

# THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Volume 110, Number 43

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday  
October 26, 2023



Pastor Donald Judy and others come together twice a year to give challenged youth an outdoor experience at Eagle Rock Campground.

## Colorful Country Roads Take One Home



The peak of fall foliage season has settled into the mountains and byways of Pendleton County.

## The Power of Christ and Friday Night Chili Help to Form a 35 Year Tradition

By Stephen Smoot

Gray skies hung low overhead. The waters of the river raced over rocks, slowly eroding the bottom of Smoke Hole Canyon as they had done for millennia. The tortured stone of Eagle Rock rose tall and mighty across the stream.

In a large tent across from those natural wonders, Pastor Donald Judy stirred a huge pot of homemade chili, preparing food for friends and challenged youth who make the trek to Pendleton County twice a year.

For 35 years, minus a few weekends

where the weather blocked any chance of enjoying the time, or made travel too dangerous, the group has come to the Pendleton County wilderness to disconnect, then reconnect. Over the years, approximately 1,700 have come out.

Judy explains that "a lot of kids don't have moms and dads." The slow degeneration of the traditional family at the same time as the abuse of all manner of drugs has skyrocketed, often leaves children in struggling homes confused, frustrated, depressed, and looking for answers.

Most children, regardless of their home situation, struggle to articulate their

problems, which often leads to acting out.

"Some come from the city. Some come from up here in the country," while others come from as far away as southern Pennsylvania, Judy explains.

The other adults come from different area cities as well. On this day, they came from Capon Bridge, Wardensville, Keyser, and elsewhere.

As he spoke, a young lady and her mother came into the tent, coming from their family campsite across the road. They are also regular attendees and participants.

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## Remembering 'the General' Bland and Her Service to South Fork VFD

By Stephen Smoot

She was known as "the General" by those who worked most closely with her. And her

role put her in a similar position as United States Army General George Marshall. Neither saw their most effective work at the front lines. Both made sure that those who responded to the call had what they needed to save lives and win the day.

Of Bland, Jeff Bowers, president of the South Branch Volunteer Fire Department, remembered "some people live in their communities. Some people serve their communities. Nila lived to serve."

Pastor Michael Loudermilk officiated at her funeral, bowing to her known preference for brief statements. He opened by quoting from the second chapter of Second Timothy, emphasizing "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Bland spent decades as a good soldier, fighting tooth and nail for her department to get what it needed to fulfill its mission of saving lives. Loudermilk also shared that she lived her life as a good Christian woman and a loving wife, mother, and grandparent.

After the service, the procession traveled from Franklin to Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandywine, a hill overlooking her beloved fire hall. The day itself seemed heavier, with gray overcast skies and fog clinging to the ridges of the brightly colored mid fall hills and mountains.

Two vehicles of West Virginia State Troopers, a Pendleton County Sheriff's Department deputy, and Rick Gillespie,

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## BOE Approves Service Personnel Retirement Bonus

By Stephen Smoot

Last month, representatives of Pendleton County Schools' service personnel requested that the county match what the state provides for teachers and other staff categorized as "professional" in terms of a retirement bonus and job attendance incentives.

In the Pendleton County Board of Education meeting last week, service personnel received one, with the other tabled for a final decision in November.

The meeting opened with Sonny O'Neil serving as acting president in the absence of J. D. Wilkins. In his opening invocation, he prayed, "Please keep all of the innocent people in Israel safe."

After the prayer, the board recognized the success of the high school Future Farmers of America judging team.

J.P. Mowery shared as a

statement of information, not an argument against adoption, that because the state did not support such programs, "anything for service personnel would be county funded." O'Neil suggested that "it worked really well with teachers." Nicole Hevener added, "I do think this would very much help us."

With the recommendation of Charles Hedrick, superintendent of schools, the measure passed.

A second proposal, to also extend the attendance incentives offered by the state, did not come to a vote. Hedrick informed the board that "there's some details we have to work out."

Mowery then gave a report on financial and budget information. One item of note was a \$2,000 "From Scratch" grant that funded trainings of cooks on how to make more food

"from scratch" using the resources and equipment available in a school lunch setting.

He and Hevener will also take a trip to Washington, DC, to visit with Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito. They will provide information to help the senators inform the United States Senate on the value of the heavily forested counties and related funding that go to rural counties such as Pendleton and Pocahontas.

"I'm really proud of Pocahontas," Mowery shared, adding that "they do a lot of the heavy lifting." Pendleton County receives \$100,000 and Pocahontas \$400,000.

Hedrick said, "I really appreciate J.P. and Nicole going down there."

The board then heard a report that internet expansion under the ECF fund in con-

Continued on Page 8

## Commission Hears Debate on Citizen Proposal, Accepts Resignation of Sheriff

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, both the Pendleton County Building Commission and the County Commission held meetings on Tuesday morning.

The building commission, represented by Jeff Bowers and James Brown, met "to give the public the opportunity to ask questions and make comments" about the proposed courthouse annex.

Hearing no questions, comments, or objections, Bowers explained that "you see the need for space here." He then shared that "this has been a project ongoing for years and years." Currently, the West Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals must approve the plans, but personnel issues in their office have created delays.

"It's a hurry up and wait situation," Bowers noted.

With no public issue, the building commission adjourned. Before the county commission meeting commenced Laura Brown, in attendance as executive director of Seneca Rocks regional Development Authority, said, "Thank you for the both of you. You're an asset to the community."

Commissioner Roger Dahmer opened the meeting with a prayer, asking that "You lift up Bruce Minor and his family" and be with them as he healed.

First, the commission approved repairs for the courthouse and Pendleton County Library. Commissioners next decided to wait until after the snows of winter receded to revisit a request to pressure wash the Riverton Community Building.

Diane Mitchell, director of Pendleton County 911, stated that "all is well. We hosted the 911 council meeting last Friday. A lot of those who came to the meeting came to visit our center." Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator, shared that one individual has applied for a full-time position. He asked the commission "to look at the budget to see if we can support it or not" and explained that the 12-hour shift is based on the need for at least eight on staff, which is the current number of telecommunicators.

Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president, responded, "I say go ahead." The commission agreed with Hevener that 911 should interview the applicant.

Gillespie then shared the good news out of Charleston that the state legislature passed a bill to provide added financial support for emergency services. He said that \$123,581.40 of the nearly \$144,000 grant would go to support "salary enhancement" of emergency workers, including the stipends of volunteer first responders.

The remainder "must be spent on crisis response services," Gillespie said, adding that this may be "a one time pot of money" with no guarantees after this year.

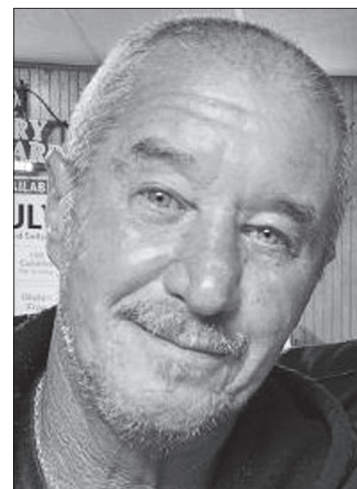
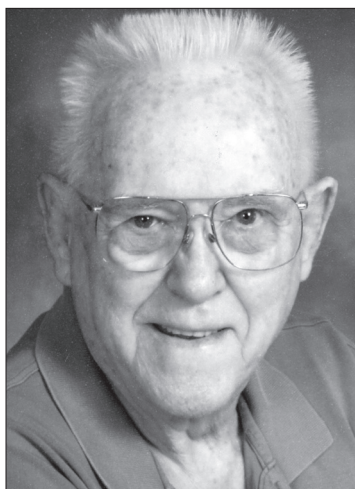
He then shared that he had met with Mike Alt of Pendleton County Emergency Rescue and that PCER wanted to meet with the commission "to hammer out the details" about using the funds to train a crisis response unit of 10 emergency medical personnel. Dahmer suggested that "I'd rather see the group include law enforcement, fire, and EMS."

Hevener added, "Being a smaller county, I think it would be wise to get all three involved."

Next, all commissioners signed a letter to Governor Jim Justice. After the near fatal truck accident in the U.S. 33 Allegheny Mountain construction zone, Gillespie

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**Helen Louise (Groves) Hedrick**

**Gerald Wayne "Jerry" Van Slyke**

**Roland Ronald Vint**

**David Lee Williamson**

## John Raymond "Johnny" Wyczalek, Infant

John Raymond "Johnny" Wyczalek, 11 days old, passed away gently into the arms of Jesus on Oct. 20, 2023, at his home in Seneca Rocks as the result of congenital heart issues.

He was born on Oct. 9, 2023, at West Virginia University Children's Hospital in Morgantown, the infant son of John Steven and Heather Lynn (Whetzel) Wyczalek.

Although his life here on earth was short-lived, he touched the lives of many and will forever hold a place in their heart.

In addition to his parents, he leaves behind to cherish his memory a sister, Kaycee Lipscomb of Romney; and a brother, Colten Lipscomb of Romney.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Gifts of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com) or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.

Helen Louise (Groves) Hedrick, 81, of Petersburg passed away Oct. 19, 2023, at her home.

She was born on June 21, 1942, in Maysville and was a daughter of the late Earl Alston Groves and Neva Ellen (Ours) Groves.

Mrs. Hedrick was a 1960 graduate of Petersburg High School. She attended Potomac State College and graduated from West Virginia University with a bachelor's degree in home economics. She later attended the University of Maryland and received a master's degree in foods and services.

She began teaching school in Grant County in the late 60s and then worked for the West Virginia Extension Service until 1976. She then continued her teaching career in Pleasants County, Hardy County and finally returned to Grant County where she retired in the spring of 2000. Following her teaching retirement, she authored several children's books. Throughout her entire professional career, she was a leader and coached several youth 4-H activities.

In 1987, she and her husband, Larry, established the Homestead Inn motel on their farm. She was a life-long beef cattle farmer and thoroughly enjoyed working with her Angus cattle.

Her husband of 58 years, Larry Allen Hedrick, survives.

Also surviving are a son, Roy A. Hedrick (Michelle) of Petersburg; two grandsons, Ryan Ashford Hedrick and Marc Bauer Hedrick; two sisters, Betty Groves and Ellen Groves Kirby, both of Petersburg; two sisters-in-law, Barbara Merryman and Delores Hedrick; two brothers-in-law, Jerry Hedrick and Charles Hedrick; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Wilford Kirby; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

A funeral service was held Sunday in the chapel of Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg with Pastor Larry Hakes, chaplain of Grant Memorial Hospice, and the Rev. Robert Baer, Jr., pastor of Grove Street United Methodist Church officiating. Interment was in Lahmansville Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Grant County 4-H All Stars, WVU Grant County Extension, 114 N. Grove Street, Petersburg, WV 26847, Petersburg High School Scholarship Fund, 89 Riverview Drive, Petersburg, WV 26847 or WV Junior Angus Association, c/o Adam and Casey Hayes, 561 Snider Loop, Kingwood, WV 26537.

Gerald Wayne "Jerry" Van Slyke, 93, of Upper Tract went to be with his Lord on Oct. 16, 2023, at his home.

He was born on Oct. 27, 1929, in Modesto, California, and was the son of the late Wayne Taylor Van Slyke and Gladys Lucille (Showalter) Van Slyke.

Mr. Van Slyke served in the United States Navy for 22-1/2 years and retired as master chief. He worked for the National Security Agency until retirement.

He was a member of the United States Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association and Fleet Reserve Association, a member of Potomac Highlands VFW Post 6454 and a member of Mt Horeb United Methodist Church.

His wife, Macie (Mowery) Van Slyke, preceded him in death in 2020.

Surviving are two daughters, Jean P. Mongold of Mozzer and Nancy L. Cook and husband, Darrell of Woodstock, Virginia; three grandchildren, Jordan Wayne Mongold and wife, Victoria, Tiffany Smith and Luke Smith; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Vivian N. Dorville of Manteca, California, and Audrey L. Hawthorne of Auburn, California; and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Talia Kristen Mongold.

A graveside service was held Friday at the Lough Family Cemetery with the Rev. David Webb and Rev. Rita Beeman officiating. Military honors were by Grant County Veterans Honor Guard and United States Navy Honor Guard.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church, c/o Tony Calhoun, 172 Ridge Road, Upper Tract, WV 26866.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg.



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Roland Ronald Vint, 77, of Circleville passed away Oct. 21, 2023, at Grant Memorial Hospital in Petersburg.

He was born May 24, 1946, at Circleville and was the son of the late Henry Patrick Vint and Laurie (Hedrick) Vint.

Mr. Vint was a sawmill worker, had worked at the Germany Valley Lime Plant (Greer), on the Jack Wilkins farm and retired after 16-1/2 years at Howes Leather at Frank.

His wife, Betty Jane Tingler Vint, preceded him in death on Dec. 29, 2012.

Surviving are two daughters, Sarah Ibarra (Agustin) and Jeanie Ivory Tingler, all of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania; three sons, Ronald James Vint of Circleville, Vernon Tingler, Jr. of Cabins and Lynn Lee Tingler (Pat) of Wapakoneta, Ohio; four sisters, Eva Lambert (John) of Circleville, Pat Auville (Raymond) of Riverton, Mabel Vint of Petersburg and Lorraine Sellecks of Covington, Virginia; a brother, Joey Vint of Circleville; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandson.

He was also preceded in death by four brothers, Charles Vint, Robert Vint, Roy Vint and Tommy Vint.

A funeral service was held Wednesday at the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Mike Lambert officiating.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.kimblefuneralhome.com](http://www.kimblefuneralhome.com).

David Lee Williamson, 61, of Franklin passed away Sept. 22, 2023, at his residence.

He was born Oct. 1, 1961, at Aberdeen, Maryland, and was the son of the late Reece Williamson and Franziska Rosa Vanek Williamson.

Mr. Williamson was a heavy equipment operator, a member of the Civil Air Patrol and a member of the Franklin Moose Lodge #769.

On June 29, 1997, he married Naomi Elizabeth "Pat" Rawlins Williamson, who survives.

Also surviving are a step-daughter, Kathy Henry (Bill) of Pylesville, Maryland; a stepson, Larry Eyer of Edgewood, Maryland; a sister, Kristine Laing (David) of Florida; two brothers, Willie Williamson (Judy) of New Hampshire and Randy Williamson (Susan) of Dublin, Maryland; 14 step-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren.

His body has been cremated.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Franklin Moose Lodge.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.kimblefuneralhome.com](http://www.kimblefuneralhome.com).

Arrangements are entrusted to the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin.

Visit [PendletonTimes.com](http://PendletonTimes.com)

**Will BE CLOSED Friday/Saturday October 27/28**

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# Remembering Bland

Continued From Page 1

Pendleton County Emergency Services Coordinator, provided the official escort.

A Franklin Volunteer Fire Department engine, all lights flashing and crew standing at attention, saluted the procession as it left the town limits of Franklin.

One detail of the journey stood out to those who took part. The custom of stopping in the opposite lane as a funeral procession passes has generally left the minds of those living in the 21st century. On this day, however, for the entire 13-mile journey, not one vehicle failed to observe the custom of respect.

Loudermilk later noted that it was a strong sign of the respect that the entire county had for Bland.

As the procession turned from U.S. 33 to ascend Pine Hill, the state troopers blocked the westbound lane of U.S. 33. The train of vehicles slowly made their way to the cemetery.

At 12:17 p.m., Pendleton County 911 continued a long-hallowed tradition among firefighters. Over the radio, they issued a final call for Bland. After tolling the requisite number of tones, the telecommunicator announced that Bland had finished her call and completed her duties.

"Rest easy, General," he finished.

She served for many years as the administrator and treasurer of the South Branch Volunteer Fire Department, as well as president of its ladies' auxiliary. In addition to these vital community services, she also "served in many capacities with the Treasure Mountain Festival Association" and the Pendleton County Extension Homemakers.

In her position with fire department, she was instrumental to their operations. She helped to lead the organization of the lawn parties, her work ensuring that they remained both a vital fundraiser for the department and also a tradition that brought people back year after year for a beloved tradition.

During last year's lawn party, Bland noted of the attendees, "People are friends and they're family, blood or not."

Bland had led the planning of countless dinners and events for the fire department. Plaques on the wall honored her by name as a vital part of the department team. Now others stepped forward to put together a dinner in Bland's honor in the fire hall that still held her presence in so many ways. Fried chicken, country steak and gravy, green beans, two kinds of potatoes, macaroni and cheese, and 50 feet of table space dedicated to desserts greeted those who came to remember her life and her work.

When most had finished eating, remaining at their tables to talk and remember, Roy Bowers, chief of the South Branch Volunteer Fire Department, called for the attention of everyone present. He shared a story that well-encapsulated the service and dedication of Bland.

"We get audited every so often," he began. The state fire marshal's office requires that each department, during an audit, check everything in the fire house. This includes equipment, paperwork, and records of every call.

"It's a real pain. It's a nightmare," Chief Bowers stated.

Not only did the fire house face the dreaded audit, they found out that the "head man" himself would be conducting the audit. This meant that the evaluation would likely be as strict and as exacting as possible, which, as Roy Bowers said "makes it even more intense."

At 9 a.m. on the day of the audit "me and the General" sat ready to meet the state official. "She had a whole pile of folders . . . in her office," he remembered. The official gets out his computer and he and Bland get to work.

Chief Bowers remembered that not only did Bland have every detail documented in her folders, she even had the folders aligned in the order in which the questions came. A process that normally takes one day only lasted 40 minutes.

The official joked to Bland that the department "might pass." Her response was that she did not want to simply pass. She wanted her department to earn a rating of "excellent."

Chief Bowers then held up an award and announced to the room that not only had Bland earned her "excellent" rating, she had achieved the only perfect evaluation score that anyone could have remembered.

This was fitting tribute to a hard-earned victory in one of the last battles for "the General," Bland.

# County Commission

Continued From Page 1

and other officials contacted the governor's office requesting \$17 million in substantial improvements to the road. The letter adds the county commissioners' names to the growing list.

The letter specifically mentioned the danger to tour and school buses from runaway trucks and stated, "The time to act before such a tragedy is now, while the state has a reserve of surplus funds needed to construct worthwhile remedies."

Just a few days before, Justice was present at a ceremony in Kanawha County dedicating an \$11 million bridge constructed to reduce congestion at a South Charleston shopping center.

Next Scott Somerville, representing the Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County, rose to speak. In recent months he has come often to discuss his ideas for a planning commission for the county.

Somerville indicated that unnamed people had been pressuring him "to do something" about rumors of companies planning to erect wind turbines in the county. Hevenner leaned forward and publicly invited those to whom Somerville had been referring to come before the commission and share their ideas, then added that "there has been nothing done along those lines."

Somerville then said, "I am amazed at how much good work you all do." Then he explained further that his planning commission idea could look at revising an old comprehensive strategic plan for the county and also field public comment on specific matters, such as wind turbines, more so than the county commission.

Laura Brown then explained that the Seneca Rocks Rural Development Authority had just started the process of comprehensive planning, expecting to obtain help from the West Virginia University Law School, who often assists with such projects. She made the case that "it is redundant to do an RDA strategic plan and a county plan."

"This strategic plan will be a benefit to the whole region and not address just one single thing," she noted.

Somerville then described the county without a planning commission and its ability to plan and regulate as "helpless . . . against a billionaire who will bribe some poor hillbilly."

April Mallow, Pendleton County Prosecuting Attorney, interjected, saying, "Frankly, I find that an insult."

Somerville said "I take that back," and explained both that his birth county of Boone was taken advantage of by outside corporations and that the term "hillbilly" was not seen as pejorative there.

Mallow responded by saying, "We are not Boone County."

Somerville then stated that if the county did not allow for a planning commission, that he would raise substantial monies to fund a candidate against the next commissioner up for election. That would be Roger Dahmer, who has also shared reservations about wind turbines as a source of energy.

Dahmer declined to respond, but Hevenner stated, "If my term were up, I'd take that as a threat. We're here to represent the majority, not the minority. We do for the best interest of the majority of the county."

With that, the discussion ceased.

Next, the commission approved \$500 to assist the Fraternal Order of Police for their Christmas toy drive.

Finally, Chad Bowers, Pendleton County Sheriff, handed the commission a letter and said, "As of Dec. 3, I plan to take my retirement."

"Do we have to accept this?"

Hevenner asked, then said, "Chad, we really appreciate your service."

Bowers responded with "it's been an honor serving the county."

Dahmer added, "You will be missed."

## MENU Pendleton Senior & Family Services

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 SPONSORED MEAL

Meatloaf  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Brussels Sprouts  
Bread/Milk

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

Minestrone Soup  
Turkey Sandwich  
Lettuce/Tomato  
Fruit/Milk

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Sloppy Joe  
Cheesy Ranch Potatoes  
Carrots  
Birthday Cake/Punch  
Milk

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Chicken Tenders  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Fruit/Milk

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Spaghetti  
Lima Beans  
Tossed Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Fruit/Milk

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

# 35 Year Tradition

Continued From Page 1

Both the environment and the fellowship work their wonders on participants of all ages. "Up here slows everything down," says Judy, adding "it gives them time to reflect."

He adds that "we're treating them like they're part of the guys."

The "part of the guys" aspect is crucial to the experience. As Jesse Ridings of Keyser explains, "This is the only time we can all come together" to share their lives "and give advice." He also said, "The brotherhood in faith is amazing."

Out at Eagle Rock, "even the adults find the answers they're looking for," Ridings shared.

While the program comes from the Church of the Brethren, Judy insists that one's denomination or faith does not form barriers. People from many denominations and also Roman Catholics and followers of the Jewish faith have participated.

As in many church activities, great food forms part of the fellowship. The opening night features chili with cheese and crackers, as well as hot chocolate, s'mores, and more. Campers wake up Saturday morning to a country camping banquet of sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, eggs, and more.

"It's all made from scratch," Judy smiles.

The trips take place during the third weekend of October and the third weekend in April. Because most of the regulars play fall sports, such as football, the April trip usually brings more out.

Judy related that a mother recently expressed appreciation for the effect that the trips had on her son. He explained that the mother shared "he doesn't back talk anymore. He explained that the trips help to "change them, to put a foundation under them."

One of the attractions of Eagle Rock lies in its lack of cellular signal. Children on their first trip will often spend the first couple of hours playing with their technology, then they set it down and get involved in whatever the group is doing. That could include fishing, hiking, or just relaxing by the campfire.

And, of course, eating delicious camp food.

The supplies come from generous donors. Ridings stated that "the big chain stores" often do not donate much, but local small business owners give much more. The locally owned Save A Lot in Keyser, for example, gave a tremendous amount of food.

"All the non-profits and businesses who support us are Christian based," Judy added,

The group's goal lies in expanding the program to include other churches, other communities, and more children, "using this as a catapult to get other churches to get youth involved," he explained.

Both Judy and Ridings extolled the value of practicing religion in nature, saying that service in faith has clung too much to "brick and mortar" while the traditions of revivals, for example were disappearing. "You can come and sleep by that river a week and truly connect back to Mother Nature," Ridings said.

## HELP WANTED NOTICE

Please take notice that one position for

### Courthouse Security of Pendleton County

West Virginia  
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Applications must be completed and returned to the Sheriff's Office by 4:30 p.m., November 3.

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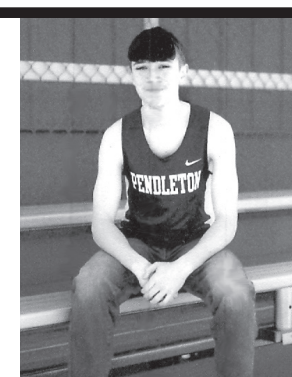


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**10 Years Ago**  
**Week of October 17, 2013**

## Old Boggs Store To Be Dismantled

A part of county seat history is being carefully taken down by a gentleman from Brownsville, TX, a young man with a future in the ministry and a connection to a local family, the owners of the Lovegrove building on Main Street.

The property was once the Boggs Mercantile Store, a general merchandise store originally known as M. K. Boggs and Company. It was moved by the owner, Martin Kenny Boggs, from one Franklin location to the alley across from the Main Street United Methodist Church following the Franklin fire of 1924.

A work of local history, "Pendleton Co. West Virginia Past and Present," says it was "a variety store, including every item that a family would need. [M. K. Boggs] accepted items for trade such as eggs, chickens, etc."

## Hevener's Goal—State Record Pumpkin

Growing big pumpkins was not even thought about in the Fort Seybert home of Herman and Sandy Hevener until six years ago, when they happened by the pumpkin weigh-off at Treasure Mountain Festival, where the heaviest pumpkin was about 320 pounds.

On the way home that evening, Herman Hevener said he thought he could grow bigger pumpkins than that. He went straight to the magazine cabinet and came out with a seed catalog. Sandy Hevener said she knew then and there she should have thrown those catalogs in the trash when they came

in the mail.

Her husband found some seeds called "Dill's Atlantic Giants," which were advertised to grow pumpkins up to 1,000 pounds. The order form and check were soon in the mail.

At the planting time the following spring, Sandy Hevener didn't want a bunch of pumpkin vines in the garden, so her husband tilled up a small area just outside the garden, put up a small fence and planted four or five seeds, which ended up growing two plants. It wasn't long, with lots of miracle grow, that the vines were growing over and through the fence. Herman Hevener soon found that deer like pumpkin vines, so a larger fence was erected as deterrence.

It took about a month before any small pumpkins showed up, but it seemed they would live a week or two, then dry up and fall off the vine. Finally, one survived and grew to about 150 pounds, but they picked it up and found that the bottom was rotted. Herman Hevener recalls, "no pumpkin for the Treasure Mountain Festival that year."

Not knowing much about computers, Herman Hevener asked his wife if there would be information about growing big pumpkins on the Internet. Her Google search yielded dozens of sites. One that caught her husband's eye was "Holland's Land of Giants." The site had a DVD on growing big pumpkins with three free seeds included. Herman Hevener studied the teachings on the DVD again and again, taking copious notes.

The next spring, he set out to grow a TMF winner, and his patient wife even let him have space in the garden to set out two plants. The rest is history. That September, the Heveners had first- and sec-

ond-place winners at TMF.

The quest for growing big pumpkins appears to have grown on Sandy Hevener, because on Christmas 2010, the daughter of Eston Teter surprised her husband with another DVD and more free seeds.

For the next three years, Hevener-grown pumpkins have earned first- and second-place ribbons at TMF, but the highlight of the Fort Seybert couple's hobby to date is having the largest pumpkin at the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival the past two years.

Next for the Heveners is growing a new West Virginia state record pumpkin, which will mean exceeding a weight of 1,242 pounds. That pumpkin was grown in Ohio County in 2007.

Who knows? With the Hevener's determination plus a bit of good luck and the right balance of rainfall and sunshine, it "just may be sooner than you think," to quote Herman Hevener.

**30 Years Ago**  
**Week of October 28, 1993**

## SUGAR GROVE

### Apples Once Were the Life Of Halloween

Halloween parties are filled with symbols of the harvest—cornstalks and pumpkins, apples and apple cider, nuts, popcorn and candy corn. Apples have long been a token of love. At the first Halloween parties, people roasted and ate apples and bobbed for them in tubs of water. If a boy came up with an apple between his teeth, it meant that he was loved by the girl he loved. Boys also enjoyed the game of Snap Apple. Each boy in turn sprang up and tried to bite an apple that was twirled

on the end of a stick. The first to succeed would be the first to marry. The game was so popular that Halloween was sometimes called Snap Apple Night. Girls found out about their future husbands by paring apples, keeping the peeling in one long piece. This was swung three times around the head, then thrown over the left shoulder. A peeling that fell unbroken was supposed to form the initial of the girl's future husband.

**50 Years Ago**  
**Week of October 18, 1973**

## Local Heights Once Home Of Golden Eagle, Falcon

### WHOSE WOODS ARE THESE

*(Editor's Note—This is the first in a series of articles on nature and the great outdoors entitled "Whose Woods Are These" prepared for The Pendleton Times by the new Woodlands and Whitewater Institute located on Spruce Mountain in Pendleton County.)*

Once, long ago, West Virginia's North Fork Mountain was famous for its breeding population of Golden Eagles. Today not one bird remains in the area. Also, many species of hawk and falcon once populated West Virginia's mountains and woodlands. Peregrine Falcons could be observed perched atop their lofty eyries built into craggy rock escarpments. Red-Tailed and Cooper's Hawks could be seen gliding swiftly across highland meadows and thickets in search of field mice and moles, the diet of these birds. Broad-winged, Red-shouldered, and Rough-legged Hawks also abounded. Now many of these proud and majestic birds have diminished to the point where there is no longer a breeding population in the area.

The decrease in the number of these birds is primarily due to their systematic extermination by people who believe they are performing a service by killing birds of prey. It is a common but mistaken belief that farm animals are a major part of the diets of birds of prey. Occasionally an eagle will feed on a dead lamb or a Cooper's Hawk will snatch a barnyard chicken, hungry after hundreds of miles of migration. Farm animals however are very seldom the prey of these birds. Their diets consist mainly of rodents, insects and small reptiles. The service which these birds of prey perform by helping to control rodents and insects greatly outweighs the harm done by the loss of an occasional chicken.

In the late 1940s, a study was done in Pennsylvania to determine whether it would be advantageous for the state to institute a bounty on birds of prey. It was shown that not only was this project not advantageous but actually very harmful. The state paid 50 cents per bird and 20,000 birds were killed—\$10,000 was paid out by the state and

it was calculated that \$5,000 worth of damage, usually done by these birds, had been stopped. Further calculation showed, however, that on the average a bird of prey consumes six rodents per day or about 2,190 per year. The 20,000 birds killed would have consumed about 44 million rodents in one year. These rodents ultimately cost the farmers of Pennsylvania in excess of one million dollars. The value of birds of prey was realized and the extermination campaign was stopped.

Hawks, eagles, and falcons have a definite niche in the ecology of the West Virginia highlands. If left to themselves, they will begin to repopulate areas from which they have long been absent. As soon as people realize how beneficial these birds are, we will again begin to see them silhouetted against the skies of the West Virginia highlands.

**70 Years Ago**  
**Week of October 22, 1953**

## EDITORIALS

### Escape ---

The Montgomery Ward Christmas "wish book" came in the mail a few days ago and many happy hours will be spent by rural Americans from now until Christmas-time picture-shopping and wishing through the pages of the new catalogue. During World War II, librarians reported the mail order books to be the most popular volumes on the shelf.

The catalogue serves another purpose, however, that many of us overlook. It has often been said that the economic development of America during the last few decades can be followed in the pages of the mail order catalogue.

The toy section of this year's catalogue is extremely interesting. Some of the new items listed are electronic flashlight guns; space cruisers, an "interplanetary travel" car with a flying saucer gun; and space ships (ages to 7), a futuristic riding toy with "supersonic" action.

In recent years the youngsters have become interested in interplanetary comic books, TV shows and radio programs. They're still asking for cowboy suits and electric trains but the trend seems to be moving away from the Roy Rogers and Rocky Lane hero and toward the Brick Bradford, Flash Gordon type.

What the significance of all this is that it would be difficult to say. Children live in a vicarious, imaginary world which grownups seldom understand.

Maybe the children are "fed up" with the tension and insecurity of the H-bomb age and want to get away from it all in the air-tight cabin of a space ship!

Well, it was just a thought.

# Smith To Be Featured in Sunday's Presentation



Bessie Smith portrayed by Doris Fields

The life of Jazz Age blues legend Bessie Smith will be featured in a History Alive! Presentation at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Pendleton County Library Community Room in Franklin.

Smith will be portrayed in song and monologue by Doris Fields, Beckley-based singer and actress.

As the most popular female blues singer of the 1920s and 1930s, Smith was the highest-paid Black performer of her day. Known as the "Empress of the Blues" by

virtue of her forceful vocal delivery and command of the genre, her singing displayed a soulfully phrased, boldly delivered grasp of the blues. In addition, she was an all-around entertainer who danced, acted, and performed comedy routines with her touring company.

At the peak of her career, she sold hundreds of thousands of records and played to packed houses in the North, South and Midwest. Many of her tunes have been covered by other artists through the

decades.

History Alive! programs feature scholars from around the state, who portray historical figures, ranging from Pearl Buck to Theodore Roosevelt. These living history performances provide a passport through time for student and adult audiences throughout the Mountain State.

The programs are interactive and include a question-and-answer session with the performer.

History Alive! is a program presented by the West Virginia Humanities Council and sponsored locally by Friends of Pendleton County Library and the Pendleton County Committee for the Arts.

According to the West Virginia Humanities Council website, the History Alive! program presents a roster of 12 historical figures available for first-person portrayals every year. Recent History Alive! performances in Franklin have featured portrayals of Mark Twain, Nellie Bly, and Charles Schulz.



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## Smith Creek/Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

Watch out for the children running through the streets on Oct. 31, a holiday for the kids as Halloween only comes once a year.

Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins - Mary Mitchell, Bucky Moyers, Pam Riner, Anna Tesi, Ruby Propst, Alice Johnson, Arlin Dale and Freda Jamison, Hazel Simmons, Reva Hartman, Mary Alice Simmons, Sandy Washburn, Jean Landes, Larry Moyers, Sandra Vandevander and Woodrow Hartman; prayer list - Richard Campbell, Tristan Hartman, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Roberta Bennett, Olin Hoover, Keny Williams, Dennis Mitchell, Debbie Horst, Myrtle Hammer, Pam Rexrode, Nancy George, Harry Allen Warner, Margaret Wimer, Sherman Bennett, Wendell Nelson, Donald Burns, Neal Eye, David Bowers, Vada Bible, Keith George, Ruby Gail Roberson, Gary Hess, Ruth Bauer, Anna Lee Mitchell, Bruce Minor and the family of Nila Bland.

Prayer thought: "Jesus, thank you for cleansing me of my sins. Help me to live a renewal life in you. Please make me more like Jesus each day."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Oct. 16 through Oct. 22, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Oct. 16 - 56°, 43° (68°, 50°, .06°); Oct. 17 - 54°, 42° (65°, 45°, .01°); Oct. 18 - 59°, 41° (44°, 38°); Oct. 19 - 65°, 34° (42°, 35°); Oct. 20 - 56°, 45°, .16° (50°, 33°); Oct. 21 - 55°, 46°, .14° (58°, 24°) and Oct. 22 - 53°, 40°, .01° (69°, 31°).





# Autumn Splendor Takes Center Stage Amid October

## Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

October is gilding her hills and hollows with gold; treasures that can't be hoarded. Each day brings added beauty. Leaf peepers are combing the area looking for the riches that money can't buy. They are motoring to Reddish Knob, down Dry Run, over to Monterey, Virginia, and then onto North Fork to enjoy the mosaics of autumn colors of brown, light orange, brilliant orange, yellow, brilliant yellow, greens of all shades, reds, and the scarlet color of the maples. There is a debate of where the best picture-perfect postcard dwells.

Yellow leaves are falling into the slow-moving creek while yellow-eyed wild asters peer over the bank as if watching them float lazily along. Although the fall foliage has not reached its peak of color, it is changing slowly every day. Soon, one big kaleidoscope of color will blend harmoniously with each other. Ransler Mountain, sitting as a king, will soon be painted with the very essence of autumn.

West Virginia is beautiful in any season, but October brings out the ultimate beauty. It is no wonder that folk come from near and far to surround themselves with tranquil beauty.

October is sliding by smoothly, one golden day after another, as cooler weather moves in slowly. The nights have become nipper, and a warm blanket feels pretty good. Leaves are falling fast, and very soon the trees will be bare.

Having four seasons is a blessing in these hills. One could get bored with the same type of weather day after day, and the same type of beauty. That would undoubtedly be very boring, and one might not truly appreciate the coming of spring, the lush summers, the beauty of autumn, or the snows of winter.

October woods were made for wanderings and meandering walks through its mature beauty. Actually, it is a wonderful place to unwind from the cares of the day. Brown leaves crunch underfoot, and a breeze blows more scattering of leaves.

Halloween appears to be on the forefront. Come what may, and how one celebrates Halloween, make it a safe and enjoyable time.

Since the weather has turned cooler, cooks everywhere are inspired to be in the kitchen. A delicious Apple Crisp could be in the making:

**Ingredients:**  
 2/3 cup brown sugar  
 1/2 cup self-rising flour  
 1/2 cup oats  
 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon  
 1/3 cup softened butter or margarine  
 1 can apple pie filling

**Directions:** Stir all ingredients together except the pie filling. Spread one half of the mixture in the bottom of a greased pie pan. Dump pie filling on top. Cover with remaining mixture.

Bake at 375 degrees for about 40 minutes, or until brown. Serve with warm milk or ice cream.

Enjoy!  
 Life's little instructions include the following:  
 1. Return shopping carts to their destination.  
 2. Keep noise down.  
 3. Ask others to help.  
 4. Count to 10.

5. Read good books.  
 Monday morning temperature was read as 27 degrees, with a hard frost — the first of the season. Days are clear and the sun shines regally over the community. Gardens are over, with the cellars filled with canned goods. All is well in the Sugar Grove area.

This week's quotes are as follows:  
 "Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar." — Delia Owens  
 "Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day." — Shira Tamir  
 "No matter what, nobody can take away the dances you've already had." — Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
 "You cannot negotiate peace with somebody who has come to kill you." — Golda Meir

"Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower." — Albert Camus  
 Sitting by the fire is a good place to hear the "Talk of the Grove." St. John Lutheran Church's potpie was a huge success with donations going to persons in need.

John O. Propst is back at his home. He welcomes visitors and cards to his 1761 Sugar Grove Rd, Brandywine home.

Robert and Nancy Hodges spent Wednesday night with Becky and Wesley Puffenbarger. They stayed with Nathan while Becky and Wes enjoyed watching the middle school football game in Petersburg. Emma is a cheerleader, and Ben played football.

Mike and Robin DelBiondo were Saturday visitors in the home of Willard and Judy Rader. Benny and Linda Custer, Willard and Judy Rader and Mike and Robin DelBiondo enjoyed a luncheon Sunday at Troy and Jennifer Eckard's and friends in Linville, Virginia, to celebrate Kayla Eckard's 14th birthday.

Rosalee Grogg enjoyed Sunday dinner with her family, Marleta and Junior Wimer, Terri Grogg, Claude Castleberry, Leana Leap, Clint Davis, and Hendix Bogan.

Brenda Fisher, along with Jimmy Rexrode, Patty Bolton, and Linda (Richard) Rexrode from this area, motored to the former Upper Tract Elementary School to enjoy their time together at their class of 1970 reunion. A fun time was had by all in attendance.

Clickety-clacks for the chin wagggers are as follows:  
 •A "jiffy" is a real unit of time.  
 •Nearly one in six Alaskans are Native Americans.  
 •Virginia Woolf and Charles Dickens wrote while standing up.  
 •Originally, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was known as a Christmas Parade.

•Sugar cane originated in New Guinea and was domesticated approximately in 8,000 B.C.

November birthdays include Jack Bowers, second; Judy Waggy, Donna Hoover, Dr. Terry Harper, Roy Bowers, Tammy Propst and Ronnie Lambert, third; Robby Fisher and Rachel Price Rexrode, fourth; Marleta Wimer, and Danielle Grogg, eighth; Libby Hoover, ninth; Bill Pennybacker and Betty Wilfong, 11th; Bob Grimm, Lyle Hartman, Tonya Hedrick and Paul Mallow, 13th; Deyerle Rexrode, Erma Moats, Bella Eye and Kara Townsend, 14th; Pat Bodkin and

Frenchie Moates, 15th; and Paula Mitchell and Brady McClannahan, 16th.

Concerns for this week are many. They are as follows: Bob Adamson, Charles Anderson, Mercedes Aumann, Lynn Beatty, the Nila Bland family, "Bo" Boggs, Kim Kline, Marie Cole, Jane Conrad, Jeff Craig, Norma Propst Cunningham, Christian Dasher, Bethany Eye, Isaac Eye, Marie Eye, Neal Eye, Donna Fleisher, Lola Graham, Jordan Greathouse, Patsy Green, Marlene Harman, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Grace Hedrick, Jackie Hill, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Virgil Homan, Jr., Adelbert Hoover, Myrtle Hoover, Debbie and Enos Horst, Alice Johnson, Richard Judy, Ruthlene Judy, Marsha Keller, Danny Kimble, Dennis Kincaid, Kim Kline, Tracie Knight, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Rex Landis, Angela Lung, Linda Malcolm, Betty Mallow, Roger and Skip Mallow, Neil McLaughlin, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Barbara Moats, Melvin Moats, Aaron Nelson, Ruth Nelson, the Benny Nesselrodt family, Don Nilsen, Cheryl Paine, Barbara Parker, Sutton Par-rack, the Jesse "Jay" Propst family, John O. Propst, Kathy Propst, Linda Propst, Harley Propst, Sheldon Propst, Mary Puffenbarger, Judy Rader, Charles Rexrode, Jason Rexrode, Jimmy Rexrode, Pam Rexrode, Donna Ruddle, Annie Simmons, Phyllis Simmons, Eva Simmons, Robbie Sites, Connie Sulser, Rosa Tichenor, Sandra Vandevander, Amy Vaus, Sheldon Waggy, Judy Williams, Ann Wimer, Junior Wimer, Margaret Wimer, Dana Yokum and the Israeli nation.

**All Saints' Eve Trunk or Treat**  
 United Methodist South Fork Charge  
**Sunday, October 29 • 1-3 p.m.**  
 VFW Park, Sugar Grove  
*Biblical themed Trunk or Treat*  
 Take a walk through the Bible and have fun with us.

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<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> High School Girls Basketball Tryouts Begin Middle School Boys Basketball Tryouts Begin	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> WVU Rep To Speak with Juniors/Seniors Get-a-Life Program Annual Turkey Meal Harlem Tricksters	<b>10</b> <b>Veteran's Day Holiday NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>11</b>  <i>Veterans Day</i>	
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> High School Boys Basketball Tryouts Begin	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Collection Day for Operation Christmas Child	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Potomac State College Rep To Speak with Juniors/Seniors	<b>18</b>	
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> HS Girls Basketball Philip Barbour 5:30 (A)	<b>23</b>  <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	
← Thanksgiving Break - No School →							
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> MS Girls Basketball Romney 6:00 (A)	<b>29</b> MS Boy Basketball Romney 6:00 (A) HS Boys Scrimmage 6:00 (H)	<b>30</b> MS/HS Girls Basketball Harman 6:15 (H)			

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Kate Hedrick skies for a spike at Tygarts Valley.

# Wildcats Play Perfect, Take Hat Trick To Win Tournament at Frankfort

By Stephen Smoot

Last Saturday, the Pendleton County volleyball squad took the long drive north to compete at Frankfort.

Six sets, three games, three wins, one tournament championship — just another day at the office for the Wildcats.

Carolyn Varner set the tone for the day, opening against East Fairmont with seven serves. Except for an unfortunate forgetting of a minor rule, that makes 27 straight serves from Varner going back to the win at Tygarts Valley. She opened with three aces, then a Gabby Depue spike, before she rattled off another ace.

By the time East Fairmont got the serve, the Wildcats had cruised out to a 6 to 1 advantage.

They went on a six to two run, however, to come within one of Pendleton County. Kate Hedrick slammed a spike to inch her team ahead 9 to 7, but two serves later, the score was tied at nine.

Much of the rest of the first set saw the Wildcats moving ahead by two or three, but the double A Bees kept showing their stingers. On an East Fairmont serve, Brynlynn Waggy spiked the ball to give the Wildcats a 14 to 12 lead. Three Varner serves and a Lizzie Alt spike later, Pendleton County seemed to be establishing control with a 17 to 13 score.

The Bees scored four in a row to tie the game for the fourth, and the last time. A DePue spike put Pendleton County up to stay. Allie Cooper fired a low trajectory serve for an ace, followed by a spike, then a block by DePue. Cooper added another ace to set the score at 22 to 17. An Alt spike ended the first set score at 25 to 19.

Set number two started with a Bee serve leading to a Waggy spike. Another spike by Waggy, two big plays at the net for DePue, followed by an Alt

ace extended the lead to 5 to 1.

For a moment, it looked like the Bees would successfully play catch up again as they scored two in a row. A DePue block, a Hedrick spike, and two Cooper aces set the lead at 9 to 3.

The Wildcats cruised for much of the rest of the set. Alyssa Bennett tapped the ball to the middle of the Bee defense to give her team its 20th point. The game ended with two Hedrick serves that resulted in the server getting a spike, followed by Alt making the same play.

The next game pitted the Wildcats against the Huskies of North Marion. The first set saw the score knotted at 20 late. Breana Bowers, however, took command through her serve. She served five times and gave up the serve only on game point. North Marion served, but only to see Hedrick spike the ball and end the contest.

The title game saw Pendleton County taking on the host of the tournament, the Frankfort Falcons. Frankfort had won a close match against cross-county rival Keyser last week. At the end of the first set, they scored five straight to close the gap on the Wildcats, but Frankfort couldn't return a Bowers serve and gave up the set.

Pendleton County then took the second set, the game, and the tournament as Cooper launched the last five serves of the contest. Her team stood strong for her, with DePue and Hedrick scoring blocks as their team closed out play for the day.

This week, the schedule gets no easier. After knocking off three straight double A schools in a single day, Pendleton County defeated Elkins on Monday and played rival Moorefield on Wednesday at home. The Wildcats host Keyser tonight and honor three seniors, Cooper, DePue and Hedrick.

Sectional play begins next week with regionals Nov. 4 at East Hardy.

## Bulldogs Leashed by Wildcats

By Stephen Smoot

As the season winds down, the Wildcat volleyball team continues to put the pieces together for another run at the state tournament. With several games against larger schools and experienced competition on the horizon, Pendleton County faced off against an opponent they recently dispatched at home, Tygarts Valley.

Pendleton County leapt to an early advantage as Carolyn Varner served two aces to commence the contest. The Bulldogs took the serve once, but Varner set up a Brynlynn Waggy spike to get it back, followed by a set to Alyssa Bennett for the same result.

The Wildcats pushed to a 12 to 3 lead with another spike from Bennett and one from Kate Hedrick, alongside aces by Allie Cooper and Emma Hartman helping the cause. Pendleton County thoroughly dominated the rest of the set with Breana Bowers serving nine straight times to extend the lead out to 21 to 5.

Tygarts Valley mustered some momentum toward the end of the set, scoring three in a row. Varner, however, shut the door with an ace, followed by a Hedrick spike for a set final score of 25 to 8.

The Bulldogs barked in the second set, settling down and trying to keep up with the Wildcats. Spikes by Lizzie Alt, Gabby DePue, and Hedrick set the early lead at 5 to 1, but Tygarts Valley bounced back, pulling to within one.

Varner then set another DePue spike to gain a two-point advantage at 6 to 4. Cooper took the serve, scoring an ace. That was followed by her diving to save a ball, with a set helping Bennett find an open spot of the floor. Cooper then earned another ace to extend the lead to 10 to 4.

The Bulldogs then went on a five to one run to pull within three at 11 to 8. They kept the game close until Varner regained the serve.

Two aces and sharper play gave the Wildcats a five to nothing run and a 19 to 12 advantage. They held off the Bulldog attack from that point and won the second set 25 to 16.

In the third set, Pendleton County resolved to put the Bulldogs back in the kennel. Varner attempted to repeat the rare feat that she accomplished last year in serving 25 straight times in a junior varsity match. Here, she finetuned her low trajectory serves and delivered the ball 20 straight times, 12 of them aces. Most of the remaining eight scores came from plays by Alt, DePue, and Hedrick.

The streak only ended when Varner forgot a high school rule. One time during a serving rotation, a server may take a mulligan. If they do not like the way the ball is tossed in the air, they can let it drop and serve again. Varner attempted this twice during her rotation. The official, apparently reluctantly, called the penalty and Pendleton County gave up the serve.

On Tygarts Valley's next serve, DePue blocked the attempt, giving the serve to Alt, who also aced. The set and game ended on a Cooper ace with the score 25 to 2.

Pendleton County's recent success has come increasingly from the contributions of young players getting significant time, especially Bennett. Head coach Rod Cooper gives the credit to his assistant coach, Madison Day, saying, "It's good teaching. Madison does a good job of teaching."

Day responded, saying, "And the girls do a good job of listening to their coach."

"Next week will be a big one," Cooper noted following the match. "We've got a powerful schedule next week."

The Wildcats hosted Elkins Monday and Moorefield Wednesday and will host Keyser tonight, which is senior night.

## Legacy of Harper Comes Full

### Circle with Hall of Fame Induction

By Stephen Smoot

Earlier this month, Circleville High School graduate and legendary coach Orville Harper earned induction into the Glenville State University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sam Yokum, Pendleton County head baseball coach, described the respect that his players held for him, saying, "He was referred to more as Mr. Harper than Coach Harper."

His legacy of baseball excellence at Glenville includes the fact that he remains the only baseball star from that school to ever earn multiple first-team All-Conference honors. Harper's senior year, the coaches selected him as one of three captains. He earned three letters while playing for Guy Propst's Circleville baseball squads and also in college.

Though he has spent four decades as a sports official, most remember Harper as a successful coach at Circleville. Yokum remembered that "his teams were very competitive. He instilled a lot of discipline in those teams."

In 1977, Harper's team won their first state baseball title of his tenure. In those days, high school baseball in West Virginia had two classes, A-AA and AAA. Circleville defeated Buffalo-Wayne at City Park in Parkersburg to win the double-A title.

Said Harper of that year's run in the Pendleton Times, "We weren't just happy coming to the state tournament. We wanted to win it."

"The players always knew what the expectations were from Mr. Harper," Yokum said. The 1994 championship run may have showed Harper at his best. The team won 24 games and lost none, with the "most difficult schedule ever," as rated by the Pendleton Times that spring, including three-time triple A baseball

champion Jefferson High School and reigning double A title holder Bridgeport.

His 1993 squad left a solid foundation, going 22 and six and winning a regional championship, but 1994 topped it in many ways.

In April, his squad won two no-hitters in a single day, beating Tucker County 10 to 0 and Franklin 19 to 0. According to the Pendleton Times report, "the double no-hitter drew nationwide attention as the Associated Press reported the results on its national sports wires." ESPN also featured the results.

Just as the team had hit the stretch run for the playoffs, potential disaster struck. The state's top player, Travis Harper, who happened to Harper's son, received a back injury in a car accident coming home from prom. The future James Madison University and Tampa Bay Devil Rays pitcher, who also played shortstop, could not contribute for the remainder of the season.

"Without Travis at shortstop," Harper said, "we must change our whole infield around. To



Retired Circleville High School baseball coach, Orville Harper, accepts induction into the Glenville State University Athletic Hall of Fame.

## Season Statistical Leaders for the Wildcats

### Including the Tygarts Valley Victory

James Vincell (#8) 74/125-1054 yds-12 TD-5 INT

Dillon Smith (#16) 92 rush attempts-429 yds-6 TD 58 Tot tackles, 34 solo, 21 assist, 3 Tackles for loss, 1 INT

Chase Owens (#5) 40 rush attempts-224 yds-3 TD 17 receptions-294 yds-2 TD 33 Tot tackles, 15 solo, 16 assist, 2.5 tackles for loss, 3 INT, 5 PBU Josiah Kimble (#14) 26

receptions-343 yds-4 TD 2 Kickoff return TDs of 80 yards

Bradey Bowers (#58) 37 Tot tackles, 17 solo, 16 assist, 1 sack, 3.5 tackles for loss

Nick Rhodes (#12) 42 Tot tackles, 21 solo, 17 assist, 2 sacks, 3.5 tackles for loss, 1 INT 8 receptions-117 yds-2 TD

Justus Kuykendall (#11) 14 rush attempts-46 yds-TD 22

Tot tackles, 10 solo, 11 assist, 1.5 tackles for loss, 1 INT

Tanner Huffman (#65) 30 Tot tackles, 7 solo, 20 assist, 3.5 tackles for loss

Tyler Huffman (#78) 24 Tot tackles, 12 solo, 13 assist, 1 sack, 2 tackles for loss

Tucker Smith (#7) 33 Tot tackles, 20 solo, 13 assist Gabriel Harvey (#24) PAT Attempts-17/21



Members of Orville Harper's first state baseball title team from Circleville High School in 1977 were, from left, front row, Jerry Bowers, Bob Bogan, Steve Bland, Sterling Smith, Craig Turner, Mark Colaw, James Arbogast and Gene Phares; middle row, Chris Harper, John Manly, Mike Smith, Don Lantz, John Warner, Rocky Hedrick, David Bennett, Terry Raines, and Orville Harper (coach); and back row, Carl Day (manager), Sam Teets, Richard Bennett, Floyd Bennett, Tim Kisamore and Junior Sites, Mike Mick and Greg Lantz (managers).

win, we need to play good defense and when you move players around, you run into trouble."

The mark of a great coach is not simply wins, losses, and titles, but also how to prepare players and how to adjust to the unexpected.

With his son watching, Harper's squad went 9-0 the rest of the season, defeated Van in the first round of the state playoffs, then knocked off Doddridge County 6-3 for the title.

"When Travis went down, I saw a different kind of team," Harper told the Pendleton Times, "The boys pulled closer together and seemed to play tougher."

Harper retired after 30 years as a teacher and coach, but used his extra time to run a successful painting contracting firm. He also serves as president of Circleville High School

Preservation, Inc.

He credited his college experience as being part of the foundation of his success. As he explained in the announcement of his induction, "Glenville State prepared me for my career as a teacher and coach." He added that "my baseball coach, Bill Douglas, who passed away recently, was a lifelong friend." Harper also shared that "my only wish is that he could have been a part of the induction. He impacted me greatly with his Christian values."

And just as his coach impacted and influenced his future, there is no doubt that countless former Circleville players could say the same.

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##### Notice of Public Hearing

Pendleton County Schools will conduct mandatory public hearings for community comment on the 2024-2025 public school calendar. The first hearing will be held November 7, 2023 at the Pendleton County Board of Education meeting at Pendleton County Middle/High School following the school's presentation at approximately 6:00 p.m. The second hearing will be held on December 5, 2023 at the Pendleton County Board of Education meeting at North Fork Elementary School following the school's presentation at approximately 6:00 p.m. 10-26-2c

#### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 23-0735-E-ENEC  
MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and, THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

Petition and General Investigation to determine reasonable rates and charges on and after January 1, 2024.

#### NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

On August 31, 2023, Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company (collectively, Companies) requested that the Commission initiate its annual review of Expanded Net Energy Costs (ENEC), including a review of actual costs and recoveries for the review period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, and to establish new rates to go into effect on January 1, 2024. The Companies request that the Commission approve rates that will result in a projected total annual revenue of \$167,465,330. This requested increase is less than the calculated increase of \$243,032,313 which includes a deferred ENEC under-recovery balance of \$267,004,039 as of June 30, 2023, and a projected \$19,913,811 over-recovery for the 2024 forecasted effective rate period. The Companies derived the requested \$167.47 million by taking the actual under-recovery balance of \$267,465,330 and subtracting \$91,898,347, the amount deferred from the last ENEC filing, Case No. 22-0793-E-ENEC and dividing the balance by half. In other words, the Companies propose to recover the \$91.9 million deferred from the last ENEC case and half of the present under recovery. The Companies request a four percent carrying charge for the remaining \$75,566,983.

The proposed ENEC rates represent a 9.9% increase in total rates with an impact to the average residential customer using 1,000 kWhs per month being an increase in monthly bills from \$120.20 to \$129.39 or 7.8%.

This matter is scheduled for an evidentiary hearing on Thursday November 30, 2023. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at the Public Service Commission, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. The Commission may cancel the evidentiary hearing for good cause shown. Interested persons intending to attend the hearing should monitor the Commission web docket.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene not later than November 9, 2023. All petitions to intervene should briefly state the reason for the request to intervene and comply with the rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission will receive public comments until the beginning of the hearing. All written comments and petitions to intervene should state the case name and number and be addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Public Comments may also be filed online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/onlinecomments/default.cfm> by clicking the "Formal Case" link.

## Antlerless Deer Season Opens Today through Sunday

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has announced that the first split of the antlerless deer firearms season will be open Oct. 26 - 29 on public and private land in all or portions of the state's 51 counties open to deer firearms hunting.

"In addition to giving hunters more opportunities to harvest deer, the early antlerless season is designed to control the state's deer population and promote healthier, heavier and more productive herds," said Brett McMillion, director of the WVDNR. An early antlerless deer firearms season provides several advantages for hunters, such as favorable weather conditions for healthy population and the ability to meet the harvest requirement some James Bailey, secretary of the West Virginia Department of Commerce, which oversees the WVDNR. Hunters are also property do not have to purchase their game online at WVhunt.com by calling 1-844-WV-CHECK or by visiting an authorized agent. For more information about the harvests, hunters play an integral part in helping track the deer herd trends, Hunting and Trap-har-ping Regulations Summary, available at license-re-tailers around the state and online at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations.

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D	O	T	G	D	O	M	E	S	T	I	C	A	T	E	D	B	P	I	N	CAPON
P	H	I	E	T	N	R	E	T	S	A	O	R	W	E	I	G	H	T	O	CHICK
F	D	F	T	L	A	R	B	N	V	T	Y	M	C	Y	K	K	C	X	I	CHICKEN
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E	C	R	D	S	P	Y	A	X	C	C	C	E	G	F	R	F	O	G	O	FEATHERS
E	H	V	W	C	I	E	W	L	E	I	Y	S	R	I	E	N	E	B	R	FINISH
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Check Out Our Website  
[Pendletontimes.com](http://Pendletontimes.com)



# BOE Approves Service Personnel Retirement Bonus

*Continued From Page 1*

junction with the Pendleton County Library is "basically done." Shentel had seen delays related to getting their money from the Federal Communications Commission, who had initially declined to fund the free hookup element of the plan. They finally relented and those hookups will continue until May 29, 2024.

Progress on the Sugar Grove/Lingo internet expansion had progressed more slowly, with completion not expected until August of next year.

Hedrick also expressed appreciation for Mowery's help with those projects.

Travis Heavner then shared his facilities report. He first discussed a project to change the lettering on the side of Pendleton County Middle/High School. "We have a few broken ones," he said, adding that "these are the original letters."

He also said that the new letters, made of a more durable material than the original plastic, should last longer and not be discolored by long exposure to the sun.

Heavner also shared that the new electronic marquis for the front of the middle and high school would also get installed soon. "I've seen pictures of it," he said, "it looks nice."

The epic saga of the new alternative education building might end soon. Pendleton County Schools participated in a prison skills training program that saw Huttonsville inmates construct four parts of a new alternative education building for the middle and high school. Conventional trucks, however, could not move the structures off the grounds due to the height restrictions created by the sign over the only entrance to the grounds.

Finally, Heavner found LW Enterprises LLC of Randolph County with the specialized equipment capable of moving the structures without destroying the sign. "We've got a game plan in place," he said, adding that "we could possibly get it moved next week."

The last roadblock lies in obtaining a crane to set the buildings on the foundation. "We're making progress and getting closer," he said.

As new facilities will soon arrive in the county, the board said farewell to another. It voted to accept an offer for the old board office, originally made by the Pendleton County Economic Development Authority, whose operations have been assumed by the Seneca Rocks Rural Development Authority. The SRRDA, with grant funding, will renovate the facility into an innovation hub for remote workers.

The board then passed approvals of policy updates concerning critical needs, disciplinary regulations, and student journalism. The critical needs policy provides "for the employment of retired

teachers in areas of critical need and shortage beyond the post-retirement limitations established by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board."

Retired teachers may accept roles if the county cannot hire substitute teachers in the field of critical need. These substitutes fill vacant positions. The county must review and renew the policy annually as needed.

Pendleton County Schools plans to fill critical needs in science, English language arts, business management, and elementary health/physical education for the 2023-2024 term.

Next, the board heard attendance and achievement reports. Carrie Nesselrodt informed the board that Brandywine Elementary fourth grade had the best attendance at 98 percent. BES as a whole had the best school attendance at 96.5 percent. Countywide, third grade performed the best at 94.19 percent.

She then discussed chronic absence numbers, sharing that 10 percent represented the target goal. Chronically absent students are those who miss more than 10 percent of school days. While BES and Franklin Elementary School are "in really great shape," all schools combined had a number just under 13 percent. Nesselrodt said that overall "we're not far from the 10 percent mark."

Different schools have explored ways to motivate students to make attendance a personal priority. BES and FES use a number of techniques, including "attendance flags," daily announcements, and other public praise and material reward plans. North Fork Elementary has weekly competitions and a prize box.

Pendleton County Middle/High School uses a football inspired contest where each class earns "yards" on a field diagram. The class that scores a touchdown first earns a "super bowl" party.

Nesselrodt said, "Everyone has some really interesting ideas." She added that she has met with the principals to work on ways to curb absences around the holidays.

Hedrick then presented the superintendent's report, much of which discussed the county schools' approval status and accreditation. First, in career and technical education efficiency indicators, the county scored 86 points with 75 indicating that the system "meets requirements." It also earned a "meets requirements" in all operational effectiveness fields. This includes areas such as child nutrition, special education, personnel, federal programs, and more.


Pendleton County joined 16 counties that had met requirements in these for two years in a row. Twenty-four in total met all this year. "We've done it every year for the past several years," Hedrick noted.

He then shared the state response to the county being placed "on watch" for not meeting standards in math achievement and post-secondary achievement. According to the letter from Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, "it is the county's responsibility to monitor for continuous growth and improvement of its students." The state will analyze student data to determine if the school system has demonstrated improvement.

The state lists these results on Annual Accountability Ratings for each county.

The county did not receive a "support" designation in any category. Counties with this failed to show improvement in categories that did not meet standards for two years in a row.

The next meeting of the Pendleton County Board of Education will take place at Pendleton County Middle/High School at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 7.


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CIRCLEVILLE AREA, 66.05 acres +/-, approximately 12 acres pasture, 51 acres wooded, secluded, easy access, stream and dug well, old homestead. \$249,000.

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TRUCKS	SALE
2022 FORD F-450 CREW LARIAT 4X4, "CUSTOM HAULER BED," 7.3 gas V-8, dk. stone color w/matching bed, only 23K miles, very sharp	\$79,500
2022 FORD F-250 CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4, XLT pkg., 6.7 liter diesel, auto., ldd., white, 36K miles, ex. cond.	\$59,900
2021 FORD E-450 34 FT MOTORHOME "Forest River Pkg.," 7.3 gas V-8, auto., ldd., dual slide-outs, automatic leveling, leather couch w/recliners, flat screen TVs, etc., only 6,000 miles	\$79,500
2020 JEEP GLADIATOR 4X4 CREW CAB TK., V-6, auto., ldd., silver, 39K miles, very sharp	SPECIAL \$44,900 \$39,900
2017 FORD F-150 CREW CAB S/BED 4X4, XLT pkg., 3.5 liter V-6, auto., ldd., white, 175K miles	\$17,900
2018 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW LARIAT 4X4, 3.5 liter EcoBoost, auto., ldd., silver, 130K miles	\$27,900
2015 FORD F-250 REGULAR CAB 4X2 UTILITY TRUCK, 6.2 liter gas V-8, auto., air, etc., 129K miles	\$19,500
2015 FORD F-250 SUPERCAB SHORTBED 4X2, 6.2 liter gas V-8, auto., ldd., white, 175K miles, ex. cond.	\$19,900
2013 FORD F-250 REGULAR CAB LONGBED 4X4, "Utility Bed," 6.2 gas V-8, auto., air, etc., 167K miles, ex. cond.	\$18,900
2010 FREIGHTLINER M106 HD TANDEM AXLE UTILITY TRUCK, dsl., auto., knuckle boom crane, welder, compressor, etc.	\$29,900
2009 FREIGHTLINER M106 SINGLE AXLE HD UTILITY TRUCK, dsl., 6-spdl, mechanic's crane, welder, air compressor, etc., 94K miles	\$29,900
1996 FORD F-250 S/CAB LONGBED 4X4, 7.3 diesel, auto., ldd., bronze, 154K miles	\$28,900
1994 FORD F-350 CREW CAB DUALY 4X2, 7.3 diesel, 5-spdl, ldd., green, 204K miles, very nice	\$28,900
PASSENGER VEHICLES	SALE
2021 FORD BRONCO SPORT "FIRST EDITION" AWD SUV, 2.0 EcoBoost, auto., ldd., sharp cyber orange color w/only 8,900 miles	\$39,500
2021 BMW X3 3.0i AWD SUV, 2.0 Turbo, auto., ldd., white, only 22K miles, very sharp	\$39,500
2021 KIA RIO S 5-DR HATCHBACK, 1.6 4-cyl., auto., ldd., white, only 7K miles, like new cond.	\$19,900
2019 SUBARU LEGACY LAWD 4-DR SEDAN, 2.5 4-cyl., auto., ldd., light blue color, only 33K miles, ex. cond.	SPECIAL \$24,900 \$23,500
2019 SUBARU CROSSTREK PREMIUM AWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., blue, only 47K miles, ex. cond.	SPECIAL \$28,900 \$26,500
2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, 106K highway miles	\$17,900
2018 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD, 2.0 4-cyl., auto., ldd., blue 102K miles, very sharp	\$19,900
2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., black, black leather, 88K miles	\$27,900
2014 FORD EXPLORER AWD "POLICE INTERCEPTOR," 3.7 liter, V-6, auto., ldd., white, 170K miles	\$14,900
2014 FORD EXPLORER XLT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., Ruby red, black leather, 119K miles, very sharp	\$15,900
1997 FORD MUSTANG COBRA CONVERTIBLE, V-8, 5-spdl, ldd., white, tan leather, only 49K miles, ex. cond.	SPECIAL \$29,500 \$27,500 \$26,500


**Sugar Grove Realty, Inc.**

39 Maple Ave  
 PO Box 999  
 Franklin, WV 26807  
 sugargrovetv.com  
 304.358.3332/3337 304.358.3334 (fax)

Jeffrey S. Bowers, Broker C 304.668.0002  
 Stuart Bowers, Sales Agent C 304.668.1147  
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SGR311A 1 acre w/3 bed, 2 bath home located in Franklin Public Water & Well. Cell service & internet avail. Franklin District. <b>NEW LISTING \$269,900.00.</b>	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. <b>\$998,700.00.</b>
SGR306A 6.38 Acres, Raw Land, US RT 220N. Nice Building Site. <b>NEW LISTING \$69,000.00.</b>	SGR245 0.96 Acres w/2 Bed, 1.5 Bath 1900's Remodeled Cottage, Seneca Rocks. <b>\$249,900.00 REDUCED \$234,900.00.</b>
SGR303A 18 Acres w/Unfinished 3-Story Cabin, another Older cabin and Hunting Bunkhouse w/Spectacular View of Dolly Sods. Located in Roaring Creek area, Union Dist. Septic avail, but not hooked up. Spring, Electric, Phone/Internet. <b>NEW LISTING \$279,000.00.</b>	SGR244 0.14 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath 1,008 sq. ft. Home, Bonus Room, Metal Roof, Mini-Splits. Franklin Corp. <b>\$149,900.00 REDUCED \$146,400.00.</b>
SGR302A "The Hollow" Restaurant, fully furnished, at the corner of US RT 220/US RT 33W, Franklin. Property adjoins neighboring motel. <b>NEW LISTING \$425,900.00 REDUCED \$320,000.00.</b>	SGR241 60.24 Acres w/Cabin. Exceptional Views, Excellent Hunting w/Hunt Stands in place. Bathhouse, Electric Nearby, Cistern, Small pond. Close to National Forest. <b>NEW LISTING \$299,900.00 REDUCED \$259,000.00.</b>
SGR300A 599.19 Acres, more or less, off of Sandy Ridge Rd. Hunting, Food Plots, Timber, Catfish Pond, Mtn. Views, Roads throughout. Franklin District. <b>NEW LISTING \$1,795,000.00.</b>	SGR236 World Class View Overlooking Germany Valley! Log Cabin, 70.08 Acres, 2 bed, 2.5 Baths. Seneca Lookout. Some Restrictions. <b>\$799,000.00.</b>
SGR296A 0.90 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home w/Loft, Riverbend Golf Course, Common area, HOA Fee, Corner Unit. <b>NEW LISTING \$64,900.00.</b>	SGR223 0.6673 Acres w/Spacious 3 Bed, 2 Bath Home, 2090 sq. ft., 1 Car Detached Garage. Franklin Corp. <b>\$329,900.00 REDUCED \$299,000.00.</b>
SGR290A 0.82 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home w/Loft, along US RT 33W. Public Water available. <b>\$15,000.00.</b>	SGR156 15.97 Acres, Rolling Hills Estate, Electric nearby, Water available. Hardy County. <b>\$95,000.00. REDUCED \$89,900.00.</b>
SGR287A 0.20 Acres w/3 Bed, 1.5 Bath Doublewide Home, close to local amenities. Franklin Corp., Pendleton County. <b>NEW LISTING REDUCED \$160,000.00 REDUCED \$89,900.00.</b>	SGR128 2-3 Bedroom Ranch w/Full Basement on 0.6386 Acres, more or less, Meters Gap Rd, Sugar Grove District. <b>NEW LISTING \$160,000.00 REDUCED \$149,900.00 REDUCED \$145,000.00.</b>
SGR282A 0.75 Acres Store Front/Residence located in Brandywine. Needs some TLC. <b>\$95,000.00 \$69,000.00.</b>	SGR056 Highland County property. Pasture, several year-round Springs, Hunting, High Speed Internet, Electric, 1.3 miles of public Road Frontage. Awesome view of Blue Grass Valley. <b>\$2,973,000.00.</b>
SGR277A 17.81 Acres w/4 Bed, 3 Bath Home, 2-4 Car Garages, Hiking/ATV Trail, Well water w/deeded access to Spring. Sugar Grove District. Covenants & Restrictions apply. <b>\$499,900.00 REDUCED \$469,900.00.</b>	SGR042 Five Unit Townhouse property located in Brandywine. Each unit has 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, LR and Large Kitchen. Near National Forest for hunting and fishing. Perfect for retirement income, live in one and rent the others! <b>\$399,000.00.</b>
SGR271-A 1.84 Acres, Potomac Heights Subdivision, Williams Rd., Franklin District, Pendleton County, WV. <b>\$14,000.00.</b>	
SGR258B 3.42 Acres, w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home. Sugar Grove District, Falcon Lane. <b>\$259,000.00. REDUCED \$229,000.00.</b>	SGR441 Residential lots, public water, protective covenants and restrictions. Oak Flat Estates near Brandywine on Rte. 33 East of Franklin. Lots from <b>\$20,760.00.</b>
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. <b>\$519,000.00.</b>	SGR247 Residential lots with town water, sewer & underground utilities. Protective covenants and restrictions. Franklin Airport Development. Lots from <b>\$14,630.00.</b>