# The Pendleton Times 

$\$ 1.00$
Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

## Pendleton County Seniors Cross

 The Stage for 2023 Graduation

## Community GALENTAI

 Spring Revival ScheduledAt Circleville
community spring revival will be held May 30
to June 1 at the Harold K to June 1 at the Harold K
Michael Building in CirNichael Building in Cir-
cleville. Nightly speakers will be Brent Showalter Bland, respectively. The evening will begin 5:30 p.m. followed by special Kisamore and Vapor 4:14, at 6:30 p.m. The message will be delivered at $7 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$

EDA To Hold Special Meeting The Pendleton County Economic and Community
Development Authority will hold a special meeting at 4 m. today at the Pendleton Community Building in Franklin. The purpose o
the meeting is to amend the bylaws
Senior Center To Host Evening Meal Today
Franklin Senior Center will be hosting its May movThe movie starts at 2 p .m at 5 p.m. No lunch will be served. To reser
call $304-358-2421$

Memorial Day Service Planned At Sugar Grove
vFW Post 9666 Sugar Grove will be hosting Me morial Day Service at
a.m. Monday at Rich Homan VFW Memorial Park in Sugar Grove.
be served. The 1
tend

## Weekend Hiking

 Emergency Exposes Public Safety SituationPendleton County banks more and more on adventure tourism to expand the economy and elevate the county's prestige to potential visitors. Obstacles in the path of emergency responders, however could prove disastrous, according to Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County emergency services coordnator
Last weekend, that fear almost materialized. James D. Wheeler a 56 -year-old tourist from Marietta, Ohio, was reported missing at approx with friends had gone hiking and fishing long Laurel Run along with friends, had gone hiking and fishing along Laurel Run. This stream flows into the North Fork at Judy
westward into the rugged mountains of the area.
Observers reported seeing Wheeler at 5:35 in

## Saturday

Nine separate agencies from West Virginia and Virginia, alon dipping into the 30 s in parts of the area, ground crews struggl through the night to find him with no success.
Fortunately, "at approximately 1p.m. Sunday, Deputy SheriffR. W. Kelly of the Highland County Sheriffs Dept. reported having found Wheeler along South Christian Run Trail, which would be the nearest access point to Laurel Run, south of where WV person-
nel last searched for him," according to a release from Pendleton nel last searched for him," according to a release from Pendleton
County Emergency Management. County Emergency Managemen
Although tragedy was averted by hard work, rescue workers struggled with lack of access to modern communications. In a letter to elected officials and other stakeholders, Gillespie explained, "We had little to NO communications abilities due to this location being near the heart of the
protect Green Bank."
Gillespie described a "daisy chain" style effort cobbled together to find Wheeler. Vehicles could not access the remote region. Rescue workers formed a chain of individuals standing near the broadcast limits of the radios so that they could relay information in and out of the forest, connecting first responders to the incident command post. Laura Brown, Pendleton and Grant county economic development director, shared that her own daughter recently experienced a severe allergic reaction. Brown stated that she called Tina Eye from Pendleton County Emergency Response, who then gave her advice on how to proceed. She said that "we decided on Petersburg because of the lack of cell service to Harrisonburg should we need help quickly.
Brown then explained that "because we are residents in this small town and know our community, we were able to act quickly Visitors to the area do not have the luxury of personally knowing emergency responders or about the lack of cellular connectivity As we actively work towards advancing tourism, we must to be aware of the importance of coverage and emergency services to
our tourists." Gillespie also shared that last a rural residence where a man had his fingers entrapped in a piece
of machinery. He was far from civilization and he was alone, with of machinery. He was far from civilization and he was alone, with
nobody around for miles." The caller had almost no cell service, but fortunately could call. Gillespie noted that had he been in an area with no service, the man could have been trapped for a day or more Tourism will continue to draw those looking for adventure, often in remote and challenging areas. Gillespie offers two solutions. "One, is a complete elimination of the National Radio Quiet Zone or at a minimum, a huge modernization of the restrictions, or a long-term, yearly funding mechanism to help us come up with compliant solutions."
Next, he stated, "Second, it would be wonderful if the federal government, the one requiring the NRQZ, provide us funding to purchase a mobile repeater trailer apparatus so that we could deploy some form of communication in such areas.


Seneca Caverns Reopens an Underground World Beloved By Locals and Visitors Alike
on the 20th," says Dwayn Propst who administers the attraction for Greer. He als serves as a chef at Asbury Restaurant only a hundre feet from the cave's opening The caverns will open only 10 on the weekends between 10 modate the work schedul of nearby Greer Limeston The restaurant, gift shop and gemstone mining wil be open between Wednesday and Saturday.
A tour of the cave open an underground realm wonder. On this occasion local guide Kira Gardne explained the history and th science behind Seneca Ca erns. One of the first marvels
she described turned out to be one of the largest, "flowstone" formation called the "Dutch oven."
Flowstones form over mi taining minerals regularly Lime." As time passed, the
collision of continents ripped and tore the underlying rock enues for groundwater to traverse the depths beneath. Limestone is particularly susceptible to dissolving in water.
Water's patient forces of both destruction and creation constructed the natural wonder of Seneca Caverns Destruction carved out the rooms and passages. Cre
ation came from mineral saturated waters seeping downward from the surface, shaping the beautiful and bizarre features contained in so many caves in the region. Last Friday, Greer wel comed locals to the reopen their scenic and scientific wonders. The weather wonders. The weather co breezy day under a nearly cloudless sky
fun telling a whole lot more fun telling people we'll open

## Concerns Shared with County

 Commission over Costly Fire Hazard from Wind TurbinesBy Stephen Smoot

The Pendleton County Commission tackled a ligh agenda in its second May meeting with the Friends o Beautiful Pendleton County present to share concern over wind turbine safety. mer opened the meeting with the customary prayer, shar ing, "Father, we pray that You speak to us and speak through us.'
Scott Somerville rose to represent the Faceboo group. He started his talk with "I really appreciate the service you all do for the county," referring to recen lengthy meetings and work sessions undertaken by the body. Then he shared the concerns of his group over
the potential fire hazard the potential fire hazard inherent in wind energy wind turbines are a known fire hazard.
He discussed the potentia for serious damage should a wind turbine catch fire from either a lightning strike or The height of turbines, $h$ The height of turbines, he fires out problematic. "They fires out problematic. "They
are way up there. You can"t
put
said.
said. Somerville's next point was that wind turbines can take advantage of reasonfor utilities that spare them for utilities that spare them
from the cost of fires caused by downed lines. He then suggested to the county commission that they require any wind turbine operation to carry insurance sufficient to pay for any potential damages from their operation. In the online publication Wind Systems, 14-year wind energy safety professional Angela Krcmar shared details about turbine fires. She related that turbine fire statistics as of 2021 remained spotty, that fires could occur anywhere between one in 2,000 and one in 15,000. Krcmar also related that a wind turbine fire can cost upwards of $\$ 8$ million, according to insurance experts." She added that "a wind-turbine fire can spread to the surrounding environment, sparking wildfires and potentially spreading into nearby communities." Wind turbines do not cause as many such accidents as traditional utilities, but they are also not regulated as
ightly as power plants. She added that "stakehold community level are likely push for regulatory chang to ensure any wind-turbin fires are suppressed before he flames can spread b yond the asset."
In a different article Windpower Engineerin and Development written 020, Krcmar warned th face one to two fires over th course of its operational life time." Also, since most fir response units do not have the equipment to combat fire at the elevation of th ally relegated to a reaction ary role, trying to preven their spread.
County departments had little to update. In othe business, the commission ap proved keeping Cary Heven er on the library board fo nother five-year term. Commissioners also ap
proved a reimbursement fo the South Fork Voluntee Fire Department. During their response to the wild lew out a clutch. The cos f replacement was approx mately $\$ 2,500$

## OBITUARIES



James "Jimmy" Logan Barnes, Jr


Max Lee Rodriguez
Thursday, May 18, 2023 became Heaven Day for Max Lee Rodriguez, 44, of Moun Crawford, Virginia
He was born
He was born Aug. 8,
1978, in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and was the son Magdalene Martinez of New York and the late Leonardo Rodriguez.

Mr. Rodriguez was em ployed with Interchange Group and attended New Beginnings Church.
He spent his early years in his native country Puerto Rico and later New York, thus becoming a fan of the New York Giants and the New York Yankees. At the age of 16 in 1994, he moved

One of his favorite past
times was watching football times was watching football games. He also enjoyed car
shows, but his three sons shows, but his three sons
were the joy of his life. He were the joy of his life. He
could be found attending his sons' basketball or soccer games, or just kicking cer games, or just kicking
the soccer ball around with the soccer ball around with
his son, or shooting hoops in his back yard with the boys. Playing video games with his son was also high on the list.
He also enjoyed family He also enjoyed family
events, picnicking, hiking, and volleyball playing at the Killbuck Riflemen Range at Ft. Seybert, which was one Ft. Seybert, which was one
of his favorite places. This past September, though very ill, he managed to play the part of Indian Chief Killbuck in the reenactment of the burning of Ft. Seybert, which took place in 1758 on this site.
On Sept. 4, 2010, he married the love of his life, the former Aimee Dawn Conrad, who survives. From this union they were parents to one son, Carmelo, of the home. In addition to his wife and mother, he is also survived by sons, Trevian Rodriguez and Julius Rodriguez, both
and Carmelo Rodriguez Mount Crawford, Virginia wo sisters, Kamiash Brow Suarez and husband, A thony Ramsey, all of N York; a grandchild, Jonahli Rodriguez; mother-in-law Frances Conrad Morgan and usband, Robert of Rock ngham, Virginia; father-in Fort Seybert; sisters-in-law Susan Melendez and hus band, Alex of Rockingham Virginia, Sara Ferrell an usband, Joe of Mt. Craw ord, Virginia, and Andre unningham and husband mer Buckhannon; and n In nieces and nephew the burial was held Sunda at Fairview Cemetery in F Seybert with Pastor Sco Schneiderman officiating. Memorial contribution ay be made in his memory o Blue Ridge Christia
Memories and words comfort may be left at www. kygers.com
Local arrangements we under the direction of th
Basagic Funeral Home in
Franklin. Basagic
Franklin.

## Freshman Delegate Elias Coop-Gonzalez Shares His Experience as a First Year State Legislator

In 2022, Elias Coop-Gonzalez chose to tackle the chal lenge of running against an established incumbent fo a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates. After a spirited and sometimes contentious race, the young immigrant fr
his seat.
his sea
those elected to office when the campaign ends, the real work begins.
The 21-year-old college student represents northern and western Pendleton County, as well as the eastern parts o
Randolph. He earned selection to the committees on bank Randolph. He earned selection to the committees on banking and insurance, energy and manufacturing, politica
subdivisions, and veterans affairs and homeland security Mark Scott, former Randolph County commissioner and current Cabinet Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Administration noted that "what struck me most about Elias's firs
The best state legislators rely heavily on principle t guide their actions. Delegate Coop-Gonzalez ran on thre Christianity, conservatism, and the Constitution. He said that "To my ... constituents, I cannot implore you are aware of their God-given rights, it is much harder for avaricious politicians to take them away."
Lack of a thorough knowledge of the Constitution remain a challenge for many, he shared, saying that "It was surprising that not many people in office knew much abou
the Constitution. While legislating, the Constitution wa the sole document I referred to when voting

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## BRINGOSHOME

Saturdäy, May 27
South Fork Volunteer Fire Dept. Brandywine
Halves Ready by 10:30 a.m
To reserve chicken, call 304-249-542
Sponsored by South Fork Volunteer Fire Dept.

## Hifl Come celebrate our 1 Year Anniversary

From May 26th thru June 2nd, 2023
Deep Clean Machines Laundromat be offering DISCOUNTS, doing a BASKET RAFFL \& offering goodies for our beloved customers! ur location is at 40 N. Main Street Franklin, W Fluff \& Fold Service Hours:

## Coop-Gonzalez had a list of issues on which he planned to

 work going into the session, including defense of life, freedom of speech, property rights, supporting first responders Going freedom, and moreGoing into the session in January, "I expected to be very busy and make very challenging decisions." Some of those included working on policy issues of local concern, such a supporting "every bill which helped fund fire departments. Here he encountered one of the discouraging aspects public service, working hard on issues that do not get enough support elsewhere. Coop-Gonzalez explained "the Legislature was too busy giving financial ancentives to ca "Winos and subsidizing Bil Gates backed batter companies. Wr ing of issues and leglation really amazed me. He did succeed Act "statutorily reinforcing our state's prolife laws" "killing eminent domain laws which violated the Constitu tion."
A mandatory measure for any incoming state legislator lies in creating a network of others who can guide and help Coop-Gonzalez shared that he worked most closely with people who "are relentlessly patriotic and of the highe moral character, including Geoff Foster, Pat McGeehan and Laura Kimble"

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## Town Pool News <br> Pool Opens May 29

Pool Memberships Now
Available for 2023 Season
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$\$ 150$
The family membership is for all members

## of the same household residing together.

Memberships purchased before May 31 will receive a $\$ 5$ discount!

To purchase a membership
for questions, contact the Town of Franklin office 304-358-7525.

## He also worked well with fellow Pendleton County de

 egate Bryan Ward. Ward said of Coop-Gonzalez, "Coo is wise beyond his years because he is a great listener.He added that Coop-Gonzalez spoke little on the floor, as is customary for most freshman delegates, but "when does, folks listen." Pendleton County Commissioner Rog Dahmer added that he appreciated Coop-Gonzalez tryin to pass legislation that the county supported.
Despite what seems like a relatively short window which to do business, Coop-Gonzalez learned that law mak ing follows its own process that not only goes step by ste in the moment. It's a long game," he stated.
in the moment. It's a long game," he stated. As with every. "Ne, howe every issue goes back to the Constitution. Next time a candidate asks us for ou vote, we should ask them how much they know about the Constitution. If they can't answer that question, it is tim then it is time to be that candidate"
He added, "Our that hate,
He added, Our coun has steered away from its root but it is possible to save her if we guide her back to them Duty is ours. Results are God's."

## Bike sait ${ }^{\mathrm{N}}$ <br> VARD <br> Jd...ert <br> -SRRIE

- 9 a.m. -

Seneca Rocks Firehouse
Camping Item Basket \& Kid's Summer/Pool Basket To Be Raffled Off ~ Drawing June 17
Baskets will be on display and tickets available at the sal Proceeds go to Bible Missionary Church

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> Emma Hartman, Riley Apple and Laney Sites-Woods; Brynlynn Waggy and Aubree Keiter; BreAnna Wolfe, Marcus Smith and Addie Rexrode; Isaiah Lockard and Logan Fisher; Andrew Mowery, Sawyer Apple and Gabe Harvey; Titus Nulph and Thunder Gill; Gage Sites-Woods, Evan Teter and Rylan Copley; Victor Rhodes, not pictured

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60 Years Ago
Week of May 30, 1963
County of Pendleton Organized 175 Years Ago

First Court Held At Ruddle June 2, 1788

Sunday will be the 175th anniversary of the formation of Pendleton County, one of
the oldest counties in West Virginia.
. 1788 .
The 13 American colonies were sfill struggling
It had been only 12 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Since that time, George Washington had led the patriots to victory in their struggle against the tyranny of King George III, and he had assisted with the Second Continental Congress. But he would not take his oath
of office as first president the United States until th following year, 1789 .

The day was June 2
Eight leading citizens of the area, commissioned jusginia, met in the barn of Zeraiah Stratton at Ruddle six miles north of Franklin took the oath of fidelity to the Commonwealth, selected a full complement of county
officials and made arrangeofficials and made arrange-
ments for the construction of ments for the construction of a courthouse.
Thus was formed the county of Pendleton.
And it was none too soon, for the population of the por tion of Rockingham County growing steadily. Travel for growing steadily. Travel fory these people to the county
seat, a distance of 30 to 60 miles across the high and rugged mountains, was bur densome and distasteful It was in recognition of this growing population and the
difficulty the pioneers had difficulty the pioneers had in communicating with the county seat that the Virgini General Assembly on Decem declaring that the portion of Rockingham County west of the Shenandoah Mountain and including parts of Hardy and Augusta Counties on and after May 1, 1788, "shall form one distinct county, and be called and known by the name of Pendleton.
The act of 1787 provide that the justices should meet at the house of Zeraiah Strat ton, but tradition has it that they met in the barn, instead presumably because there was not sufficient room in the house.
Commissioned justices by given the responsibility of organizing the new count were the following: Robert Davis, John Skidmore, Mose Hinkle, James Dyer, Isaa Hinkle, Robert Poage, Jame Skidmore, Matthew Patton Peter Hull, James Patterson and Jacob Hoover. Of the 11 justices thus named, all were present for their firs meeting except three, Robert Poage, Peter Hull and Jacob
Hoover.
The offic
The office of justice in the was one of con-
siderable responsibility. They served not only as justices of the peace, but also as a board They were commissioned by the governor to serve for life. Although citizens of the counAlthough citizens of the counthe legislature in thbers of the legislature in that day, the justices selected all local
officials except the sheriff, and they recommended one of their body to the governor of their body to the governor
to be commissioned sheriff. Consequently, at the meeting of the justices on June 2, 1788, they selected the following men to serve as the first officials of Pendleton County: president of the court, John Skidmore; clerk of the court, Garvin Hamilton; prosecuting attorney, Samuel Reed; deputy sheriffs, John Davis and John Morral; overseers of the poor, James Dyer, Ruleman Ulrich Conrad and John Dunkle; Gabriel Collett, George Dice, Jacob Gum, Johnson Phares, Isaac Powers, William Ward and George Wilkeson. Robert Davs was commissioned by the governor to serve as high sheriff.
Other business transacted at that first meeting included a decision to build the courthouse on the lands of Francis Evick, and to hold the next court at his house. James Patterson was directed to survey the lot for the courthouse, and Thomas Collett was given the contract for erecting the county buildings for which he was later paid decided uoting places were roads were selected and Moses Hinkle was authorized to solemnize marriages.
solemnize marriages.
Not only was the met
Not only was the method of
selecting local officials differ elect 175 years ago but living ent 175 years ago, but living from those of today in many other respects:
other respects:
to own a a vototer a man had to own a plot of 25 acres, in-
cluding a house 12 by 12 feet. cluding a house 12 by 12 feet;
or 50 acres of unimproved land; or a lot and house in a designated town.

- Money was counted in the British system of pounds, shillings and pence. Tobacco was legal currency; 100 pounds of the weed being in coin.
- The log house was practically universal-the roof of clapboards and the stairway a ladder.

Food was simple. The staff of life was pone, johnny cake and mush. Pewter dishes were more common than china.
-Farming was primitive. Oxen were the preferred work animals. The harrow was a thornbush. A forked sapling, peeled and dried, made a grain fork

- Stoves were unknown, and cooking was done in kettles suspended from a hook in the fireplace, long-handled
skillets held over the fire, and skillets held over the fire, and stone bake ovens.

Many of the people at that time had no schooling, and those who could write, did so with a goose or turkey quill. Ink was sold in a
powder form to be dissolved
as nee

- Prominet - Prominent frontier games played by the children were throwing tomahawks so as and imitating the sounds and imitating the sounds of Thas
The penalty for stealing a hog was 35 lashes on the bare back for the first offense; for the second offense, he was to on a public day with ear on a public day with ears
nailed fast, and at the end of two hours, his ears were to b cut loose; for the third offense the punishment was death Court records indicate that Pendleton had a whipping post, a pair of stocks and perhaps also, a pillory. One Peter Little was ordered into the stocks for 10 minutes for committing a misdemeano in court in 1790, and another man was sentenced to receiv 33 lashes on the bare back well laid on for stealing a hog worth $\$ 5$.
The boundary of the county as fixed by the act of 178 was the same as it is today on the north, east and west, but the south boundary extended further south and included the Blue Grass area and the northern part of what is now Highland County. The new county started off with a portion of approximately 2200 souls, almost ex clusively white, fairly evenly distributed among the thre alleys of the North Fork, South Branch and South Fork.
Pend
Pendleton began its sepa rate existence as the nint f the counties which now Virginia.

100 YEARS AGO
By LON K. SAVAGE
Editor's Note-The fol lowing is one of a series of articles on the Civil War Each weekly installment curers events which oc ago exactly 100 years

Port Hudson Attacked 2nd Siege Begins

Negro troops, who had been growing in number in the Federal armies during 1862 and 1863, came under fire in battle for what is behe Civil War 100 years ago this week.
It was in an attack on Port Hudson, La., on the Missis sippi River, 123 miles south of Vicksburg. Like Vicksburg, Port Hudson commanded the river and, as a result, was
a prime target of Federals who were determined to rid the river of Confederates throughout its length. As it turned out, the attempts to capture Port Hudson were remarkably similar to those used to capture Vicksburg. The Negro troops, many of them mobilized in the area
12 months before, had come 12 months before, had come from plantations in the area and had long since been performing work for the Fed eral Army. Gen. Nathaniel Banks, commanding Federa troops in Louisiana brough
them with him in a march northward in early 1863 .
Banks' purpose was to join Banks' purpose was to join
Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in an Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in an
attack on Vicksburg, but he attack on Vicksburg, but he never made it far enough
north to do Grant any good north to do Grant any good.
In his path lay Port Hudson, In his path lay Port Hudson,
manned by 7,000 Confedermanned by 7,000 Confeder
ates, and Banks realized he ates, and Banks realized he must destroy that garrison On the morning of May On the morning of May
27th-five days after Grant's opening attack on Vicksopening attack on Vicks
burg-Bank's men, 13,000 strong, moved out through a dense magnolia fores against the Port Hudson Line.
The affair was a "gigantic bush-whack," according to one veteran, and he meant it in the literal sense. Th ravines so choked with fallen timber, and the ground so covered with undergrowth,
he wrote, "that it was difficult he wrote, that it was difficult see."
Confederate artillery opened on the charging Federals, but they quickly brought up their own artil lery to fight back. One mass of Federals charged to within 200 yards of the Confederate line and held on, but they were not relieved and eventually had to retreat.
On the Federal right, two Negro regiments formed for an attack, but before they could charge, Confederate artillery and muskets caugh them in open ground and drove them back with heavy slaughter. Another Federa detachment charged through the center but became entan gled in a mass of fal
and were repulsed.
By nightfall, the
By nightfall, the Federals had gained commanding positions but had not bro Their attack had cost them Their attack had cost them 2,000 men- 1,500 of them
wounded, while the Confed wounded, while the Confed erates had lost only 235 . That
night, Banks withdrew and night, Banks withdrew and
prepared for a siege. It was prepared for a siege. It was
a small scale repetition of Grant's tactics at Vicksburg where another siege was underway.
Inside Port Hudson, Confederate Gen. Frank Gardner, with his back to the river received an order telling him to evacuate Port Hudson and move upstate. The orders had

## come too late.

Pennsylvania invasion.
70 Years Ago
Week of May 21, 1953
Twenty-Six to Graduate At Circleville

Twenty-six seniors will graduate tonight at Cir cleville High School in the twenty-third annual com

Sixty-One
To Graduate at Franklin
Sixty-one seniors will
graduate Friday graduate Friday night at Franklin High in the fortieth annual commencement published weekiy by
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## Ways Listed to Pay Tribute on Memorial Day

Sugar Grove
By Paula Mitchell
Memorial Day. One has heard of it. Of course, one has. But here's what a person may not realize: to many in West Virginia, Memorial Day has another name as well It is called Decoration Day, and it's a chance for people to remember and honor not just soldiers who have died strangers - who are no longer with a person by beautifying and decorating their graves.
Decoration Day was an Appalachian tradition that actually pre-dated Memorial Day. Decoration Day is often celebrated on or near Memorial Day and focuses not just o honoring military dead, but also on ho
Family, friends, churches, and communities gather on Decoration Day to clean cemeteries and place beautiful colorful flowers, often artificial ones so they last longer, on the graves of departed loved ones
Sometimes singing was involved, or a pot luck supper in the graveyard would occur. Some folks would travel hun dreds of miles to return to their roots to participate in this event. In some ways, it was like a family reunion. In othe ways, it was like a worship service and a memorial service in one. This was usually held on Sundays.
Picture, if one will, people coming together across time and space to honor loved ones, which meant that those loved ones, even in death, were bringing communities together in fellowship. Picture, if one will, graves freshly cleared of vines and overgrowth. Picture closely mown grass. Picture colorful flowers on every grave. The gathering was like an extended family reunion of sorts.
Ideally, a "buddy poppy" would be bought from the Ameri can Legion, with the proceeds going to disabled soldiers. It is only fitting that Memorial Day, a day that began with the tradition of laying flowers on graves, would also include a symbolic flower, representing honor and also the rebirtl and the continuity of life
This Memorial Day weekend, perhaps a gathering of folks could clean a cemetery on one's property. That would definitely be a fitting way to honor the dead
Life's daily instruction to make life more enjoyable include the following:
2. Hug often
2. Hug oft
3. Don
nything that wouldn't make one,s parent
Do at least one good deed every day
5. Marry the right person. This one decision will deter mine 90 percent of one's happiness or misery
The Dame's Rocket (wild phlox) has been sporting the variegated colors of purple, pink, and white along the South Fork. What appeared in this community after the 1985 flood has had the winds blow it "to the four corners" of the county. Indeed, they are beautigorgeous!
Small showers of rain have fallen in these parts, allowing the pasture to grow for the soon-to-be making of hay. Yards are beginning to be eye-pleasing. Debris and unsightly "garbage" is beginning to be eradicated from the sightly garbage is beginning to be eradicated from the
landscapes. Many folks are hanging up hummingbird and bird feeders. Yards are being beautified with flowers and mulch. Nature, and the motorists, are certainly embracing this new venture of beautification. Quotes for the week are as follows:
If you think you are too small to make a difference, you ent spent the night with a mosquito." - African Proverb No good movie is too
enough." - Roger Ebert
"With so many things coming back in style, I can't wait until morals, respect, and intelligence become a trend again." - Denzil Washington
"You are the storyteller of your own life, and you can create your own legend, or not." - Isabel Allende "Rainy days should be spent at home with a cup of tea and a good book." - Bill Watter
Sitting on the porch swing to hear the "Talk of the Grove.' Evelyn Varner, Judy Costello and Janet Judy motored to Savannah, Georgia, with Abbott Trailways last Monday morning. Day one included dinner at the Pirate's House, being one of the oldest buildings still standing in Savannah. Day two found the three enjoying a tour of Savannah by way of trolley. They were introduced with the very interesting history of the town, followed with dinner at the Paula Dean's Restaurant. The evening concluded with a sightseeing riverboat ride on the Georgia Queen. There was a lot of opportunities to do some shopping on the town.

Day three found them having the pleasure of taking a Tybee Island tour, which included the Lighthouse and the Discovery Center. The evening was very much enjoyed with a dinner at the Crab Shack. A surprise show at one of the oldest theatres featured Dancing Unlimited on Broadway Day four found the group heading back home stopping in for lunch at Cracker Barrel in Rock Hill, North Carolina.
Congratulations are in order for Evelyn Varner's two graduating grandsons, Daniel Judy and Richard Marshall. Daniel Judy, son of Janet Judy, graduated from Blue Ridge Community where he has also been accepted into James Madison University this fall studying for his bachelor's degree in architectural design and then furthering with a doctorate degree in universal design. Richard Marshall, son of Joyce Marshall, graduated from Spotswood High School. He will be attending
Ferrum State College where Ferrum State College where he will be studying experimental science in forestry. Visitors of Rosalee Grogg were Steven and Skyler
Grogg, Marleta Wimer Grogg, Marleta Wimer, Ter ry Grogg and Claude Castle berry.
Leslie, Shaun, and Ava Bowers enjoyed the sixth-
grade field trip to Wash grade field trip to Wash While there, they very much enjoyed exploring the muse enjoyed exploring the ums and monuments Joel and Betsy Farrar of
 Lynchburg, Virginia, wer Saturday visitors in the
Helen and Rhonda Nash enjoyed a recent visit to Fredericksburg, Virginia, for Mother's Day weekend. The fun included a trip to the cinema, Chinese takeout, games of Uno, bowling and pizza, and a Mother's Day luncheon celebrated with many family members across four generations. This week's clickety-clacks for the chin waggers are as follows:

- Tides in the Bay of Fundy rise and fall as much as 50 feet every 12 hours.
- Tacific Coast Indians once used blankets for money saur.
-The Greeks believed the patterns on a peacock's tail were once the hundred eyes of the mythical giant, Argus. $\bullet$ Each U.S. President may design his own presidentia flag.
-The Sahara Desert is larger in area then the 48 conti nental United States.
June birthdays include the following: Geneva Varner first; Mary Frances Wadsworth, Bryan Simmons and Linda T. Rexrode, second; Karen Pitsenbarger, third; Carolyn Sponaugle, fourth; Dinah Mitchell and Dale Wilfong sixth; Kaisley Kiser, eighth Marsha Keller and Bryards Mitts, ninth; Brianna Roberts, Paden Rightsell and Mike Armstrong, 10th Jayden Roberson and Betty Rexrode, 11th; Kelly Hart man, Ed Keller, Carolyn Wilfong and Stanley Kile 12th; and Betty Gail Hart man, 13th.


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## May Is Mental Health Awareness Month! <br> The following are essential to good mental health -Sleep •Diet •Exercise •Sunlight •Social Contact Spending time in nature is linked to positive mental health. Get outside! Stigma has silenced those living with mental health conditions for far too long. <br> Discuss your mental health concerns with your medical provider today <br>  PENDLETON Community Care, Inc. <br> Franklin (304)358-2355 • Riverton (304)567-2101

 Harman (304)227-4134 www.pccnfc.org
# Pendleton County Track and Field Finish Season Strong 

## Wildcat Boys Track and Field Set Personal Records at Jim Turbin, Compete in Charleston

By Stephen Smoot
As Pendieton County moves into late spring, tempera Throughout the season, the team has showed continued improvement.
On May 6, they competed in the venue that hosted thei first meet of the season, Alumni Stadium in Keyser. At the Jim Turbin Invitational, they ran and threw well with several setting personal records. In the 400 -meter race, Isaiah Lockard finished eighth with a time of 59.28. In the 800, Gage Sites-Woods earned the second slot with a personal record of 2:11.38. Gabe Harvey placed eighth with a personal best of 2:21.45, and Marcus Smith also set a personal record with 2:28.51 and a 12th place finish.
Thunder Gill took first place in the 3200-meter race with a personal best of 10:51.64.
In the 110 -meter hurdles, Sawyer Apple placed fourth with a personal best time of $18: 18$. He also took fifth in the 300 -meter hurdles with a time of 48.09 . Harvey took sixth with a personal record set at 48.25. Sites-Woods earned a seventh-place finish in the shot put with a toss of 37-4.00. Evan Teter claimed 16th with a throw of 30-6. Victor Rhodes set a personal record with a throw of 18. In the discus, Teter earned a personal record with a throw of $96-11$ and 10th place. Rhodes also threw for 41 . Apple claimed second place in the high jump with a mark of $5-0.600$ and third in the long jump with a distance of
18. Harvey placed third in the high jump with a mark of 18. Harv
$5-0.400$

5-0.400
On May 11, the team traveled to Doddridge County for the regionals. Sites-Woods placed second in the 800 meters. Apple earned a fifth-place finish in the 110-meter hurdles. The $4 \times 800$ relay team placed fourth and claimed a trip
Charleston as well. Some members earned their spots in Charleston outrigh at regionals. Others had to wait until the day after to learn

of their selection as at-large competitors. All 11 from both teams were "like kids at Christmas," head coach Christo pher Wilburn said.
On May 19 and 20, 11 Wildcats from both teams traveled to Laidley Field in the shadow of the golden dome of the State Capitol. On the first day, the $4 \times 800$ team of SitesWoods, Smith, Harvey, and Gill ran for a 9:21.36 and 12th place finish. Apple ran a 19.36 in the preliminaries
of the 110-meter hurdles.
Saturday brought more dreary conditions, but that did not slow down Wildcat aspirations. In the 800 meters, Sites-Woods, who also received his high school diploma on the field, placed 15 th with a time of $2: 11.44$.
Wilburn added that the success enjoyed this season was
"a good step in the right "a good step in the right direction." He added, "We're still

Wildcat Enjoys 100 Strikeout Season


Baylee Beachler earned her 100th strikeout of the season against rival Moorefield on May 5.
at $14-02.00$.
At the regi
At the regionals in Doddridge County, Apple earned a berth in the state track championships with a secondplace finish in the 300 -meter hurdles. Apple took fourth in the long jump, and the $4 \times 400$ relay team of Keiter, Hartman, Waggy, and Sites-Woods placed fifth. Christopher Wilburn, head coach, noted proudly that the $4 \times 400$ team "ran a second best time, cutting off 17 seconds at Doddridge." They shaved time off their performance in every week after the Jim Turbin Invitational. While some earned spots at the state meet outright, others had to find out the next morning if they were selected as at-large competitors. Wilburn compared their excitement to Christmas morning.
At the state track and field championships, the girls did not compete on Friday, but ran and threw under graying skies on day two. Apple, who missed graduation at Franklin to compete, took sixth in the 300 -meter hurdles, earning a time of 51.15 . In the long jump, she scored 11th with a distance of 14-00.25.
The $4 \times 400$ team of Keiter, Waggy, Sites-Woods, and Hartman placed 13th with a time of $4: 56.29$ Wilburn explained that late in the season, the team that though still young, the experience gained this season that though still young, the experience gained this season "I'm very hopeful" he said.


Thank You For Reading The Pendleton Times

The Pendleton County Economic and Community Development Authority SPECIAL MEETING Thursday, May 25, at 4 p.m.

Pendleton Community Building (299 Confederate Road, Franklin)
Purpose of the Meeting Is
Amending Bylaws

## Heartelt Thanks

We would like to give a special thank you for the acts of kindness everyone showed us during the loss of our wife, mother and grandmother - Basagic Funeral Home, pallbearers, Grant County Hospice, ladies that prepared and set up the meal, people who gave food, flowers, memorial items, money, phone calls and David Hartman for the wonderful message he shared. Also a very special thank you to Isaac and Jimmie Bennett and Ralph Huffman for their valuable time and hard work to prepare getting to and from the gravesite and for helping with grave digging and everything else they did.
May God richly bless you as He has us.
The Family of Sandy L. Vint

## Graduation

## Continued From Page

followed with an admonition to "thank teachers, staff, and the board of education for all that they've done." Then Johnson shared his appreciation for the "group
with the highest level of responsibility" for the successes of the class, the parents and guardians who cared for the students.
Johnson went on, saying, "We've created exceptional
moments." He mentioned the challenges that COVID laid in front of this class, then spoke of his pride in the students "working together regardless of obstacles put in our way.'
The last words of his talk spoke to the joy of a life well lived. Johnson advised "Life is like a Harley. Get on. Hang on. Enjoy the ride.'
Unique in the history of county graduations, this year's graduation coincided with the West Virginia state track championships. Riley Apple, salutatorian, and Gage Sites-Woods qualified for the state track championships, but had to miss graduation. Dave Eason, athletic director, accompanied the two seniors to Charleston to participate in a ceremony there.
Eason said "Between 12 and 1 p.m. there was a break in the events. Unfortunately, that is when the rain started." Officials invited Eason, Apple, and Sites-Woods to the infield where they played the National Anthem. Eason presented diplomas, then the announcer read information about each graduate.
Apple recorded a video to be played in lieu of her speech at graduation. She said, "I'm proud to represent Pendleton County one last time." Apple then stated that "there are many more memories and accomplishments to be made,", through the power of "yet." In her talk, the word "yet" represents the potential of each student to achieve their
dreams. "Even if you have not made it 'yet,' if you believe dreams. "Even if you have not made it 'yet,' if you believe in its power and work towards your goals, success is pos-
sible," she said.
Rowan Witt, who earned the title of valedictorian, described her experience at the high school as "kind, determined, resourceful." She shared her personal stories of struggling to find her way as a freshman. When COVID struck and transformed school radically, ""
COVID dampen our spirits" or "define us."
COVID dampen our spirits" or "define us."
Sonny O'Neil, member of the Pendleton County Board Sonny O'Neil, member of the Pendleton County Board
of Education, then rose to deliver the keynote address. of Education, then rose to deliver the keynote address. Trucking and other firms, then his experience officiating Trucking and other
high school sports,
O'Neil shared three important life lessons that graduates should carry forward into their adult lives. First, he said all should be "learning to give" and focused on volunteering as vital. No one can save the world on their how to make a difference."
Next, he discussed accountability. He explained that "taking responsibility empowers you." Those who always try to shift blame also end up shifting credibility away hom themselves. They will always live in the shadow of Finally, O'Neil accept responsibility,
world, be kind"" urged that "if you can be anything in this wisdom of the Preacher in Ecclesiastes, who said "there is a time for every season and every purpose under heaven." Next came the always heart-warming tradition of the senior slide show. Each student provided a current picture, along with photos of their choice. These included baby pictures, school memories, fun times at home, or extracurricular activities such as athletics, FFA, and more. Each student then took a place in line to hear their name and receive their diploma. When seated again, degrees in hand, they got permission to move their tassel, signifying the closing of one chapter in life and the opening to the rest of the book.
Principal Johnson shared his final thoughts with the class, saying, "You are ready, willing, and more than As th a the gym, caremony closed, the graduates filed back out another beautiful Pendleton County a sunflower into another beautiful Pendleton County May morning and of their lives.

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## Seneca Caverns

## Continued From Page

cascade over a formation. In the case of the Dutch oven, the slow extension of the formation created a two-story high hollow dome. As Gardner explained, these stone formations are much more fragile than most imagine. Some outcroppings could break at a single touch. Worse, a single touch could leave skin oils that prevent mineral absorption and stop the building of the formation.
The caverns also feature a number of "rooms," which are large open areas of the cave. Gardner shared an old Seneca Nation tale of a headstrong princess named Snowbird who made herself part of the lore of the cave.
The legend of Princess Snowbird is one of many amazing stories shared on the tour. The princess loved the caverns so much that she insisted in holding her marriage in one of the caverns' largest open areas, now called the Grand Ballroom. Some visitors today even relive the legend by holding their own nuptials there.

Dwayne Propst, Heather Vance, David Harper, Jim Phillips, Chris Mongold, Amber Nesselrod
grand reopening of Seneca Caverns. Nesselrodt serves as CVB director. The rest represent Greer.


As Gardner explained later, humans have not been the on creatures exploring the caves. Gardner picked up a sma piece of black wood in the "Cowboy Graveyard" section. She explained that the rotting wood provided sustenance for the Appalachian cave worm, a species native to it.
Propst explained that the recent decision to open the caverns has not yet gotten around, saying "I think enoug people have chatted about it and it's starting to make it really positive effect on the restaurant as well."
Seneca Caverns' impact goes far beyond providing an en joyable day of entertainment. "The caverns have been a big asset to the community," says Amber Nesselrodt, executiv director of the Pendleton County Convention and Visitor Bureau. She added that "this is just one more gem that visi tors to Pendleton County love and come back to experien over and over again.


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By Dyer Anderson
The descendants of Captain John and Elizabeth Carr Boggs gathered April 29 at Seneca Rocks Presbyterian Church for their 11th biennial reunion. COVID had caused the cancellation of reunions since 2018.
John Boggs was captain of the Pendleton Home Guards, later Company A, 46th West Virginia Volunteers of the Union Army in the Civil War. He and Elizabeth had settled on a farm near Seneca Rocks. Boggs was a leader in community affairs and was a delegate to the Wheeling convention which established West Virginia as a state in 1862 . He served as a delegate from Pendleton County for two non-consecutive terms in early West Virginia legislatures.
The pull of West Virginians to their roots was captured by John Denver in his classic "Country Roads." There is ample confirming evidence. For example, the Pendleton County Historical Society has members in 26 states. Of the 31 attendees at this Boggs reunion, only two currently reside in Pendleton County. Reunion participants came from as far away as Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Past reunions have attracted family from Colorado, Texas, and Florida.
Pressure to have a reunion came from those outside the county wanting contact with their roots. The chair of the reunion committee from its inception in 2000 has been Howard Boggs of Keyser. The committee has Dyer and Anne Anderson of Annandale, Virginia, Greta Skidmore Evick and Charles Evick of Harrisonburg, Virginia, and the late Browning Boggs
of Franklin. They have served for 23 years.

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The John Boggs family and the Union sympathizers were concentrated in Union Magisterial District in the northwest section of the county, north of Riverton. Over the years de-
scendants have been prominent in county affairs. Grandson scendants have been prominent in county affairs. Grandson
Gordon Boggs was elected to two terms as clerk of court in the early years of the last century. He married Elsie Byrd, a local historian and author, for example, of "The History of Franklin." She was a charter member of the Pendleton County Historical Society and was an officer and leader for 38 years. Her daughter, Elizabeth, served as president for a period and daughter, Grace, later served as vice president. Grace left the family home to be used as a county history museum, cementing the family legacy in local affairs.
The Seneca Rocks church is the perfect venue for the reunion Historically the family worshipped there and was instrumental in building the church. Family elders hauled river rocks in horse drawn farm wagons to the construction site. Others were active in fundraising. The family immigrated from Ireland but were Protestant, presumptively Scots Irish Presbyterians. The lunch was catered by Lucy Kisamore who has done the honors admirably for years and has become a de facto family member. The reunion program included memorializing those who died since the previous reunion. There was a raffle of door prizes. Smoke Hole Caverns generously donated a door prize. Other prizes were membership in the Pendleton County Historical Society and a subscription to The Pendleton Times. Howard Boggs gave a door prize in memory of his late wife, Annette, who was a valuable member of the reunion committee. The
traditional prime door prize is a large painting of the Boggs

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Mill, a family landmark and a North Fork institution. Th picture rotates among raffle winners.
A key item of business was the selection of new reunion com mittee leaders. The new leaders are Candice (Boggs) DeVor of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Jan (Boggs) Miller of Delphos Muse The meeting adjourned to allow visiting the Boggs Hous Museum in Franklin, which has undergone major renovatio since the last reunion.
An interesting additional fact of the Boggs family story in the Virgoggs' older brother, James, was a Brigadier Gener He was also thilitia, subsequently the Confederate Army Assembly. H.M. Calhoun in "Twixt North and South" report on divided family loyalties in the war. It is truly remarkable that these first-generation immigrant men would rise to be to leaders in their organizations. John was the senior Union office in the county and James was the senior Confederate officer. Both were elected as county delegates to their respective sta legislatures. James Boggs died early in the war, 1862, so on would assume there was no chance for the brothers to reconcile Between now and Treasure Mountain Festival many week ends will feature family reunions. Pendleton County is a place many folks are from. Similarly, it is a place many people lov to return to for a visit. The half century success of the festiva demonstrates the point. Plans are for a Boggs reunion nex year, reestablishing the practice of even-year reunions. Th manuscript "Boggs Descendants of Pendleton County WV" will be updated

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and contracts in the following areas: general accounting external and contracts in the following areas: general accounting, external
auditing, budget/administration, grants management, financial analysis, statutory accounting and compliance with accounting/audit-
ing guidelines and procedures. ing guidelines and procedures. The work may require considerable travel.
This
This position requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least 6 semester hours in accounting. The
position also requires at least one year of full-time or equivalent position also requires at least one year of fuli-time or equivale
part-time paid professional experience in statutory accounting. master's degree in accounting may substitute for the required experience. Relevant experience in accounting/auditing may substitute for attained degree if deemed applicable.
interested individuals should submit a letter of interest to
Terry Lively, Executive Director of the Region 8 PDC
131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847. Deadline for application is June 15

Amy Dean, HR Manager
PO Box 1119, Petersburg WV 26847
or by email amy.dean@phgmail.net

## Gonshor, Havner, Roberson Named Students of the Month

Elizabeth Gonshor, Lydia Heavner and Colton Roberson have been named outstanding students of the month for March at Pendleton County High/Middle School. A senior, Gonshor is the James Huffman Responsible Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Kevin and
Michelle Gonshor of Franklin. She is a member of National Michelle Gonshor of Franklin. She is a member of National
Honor Society and current president of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Chapter. She plans to attend West Liberty College in the fall to pursue a career in dental hygiene.
Heavner, a sophomore, is the March Academic Student of the Month. She is a member of FFA where she is the chapter reporter and is on the poultry judging, land judging and parliamentary procedure teams. She has earned the Star
Greenhand honor and Greenhand and Chapter FFA degrees. During her freshman year, she placed second in the regional FFA creed competition. During the current school year, she was a member of the fourth-place poultry judging team in the state, along with earning first in extemporaneous speaking and in parliamentary procedure competition on the regional level. She is a member of FCCLA where she serves as chapter treasurer and has earned gold in STAR events. She is member of the Upper Tract Producers 4-H Club where she is the president and has competed in poultry judging,都estock judging and the Beef Expo Stockman's Contest. She is the secretary of the class of 2025 and a member of the Pep Club, Travel Club and National Honor Society. She placed second in the social studies fair. Her plans are to in an agricultural related field. She is the daughter of JD and Janice Heavner
The Pendleton County Middle School Student of the Month is Colton Roberson. He is the son of Chris and Lisa Roberson of Franklin. He enjoys playing football, basketball and baseball. His future plans include attending WestPoint, playing football and enlisting in the Army.
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# Tuesday, May 30 

Cook's Choice
Wednesday, May 31
Cheeseburger Deluxe Tator Tots
Broccoli Salad
Peaches
Birthday Cake
Thursday, June 1
Taco Salad
Corn
Pears
Meals served daily at the Franklin center from 11:45
to 12:15. Two percent milk
served with served with every meal
Menus are subject to change


