



# THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Thursday  
November 9, 2023

## US Capitol Christmas Tree Tour Comes To Pendleton County This Sunday



This 63-foot Norway spruce will be placed on the west side of the U.S. Capitol on Nov. 17. It was named "wa'feem'tekwi" by the Shawnee Tribe. The name means "bright tree" in the Shawnee language and is pronounced phonetically "wa thame tech we." Photo Courtesy of U.S. Forest Service.

By Stephen Smoot

It started life decades ago in a quiet corner of the Monongahela National Forest. Over the years, the sun, rain and snow, the stormy winds and calm breezes, and the nutrient rich soil allowed it to ascend to the sky while spreading its branches strong and wide.

Last Saturday, the 63-foot Norway spruce commenced its second life. Now it gets to represent a centuries old tradition to the wonderment of children from one to 92 as it tours the mountains of West Virginia before reaching its holiday home at the United States Capitol.

The Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau has spearheaded planning the county's contribution to the exciting tour. "We are working hard with local people and organizations to create a

*Continued on Page 2*



Alyssa Bennett makes a big play at the net to help her team defeat Trinity and advance to the state tournament.

## Pendleton County Earns Berth In West Virginia State High School Volleyball Tournament

By Stephen Smoot

The Wildcats once again had to prowl into the den of the East Hardy Cougars on Saturday, but this time they took home a victory and a state playoff opportunity.

First, they took on Trinity, a Morgantown based school. The Warriors brought a 28 and 9 record into the regional tournament, posting three wins against the three mu-

tual opponents they and the Wildcats shared.

The initial set saw Trinity giving Pendleton County all it wanted. Early on, with the score knotted at one, Lizzie Alt served an ace to give her team the advantage. Trinity later pulled within one at 5 to 4, but consecutive spikes by Kate Hedrick and Alyssa Bennett pushed the lead to three.

Trinity briefly took the

lead, 9 to 8, but an Alt spike tied it again. Carolyn Varner gave her team breathing room, serving eight times and earning five aces. Baylee Beachler added a spike and a block in the run.

Pendleton County saw the Warriors battle their way to a tie at 20. Varner set up a Hedrick spike to grab back the lead. Allie Cooper shut down the set at the end with

*Continued on Page 2*

## Daily Walking, 'Close to Thee,' the Moatstown Choir Inspires and Entertains For Over Five Decades

By Stephen Smoot

It all started in 1969, according to one of the founders of the Moatstown Choir, Gail Wright-Wilson.

"My grandmother Cleriece Moats got six of us together. Three of us were Ward Moats' kids. He was the pastor back then," she remembered, adding that, "We just sang out of the book on Sundays and that was it."

Back in the 1960s, Sundays at church was just as mandatory, perhaps more so, than going to school during the week. The Biblical day of rest meant attending services in the morning, coming in one's "Sunday best," hearing the sermons, praising God in prayer and song, then spending afternoons catching up with family.

In those days, as Thelma Moats remem-

bered in a 2005 recording the church congregation had "quite a few people."

As Anita Moats told the Charleston Gazette in 2005, "Sunday was the big day. After church, you went to somebody's house, and you ate all day long ... There was softball games and horseshoes and reminiscing, cooking and eating ... a lot of eating."

The center of religious and community life was the elegant Moatstown Chapel, which still serves its local congregation. Thelma Moats described a self-sufficient community where craftsmen "made baskets and chairs and cedar buckets." Well before state and local tourism officials took up the idea, Moatstown residents made their own maple syrup as well.

She added that "the original building is still there. We built on."

Music and performing before a crowd came naturally for children who grew up on the church stage. "For Easter," Thelma Moats described, "they would have a program, and of course there would be singing and kids reciting poems. There'd be people clapping

*Continued on Page 8*



The Moatstown Choir, despite many changes in membership, has been a Pendleton County favorite for more than five decades.

### Community CALENDAR

#### Region 8 PDC To Meet Nov. 16

The Region 8 Planning and Development Council will meet at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Region 8 PDC office, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg.

#### Clothing Closet Open Next Week

A free clothing closet will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 13 through Nov. 17 and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 18 at the North Fork Baptist Church in Riverton.

#### Post 9666 To Host Veterans Day Ceremony

VFW Post 9666 Sugar Grove will be hosting a Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Rich Homan VFW Memorial Park in Sugar Grove. Refreshments will be available at the end of the ceremony. The public is invited to attend.

#### Quilters To Meet

The Sew and Sews Quilt Guild will gather at 6 p.m. Monday at Main Street United Methodist Church in Franklin. Christmas ornaments will be made. For more information, contact Paula Waggy at 304-358-7912.

#### PVCD Board To Gather Tuesday

The Potomac Valley Conservation District board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Farm Credit building in Moorefield. The meeting agenda will be available three days prior to the meeting on the district website at www.wvca.us/district/pvcd.cfm or by contacting the Romney office at 304-822-5174. The public is invited to participate.

## New Executive Director Eyes Expanded Role, Programs for Pendleton County Library

By Stephen Smoot

"I was raised in Jersey," said Walt Johnson, the new executive director of the Pendleton County Library, adding that, "one of the really nice things has been how welcoming everyone has been to this guy from the suburbs."

But he left quickly, saying, "I couldn't wait to get out as a young man."

Johnson has piled up experiences working in libraries and museums from Newark, Delaware, to the Florida Keys. Through his travels and various roles, "I found interests in myself I wouldn't have had otherwise."

He inherits a facility that benefited from many years of leadership in the steady hands of Becky McConnell. Johnson said, "I'm really thankful for my colleagues and what Becky left behind. It's a really strong foundation to build on."

During McConnell's tenure, the library went beyond the traditional institutional role. For example, the Friends of the Library organized performances and presentations to both educate and entertain the community.

Johnson agrees with this ideal, saying "I'm a believer in an expansive view of libraries and their role." He explained that as other institutions "whether by necessity or by choice" must "shave their roles," libraries, when possible, must step in and help bridge the gaps.

Johnson noticed early on that Pendleton County serves as a fount of creative energy for many residents. With the library hosting performances, the Warner Drive-In building a stage, art contests hosted by the senior center, and a tradition of live music, the area excels in artistic production. He stated that "we've already talked to the drive-in theater to have a classic movie night sponsored by the library."

He sees the library as a catalyst to coordinate the production of the arts while giving creative expression a forum. "Communities need a cultural hub," Johnson stated. "There's a lot of folks in this area adding to the cultural traditions."

Johnson added, "It's heartening to see how many groups in this area are doing creative things."

He went on to explain the role of a library in such an environment, saying "libraries are not just protectors and advocates for literature, but of creativity itself, such as literature, fine arts, and theater."

Immediate plans focus on having one adult and one child oriented event a piece at the library each month. Other short term needs include redesigning the interior and looking at the collection to see what could be removed to allow the introduction of new material, "but that doesn't mean that you get rid of what is of value."

Johnson also wants to "redo the signage to make it both more attractive and informational."

In the long term, Johnson wants to remedy "severe space problems" so that the "collection remains vibrant and growing" and has started researching grant opportunities that could make those needs a tangible reality.

Johnson's idea of a library mission, especially for a county library, lies in making it a dynamic institution that serves as a hub of knowledge, education, and culture that remains accessible to people of all ages. A library can help young people not only appreciate the wonder of the world beyond the county line, but also help them see the wonders of their own community with new eyes.

Part of that mission, he states, includes serving as a technology resource in a county where geography and legal restrictions often leave people without access to the tools of the information age.

He bemoaned the recent trend of some libraries and other institutions of knowledge and learning taking strong political stances and sides, preferring that they stay neutral. Johnson added, "We have to develop into a place where people can feel comfortable to be their best selves. There are many tools and methods to assist in that."

Furthermore, it can help anyone take the next and necessary step after gaining knowledge. Johnson says "Knowledge is not the same as wisdom. The library can help people with the latter, but we don't want to be the ones making their minds for them."

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**Dorain "Dode" Bryan Newcomb**  
"Together Again"

**Ina Jean Martha Evick**

Dorain "Dode" Bryan Newcomb, 88, passed away peacefully on Oct. 14, 2023, at the home of his daughter in Alliance, Ohio.

He was born on Feb. 1, 1935, in Rexrode to the late Dick Ward and Grace Ellen (Vandevander) Newcomb.

His wife of 51 years, Marjorie (Fuson) Newcomb, preceded him in death.

Mr. Newcomb will be missed by his three daughters, Floda (Stan) Herren, Lorraine (Patrick) Greiner, and Doreen (Ray) Freeman; and two sisters, Helen (Kermit) Arbaugh of Circleville and Lois Long of Aberdeen, Maryland. He is also survived by nine grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by two sisters, Beatrice Dove and Roxie Barry; and two brothers, Gene Newcomb and Albert Thomas Newcomb.

The family has requested there to be no services at this time, but a celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Ina Jean Martha Evick, 92, of Brandywine passed away Oct. 30, 2023, at the Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born on Aug. 15, 1931, at Oak Flat, the daughter of the late Hurley J. and Lucy Jane (Mitchell) Sinnett.

Mrs. Evick attended Oak Flat and Brandywine schools. She worked as postmaster of Ft. Seybert for 30 plus years.

She was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church. She loved spending time with her family and friends.

On Dec. 15, 1948, she married Lee Roy Evick, who preceded her in death on Oct. 8, 2022.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory two sons, Lee Roy Evick, Jr. (Nancy) and Albert Lest-

er Evick (Pamela) all of Ft. Seybert; six granddaughters, Michelle Lynn Kuykendall (Danny), Allison Rae Moats (Sam), Josie Lee Wright (Zethan), Leigh Rian Richmond (Jesse Blevins), Gayle Yvonne Combs (Wes) and Meghan Michelle Evick (CJ Funk); 17 great-grandchildren, Jacob, John, Javin, Jaxon, and Justus Kuykendall, Kyel and Julian Towler, Bryson, Ethan, and Liam Moats, Roman and Declan Wright, Amber Allen, Autumn Yonkovich, Kayleigh Richmond, Kaden Richmond, and Easton Combs; and four great-great-grandchildren, Preston, Legend, Jaslyn Allen and Charlotte.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Mary Margaret Evick; a brother, John Paul Sinnett; and two sisters, Nora Jane Bland and Dorothy Yancey.

Funeral services were held Friday in the Basagic Funeral Home chapel with Pastor Keith Pitsnogle officiating.

Memorials may be made to South Fork Volunteer Fire Department.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com) or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.

special day," Amber Nesselrodt, executive director of the CVB, explained previously.

"It's a huge honor. This is the third time that we've had a tree come off of the Monongahela National Forest and so it's a really great way to highlight the State of West Virginia, and all of the people that have created thousands of ornaments that adorn the tree this holiday season," Amy Albright, the project manager of the 2023 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, told WBOY.

Because, as Nesselrodt explained, "The official tree has only come from the Monongahela National Forest twice prior to this." The area is making special efforts to make the visit a memorable and exciting event.

The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree celebration will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Pendleton County Industrial Park in Upper Tract.

The tree will make an entrance to great fanfare at 2 p.m., with a viewing and banner signing between 2 and 4 p.m. Two of the U.S. Forest Services most highly sought after celebrities, Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl, will be on hand to celebrate the tree and spread the message about forest safety and etiquette.

With partners such as the Pendleton County Farmers Market and Swilled Dog supporting the effort, attendees to the free event can enjoy an artisan market, live music by Mike Eye, a variety of food trucks, and entertainment for the kids.

The selected sawyers took down the tree near Laurel Fork campground in Randolph County. A U.S. Forest Service Facebook post shared that "the weather was very Christmassy and it was a little bit tricky getting into Laurel Fork Campground, but everyone made it and we conducted a safe event that was well-documented by a number of government agencies, part-

ners, sponsors, and friends of U.S. Forest Service - Monongahela National Forest."

The United States Forest Service last month selected two West Virginians to harvest the majestic titan. Arden Cogar, Jr.'s day job is Charleston lawyer, but moonlights as a world champion lumberjack with 55 world titles under his belt. His family worked with the West Virginia timber industry for six decades with his father leading the harvest team for the 1976 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

He was joined by Ron Polgar whose 46 years of service to the Monongahela National Forest outstrips anyone currently employed there. He also served on the USS Chicago in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam War.

Senator Joe Manchin announced last month that Ethan Reese of Beverly Elementary School was selected from more than 400 submissions as the official essay of the tree.

Reese shared that "I live very close to where the Capitol Christmas Tree is from, the Monongahela National Forest. I spend a lot of time there with my family, and I am the great-great grandson of one of the very first superintendents of the Monongahela National Forest. The biggest reason I love West Virginia forests and public lands is because they allow me to spend time with my family. I take photographs with my dad, hike with my mom, fish with my grandpa, identify wildflowers with my grandparents, travel and explore with my parents, and camp with all of my family."

In September, the tree received the name "wa'feem'tekwi" by the Shawnee Tribe. As the U.S. Forest Service stated, "the name means 'bright tree' in the Shawnee language and is pronounced phonetically 'wa thame tech we'."

## PenCo in WV State High School Volleyball Tournament

Continued From Page 1

two straight aces, putting the final at 25 to 21.

Trinity started the second set falling behind early 6 to 2, but fighting their way back to a tie at six. Gabby DePue shut down their run with a spike, followed by a Beachler ace. At this point, the wheels fell off for Trinity. The Warriors would only score six more points in the contest. Pendleton County dominated play with clutch serving and excellent net play. Breena Bowers and Emma Hartman earned an ace each while DePue, Alt, and Hedrick all fired spikes.

An Alt ace closed the second set with the score 25 to 12. Trinity fared even worse in the third set as Pendleton County played perhaps their best set of the year so far.

Varner took the first 15 serves of the set as the Wildcats earned a titanic 14 to 0 edge to start. She had four aces in the run with big plays by Alt, Beachler, and DePue helping. Trinity countered with two straight scores, but the Wildcats took the next four as Alt served.

Alt had two spikes in the last three serves to close the set and the game, securing the Wildcats a trip to Charleston this week.

Next came an all too familiar adversary, the East Hardy Cougars for the regional title.

East Hardy has dominated the entire area, including Pendleton County, this year. They took a three sets to nothing victory to gain the sectional title and sought to do the same with

the regional.

The Wildcats worked to block those aspirations.

In the first set, Pendleton County took the first three points, but the Cougars quickly tied it up. DePue tapped the ball lightly to the middle, then spiked on East Hardy to gain a two-point lead. When the Cougars tied the game again at six, Alt dove to keep a play alive, leading to a Bennett spike.

Most of the rest of the game stayed close. Nine times the teams tied. After the last at 16, however, East Hardy scored nine of the next 10 to secure the set win.

The second set saw Pendleton County with an opportunity to punch back. With Alt serving, DePue fired a spike to give her squad an 18 to 13 lead. The Cougars scored two, but DePue and Beachler executed a block to put the lead back at four. East Hardy, however, surged late and won the set 25 to 22.

A characteristic of this year's Wildcat volleyball has been the lack of quit and pride in giving top effort no matter what. Quickly, the Wildcats established a commanding 9 to 3 lead. DePue led the way with three blocks and a spike.

Throughout the game, Pendleton County players dove after the ball, hitting the floor hard numerous times, sacrificing to keep plays alive and often succeeding. The two teams would see sometimes 10 or more volley exchanges trying to

find a weakness or take a big play opportunity.

The Cougars roared back with a 12 to three run to tie the game at 15. This time, Pendleton County weathered the storm. The Cougars committed a rare mistake, serving the ball into the net. Beachler then found a hole in the back of the defense and fired a spike two plays later to give her team an 18 to 16 advantage.

Pendleton County competed furiously, playing as if the outcome in this set alone decided if they would advance, as opposed to already accomplishing that feat. Loud chants of "Let's Go Wildcats!" filled the gym.

Bowers took the serve with a 22 to 18 lead. Alt scored on two spikes with a Cougar error in between to set a 23 to 19 lead. With Cooper serving, Varner set up Beachler for a soft tap to the right sideline. At game point, Cooper served. Alt spiked the ball hard off the outstretched palms of a Cougar player to earn the first set win versus East Hardy this year.

In the fourth and final set, Pendleton County still gave a valiant effort. Hedrick had three big plays at the net to help, but East Hardy took the set, the game, and the tournament with a final of 25 to 15.

Wednesday, Pendleton County played Buffalo in game two of the state tournament, with East Hardy facing Ritchie County in an earlier match. Winners of those two matches were scheduled to play later on Tuesday.

**MENU**  
**Pendleton Senior & Family Services**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10**  
Veterans Day  
**CLOSED**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13**  
**Cook's CHOICE**

Fruit/Milk

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**  
Fish, Potato Wedges  
Slaw  
Fruit/Milk

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**  
Vegetable Soup  
Pnut Butter & Banana Sandwich  
Pumpkin Cookie  
Apple  
Milk

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16**  
Stuffed Peppers  
Carrots, Black Beans  
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.

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# Students Invited to Create Ornaments

First Lady Cathy Justice is inviting all West Virginia students to participate in the 19th annual First Lady Student Ornament Competition.

All kindergarten through 12th-grade students who are public, private, or home-schooled are encouraged to "Deck the Halls with Doggy Paws" by creating a "dog" themed Christmas ornament to honor West Virginia's canine companions. When creating their ornament, classes are asked to focus on West Virginia's Friends With Paws school therapy dogs or Babydog Justice. The ornaments will be on display at the Culture Center in Charleston during the holiday season.

Design and submission information for the 2023 First Lady Student Ornament Competition can be found at <https://governor.wv.gov/News/press-releases/2023/Pages/First-Lady-Cathy-Justice-invites-students-to-create-ornaments-for-the-2023-First-Lady-Student-Ornament-Competition.aspx>.

Ornaments will be classified in four divisions according to grade: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and

9-12. Each ornament will be individually judged and four winning classes will be selected, one from each division. In January 2024, the winning ornaments will be donated to the West Virginia State Museum for a permanent collection.

The ornaments and the Christmas tree will be unveiled in conjunction with Joyful Night, the annual holiday celebration at the State Capitol held in early December. The four winning classes will receive a gift card to help purchase supplies for their class.

Ornaments must be received by Nov. 17 to be eligible for judging.

Students may mail their entries to Elizabeth Yeager, Department of Arts, Culture and History, The Culture Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305.

With their submission, students MUST include their contact information (phone, email, mailing address, teacher name, school and class).

For questions please contact Elizabeth Yeager by email at [elizabeth.a.yeager@wv.gov](mailto:elizabeth.a.yeager@wv.gov).

# Closing Dates Listed For Recreation Sites

Most of Monongahela National Forest is open year-round, closing only when access roads are snow-covered. But some developed campgrounds, picnic areas and both visitor centers routinely close from late fall through mid-spring. Visit the forest's recreation conditions report at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recreation/mnf/recreation> for the most current information.

Closing dates for recreation sites on the Cheat-Potomac Ranger District (304-478-2000) in the Elkins and Parsons areas: Bear Heaven Campground – Dec. 1, Bickle Knob and Olson observation towers – close when roads are snow-covered and Horseshoe and Stuart recreation areas – closed for season.

Closing dates for recreation sites on the Cheat-Potomac Ranger District (304-257-4488) in the Petersburg and Seneca Rocks areas: Big Bend, Jess Judy Group, Seneca Shadows and Spruce Knob Lake campgrounds and Seneca Rocks Discovery Center – closed, Dolly Sods Picnic Area – Jan. 1, Gatewood Group Campground – until Nov. 30 no fees charged, pack in and pack out with no services, Red Creek Campground – Dec. 31, Seneca Rocks Picnic Area – Nov. 30, Spruce Knob Lake – open year-round with toilets closing Dec. 1 and Spruce Knob Observation Tower – area open year-round (except when roads are snow-covered) with toilets closing Dec. 1.

Closing dates for recreation sites on the Greenbrier Ranger District (304-456-3335) in the Bartow area: Gaudineer Knob Picnic Area – closes when roads are snow-covered with toilets closing Dec. 1, Island and Laurel Fork campgrounds and Middle Mountain Cabins – Dec. 1, Lake Buffalo – lake open year-round with toilets closing Dec. 1 and Old House Run Picnic Area – Dec. 2.

Closing dates for recreation sites on the Gauley Ranger District (304-846-2695) in

the Richwood area:

Big Rock, Bishop Knob, Cranberry and Summit Lake campgrounds – Dec. 1, Cranberry Mountain Nature Center and North Bend and Woodbine picnic areas – closed, Cranberry River Developed Dispersed Campsites – area closes when snow-covered with toilets closing Dec. 1, Summit Lake – lake open year-round with toilets closing Dec. 1 and Williams River Developed Dispersed Campsites (Sites #1 - #20 located downstream of Tea Creek Campground) – area closes when snow-covered with toilets closing Dec. 1.

Closing dates for recreation sites on the Marlinton-White Sulphur Ranger District (304-799-4334) in the Marlinton area: Day Run, Pocahontas and Tea Creek campgrounds – Dec. 1, Highland Scenic Highway – road closes when snow-covered with toilets closing Dec. 1, Rimel Picnic Area – Jan. 1 and Williams River Developed Dispersed Campsites (Sites #21 to #30 located upstream of Tea Creek Campground) – area closes when snow-covered with toilets closing Dec. 1.

Closing dates for recreation sites on the Marlinton-White Sulphur Ranger District (304-536-2144) in the White Sulphur Springs area: Blue Bend Recreation Area – camping and picnicking closes Dec. 1, Hopkins Knob Fireman's Cabin – Dec. 1 and Lake Sherwood Recreation Area and Campground – West Shore Loop, as well as all other camping loops and day use area and lake toilets are closed with lake open year-round.

Roadside camping, also called dispersed camping, is available in many areas of the forest year-round.

For more information about recreation facilities, contact the district office near the location a person would like to visit. Contact information is listed at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mnf/about-forest/offices>.

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



## OPEN ENROLLMENT

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**FREE ENTRY**

## U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE CELEBRATION

**NOV. 12 • 1-5PM**  
AT PENDLETON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK  
28 INDUSTRIAL PARK RD. UPPER TRACT, WV

<b>LIVE MUSIC</b> FEAT. MIKE EYE	<b>ARTISAN MARKET</b>	<b>FOOD TRUCKS &amp; KIDS ZONE</b>
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Line Up for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree's Grand Entrance at 2PM  
Tree Viewing & Banner Signing (2-4PM)  
Swilled Dog's Launch of Mon Forest Reserve Gin & Specialty Cocktails  
Learn more about the Monongahela National Forest, plus appearances by Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl  
Pet Photo Booth & More!







**10 Years Ago**  
**Week of October 31, 2013**

**SUGAR GROVE**

**It's Time for a Pot of Soup To Be Brewing**

The last of autumn's leaves are falling from the trees. The unseasonably icy breeze, too chilly for even the most ardent of walkers to be out and about, scatters them along the roadway. At times, the leaves appear to be dancing up and down the roadways, as if they were scattering to the dance of the melancholy tunes of autumn. It was this wind that made it very clear that summer is no longer. With that in mind, it's time for a pot of soup to be brewing on the stove to help one adjust to the changing temperatures.

**Week of November 7, 2013**

**SUGAR GROVE**

**November Is Not Melancholy, But Cozy**

November is not a melancholy month, but a cozy month to move indoors and enjoy the comforts of a warm fire, a fuzzy blanket at night and the inviting fragrance of homemade soups. It is a month of many celebrations, beginning with Veterans Day, which highlights those members of the armed forces who are far away from home and who would give anything to be home for the Thanksgiving holiday. It is a day set aside to honor all those who have served to protect America. Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day to honor all veterans who fought in the various wars.

**40 Years Ago**  
**Week of November 3, 1983**

**Many Towns Claim 'Capital of World' Title**

**By Boris Weintraub**

In Castorville, Calif., they have a saying: anything you can do with potatoes, you can do with artichokes, and you can do it better. Castorville is the artichoke capital of the world. In Vidalia, Ga., Dick Walden says that when his wife bakes Vidalia sweet onions, he sometimes thinks that she has secretly sprinkled sugar on them, so sweet and mild are they. Vidalia is the sweet onion capital of the world. In Jay, Okla., youngsters protect the secret locations of their wild huckleberry patches so they'll have a steady supply to sell to Kelly's IGA, which makes huckleberry preserves. Jay is the huckleberry capital of the world. There are towns like this all over the United States, all with the title of "something-or-other capital of the world." There is nothing official about such designations; they are self-awarded, and other towns would probably

quibble about some of them.

But often they play a major part in establishing a town's identity, in recognizing a unique crop, and in promoting tourism, too. The way capital status is confirmed varies widely. Jay began calling itself the huckleberry capital 16 years ago when it launched an annual huckleberry festival. Until then, the berry had been popular in the town of 3,000 but was rarely eaten elsewhere. A town can get to be a capital in a serendipitous way. Take the case of St. Johnsbury, Vt., the maple capital of the world. It earned its status because a local grocer was broke. Tradition has it that George Cary, representing a wholesale grocer, called upon a St. Johnsbury retailer to settle an account back in 1898. The local man had no cash, so he paid with 1,500 pounds of maple sugar he happened to have. Still, it's easy to win such a title, harder to keep it. Hope, Ark., population 10,300, is the watermelon capital of the world because it grows them so big. Ivan Bright produced a 200-pound watermelon. Last year, that distinction passed to a grower in Bigsby, Okla., who produced a 219-pounder. Things aren't so hopeful in Hopkins, Minn., formerly the raspberry capital of the world. That was in the days when, as Clint Blomquist, 79, curator of the Hopkins Historical Society, recalls, "We'd ship raspberries out by the freight car load, and we had to import people for 40 or 50 miles away in season to pick berries."

**50 Years Ago**  
**Week of November 1, 1973**

**Rev. Middleswarth Ends 15 Years Ministry Here**

**WILL GO TO OHIO**

Pastor William Middleswarth of Sugar Grove has resigned as pastor of the South Fork Lutheran Parish to accept a call issued by St. Paul Lutheran Church of Pomeroy, Ohio. He will be installed Sunday. The Rev. Mr. Middleswarth has been pastor of the South Fork Parish for 15 years, having been installed March 30, 1958. His parish here included four churches, St. Michael, Trinity, Calvary and Martin Luther, all located in the Brandywine-Sugar Grove area. A vision tester for use in the Pendleton County schools was presented to the Pendleton County Health Department by the Franklin Lions Club at its regular meeting Monday night. The machine was presented by Dr. John R. Harman, chairman of the club's sight conservation committee, to Mrs. Kitie Mitchell, county health nurse.

**60 Years Ago**  
**Week of November 7, 1963**

**100 YEARS AGO**

**By LON K. SAVAGE**

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

**Bragg Splits Army In Blow at Knoxville**

General Braxton Bragg, the Confederate whose army had whipped the Yanks at Chickamauga Creek a month earlier, made one of the costliest errors of his career 100 years ago this week. In a bold move that would prove to be catastrophic, Bragg split his huge army of 55,000. He sent Gen. James Longstreet with 15,000 men chasing off to Knoxville, Tenn., while he, Bragg, waited with the remainder of his men in their long-held position south of Chattanooga. Bragg had reasons for his move. His army held what he considered an impregnable position on the heights overlooking Chattanooga. His men could watch as Federal Gen. Ulysses S. Grant worked to organize his army within the city. Bragg knew Grant could not storm the Confederate fortifications on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge with his present strength. Bragg also knew that 12,000 more Federal troops under Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside were scattered near Knoxville, and that these men could come to Grant's aid. Further, Bragg knew that Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman was marching from Memphis with still another army of Federal troops to help Grant.

Bragg's idea was this: to send Longstreet to Knoxville, 110 miles away, to destroy Burnside quickly. Longstreet then could return to Chattanooga, if necessary, before Grant was ready for battle. Longstreet, a veteran of most of the war's great battles, agreed to the proposition reluctantly. He asked only that Bragg pull back and entrench himself more strongly south of Chattanooga; he also asked that Bragg give him 20,000—rather than 15,000—troops to make the march to Knoxville. Bragg declined both requests. On November 4, Longstreet set out and ran into problems immediately. His troop trains were a day late in getting organized at Tyner, Tenn., just east of Chattanooga. Longstreet's men arrived at Sweetwater, 50 miles to the northeast, on the sixth, seventh and eighth, and then had to waste a day and a half foraging for food. Next, Longstreet found that plans to cross the Holston River had been fouled, and he wasted further time preparing for the crossing. Nothing seemed to be going right. At Knoxville, meanwhile, Burnside began pulling his

12,000 troops in from the countryside and concentrating them nearer the city. This would force Longstreet to make a longer march and face a stronger enemy. Then Burnside waited. Meanwhile, Sherman was coming ever closer to Chattanooga, and the situation there would be changed radically with his arrival. Next week: Sherman arrives.

**Historic Bell Adorns Fire Hall**

**CALLED PIONEERS TO WORSHIP 150 YEARS AGO**

The Fire Hall in Franklin is a unique structure. It is probably the only fire hall in the area that can boast a bell. Almost certainly it is the only one that has a bell that dates back to the beginning of the 19th century. Although the bell was just recently installed on the Fire Hall, the story of the bell goes back almost to the beginning of the town of Franklin. It was first used on the old Union Church, the first church building to be constructed in the town. According to Mrs. C. W. Neville, the Union Church was built by Campbell Masters on a 2-1/2 acre lot deeded by Francis Evick, Jr., in 1809 to be used for church, school and cemetery. The church was located on Back Street between the residential properties now owned by Mrs. Otis Dyer and C. W. Neville. The building was a Union Church used by all denominations and was supplied by circuit riders. It was used as a hospital by the Union Army following the Battle of McDowell, and several soldiers who died there are buried in the Mount Hiser Cemetery on the hill near the Franklin Grade School. After the Union Church was torn down, the bell was used on school houses in town until the present school buildings were erected. Mrs. Mason Boggs was sufficiently interested in the bell to store it at the Franklin Hotel when it was no longer needed, and more recently it has been kept in the E. Bowman & Bro., store. Since the bell was used on the first church in Franklin, the United Church Women of Pendleton County became interested in it and adopted a Centennial project of providing a fitting place for its display. They decided that it should be hung on the Fire Hall in Franklin because that is the only community owned building in the town. A committee was appointed to solicit funds to build a belfry and attend to other arrangements. The committee was composed of Miss Elizabeth Boggs, president of the United Church Women, Mrs. C. W. Neville of the Methodist Church, Mrs. J. McClure Anderson of the Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Virgil Rexrode of the Lutheran Church and Mrs. Mahlon Lambert of the Evangelical United Brethren

Church. When it became necessary to remodel the Fire Hall recently to make its use more efficient, the Church Women took advantage of the opportunity to install the bell. President Jeff Bowman of the Fire Company explained that it was necessary to remodel the Fire Hall because it had only one door large enough for use by a truck, and three trucks are kept in the hall. Bowman said it was difficult and time consuming to get all three vehicles through the one door, and in order to provide efficient service, it was necessary to install two more large doors. Installation of three 11x11-foot overhead doors was completed several weeks ago. While the firemen were installing the doors on the Fire Hall, the Church Women engaged W. C. Simmons to construct a belfry modeled as nearly as possible after the original belfry on the Union Church. It was installed on the Fire Hall under the supervision of Raymond Hammer. When the remodeling of the Fire Hall was completed several weeks ago, the firemen had not only a more efficient building, but also the best sounding bell in the whole area.

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**Local Agent Is President Of State Group**

Mrs. Harriet W. McCoy, Pendleton County home demonstration agent, was elected president of the Women Extension Workers of West Virginia during the annual conference of West Virginia University extension workers last week at Jackson's Mill. Some 200 Cooperative Extension Service workers from throughout West Virginia attended the four-day conference.

**70 Years Ago**  
**Week of November 5, 1953**

**EDITORIALS**

**ON MOUNTAINEERS ---**

The mighty Mountaineer football team of West Virginia University seems headed for the first undefeated and untied season in the school's history. The reason for the success of the squad this year is the ability of Coach Art Lewis to obtain players. In former years, out-of-state schools skimmed off the cream of our players, but all of this has been changed by "Pappy" Lewis. The publicity that the football squad has received this year is worth a million dollars to the school—and to the state. This season's record should be sufficient proof to the rest of the nation that we mountaineers are still a sturdy, fighting stock. We will have more good seasons if we can just keep West Virginians on West Virginia teams.

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**Smith Creek/ Friends Run**

by Dave Ellis

This Saturday is a day set aside to honor all the veterans for the sacrifice they made for everyone in this country to have freedom. There are many veterans in this county. So if a person sees or knows a veteran, tell them thanks. Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins - Mary Mitchell, Bucky Moyers, Pam Rin-er, Anna Tesi, Ruby Propst, Alice Johnson, Arlin Dale and Freda Jamison, Hazel Simmons, Reva Hartman, Mary Alice Simmons, Sandy Washburn, Larry Moyers, Sandra Vandevander and Woodrow Hartman; prayer list - Richard Campbell, Tristan Hartman, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Roberta Bennett, Olin Hoover, Kenny 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, Jeff Evick and Linda Maxwell Looney. Prayer thought: "Father, thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you. Help me to be faithful with the talents and strength you've given me."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Oct. 30 through Nov. 5, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Oct. 30 - 71°, 43°, .01" (62°, 29°); Oct. 31 - 49°, 35°, .02" (58°, 49°, .31"); Nov. 1 - 39°, 23° (62°, 41°); Nov. 2 - 48°, 16° (61°, 43°); Nov. 3 - 61°, 25° (71°, 40°); Nov. 4 - 62°, 33° (72°, 42°) and Nov. 5 - 62°, 39° (71°, 41°). Total rainfall for October was .68", compared to 4.11" in October of 2022. Year-to-date rainfall is 29.69", compared to 39.55" for the same time period last year.

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# Wildcats Wrap Up Improved Season with Setback at Ninth Ranked Cameron, PVC Releases All-Conference Selections

By Stephen Smoot

This season's schedule from the beginning gave Pendleton County very little margin of error. Four teams, Greenbrier West, East Hardy, Tucker County, and Cameron, have dominated opponents all year long. The Mountain Lions head into the state playoffs with a number one ranking.

All of this gave the Wildcats almost no margin for error, as head coach Zac Smith described the conference last August as being "no cakewalk." Also, the team implemented a new offense with "more of a zone run scheme, as opposed to a traditional gap scheme." This scheme relies on a smart and flexible quarterback to read the defensive end to make decisions.

"We didn't run this style of offense as much last year," Coach Smith noted, but added, "we've got some high IQ football guys in the backfield."

The Wildcats struggled in their first two games, competing against some of the best talent in the state. Against Petersburg, the team took the loss, but showed fire and moxie, staying in the game until the end. Despite the setback, the team took confidence from the experience.

Pendleton County finally got to show what its new system could do against moribund Richwood. The team exploded for 60 points.

Throughout the season, the team also got healthier. Key talent returned from injuries and gave quarterback James Vincell more weapons. Despite an injured throwing hand, he demonstrated consistent accuracy on the vast majority of throws. Coach Smith remained flexible in his playcalling, aiming at a balanced attack, but sticking with whatever seemed to do the most damage against opponents.

Coach Smith in August explained that his task that summer lay in finding team leaders. Vincell, a junior, has demonstrated significant leadership throughout his time here. The twin playmakers, Dillon and Dusty Smith, have, along with Justus Kuykendall, as well.

But this year, the team found its strength in a hard-working line on both offense and defense. Tanner and Tyler Huffman anchored a line that teams had a hard time moving all year.

Josiah Kimble and Chase Owens allowed Vincell and the offense to stretch the field, making big plays at the receiver position. Both also made electrifying plays as kick returners.

The defense also provided excitement with Tucker Smith, Nick Rhodes, and Bradey Bowers bringing consistency. Wildcat defenders both tackled well and created turnovers to give the offense opportunities.



Chase Owens escapes the grasp of a Cameron defender while Dusty Smith looks to set a block.

Gabriel Harvey showed himself a powerful weapon with a strong leg capable of both making scores on kicks and pinning teams deep. He also appeared increasingly on offense and defense, adding his speed and toughness.

While the team did not make the playoffs this year, it made memories. Recent struggles against a Moorefield team expected to make the jump to double A next year were exorcised by a double overtime thriller that saw Pendleton County rebound from a seemingly impossible 28-point deficit in the third quarter.

More importantly, the team gained experience and confidence. The short term lies in the single season, but a program develops for a longer term. Pendleton County football saw their team and execution improve in almost every game. They can take lessons from this year that, applied next year, can lead to even bigger accomplishments.

The improvement this year was shown in the number

of Pendleton County players receiving post season conference accolades.

On offense, Tyler and Tanner Huffman earned a second team selection, with Bowers selected as an honorable mention. Dillon Smith was selected as a first team running back while Owens earned a spot on the second team. In the wide receiver category, Kimble was on the second team and Dusty Smith an honorable mention.

Vincell was second team quarterback.

On defense, Tyler and Tanner Huffman were picked as honorable mention linemen. Bowers was picked as a second team defensive end. Dillon Smith earned first team as an inside linebacker, with Kuykendall selected on the second team. Rhodes was an honorable mention and Dusty Smith made honorable mention as a defensive back.

They achieved a tie record this year, but remain hungry and are capable of even more in 2024.

## Wildcats Stun Moorefield in Sectional Showdown on the Road



Allie Cooper focuses on getting in position to help set up a return during the sectional victory at Moorefield.

By Stephen Smoot

Last Tuesday, Pendleton County traveled to Moorefield to play the second round of the

volleyball sectionals. Though Rod Cooper, head coach, disputed the process of home court selection, he also said "it doesn't matter. We'll win anywhere."

As it turned out, the Wildcats made themselves right at home on a court where the Yellow Jackets swept them in September.

Carolyn Varner and Baylee Beachler teamed up to put the first two points on the board for Pendleton County. Varner served both times. Beachler blocked a return, then took a Varner set and tapped the ball to the middle. Moorefield later came within one with a 3 to 2 score, but a bad Moorefield serve and a Gabby DePue block extended the lead to 5 to 2. Beachler served up an ace next to give her squad a five-point lead

In September, the dynamic was controlled by Moorefield. They would forge ahead, the Wildcats would come close, then the home team pushed ahead again. This time Pendleton County took control and the Yellow Jackets constantly battled to remain within striking distance.

Moorefield did come back to a three-point deficit, but Alyssa Bennett shut them down with a precise shot to the back line to extend the lead to 9 to 5. The Yellow Jackets mostly stayed within three the rest of the set, then made their move at the end. Down 21 to 17, they scored three straight points. Shortly thereafter, with the Wildcats clinging to a narrow 23 to 21 margin, Beachler fired a hard spike, then served an ace to win the set.

In the second set, the Yellow Jackets took an early 3 to 2 lead. Pendleton County shortly after tied the game at four. Emma Hartman fired two straight aces to give her team a two-point advantage.

Once again, Moorefield looked like they would hang around and try to make a move

to take the lead late, but the Wildcats went on a 12 to three run to assume a 20 to 9 lead. Lizzie Alt's two solid hits to open spots helped fuel the run early. Beachler, who dominated the net, also had three scoring plays in a row. Late in the set, her team up 22 to 11, Beachler rose to block a return and the Moorefield player fired the ball out of bounds to avoid the block.

The set ended with a Hartman ace.

Moorefield came out firing in set number three, scoring the first six points with dominant net play. Varner set up a DePue spike for Pendleton County's first score of the set. Kate Hedrick blocked a return, then Beachler served two aces. Down 10 to 9, Hedrick spiked the ball, then Breana Bowers helped her team take the lead with an ace. Hedrick followed with another spike off a Varner set.

As in every game Allie Cooper's hustle and speed on the back line kept shots in play, setting up scores at the net.

Moorefield tied the set again at 19, but a Bowers ace and an Alt spike to the back line helped to push the lead to 22 to 20. A few plays later, DePue slammed the door shut on the set, the game, and Moorefield's season with a block.

After the game, Rod Cooper said, "I wasn't sure if we could handle it, but we did." He then praised his team, emphasizing that their success in October started in July. "They started working in July and haven't stopped, and it paid off tonight. They've given it 110 percent since July."

Their next game was the sectional final, played at East Hardy.

## Pendleton County Falls Short in Sectional Championship Catfight at East Hardy

By Stephen Smoot

The Wildcats came into East Hardy last Thursday night fresh after earning a berth in the regional tournament, but ran into a powerful Cougar squad. Pendleton County has put in work and earned the rewards of their labor by elevating their team beyond Moorefield, but a victory over East Hardy remained elusive.

The Wildcats took the first point of the first set on a Cougar mistake, but then gave up the next three. A Baylee Beachler spike broke the short East Hardy run, but the home team countered with two scores to retake the lead. The Wildcats tied the game at four when Allie Cooper smashed a shot to the Cougar back line and took the lead on a Beachler ace.

East Hardy tied the game again, then saw the Wildcats put together a six to zero run. Hedrick had three blocks at the net to help her squad's cause.

Much of the rest of the first set, the Cougars ground away at the visiting team's lead. For a time, Pendleton County held them off, but they tied the game at 16 after a 10 to five run. Lizzie Alt finally put a pause to Cougar scoring with

a block to make the score 19 to 17 in favor of East Hardy. Then the Cougars blocked the Wildcats from scoring again and took the set 25 to 17.

The upperclassman dominated East Hardy team relies on power, strength, and athleticism. They thrive on putting pressure on their opponents, knocking them back on their heels. The Wildcats employ this same dynamic, but struggled to assert themselves consistently against the experienced Cougars.

Just as in the first and third sets, Pendleton County scored first in the second. Just as in the first, East Hardy scored three to establish an early lead. Gabby DePue fired a shot to the back line to pull her team within one, but the Cougars scored the next four to take a 7 to 2 advantage.

For much of the set, East Hardy built their lead, taking a 20 to 11 lead. Pendleton County kept fighting, and tried to close the gap. Hedrick scored on two blocks, and Alt on a spike, but East Hardy held them off, winning the set 25 to 15.

In the third set, the Wildcats refused to fade. After a Cougar miscue, Beachler scored a block, followed by a block by her and DePue. Varner served an ace, followed by an Alt

block and a Beachler spike to take a 6 to 0 advantage.

East Hardy then stormed ahead, scoring 16 of the next 19 points. DePue earned a spike and Brynlynn Waggy made a play to the middle during the Cougar run. The Wildcats then showed their claws and went on a nine to three run of their own. The serving of Breana Bowers and big plays from Hedrick brought them back into the set and they came within one at 19 to 18.

At that point, the Cougars retook control and won the set, the game, and the section.

It must be emphasized that Pendleton County never quit on the game at any point. The girls hustled as much as they have all year, sprinting after balls, dropping to their knees and diving flat out on the hard floor to keep plays alive. If effort alone won a game, they would have triumphed.

Sometimes a team can take pride in a win. The tough thing about sports is that sometimes even surpassing one's best physical effort does not bring home the trophy.

But when a player and team gives their best effort, they should at least take pride in that, no matter the outcome.

*Congratulations!*

*Lady Wildcats*



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Madison Day, Baylee Beachler, Kate Hedrick, Allie Cooper,  
Gabby DePue, Lizzie Alt, Carolyn Varner and Rod Cooper**

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# Teasing Quips Were Included with Sugar Grove School Photos

## Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

The writer received a photograph book of pictures and other information regarding the Sugar Grove School from Elsie Bowers whose father-in-law, H. Pink Bowers, was a teacher. The following is the writing of "What Would Happen at Sugar Grove if...":

Frances Simmons couldn't blush?  
Junior Homan couldn't write notes?  
Jackie Mitchell and Mary Fae Smith didn't make A's?  
Shirley Waggy couldn't play basketball?  
Rudolph Waggy didn't like the girls?  
Jimmie Mitchell caught a ball while back-stopping?  
Everette Rexrode didn't like Neva?  
Stellman Simmons had a mustache?  
Earl Hoover couldn't flirt with the girls?  
Alma Eckard couldn't whisper?  
Johnny Hoover couldn't aggravate the girls?  
Edna Belle Simmons couldn't tell a joke?  
Thelma Eckard couldn't play volleyball?  
Billy Mitchell couldn't play softball?  
Mary Belle Simmons was the world's 'Fat Lady'?  
Norene Mitchell wasn't friendly?  
Phyllis Mitchell had curly hair?  
Mary Waggy couldn't study?  
Junior Rader would sit still in class?  
Norma Lee Rexrode couldn't tease?  
Madaline Smith played 'hookey' from school?  
Harold Mitchell would be tardy or made an F?  
Junior Bowers wasn't liked by the girls?  
Fay Snyder had black hair?  
Dwight Shrader didn't have freckles?  
Paul Puffenbarger would win the day with Jackie?  
Arlen Propst studied?  
Norman Simmons couldn't high jump?  
We could tell Nola Jean and Norma June apart?  
Herman Simmons couldn't play 'Horse'?  
Walter Byrd Homan wasn't cute?  
Peggy Mitchell couldn't smile?  
Willard Rader wasn't always in mischief?  
Jean Kite didn't like Harold?  
Nola Propst wasn't tiny?  
Doris Simmons wasn't bashful?  
Teddy and Anna Lee Simmons couldn't



Members of the former Sugar Grove basketball team, in the 1939-1940 school term, were, from left, Mary Belle Simmons, Mary Fae Smith, Norma Lee Rexrode, Thelma Eckard, Hilda Snyder, Jacqueline Mitchell, Frances Simmons, Shirley Waggy, Alma Eckard, and Edna Belle Simmons.

sing?  
Nellie Propst lost weight?  
Betty Lou Mitchell didn't know her lessons?  
Marvin Waggy wasn't a good sport?  
Ruth Rader wasn't friendly?  
Jimmie Bowers didn't have brown eyes?  
Deyerle Rexrode couldn't write love letters?  
Having known these youngsters allows this account to be even more reminiscent and humorously interesting.  
Life's little instructions include the following:  
One can still be a kind person and still:  
1. Say no.  
2. Make mistakes.  
3. Be honest.  
4. Prioritize one's needs.  
5. Walk away from toxic environments.  
Last Wednesday was a cold windy day, a forebearer of Thursday's 15 degree freezing temperatures. The alarm has sounded...it's definitely fall! A full moon and the changing back of clocks were not-

ed. November's full moon is noted as the Beaver Moon, a name that originated with the Native Americans who then passed it on to the early European fur trappers.  
This week's Clickety-clacks for the chin wagers are as follows:  
•Iceland is the only country in the world without any mosquitoes, snakes, or other reptiles.  
•Blue Lake in New Zealand is the clearest lake in the world, which has underwater visibility up to 260 feet in depth.  
•Chickens can see more colors than humans.  
•Bananas are native to Papua New Guinea.  
•Lake Superior is actually not a lake at all, but an inland sea.  
Quotes for the week are as follows:  
"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." — Maya Angelou  
"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all other seasons." — Jim Bishop  
"Living in a state of gratitude is the

gateway to grace." — Arianna Huffington  
"Gratitude and attitude are not challenges; they are choices." — Robert Braathe  
"If you cannot find gratitude, you'll never find peace." — Leticia Rae  
More November birthdays include Paula Mitchell, 16th; Woodrow Hartman (107), 17th; Chip Harper, Sandy O'Gorek, Kasara Kiser and "Pidge" Anderson, 18th; Deloris Adkins, K.D. Puffenbarger and Gary Simmons, 19th; Bradley May, Roger Hoover, Gerald Rexrode and Enos Horst, 21st; Christina Simmons, 22nd; Rick Adkins and Harry Lee Scott, Jr. 23rd; Carl Williams, 24th; Brandon Reel, Joni Nelson and Mary Catherine Cassell, 25th; Lee Roberson, 26th; Trisha Knicely, 27th; Gracie Mitchell and Austin Simmons, 28th; 29...George Hamel and Greg Smith 29th; and Steve O'Toole and Danny Crider, 30th.  
Concerns for this week are many. They are as follows: Bob Adamson, Charles Anderson, Mercedes Aumann, Lynn Beatty, the Nila Bland family, "Bo" Boggs, Boyd Kimble, Kim Kline, Marie Cole, Jeff Craig, Norma Propst Cunningham, Christian Dasher, the Ina Jean Evick family, Isaac Eye, Marie Eye, Neal Eye, Donna Fleisher, Lola Graham, Jordan Greathouse, Marlene Harman, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Grace Hedrick, Jackie Hill, Edsel and May 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, Willard May, Neil McLaughlin, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Barbara Moats, Melvin Moats, Aaron Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Don Nilsen, Cheryl Paine, Barbara Parker, Sutton Parrack, John O. Propst, Kathy Propst, Linda Propst, Harley Propst, Sheldon Propst, Mary Puffenbarger, Charles Rexrode, Jason 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.

# Outstanding 4-H'ers Recognized at Achievement Program

Pendleton County 4-H'ers, leaders, parents, and friends concluded the club year in the library at the Franklin Elementary School. Leading this event was Brooke Alt, 4-H Agent. Four-H'ers were recognized for excelling in various phases of the 4-H program during the 2022-2023 program year.  
The Outstanding 4-H Club for the year was the North Fork 4-H Club. Vanessa Harper, leader of the North Fork 4-H Club, encouraged her 25 members to complete 100 percent of the 32 4-H projects taken, to receive this award.  
Clubs earning the blue-ribbon award were North Fork 4-H and Upper Tract Producers. This award is dependent on meeting attendance, project completion, camp attendance, program and event participation and the completion of 4-H officers' documentation.  
Alt announced the outstanding member project completion awards. Isabella Hoover completed four project books with Hannah Bennett, Tori Heavner, Isaac Kimble, Hannah Heavner, Katie Heavner, Lydia Heavner and Tia Heavner each completing three projects. These outstanding 4-H'ers received certificates for their accomplishments.

Smith and Katie Heavner;  
Dogs - Vaylee Harper, Jacey Thompson, Carly Kimble and Clairra Kimble;  
Food and Nutrition - Chesnee Colaw, Abby Judy, Hannah Heavner, Madison Sword and Hannah Bennett;  
Environment and Earth Sciences - Mason Harper, Callie Judy, Isaac Kimble, Zander Adams and Ty Armentrout;  
Goats - Andelyn Vance, Isabella Hoover, Tia Heavner and Ty Heavner;  
Technology and Engineering - Easton Boner, Cody Miller, Branson Smith and Alex Adams;  
Vet Science - Jax Bennett;  
Animal Science: Sheep - Tori Heavner, Breymann Keesecker, Kallie Keyser, Hannah Heavner, Britlee Basagic, Aiden Whetzel, Katie Keyser, Katie Heavner, Tia Heavner, Phoebe Pownell and Ty Heavner and Swine - Isabela Hoover and Tia Heavner;  
Self-Determined - Katie Heavner, Lydia Heavner (two), Hannah Heavner, Tori Heavner, Jameigh Miller and Caleb Armentrout;  
Plant Science and Crops - Zander Adams and Alex Adams;  
Communications and Expressive Arts - Marion Williams, Kenden Champ, Addie Rexrode, Hannah Bennett, Vivian Pownell, Carly Kimble and Chloe Kisamore;  
Health and Safety - Hannah Bennett; and  
This is 4-H - Isabella Hoover, Clairra Kimble, Sean Waggy and Andelynn Vance.  
Outstanding 4-H club officers for the year were Jax Bennett (reporter), Vaylee Harper (historian), Abby Judy (treasurer), all members of the North Fork club, and Addie Rexrode (secretary), Ty Heavner (treasurer), Katie Keyser (reporter),

Kallie Keyser (health) and Carly Kimble (historian), all members of the Upper Tract club.  
Alt presented a two dollar bill and a certificate for outstanding project recognition at the Tri-County Fair to the following:  
Marion Williams - Exploring 4-H, Your Family, The World or Arts;  
Vivian Pownell - Theatre Arts - Imagination in Action;  
Ty Armentrout - Tree Identification;  
Hannah Heavner - Cooking 101;  
Hannah Bennett - First Aid in Action;  
Jameigh Miller - Self-Determined-Family Tree;  
Zander Adams - Take Your Pick-Gardening;  
Branson Smith - Measuring Up Wood Working;  
Easton Boner - Measuring Up Wood Working; and  
Alex Adams - SkyNet Junior Scholars Astronomy.  
An All Stars pin and certificate were presented to Alt and Rick Pownell.  
Four-H'ers participating in judging for the first time and receiving a judging medal were Tori Heavner, Kenden Champ, Maycee Woods, McKenna Hedrick, Isabella Hoover and Branson Smith. Youth that participated in judging events throughout the year were recognized at the time of their current event.  
Receiving the VEX Robotics pin were Alex Adams, Zander Adams, Phoebe Pownell, Easton Boner, Kenden Champ, Marion Williams, Ross Pownell and Owen Champ.  
Four-H'ers who participated in other state and national events during the year were

recognized by Alt and received certificates and ribbons from the state.  
State Fair poster contest — Kenden Champ, junior, 4-H Promotion, club/special interest (blue), Branson Smith, intermediate, 4-H Promotion, general (red), Emma Puffenbarger, junior, 4-H Promotion, general (blue), Addie Rexrode, senior, 4-H Promotion, general (blue), Kynleigh Sponaugle, junior, agriculture (red) and Kenden Champ, junior, dairy and healthy living (red);  
State Fair presentation contest (creed representation) — Vaylee Harper (blue), Cole L. Harper (red), Mason Harper (red), Abigail Judy (red) and Callie Judy (red).  
Vivian Pownell was recognized for attending National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia.  
Cloverbuds were Mason Mowery, Levi Miller, Adelyn Miller, Everette Boner, Korbett Hammer, Braylee Propst, Wyatt Heavner, Geneva Mongold, Ariat Ewald, Hannah Sponaugle, Darek Greathouse, Sicily Flannigan, Keylan Bailey, Colton Whetzel, Piper Hubbard, Kinley Minor, Jonah Seymour and Madalyn Griffin. Finishing their last year as a Cloverbud were Mason Mowery, Ariat Ewald and Adelyn Miller.  
Four-H clubs are currently accepting members for the 2023-2024 club year. Anyone interested in the 4-H program is encouraged to contact their local 4-H leader or the West Virginia University Extension Office at 358-2286 for details or register through z-suites at <https://4h.zsuite.org/enrollments>.

**BUCKWHEAT/PANCAKE DINNER**  
Friday, November 17 • 4 - 7 p.m.  
Franklin Ruritan Building  
Buckwheat Cakes, Pancakes  
Sausage and Sausage Gravy  
*Eat In or Take Out!*  
Freewill Donations

**PANCAKE/BUCKWHEAT SUPPER**  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Jct. US 33E & 220 - Franklin  
Tuesday, Nov. 14 • 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Dine In or Carry Out  
Buckwheat Cakes, Pancakes, Sausage, Sausage Gravy  
Freewill Offering  
To benefit church youth programs

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**"Something for Everyone"**  
Saturday, November 11  
North Fork Senior Center  
Riverton  
Doors Open at 5:00 with Games Beginning at 5:30  
20 Games for \$25 Extra Boards \$5  
Featuring  
Purses, Fall and Primitive Decor,  
Pioneer Woman, etc.  
•Raffles •Door Prizes •Cover-all Final Game  
•Refreshments will be sold  
Proceeds to benefit community projects and club scholarships

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Poultry • Vegetables • Smoked Meats  
Fort Seybert, West Virginia  
**Will be doing BBQ**  
U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Celebration  
Sunday, November 12 • 1 - 5 p.m.  
Swilled Dog, Upper Tract

South Fork Rescue Squad  
**Ham/Turkey Dinner**  
Saturday, Nov. 18 • 4 p.m. - ?  
South Fork Rescue Squad Building  
Sugar Grove  
Adults - \$12 — Children (5-12) - \$6  
Under 5 - FREE  
Raffle Drawing after Dinner

# Moatstown Choir Inspires and Entertains for Over Five Decades

Continued From Page 1

and praising their kids." Most programs took place "weather permitting," except for Christmas. "Christmas programs were always done," she said.

Lawrence Moats, who led music in his Cleveland, Ohio, church, "came down to help my grandma start a little choir." With sheet music in hand, as William Rexroad wrote, "he got all the girls together and started teaching them different songs, not taking no for an answer if any reluctance was shown."

The choir came together to bring into being the spirit of the 100th Psalm, to "serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing." In doing so they joined, then made their own substantial contributions to, a powerful tradition of singing and instrumentation that has strongly shaped both Southern and Appalachian culture.

"My Mom pushed us a lot to sing," Wright-Wilson shared, adding that "if we wanted to play ball instead, she'd get on to us!"

According to Wright-Wilson, original membership was composed of "me, Robin, Carey, Dorothea Moats, Cleriece Presley, and Pat Moats. Originally, according to Rexroad, "the choir sang without accompaniment," but soon included a guitarist and other instruments. Wright-Wilson remembered that Reginald Moats and Ray Lambert joined with their instruments and John Jones played bass. Otis Moats became featured as a lead guitarist. Gene Grandison also played bass with the group.

Early in West Virginia church music traditions, according to Ivan Tribe, author of Mountaineer Jamboree: Country Music in West Virginia, frowned on using instruments. They called the fiddle a "devil's box," and Tribe said, "The back-up instrument, the banjo, fared little better." By the mid 20th century however, those old ideas had faded and the Moatstown Choir's combination of both singing and instrumental excellence would help to spread their reputation as performers throughout the region.

At first, according to Wright-Wilson, "We just played churches around here," but they soon grew into a major draw throughout the mid- Atlantic. They started played churches through the South Branch Valley region, traveling to Franklin, Petersburg, and Moorefield.

Choir membership changed often. Family members would join, sing and/or play, and then move on. Only Wright-Wilson and Robin Moats remain from the original group, with Tessie and Brooke Redman, Norma Jean Moats, and Kanika Shipe contributing their talents on their CD "Singing Out the Glory."

Grace Moats, Wright-Wilson's aunt, led the choir organization. "I took all the engagements and she was president," Wright-Wilson said.

Other members through the years included Cora Grandison, Ruth Lynch, Ruby Moats, Denise Scott, Tameka Grandison, Gwen Moats, Noah Moats, Zephan Wright, and Desiree Varner.

Wright-Wilson explained also that Beverly Gardiner "was

our spokesman when she was in the choir. Now her daughter Ruth does it." She added that Beverly "was really good."

As their reputation grew, the choir traveled to Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington, DC, and Maryland. They also made television appearances and remained the most popular music attraction at the Treasure Mountain Festival for decades.

Wherever the group came together, they'd do what they loved most. Wright-Wilson shared "We had a good time singing. We'd sing in the van on the way" to performances.

They drew from a rich tradition of Christian music to share with their audiences. They recorded "I Saw the Light," a popular Christian tune penned by Hank Williams, as well as "Just a Closer Walk with Thee," covered by Patsy Cline, but with its origins most likely in black gospel music prior to the Civil War.

They also recorded "Rough Side of the Mountain," written and sung originally by the pastor and performer Reverend Fair Cloth Barnes. Not only did they sing one of Reverend Barnes' songs from his certified gold album, they got to perform with him at James Madison University.

To get to that gig, the choir had to overcome strong obstacles. As Wright-Wilson recalled, "It poured the snow. It was icy and bad. It wasn't fun getting there, but we were so excited to do it."

Compared to the rest of the groups assembled, the Moatstown Choir displays a bit of a contrast. "They didn't sing the old true gospel like we did," she remembered, "they sang contemporary music."

But gospel music crowds always appreciate authentic old time music and this occasion was no different. "When we sang, we had the whole place up on their feet," Wright-Wilson remembered proudly. Then, Reverend Barnes himself took the stage to talk about their performance.

Afterwards "people were crying and hugging us and saying this was why they came."

Jennifer Taylor-Ide, who has worked with many musicians and also plays music herself, noted that "they could sing from their hearts and have a rockin' good time doing it." She added that the Moatstown Choir had a talent for helping those with a more sedate religious background to appreciate the energy

and style they brought to their performances.

"They are renowned for having kept their quality high over many years, even as some members age," Taylor-Ide added.

They also performed alongside the "Queen of Country Music," Kitty Wells.

Alongside God, however, family remained at the core of the choir. Norma Jean Moats recalled, "I enjoyed going around with all the cousins." Wright-Wilson talked about "the love we all had for each other." Norma Jean Moats added that sometimes they even "cried with each other."

"It's hard to sing with your kids," Wright-Wilson smiled, remembering a time when her son corrected her after a performance. That always was good-natured, however. "If we didn't remember the words, we stepped up for each other," she added, then said "If we messed up, we laughed about it." She said "all of us are just family."

As time has passed, however, the trends that have caused a decline in local population have also taken a toll on the choir. Some older members have remained active, but many in the younger generations have moved away to find opportunities and establish their lives.

Paul Clayton, president of the Pendleton County Historical Society, noted that "Their music was very much appreciated and looked forward to by the majority of the county. I hate to think of having that talent not doing programs anymore." He added that they also served as excellent "goodwill ambassadors" for the region.

The choir has paused their performances. "We still want to sing," Wright-Wilson said. "We don't want to give it up." The desire to keep performing remains strong and they would bring their act back if they could restore a full instrumental accompaniment to their voices.

Wright-Wilson urged bass players "come and find us!"



SENECA ROCKS  
Regional Development Authority

**JOB POSITION:**

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS MANAGER

### Job Summary:

To perform a variety of administrative duties in support of the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority (SRRDA). The position will monitor project progress across SRRDA under the direction of the Executive Director while supporting the staff administrative and clerical duties at the SRRDA offices. The community projects manager works as an essential part of the SRRDA team to further organization objectives and goals. This position may be used to fill a full time or part time position.

### Duties/Responsibilities:

- Oversee day-to-day operations of the Petersburg SRRDA office.
- Carry out day-to-day organizational tasks and facilitating efficient communication.
- Assist in tracking grants and submitting applicable reporting to funder.
- Work with other agencies and community organizations to further SRRDA.
- Provide support to businesses that seek SRRDA assistance by connecting them with applicable programs.
- Assist in planning and coordination of company events.
- Manage commercial property listings for the SRRDA internal and external listings as well as property management.
- Answer phones and general email inquiries with relevant information.
- Secure bids for equipment and vendors for identified building projects and working with the executive director and/or operations manager in required administrative paperwork.
- Maintain office supplies inventory in Grant County.
- Prepares SRRDA Board meeting agenda, board minutes, maintenance records, documentation and files meetings paperwork with the Grant and Pendleton courthouse offices.
- Continuing education/training.
- Must be willing and able to travel. Less than 5% overall weekly time.
- Professional dress.
- Must keep office open as times designated by the SRRDA.
- Performs other related duties as assigned by the SRRDA.

### Skills/Core Competencies:

Self starter.  
Excellent written skills and verbal communication skills.  
Project management and organizational skills.  
Good understanding of technology, including proficiency in Microsoft Office.  
Ability to learn new software.  
Multitasking capability.  
Problem solving.  
Excellent attention to detail.  
Capacity to prioritize tasks.

### Education and Experience:

In addition to the above, the candidate should have an enthusiastic personality and willingness to take on more duties as the organization grows. Business administration work or a related field of 5+ years of experience is preferred. Residency in one of the counties represented by the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority (Grant or Pendleton) is required.

### Physical Requirements:

Prolonged periods sitting at a desk and working on a computer.  
Must be able to lift and carry up to 15 lb.  
Must be able to use steps.

The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority will be accepting resumes for the position of Community Projects Manager for the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority. Resumes along with a cover letter must be received or hand delivered, mailed or emailed to: Grant County Commission, Attention Michelle Sites, 5 Highland Avenue, Petersburg, WV 26847, administrator@grantcountywv.org. Any questions may be addressed to Michelle Sites at 304-257-4422.

Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority  
is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**107 Birthday Card Shower**  
**WOODROW HARTMAN**  
**November 17**  
Cards may be sent to him at  
P.O. Box 885, Franklin, WV 26807

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BROILER POULTRY Litter near Old Fields, WV, starting October 30. We load and you haul. Call 304-257-7940.

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### LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**Notice of Public Hearing**

Pendleton County Schools will conduct mandatory public hearings for community comment on the 2024-2025 public school calendar. 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. 11-9-2c

### FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath house, Brushy Fork (Sugar Grove), 304-249-5679. 1p  
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### MISCELLANEOUS

HUNTER'S MEAL, Saturday, November 18, 4 p.m.-?, Upper Tract VFD Training Center, \$15. Turkey, ham, all fixings and dessert. Sponsored by Upper Tract VFD Auxiliary. 1c  
**\$500 REWARD** for info on theft of wood splitter stolen from 4-U Restaurant, Seneca Rocks, October 7. Call 304-567-3184 evenings or leave message. 11-9-2p

### POSTED NOTICES

**POSTED NOTICE**  
No trespassing or running of dogs on Linda Moyers property in Upper Tract. Not responsible for accidents. 11-9-4c

### 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.

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**TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE**

107 Walnut Street, Franklin, WV 26807

In a Deed of Trust dated August 15, 2008, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 121, at page 518 Ida Stumbo did convey unto Direct Settlement Services, Trustee, certain real property. The beneficial holder of that Deed of Trust has elected to appoint Terra Abstract Trustee West Virginia, Inc. as substitute trustee by a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office. Default having occurred under the Deed of Trust and the beneficial holder having instructed the undersigned Trustees to foreclose, this real property will be sold at public auction at the front door of the Pendleton County Courthouse, Main Street, Franklin, West Virginia 26807 on:

**January 10, 2024**  
**At 12:00 PM**

The property for sale as described by the Deed of Trust is as follows:

The following described tract or parcel of real estate, together with improvements thereon and all rights, privileges, appurtenances, easements and right-of-ways thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, lying and being situate on the south side of Walnut Street within the corporate limits of the Town of Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and bounded as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the South side of Walnut Street or the North Run Road on the Dirty Edge of the side walk, corner of Stanley Walton Propst and Mary Jane Propst property, thence N. 72 W. 60 feet running with the North edge of the sidewalk at the edge of the road to a post, Shrader's corner; thence S. 18 W. 2.5 poles to the middle of Dirty Run thence following the middle of Dirty Run in the south easterly direction for a distance of 2.64 poles to the corner of William Harvey Pitsenbarger, Jr.; thence S. 78 E. 10 feet down the run in corner of Stanley Walton Propst and Mary Jane Propst property in the middle of the run; thence with said Propst line N. 21 W. 40 feet to the beginning, containing 9 square rods, more or less, and being the same real estate conveyed unto Dorothy M. Sites by deed bearing date on the 6th day of August, 1969, from John Harman and Pauline R. Harman, which deed is of record in the Clerk's Office of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 88, page 26, to which deed reference is herewith made for all pertinent purposes.

The purchaser will take the property subject to all exceptions, reservations, rights of way, easements, conditions, covenants, restrictions, leases and other servitudes of record, if any, pertaining to said real property.

The purchaser will be responsible for paying any unpaid property taxes owed to the Sheriff of Pendleton County prior to or following the sale directly to the Sheriff.

The purchaser will take the property subject to any deed of trust, judgment, lien, and any other encumbrance having priority over the deed of trust referred to herein.

The purchaser will take the property subject to any deed of trust, judgment,

lien, and any other encumbrance that is junior ("junior claims") to this Deed of Trust and to which sufficient notice was not given. In that case, unless such right to notice is waived, the chain of title shall not merge with this Deed of Trust as to those unnotified deeds of trust, judgments, liens, and other encumbrances and will be subject to a further noticed and published sale under this Deed of Trust pursuant to W.Va. Code 38-1-4, in which bidding shall resume at the last highest bid given. In the event of a surplus of such sale, the mortgagors and noticed junior lienholders are hereby on notice that if such surplus is less than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), then the Substitute Trustee will disburse those proceeds to the most senior interest holder as it sees fit, unless an objection is made in writing.

The Trustees do not guarantee or represent that the boundaries described above are accurate, are not encroached upon, or that any particular structure located on the property is contained within the described boundaries. The property is therefore sold subject to an accurate survey at purchaser's expense.

The Trustees reserve the right to adjourn the sale, for a time, or from time to time, by announcement at the time and place of sale described above or any adjournment thereof. Such adjournment will be noticed by posting a notice at the front door of the county courthouse or where such notices are traditionally posted at the county courthouse. Such notice will include the date and time when such sale will reconvene.

The Trustees reserve the right to reject any and all bids for any reason.

The Trustees make no representations as to the condition of the property. The property will be sold in "AS IS" condition.

The Trustees make no representations as to whether the property is occupied. The purchaser is responsible for gaining access and possession of the property. Trustees shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

The purchaser may assign its rights prior to the delivery of the trustee's deed by a signed request in writing to the trustee; the assignee of the purchaser shall be bound by all terms and conditions applicable to the purchaser.

The Trustees will deliver to the purchaser without any covenant or warranty (express or implied) in the form prescribed by W. Va. Code §38-1-6. The Trustees make no representations and warranties about the title of the real estate to be conveyed. If the Trustees are unable to convey insurable or marketable title to purchaser for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit.

TERMS OF SALE: Purchaser must bring \$3000 cash in hand at the time of sale as a deposit in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made payable to "Stern & Eisenberg, PC, counsel for Terra Abstract Trustee West Virginia, Inc." Those appearing without their deposit will not be allowed to bid. The balance of the successful purchaser's bid must be proffered in cash within 30 days of the date of the sale. Purchaser shall pay for transfer stamps and recording fees. Additional terms of sale may be announced prior to the sale.

Terra Abstract Trustee  
West Virginia, Inc.  
1581 Main Street,  
Suite 200  
The Shops at Valley Square  
Warrington, PA 18976  
(215) 572-8111,  
Fax: (215) 572-5025  
www.sterneisenberg.com  
11-9-2c

### NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the following estates is pending in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, 100 S. Main Street, P. O. Box 1167, Franklin, West Virginia 26807. The names of the personal representatives are set forth below.

**ALL INTERESTED PER-**

## Recreation Survey on Monongahela National Forest Being Conducted

Visitors to Monongahela National Forest may have the opportunity to participate in the National Visitor Use Monitoring survey, which will be conducted from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 2024. This official survey is conducted on each national forest every five years. The last survey for Monongahela National Forest was done in Fiscal Year 2019.

The survey will be carried out by Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area employees at both developed and dispersed recreation sites and along forest service roads. They will be out in all types of weather conditions, wearing high visibility vests, and be near a sign that says "Traffic Survey Ahead."

"Participation from a variety of forest visitors is important," said W.J. Cober, forest recreation program manager. "Interviewers need to talk with local people using the forest, as well as out-of-area visitors, so all types of visitors are represented in the study."

The survey gathers basic visitor information. Surveys are voluntary and all responses are confidential; names are not included. Interviews last about 10 minutes. The survey includes questions like where did one recreate, how many people traveled with one, how long was person on the forest, what other recreation sites did a person visit while on the Forest, and how satisfied one is with the facilities and services provided? About a third of the participants will be asked to complete a confidential survey on recreation spending during their trip.

The information gathered is useful for forest planning as well as local community tourism planning. It provides managers with an estimate of how many people recreate on the national forest, what activities they engage in while there and how satisfied people were with their visit. Economic impact to the local economy is also captured in the survey.

Results from previous surveys can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/nvum>.

### PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections that challenge the validity of the will, the qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Commission are required to file their objections with this Commission WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF THE NOTICE, whichever is later.

All creditors of the decedent(s) and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate(s) must file their claims with this Commission WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is November 2, 2023. Deadline for claims is January 1, 2024.

**Alan Shelly Estate - Rebecca Shibley-Thomas, Administratrix cta; Robert J. Fisher, Jr. Estate - Robert Edwin Fisher, Administrator cta; Gary William Hills Estate - Jacqueline Davis Hills, Administratrix; Phyllis S. Raines Estate - William E. Raines & Douglas Raines, Co-Executors; Jacob Kisamore Estate - Daniel Kisamore, Executor; David W. Simmons Estate - Christina R. Simmons, Executrix; Nila J. Bland Estate - Andy D. Bland, Executor; Sharon K. Alexander Estate - Sarah Kimble, Executrix.**

**Subscribed and sworn to before me on October 27, 2023.**

**Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission** 11-2-2c

**PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:**

**PUBLICATION BY SHERIFF OF PROPERTY CERTIFIED TO STATE AUDITOR TAX YEAR: 2022**

List of real estate certified to the state, November 1, 2023, for nonpayment of taxes thereon for the year of 2022.

PERSON CHARGED WITH TAXES, DESCRIPTION

**CIRCLEVILLE DISTRICT**

COOPER HUBERT R TRUSTEE .235 AC ELK MT..... 00

UPP JACQUELINE W REVOCABLE & LIVING TRUST AGREEMENT 183.57 ACS TRACT #1 NORTH FORK.....00

UPP JACQUELINE WILKINS TRUSTEE DYER MYRTLE C ESTATE NORTH FORK 9.25 AC.....00

**FRANKLIN DISTRICT**

HUGHES THOMAS R 1.005 ACS SOUTH BRANCH.....00

JOHNSON ELVIN & JOHNSON ALFRED G JR LOT 3 THORNY MEADOW 0.62 AC.....00

**MILL RUN DISTRICT**

GAYLE MICHAEL ANTHONY BIG MT 109.9 ACS PARTITION DEED.....00

KISER EARL SCOTT & LACY ALLEN KISER SUMMER ANNE SMOKE HOLE LEGENDS 3.29 ACS LOT #27.....00

**SUGAR GROVE DISTRICT**

MOORMAN RICHARD 5.63 ACS LOT 8K S FORK.....00

TURNER LISA & BOBBY 1.43 ACS SO FORK.....00

**UNION DISTRICT**

GHANJOY LLC ROY GAP 175 ACS.....00

**PUBLICATION BY SHERIFF OF PROPERTY CERTIFIED TO STATE AUDITOR TAX YEAR: 2023**

**CIRCLEVILLE DISTRICT**

COOPER HUBERT R TRUSTEE .235 AC ELK MT

UPP JACQUELINE W REVOCABLE & LIVING TRUST AGREEMENT 183.57 ACS TRACT #1 NORTH FORK

UPP JACQUELINE WILKINS TRUSTEE DYER MYRTLE C ESTATE NORTH FORK 9.25 AC

**FRANKLIN DISTRICT**

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**SUGAR GROVE DISTRICT**

MOORMAN RICHARD 5.63 ACS LOT 8K S FORK

TURNER LISA & BOBBY 1.43 ACS SO FORK

**UNION DISTRICT**

GHANJOY LLC ROY GAP 175 ACS

The owner of any real estate listed above, or any other person entitled to pay the taxes thereon, may, however, redeem such real estate as provided by law.

Given under my hand this 1st day of November, 2023.

Chadwick L. Bowers  
Sheriff of Pendleton County

**STAY SAFE Text & Talk Later DRIVE NOW**

**PUT THE PHONE DOWN!**

# Pendleton County Cheer Coach Takes Home Conference Accolades

By Stephen Smoot



Rebecca Miller was presented the Cheerleading Coach of the Year award.

Rebecca Miller, head coach of cheerleading for Pendleton County Middle/High School, has brought passion, pride, and mentorship to the sport of cheerleading since the fifth grade.

"I've loved the sport, always, my entire life," Miller said. Last month, her fellow coaches in the Potomac Valley Conference rewarded her dedication, capability, and work. They voted her the honor of Cheerleading Coach of the Year.

After a full cheer career from fifth grade through graduation, Miller first chose to study to work as an X-ray technician, but could not stay away from coaching. "When I got out," she shared, "I decided that I wanted to give back."

She coached at Pendleton County for two years, then moved to Front Royal, Virginia. In 2017, Miller returned. "I dreamed of getting back home," she shared. Once she returned home, it wasn't to look at X-rays. Miller serves as the secretary at Franklin Elementary School.

When she returned, she assumed the head coach position for the middle school squad. They earned the Potomac Valley Conference title in 2021.

Then the position for the high school cheerleading coach came open last year. Since then, Miller has coached both the middle and the high school. "I was blessed to take our team to states for two years," she said, adding that she wished to "pass that pride on to the girls."

One of the parts that makes the honor so sweet comes from the fact that her peers voted for her. "I have a good relationship with all of those ladies," Miller shared, but "it was definitely a surprise to get it." Additionally, she stated that winning the honor shows what one can do with hard work, saying "it shows that I like to give 100

percent in everything I do and it encourages the girls to do the same."

No coach wins personal honors without having a great team. The Wildcat cheer squad earned their way to compete at regionals at Lincoln High School in Shinnston, Harrison County. They also appeared this fall at football games to encourage the players to give their all.

Last week, they flawlessly executed a brand new routine to welcome Penny, the school service dog, in front of a state cabinet secretary.

Miller explained, "I have a lot of girls who want to cheer in college," and that the work they do together can put them in a good position to do it.

That work includes both physical and mental discipline. She explained that "the girls come in every day and give 110 percent day in and day out," then added that "they can have a bad day at school, but they leave it at the door. They push through injuries. They push through personal issues," to bring their best performance to practice and the public eye every time.

"It just makes you proud to be their coach," she shared.

Miller also praised her squad's parents, saying "I have got a great group of parents. The parents congratulated me as much as the kids did."

But she takes the most pride in representing her alma mater saying "it's very special to me to coach where I cheered." Miller praised those who taught her as well, adding that "I've been coached by some pretty great coaches in the past."

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### NOTICE

#### PENDLETON COMMUNITY CARE PARKING LOT UPDATE

The parking lot at our Franklin site will be unavailable due to resurfacing. This will begin on **Wednesday, November 8th** and could last until **November 22nd**.

Parking will be available in our Radiology Building parking lot as well as street parking on High Street.

Please watch for updated signage for the parking lot as well as patient entrance. We appreciate your patience during this time.

Patients with mobility issues may need to call ahead for assistance when you arrive.



### GARRY L. SIMMONS REAL ESTATE



540-810-3379 BROKER 304-902-9119  
garrysimmons38@yahoo.com

DRY RUN ROAD, 49.16 acres, mostly cleared, old farm house, good condition log outbuilding, spring and stream. **\$249,000.**

UPPER TRACT, 16 acres, wooded w/cabin, secluded, no water or electric. **\$98,000.**

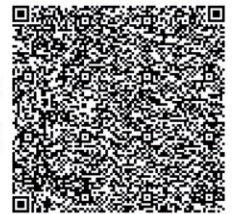
CIRCLEVILLE AREA, 66.05 acres +/-, approximately 12 acres pasture, 51 acres wooded, secluded, easy access, stream and dug well, old homestead. **\$249,000.**

Licensed in West Virginia - Virginia - Florida  
278 Maple Ave., Franklin, WV 26807

## We are here when you are ready!

Staying up to date on immunizations is important for the whole family. Contact us today to get your COVID vaccine.

Schedule your appointment today!



61 Chestnut Street, Suite 2  
P.O. Box 579  
Franklin, WV 26807  
304-358-2714  
George I. Sponaugle, Broker  
www.ODRWV.com

Gene Boggs, Associate Broker 304-358-7982

Kathy Sponaugle 304-668-3283 Angie Nelson 304-358-2524

**NEW LISTING - KISER GAP ROAD** - 65+/- ac of mountain land located on Kiser Gap Rd., Pendleton County, culvert in place, leveled off for a house or camping trailer, 1/2 mile of good road frontage, electric available, excellent hunting, small creek, beautiful scenic views, only 15 minutes from the golf course, survey pending. **\$5,000 an acre. Call Gene Boggs.**

**NEW LISTING - FRANKLIN** - Cozy 4 BR/2 BA rancher situated on 1.50 private, level acres. Over 2,200 sf of living area, with propane FA and wood stove heat. Appliances convey. Fully fenced with beautiful landscaping. Miscellaneous outbuildings, including a chicken coop and a greenhouse. **\$299,900. Call Angie Nelson.**

**CIRCLEVILLE** - Old 2-story farm house on +/- .5 AC, 5 BR 1.5 BA, new roof, public water, fenced yard, also old country store bldg. Close to Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob, Canaan Valley and Snowshoe. **PRICED TO SELL. ~~\$220,000~~ \$190,000. Call Gene.**



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### GREAT FINANCING RATES NOW AVAILABLE

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
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-spd., mechanic's crane, welder, air compressor, etc., 94K miles	\$28,900
1996 FORD F-250 S/CAB LONGBED 4X4, 7.3 diesel, auto., ldd., bronze, 154K miles	\$29,900
1994 FORD F-350 CREW CAB DUALY 4X2, 7.3 diesel, 5-spd., 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
2014 FORD EXPLORER AWD "POLICE INTERCEPTOR," 3.7 liter, V-6, auto., ldd., white, 170K miles	SPECIAL \$14,900 \$10,900
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-spd., ldd., white, tan leather, only 49K miles, ex. cond.	SPECIAL \$29,500 \$27,500 \$26,500

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## Sugar Grove Realty, Inc.

39 Maple Ave  
PO Box 999  
Franklin, WV 26807

sugargrovewv.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  
Tommy A. Roberson, Sales Agent 304.358.7610  
Penny K. Lambert, Sales Agent C 304.668.2975  
Laura B. Brown, Sales Agent C 304.668.3952  
Jennifer Raines, Sales Agent 304-851-3522

FOR PHOTOS AND MUCH MORE ABOUT THESE PROPERTIES VISIT  
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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><del>\$249,900.00</del> 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><del>\$149,900.00</del> 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 <del>\$425,000.00</del> REDUCED \$320,000.00.</b>	SGR241 60.24 Acres w/Cabin. Exceptional Views. Excellent hunting w/1000's of Acres. Office. Bathroom, Electric nearby. Cistern, Small pond. Close to National Forest. <b>UNDER CONTRACT NEW LISTING <del>\$289,000.00</del> 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/1 Bed, 1 Bath Home w/Loft, Riverbend Golf Course, Common area, HOA Fee, Corner Unit. <b>UNDER CONTRACT 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><del>\$329,000.00</del> REDUCED \$299,000.00.</b>
SGR290A 0.82 Acres, Raw Land located in Bethel District along US RT 33 East. Public Water available. <b>\$15,000.00.</b>	SGR156 15.97 Acres, Rolling Hills Estate, Electric nearby. Water available. Hardy County. <b><del>\$95,000.00.</del> REDUCED \$89,900.00.</b>
SGR287A 0.20 Acres w/3 Bed, 1.5 Bath Doublewide Home, close to amenities. Franklin Corp., Pendleton County. <b>NEW LISTING REDUCED <del>\$100,000.00</del> REDUCED \$89,900.00.</b>	SGR006 2.33 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home on 0.6386 Acres, more or less, off of Kiser Gap Rd, Sugar Grove District. <b>NEW LISTING <del>\$169,000.00</del> REDUCED \$149,900.00 REDUCED \$145,000.00.</b>
SGR282A 0.75 Acres Store Front/Residence located in Brandywine. Needs some TLC. <b><del>\$85,000.00</del> \$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 Well water w/deeded access to Spring, Sugar Grove District. Covenants & Restrictions apply. <b><del>\$499,900.00</del> REDUCED \$469,900.00.</b>	SGR042 Five Unit Townhouse property located in Brandywine. Each unit has 3 Bedrooms, 2 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>	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>
SGR258B 3.42 Acres, w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home. Sugar Grove District, Falcon Lane. <b><del>\$259,000.00.</del> REDUCED \$229,000.00.</b>	SGR247 Residential lots with town water, sewer & underground utilities. Protective covenants and restrictions. Franklin Airport Development. Lots from <b>\$14,630.00.</b>
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>	