community CALENDAR

Senior Center To Host Evening Meal March 30

Pendleton Senior and Family Services is hosting an evening meal at 5 p.m. March 30 in the Franklin Senior Center. Lunch will not be served on that day. Contact the senior center at 304-358-2421 to reserve a meal.

Local Business Roundtable Scheduled

The Pendleton County Economic and Community Development Authority is hosting a business roundtable at 6 p.m. March 29 at the Lodestar Mountain Inn in Smoke Hole.

The USDA Rural Business Development team and Thrasher Engineering, the county's broadband partner, will be in attendance.

Meeting Set to Discuss Regional Development Plan

The Region 8 Planning and Development Council invites Potomac Highlands community leaders to participate in planning the region's future by helping the council update its Regional Development Plan.

The council will host a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy planning meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m. March 30 at Mullin's 1847 Restaurant in Moorefield. The meeting will last less than two hours. A light lunch will be provided.

To register for the meeting and lunch, contact Carla Dent at 304-257-2448, ext. 9241 or email cdent@regioneight.org by March 27.

Senior Sponsored Meal Scheduled

Grant County Bank will be sponsoring "Lunch on Us" for 60+ Seniors Friday at the Franklin Senior Center (304-358-2421). Meals will be served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To reserve a free lunch, call today.

Revival Services To Be Held

Revival services with Pastor Carson Gray will be held at the Franklin Church of God in Franklin. Services will begin at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday and at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

Hunter Education Class Scheduled

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources will be hosting a hunter education class at the Brandywine Fire Station. The class will be from 6 to 9 p.m. March 31 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 1.

Anyone interested can go to register-ed.com to sign up.

Lenten Lunches Continue Today

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

A meal, consisting of soups, sandwiches, desserts and drinks, will be served at noon. The message will be delivered at 12:30 p.m.

This week's meal will be provided by Lutheran churches. The message will be delivered by David Webb of the Pendleton/Grant United Methodist Charge.

Next week's message will be delivered by Pastor Deborah Beam of the Franklin Presbyterian Church. The meal will be provided by Lutheran churches.

Grand Jury Indicts Four Individuals

By Stephen Smoot

Grand jury indictments for March were released last week. Indictment means that the grand jury says that the prosecution has sufficient evidence for a case to go to trial. Indicted offenders still enjoy a presumption of innocence under the law until a jury renders a verdict or the offender pleads guilty.

Tony Dean Arbaugh Jr. was indicted on four counts of failure to register as a sexual offender. In the first count, he "On, or about January 27, 2023 . . . did knowingly fail to register and did knowingly fail to provide or cooperate in providing the registrant's Facebook account . . . having previously been convicted of a qualifying offense involving a minor . . . against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia."

On the second count, Arbaugh "did knowingly fail to register and did knowingly refuse to provide or cooperate in providing the registrant's email account, spankk.thejail-bird@gmail.com, used by the registrant, having previously been convicted of a qualifying offense involving a minor . . . against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia."

On the third count, Arbaugh "did knowingly fail to register and did knowingly refuse to provide or cooperate in providing the registrant's home phone number . . . against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia."

On the fourth count, Arbaugh "did knowingly fail to register and did knowingly refuse to provide or cooperate in providing the registrant's cell phone number . . . against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia."

Jonmichael Eugene Michael was indicted on one count of "sexual intercourse and sexual intrusion with another person, to wit: E.S., a minor, without that person's consent and the lack of consent resulted from forcible compulsion, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia."

The same individual also plead guilty in Hardy County to multiple felonies, including attempted murder, wanton endangerment, malicious assault on a law enforcement of-

ficer, and more in connection to his alleged shooting of Sgt. Tyler Robinette of the Moorefield Police Department. He shall receive sentencing on April 18 for his crimes.

Richard Avery Hensley was indicted on six counts of "wanton endangerment involving a firearm . . . which created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury . . . against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia." Each count referred to a threat to the safety of an individual. These included Stephanie M. Hensley, Willie A. Furr, Jr, Dennis L. Reilly, and three minor children.

Ronald Warren Griest was indicted on three felonies and four misdemeanors. In the first count, a felony, he is accused of breaking into "the storage unit of Tracy Moats and Liti Barrow . . . and did steal, take, and carry away an electric fireplace belonging to Tracy Moats and having a total value of \$399 against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia."

The second count referred to the same electric fireplace, but on a misdemeanor count.

The third count, a felony, referred to "a spice rack, white ceramic canisters, and a Farberware knife set, belonging to Jenny Ruddle, and having a total value of \$187.98 against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia."

The fourth count was a misdemeanor count related to the objects listed in the third count.

The fifth count, a felony, referred to theft of a "gas-powered remote control car with small toolbox and parts, belonging to John Simmons, and having a total value of \$700, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia."

Count six was a misdemeanor related to the objects listed in the fifth.

Count seven alleges that Griest "did unlawfully possess a stolen DeWalt tool set, having a total value of approximately \$300 which he knew, or had reason to believe, was stolen, and did so with a dishonest purpose and with the intent to permanently deprive the owner thereof, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia."

Governor, State Legislature Compromise, Bringing Historic Tax Cut Into Law

By Stephen Smoot

Much like they say about the month of March, the State Legislative season came in like a lion as storms raged among the State Senate, the House of Delegates, and the Governor over the most responsible way to cut taxes. It went out like a lamb as, after years of trying, state leaders found a way to significantly cut taxes.

"It's not often that you have the largest tax cut in the history of West Virginia," Governor Jim Justice said in a release. He added, "I thank Speaker Hanshaw, President Blair, our leadership teams, finance folks, and all the people who pulled the rope. It's taken two years to get here, but it's a monumental day for us all."

According to the West Virginia Tax Division's website, the tax reform package includes an immediate reduction of income taxes by an average of 21.25%. Changes do not affect returns for 2022 filed in 2023. Rates were, however, "changed retroactively to January 1, 2023" to include all of this year. Detailed information on how income level affects the tax cut for each taxpayer is available on tax.wv.gov.

Additionally, the state tax division reports that "taxpayers will be able to claim a credit on their 2024 state income

tax return, filed in 2025, for all timely paid property taxes on vehicles in the 2024 calendar year. Tax credits are also available for "residential property of disabled veterans and on all personal property taxes paid by small businesses." Hopy Kercheval from West Virginia Metro News shared that the package included a "50% rebate for small businesses on their machinery and inventory tax."

Overall, tax reform should save taxpayers approximately \$700 million in the first full year, according to Metro News.

Much of the disagreement centered not about whether to cut taxes, but how to do it in a way as to produce the most benefit to both taxpayers and the state economy. Governor Justice and the House of Delegates favored lowering income taxes while the Senate leaned toward personal property and other related taxes.

The best "bang for the buck, in terms of making the great state of West Virginia a powerhouse," said Stephen Moore of the Heritage Foundation in a public discussion with Governor Justice last month, "is to cut the income tax as much as you can." Moore has previously worked for Club For Growth and served as an economic advisor to former President Donald Trump.

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Barbara "Jean" Verdoni

Barbara "Jean" Verdoni, 90, of Brandywine passed away March 17, 2023, at her home.

She was born Feb. 1, 1933, in Rahway, New Jersey, and was the daughter of the late Abram and Mildred (Caverly) Bedell.

Mrs. Verdoni was a 1951 graduate of Westfield High School in New Jersey, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and a 1954 graduate of the School of Nursing, Jersey City Hospital in Jersey City, New Jersey.

She was a registered nurse who put her nursing career on hold to raise her family, who were her greatest accomplishments.

She had a passion for tennis and was an avid player. She was a Christian woman who loved singing in the choir. She enjoyed the trips and going to the symphony with her twin sister, Joan. She loved taking walks, car rides and antique shopping.

In the early 2000s, she started visiting Pendleton County, and in 2013, she became a permanent resident, calling Franklin her home.

On April 14, 1954, she married Gabriel Verdoni, who preceded her in death on July 5, 2021, after 67 years of marriage. Together they raised seven children.

Surviving are three sons, Mark Verdoni (Debbie) of Sugar Grove, Matthew Verdoni (Carmen) of Howell, New Jersey and David Verdoni (Melissa) of Brick, New Jersey; four daughters, Kim Hulmes of Brandywine, Nancy Bruno (Vini) of Lakewood, New Jersey, Laura Zungri (Gerry) of Brick, New Jersey, and Susan Belmont (Paul) of Sugar Grove; 21 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by three sisters, including her twin; and an infant brother.

A graveside service was held Tuesday at the Sugar Grove Cemetery with Pastor Mike Loudermilk officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to South Fork Rescue Squad, 124 Black Thorn Road Sugar Grove, WV 26815.

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



Sue Carol Laskey

Sue Carol Laskey, 77, of Marlinton died March 15, 2023, at Pocahontas Memorial Hospital at Buckeye.

She was born Dec. 24, 1945, at Harrisonburg, Virginia, and was the daughter of the late L. Stanley Dunkle and Ruth Stone Dunkle.

Mrs. Laskey was a 1964 graduate of Franklin High School. She had been a waitress at the Cut Rate and The Star Restaurant and worked at C. J. Clark (Hanover Shoe). She and her husband had owned and operated J.S. Home Theater & Laundry.

She was a member of the Marlinton Lions Club and the New Hope Lutheran Church.

On April 26, 1975, she married Joseph L. "Joe" Laskey, who preceded her in death on Jan. 29, 2023.

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

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Leon Dunkle.

A funeral service was held Monday at the Kimble Funeral Home in Marlinton with Pastor Michael Loudermilk officiating. Interment was 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.

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The Pendleton Times**



**Wanda Faye
Brandenburg**

Wanda Faye Brandenburg, 59, of Franklin passed away March 11, 2023, at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Born on Oct. 2, 1963, in Petersburg, Virginia, she was the daughter of the late David and Phyllis "Jackie" (Scarborough) Cook. She was also preceded in death by her adoptive parents, Robert and Wanda Hale.

At the age of five, Mrs. Brandenburg was formally adopted by Robert and Wanda Hale of Sundial. She grew up there and moved to Beckley. She also lived in Sugarland, Texas, for many years and worked for the Deputy Sheriff's Association in Houston. In 2011, she moved to Keyser to be closer to her adoptive father, Robert.

In 2015, she married Hank Brandenburg, and the following eight years were some of the best years of her life.

She was beautiful and will be dearly missed. She was so kind and caring and was always ready to go if a friend needed her. Those that knew her were never alone. But don't mess with her. And especially don't mess with her family or loved ones.

She was called "Idget" by

her family when she was young. She was feisty all her life. She was the life of the party and was quick to make friends and slow to lose them. She had the loudest laugh in the crowd, not in an annoying way. It was infectious and unique and wonderful.

She was interested in so many things. She dabbled in arts and crafts. She played pool and darts and she was so good at both. She was an amazing cook and had the greenest of thumbs. She was hardworking. She loved harder. She learned lessons and grew from them. She had a thirst for life and adventure and loved white-water rafting. She was fearless. She was a true child of West Virginia - wild and wonderful.

Surviving are her husband, Hank Brandenburg; her daughter, Theresa Jarvis and husband, Dave; two grandchildren, Gavin Panipinto and River Jarvis; brothers, Julian Benoit and wife, Tiffany, John Hale and wife, Melinda and Jason Benoit; sisters, Elizabeth "Dale" Szulczyk and husband, Kenny Szulczyk, and Charlotte Frola; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews that loved her dearly.

The family will receive friends from 10 - 11 a.m. today at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin. Funeral services will follow in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Mike Loudermilk officiating. Interment will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery at Franklin.

Memorials may be made to Walnut Street United Methodist Church, PO Box 638, Franklin, WV 26807.

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

death on Jan. 28, 2021.

A son, Brian Nicholas Ratliff, preceded him in death in 2020.

His body has been cremated.

A celebration of life service will be held at noon Saturday in the chapel of the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Michael Loudermilk officiating. Inurnment will be at Evergreen Memorial Gardens at Great Mills, Maryland.

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

Ronald Eugene Ratliff, 74

Ronald Eugene Ratliff, 74, of Franklin died Dec. 16, 2022, at his home.

He was born Sept. 21, 1948, and was the son of the late Dorothy Twilley.

Mr. Ratliff was a retired school bus driver and attended Walnut Street United Methodist Church. He enjoyed spending time with his beagle.

On Oct. 27, 1977, he married Martha Jane Currence Ratliff, who preceded him in



**Crystal Michele
(Whetzel) Willis**

Crystal Michele (Whetzel) Willis, 58, of Petersburg and formerly of Franklin went home to be with the Lord on March 18, 2023, at Sentara RMH in Harrisonburg, Virginia, comforted by her beloved sons.

She was born on Nov. 22, 1964, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, the daughter of Margaret (Raines) Whetzel of Franklin and the late Charles Lee Whetzel.

Mrs. Willis was a 1983 graduate of Franklin High School and a graduate of Eastern West Virginia Technical and Community College. She was a member of Cornerstone Family Fellowship Church in Petersburg.

She had worked as a teacher for Head Start at Union Education Complex and had also worked as a CNA at Pendleton Nursing Home. She was a former donkey handler (1987-2014) before becoming a homemaker.

She loved attending church, singing, serving the Lord and helping with the women's ministry. She enjoyed flying and loved to travel, taking trips to

Blackwater Falls, cooking, and baking.

Her passion was spending time with her family. Her ray of sunshine was her granddaughter, Aria. Her world revolved around her two sons, Logan and Caleb, and she loved to share how proud she was of their dedication to their careers in public safety.

In addition to her mother, she leaves behind to cherish her memory two sons, Logan Willis (Tabitha) of Petersburg and Caleb Willis (Jason) of Winder, Georgia; five grandchildren, Aria, Jenna, Destiny, Megan (Brad) and Matthew (Hannah); five great-grandchildren, Jaxson, Carson, Scarlett, Caiden and Alayna; a brother, Trevor Whetzel (Trina) of Harrisonburg, Virginia; a sister, Melanie Kretzschmar (Jamey) of Crooks, South Dakota; two nieces, Lindsey and Taylor; two nephews, Kyle and Tanner; and several cousins, aunts and uncles.

She was also preceded in death by her triplet babies, Brittney, Brooke, and Bridgett; and her paternal and maternal grandparents.

The family received friends from 5 - 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin. Funeral services will be held today at 3 p.m. in the funeral home chapel, with Pastor PJ Landis officiating. Interment will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery at Franklin.

Memorials may be made to "the family," c/o Basagic Funeral Home, PO Box 215, Franklin, WV 266807.

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

Thank You For Reading The Pendleton Times

In Loving Memory of June Propst

Sincere Thank You

Whether you kept us in your thoughts, prayed for us, sent a lovely arrangement, memorial gift, made a memorial donation or helped us in any way, please know that your love and kindness have brought us great comfort and will always be remembered. A special Thank You to Pastor Johnny Goldizen for the beautiful service, Kimble Funeral Home for the loving touch on mom and Pendleton Manor.

God Bless You!

Marlin, Lois, Anita, Danny & families

Sincere Thanks

A limb has fallen from the Family Tree, I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me. Remember the best times, the laughter, the song, the good life I lived while I was strong!"




The family of Verla Puffenbarger wishes to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy and thoughtfulness during our time of loss. It was deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

A special Thank You to Reverend Jerry Smith, St. Paul Independent Lutheran Church ladies and families, Kimble Funeral Home, VFW Post 9666 and the Sugar Grove South Fork Rescue Squad.

May God Bless each of you!

K.D. Puffenbarger and Family



Memorial Service

for

THOMAS EARL PROPST

Saturday, April 1 • 12:30 - 5 p.m.

Franklin Moose Lodge Meeting Room

To remember his life and old memories

Family and Friends Welcome

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN RURITAN CLUB

SPRING DINNER

Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans,
Applesauce, Roll, Dessert and Drink

Saturday March 25th
4-7pm

Clinton Hedrick
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Further information on eligibility and criteria can be obtained by calling 304-567-2121, M-F from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by e-mailing admin@sksr.com.

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

Deadline for submission of application is April 18, 2023.

Social Studies Fair Winners Named

Pendleton County held its Social Studies Fair Feb. 18 at Pendleton County Middle High School. Winners from each of the county schools were invited to present. Students had to earn a minimum score of 70 points to earn third place, a minimum of 80 points to earn second place, and a minimum of 90 points to earn the first-place honor.

Students who earned first place were invited to move on and present at the Region VII Social Studies Fair March 18 at Musselman High School.

Category and division winners were as follows:

Economics Division II — Katie Heavner, Pendleton County Middle School, third;

State and Local Division I — Hannah Heavner, Franklin Elementary School, second, Lainey Simmons, FES, third; and Azalea Waddell, North Fork Elementary School, honorable mention;

State and Local Division II — Mason Harper, PCMS, first, and Ava Bowers, Brandywine Elementary School, third; State and Local Division III — Lydia Heavner, PCHS, second;

US History Division I — Vaylee Harper, NFES, first, Ross Pownell, FES, second, Tori Heavner, NFES, third, and Weston Boyer, FES, honorable mention;

US History Division II — Carly Kimble, FES, first, McKenzie Vandevander, NFES, second, and Blaine Cook, FES, third;

World History Division I — Skye Dahmer, NFES, third; World History Division II — Evie Nulph, FES, honorable mention;

Anthropology Division II — Phoebe Pownell, PCMS, third; and

Psychology Division II — Lani Fertig, PCMS, second.



Ryan Boggs

Boggs Joins PCB Board of Directors

Pendleton Community Bank is excited to announce the addition of Ryan Boggs to the organization's board of directors. Boggs will be an asset to the board, bringing his expertise and extensive experience in finance. His engagement and support of his local community aligns well with PCB's mission of stimulating economic growth in our communities.

"I am pleased to have Ryan join the PCB team," said William A. Loving, president and CEO. "Ryan worked for PCB as a 'summer intern' prior to going to college, and I know this initial look into banking, coupled with his vast education and professional experience, will serve him and PCB well in his board capacity. I look forward to working with him and know he will be a valued addition to the strong board we have in place today."

Boggs is a partner with Beachy Arehart, PLLC, a public accounting firm that maintains offices in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and Franklin. He specializes in individual and business taxation, as well as consulting for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. In addition to being a certified public accountant, he also holds the AICPA's designations for being accredited in business valuation and certified in financial forensics. He has been recognized for his professional achievements being named an award winner in the young professionals category by the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants and Virginia Business Magazine.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Boggs is active in the community having served on many boards and holding various seats throughout his career. He is involved in youth athletics, helping as both a coach and board member of various youth associations and programs.

Boggs was raised in Franklin and currently resides there with his wife, Tiffany, and two sons, Parker and Greyson.



Pendleton County students earning recognition for their social studies projects were, front row, from left, Lydia Heavner, Azalea Waddell, Skye Dahmer, Tori Heavner, Carly Kimble, Ross Pownell, Blaine Cook, Weston Boyer and Vaylee Harper; and back row, Ava Bowers, Phoebe Pownell, Katie Heavner, Lani Fertig, McKenzie Vandevander, Mason Harper, Evie Nulph, Lainey Simmons and Hannah Heavner.

Falconer Visits UT 4-H Club

By Katie Keyser, club reporter

The Upper Tract Producers 4-H Club was blessed to have David Trenton, a master class falconer, and his red-tailed hawk, Gretel, be guests at a monthly meeting.

Trenton explained falconry to the members and parents. "Having a hawk for falconry isn't the same as having an exotic pet," Trenton stated. He went on to explain that falconry is a lifestyle. Gretel is weighed daily to ensure she's in peak condition, not overweight and not underweight. Falconry is one of the most ancient forms of hunting. He believes that falconry is one of the most

natural ways to take game. Hawks in the wild hunt daily for their survival. Trained falconers must give hawks as many opportunities as possible to catch game. A very unique relationship develops between a hawk and its handler after a short amount of time. The hawk learns that by following the human, the chance of catching prey increases. Gretel will follow Trenton from tree to tree as he searches for squirrels and rabbits for her to catch. This form of hunting is much more challenging than rifle hunting, but he truly enjoys hunting with Gretel. It was a magnificent learning experience for the club members and parents to learn about falconry and meet Gretel.



David Trenton and Gretel

Davis Medical Center

TOP 100

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UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

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10 Years Ago
Week of March 28, 2013

Poison Center Urges 'Use It or Lose It'

Teens are curious. Teens try new trends. Teens accept dares from friends. Having certain products around the home could spark a teen's curiosity and result in a poisoning. The best way to avoid these events is to limit the number of potential poisons in the home. If a product is not being used regularly, don't keep it around to be discovered, "use it or lose it."

Unfortunately, prescription pain and sleep/anxiety medications can be misused or abused by teens. The West Virginia Poison Center encourages parents to discard their prescription pain or sleep/anxiety medications once they are no longer being used. If these types of medications are stored because they are required for future use, lock them up and be aware of how many tablets remain in the bottle.

Teens do not always understand that the use of someone else's prescription medications is not only dangerous but illegal. They may not consider themselves as "abusing" drugs if it is "just their parent's pain medicine" or "just their parent's sleeping medicine." A teen who is upset about something at school or at home may see no harm in taking one or two. In addition, a teen may see no harm in providing a few tablets to a classmate who asks them to let them have some, especially if a friendship with that person is something they desire.

20 Years Ago
Week of March 27, 2003

Fisherman to Benefit From Innovative Stocking Method

By Kevin Yokum

Are you tired of hassling to get a decent fishing spot along your favorite trout stream? Ever had people crowd in on your fishing space? If you really want to escape the pressures of springtime crowds, there is a destination you need to try.

There are good and bad points of stocking trout, but West Virginia's trout stocking program has become so successful that without it many areas of the state would simply be without trout. Each year, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources stocks between 700,000-800,000 pounds of catchable size trout all across the state.

The majority of the state's trout are stocked by hatchery trucks. The downside of West Virginia's successful stocking program has been the presence of "truck followers." Truck followers, people who follow the stock trucks from the hatchery to spots where stocking occurs, displease a lot of the state's true anglers who complain that truck followers catch newly stocked trout as soon as the fish are put into the water.

In an effort to offer a

more remote type of fishing experience and to stock areas that would otherwise be unreachable, the West Virginia DNR has looked to innovative ways to stock trout. Although the overwhelming majority of trout are stocked in the traditional truck-stocking manner, a few West Virginia rivers are now stocked by railcar. Rail stockings provide the opportunity to stop frequently along the stream, which allows stocking personnel to spread trout along many miles of river.

Most people have probably never seen or even heard of a railcar. A railcar is a motorized vehicle or cart, which has special railroad wheels instead of, or in addition to, rubber automobile tires. Railcars can reach speeds of 40 to 50 mph on the rails, but when loaded or pulling stock tanks, the railcars seldom travel over 20 mph.

Stocking by rail has become extremely popular in West Virginia, and each year it seems that more anglers desire remote fishing opportunities where they can fish in serenity. Many anglers are more than willing to hike into remote areas where fishing pressure is almost nonexistent. Additionally, these areas usually contain a lot of holdover trout (stocked trout that have survived from previous years). Limited access to these remote areas provides minimal fishing pressure, so the chance to catch a "holdover" trophy trout is greater along the rail-stocked waters than in regularly stocked areas.

No water has benefited from rail stockings more than the Shavers Fork River. The Shavers Fork River is stocked by railroad from the old logging town of Spruce to Bowden. Nearly 3,000 pounds of rainbows and browns are unloaded by rail on this 43-mile section of the river. Although rail stockings take place during the spring, trout fishing can be good year round on the Shavers Fork.

A 5.5 mile section of the Shavers Fork from the mouth of Whitmeadow Run to the mouth of McGee Run is designated as a year round catch and release area. The special regulation area gets significant fishing pressure, but maintains exceptional trout fishing despite the pressure.

The Shavers Fork can be accessed on the upper end along U.S. Route 250, via several county roads. Anglers traveling to Bowden can access the Shavers Fork where U.S. Route 33 crosses the river at the beginning of the four-lane highway between Bowden and Elkins.

For a new perspective on spring trout fishing, try a remote rail stocked section of the Shavers Fork.

30 Years Ago
Week of March 25, 1993

Prom Promise Is Program to Reduce Drinking at Proms

In an effort to help save teenage lives and to reduce injuries caused by drunk-driving, Nationwide Insurance, one of the lead-

ing insurance companies in the United States, decided to organize a program that would help. State law enforcement, educational organizations, government officials, local television and radio stations, along with thousands of Nationwide employee and agent volunteers work in cooperation with the program to help high school students stay alive.

Fort Seybert Bridge Is Monument to Men Who Believed in Honest Work

By Eston Teter

On August 26, 1924, the Pendleton County Court advertised in "The Pendleton Times," and perhaps other papers, for bids on the construction of two bridges in the county. One of these bridges was the overhead steel girder bridge at Riverton, crossing the North Fork River on the Seneca Caverns road. This bridge has since been replaced. The other bridge was a 250-foot bridge of the same type crossing the South Fork at Fort Seybert. This bridge is still in use.

The construction of the bridge of Fort Seybert was the most exciting event that had taken place there since the Shawnee Indian raid and massacre of 1758. I was a very young lad living there with my parents in sight of this project. Naturally, I was very excited about it and the following are some events and personalities which I thought might be of interest.

I do not know which of the two bridges was built first, nor do I remember the year in which construction began on the Fort Seybert bridge. I do remember that it was a very exciting time when the builders began moving in their equipment.

Compared with today's standards, the equipment was very simple and meager. The rolling stock consisted of two Ford-built trucks. These trucks were of the heavy commercial type, quite a bit heavier than the Model-T Ford truck which we had in our area. They brought two teams of mules, which were used in various pulling capacities throughout the construction. They had a water pump, powered by a "one-lung" gasoline engine, and a cement mixer using a gasoline motor of the same type.

Other than a truckload of small miscellaneous hand tools, this was all the equipment they had. Imagine constructing a bridge of this size today with only this equipment!

The foreman on the job was a Mr. Tuning. He was a pleasant, heavyset man, always chewing tobacco. He would open a bag of "Beechnut," his brand, and put it in his hip pocket. When he wanted a chew, he would go into the bag, still in his pocket, with his thumb and two fingers bringing out a fresh chew. He would string tobacco from the pocket to his mouth. The bag would not be taken from his pocket

until it was empty, at which time it would be replaced with a full one. The job site was literally peppered with empty tobacco bags.

The two "mule skinnners" who came with the job were John Foutz and "Gip" Umstot.

The men who came with the job boarded with families in the community, and the other help was hired locally.

Eventually the job was completed. I don't remember how long it took or when it was finished. At that time the county was financially strapped for several reasons, one being that the Great Depression had hit and people were having a hard time paying the taxes; therefore, the county was having difficulty in finding enough money to pay for the bridge job.

Today this bridge is in daily use and it stands tall as a monument to a group of men who believed in hard, honest work as a way of life.

SUGAR GROVE

Recent Big Snow Nothing To the Blizzard of 1888

No doubt the blizzard of 1993 will be marked in our memories for the remainder of our days. Gertrude Mitchell shares memories of the 1888 blizzard which proved quite memorable to the historians. The Mitchell men (Sam, Mus, Jake and Frank) told her of that early March when the wagons were hitched to horses to take the long trek across the mountain through Briery Branch and on to Harrisonburg to load up on the supplies needed for the farm. It snowed so hard while they were returning home that they unhitched the wagons to leave them at Briery Branch. Even though the snow was as high as the bellies of the horses, the men mounted them to return home. Sam's wife, Jennie, had hung the wash on the line prior to the snowstorm, however, some of the pieces of clothing were not found until the snows had melted.

60 Years Ago
Week of March 28, 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's Operations Fail at Vicksburg

Five rather battered Federal gunboats backtracked through the bayous and creeks north of Vicksburg, Miss., 100 years ago this week, their mission a failure.

When they arrived back on the Mississippi River and reported to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Grant was forced to come to a rather bitter conclusion: all his attempts to capture Vicksburg over

the past six months had come to naught. He appeared no nearer to victory in Vicksburg than he had been the preceding autumn when he first began moving against the city. Confederate troops still were strongly entrenched in the city, their powerful guns overlooking the big river from the Vicksburg bluffs. The Federal troops trying to get at the city had done little more than get themselves mired in mud and swamps.

The five gunboats had made the latest of four attempts by Grant to reach the city from the east or south. Commanded by Admiral David Porter, the boats had gone up the Yazoo River just north of Vicksburg, had turned into Steel's bayou and had tried to move eastward through a series of bayous and creeks. Their purpose, to bypass Confederate fortifications on the Yazoo behind Vicksburg.

But the effort had been useless. The gunboats had moved into the swamps and creeks and had gotten themselves hopelessly entangled in the trees and brush overhanging the creeks. Confederate soldiers shot at them and chopped down trees so that they fell across the creeks both in front and behind the gunboats, trapping them.

Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman finally had come to Porter's rescue, and the gunboats turned back toward the Mississippi.

Previous attempts to reach Vicksburg had had similar results.

First had been the Yazoo Pass expedition, in which Federal boats tried to move through a series of bayous and rivers for more than 200 miles to reach Vicksburg from the rear. The expedition met disaster in mid-March when Confederates in hastily-erected Fort Pemberton, opened fire on the vessels. The boats caught fire like sitting ducks and had no recourse but to retreat.

Next was the Lake Providence expedition, which began on the Mississippi's western bank far north of Vicksburg. There, according to the plan, boats would enter Lake Providence in northern Louisiana and make their way southward through bayous and rivers to the Red River. From there, they would move into the Mississippi and attack Vicksburg from the south. That plan, though it produced some good fun and fishing for the soldiers, was foiled when Grant found he couldn't get enough light draft boats to haul his army.

Finally, there was the plan to change the course of the Mississippi to bypass Vicksburg. Grant's engineers had dug a new channel for the river to bypass Vicksburg, but the channel was ruined in a flood.

As March came to an end, Grant had no choice but to find a new plan to capture Vicksburg. Already, that plan was beginning to form in his mind.

Next week: A bread riot in Richmond.

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Smith Creek/ Friends Run

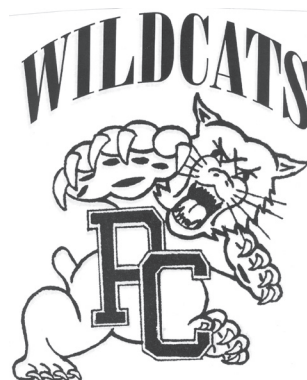
by Dave Ellis

The March winds have lived up to the month's nickname, "Windy." This past week, the winds have been blowing and some were high gusts. The area did have some snow, but not enough to make a snowman.

Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins - Mary Mitchell, Shelda Warner, Vestly 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, Larry Moyers and Ruth Simmons; 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, Olin Hoover, Quinley McConnell, Etha Mae Bowers, Mary Jo Wilfong, Kenny Williams, Dennis Mitchell, Debbie Horst, Charlotte Copley, Billy Rowe, Myrtle Hammer, Jack Judy, Jimmie Bennett, Sandy Bennett, Pam Rexrode, Wendell and Darlene Nelson, Jason Rexrode, Margaret Wimer, Audra Huffman, Doris Simmons, Harry Allen Warner, Sherman Bennett and family of Ona L. Puffenbarger.

Prayer thought: "Father, thank you for constant presence in my life, guiding me and fighting for me when I face suffering and injustice."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for March 13 through March 19, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: March 13 - 41°, 25° (42°, 11°); March 14 - 32°, 23°, .5" snow (53°, 25°); March 15 - 45°, 22° (66°, 31°); March 16 - 64°, 26° (67°, 33°, .02"); March 17 - 58°, 39° (65°, 30°, .12"); March 18 - 41°, 30° (70°, 38°) and March 19 - 34°, 17°, (71°, 45°).



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The Outhouse Is Gradually Disappearing

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

The outhouse, a structure that was once a common sight, is now becoming a relic of the past. Historians believe that the first outhouse was thought to have been built some 500 years ago. Since latrines were very unsanitary around the 1500s, a specific spot for doing personal business or “necessaries” made lots of sense.

The earliest outhouses were located about 50-100 yards away from the home. They were usually small huts that had a little hole in the floor. Inside the floor was a small tin or bucket that caught the waste that had to be emptied daily.

As the outhouses came into existence, a moon shape cut out of the outside door meant that it was a female-only outhouse. The sun represented that it was a men’s outhouse. Modern outhouses may or may not use this form although it was more of a decorative effect rather than a gender effect. Outhouses used to be popular in both the countryside and in cities. The outhouses in the countryside remained, and it is them that signify the typical outhouse that people think of today. They were constructed of wood and usually painted for durability. The interior hole was between three and six feet, and there may be more than one hole to accommodate the family.

During the Franklin D. Roosevelt presidency, outhouse improvements took place with the effort supported by the First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The initiative was called the Work Projects Administration which replaced dilapidated outhouses in the rural section. Workers could construct a new outhouse in 20 hours. These new and improved outhouses included proper ventilation, privacy, and flooring. During its run, the WPA completed two million outhouses. The First Lady’s commitment to this course led to outhouses earning the nickname “The Eleanor.”

Believe it or not, there are standing outhouses still...just in case!

Life’s every day instructions include the following:

1. Always respect the flag and country
2. Be kind to animals and take care of them.
3. Protect the weak and help them.
4. Be courteous and polite.
5. Study hard and learn all a person can.

The howling winds Saturday night ushered in 16° temperatures for early Sunday morning. Judy and Sam Waggy on Route 220 found a skiff of snow on the ground. One braced with warm coats when venturing out for church services. Even so, many Pendletonians motored to McDowell, Bluegrass, and Monterey in Virginia to enjoy the Maple Syrup Festival. Monday morning



Students attending Hoover School, about 1918, were from left, front row, Bill Hoover, Lester Puffenbarger, Charlie Kiser, Leona Rexrode, Lottie Kiser, Ora Puffenbarger, (unidentified) and Lester Snyder; and back row, Roy Puffenbarger (teacher), Phoebe Jane Siple, Earl Kiser, Dora Jane Hoover, Berlin Kiser, Delia Siple, Ray Hoover, Vergie Puffenbarger, Roy Hoover, Shirley May Hoover and Melvin Hoover. (The recollection of the students’ names was given by Bruce Hoover and Maxine Hoover.)

temperatures were 9°, with no snow! Br-r-r-rr!

This week’s clackety-clacks for the chin wagggers are as follows:

- Crickets’ ears are located on the backs of their legs.
- The first pencil with an attached eraser was patented in 1858.
- Wheel-like stones weighing hundreds of pounds are used as money by the Yap Islanders.

• On land, a hippopotamus can run as fast as a man.
• About 42 gallons of fluid filter through the kidneys each day. Definitely sitting by the fireplace is the place to sit when hearing the “Talk of the Grove.”

Willard and Judy Rader, along with Ed and Barbara Parker, enjoyed the Maple Festival Sunday afternoon at McDowell, Virginia.

Deputy Matthew Kontyko, Deputy Andrew Hinkle, and State Trooper David Trenton presented to the Sugar Grove Maple Leaves 4-H Club Sunday evening. Deputy Kontyko brought his dog, Dargo, to show club members how he is trained to find drugs. The 4-H’ers plan to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway project in April.

Helen and Rhonda Nash recently attended the two weekends of the Maple Festival in Highland County, Virginia. They enjoyed selling their candles and Brunswick stew from the Sugar Tree Country Store. The highlight was spending time with family and friends who came to visit and attend the festivities, including Candace Davis and Vickie Nash of Fredericksburg, Virginia, Helen James of Mineral, Virginia, Allen Hayden of Newburg,

Maryland, and Calli and Gregory Fox and their children, Hannah, Madalyn, Nolan and Tucker of Bumpass, Virginia, who also managed bowling and milkshakes at the Rec Center in Franklin.

Evelyn Varner enjoyed a visit Friday evening from Chris Wood from Michigan. They enjoyed fellowship around the supper table. Also visiting were Judy Costello on Saturday and Joyce and Richard Marshall Sunday afternoon.

Visiting with Rosalee Grogg were Marleta Wimer, Terri Grogg and friend, Claude, and Lynn and Sherry Mathews of Luray, Virginia.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

“Kindness is doing what you can, where you can, with what you have.” — Raktivist

“You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.” — Mother Teresa

“A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal.” — Steve Maraboli

“A kind word is like a spring day.” — Russian Proverb.

Concerns for this week are many, and they are as follows: Charles Anderson, Roger and Joan Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Vernon “Fuzzy” Baldwin, Nathan Beachler, Lynn Beatty, Debbie Beal, Jed Conrad, Jeff Craig, Grayson Andrew Eye, Jordan Eye, Mary Eye, Mia Felici, Donna Fleisher, Ron Gilkerson, Lola Graham, Jordan Greathouse, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Gary and Jackie Hills, Virgil Homan, Jr., Myrtle Hoover, Debbie Horst, Anna Gae Hughes, Alice Johnson, Richard Judy, Dennis Kincaid, Kim Kline, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Rex Landis, the Sue Carol Laskey family, Angela Lung, Linda Malcolm, Betty Mallow, Roger and Skip Mallow, Neil McLaughlin, Gary Mitchell, Jamie Mitchell, Melvin Moats, Aaron Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Don Nilsen, Cheryl Paine, Sutton Parrack, Shirley Pratt, Alda Propst, the June Propst family, Kara Propst, Kathy Propst, Linda Propst, Mike Propst, Stanley Propst, Sheldon Propst, K.D. Puffenbarger, the Ona L. Puffenbarger family, Dick Rexrode, Gary Rexrode, Jason Rexrode, Jimmy Rexrode, Robbie Sites, Ona Smith, Sandra Vandevander, Pam Rexrode, Max Rodriguez, Donna Ruddle, Annie Simmons, Barry and Phyllis Simmons, Davey Simmons, Amy Vaus, Judy Williams, the Crystal Willis family, Margaret Wimer, people in Ukraine and Yemen, earthquake victims in Turkey, and victims of East Palestine, Ohio

Spring is here! With that, the writer would like to make a wish for each of her readers: “May God grant you always...a sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you, a sheltering angel so nothing can harm you, laughter to cheer you, faithful friends near you, and whenever you pray heaven to hear you.”

Town Council Tackles Board of Parks Expansion, Street Parking Issues

By Stephen Smoot

The Town of Franklin held two meetings last week, one to go over the budget and also the official meeting. One of the main “problems” discussed lay with the town enjoying a balance that was \$3,800 more than expected. State law requires that local governments operate under a balanced budget, including explaining unexpected surpluses.

Many local governments and other organizations have seen different sized windfalls from bank accounts due to the Federal Reserve raising the prime interest rate. Councilwoman Kristen Dingess noted “it’s a good problem to have,” and the revisions were approved.

The official meeting opened by welcoming Amber Nesselrodt, the new executive director of the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Nesselrodt plans to replace the current Mon Forest Towns representative with Sam Wood, owner of Shreve’s Store, as her alternate. Nesselrodt told the council that she needed the town council to officially approve these appointments.

According to its website, the Mon Forest Towns initiative connects municipalities in or near the Monongahela National Forest. It also says that “the MFT partnership was formed to cultivate relations across lands and forest gateway communities that will enhance the economy and quality of life for residents and visitors.”

Pendleton County has two Mon Forest towns, Franklin and Seneca Rocks.

Next, the council heard from Pastor Jason Boggs of Redeeming Grace. The church recently took over the old Franklin Elementary School for use as a worship center and a school. Boggs shared safety concerns about a stretch of Evick Road. Parking there has become a concern for the church. He stated that “we’re wanting to keep the community safe.”

Bob Horan, mayor of Franklin, noted that “he’s got the grade school up here, doing all kinds of good with it.” Horan asked if the church could inform people to not park there. Boggs indicated that despite 150 new parking spaces, some don’t listen.

“We’d have to have signs,” suggested Frank Wehrle, administrator for the Town of Franklin. Signs put up by the board of education were either removed or vandalized. Boggs suggested that the church could pay for the signs if the town could install them.

Jarred Rawson, town council member, suggested that because of the new school opening in August, “my feeling would be to act sooner rather than later.” Town officials agreed to purchase signs that stated “no parking” and would also clearly indicate that the owner of the vehicle, not the church, would pay the cost of the tow.

Horan stated that “this does not obligate us to enforce it.”

Wehrle then introduced the issue of town support for a Region 8 project. “The reason we’re discussing this is partly my fault,”

he admitted.

At the February Region 8 meeting, Wehrle supported a request made of local governments to support hazard mitigation planning. County commissions were asked for \$1,500 a piece, incorporated towns, \$1,000. Previously, the state funded the program but money was cut off.

“We don’t do enough for Region 8,” Wehrle explained, adding that “they give us so much bang for the buck.”

The town council also heard the first reading of a proposed ordinance to expand the Franklin Board of Parks from the five members established in 1970 to seven. Wehrle explained, “functionally it won’t change how they operate.” Dingess, who currently represents the town council on the board, asked if fellow council member Keely Smith could also serve. Horan replied in the affirmative.

Elizabeth Scott then provided an update on Trout Fest, saying “we’re really excited this year.” The event, which will take place on May 5 and 6 in Franklin, has added entertainment. Organizers partnered with the Pendleton County Senior and Family Services to provide a morning breakfast and afternoon bingo.

Registration can take place at the senior center, main stage, and at the dinner. Scott also stated that participants in fishing events would have the opportunity to buy fishing licenses on site.

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Including Chicken Pot Pie by Shirley Sisson and Pork Tenderloin by Randy Roberson
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1956 FHS Basketball Team



Members of the 1956 Franklin High School basketball team were, from left, Donald Mitchell, Wilson Warner, Steve Conrad, Daniel Raines, Orville Lee Rexrode, Billy Wimer, Richard Bennett, Gary Hammer, Carl Kimble, Bill Kile and Gus Smith, coach. Cheerleaders were, from left, Patty Ketterman, captain, Carol Flinn and Rebecca Hammer. Basketball players absent from the photo were Jackie Lambert and Steve Vandevander.

Remembering "Cricket" Bennett: A Life of Joy and Basketball



Two legendary county basketball performers, Ana Young and Richard "Cricket" Bennett, met last month at the home game against Tucker County.

By Stephen Smoot

Looking at Richard "Cricket" Bennett today, a person might not at first glance see a county basketball legend. His Vietnam service baseball cap sits atop a head of white hair. He may not have the same physical quickness and vertical leap that led to his nickname.

What quickness Bennett displays today comes from his wit and banter. He befriends every man and charms every woman he meets. Bennett is what is called in England a "hail fellow, well met," a man who brings joy and vitality into every encounter. When he and his caretaker, Shirley Mitchell, enter the Korner Shop Café, it's more a gathering of old friends than a visit to a diner.

But this is a basketball story.

In 1960, Franklin High School was on a 10 game winning streak. They boasted a 14-5 record by the third week of February. Against Harman, Bennett led Franklin with 21 points. It was, however, his 53-point effort against Mathias that grabbed everyone's attention. He hit 21 shots in an era with no three-point line. He also connected on 11 of 13 free throws.

Bennett's basketball dreams started at Brandywine Elementary School. As Bennett remembers, "I was running

through the gym chasing another kid when Coach Dick Murphy yelled at me. I said 'me?' He said 'yes, you.'" Bennett added that "the team was short one person for practice. They needed another player. That's how I got my start playing basketball."

Like many kids in his time, Bennett grew up in a family that worked hard, but had little. "I grew up rough," Bennett explained. To this day, he still relishes the only game day snack he could afford. While his friends ate burgers and hot dogs at the diner now called Korner Shop Café, he put ketchup on complimentary salad crackers.

"My dad worked 10 hours a day," Bennett described, "he never got to see me play ball." Neither of his parents graduated from grade school because both had to work early to support their families. One day, his father pledged to pay him a dime for every point scored. "The first time I scored 36 points, he said he couldn't afford to do that again. I said okay."

Although as he says, "I was just a runt in school," Bennett had a reliable outside shot and shot 95% from the foul line. He added that, "I always fought for rebounds. I knew when we were going to miss." Bennett also took pride in his defense, saying "I was fast. I could steal the ball."

He remembered that "my best shot was not a jump shot per se. I'd lean back and shoot the shot. If it didn't go in, I'd go after it." Some of the toughest games came against Circleville. Games "were tight," he said. "They had a balcony. I went to throw the ball in and hit the balcony. Once you hit it, that's it!"

Coaches deserve credit for at least some of the success of their players. Bennett had high praise for Franklin's head coach at the time. "Gus Smith," he said, "he was very nice. He treated us good. He didn't get down on us for anything. Maybe that made us better men."

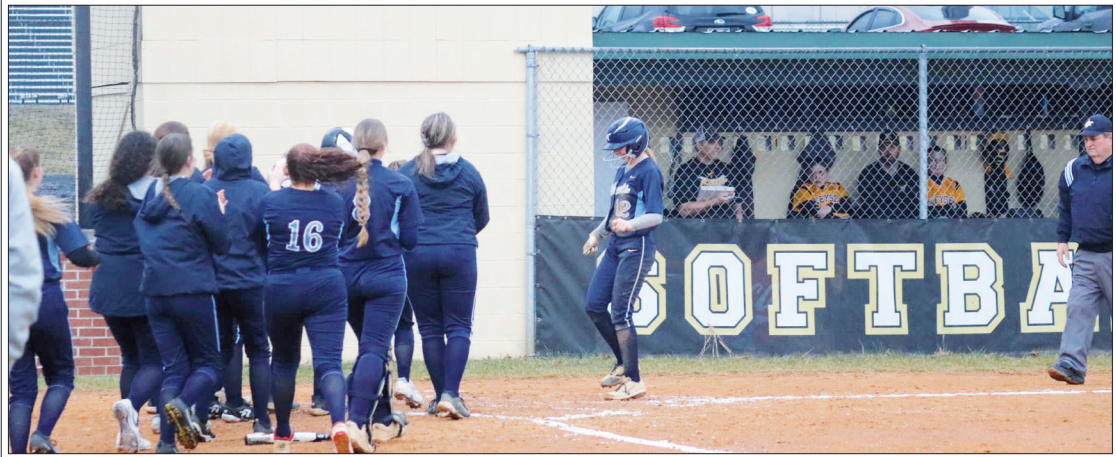
Bennett also impressed as a pitcher in baseball, earning a scout from the Chicago White Sox after dealing a no hitter. They came to see him in Harrisonburg, Virginia, "but by then I'd already joined the service."

Sports often does help to transform a young man into a better man. Bennett went into the United States Air Force and served his country in Vietnam. He also spent a career working for the company once named "Esso," now called Exxon. He quipped that the company name, which was the phonetical way to spell the letters S. O. for Standard Oil, stood for "Every Sucker Stops Once."

Though he comes back often to his home county, last month Bennett had a special reason to return. He had read about Ana Young equaling his 53-point game against Tygarts Valley and gaining national recognition for the feat. He came back to meet the player and to recognize the achievement, but also found his athletic career honored as well.

The two met before the game, chatted and took pictures. During game introductions, Young sprinted to the bleachers, smiled, and gave Bennett a fist bump - the present honoring the past. Between the third and fourth quarter of the Tucker County game, Dave Eason, athletic director, introduced Bennett to the crowd and read his accomplishments.

The capacity crowd rose and cheered. His face reflected the affection of the cheering attendees. A tear appeared to almost escape from his eye as he took in the moment. Almost.



During a rainy season opener at Keyser, Wildcat teammates help Avery Townsend to celebrate her first home run. Photo by Robin Alt.

Wildcats Look Forward to Exciting and Successful Softball Season in 2023

By Stephen Smoot

As the gray of winter makes way for warmer temperatures and longer, sunnier days, Pendleton County sports move from inside the gym outside to the fields.

Head coach Charlie Padgett has high expectations for his Pendleton County High School softball squad coming into the year, but the team faces tough competition regionally. As he stated, "we had a hard time beating Petersburg and Moorefield last year. We have a really tough section." Coach Padgett added that "Tucker is tough now too."

What Padgett brings to the field this spring is a team laden with talent, many players bringing in two sports' worth of state playoff experience from this year alone.

Though experienced, the team is relatively young. Padgett said "We lost three girls to graduation last year, but pretty much have the same starters." The pitching staff features juniors Allie Vance, Baylee Beachler, and sophomore Jenna Smith. Catchers include juniors Nataley Hedrick and Katie Hedrick, and Smith.

He explained that the returning pitchers from last year performed very well. In terms of the pitching and catching battery, "we've got that covered."

One of Pendleton County's key advantages will come from flexibility. Beachler, for example, can play exceptionally well at pitcher and outfield while using her athleticism to cover third base. Padgett also praised her dedication, saying that "she likes to be in the weight room."

According to Padgett, the team can take multiple approaches depending on the situation. "We hit 13 home runs last year," he shared, then added that "the senior hit one, but the rest were hit by sophomores and freshmen."

Do not expect the chicks to only dig the long ball, though. "Long ball, small ball, we can do it all," the coach explained. He added that "the long ball is dramatic, but small ball wins a lot of games as well. On occasion, though, we turn their bats loose and swing away."

One of the main strategies lies in "keeping the other team guessing," as Padgett says. Players know how, when the situation calls for it "to run squeeze plays, bunt, slap, or swing away." On defense, most players on the team compete in multiple positions and can rotate between outfield and infield.

The Wildcats' high school squad benefits greatly from years of work put in earlier on. "Most of these girls are ready for high school," Padgett said. "Dads and travel coaches get their fundamentals down before they get here." Those years of playing together also forged the kind of team chemistry that leads to increasingly better play and overall success.

Coach Padgett expects his squad to gear up quickly for a competitive season. As he described, "hitting is just timing," and "the pitching mechanics should be there. They do well at it." Additionally, a year of growth and strength training should show a good effect on the field. As the coach states, "they get a growth spurt, then they get stronger."

With us, people will be hitting more long balls and the pitchers will be better. Most have gotten bigger and stronger."

A strong Keyser team that took 22 stolen bases at Hampshire County defeated the Wildcats in last Friday's opener. Pendleton County traveled to play at East Hardy on Wednesday and will travel Saturday to Spring Mills for a doubleheader. They will face Pocahontas County at 5 p.m. Monday at home, travel to Tygarts Valley on Tuesday and be at home March 30 against Petersburg.

Pendleton County has an ambitious schedule that will test both their experience and prepare them to challenge in the postseason. This includes trips to larger schools, such as Spring Mills, Robert C. Byrd, Musselman, and Liberty (Virginia). Much of their focus will remain, however, on rivals in Grant, Hardy, and Tucker counties. These teams stand in the way of any dreams of competing in the state tournament later in the spring - not to mention competition for Potomac Highlands bragging rights.

"There's nothing better than whipping Moorefield," Padgett smiled.

PCHS Wildcat Track Schedule

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| March 28 | Keyser..... (A) |
| April 6 | Frankfort..... (A) |
| 11 | Buckhannon..... (A) |
| 14 | Elkins..... (A) |
| 18 | Frankfort..... (A) |
| 25 | Moorefield..... (A) |
| May 3 | PVC at Keyser..... (A) |
| 6 | Jim Turbin |
| | Invitational at |
| | Keyser..... (A) |
| 11 | Regionals at |
| | Doddridge Co..... (A) |

STEM Festival Scheduled for Saturday *Spring Prescribed Burns To Be Conducted*

The 10th Annual Mineral County STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Festival will be held at West Virginia University Potomac State College from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. This exciting event is free and open to the public.

Learners of all ages will enjoy the engaging and fun hands-on activities at this year's interactive STEM Festival while touching and inspecting real dinosaur fossils, making jewelry, constructing a mobius strip, and much more.

The festival provides area youth with insights into STEM which focuses on critical thinking and innovation. STEM careers are one of the fastest growing career paths in the country.

Paleo-palooza allows participants to visit a natural history exhibit and touch real fossils and bones. Presenter Nicholas Gardner, director of WVU PSC library, along with experts from local colleges and the National Park Service, will be on-hand to answer questions and provide information about careers in paleontology.

Gardner is also presenting Unbe-LEAF-able Art: Learn to Paint with Natural Pigments. During this activity, visitors explore

the world of natural pigments by painting with crushed leaves. This educational art experience allows individuals to take home their own unique chlorophyll masterpiece.

Festival attendees will have the opportunity to create jewelry using ASCII code with Mary Moore, department of computer information systems professor. Visitors make their own jewelry using beads to spell out letters using ASCII characters. Beads of various colors represent 1's and 0's. Visitors will learn about the ASCII alphabet used by computer systems while creating a fun craft.

In addition to learning about electricity, visitors can explore electronics, engineering science projects, and mechanical science projects from Mohammad Saifi, department of Engineering professor.

Dr. Richard Petersen, a math professor, will show visitors how to construct a Möbius strip, also known as a Möbius band, or Möbius loop, by attaching the ends of a strip of paper together. But don't be fooled, it's not as simplistic as it sounds.

Children are always excited to watch Eugene the Mechanical Cow eat bucket after bucket of feed and turn it into energy so he can grow big and strong.

During this interactive presentation by David Miller, program coordinator of the SAGE Innovation Lab, visitors learn how food and products come from farms and forests.

While visiting the anatomy and physiology labs, participants will learn about the various organ systems and their health-related issues while interacting with dissected and preserved specimens and models. The hands-on anatomy lab is presented by Dr. Sheri Chisholm, biology associate professor.

Sandra Mitchell, mathematics instructor, will demonstrate the design and manufacturing of a small part using a 3D printer. She has created many parts, including a card launcher with a microprocessor, an infrared sensor, and a servo motor.

The Mineral County STEM Festival has something for everyone at this family-friendly event and is sure to excite and ignite both young and more mature minds and imaginations.

For more information on the Mineral County STEM Network visit <http://mineralstem.com/>. For regular updates on the STEM Festival Like the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MineralCountySTEM>.

Spring Prescribed Burns To Be Conducted

Monongahela National Forest staff plan to conduct prescribed burns on 1,251 acres in Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Pendleton counties from March through June, weather permitting. The purposes of these treatments are to re-establish fire's natural role in the forest ecosystem, improve forest health and wildlife habitat, and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires.

Project areas planned for prescribed burns this spring include:

- Big Mountain Unit 9 & 10 – 55 acres (Pendleton County);
- Chestnut Ridge North/South Savanna Units 1 and 2 – 212 acres (Pocahontas

County);

- Hopkins Units A, B and C – 844 acres (Greenbrier County); and
- Brushy Mountain Units B2, B4 and B6 – 140 acres (Greenbrier County).

Each burn area will be closed to the public on the day of the burn, and may be closed for several days after, to ensure public safety. Signs will be posted on roads near all prescribed burn areas before and during burning. Residents and forest visitors may see and smell smoke for several days. If a person encounters smoke on the highway, slow down, turn on the vehicle's lights and drive appropriately for the conditions.

Prescribed burns are conducted under specific weather conditions and are designed to accomplish predetermined forest management goals. Monongahela National Forest follows strict guidelines for conducting prescribed burns, and takes into consideration environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, smoke dispersion and wind. If any environmental conditions are not within limits, the burn will be postponed.

Local radio stations will be alerted to burn activities ahead of time. When burning begins, information, photos, and maps will be available at <https://incweb.nwcg.gov/>.

Funding Available for Climate-Smart Agriculture

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture is making funding available for agricultural producers and forest landowners nationwide to participate in voluntary conservation programs and adopt climate-smart practices.

The Inflation Reduction Act provided an additional \$19.5 billion over five years for climate smart agriculture through several of the conservation programs that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service implements. These additional investments are estimated to help hundreds of thousands of farmers and ranchers apply conservation to millions of acres of land. Additionally, the IRA provides \$300 million to quantify carbon sequestration and greenhouse gases through the collection and use of field-based data to assess conservation outcomes. NRCS-WV is making IRA available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program.

These funds will provide direct climate mitigation benefits and will expand ac-

cess to financial and technical assistance for producers to advance conservation on their farm or forest land through practices like cover cropping, conservation tillage, prescribed grazing, nutrient management, tree planting and more. To ensure we can quantify the benefits of these IRA investments, NRCS is working to support Department-wide work on Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification. The IRA provided targeted funding to support this effort. In administering the Inflation Reduction Act climate investments, USDA will also support other environmental co-benefits, including – among other things – water conservation, wildlife habitat improvements, and reducing runoff.

How to Apply: NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round, but producers interested in EQIP or CSP should apply by April 14 to be considered for funding in the current cycle. Funding is provided through a competitive process and will

include an opportunity to address the unmet demand from producers who have previously sought funding for climate-smart conservation activities.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America.

For additional information about CSP, contact the local service center or visit usda.gov.

Davis Medical Recognized for Outstanding Performance

Davis Medical Center has been recognized, again, as a Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital. Compiled by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, this annual recognition program honors outstanding performance among the nation's rural hospitals based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX™.

"In spite of a very challenging last two years, the dedication of our staff to serve this community hasn't wavered," said Vance Jackson, president and CEO of Davis Health System. "This recognition affirms the work of our employees, and their commitment to higher standards of quality and excellent patient care."

Davis Medical Center was among thousands of hospitals across the United States analyzed for the Top 100 designation. It was the only West Virginia hospital to earn the Top 100 title in the Rural and Community Hospital category. To see a complete list, go to <https://www.chartis.com/top-performing-rural-hospitals>.

Davis Medical has achieved Top 100 status several times in the past, and in 2018 earned the Top

20 designation.

"Continually earning the Top 100 designation is confirmation that our outstanding performance is by design, not by accident," said Jackson. "The integrity of our people, at every level of the organization, has established a higher level of quality, compassion and professionalism. I am humbled to work beside such a great team."

"Across the nation, top 100 rural providers continue to serve as a source of inspiration for hospital leadership teams and staff working diligently every day to improve the delivery of care within their local communities," said Michael Topchik, national leader of the Chartis Center for Rural Health. "The list of award winners in each category is as geographically diverse as we've seen in some time, which is wonderful to see. We're thrilled to be able to honor the outstanding efforts of these top performing rural hospitals."

Now in its 13th year, the INDEX has established itself as the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. Leveraging publicly available

data, the INDEX is trusted by rural hospitals, health systems with rural affiliates, hospital associations and state offices of rural health across the country to measure and monitor performance across a variety of areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

Davis Medical Center is a 90-bed acute care community hospital in Elkins, serving the communities of seven counties with general medical, cancer, surgical, and specialty care services. DMC is part of Davis Health System, which also includes two critical access hospitals located in neighboring counties. As a network of independent, non-profit hospitals, it remains on the forefront of modern medicine through a partnership with Vandalia Health. DMC is committed to bringing a broad range of essential medical services to local communities with the highest standards in clinical quality and at an affordable cost.

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Allegheny Mountain

Continued From Page 1

Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County emergency services coordinator, responded to the planned construction in a letter to James Rossi, state department of transportation commissioner.

According to Gillespie, the plan offers solutions to only one of the three most dangerous curves on Allegheny Mountain. He wrote, "Not all trucks are in runaway mode by the time they reach 'Dead Woman's Curve' where the DOH now plans to build the barrier around the curve. While this may, or may not help in alleviating some of the fatal crashes, it does nothing to address the crashes that occur on the downhill Horseshoe Curve and the one below it."

The most immediate danger, according to Gillespie, however, comes from the construction plan itself. He stated, "The primary reason for my communication is due to the notation of temporary traffic signals in the construction contract proposal." He pointed out that the grade uphill from the proposed temporary traffic lights creates ideal conditions for runaway trucks.

He added that "the likelihood of a truck not being able to stop for traffic stopped at a red light is huge. Both motorists and construction workers could be at risk in such a scenario."

"The real fix for this mountain is a large-scale project of entirely new road alignment, including adequate safety features such as the Catch-Net System," says Gillespie, who also suggested that traditional truck runaway ramps would work as well.

Such a system has proven itself in Wyoming. Two years ago, according to Big Horn Radio Network news in that state, such a system on U.S. Route 16 saved lives.

The highway, described as a "perilous, windy road with a steep grade," runs through some of the most rugged country in the Rocky Mountains. On July 7, 2021, a semi-truck loaded with an industrial clay called bentonite lost control on a downhill slope. The driver, fortunately, had access to a Catch-Net truck arrestor system.

A truck arrestor adds an extra element of safety to a runaway truck ramp. The system includes a long and narrow ramp with between eight and 10 cable nets designed to arrest the motion of the truck in such a way as to protect other vehicles, but also the driver.

According to the Big Horn Radio Network, "they are typically installed on mountain passes or highway routes with a steep grade of six percent or more."

Wyoming's Jackson Hole News and Guide in the same month reported that tests on the truck arrestor showed that it could easily halt a 60,000-pound truck moving at 60 miles per hour. Arrestors are designed to stop a 90,000-pound vehicle moving 90 miles per hour.

In 2021, the price of each cable net used in Wyoming's system was \$13,000.

According to the WV DOT release, "in cases where a bid is above the engineer's estimate, WVDOH must consider the project need, repercussions of not awarding the project, additional funding sources, and whether sufficient reasons exist for the differences in estimates."

In other road improvement news, a long discussed "safety hazard," as Gillespie described it to WHSV News in Harrisonburg, Virginia, has been removed. Sharp curves on US 33 have long bedeviled emergency response units, tractor trailers, and other travelers.

Ken Slack, Virginia Department of Transportation communications specialist, said to WHSV of the improvement project that "it's between Switzer Lake Road and the West Virginia line . . . there's a rock overcropping that makes it tough for some of the full-size tractor trailers to make that curve."

He also shared that VDOT will next work on "four particularly tricky curves and also installing a truck climbing lane going up the hill in the westerly direction."

Gillespie had said to WHSV that "we desperately need climbing lanes."

Robotics Team

Continued From Page 1

the opportunities for our kids and that's what we did."

As elementary school students, the team participated in Lego League Robotics. In Lego League, "teams of students, ages 6-10, focus on the fundamentals of engineering as they explore real world problems, learn to design and code, and create unique solutions." Solutions had to be applied to real world problems in emergency services, transportation, hydrodynamics, and more.

As Brooke Alt from the extension service describes, "we've moved along with the same group of kids and they've aged up." This enabled the group to continue to learn, develop skills, and become more competitive.

The team aged out of Lego League into a category called VEX. Robotics in this area requires skills in "scratch programming." Developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Scratch is the world's largest coding community for children and a coding language with a simple visual interface that allows young people to create digital stories, games, and animations."

The website adds that Scratch "promotes computational thinking and problem solving skills; creative teaching and learning; self-expression and collaboration." It also helps teams to tackle a broader spectrum of tasks. Beyond its use in the competition, this language helps children to learn the basics of creating apps.

Pendleton County's team first went to qualifiers in Martinsburg at James Rumsey Technical Institute. "They did really well," Alt shared. Those in the top 30 qualified for the state competition. Pendleton County placed 12th overall, which qualified the team for the finals. There, teams competed as part of an "alliance" with another school. Pendleton County teamed with Martinsburg and the combined team placed sixth overall.

Competing in an alliance forces students to learn skills. As Alt explained, "when they go to the alliance matchups, you have to talk to people," which builds interpersonal and professional communication skills.

Ruddle described how competition helps to build personal resiliency. She said that "it teaches them about perseverance because it's not easy. It teaches them how to handle adversity." Team members had to handle the unexpected as well. During competition in Fairmont, a fire alarm twice interrupted their work.

"They loved it," Alt said, "you could see it in their faces. When they did really well, they were so excited."

Pendleton County fielded a middle and an elementary school team this year. The elementary school team, called the "Duck Trucks," was composed of Easton Boner, Kenden Champ, Marion Williams, Ross Pownell, and Owen Champ. The Duck Trucks earned a fourth-place finish at James Rumsey.

Next year, some of the competitors will advance into the high school category. Alt explains "we will need more money as they age up." High schoolers compete in "battle bots" style events. They need more metal and different types of materials that cost more than middle and elementary teams. Alt described how "we're always looking to grow and expand, not just with team members, but also volunteers. We welcome anyone who can learn and help. It takes a lot of time and effort."

According to the West Virginia Robotics Alliance's website, 6,000 students "annually engage" with the organization. Also, "over 70 percent of surveyed team coaches reported that robotics participation improved student skills in leadership and communication."

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Health Mart Health Advisor Tip

CHILDREN & MEDICATIONS

Did you know that when it comes to medication, children and adults react differently? That's why the American Academy of Pediatrics advises never to give any over-the-counter (OTC) medications to children two years old or under without first talking to the child's doctor. Additionally, children under the age of 12 should never take aspirin without a doctor's approval because aspirin may lead to Reye's syndrome, a potentially fatal illness. So if your child is under the weather, consult their pediatrician before administering any medications. And talk to your Health Mart pharmacist, who will help monitor your child's medication.

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POSITION: FULL TIME PATIENT ACCESS MANAGER — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Days, with some additional evening and weekend hours also required. Previous supervisory experience and prior experience with hospital registration procedures preferred. Provide daily supervision to staff to ensure prompt and courteous service to patients, visitors, physicians, and co-workers. Monitor daily operations to help ensure adherence to documented administrative and departmental policies and procedures. Excellent customer service and telephone etiquette, required. Must be capable of multitasking in a fast-paced environment and have critical thinking skills. Good decision-making skills, professionalism, and great work ethic. Must be able to manage teams and have good listening skills. Ability to make decisions and work independently. Exhibits good judgment, informs others, promotes teamwork, and creates a safe environment. Basic knowledge of medical terminology, ICD-9, ICD-10, and CPT coding, preferred. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 03/24/2023**

POSITION: FULL TIME RN - OPERATING ROOM — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday with occasional evenings and nights. On call hours required. Will also float to Outpatient and PACU Departments. Prior Operating Room experience preferred but not required. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 04/07/2023**

POSITION: (3) FULL TIME RESPIRATORY THERAPIST — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Various shifts - (3) 12-hour shifts per week, alternating weekends required, but schedule may flex to cover open shifts. Job duties include: Set-up, operate and maintain various oxygen and therapeutic gas equipment; administer various respiratory treatments; postural drainage with percussion and positioning; perform arterial sticks and run arterial blood gas analysis; must be able to read and understand physician orders and respond accordingly; perform various pulmonary function tests. Excellent Customer Service Skills required. Current West Virginia RT license required. ACLS and PALS certification recommended. Must be capable of multitasking and have critical thinking skills. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 03/31/2023**

POSITION: FULL TIME REGISTERED RADIOLOGY TECHNOLOGIST — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Rotating nights and weekends. ARRT and West Virginia license required. CT experience preferred, but not required. Excellent customer service and computer skills needed. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 03/31/2023**

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: 03/31/2023**

POSITION: PART TIME LPN FOR MOTHER INFANT CARE CENTER (MICC) — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Various; 12-hour shifts, with alternating weekends. Current West Virginia RN license required. Excellent customer service skills and prior labor and delivery experience preferred, but not required. ACLS and PALS recommended. Must be capable of multitasking and have critical thinking skills. Highly motivated individual who can work as a team and individually. Ability to undertake a variety of diverse care tasks and work in a multi-disciplinary environment. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 03/31/2023**

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 Franklin, WV

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 Very Reasonable Prices

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2-3-eow
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.pencooutdoors.com, www.facebook.com/pencooutdoors. 10-12-tfn

FOR RENT

BISSELL CARPET Shampooer for rent. Bowmen's Do It Best. Call 304-358-2303. 11-7-tfn

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED on poultry and beef farm. Housing provided. 540-820-3048.

SOMEONE TO deliver newspapers to area businesses one day a week. Must have dependable vehicle. Call for details. 304-358-2304. If no answer, leave message. 3-23-2c

JOB OPPORTUNITY!

Part-Time CDL Instructor - Eastern WV Community & Technical College - This position provides quality training that produces skilled drivers to safely operate commercial vehicles and meet industry workforce needs by providing a learning environment that guides and encourages students to obtain their WV Class A CDL. Must have knowledge of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) guidelines (https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/) to ensure compliance. This is a part-time, non-benefits eligible position. For more information, visit https://easternwv.edu/employment-opportunities/ or email careers@easternwv.edu. 3-23-2c
NEED SOMEONE to do spring cleaning in the home. Call 304-358-7521 3-9;3-23c

WANTED

* **PAINTING** *
 33 years experience: Houses, Barns, Roofs, Churches, Outbuildings, Poultry House Roofs, Log Homes, etc. and Pressure Washing, Interior Painting. Call Ronnie Kimble, 358-7208 WV03545. 2-9x11/2p

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

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways **NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**
 Bids will be received electronically by the West

Tariff Form No. 8 (RULE 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES

NOTICE is hereby given that Mountaineer Gas Company, a public utility, has filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia a tariff containing a requested increase in rates and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers in Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming Counties in West Virginia.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective Friday April 5, 2023, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will produce, on a total Company basis, \$19,740,000 annually in additional revenues, or an overall average increase in revenues of approximately 6.08%. The \$19,740,000 consists of an increase in base rates of \$37,649,000 and a decrease in the Company's Investment Replacement and Expansion Program ("IREP") of \$17,909,000. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

| | INCREASE | INCREASE |
|------------------|-----------|----------|
| Residential | \$ 7.08 | % 7.85 |
| Commercial | \$ 10.26 | % 2.68 |
| Large Commercial | \$ 747.47 | % 0.70 |
| Industrial | \$ 293.54 | % 0.40 |
| Resale | \$ 100.00 | % 1.70 |
| Other | \$ - | % - |

This increase incorporates the rate impact of the cumulative investment under the IREP that was placed into service as of December 31, 2022. As a result, the Company proposes to reduce the IREP component of its rates relating to that investment when the new base rates go into effect.

Resale customers of Mountaineer Gas Company include Canaan Valley Gas Company, Consumers Gas Utility Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas, City of Philippi and Southern Public Service Company. The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

Anyone desiring to intervene and act as a part in the case should file on or before June 5, 2023 a Petition to Intervene complying with the Commission rules on intervention in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 150 C.S.R.1, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written protest as soon as possible, although protests will be accepted by the Commission through the pendency of this proceeding. All written protest should briefly state the reason for the protest. All protest and Petitions to Intervene should clearly state the case name and number and the addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston West Virginia 25323.

A complete copy of the Company's tariff proposals and a representative of the Company to provide information concerning this tariff are available to all customers, prospective customers or their agents at the following office of the Company:
 501 56th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304

A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301. 3-16-2c

Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by the Department 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.

DBE GOAL: 10 % OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

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

This Week in History...

March 26, 1863: The state's first constitution was overwhelmingly ratified by the voters, by a majority of 28,321 to 572. The constitution was drafted during the state's first Constitutional Convention at the federal house in Wheeling.

March 28, 1870: Oak Hill. One of the most significant harmonica players in country music, his work can also be heard on rock 'n' roll albums, including several of Bob Dylan's. He was the musical director for the TV program Hee Haw.

March 28, 1941: Custom Musician Charlie McCoy was born in

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.bidx.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 is not required at time of bid, but will be required until May 09, 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 005 Contract 2021000740 State Project S399-STR/IP-23. 02 Federal Project NHPP-2023(244)D Description PAVEMENT MARKINGS INTERSTATE STRIPING STATEWIDE

REMARKS: 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 with the Department of 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

PENDLETON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED LEVY RATES REGULAR CURRENT EXPENSE LEVY 2023 - 2024

The following is a true copy from the record of orders entered by PENDLETON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION on the 7th day of March, 2023.

| Column E | Certificate of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes | Levy Rate/\$100 | Taxes Levied |
|--|---|-----------------|--|
| Current Year Class I | Personal Property Public Utility Total Class I | 19.40 | \$ |
| Class II | Real Estate Personal Property Total Class II | 38.80 | \$ 1,432,196 7,442 \$ 1,439,638 |
| Class III | Real Estate Personal Property Public Utility Total Class III | 77.60 | \$ 647,639 516,940 955,296 \$ 2,119,875 |
| Class IV | Real Estate Personal Property Public Utility Total Class IV | 77.60 | \$ 87,735 51,499 21,166 \$ 160,350 |
| Total Value & Projected Revenue | \$ 664,884,125 | | \$ 3,719,863 |
| Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectibles Taxes | | 5.00% | 185,993 |
| Less Tax Discounts | | 2.00% | 70,677 |
| Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing - see worksheet (Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only) | | | |
| Total Projected Property Tax Collection | | | 3,463,193 |
| Less Assessor Valuation Fund | | 2.00% | 69,264 |
| (Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only) | | | |
| Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes For Budget Purposes | | | \$ 3,393,929 |

Office Administrator Pendleton County Economic and Community Development Authority

Minimum Qualifications:
 • Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite and QuickBooks.
 • Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including spelling, grammar, word usage, and punctuation.
 • Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.
 • Excellent time management skills with a proven ability to meet deadlines.
 • Work independently in the absence of supervision and prioritize tasks.
 • Leadership skills.
 • Ability to prioritize tasks and to delegate them when appropriate.
 • Ability to function well in a high-paced and at times stressful environment.
 • Basic understanding of how to operate standard business equipment.
 • Business letter writing.
 • Typing and transcribing a variety of correspondence and notes of meetings.
 To Apply: Please send a cover letter and resume to:
 Karen Pitsenbarger PO BOX 187, Franklin, WV 26807
 Must be delivered to Pendleton County Courthouse (Commission) by 4pm on 4/5/23

Classifieds GET THE JOB DONE!
Contact Us Today!
 304-358-2304 ads@pendletontimes.com
 PO Box 906 - Franklin, WV 26807

Wimer Earns Meritorious Mast Award



PFC John Andrew Wimer

PFC John Andrew Wimer graduated Aug. 19, 2022, from United States Marine Corps boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina. Wimer completed 13 weeks of intensive training at MCRD Parris Island with the Third Battalion Lima Company Training Platoon #3052, where he received expert marksman-

ship.

After an extended leave at home as a recruiting assistant, he reported in November to Camp Geiger, North Carolina, for infantry school where he graduated Feb. 23. There, he earned a meritorious mast award for his leadership and performance.

He is currently attending school for basic security guard training in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Wimer is the son of Bill Wimer (Connie) of Circleville/Franklin and Ginger Cottrell (Danny) of New Creek. He has a brother, Phillip Wimer (Ashley Mills) of Upper Tract. His parental grandparents are Billy and Linda Wimer of Circleville. Maternal grandparents are Gladys and the late Larry Meadows of Ruddle.

Historic Tax Cuts

Continued From Page 1

The State Senate originally wished to simply do away with various forms of property taxes. County governments, however, rely on these taxes for revenues and feared possible replacement by a state disbursement that could potentially be cut off or reduced. In this format, the county governments still control the money and taxpayers get the same benefit.

In the end, both sides compromised. Elements of the House and Senate plans made it into state code while each side recognized the concerns of the other.

While some opposed cutting taxes before tackling problems such as emergency services, jail staffing, or infrastructure, Craig Blair, State Senate president, explained "we'll be able to do deferred maintenance, as we've got all that built in. That's why we refused on the Senate side to go the 50% or 30, 40, 50, those numbers didn't work . . . you got to be able to have money to invest in yourselves."

Tax reform also produced political results beyond benefits to taxpayers. After a dramatic drop of gold and blue balloons, Governor Justice said "it's so much better when we do it as a team. We don't get across the finish line without a team."

Tax reform helped to restore at least some level of teamwork between the two chambers and the Governor.

Math Field Day Winners Announced

Pendleton County Schools held its county Math Field Day on Feb. 17.

Winners were as follows:

Fourth grade — Landon Bowers, Brandywine Elementary, first, Alania Hedrick, Franklin Elementary, second, Owen Champ, BES, third, Eli Boyer, FES, first alternate, and Avery Kile, North Fork Elementary, second alternate;

Fifth grade — Vaylee Harper, NFES, first, Cayden Hensley, BES, second, Noah Kobetic, BES, third, Alayna Huffman, NFES, first alternate, and Parker Hedrick, FES, second alternate;

Sixth grade — Mason Miller, NFES, first, Bryce Propst, FES, second, Caleb Hunt, FES, third, Anthony Henderson,

BES, first alternate, and Izzy Jameson, NFES, second alternate;

Seventh grade — Katie Heavner, first, Albert Ramos-Rivera, second, Ty Armentrout, third, Dylan Eye, first alternate, and Mason Harper, second alternate, all Pendleton County Middle School students;

Eighth grade — Cole Harper, first, Alex Adams, second, Liam Simmons, third, Ty Heavner, first alternate, and Jessica Parker, second alternate, all PCMS students; and

Ninth grade — William VanMeter, first, Chase Owens, second, Jonas Turner, third, Corbin Dove, first alternate, and Leah Nesselrodt, second alternate, all Pendleton County High School students.



Math Field Day winners

Spring Pile Burns Planned

Monongahela National Forest staff are planning to burn several woody debris piles this spring on National Forest System lands.

Pile-burning may take place at any time from now until early June. Burning may take place in several locations. Planned pile burns include:

Pendleton County:

- Mowery-Glover grazing allotment, east of Seneca Caverns, area of Reeds Creek and Dry Run. For more information, call the Cheat-Potomac

District at (304) 257-4488.

Grant County:

- Smoke Hole-Champ grazing allotment, area east of Smoke Hole Road. For more information, call the Cheat-Potomac District at (304) 257-4488.

Pocahontas County:

- Pile located behind the Greenbrier District Office in Bartow. For more information, call (304) 456-3335.

- Gay Sharpe grazing allotment, near state Route 55 and Forest Service Road 202.

For more information, call the Marlinton-White Sulphur District Office at (304) 799-4334.

- Okay Beale Hacking grazing allotment, area of Buzzard Ridge Road. For information, call the Marlinton-White Sulphur District Office at (304) 799-4334.

Signs will be posted on roads near the burn areas when burning is taking place. Residents and forest visitors may see and smell smoke. County emergency operations centers will be notified when burning

begins.

Burn alerts will also be posted on the public website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/mnf> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MonongahelaNF>.

MENU

Pendleton Senior & Family Services

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
SPONSORED MEAL
Salisbury Steak
Mashed Potatoes
Lima Beans, Banana
MONDAY, MARCH 27
Cheeseburger Deluxe
French Fries, Apple
TUESDAY, MARCH 28
Breakfast On A Stick
Cubed Potatoes
Scrambled Egg
Orange Juice
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
Kielbasa, Sauerkraut
Peas, Pears

Thursday, March 30
Evening Meal 5p.m.
No Lunch Served.

Meatloaf
Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans, Fruit



Meals served daily at the Franklin center from 11:45 to 12:15. Two percent milk served with every meal. Menus are subject to change.

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BRANDYWINE, Doublewide on 1/3 acre, 3BR, 2BA, some furniture, storage building with garage. **Under Contract!** to house, located behind Family Dollar store. **\$125,000.**

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Penny K. Lambert, Sales Agent C 304.668.2975
Laura B. Brown, Sales Agent C 304.668.3952
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Jennifer Raines, Sales Agent 304-851-3522

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SGR276A 5.11 Ac., Raw Land, Lot #23, Blackthorn Mtn. Estates, Sugar Grove District, Pendleton Cty. **NEW LISTING \$35,900.00.**

SGR275A 3.26 Acres w/3 Bed, 1 Bath Ranch Home, Oak Cove Subdivision, Some Restrictions, Milroy District, Grant County, WV. **\$219,900.00.**

SGR271-A 1.84 Acres, Potomac Heights Subdivision, Williams Rd., Franklin District, Pendleton County, WV. **\$14,000.00.**

SGR270A 1.97 Acres w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, Well, Septic, Sugar Grove District, Pendleton Cty. **NEW LISTING \$99,000.00.**

SGR268A 183 Acres, Potomac Heights Area, Excellent Hunting, Franklin District. **\$449,900.00.**

SGR266A 1.0 Acre, 3 Bed, 2 Bath Doublewide w/2 Car Garage, Mountain View Roof 2021. Located in Green Acres Estates. Some Covenants & Restrictions. **NEW LISTING \$199,900.00.**

SGR265A .63 Acres, located in Brandywine. **NEW LISTING \$7,900.00.**

SGR264A 2.097 Acres w/4 Bed, 2 bath Brick Cape Cod, 2 Car Detached Garage, Unfinished basement. Quiet neighborhood, conveniently located to town amenities. **NEW LISTING \$329,000.00.**

SGR634 2.7 Acres, Electric nearby, Septic, Public Water avail. **\$69,500.00.**

SGR259A 230.83 Acres, more or less, Spring, Septic, Electric available. Subject to 4-year farm lease. Sugar Grove District. **NEW LISTING \$869,000.00.**

SGR252A 81.01 Acres, more or less, Lot 7, Seneca Lookout, adjoins National Forest. Spring on property. North Fork hiking trail crosses. Union District. Covenants & Restrictions. **NEW LISTING \$519,000.00.**

SGR248 1.407 Acres, more or less, Lot 9, Highland Estates, Grant County, Part approved. Some Restrictions. **NEW LISTING \$31,500.00.**

SGR246 242.36 Acres, more or less, w/5 Bed, 2-1/2 Bath Contemporary Home as well as a Farmhouse on property. Pond, Magnificent Views. Conservation Easement. **\$998,700.00.**

SGR245 0.96 Acres w/2 Bed, 1.5 Bath 1900's Remodeled Cottage, Seneca Rocks. **\$249,900.00 REDUCED \$234,900.00.**

SGR244 0.14 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath 1,008 sq. ft. Home, Bonus Room, Metal Roof, Mini-Splits. Franklin Corp. **\$149,900.00.**

SGR236 World Class View Overlooking Germany Valley! Log Cabin, 70.08 Acres, 2 bed, 2.5 Baths. Seneca Lookout. Some Restrictions. **\$799,000.00.**

SGR233 29.82 Acres, Raw Land, Electric. Located on South Fork Mountain, Mill Run District. **\$190,000.00.**

SGR223 0.6673 Acres w/Spacious 3 Bed, 2 Bath Home, 2090 sq. ft., 1 Car Detached Garage. Franklin Corp. **NEW LISTING \$329,000.00.**

SGR216 0.662 Acres w/1 Bed, 1 Bath, 908 sq. ft. Cabin located in close proximity to Brushy Fork Lake and National Forest. Sugar Grove District. **\$79,900.00 REDUCED \$74,500.00.**

SGR197 557.7 Ac., Raw Land, Excellent Hunting, Joins National Forest, No Utilities, Potential Food Plots, Watering Holes, Bldg. Sites w/Views. Milroy District, Grant County. **\$1,749,000.00.**

SGR190 3.87 Acres, Raw Land, 1000 sq. ft. Bldg. Site, Mature timber. **\$49,900.00.**

SGR188 22.72 Ac., Raw Land, Hoover Mtn., Hunting, Bldg. Sites. **\$179,900.00.**

SGR187 8.87 Ac., Raw Land, Hoover Mtn., Bldg. Sites, View. **\$79,900.00.**

SGR176 2.02 Acres Raw Land, Rocky Mountain Rd, Deer Run area. Electric nearby. **\$19,900.00.**

SGR156 15.97 Acres, Rolling Hills Estate, Electric nearby, Water available. Hardy County. **\$95,900.00. REDUCED \$89,900.00.**

SGR128 2-3 Bedroom Ranch w/Full Basement on 0.6386 Acres, more or less, Moyers Gap Rd, Sugar Grove District. **NEW LISTING \$469,000.00 REDUCED \$149,900.00.**

SGR042 Five Unit Townhouse property located in Brandywine. Each unit has 2 Bdrms, 1.5 Baths, LR and Large Kitchen. Near National Forest for hunting and fishing. Perfect for retirement income, live in one and rent the others! **\$399,000.00.**

SGR441 Residential lots, public water, protective covenants and restrictions. Oak Flat Estates near Brandywine on Rte.33 East of Franklin. Lots from **\$20,760.00.**

SGR247 Residential lots with town water, sewer & underground utilities. Protective covenants and restrictions. Franklin Airport Development. Lots from **\$14,630.00.**

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FISH DAY!
IT'S TIME TO STOCK
YOUR POND!
Delivery Will Be:
Tuesday, April 4
Romney 1:15-2:00
@ Southern States
Wednesday, April 5
Keyser 11:15-12:00
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Moorefield 1:00-1:45
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Petersburg 2:15-3:00
@ Southern States
Franklin 3:45-4:30
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2021 FORD F-150 "SHELBY SUPER SNAKE," 2K miles, red, new condition.....\$109,500
2021 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW S/BED LARIAT 4X4, 5.0 V-8, auto., fully ldd., soft blue color, 34K miles, like new cond..... **SPECIAL \$59,900 \$54,900**
2021 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB 4X4, V-8, auto., ldd., black, only 10K miles.....\$44,900
2020 FORD F-350 CREW CAB DUALY 4X4, 6.7 diesel, auto., ldd., 134K miles, white, full aluminum bed w/hitch, ex. cond.....\$49,500
2020 JEEP GLADIATOR 4X4 CREW CAB TK., V-6, auto., ldd., silver, 39K miles, very sharp..... **SPECIAL \$44,900 \$39,900**
2018 TOYOTA TACOMA EXTRA CAB 4X4, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., white, one owner w/103K miles, ex. cond.....\$27,900
2016 FORD F-450 SUPERCAB DUALY "ENCLOSED BODY" UTILITY TRUCK, 2-WHEEL DRIVE, 6.7 diesel, auto., ldd., white, only 88K miles.....\$39,500
2016 FORD F-250 CREW CAB S/BED 4X4, XLT premium pkg., 6.7 dsl., auto., ldd., white & gray, only 92K miles, ex. cond..... **SPECIAL \$49,500 \$44,900**
2015 FORD F-350 CREW-CAB 4X4 UTILITY TRUCK, 6.7 dsl., auto., ldd., white, 79K miles.....\$49,500
2015 FORD F-250 SUPERCAB SHORTBED 4X2, 6.2 liter gas V-8, auto., ldd., white, 175K miles, ex. cond.....\$19,900
2014 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW FX4 4X4, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, only 59K miles, very nice truck.....\$19,500
2010 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW 4X4, XLT pkg., V-8, auto., ldd., black, 174K miles, good cond.....\$12,900
2007 FORD F-350 SUPERCAB S/BED 4X4 "CUSTOM BUILT," 7.3 diesel, 6-spdl., ldd., must see to appreciate.....\$37,500

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2020 SHELBY GT-500, 5.2 V-8, auto., ldd., orange, 4K miles, new condition.....\$99,500
2019 FORD MUSTANG GT "BULLITT EDITION," V-8, 6-spdl., ldd., green, 2K miles, new condition.....\$49,500
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2005 FORD E-350 CARGO VAN, 6.0 diesel, auto., air, etc., white, only 134K miles.....\$8,995
1997 FORD MUSTANG COBRA CONVERTIBLE, V-8, 5-spdl., ldd., white, tan leather, only 49K miles, ex. cond.....\$29,500
1966 FORD MUSTANG 2-DR COUPE, Hot 289 V-8, auto., etc., fully restored, many custom features, blue w/white Shelby stripes, MUSTA.....\$39,500
1965 FORD MUSTANG 2-DR COUPE (EARLY PRODUCTION 1964 1/2 CAR) 260 V-8, auto., PS, PB, etc., red, only 73,000 actual miles, mint cond.....\$34,900