



THE PENDLETON TIMES

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\$1.00
Volume 111, Number 4

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday
January 25, 2024

Dangerous Snow and Cold Batters Region



Several inches of snow last weekend made travel extremely hazardous, especially in areas of higher elevation such as U.S. 33 on Allegheny Mountain. Photo courtesy of Pendleton County Emergency Management

Thirteen Candidates Have Filed to Run for Local Offices

By Stephen Smoot

In the past week, snowstorms and frigid temperatures reminded Pendleton County that the winter season has fully settled in. A blizzard of filings at the Pendleton County Clerk's office reminds all that another season has commenced, that of political campaigning.

County Clerk Elise White shared that the resignation of Teresa Heavner from the Pendleton County Board of Education broadened the number of opportunities available for would-be candidates to run for office. This makes two separate seats for board of education available. One is for the full term and

the other for the unexpired term for the seat opened by Heavner's resignation.

As of Monday, two have filed to run for county commission, Roger Dahmer and Travis Moyers, both of Franklin.

April Mallow from Upper Tract filed for county prosecuting attorney.

Bradley Kimble from Franklin filed to run for Pendleton County Sheriff.

Sandie Huffman Smith of Franklin is running for county assessor.

In division one for magistrate judge, Morgan Basagic of Franklin and Jeremy Bodkin from Upper Tract have filed thus far. Kevin Puffenberger of Upper Tract filed

for division two.

For the full-term board of education seat, Pat Godfrey of Sugar Grove, Betty Kimble of Brandywine, and Sonny O'Neil from Seneca Rocks have all filed.

Charles Burgoyne, II, and Wilma "Miss Pitts" Pitsenbarger, both of Franklin, filed for the unexpired term.

White said that the final day to file would be Jan. 27. Since that date falls on a Saturday, White will open the county clerk's office from 9 a.m. to noon to allow candidates to file.

Information about any race in West Virginia can be accessed online at the West Virginia Secretary of State Office's website.

Pendleton County Board Of Education Hears Ideas To Improve School Security

By Stephen Smoot

On a day in which icy winds and accumulating snow had prevented school from running, the Pendleton County Board of Education held its regular meeting.

Before the light agenda, attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, then heard the invocation from J.D. Wilkins, board president. He stated, "Mighty God, we thank You for bringing us here safely."

First, the board accepted resignations "with regret," a statement that indicates a long tenure of dedicated and

capable service. Resignations were accepted from Dave Ellis, athletic trainer, and Teresa Heavner, board of education member.

In treasurer J. P. Mowery's report, he touched on two important points. First, the board followed his recommendation to move \$350,000 from the long term substitute fund into the category used to pay full time professional faculty.

He also delved into electric costs. In the 2020 to 2021 school year, the entire school system spent \$244,000 on electric power. The subsequent year, the costs rose to \$256,000 and in the school year 2022 to 2023, \$260,000. Mowery pointed out that, despite the gradual rise in costs, the school system had accomplished a key goal.

County schools usage of electricity dropped over the same period of time, reducing the bite taken out by the effect of inflation and federal regulations on the cost of energy. Mowery explained, "Certainly, the state doesn't fund for inflation."

Next, Travis Heavner gave an update on facilities and maintenance. He reported that he met with a Charleston

based company that specializes in adding tinted window coverings for enhanced security. They install a product from 3M called Safety and Security film. It adds tint to prevent those outside from seeing into classrooms, gives windows added strength against blunt objects or gunshots, and keeps glass from shattering apart.

According to 3M, the films "are designed to mitigate hazards from shattered glass due to natural or human causes," by preventing highly dangerous "flying glass shards." It also acts in "hindering anyone trying to break and enter through a broken door or window."

The film also "blocks harmful UV rays."

Heavner explained the limits of the product, saying, "It's not bulletproof. It can withstand a few rounds without the glass shattering." He said it also offers "insulating properties" to help save on climate control costs.

He then discussed issues needing addressed on the North Fork Elementary School campus, including heating issues in the lower end of the

Continued on Page 3



The SRRDA will refurbish the former Pendleton County Board of Education building on Walnut Street as an innovation hub.

Regional Development Authority Forges Forward On Franklin Innovation Hub

By Stephen Smoot

The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority has big plans for the former Pendleton County Schools office building, both inside and out.

Almost two years ago, the Pendleton County Economic Development Authority applied to participate in the Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities Initiative. This grant comes from a partnership between the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration and the National Association of Counties.

Last week the SRRDA, as the successor organization for both the Pendleton and Grant economic development authorities, received word that both will

take part in the BRECC 2024 Action Challenge.

Pendleton County may take part in the coal community restoration program through the regional development connection with Grant County through SRRDA.

The project proposal plans "to bring educational and entrepreneurial trainings" to the region "through 'innovation hubs' in each county seat." The ultimate goal includes "efforts to retain our youth and grow future populations" by "attracting new residents."

According to the award letter "teams will receive 12 months of individualized expert consultation that will result in the development of a community-specific

Continued on Page 3

Mountain Cajun Getaway's New Veterans' Social Hour Is Another Way to 'Always Give Back'

By Stephen Smoot

Military veterans have earned a special place because they learn what most cannot, do things that most will not, and are sent places to perform tasks that most will never understand. Both their training and their military experience, especially those who served in combat, make military service not just another job.

The aspects of service that elevate military veterans from others also separate. These walls often block out non military friends and family and lead to needs that only other veterans will understand.

From this need came the inspiration for Chris and Melissa Grimes to expand their veteran oriented services at Mountain Cajun Getaways. At 10 a.m. on Feb. 7, they will start having coffee socials for veterans.

"Anyone who has been in the military has been trained to work and operate in a different environment," says Chris Grimes, who is also a military veteran with 18 years of service. He explained that the military environment relies on orders given and obeyed through a chain of command. When it works properly, he described working in the military as being part of "a well-oiled machine" "We're all mutually broken," he explained. "We do things in a certain way."

He stated that veterans feel a sense of frustration and even anxiety when their family has civilian reactions to military style. He shared that "you can ask my boys. Dad would get so upset so quick . . . A mission oriented mindset is not always what others have."

Alexandra Pajak, a social worker who specializes in veteran mental health, wrote in "Psychiatric Times" in 2016 that many do not grasp "unique challenges faced by families of veterans." She also stated that in cases where the veteran has some level of post traumatic stress disorder, that "both military members and their spouses report lower marital satisfaction, especially in terms of poor parenting alliance and negative communication."

The family dynamic serves as an example of situations that can add to a veteran's sense

of frustration. The Grimeses decided that one way to help lies in giving veterans space to talk, to share, and to relax in an environment with others who understand.

"You ask veterans what they miss the most, 90 percent of them will say 'the camaraderie,'" Chris Grimes stated. He said that he asked the question, "How do you fix the camaraderie?"

Their plan is to provide a space where veterans can congregate and conversate. He explained that the ideal scenario could look like this, "we have a couple of people in the sugar shack; we're making maple syrup and talking. One person gets up and grabs some wood. Someone else jumps in and helps."

Along the way, veterans talk about the issues of their life, share stories, bond, and talk each other through life's hassles and frustrations.

Chris Grimes said that "everyone has anxiety. Everyone has these issues." He added that providing "things to do, giving people purpose" helps considerably.

The social program will add to Mountain Cajun Getaway's core mission of serving veterans and their families. As a non profit that partners with Future Generations University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others, Mountain Cajun Getaway has crafted programs that help to strengthen veteran connections with each other and, also very important, their families.

Mountain Cajun Getaways hosts veterans and their families to come out to Circleville and experience a different pace and style of life that encourages connection and discourages the distractions of modern life. Donations and grants pay the costs. They hosted 17 families in 2023 and three thus far in 2024.

Proceeds from maple syrup and other products made go back into supporting efforts to help veterans.

For the Grimes family, helping veterans is not merely a job or a business, but a way to continue a vital mission.

"I will always give back," Chris Grimes said.

Community CALENDAR

Clothing Closet Will Be Open Friday, Saturday

North Fork Baptist Church in Riverton will sponsor a free clothing closet. The closet will be open from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

SRRDA Innovation Hub

Continued From Page 1

economic development plan.”

The team includes Laura Brown and Sherry Mongold from the SRRDA office, Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president, Carly Kaposy from the Grant County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Suzanne Parks-Lewis from Potomac Valley Transit Authority, and Sarah Moomau from the City of Petersburg.

Also, in a meeting last week, the SRRDA board discussed plans for the exterior of what will become the Franklin Innovation Hub. Last year, the regional development authority obtained just under \$100,000 to purchase and refurbish the structure on Walnut Street across from the Pendleton County Courthouse.

The Franklin Innovation Hub will offer space for remote workers, entrepreneurs, and others requiring temporary or small scale office space. The building will also host skills building classes aimed at improving employability or business acumen.

Brown, executive director, explained that the RDA would need to hire both a commercial painter to refresh the exterior and a mural artist. She shared that both services would use grant funding to pay for costs.

She stated that “we’re working toward getting a commercial painter” with plans to start work in April.

A board member asked if the group had to put out “re-

quests for proposals.” Brown replied that the grantor did not require these for such work.

Government agencies and others often put out requests for proposals, or RFPs, as a way to send a general inquiry as to which outfits might be able to perform the work. They usually, however, are used for more significant projects.

Brown suggested that the board consider regional artists Kelson Thorne. According to the biography on his “Art Junkie” website Thorne, a Petersburg native, is “most known for creating large-scale murals and public art installations that represent the Appalachian communities, businesses, and cultures.”

Thorne’s work graces building exteriors in several towns in the area, including Marlinton and Petersburg. Brown said the three he painted for the Pocahontas County seat “were spectacular.” The mural on the innovation hub would take inspiration from Franklin’s historical streetscape and that the Pendleton County Historical Society “will pull out a photo of downtown that would” interweave with the actual facades in place.

Thorne also had suggested that the building otherwise adopt a “very modern” white exterior with black trim.

Board of Education

Continued From Page 1


school and also replacing the letters of the sign on the Harold Michael Community Building.

Of the heating problem, Heavner said, “We’ve made some adjustments and we hope that will help.” They also spent \$1,700 to install a new wireless scoreboard control system in the Harold Michael Community Building gymnasium. While the scoreboard itself still functions properly, the control box failed. Due to its advanced age, it could neither be repaired or replaced.

The board finally heard from Heavner on a student achievement update. He shared that the next benchmark tests, scheduled for Feb. 2, but may require adjustment due to snow days.

Also, those participating in the county science fair in the elementary school division received the unpleasant news that the state had scheduled the regional fair early and on the same date as the county fair. Heavner said he would work with officials to ensure that Pendleton County winning participants could advance.

During his superintendent’s update, Charles Hedrick informed the board that as of the day of the meeting, Pendleton County had used six of 10 possible days for inclement weather. He stated that once the 10 were used, that the county would have to start cutting from spring break to make up the state mandated number of instructional days.



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- Performing additional functions incidental to computer support activities
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- Establishing and maintaining configuration documentation and assisting with general asset and inventory management processes
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Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications & Experience Required:

- Technically minded, this individual will have a minimum of 3 years’ experience in a DC technician capacity.
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- Strong organizational skills with the ability to multi-task and prioritize tasks.
- A motivated individual with drive to ensure internal and external deadlines are met.
- Attention to detail and ownership of work to ensure it is accurate, meets quality standards, performed on a timely basis along with providing daily reports to the PM and/or customers.
- Able to build good productive relationships with other team members and stakeholders of the business in multiple locations.

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Role Profile: Data Center Facilities Manager



Department: Facilities

Reports To: Senior Facilities Manager

We’re seeking a Facilities Manager in our West Virginia Data Center to assist in ensuring availability of mechanical and electrical resources and dealing with all aspects of maintaining facilities contracts at the site.

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The Primary Duties of a Facilities Manager are:

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- Conduct analyses, with the ability to prepare reports on all aspects of the critical facility, operations and maintenance.
- Assists in projects to increase current facility efficiency.
- Responsible for critical asset and inventory management.
- Acts as initial escalation point.
- First level troubleshooting of issues affecting critical assets within the facility.
- Keeps others informed of information that contributes to the performance of the team, department or company.
- Will direct and oversee sub-contractors during assigned work.

Skills Required:

Technical

- Proven electrical trade experience.
- Experience of Data Center cooling systems
- Experienced in BMS and the installation of BMS systems along with HVAC controls.
- Experienced in the technical design and fit out of Data Center infrastructure utilizing energy saving systems such as free cooling and high efficiency U.P.S.
- Experienced in the use of Computerized Maintenance management software.
- Problem solving and root cause identification skills.
- Strong analytic and decision-making abilities.
- Good Computer and organizational skills, with the ability to work accurately and to deadlines.
- Demonstrates sound judgment when making and escalating decisions.

Communication and Initiative

- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Able to prioritize in complex, fast-paced environment.
- Is resourceful, maintains effective pace and gets things done.

Role Specific Knowledge

- Constantly demonstrates the ability to successfully operate critical equipment within the facility.
- Has a professional qualification in Electro- Mechanical systems.
- Creates CMs, MOPs, SOP, EOPs, which are easily understood by others.
- Shows a strong aptitude for troubleshooting and problem solving.

Our Company

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Check Out Our Website -
www.pendletontimes.com

10 Years Ago
Week of January 2, 2014

Teter Recalls Silver Fox Fur Business... And a Trial

By Joe Teter

"The silver fox fur business did pretty well until World War II came along," Fort Seybert's Eston Teter recalled in a conversation with his son, Joe. "Then during the war years, furs were considered an unnecessary commodity, so there was no market for them. Even after the war, the market for them never returned. It was also very difficult to get the feed that we fed them."

That was how the conversation unfolded the time Joe Teter's cousin Steve Teter, asked his Uncle Eston to tell Joe the story of when Eston and his younger brother Byrd Teter, "killed the wrong horse."

Joe Teter, along with many other folks, loves to hear his father "tell his yarns and stories about growing up in Fort Seybert."

"My dad," Joe Teter says, "is full of stories, mostly about quirky characters he has known during his lifetime in rural West Virginia. Some people might think he is poking fun at the lack of sophistication of the folks in his stories, and that may be part of it, but all of the yarns are spun simply to relate a humorous event about a quirky, rural character, who is sometimes far wiser than you might expect. In his stories, these otherwise unsophisticated folks often express themselves in a simple, direct way that contains a bit of basic wisdom the world could use more of. I also think that most of the individuals in his stories would be flattered to know that they live on in my father's memory."

Joe Teter submitted this story to the "Times." What follows is his first-person account.

My father, his brother, Byrd, and their father (my grandfather, Papa Teter) were in the silver fox fur business in the 1930s. Dad couldn't have been much more than a teenager at the time. Some of the remnants of the old fox cages can still be found on the property near the house where I grew up in Fort Seybert. The foxes were kept in cages and, when they reached proper maturity, were put to sleep with an injection of strychnine and skinned, with the pelts sent to auction houses as far away as New York and Wisconsin.

The animals were raised on a diet that consisted of a feed mixture (mostly soybeans) and horsemeat. I don't mean beautiful Clydesdales or those sleek, breathtaking animals that win the Kentucky Derby. I mean broken down, toothless old nags—horses worthless to anyone but the most compassionate animal lover and certainly of no value to a farmer who needed horsepower to work his fields.

And that is where our story has its quite inauspicious beginning—with a "toothless, old, broken-down nag of a workhorse."

At that time there were a lot of workhorses in the county, but when they reached an advanced age, especially when they had lost most of their teeth, they were no longer of any value to a farmer. "An old horse that has lost its teeth can't eat anymore," dad explained. "If a horse can't eat, it can't work." Horses that had lost their value in that way were the types my dad's family received for free from local farmers who were glad to be relieved of the unpleasant job of disposing of them. "Old horses in the last stage of life don't lie down," my dad said. "When they do, they never get back up and have to be put down and disposed of, a job most farmers did not relish."

So, when Papa Teter received a message from a nearby farmer, "Mr. J.," that he had an old mare to get rid of, it was business as usual. My dad and his brother were sent to bring the old nag back to be slaughtered. When they arrived at old man J.'s house, they were told to go down to Sweedlin Valley to the 100-acre-plus pasture and there they would find an old, white mare.

The two lads did as they were told and, just as the farmer had said, found a toothless old mare that fit his description. There were no other horses in sight. She was taken back home, slaughtered and prepared as food for the foxes. However, the next day, an unexpected visit was paid by "Mr. R.," another farmer whose land bordered on the farm where they got the horse. "You killed the wrong horse!" Mr. R. protested. "That was my horse!"

My dad was willing to discuss the matter and make reparations for the mistake, even though the horse had actually been grazing on the wrong property when it was taken. "She was worth at least a thousand dollars," farmer R. said. My dad knew when he was being taken advantage of, and refused to pay such a sum for an old horse. They parted company with the situation unresolved.

My father recalled. "I anticipated trouble out of it, so we kept the horse head in the cold storage we had for the horse-meat." Sure enough, Papa Teter soon received notice that Mr. R. was suing for the alleged value of the old horse and was summoned to appear before Dewy Moyers, the justice of the peace (this was in the days before the magistrate system), in the county seat for the trial.

My grandfather was working away when the day of the trial arrived, so dad and Uncle Byrd went to Franklin to represent the defense and had an item with them that would prove to be of great importance in the trial—the horse's head in an old lard can. Since it was summertime and hot, the boys took the horse head to the only grocery store in town, the Franklin Meat Market, and asked for it to be kept in the walk-in-refrigerator until needed for the trial!

The trial was to be held in the justice of the peace office

on the second floor of the Dyer building across the street from the courthouse. However, so many folks had arrived as bystanders, especially high school classmates of Uncle Byrd who were curious to see their friend in court, that Moyers moved the proceedings to the courthouse.

My dad had retained counsel from a local attorney, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Cunningham, and the attorney for the prosecution was Mr. William McCoy, the county's prosecuting attorney. When Mr. Cunningham was presenting the case for the defense, he instructed dad and Uncle Byrd to go get the horse head. He then went to one of the courtroom windows and waved, apparently to someone outside. Shortly my dad and uncle reentered, carrying between them, by the two handles, the lard can containing the horse head.

They were followed by an unknown gentleman.

"This is Mr. Compton, a horse trader, respected in his profession, who has bought and sold many horses in his day," Mr. Cunningham announced. Turning to the two boys, the defense attorney asked, "Have you gentlemen ever seen or made the acquaintances of this individual?" Mr. Compton was totally unknown by them, since he was from "away from here," as the locals would say, and even, as per Mr. Cunningham's astute instructions, had waited outside until needed, so as not to taint his testimony. "Please let the record show that this witness is a total stranger to the defendants, which should remove any suspicion of partiality in his statements," Mr. Cunningham declared.

The evidence was presented. Dad and Uncle Byrd placed the lard can on a table in front of the justice of the peace's bench. Mr. Compton slowly and carefully examined the evidence, inspecting especially inside the mouth. You could have heard a pin drop in the courtroom. Mr. Compton at some length turned to the justice and said, "I wouldn't take this horse home."

"What is it worth?" asked the justice of the peace. "Whatever you can get for the hide," Mr. Compton replied. "What's the price of a horse hide?" Mr. Cunningham asked my dad. "Sometimes five but usually two or three dollars," he was told.

"Judgment for the defense!" the justice of the peace belated. "Now git that horse head outta my courtroom." He slammed his gavel down on the bench.

I don't know where the horse head finally ended up, but my father said that Papa Teter did pay Mr. R. for the horse, and in an amount somewhat more than that assessed by the horse trader. Mr. R. and my grandfather continued to be friends in spite of their little dustup at the Pendleton County courthouse.

Week of January 9, 2014

Did You Know?

January is a time of change

and new beginnings. People often look forward to January as a chance to wipe the slate clean, often resolving to make changes to improve their quality of life in the months ahead. Such traditions may date back to the ancient god for which the month of January was named.

January is named after the ancient Roman god Janus, who was the god of beginnings and transitions as well as the god of gates, doorways, and passages of time. Janus also was believed to preside over the beginning and ending of conflicts. Janus is usually depicted as having two faces that point in opposite directions. According to Roman mythology, Janus was able to see into the past and the future. There was no counterpart to Janus in Greek mythology.

When examining the many attributes of Janus, it is easy to see why the month of January would be named after this multifaceted ancient Roman god.

60 Years Ago
Week of January 30, 1964

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.

Soldiers Relax, Shiver In Winter Quarters

January, 1864, was one of the quietest months on the battlefronts of the Civil War—something of a lull before the great and final storm that would begin with the spring. The struggle of the Northern and Southern armies 100 years ago this week was not so much against each other as against a common enemy: cold.

Both armies did remarkably well against this foe—so well, in fact, that many soldiers later told of enjoying their winters in the field. Both Yankee and Rebel showed great ingenuity in improving upon what their respective governments had given them for comfort.

For many soldiers, the government had provided tents, and large, tented cities were seen scattered across the country. Along the Rapidan in Virginia, Gen. Robert E. Lee looked down from Clark's Mountain on such a city of Yankee troops and watched hundreds of curlicues of smoke lifting skyward.

But tents were not the final word—not by any means. Thousands of soldiers on both sides built little huts or log enclosures, topping them with tent canvases or wood and filling the chinks with mud. Some built fireplaces, frequently using bricks from abandoned homes nearby. A few even added Victorian gingerbread designs along the eaves.

Some soldiers built bunks in their huts, using barrel staves or boards from hardtack boxes. Others, even fancier, built spring beds with saplings and

cushioned them with leaves or hay. They then stabbed their bayonets into the dirt floor and stuck candles in the handle ends to furnish light.

Therein, warm and lighted, they would pass away the time between tours of duty writing letters, reading, cooking, mending clothes, shaving or just talking.

There were, of course, less ambitious men. Some men would lay a bed of leaves or straw between two logs, lie down and cover themselves with tent canvas, and that was their winter home. Others would sneak off each night to sleep in a nearby barn or haystack, and a few lucky ones obtained regular sleeping quarters in a farmer's home, complete with feather bed.

Whenever the quarters were erected, the soldiers would first take care of their own needs, then turn to their community needs. In each camp, soldiers would build a chapel, a stable and, of course, a guard house. In some camps, log side-walks made their appearance.

As winter wore on, some soldiers turned to the finer things and made benches, chairs and tables, then whittled chess men and chess boards for recreation.

And so, the winter passed, with little fighting and much companionship. The Civil War soldiers were like soldiers in any day and time; they appreciated rest and friendship. But like soldiers in other days and other times, they knew their purpose was to fight, and eventually they would have to do just that.

Next week: From the Cradle to the Grave.

70 Years Ago
Week of January 28, 1954

DAHMER

A list of the teachers who taught school in Pendleton County in the year 1872:

H. W. Arbogast, Christopher Armentrout, H. Lee Baxter, Jacob C. Baxter, John W. Biby, E. V. Blake-more, W. C. Blakemore, James H. Bland, Henrietta Boggs, John S. Bond, A. Kate Castleman, H. S. Cooper, J. H. Covington, Mannesseh Cowger, William J. Cowger, John G. Dahmer, Benjamin F. Day, John W. Dolly, Mordecai Dove, John Dunkle, Isaac W. Dyer, L. C. Fishback, Arthur A. Hahn, G. Hildebrand, William N. Hiner, Jonathan Hiser, Robert H. Huffman, Charles N. Judy, H. C. King, E. A. Lambert, John F. Masters, Lafayette Nelson, Solomon K. Nelson, W. T. Newham, Henry W. Pope, George W. Rexrode, John Roandebush, E. A. Samuels, W. M. Schmucker, Jay Sullenbarger, Fillmore Todd, A. P. Todd, George M. Vint, Martha H. Ward, M. A. Westmoreland, Jacob Harman, Samuel Harman, Nick Wheeler, and S. M. Wood. Cost of schools \$6,724.08.

The Pendleton Times is published weekly by Mountain Media LLC, 77 North Main St., Franklin WV 26807. Periodicals Postage Paid at Franklin WV 26807 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Pendleton Times P.O. Box 906, Franklin, WV 26807

Subscription Rate: \$37.00 a Year In-State \$39.00 a Year Out-of-State Phone: 304-358-2304 Email: ads@pendleontimes.com

Smith Creek Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

The first month of winter is gone, and it was bigger than last year. The area had more snow last week than the whole total of snow last year. The snow will go away this week with the warmer temperatures and rain.

Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins - Mary Mitchell, Bucky Moyers, Pam Riner, Anna Tesi, Alice Johnson, Arlin Dale and Freda Jamison, Hazel Simmons, Reva Hartman, Larry Moyers, Mary Alice Simmons, Sandy Washburn, Sandra Vandevander and Woodrow Hartman; prayer list - Richard Campbell, Tristan Hartman, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Roberta Bennett, Kenny Williams, Dennis Mitchell, Debbie Horst, Myrtle Hammer, Pam Rexrode, Nancy George, Neal Eye, Margaret Wimer, Sherman Bennett, Donald Burns, David Bowers, Wendell and Darlene Nelson, Vada Bible, Ruby Gail Roberson, Gary Hess, Ruth Bauer, Anna Mauzy, Linda Maxwell Looney, Gloria Moats, Sterle Lambert, Martha R. Kimble, Bernie and Mary Alice Evick, Jimmie Bennett, Ruthalene Judy, Wayne Kimble, Stanley Propst, Leann Britton and the family of Mike Steele.

Prayer thought: "As God, help us. Let us learn from our mistakes and those made by others so that we might gain a heart of obedience for Him."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Jan. 15 through Jan. 21, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Jan. 15 - 30°, 20°, 2" snow (42°, 13°); Jan. 16 - 24°, 8° (54°, 19°); Jan. 17 - 25°, -1° (55°, 34°, .05"); Jan. 18 - 34°, 10° (56°, 40°); Jan. 19 - 30°, 17°, 1" snow (54°, 38°, .04"); Jan. 20 - 16°, 10°, .25" snow (37°, 30°) and Jan. 21 - 27°, 8° (38°, 23°).

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Once Upon a Time Customs Are Bygone

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

There is a generation that will never come back from time. A friend passed this on to the writer, and she wishes to share with the reader.

"They were the generation who:
Went to school and walked back, did their homework alone to get out as soon as possible to play, spent all their free time outside, played hide and seek in the dark, made mud cakes, collected sports cards, found, washed and sold empty coke bottles and sold them to the grocery store for 5 cents each, made paper toys with their hands, bought vinyl albums to play on record players, had parents who were there, laughed louder under the covers in bed so parents didn't know they were still awake, collected photos and albums of clippings, played board games and cards on rainy days, helped to clear the table after dinner and wash the dishes, sat with their family around the dinner table and engaged in conversation, memorized their lines for the Christmas play, made dams in the river, caught 'fire flies' in a jar and let them go, swam in the river, built snow forts and made snowballs, learned to sew and fish, played kick the can, wrote thank you letters, had chores, showed respect to older persons and each other, went on family picnics, left house and car unlocked, helped neighbors, had three TV channels and had an outside antenna, had a bedtime, recorded songs from the radio using cassette tapes, school started with 'The Pledge,' said 'sir and ma'am', and got spanked for discipline."

Was this the good old days? This generation thought so, and they obviously turned out OK.

Life's little instructions include the following:

1. Hold the door open for the person behind one.
2. Take a person's shopping cart and put it where it belongs.
3. Help the person who is trying to reach the item on the top shelf.
4. Assist the person who has a walker, trying to get inside.
5. Allow the person behind one in the checkout line, go ahead of one.

Winter has surely set in! Earlier in the week, temperatures were -5 degrees...snow came and the wind blew. Temperatures have risen a little, at least in the higher digit numbers, Sunday morning. It was good to see the sun shining Sunday morning. Churches cancelled their services Sunday morning due to the weather. Monday morning found temperatures at Brandywine to be 0 degrees, -1 on Lower Thorn, and 3 degrees in Brushy Fork. Needless to say, school being on a three-hour delay was a good call.

This week's quotes are as follows:

"A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal." — Steve Maraboli
 "Cooking is like love. It should be entered into with abandon, or not at all." — Julia Child
 "There is no winter without snow, no spring without sunshine, and no happiness without companions." — Korean Proverb
 "No matter how flat the pancake, there are still two sides." — Dr. Phil



Ernest Luther Mitchell (Feb. 18, 1900 - Oct. 3, 1985) was married to Hannah Ruth Kiser Mitchell (Oct. 2, 1902 - June 17, 1977). He was the son of William Mushime (Sept. 14, 1867 - Dec. 25, 1957) and Ida Josephine Propst Mitchell (Jan. 21, 1873 - April 1, 1961). Ruth was the daughter of Calvin Truman (May 3, 1869 - May 22, 1953) and Sarah Virginia Rexrode Kiser (Sept. 23, 1874 - Nov. 2, 1949). To this union, Ernest and Ruth had three daughters, Norene Dare, Betty Lou, and Josephine Virginia.

"The greatest quality a friend can have is discretion." — Prince Rainier
 Sitting by the fireside is the best place to be to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

Apparently, everyone in the neighborhood has hunkered down to keep warm. Some have ventured out to take in some sled riding. A nice hot chocolate drink certainly warmed the spirit.

Concerns for this week are many. They are as follows: Bob Adamson, Charles and "Pidge" Anderson, Roger and Joan Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Lynn Beatty, "Bo" Boggs, Dwayne Borrer, Jane Conrad, Marie Cole, Norma Propst Cunningham, Christian Dasher, Isaac Eye, Marie Eye, Mary Eye, Neal Eye, Loralee Gordon, Lola Graham, Jordan Greathouse, Patsy Green, Rosalee Grogg, Marlene Harman, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Grace Hedrick, George Hevener, Jackie Hill,

Heartfelt Thanks

The Family of Wayne Vandevander would like to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, money donations, flowers, cards, visits, gifts, food and all other acts of kindness during Wayne's short illness. Thanks to the pallbearers, the church and people of the community for the wonderful meal after the service, to Pastor Deborah Beam for her beautiful service and also a special thanks to Keith and Barb for making everything so special.

We are truly blessed by family and friends.

Beverly, Fredrick, Cassie and Laney

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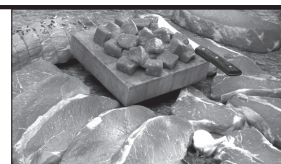
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Nominations Open for Inductees into Agriculture And Forestry Hall of Fame

The West Virginia Division of Forestry has announced that nominations are open for the next round of honorees for West Virginia's Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame highlights the people, businesses, organizations, institutions and foundations that have significantly contributed to agriculture, forestry and family life in West Virginia. Selected nominees will be inducted during a recognition dinner in July at Jackson's Mill.

Submitted nomination forms must be received by Feb. 16 to be considered.

"This honor is given to those who have lived in West Virginia and have had a long-tenured association with agriculture, forestry and/or family life and have made outstanding, direct contributions to those industries," said Jeremy McGill, WVDOF assistant state forester, and president of the WVAFFH. "Inductees must demonstrate the highest standards of leadership and contributions on local, state, national and international levels. We look forward to the opportunity to induct a new class into the hall of fame."

Nomination forms are available from the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame <https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/executive/west-virginia-agriculture-forestry-hall-of-fame/> or by contacting McGill via email at Jeremy.R.McGill@wv.gov or by phone at (304) 439-3003.



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A Note of Gratitude

It is with heavy hearts we mourn the passing of our husband, father and grandfather.

We are so grateful to everyone for your kindness and help through it all. Thank you Dave Basagic, South Fork Ruritan Club, Subway and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their beautiful presentation. Thanks for the calls, visits, gifts of flowers, donations and food.

Forever Grateful

Family of Frenchie and Jerri Moates

The River Bend Gardens Homeowners Association is announcing a call for candidates for the 2024 homeowners association executive committee.

We have open positions for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and a member-at-large role, ensuring there's an opportunity for everyone to get involved. To be eligible to participate in these elections, one must be a homeowner in good standing. This means 2023 (or earlier years) dues must have been paid, or suitable arrangements must be in place.

Here are the details for the upcoming election meeting:

Date: January 31, 2024 Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Bowling Alley Conference Room

If people cannot make it in person, please contact Gail Arnott (gailarnott@yahoo.com) or Jeff Rhodes (sedohrman13@gmail.com) ahead of time, and we will do our best to arrange a phone or Zoom connection for you.

People interested in running for any of the officer positions or would like to nominate someone, please plan to attend the meeting or make arrangements to be connected virtually.

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Sincere Appreciation

I would like to thank everyone for the donations to the Corner United Methodist Church and for the Gideon Bibles in memory of Linda Ketterman. Also, thanks to the church for the meal they prepared.

I would like to give a special thanks to Rev. Joe and Cookie Gerstell for the service and all their acts of kindness.

Thank you also to Grant Rehab and Care Center, Grant Memorial Hospital and Hospice and anyone I may have missed.

God Bless You All

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Short-Handed Wildcats Battle Viking Onslaught on the Road

By Stephen Smoot

As the entire state waited anxiously for the arrival of the largest snowstorm in at least two years, the Wildcats traveled north on US 220 to Petersburg. An illness and injury affected lineup took the floor of the George Halterman gymnasium to engage the experienced Vikings.

Petersburg controlled the tip and the first quarter of play. They took an early 5-0 lead in the first minute and a half before Susan Vincell hit a layup on an in bounds play under the basket. The Vikings, unfortunately, scored the next eight points.

With 2:48 left, Jessica Parker made a move to get past her defender, drove to the basket, and drew a foul. She made one of two to set the score at 20-5 with 2:48 left in the quarter. By the end of the first, the Vikings had taken a commanding 28-6 advantage.

The second quarter saw Avery Townsend follow on a give and go play 30 seconds in. She made both to put the score at 28-8.

Petersburg continued to pile points, but the Wildcats still fought to make plays. Jameigh Miller had one of her best offensive performances, starting at the 2:06 mark in the second. She pump faked a defender out of position, accelerated past her to the basket, and laid in a bucket.

Miller then repeated the move and hit an off balance seven-foot jump shot at the 20 second mark. Jenna Smith ended halftime scoring by ripping away a steal and hitting a shot from the foul line to close the gap to 41-21.

The third quarter saw a Pendleton County squad determined to fight their way back into the game. Avery Townsend found Julia Mongold on a fast break. Mongold completed the layup. Townsend then took the ball from the Vikings. That possession resulted

in Vincell's first three-point basket. Vincell then blocked a Viking shot.

Townsend followed the block with a layup at the 5:23 mark. Thirty seconds later, she went coast to coast and scored a layup to cut the lead to 10, 41-31. Petersburg scored the next five, but Miller answered with another drive to the basket capped by a layup.

The Vikings surged in the last five minutes, however, to extend their lead back out to 19.

Early in the fourth, Mongold pulled down an offensive rebound and laid in a basket. At almost the six minute mark, Miller followed with her own coast to coast drive and score. A subsequent Townsend layup put the score at 57-41 with 5:38 left to play.

Vincell then blocked a shot, scored a layup on an offensive rebound, and took a steal, all within 30 seconds. At the 3:18 mark, Townsend used a Miller pick at the top of the key to free herself and hit a three-point basket to put the score at 62-48. Townsend returned the favor, giving an assist to Miller as she connected on a three-point basket.

Laying a foundation often serves as the most difficult part of building a structure to last. Getting the pieces prepared and in the right position is key. Donnie Kopp inherited a squad that lost three key starters and he is building a program on the efforts of younger players long on enthusiasm and determination, but somewhat shorter on experience.

The work performed building the foundation will pay off as the Wildcats continue to scratch and claw its way through a tough schedule.

Townsend led scoring with 24 points and in steals with six. Miller followed with 17 points, hitting 68 percent of her shots from the field. Vincell scored seven points and hauled down an equal number of rebounds. Olivia Gonshor, Mongold, and Smith all scored two and Parker one.



Local Athlete Toughs It Out

Gage Sites-Woods, a former Pendleton County High School cross country and track standout, took runner-up in the middleweight class last Saturday in Clarksburg. He competed in The Original Toughman Competition.

Exhausted Wildcats Find a Way to Defeat Feisty Warriors

By Stephen Smoot

The 2023-24 season has brought a little bit of everything to Pendleton County - at least in terms of facing adversity. Last week, for the most part, Old Man Winter canceled both basketball games and practices.

This week started off with a still short-handed girls' basketball squad facing a familiar rival to the south in Pocahontas County.

The Warriors boasted big wins over East Hardy, Tygarts Valley, and Webster County and a narrow loss to Petersburg as they rolled into Franklin.

Pendleton County took the opening tip, but the Warriors landed the first blow with a layup one minute in. The Wildcats responded 90 seconds later at the 5:33 mark. Julia Mongold snagged an offensive rebound and hit a 10-foot jump shot to tie it up.

With a little more than five minutes left in the first, Susan Vincell showed her outside shot. She buried a 16-foot shot to give her team a 4-2 lead.

Avery Townsend, as per usual, made big plays on defense that translated to baskets at the other end. At the 3:55 mark she stole the ball, drove, and pulled up to hit a shot from the foul line extended. She followed that up 30 seconds later with a steal and coast to coast drive that ended with her making one of two from the foul line.

The Wildcats edged ahead as the quarter came to a close. Jenna Smith's three with 15 seconds remaining put her team up 13-11 as the frame closed.

Townsend connected on a three early in the second quarter. The Warriors answered with a three of their own and retook the lead 17-16.

At this point, the second quarter turned to "Miller Time."

Jameigh Miller took it right back with a layup at the 3:30 mark and Pendleton County never lost it again.

Miller followed that with another basket off a deftly thrown pass from Kiera Heavener. At the 1:28 point, she made a move to free herself and hit a six-foot shot.

"Miller Time" took the team from a one point deficit to a 22-17 lead. Townsend added to it with another cross court drive and score. The half ended with the Wildcats up 24-19.

Townsend opened the second half by taking an offensive rebound and hitting a 10-foot jumper. No more scoring happened until the 5:56 point when she took another steal in for a score.

The Wildcats played man much of the time and pressed at strategic points. Mindful



Jameigh Miller hits a layup in the second quarter, giving the Wildcats a lead they would not relinquish.

of his team's fatigue, head coach Donnie Kopp also used a two-three zone as well. Both kept the Warriors at bay much of the night.

Pendleton County methodically built the lead in the third. Heavener scored after an offensive rebound. Shortly thereafter, Smith found Jessica Parker with a pass. Her basket set the lead at 32-21.

As of late, Parker has shown more confidence in making moves to create shot opportunities. She has also developed a baby hook style shot for use close to the hoop.

Scoring in the third ended with Miller hitting one of two free throws to give Pendleton County a 37-24 lead.

Then the wages of the weather induced lack of practices and games came into play.

Pocahontas County brought a full roster and was counting on attrition to wear down the home team. They started pressing to push the pace on exhausted Pendleton players.

From six seconds remaining in the third until 2:35 remaining in the game, the Wildcats found a lid on their basket. Tired legs left shots

short and the Warriors took advantage when they could.

As the quarter wound down, Pocahontas County crept closer and closer. Their parents screamed in support and their coach exhorted them in time outs to keep running as fast as they could, to keep working as hard as they could.

With 3:32 left, the Warriors hit a layup to cut the once 13 point lead to 37-32.

As she has all year, Townsend stepped forward and put her team on her back. She arced in a three-point shot at 2:35 to lift her squad to a 40-32 advantage. She followed that by going one for two at the line.

One more basket for each side closed the scoring. In a true gut check game, Pendleton County defeated a feisty Pocahontas County team 43-34.

Coach Kopp praised his team, saying they never give up regardless of the situation. He also credited good free throw shooting.

Of his team, he said, "They all came through big time."

The Wildcats are scheduled to host Petersburg at 7 p.m. today, travel to Harman Friday and host Keyser at 5 p.m. Saturday.

BES Students Earn Academic Recognition

Ryan Lambert, principal at Brandywine Elementary School, has announced the following honor rolls for the second nine-weeks grading period.

Principal's Honor Roll

First grade — Wyatt Calhoun, Lucas Cruz, Wyatt Hevener, Lukas Kiser, Annabelle Lockner, Alani Shockey, Benjamin Weaver and Cooper Wimer;

Second grade — Hunter Bowers, Carson Mitchell, Vencen Rawson, Chloe Simmons and Bethany Teagarden;

Third grade — Thomas Connor, Grayson Gilbert, Piper Hanna, Vianca Henderson, Kendalyn Hoover-Bartley, Aubrey Pitsenbarger, Trevor Redmond and Elizabeth Wheeler;

Fourth grade — Harley Bowers, Harper Marsh, Macie Mitchell and Addison Williams;

Fifth grade — Landon Bowers and Owen Champ; and

Sixth grade — Anthony Bowman.

A-B Honor Roll

First grade — Hunter Marston, Geneva Mongold, Romeo Perez, Colton Turner and Jacob Wheeler;

Second grade — Lucas Hanna, Nakiyah Perez and Fletcher Puffenbarger;

Third grade — Logan Bowman, Adalynn Brown, Treyvin Puffenbarger and Bentley Schell;

Fourth grade — Michelina Browder, Bryce Kimble and Corina Simmons;

Fifth grade — Ava Davis, Emma Graham, Tristen Lewis and Levi Wimer; and

Sixth grade — Nathaniel Hammer, Cayden Hensley, Noah Kobetic, Ellie Redmond and Kynleigh Sponaugle.



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WV Lifeline/Tel-Assistance Information for Customers of Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc.

Lifeline is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that makes communications services more affordable for eligible low-income consumers. This benefit provides eligible customers with a monthly discount of up to \$9.25 on qualifying internet service or telephone service bundled with qualifying internet service. In certain circumstances, a reduced benefit of \$5.25 may be available for voice only telephone.

WV Tel-Assistance is a program that lowers the monthly telephone service by giving eligible low-income subscribers a discount on qualifying telephone service. This discounted rate provides a \$2.00 monthly, non-transferable usage credit.

Consumers may qualify for the Lifeline/Tel-Assistance program if their gross household income level is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if they participate in any of the following federal assistance programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit, or certain Tribal Programs.

To check further eligibility, you can contact your local Department of Health and Human Resources.

Lifeline/Tel-Assistance is limited to one discount per household. Lifeline/Tel-Assistance defines a household as anyone living at the same address who share income and household expenses. Lifeline/Tel-Assistance benefit is non-transferable and cannot be given to another person, even if they qualify.

Certification forms may be obtained by the Department of Health and Human Resources. Services may vary by telephone company. 1c

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until February 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the construction of the following project(s):

Call 020
Contract 2020000229R1
State Project
S336-1/2-0-01 00
Federal Project
NFA-2023(260)D
Description
STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT
Greenawalt Gap Bridge
Greenawalt Gap Bridge
COUNTY: PENDLETON

BRIDGE: 11771
BridgeClass
SPAN(S):
STRUCTURE STEEL:

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must submit electronically with their bid a \$500.00 or 5% of total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award. 1-25-2c

more particularly set forth in Deed Book 184, at Page 87.

TERMS OF SALE:

- 1) The property will be conveyed in an "AS IS" physical condition by Deed containing no warranty, express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-ways, easements, covenants, conveyances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.
- 2) The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Trustee, Richard A. Pill, by that certain Deed of Trust dated January 27, 2020, executed by the Borrowers, Rebecca Lynn Arcure and Nicholas F. Arcure, II, to Larry F. Mazza and Richard A. Pill, the Trustee(s), of record in the Office of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Book 163, at Page 349. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 4125 Troublesome Valley Rd., Franklin, WV 26807. The Borrowers defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Trustee has been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Trustee will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Pendleton County, in Franklin, West Virginia, on the following date:

February 8, 2024,
at 12:45 p.m.

The following described tract or parcel of real estate, together with any buildings and improvements thereon located, lying and being situated in Mill Run District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and being more particularly described by its metes and bounds as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe at the South Western end of a concrete bridge, thence running from that point S. 15 37' W. 160.1 feet to another iron pipe on the West side of and adjacent to Secondary Route N. 1; thence N. 45 11' W. 299.4 feet to another iron pipe; thence N. 31 53' E. 231.1 feet to an iron pipe on the West side of Deer Run Creek; thence S. 27 48' E. 286.1 feet to the place of beginning, containing 1.135 acres, more or less, and being the same real estate conveyed to Nicholas F. Arcure, II, by Deed of record in the Clerk's Office of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia in Deed Book 185, at Page 44. Thereafter, Nicholas F. Arcure, II granted and conveyed to Nicholas F. Arcure, II and Nicholas F. Arcure, Sr., with right of survivorship, by Deed of record in the Clerk's Office aforesaid in Deed Book 198, at Page 124. Then the same was conveyed to Nicholas F. Arcure, II and Rebecca Lynn Arcure, from Nicholas F. Arcure, Sr., by Deed dated January 24, 2020, of record in Clerk's Office aforesaid in Deed Book 211, at Page 110, to which references are herewith made for all pertinent purposes.

The Grantors do further grant and convey unto the Grantees, their heirs and assigns, all rights of ways and easements appertaining to the aforesaid real estate.

This conveyance is made subject to all exceptions, reservations, covenants, conditions, easements, and rights-of-ways created or mentioned in prior instruments of record affecting the property herein conveyed, including, but not limited to, a non-controlled access right of way to the WV Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, as

personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.

- 3) The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.
- 4) The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.
- 5) The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Richard A. Pill, Trustee
85 Aikens Center
Edwin Miller Boulevard
PO Box 440
Martinsburg, WV 25404
(304) 263-4971
foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com 1-11-4c

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Pendleton County 911
is seeking applications
for full and part-time dispatchers

A 911 dispatcher's job is much more than answering 911 calls. We are a group of highly trained professionals who are dedicated to making a positive difference in our community. We pride ourselves on the level of dedication we bring to the table and would like for you to be a part of our team. If you want to make a difference in your community, then let us help you develop that passion and turn it into a career of a lifetime!

Applicants must be able to communicate effectively by radio and telephone, accurately comprehend auditory inputs, remain calm and react appropriately under stress, work in a smoke free environment, and establish and maintain effective working relationships with user agency personnel and the general public.

Applicants must be 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or GED.

Applications may be picked up at the Pendleton County Courthouse from Karen Pitsenbarger, County Administrator or requested by email at karenp@pencowv.com

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County Commission Approves MOU to Establish Enhanced Stipends for Volunteer First Responders

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, inclement weather forced the Pendleton County Commission to delay its regular second meeting of the month by 90 minutes.

The first item of discussion centered around county commission support for the county economic development authority. Until this year, the Pendleton County Economic Development Authority served as that agency. Now, the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority has superseded the PCEDA's mission in that area.

As Laura Brown, executive director of the SRRDA stated, "This year, we're the official regional development authority" that combined the old Pendleton and Grant EDA functions. She also suggested that the two county commissions could save money by splitting the cost of the usual matching funds. Pendleton normally has contributed \$32,000 and Grant \$35,000.

Brown later reported that the SRRDA had obtained an award from Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities to support remote work programs at the new Franklin Innovation Hub.

Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president, responded by stating that in the next meeting, the commission would have ready a resolution to officially designate SRRDA as the county's official development authority and receiver of the funding match.

He added that, as far as the match was concerned, "we'll take this up when we do our budget."

Next Karen Pitsenbarger, Pendleton County administrator, provided an update on the effort to build the courthouse annex. She shared that the judiciary committees in Charleston had ap-

proved the final draft of the plans for the expanded space.

Hevener stated that on his recent trip to Charleston, he discussed the matter with a judge and said "she kind of laughed" and said that they could have given Pendleton County more leeway if they wanted, but "she was really appreciative that we did it."

Later in the meeting Rick Gillespie criticized the process, saying that in a county that has only limited need for such offices that "there's no reason why family court and circuit court can't share the same space."

Commissioner Roger Dahmer agreed and said, "They don't understand that other people don't do things the same as Kanawha County."

The commission then discussed a trip earlier in the week for EMS Day at the State Legislature. Held by the West Virginia EMS Coalition, the event brings together the emergency response community, local elected officials, and members of the State Legislature to discuss issues of concern.

Of the meeting, the Facebook page of Pendleton County Emergency Rescue thanked "all the WV delegates who took time away from their busy schedules to listen and talk with us. Thanks to Bryan Ward for representing our area."

Tina Eye, president of PCER, Mike Eye, training officer, and others joined Hevener to represent Pendleton County.

State director of the Office of Emergency Services Jody Ratliff explained during the event that counties with local levies to help to pay for emergency services consistently enjoyed better response times over counties that lack them.

Hevener told the rest of the commissioners that emergency services officials are "finding that more of the funding from the state will be for the equipment side" and that county levies are

expected to fill in other gaps.

"The big boys," Hevener said, "they understand what we were telling them about square miles" but one told the group "don't worry about your turnaround time." Gillespie retorted, "It's easy for them to say not to worry about it."

Some EMS calls can keep a volunteer out for eight or more hours with no additional stipend. Unlike decades ago, local employers can no longer afford to pay worker wages while they go out on a call. Turnaround time has played a key role in discouraging many from joining the volunteer services and has also forced many skilled men and women out.

Gillespie noted that many "small rural counties that are closer (to the Capitol) were not represented," and "Tucker, you'd think that the issues they've had, you'd think they'd be there with bells on."

Hevener then introduced a memorandum of understanding that makes official the disbursement of state funding to boost the stipends of volunteer emergency responders. It introduces into local regulations a scale of added payment to what is currently received.

Certified EVO drivers will see their \$30 per call stipend increased to \$70. Basic EMT volunteers will have their stipend increased from \$35 to \$90. AEMTs will gain from \$45 to \$105 and paramedics will get a raise from \$80 to \$140 per call.

All of these payments also must follow established regulations as to who is officially a responder and what level of response they provided.

Finally, the commission filled vacancies on the library board. Charles Burgoyne will fill a position whose tenure ends in 2027. Mary Warner will take a seat that expires in 2026.

CVB Board Works on Marketing in First Meeting of 2024

By Stephen Smoot

The Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau held its first meeting of the year remotely, due to concerns about safe travel in the bad weather. They discussed building on successes earned in 2023, in large part in the marketing area.

After the board heard the financial report, it moved on to marketing. Melinda Brooks from Experience Learning presented the report. She explained that the committee discussed a number of items with the website a priority.

The committee received quotes from website developers, including Taylor Yokum who recently updated the page for the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce. Brooks said of Yokum's work for the chamber that "it looks pretty good." She then stated that Yokum gave a quote of \$2,000 to "refresh the website." Board members discussed the quote and found it favorable.

Previously, the board budgeted \$5,000 for refurbishing the website. Even with added services for a professional business suite, the amount came in well below both the budget and also prices for similar services from other companies.

Katie VanMeter, attending for the first time as a board member, responded to a question from executive director Amber Nesselrodt about response time. VanMeter replied that "she usually gets back to us very quickly," referring to her experience with the Warner Theater web page.

Cory Thomas of T&K Markets also was recently added as a member of the board.

Annie Humes, board member, said that "Taylor is building

in Wix," a website design program. She added that the features were "easy once you learn them" and said that expected cost was "super reasonable."

She also explained the importance of search engine optimization techniques that drive more traffic to a website and also elevate it in search result rankings.

Nesselrodt then reintroduced the topic of specially designed county welcome signs. She indicated that she held talks with the Grant County Convention and Visitors Bureau on splitting the cost of signs that could welcome visitors to both counties on the same sign. She said, "Grant County is excited about that and is on board."

Pocahontas County also responded favorably to the idea. Nesselrodt stated that "we have a lot more to work out on that."

Kim Kirk from Swilled Dog informed the board that the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce also had discussed putting up new welcome signs. Nesselrodt said that she would confer with Elizabeth Scott, chamber executive director, on signs.

Kirk also offered the notion that the CVB should make additional wayfinder signs a higher priority. By this, she meant signs at intersections directing drivers to popular locations.

Jeff Munn, owner of Dry Run Spirits Distillery and whose wife, Teresa, operates the Loafer's Glory Bed and Breakfast, started discussion on Maple Days. He suggested that the CVB reach out to WHSV, the Harrisonburg, Virginia, television station, to see if the event could be mentioned in a CVB sponsorship of weather reports or other aspects of the news broadcast.

He stated it could help "to get people across the mountain."

Nesselrodt explained that the CVB has a marketing plan in place for Maple Days, which runs in both February and March. Part of this includes a Loafer's Glory centered package to be given away in a drawing. Registration for the drawing will provide vital demographic information that shows the CVB where the most interest in Pendleton County tourism events and sites comes from.

She said that so far, the CVB had received 138 responses and shared, "I think that's fantastic."

The drawing runs through March 1. Nesselrodt added that the marketing effort will "highlight different producers who are here. Each one offers a unique experience" and that will shine through.

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NEW LISTING - KISER GAP ROAD - 55.60 acres of mountain land located on Kiser Gap Rd., Pendleton County, culvert in place, leveled off for a house or camping trailer, 1/4 mile of good road frontage, electric available, excellent hunting, beautiful scenic views, only 15 minutes from the golf course. **\$325,000. 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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2021 RAM 1500 CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4 "Bighorn Pkg.," E-Torque V-6, auto., ldd., red, 55K miles, like new..... **\$34,900**

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..... **SPECIAL \$79,500 \$74,900**

2020 JEEP GLADIATOR 4X4 CREW CAB TK., V-6, auto., ldd., silver, 39K miles, very sharp..... **SPECIAL \$44,900 \$37,500**

2018 CHEVY COLORADO Z-71 EXTRA-CAB 4X4, 3.6 liter V-6, auto., ldd., white, 60K miles..... **\$26,900**

2015 FORD F-250 REGULAR CAB 4X2 UTILITY TRUCK, 6.2 liter gas V-8, auto., air, etc., 129K miles..... **SPECIAL \$19,500 \$17,500**

2015 FORD F-250 SUPERCAB SHORTBED 4X2, 6.2 liter gas V-8, auto., ldd., white, 175K miles, ex. cond..... **SPECIAL \$19,900 \$17,500**

2012 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB 4X4 PRO-4X PKG. V-6, auto., ldd., white, only 86K miles..... **\$16,900**

2011 FORD F-250 REGULAR CAB LONGBED 4X4, XL pkg., 6.2 liter gas V-8, auto., ldd., 168K miles, custom fiberglass cap..... **\$18,900**

2009 FREIGHTLINER M106 SINGLE AXLE HD UTILITY TRUCK, dsl., 6-spd., mechanic's crane, welder, air compressor, etc., 94K miles..... **SPECIAL \$29,900 \$26,500**

1996 FORD F-250 S/CAB LONGBED 4X4, 7.3 diesel, auto., ldd., bronze, 154K miles..... **SPECIAL \$28,900 \$26,900**

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2021 CHEVY EQUINOX AWD ILT PKG., 4-cyl., auto., ldd., dark blue, 85K miles, very clean..... **\$19,500**

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2019 SUBARU CROSSTREK PREMIUM AWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., blue, only 47K miles, ex. cond..... **SPECIAL \$28,900 \$26,500**

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2014 FORD EXPLORER XLT AWD, 3.5 liter V-6, auto., ldd., blue, 132K miles..... **\$12,900**

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SGR320A 2.75 wooded acres, Lot #13, Yeager Ct., Highland Estates Development, Milroy District, Grant County, WV. **NEW LISTING \$63,250.00.**

SGR318A 14.47 Acres Raw Land, Buck Ridges Development, Franklin District. **\$49,900.00.**

SGR316A 10.35 Acres, Entry Mountain, Some Covenants & Restrictions. Nice View. **\$89,900.00.**

SGR313A 7.46 Acres in Upper Tract, Mill Run District, Pendleton Cty. Electric on property. **NEW LISTING \$35,000.00.**

SGR311A 1 acre w/3 bed, 2 bath home located in Franklin. Public Water & Sewer service & Internet avail. Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$269,900.00.**

SGR309A 0.44 Acres w/4 bed, 2 bath home in Franklin. Two car garage w/bonus room. **NEW LISTING \$229,000.00.**

SGR306A 6.36 Acre Raw Land, US RT 220N. Nice Building Site. **NEW LISTING \$69,000.00.**

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. **NEW LISTING \$279,000.00.**

SGR302A "The Hollow" Restaurant, fully furnished, at the corner of US RT 220/US RT 33W, Franklin. Property adjoins neighboring motel. **NEW LISTING \$425,000.00 REDUCED \$320,000.00.**

SGR300A 599.19 Acres, more or less, off of Sandy Ridge Rd. Hunting, Food Plots, Timber, Catfish Pond, Min. Views, Roads throughout. Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$1,795,000.00.**

SGR296A 0.90 Acres w/1 Bedroom Townhouse w/Loft, Riverbend Gardens, good area, HOA fee, Corner Unit. **NEW LISTING \$64,900.00.**

SGR290A 0.82 Acres Raw Land located in Bethel District along US RT 33 East. Public Water available. **\$15,000.00.**

SGR287A 0.20 Acres w/3 Bed, 1.5 Bath Doublewide Home, close to amenities. Franklin Corp., Pendleton County. **NEW LISTING REDUCED \$400,000.00 REDUCED \$89,900.00.**

SGR282A 0.78 Store Front/Residence located in Brandywine. **NEW LISTING \$85,000.00 \$69,000.00.**

SGR277A 17.81 Acres w/4 Bed, 3 Bath Home, 2-4 Car Garages, Hiking Trails, Well water w/deeded access to Spring, Sugar Grove District. Covenants & Restrictions apply. **\$499,900.00 REDUCED \$469,900.00.**

SGR258B 3.42 Acres, w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home. Sugar Grove District, Falcon Lane. **\$259,000.00. REDUCED \$229,000.00.**

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

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

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

SGR223 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 2000 sq. ft. home located in town of Franklin. **\$299,000.00.**

SGR156 15.97 Acres, Rolling Hills Estate, Electric nearby, Water available. Hardy County. **\$95,000.00. REDUCED \$89,900.00.**

SGR128 2-3 Bedroom Ranch w/Full Basement on 0.6386 Acres, more or less. **50 Beds** Gap Rd, Sugar Grove District. **NEW LISTING \$169,000.00 REDUCED \$145,000.00.**

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. **\$2,973,000.00.**

SGR042 Five Unit Townhouse property located in Brandywine. Each unit has 2 Bdrms, 1.5 Baths, LR and Large Kitchen. **50 Beds** adjoins National Forest for hunting and fishing. Perfect for retirement income, live in one and rent the others! **\$399,000.00.**

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

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

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