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Thursday May 25, 2023

Pendleton County Seniors Cross The Stage for 2023 Graduation

By Stephen Smoot

Graduation Day 2023 opened on a perfectly warm spring day. Parents, family, friends, teachers, and staff filled the gym quietly, but happily. Younger family members excitedly joined their families, perhaps dreaming of their turn to wear the Carolina or

the stage and receive their diplomas.

The gymnasium is the center of school social life, and as such is an appropriate venue for graduation. Some graduates represented their school in athletic competition on that very floor. Others cheered from the stands. All of these stu-

navy blue robes to ascend dents invested hard work and time for their degrees. Some established a legacy. All should be proud.

> Graduation opened with a prayer and stating "thank you for the friends we've made and all our classmates." Timothy John son, principal of Pendleton County Middle/High School

Continued on Page 7



Pendleton County seniors spending their last moments as high school students before the ceremony

Community CALENDAR

Scheduled At Circleville

A community spring revival will be held May 30 to June 1 at the Harold K. Michael Building in Circleville. Nightly speakers will be Brent Showalter, Patrick Godfrey and Shirley Bland, respectively.

The evening will begin with a fellowship meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by special music, including Cameron Kisamore and Vapor 4:14, at 6:30 p.m. The message will be delivered at 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to at-

EDA To Hold **Special Meeting**

The Pendleton County Economic and Community Development Authority will hold a special meeting at 4 p.m. today at the Pendleton Community Building in Franklin. The purpose of the meeting is to amend the bylaws.

Senior Center To Host Evening Meal Today

Franklin Senior Center will be hosting its May movie and evening meal today. The movie starts at 2 p.m. and evening meal starts at 5 p.m. No lunch will be served. To reserve a meal, call 304-358-2421.

Memorial Day Service Planned At Sugar Grove

VFW Post 9666 Sugar Grove will be hosting Memorial Day Service at 11 a.m. Monday at Rich Homan VFW Memorial Park in Sugar Grove. Refreshments will be served.

The public is invited to at-

Weekend Hiking Emergency Exposes Spring Revival Public Safety Situation

By Stephen Smoot

Pendleton 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 coordinator.

Last weekend, that fear almost materialized. James D. Wheeler, a 56-year-old tourist from Marietta, Ohio, was reported missing at approximately 11:51 p.m. on May 20 by family. He and his son, along with friends, had gone hiking and fishing along Laurel Run. This stream flows into the North Fork at Judy Gap and extends westward into the rugged mountains of the area.

Observers reported seeing Wheeler at 5:35 in the evening on

Nine separate agencies from West Virginia and Virginia, along with concerned citizens, joined to search. With temperatures dipping into the 30s in parts of the area, ground crews struggled through the night to find him with no success.

Fortunately, "at approximately 1p.m. Sunday, Deputy Sheriff R. W. Kelly of the Highland County Sheriff's Dept. reported having found Wheeler along South Christian Run Trail, which would be the nearest access point to Laurel Run, south of where WV personnel last searched for him," according to a release from Pendleton County Emergency Management.

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 signal pattern null required by the NRQZ to

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 month we recently responded to 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 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 offers incredible, and millennia old, formations and "rooms" for the delight of any visitor.

Seneca Caverns Reopens an **Underground World Beloved** By Locals and Visitors Alike

By Stephen Smoot

Seneca Caverns enthusiasts have waited for almost two years for their favorite destination to open, one whose formation was hundreds of millions of years in the making.

One hundred million years before the first dinosaurs roamed the earth, a shallow ocean expanded westward into what is now West Virginia. Over the millennia, living creatures who made the sea their home excreted lime. Other creatures died off, adding their bodies' lime content to the mix. Lime settled to the bottom and hardened into the familiar limestone that underlies the Pendleton County region.

Lime accumulated between two of the main periods of mountain building in West Virginia. Geologists also know the occasionally 1,000foot thick layer as the "Big Lime." As time passed, the

and tore the underlying rock Propst who administers the strata, helping to open avenues for groundwater to traverse the depths beneath. Restaurant only a hundred Limestone is particularly susceptible to dissolving in

Water's patient forces of both destruction and creation constructed the natural wonder of Seneca Caverns. Destruction carved out the rooms and passages. Creation 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 welcomed locals to the reopening of the caverns with both their scenic and scientific wonders. The weather cooperated, providing a warm breezy day under a nearly cloudless sky.

"It's been a whole lot more taining minerals regularly fun telling people we'll open

collision of continents ripped on the 20th," says Dwayne attraction for Greer. He also serves as a chef at Asbury's feet from the cave's opening.

The caverns will open only on the weekends between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to accommodate the work schedule of nearby Greer Limestone. The restaurant, gift shop, and gemstone mining will be open between Wednesday and Saturday.

A tour of the cave opens an underground realm of wonder. On this occasion, local guide Kira Gardner explained the history and the science behind Seneca Caverns. One of the first marvels she described turned out to be one of the largest, a "flowstone" formation called the "Dutch oven."

Flowstones form over millennia as sheets of water con-

Continued on Page 7

Concerns Shared with County Commission over Costly Fire Hazard from Wind Turbines

By Stephen Smoot

The Pendleton County Commission tackled a light agenda in its second May meeting with the Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County present to share concerns over wind turbine safety.

Commissioner Roger Dahmer opened the meeting with the customary prayer, sharing, "Father, we pray that You speak to us and speak through us."

Scott Somerville rose to represent the Facebook group. He started his talk with "I really appreciate the service you all do for the county," referring to recent lengthy meetings and work sessions undertaken by the body. Then he shared the concerns of his group over the potential fire hazard inherent in wind energy devices, saying "industrial wind turbines are a known fire hazard."

He discussed the potential for serious damage should a wind turbine catch fire from either a lightning strike or mechanical malfunction. The height of turbines, he said, could make putting fires out problematic. "They are way up there. You can't put them out," Somerville

Somerville's next point was that wind turbines can take advantage of reasonably relaxed liability laws 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 dam-

ages 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

tightly as power plants.

She added that "stakeholders at the government and community level are likely to push for regulatory changes to ensure any wind-turbine fires are suppressed before the flames can spread beyond the asset."

In a different article for Windpower Engineering and Development written in 2020, Krcmar warned that "a wind farm can expect to face one to two fires over the course of its operational lifetime." Also, since most fire response units do not have the equipment to combat a fire at the elevation of the turbine unit, they are generally relegated to a reactionary role, trying to prevent their spread.

County departments had little to update. In other business, the commission approved keeping Cary Hevener on the library board for another five-year term.

Commissioners also approved a reimbursement for the South Fork Volunteer Fire Department. During their response to the wildfires, one of their vehicles blew out a clutch. The cost of replacement was approximately \$2,500.

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James "Jimmy" Logan Barnes, Jr.

James "Jimmy" Logan Barnes, Jr., 23 of Harrisonburg, Virginia, died May 18, 2023, at Sentara RMH following a sudden and serious health issue.

Born Sept. 30, 1999, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, he was a 2018 graduate of Turner Ashby High School and a member of Mossy Creek Presbyterian

Mr. Barnes lived a full life in spite of the challenges of living with the neuromuscular disease that impeded him from a normal life. He still managed to touch so many

people. He could connect with people without saying a word, and his pleasant demeanor and sense of humor attracted people to him.

He loved to travel, seeing new places and having new experiences. His favorite places included Historic Williamsburg, the Smithsonian museums, Disney World and Give Kids The World Village. Spending time with his family and friends and being in the company of his pets provided him countless hours of happiness and joy.

Surviving are his mother and stepfather, Anne and Warren McKeen of Harrisonburg, Virginia; his father, James L. Barnes of Harrisonburg, Virginia; a sister, Emmy Smith and family of Harrisonburg, Virginia; grandparents, Arvella and Charles Blair of Bridgewater, Virginia, and Patricia C. McKeen of Bethany; aunts and uncles, Tom and Ellen Blair and son, John Blair of Arlington, Virginia, Russ and Missy McKeen and family of Clarksburg and Debra Warmuth and family of Wheeling.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, James H. and Willie C. Barnes and W. James McKeen; and a cousin, Catherine E. Blair.

The family is very appreciative of the support and care provided to him by the doctors, nursing staff and Palliative Care staff at Sentara RMH, also the care provided by his nurses, past and present and special friend and nurse, Jody Droulliard of Grottoes, Vir-

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. at Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church on Saturday. Interment will immediately follow the service in the Mossy Creek Church Cemetery. There will be a time with friends and family following the burial in the church fellowship hall.

The family requests donations be made in his memory to one of the following: Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church, 372 Kyles Mill Road, Mt Solon, VA 22843; smashSMARD, 6 Exmoor Drive, Lincolnshire, IL 60069

(online) smashSMARD.org; and/or Rockingham Harrisonburg SPCA, 2170 Old Furnace Road, Harrisonburg, VA

Arrangements are by Johnson Funeral and Cremation Service in Bridgewater, Vir-



Max Lee Rodriguez

Thursday, May 18, 2023, became Heaven Day for Max Lee Rodriguez, 44, of Mount Crawford, Virginia.

He was born Aug. 8, 1978, in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and was the son of Magdalene Martinez of New York and the late Leonardo Rodriguez.

Mr. Rodriguez was employed 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 to Harrisonburg, Virginia.

One of his favorite past times was watching football games. He also enjoyed car shows, but his three sons were the joy of his life. He could be found attending his sons' basketball or soccer games, or just kicking 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 events, picnicking, hiking, and volleyball playing at the Killbuck Riflemen Range at 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 of Harrisonburg, Virginia, and Carmelo Rodriguez of Mount Crawford, Virginia; two sisters, Kamiash Brown and husband, Jodi, and Isha Suarez and husband, Anthony Ramsey, all of New York; a grandchild, Jonahliz Rodriguez; mother-in-law, Frances Conrad Morgan and husband, Robert of Rockingham, Virginia; father-inlaw, James "Jed" Conrad of Fort Seybert; sisters-in-law, Susan Melendez and husband, Alex of Rockingham, Virginia, Sara Ferrell and husband, Joe of Mt. Crawford, Virginia, and Andrea Cunningham and husband, Jim of Buckhannon; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In honoring his request, the burial was held Sunday at Fairview Cemetery in Ft. Seybert with Pastor Scott Schneiderman officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to Blue Ridge Christian

Memories and words of comfort may be left at www. kygers.com or at www. Basagic.com.

Local arrangements were under the direction of the Basagic Funeral Home in

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

By Stephen Smoot

In 2022, Elias Coop-Gonzalez chose to tackle the challenge of running against an established incumbent for a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates. After a spirited and sometimes contentious race, the young immigrant from Guatemala rose to it, won his race, and earned

For 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 of Randolph. He earned selection to the committees on banking and insurance, energy and manufacturing, political 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 first term is how seriously he approached being a delegate."

The best state legislators rely heavily on principle to guide their actions. Delegate Coop-Gonzalez ran on three "c's," Christianity, conservatism, and the Constitution. He said that "To my . . . constituents, I cannot implore you enough to become well-versed in the Constitution. If citizens 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 remains a challenge for many, he shared, saying that "It was . . . surprising that not many people in office knew much about the Constitution. While legislating, the Constitution was the sole document I referred to when voting."

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, religious freedom, and more.

Going 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 as supporting "every bill which helped fund fire departments." Here he encountered one of the discouraging aspects of public service, working hard on issues that do not get enough support elsewhere. Coop-Gonzalez explained "the Legislature was too busy giving financial incentives to casinos and subsidizing Bill Gates backed batter companies."

"When you consider his age," Scott said, "his understanding of issues and legislation really amazed me."

He did succeed in helping to pass the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act, "statutorily reinforcing our state's pro-life laws," and "killing eminent domain laws which violated the Constitu-

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 highest moral character, including Geoff Foster, Pat McGeehan, and Laura Kimble."

He also worked well with fellow Pendleton County delegate Bryan Ward. Ward said of Coop-Gonzalez, "Coop 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 he does, folks listen." Pendleton County Commissioner Roger Dahmer added that he appreciated Coop-Gonzalez trying to pass legislation that the county supported.

Despite what seems like a relatively short window in which to do business, Coop-Gonzalez learned that law making follows its own process that not only goes step by step, but takes twists and turns as well. "Don't get too caught in the moment. It's a long game," he stated.

As with everything else, however, every issue goes back to the Constitution. "Next time a candidate asks us for our vote, we should ask them how much they know about the Constitution. If they can't answer that question, it is time to find a better candidate. If there isn't a better candidate, then it is time to be that candidate."

He added, "Our country has steered away from its roots, but it is possible to save her if we guide her back to them. Duty is ours. Results are God's."

Saturday, June 3 • 9 a.m. - ?

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Town Pool News

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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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10 Years Ago Week of May 16, 2013

Cemetery Maintenance Tips Shared

Cemeteries receive more attention as Memorial Day approaches. The Fort Seybert Heritage Educational Association volunteers continue to conduct on-site documentation at cemeteries throughout the county as part of the Identification and Preservation Project. The results of this project are available at the Pendleton County Library and are also in the process of being stored at the State Historic Preservation Office in Charleston.

Volunteers have learned conservation and preservation techniques by attending workshops presented by professional conservators.

As Memorial Day approaches, and during other occasions, flowers are placed on the gravesites. Again, it is best to either place the flowers in urns that sometimes are attached to the headstone or placed a few inches from the headstone. Flowers wired or wrapped around a stone can make inscriptions difficult to read. Wiring decorative flowers over the face of the headstone has led to discoloration of the stone. Using the wrong material causes further damage.

This is usually the time of year when maintenance is done. There is a difference between mowing a lawn and mowing a cemetery. Learn the correct way to cut the grass to avoid damage to the headstones. Grass scissors or clippers are best when working close to headstones. A weedeater with the finest string is okay to use. Remove dried grass from the base of headstones when finished because it can also cause damage. Small trees do grow to be big ones and have been known to encircle headstones or intrude into burial sites. Shrubs do this as well. Trees 12 feet or above could be left as they most likely were there when the cemetery was started. Yucca plants were common in old cemeteries; however, they can take over and go beyond the cemetery. Once a cemetery is cleaned,

it would be so helpful if there is a designated cemetery committee who would make arrangements for perpetual care or maintenance followup. It is so disappointing to those who come from out of state, clean a cemetery, including tree removal, place headstones in position and build a walk, only to return to find the cemetery needing basic maintenance. An observation, be sure each generation knows the history of the cemetery and whether there is a trust fund established for that cemetery.

There are many "orphan" cemeteries where no descendants can be located.

West Virginia Cemetery Law is now in effect that protects the headstones and burial sites. Permission is required to relocate a burial

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.

The year was 1788.

The 13 American colonies were still struggling to form an effective union.

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 of the United States until the following year, 1789.

Eight leading citizens of the area, commissioned justices by the governor of Virginia, met in the barn of

The day was June 2.

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 arrangements for the construction of a courthouse.

Thus was formed the county of Pendleton.

And it was none too soon, for the population of the portion of Rockingham County west of the mountains was growing steadily. Travel for these people to the county seat, a distance of 30 to 60 miles across the high and rugged mountains, was burdensome and distasteful.

It was in recognition of this growing population and the difficulty the pioneers had in communicating with the county seat that the Virginia General Assembly on December 4, 1787, passed an act 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 provided that the justices should meet at the house of Zeraiah Stratton, but tradition has it that they met in the barn, instead, presumably because there was not sufficient room in

the house. Commissioned justices by the governor of Virginia and given the responsibility of organizing the new county were the following: Robert Davis, John Skidmore, Moses Hinkle, James Dyer, Isaac Hinkle, Robert Poage, James Skidmore, Matthew Patton, Peter Hull, James Patterson and Jacob Hoover. Of the 11 justices thus named, all were present for their first meeting except three, Robert Poage, Peter Hull and Jacob

Hoover. The office of justice in the 18th Century was one of con-

siderable responsibility. They served not only as justices of the peace, but also as a board of county commissioners. They were commissioned by the governor to serve for life. Although citizens of the county could vote for members 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 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, John Skidmore, Christian Ruleman, Ulrich Conrad and John Dunkle; constables, 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 \$166.67. Voting places were decided upon, overseers of roads were selected and Moses Hinkle was authorized to solemnize marriages.

Not only was the method of selecting local officials different 175 years ago, but living conditions were different from those of today in many

- other respects: • To be a voter a man had to own a plot of 25 acres, including 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 reckoned equal to one pound 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 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 needed rather than in a bottle.

- Prominent frontier games played by the children were throwing tomahawks so as to make them stick in trees, and imitating the sounds of
- The penalty for stealing a hog was 35 lashes on the bare back for the first offense; for the second offense, he was to stand two hours in the pillory on a public day with ears nailed fast, and at the end of two hours, his ears were to be 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 misdemeanor in court in 1790, and another man was sentenced to receive 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 1787 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 exclusively white, fairly evenly distributed among the three valleys of the North Fork, South Branch and South

Pendleton began its separate existence as the ninth of the counties which now constitute the State of West Virginia.

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

Port Hudson Attacked; 2nd Siege Begins

the Federal armies during 1862 and 1863, came under fire in battle for what is believed to be the first time in the Civil War 100 years ago this week.

It was in an attack on Port Hudson, La., on the Mississippi 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 from plantations in the area and had long since been performing work for the Federal Army. Gen. Nathaniel Banks, commanding Federal troops in Louisiana, brought them with him in a march northward in early 1863.

Banks' purpose was to join Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in an attack on Vicksburg, but he never made it far enough north to do Grant any good. In his path lay Port Hudson, manned by 7,000 Confederates, and Banks realized he must destroy that garrison before he could help Grant.

On the morning of May 27th—five days after Grant's opening attack on Vicksburg—Bank's men, 13,000 strong, moved out through a dense magnolia forest against the Port Hudson

The affair was a "gigantic bush-whack," according to one veteran, and he meant it in the literal sense. The magnolias were so thick, the ravines so choked with fallen timber, and the ground so covered with undergrowth, he wrote, "that it was difficult not only to move but even to

Confederate artillery opened on the charging Federals, but they quickly brought up their own artillery 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 caught them in open ground and drove them back with heavy slaughter. Another Federal detachment charged through the center but became entangled in a mass of fallen trees and were repulsed.

By nightfall, the Federals had gained commanding positions but had not broken the Confederate line. Their attack had cost them 2,000 men - 1,500 of themwounded, while the Confederates had lost only 235. That night, Banks withdrew and prepared for a siege. It was a small scale repetition of Grant's tactics at Vicksburg, where another siege was underway.

Inside Port Hudson, Con-Negro troops, who had federate Gen. Frank Gardner, with his back to the river and his front facing Yankees, received an order telling him to evacuate Port Hudson and move upstate. The orders had come too late.

> Next week: Lee begins Pennsylvania invasion.

70 Years Ago Week of May 21, 1953

Twenty-Six to Graduate At Circleville

Twenty-six seniors will graduate tonight at Circleville High School in the twenty-third annual commencement exercises.

Sixty-One To Graduate at Franklin

Sixty-one seniors will graduate Friday night at Franklin High in the fortieth annual commencement exercises.

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Smith Creek/ Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

Summer vacations begin with the Memorial Day weekend. The weather is going to be great this weekend as many travellers will be coming through the area, heading to their camping sites.

Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins - Mary Mitchell, Bucky Moyers, Pam Riner, Anna Tesi, Ruby Propst, Larry Moyers, Alice Johnson, Arlin Dale and Freda Jamison, Hazel Simmons, Mary Alice Simmons, Reva Hartman, Sandy Washburn and Sandra Vandevander; prayer list - Richard Campbell, Brian Wilton, Tyler Moore, Tristan Hartman, Ronald Hayes, Becky Hedrick, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Doug Judy, Jack 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, Jimmie Bennett, Pam Rexrode, Jason Rexrode, Margaret Wimer, Doris Simmons, Harry Allen Warner, Sherman Bennett, Melford Moates, Barry Simmons, Cameron Beachler, Vestyl Bible, Wendell Nelson, Norma Reel, Nancy George, Sarah Thomas and the family of Tim Rodgers.

Prayer thought: "Let's thank God that we can eat and drink and find satisfaction in all our actions, for this is His gift. Help me to be grateful for Your every

blessing in life." High and low temperatures and precipitation for May 15 through May 21, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: May $15 - 63^{\circ}$, 54° (75° , 53° , .1"); May 16 - 67° , 55° (74° , 42° , .16"); May 17 - 74° , $47^{\circ} (76^{\circ}, 43^{\circ}); \text{May } 18 - 71^{\circ},$ 39° (72°, 45°, .18"); May 19 - 73°, 44° (77°, 57°, .18"); May $20 - 69^{\circ}$, 54° , .03" (87°, 56° , .01") and May 21 - 73°, 46° (89°, 55°, .43").

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Circleville

5:30 - Free Fellowship Meal **6:30** - Special Music

(including Cameron Kisamore, Vapor 4:14 and More)

7:00 - Message **Speakers:**

May 30 — Brent Showalter May 31 — Patrick Godfrey

June 1 — Shirley Bland

Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Revive us again!



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, but also any loved ones – family, friends, sometimes even 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 on honoring military dead, but also on honoring and celebrating friends and family who have died.

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 hundreds of miles to return to their roots to participate in this event. In some ways, it was like a family reunion. In other 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 American 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 rebirth 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:

- 1. Find time to play.
- 2. Hug often.
- 3. Don't do anything that wouldn't make one's parents
- 4. Do at least one good deed every day.

5. Marry the right person. This one decision will determine 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 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 haven't spent the night with a mosquito." — African Proverb "No good movie is too long and no had movie is short 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

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 he will be studying experimental science in forestry.

Visitors of Rosalee Grogg were Steven and Skyler Grogg, Marleta Wimer, Terry Grogg and Claude Castle-

Leslie, Shaun, and Ava Bowers enjoyed the sixthgrade field trip to Washington, DC, on Thursday. While there, they very much enjoyed exploring the museums and monuments.

Joel and Betsy Farrar of Lynchburg, Virginia, were Saturday visitors in the home of Willard and Judy Rader.

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

- •Tides in the Bay of Fundy rise and fall as much as 50 feet every 12 hours.
- Pacific Coast Indians once used blankets for money.
- The crocodile is the closest living relative to the dino-

•The Greeks believed the patterns on a peacock's tail

- were once the hundred eyes of the mythical giant, Argus. • Each U.S. President may design his own presidential
- •The Sahara Desert is larger in area then the 48 continental 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 Hartman, Ed Keller, Carolyn Wilfong and Stanley Kile, 12th; and Betty Gail Hartman, 13th.



Homer Malcolm Simmons (Jan. 2, 1898 - March 21, 1981) married Phoebe Elizabeth Eve (May 19, 1902 - May 1, 1987). To this union were added Burley Crawford, Helen Corrine, and Edwin Eugene. Homer was the son of James Harvey (April 2, 1868 - June 29, 1940) and Lucinda Sybilla Dove (May 23, 1878 - Aug. 20, 1947).

Concerns for this week are many, and they are as follows: Charles Anderson, Roger and Joan Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Vernon "Fuzzy" Baldwin, Lynn Beatty, Debbie Beal, Jed Conrad, Jeff Craig, Mary Eye, Donna Fleisher, Lola Graham, Jordan Greathouse, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Gary and Jackie Hills, Virgil Homan, Jr., Myrtle Hoover, Debbie Horst, Mike Jamison, Alice Johnson, Richard Judy, Danny Kimble, Dennis Kincaid, Kim Kline, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Rex Landis, Angela Lung, Linda Malcolm, Betty Mallow, Roger and Skip Mallow, Neil McLaughlin, the Gary Mitchell family, Melvin Moats, Aaron Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Don Nilsen, Cheryl Paine, Barbara Parker, Sutton Parrack, Shirley Pratt, Alda Propst, Kathy Propst, Linda Propst, Sheldon Propst, K.D. Puffenbarger, Mary and Eldon Puffenbarger, Dick Rexrode, Harley Propst, Jason Rexrode, Jimmy Rexrode, Pam Rexrode, the Tim Rodgers family, the Max Rodriguez family, Donna Ruddle, John Ruddle, Annie Simmons, Barry and Phyllis Simmons, Davey Simmons, Erin Simmons, Robbie Sites, Ona Smith, Rosa Tichenor, Sandra Vandevander, Amy Vaus, Judy Williams and Mar-

Healthy Saturday



June 3, 2023

6:00 am - 9:00 am

- Limited to **200** people.
- Appointment Only ~ Please contact Julie Kesner at 304-257-5806 by June 1 to register.
- No walk-ins.
- Masks are optional.

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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 Pendleton County moves into late spring, temperatures have heated up and so has the boys' track team. Throughout the season, the team has showed continued improvement.

On May 6, they competed in the venue that hosted their 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

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 4x800 relay team placed fourth and claimed a trip to Charleston as well.

Some members earned their spots in Charleston outright at regionals. Others had to wait until the day after to learn



The Wildcat relay runners placed fourth at regionals and earned their way to Charleston.

of their selection as at-large competitors. All 11 from both teams were "like kids at Christmas," head coach Christopher 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 4x800 team of Sites-Woods, Smith, Harvey, and Gill ran for a 9:21.36 and a 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 15th with a time of 2:11.44.

Wilburn added that the success enjoyed this season was "a good step in the right direction." He added, "We're still really young, but we started to progress from last year."

Wildcat Enjoys 100 Strikeout Season



Baylee Beachler earned her 100th strikeout of the season against





rival Moorefield on May 5.

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

Heartfelt 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



Riley Apple's leap at regionals qualified her to compete at state.

Wildcat Girls Track Enjoys a Strong May to Close the Season

By Stephen Smoot

Pendleton County track has come a long way since just last year. More girls came out to compete and many continued to compete at higher levels as the year went on. In May, their journey took them from Keyser to Doddridge County and to the state championships in Charleston.

On May 6, the girls went to Keyser High School's Alumni Stadium for the Jim Turbin Invitational.

There, Laney Sites-Woods took fourth place in the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.5. Riley Apple placed fifth in the 200 meters, marking a time of 30.29. Sites-Woods followed right behind in sixth place at 30.71.

In the 400-meter race, Emma Hartman scored a personal record with a 1:13.82 time and a fourth-place finish. Aubree Keiter followed in sixth with 1:16.35. Sites-Woods took eighth with 1:17.91 and Brynlynn Waggy placed ninth with a personal best of 1:18.01.

Apple took second place in the 100-meter hurdles, running for a personal best of 18.03. She performed even better in the 300 meters, seizing first place at 52.36. In the 4x400, the squad of Hartman, Keiter, Sites-Woods, and Waggy took second place with a time of 5:10.82.

BreAnna Wolfe threw the shot put for 22-11.00 and a 14th place finish. She then placed 10th in discuss with a distance of 64. Hartman leapt for a 4-02 in the high jump, and Apple set a season record in the long jump

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 4x400 relay team of Keiter, Hartman, Waggy, and Sites-Woods placed fifth.

Christopher Wilburn, head coach, noted proudly that the 4x400 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 4x400 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 "really started to believe in themselves." He explained that though still young, the experience gained this season had helped the squad progress.

"I'm very hopeful," he said.

104th Birthday Card Shower GRACE HEDRICK **May 25** Happy 104th Cards may be sent to her at **Birthday** 1277 Mt. Hope Rd., Upper Tract, WV 26866



I wish to thank all the people who sent me cards on my 90th birthday. What a blessing it is

to live in a county that cares so much about each other.

God Bless

GREY CASSELL

Graduation

Continued From Page 1

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 in its power and work towards your goals, success is possible," 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, "we didn't let COVID dampen our spirits" or "define us."

Sonny O'Neil, member of the Pendleton County Board of Education, then rose to deliver the keynote address. He described his time working in the region for Hinkle Trucking and other firms, then his experience officiating 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 own, but "volunteering allows you to choose where and 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 from themselves. They will always live in the shadow of those unafraid to accept responsibility.

Finally, O'Neil urged that "if you can be anything in this world, be kind," and advised graduates to appreciate the 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 able"

As the ceremony closed, the graduates filed back out of the gym, carrying their diploma and a sunflower into another beautiful Pendleton County May morning and the rest of their lives.



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Seneca Caverns

Continued From Page 1

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.

As Gardner explained later, humans have not been the only creatures exploring the caves. Gardner picked up a small 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 enough people have chatted about it and it's starting to make its way through the community." He added that "it will have a really positive effect on the restaurant as well."

Seneca Caverns' impact goes far beyond providing an enjoyable day of entertainment. "The caverns have been a big asset to the community," says Amber Nesselrodt, executive director of the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau. She added that "this is just one more gem that visitors to Pendleton County love and come back to experience over and over again."



Dwayne Propst, Heather Vance, David Harper, Jim Phillips, Chris Mongold, Amber Nesselrodt, and Scott Kisner gather to mark the grand reopening of Seneca Caverns. Nesselrodt serves as CVB director. The rest represent Greer.



Do you have a preschool aged child? Do you have concerns about his or her behavior, social skills, readiness, speech/language skills, or other area of development? We can help!

Pendleton County Schools

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The Pendleton County Board of Education

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POSITION: TEMPORARY FULL TIME PATIENT CARE ASSISTANT - MEDICAL SURGICAL UNIT — SHIFT OR HOURS NEEDED: Nights (3) 12-hour shifts per week with rotating weekends. Excellent customer service skills and medical surgical experience preferred, but not required. Must be capable of multitasking, pleasant, cooperative and exhibit a positive attitude. Reliable, detail oriented, promotes teamwork, exhibits good judgment and work ethic. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 05/26/2023

POSITION: (3) FULL TIME RN FOR MEDICAL SURGICAL — SIGN ON BONUS AVAILABLE — 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: 05/31/2023

To apply go to www.grantmemorial.com click resources, opportunities and then pick the job you want to apply for Human Resource Office Grant Memorial Hospital PO Box 1019, Petersburg, WV 26847

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EOE

Boggs Descendants Gather for Reunion



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.

The John Boggs family and the Union sympathizers were

Captain John Boggs descendants - 2023

concentrated in Union Magisterial District in the northwest section of the county, north of Riverton. Over the years descendants 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

Mill, a family landmark and a North Fork institution. The picture rotates among raffle winners.

A key item of business was the selection of new reunion committee leaders. The new leaders are Candice (Boggs) DeVore of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Jan (Boggs) Miller of Delphos, Ohio. The meeting adjourned to allow visiting the Boggs House Museum in Franklin, which has undergone major renovation since the last reunion.

An interesting additional fact of the Boggs family story is that John Boggs' older brother, James, was a Brigadier General in the Virginia Militia, subsequently the Confederate Army. He was also the Pendleton delegate to the Virginia General Assembly. H.M. Calhoun in "Twixt North and South" reports on divided family loyalties in the war. It is truly remarkable that these first-generation immigrant men would rise to be top leaders in their organizations. John was the senior Union officer in the county and James was the senior Confederate officer. Both were elected as county delegates to their respective state legislatures. James Boggs died early in the war, 1862, so one would assume there was no chance for the brothers to reconcile.

Between now and Treasure Mountain Festival many weekends will feature family reunions. Pendleton County is a place many folks are from. Similarly, it is a place many people love to return to for a visit. The half century success of the festival demonstrates the point. Plans are for a Boggs reunion next year, reestablishing the practice of even-year reunions. The manuscript "Boggs Descendants of Pendleton County WV" will be updated.

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GUNS! GUNS! GUNS! You want tend remotely or call-in is them. We got them. below. A copy of the draft Hundreds in store, Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plan is available, and even more online. Use Fian is available, may be requested by call-Buy. Sell. Trade. ing, writing, or sending an Pendleton County email request to the ad-Outdoors, Franklin, also be viewed on DEP's WV 26807, 304-358- web site. 3265, www.penco outdoors.com, www.

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Chain saws, tools, Franklin, WV clothes and much more!

COLAW/YOKUM Wake County, NC yard sale May 27 Filed by: Mountain Road, Cir-

beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the residence of Petersburg, WV Larry Colaw, Snowy cleville. 5-18-2c

SPECIAL NOTICES

NOTICE RECOVERY CELE-

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

POSTED NOTICES

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

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"NOTICE OF PUBLIC **MEETING**" The West Virginia Depart

ment of Environmental Protection has scheduled a public meeting on June 15, 2023, at 9:30 am to discuss the *Draft Fiscal Year* 2024 Intended Use Plan for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (CWSRF). A part of the Intended Use Plan is the Fiscal Year 2024 Priority List.

The meeting will take place in person at the WV DEP's Headquarters in Charleston, WV. An option to at-

Katheryn Emery WV Department of Environmental Protection Division of Water & Waste Management

Clean Water State Revolving Fund 601 57th Street, SE Charleston, WV 25304 (304) 926-0499 Ext. 43830 Katheryn.D.Emery @wv.gov

Google Meeting information

https://meet.google.com/ tkd-hsoo-arb Dial in number: 1-910-302-3018 PIN: 104 878 179# 5-25-2c NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION

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

OF ESTATE

That no appointment of administration is being made pursuant to the pro-PITSENBARGER visions of law see Reunion June 11 at heirs of the decedent has Cave Country Camp- been filed with the Pendground. Lunch at 12 leton County Commission, noon. Everyone Weland is of record in the

> Any interested person objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of state must be filed with the

May 18, 2023

1c Samuel E. Fish,

Subscribed and sworn to

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commis-

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED **JUNE 30, 2024**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

PENDLETON COUNTY, to wit:

In accordance with West Virginia Code §11-8-12 as amended, the PENDLETON County Board of Education proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by a levy of taxes for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES,

GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND

Estimated revenues: Local Sources:

Property taxes (Net of allowances)\$ 3,383,900	
Other local sources	
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	
Retirement, Insurance, Retirement	
Liability	
Other unrestricted	
Step 7	
Local Share - Technology	
Federal sources:	
Unrestricted	
Total estimated revenues 14,484,546	
Estimated transfers in and other	
financing sources	
Estimated beginning balance 1,200,000	
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	
Estimated expenditures:	

Instruction..... ...\$ 7,945,111 Supporting services: Students..... Instructional staff..... Central administration School administration Central services/Personnel

546,600 387,800 Operation and maintenance of 1,628,100 1,832.934 Student transportation Food services ... 31.200 Community services..... 18,000 Debt service: Interest and fiscal charges..... Total estimated expenditures...... 14,386,545

Total estimated expenditures, other financing

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND Estimated revenues:

Total estimated transfers and other

Reserve for contingencies

financing uses

State aid to schools..... Other..... Miscellaneous sources Total estimated revenues... Total Beginning Balance.... Estimated transfers in and other financing Estimated beginning balance Total estimated revenues, other financing Estimated expenditures:

State Sources

Supporting services: Students..... Instructional staff..... Central administration School administration Food services Community services..... Capital outlay..... Total estimated expenditures 50,000 Total estimated transfers and other financing Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Estimated revenues: Local Sources... State Sources: State aid to schools..... 195,529 1,443,105 Federal sources Total estimated revenues..... Total Beginning Balance..... Estimated transfers in and other financing 207,192 Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance......\$ 1,845,826 ${\bf Estimated\ expenditures:}$

Total estimated transfers and other financing uses

Food services

Total estimated expenditures, and other

Total estimated expenditures......

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

financing uses......

PENDLETON County, to wit: I, Charles F. Hedrick, Secretary of the PENDLETON County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proposed budget adopted by the board of education on the 16th day of May, 2023.

Charles F. Hedrick

5-25-2c Secretary of the Board of Education



491,100

493,500

453,901

904,100

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Administrative Position Available Monitor/Fiscal Administrator

Region 8 Planning and Development Council is accepting applications for the position of **Upper Potomac Area Agency on Aging (UPAAA)** Monitor/Fiscal Administrator

The Area Agency Monitor performs mid-level professional external auditing/monitoring and compliance reviews of agency grants and contracts in the following areas: general accounting, external auditing, budget/administration, grants management, financial analysis, statutory accounting and compliance with accounting/auditing guidelines and procedures. The work may require considerable

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 part-time paid professional experience in statutory accounting. A 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.

The Region 8 PDC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Gonshor, Heavner, 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 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 a member of the Upper Tract Producers 4-H Club where she is the president and has competed in poultry judging, livestock judging and the Beef Expo Stockman's Contest. She is the secretary of the class of 2025 and a member of the PCHS Pep Club, Travel Club and National Honor Society. She placed second in the social studies fair. Her plans are to attend West Virginia University and further her education 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.



PCH/MS March students of the month are, from left, Elizabeth Gonshor, Colton Roberson and Lydia Heavner.



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MENU Pendleton Senior & Family Services

Friday, May 26 Lasagna **Tossed Salad** Garlic Bread Fruit Cookie/Punch Monday, May 29

Memorial

Tuesday, May 30 Cook's Choice WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 Cheeseburger Deluxe **Tator Tots** Broccoli Salad Peaches Birthday Cake THURSDAY, JUNE 1 Taco Salad Corn

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Menus are subject to change.

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2015 FORD F-350 CREW-CAB 4X4 UTILITY TRUCK, 6.7 dsl., auto., ldd., white, 79K miles. 2015 FORD F-250 SUPERCAB SHORTBED 4X2, 6.2 liter gas V-8, auto., ldd., white, 175K miles, ex. cond. 2011 FORD F-250 SUPERCAB FLATBED 4X4, Lariat pkg., 6.7 diesel, auto., ldd., burgundy and tan, 216K miles .. 2007 FORD F-350 SUPERCAB S/BED 4X4 "CUSTOM BUILT," 7.3 diesel, 6-spd., ldd., must see to appreciate

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..<u>SPECIAL</u> \$14,900 \$10,900 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-spd., ldd., white, tan leather, only 49K miles, ex. cond.

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trict along US RT 33 East. Public Water available. NEW LISTING \$15,000.00. SGR289A 3.12 Acres w/2-3 Bed, 2 Bath Immaculate Manu-

factured Home. New Metal Roof, Detached guest quarters, Bonus Rood Recently remodeled baths. **NEW LISTING \$249,000.00. \$149,900.00.** SGR287A 0.20 Acres w/3 Bed, 1.5 Bath Doublewide SGR241 60.24 Acres w/Cabin. Exceptional Views, Home, close to local amenities. Franklin Corp., Pend- Excellent Hunting w/Hunt Stands in place. Bathhouse, leton County. NEW LISTING \$129,990.00 REDUCED Electric Nearby, Cistern, Small pond. Close to National \$100,000.00.

SGR284A 1.21 Acres 1/3 Bed Aresta Home located in Green Acres 100 Early Described Parking Plantic, Pendleton County. NEW LISTING \$229,000.00. SGR634 2.7 Acres, Electric nearby, Septic, Public Water

avail. \$69.500.00. SGR278A 583 Acres w/2 Story, 4 Bdrm, 1 Bath Farmhouse. Wood & Electric Heat, Well, adjoins National

Forest, Native Trout Stream. Circleville District, Pendleton County, WV. NEW LISTING! \$1,973,455.00. SGR277A 17.81 Acres w/4 Bed, 3 Bath Home, 2-4 Car

apply. NEW LISTING \$499,900.00. SGR276A 5.11 Ac Raw Land, Lot #23, Blackthorn Mtn. Estates, Suga District, Pendleton Cty. NEW

LISTING \$35,900.00. SGR275A 3.26 Acres w3 Bed, 1 Bath Ranch Home, Oak Cove Subdivision, Sold Restrictions, Milroy District, Grant

County, WV. \$219,900.00.

LISTING \$75,000.00. SGR271-A 1.84 Acres, Potomac Heights Subdivision, Williams Rd., Franklin District, Pendleton County, WV.

\$14,000.00. **SGR270A** 1

SGR270A 1.97 Acres W/1 Bed 1 Bath Cabin, Well, Septic, SubJNDGR DGGN, Ferdicton Cty. NEW LISTING \$99,000.00.

SGR264A 2.097 Acres w/4 Bed. 2 bath Brick Cape Cod, 2 Car Details Exact Objin Brack basement. Quiet neighborhood, conveniently located to town amenities. NEW LISTING \$329,000.00.

SGR258B 3.42 Acres, w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home. Sugar

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.

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.

SGR290A 0.82 Acres, Raw Land located in Bethel Dis-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 Arres w/2 Best 1 Heet 1 00 sq. ft. Home, Bonus Rodul NDE Rock Mil Spiris. Franklin Corp.

Forest. NEW LISTING \$289,000.00.

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

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 REDUCED \$299,000.00...

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

Garages, Hiking/ATV Trail, Well water wideeded access SGR197 557.7 Ac., Raw Land, Excellent Hunting to Spring. Sugar Grove District. Covenants & Restrictions Joins National Forest, No Utilities, Potential Food Plots, Watering Holes, Bldg. Sites w/Views. Milroy District, Grant

County. \$1,749,000.00. SGR193 391.70 Acres, Hayfields, Pastureland, Native Brook Trout Stream, Marketable Timber, 360 deg. Views. Franklin District, Pendleton County. **NEW LISTING**

\$1,399,000.00. SGR188 22.72 Ac., Raw Land, Hoover Mtn., Hunting, Bldg

Sites. \$179,900.00. SGR272A 1.625 Agree with Bed, 1 Bath 2 Story Frame Sites. \$179,900.00.
house, along Rt. 39, Blandywine, Bethel District. NEW 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 School nearby. \$19,900.00 REDUCED

\$11,000.00.

SGR156 15.97 Acres, Rolling Hills Estate, Electric nearby, Water available.Hardy County. \$95,000.00. 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 \$169,000.00 REDUCED \$149,900.00. SGR042 Five Unit Townhouse property located in

Brandywine. Each unit has 2 Bdrms, 1.5 Baths, LR and Grove District, Falcon Lane. **NEW LISTING \$259,000.00.** Large Kitchen. Near National Forest for hunting and **SGR252A** 81.01 Acres, more or less. Lot 7. Seneca 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 Bran-

dywine 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.