



THE PENDLETON TIMES

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February 29, 2024

Allegheny Wood Products Corporate Collapse Shakes Communities Across the State

By Stephen Smoot

Until Friday morning, Allegheny Wood Products seem to bestride the timber and wood production world like a colossus, operating on a global scale from its home base in West Virginia.

By Friday afternoon, a rumor from Morgantown of the company's impending shutdown set local social media on fire.

Friday evening saw every trace of the former behemoth erased from the digital realm. The website, Facebook page, and Linked In, all gone.

All that remained were advertisements on Indeed for laborers and truck drivers, posted only 10 and 12 days prior. A half century after the original owners established a mill in Riverton, the company's existence, strangely and secretly, just ended.

The closure took local officials by surprise. AWP officials had given no warning that anything was amiss even days prior to the closure. West Virginia Secretary of Economic Development Mitch Carmichael told West Virginia Metro News the closure was "very sudden and unfortunate."

Carmichael described former owner John Crites, Jr., as "heartbroken and very concerned



The former Allegheny Wood Products facility in Petersburg still appeared operational on Monday morning as 850 employees and communities across the state waited for answers.

for his employees." He also pledged that the state will try to either get the company "on a solid footing" or find another company that can assume some or all of AWP operations.

WCHS television news in Charleston quoted former AWP Cowen site employee Robert Williams as saying, "People called me and told me that they were up there cleaning out the mill and that the bank foreclosed on them."

West Virginia law, the Worker Adjustment

and Retraining Notification Act, specifically, requires that employers with 100 or more employees must provide 60 days' notice for plant closings and layoffs.

AWP employed approximately 850 in several different sites across the entire state, but provided no such warning. The company employed a total of 106 workers in Grant County, 43 at the Riverton mill, and 14 in Hardy County, although it also had facilities in Preston County

and elsewhere.

Carmichael said that Governor Jim Justice ordered the creation of a rapid response team to assist displaced workers. The team will hold two meetings on March 7, one at 10 a.m., the other at 1 p.m. Dislocated workers need only attend one session.

Additionally, Workforce West Virginia encourages both displaced workers and employers needing workers to sign up for the statewide virtual job fair taking place on March 6. The live event will last between 1 and 3:30 p.m. and is open to all seeking jobs or workers, not merely those affected by AWP.

At 8 a.m. on March 4, job seekers can get an early view of those recruiting for jobs. They may access booths and upload resumes or curriculum vitae until 5 p.m. March 8.

The virtual job fair site may be accessed via the Workforce West Virginia website.

Nothing is more painful for a community than the facts of "what happened." Rumors still swirl over the "why," however. As the answers to that question come out, they will provide only cold comfort to those who, until last Friday, thought they had a secure position and future, but they are still vital for a community that took pride in and supported the company for decades.



FFA student leaders met with Circuit Judge Carter Williams and county commissioners Roger Dahmer and Carl Hevener. Students pictured, from left, are McKenna Hedrick, Lydia Heavner, Kaylee Callison, Makayla Tingler, and Caleb Armentrout. Williams shared, "I was very proud to wear that blue corduroy jacket." Feb. 21 was officially designated Pendleton County FFA Day.

Local FFA Honored By Proclamation

County Commission Hears Report on Improved Emergency Responses

By Stephen Smoot

It did not take long for the state's salary enhancement assistance program to reap a positive harvest in terms of supporting volunteer first response in Pendleton County. Commissioners in the second meeting of the month heard about improved responses and also morale.

The meeting opened with the customary invocation from

Roger Dahmer, commissioner. He asked that "You guide our words and our actions."

The business meeting began with discussion of a Pendleton County Health Department proposal. In the previous meeting Brooke Hott, health department official, requested consideration of an ordinance requiring lots of five acres or less in subdivisions be approved as having an appropriate location of a septic system.

More than five acres, Hott said that caveat emptor, "let the buyer beware" would be the rule.

Commissioner Jimmie Bennett said, "I don't think it's a bad idea. If I were the buyer, I'd want to make sure I could put a septic tank in." Dahmer added, "I move that we make the change as requested." The commission approved the measure.

Next, Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator, reported that the 911 center had five applicants for open telecommunicator positions and will start conducting interviews next week.

He moved on to discuss the obsolete system "that records all telephone lines and radio channels" operated by emergency management and first responders. Gillespie received a quote of \$50,834 to purchase a modern system from GSA and requested that plus a 10 percent contingency amount to cover any unexpected costs. The commission approved the request.

Gillespie then shared that a major National Radio Quiet Zone study had commenced and would conclude its work by January

of next year. "It's pretty in-depth" he said, "It's looking at Pendleton County and Pocahontas County. Gillespie told the commission that he asked that any recommendations made be paid for by the federal government instead of the counties.

Some officials involved in the Quiet Zone indicated that they wish that any changes not only protect the intelligence and scientific operations conducted there now, but also in the future.

Finally, he requested that the access road to be constructed to the new Seneca Rocks area tower be named Biby Road after the landowner who sold the access rights.

Mike Alt, Pendleton County Emergency Rescue training officer, came to "thank everyone for the support." This came from a salary enhancement program, part of which was intended to boost stipends paid to volunteer first responders. "There have been a lot of good things over the last month and a half."

Tina Eye, President of Pendleton County Emergency Rescue Squad, added that "we've never had a complete roster at all four squads." She stated that now "all four squads have a roster" and "more people are coming on board."

"People are talking and noticing," she added. Bennett stated that he had noticed the difference while monitoring his scanner.

Finally, Keely Smith, Franklin Town Council member and new recreation director for the Franklin Board of Parks said, "Thank you for your funds for the town pool. They will be put to good use."

Community CALENDAR

Morrisey's Staff To Visit Tuesday

A representative from Attorney General Patrick Morrisey's office will meet with residents from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday at the Pendleton Senior and Family Services Center in Franklin.

Activities Planned At Family Support Center in Franklin

Upcoming activities scheduled at the Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center in Franklin are vita free tax day from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday and cooking class-crockpots at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

For more information, call 304-538-7711.

Library Friends To Meet Tuesday

The Friends of the Library will gather at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the community room at Pendleton County Library in Franklin.

Lenten Lunches Continue Today

The annual Lenten Lunches hosted by the Pendleton County Ministerial Association began at noon today at Walnut Street United Methodist Church in Franklin.

A meal, consisting of soups, sandwiches, desserts and drinks, will be served at noon. The message will be delivered at 12:30 p.m.

This week's meal will be provided by Reeds Creek United Methodist Church and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. The message will be delivered by John Windett.

Next week's meal will be provided by Franklin Presbyterian. The message will be delivered by Pastor Deborah Beam.

Communities In Schools Coordinators Present Midyear Attendance Improvement Updates

By Stephen Smoot

Communities In Schools coordinators presented their mid-year attendance improvement reports to the Pendleton County Board of Education last week.

The verdict? So far, so good.

Board members opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation from J. D. Wilkins. Immediately following, Marilyn Warner Propst was sworn in to fill the seat opened by the resignation of Teresa Heavner.

Once Propst took the oath of office, the school board settled

down to business. First, Nicole Hevener, assistant superintendent of schools, welcomed the Communities In Schools site coordinators. She stated that "all the burdens and cares that teachers have, they are all taken care of by this now." Hevener added that CIS brings "everything the students need."

Leslie Cook, site coordinator for Pendleton County Middle/High School, shared that their team had chosen to focus on combating chronic absences. The state defines this as a situation where a child has missed 10 percent or more school days. Last year, the school had a chronic absence rate of 27 percent and a

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Celia Aurelia (Mullenax) Miller

Celia Aurelia (Mullenax) Miller, 83, went to her heavenly home on Feb. 21, 2024, at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Formerly of Franklin and Greenwood, Delaware, she resided at VMRC for the past eight years after a stroke in 2013.

Mrs. Miller came from humble beginnings. She was born June 25, 1940, at home on Smith Creek, the oldest child of the late Fred B. and Ella Vaiden (Dahmer) Mullenax, later moving to nearby Franklin.

Photos of her from early in her school career show her in a simple dress and wool stockings, much like girls from earlier generations. Throughout her life she had little interest in material things, preferring a simple, thrifty lifestyle.

After graduation in 1958 from Franklin High School, she headed for Shepherd College with a scholarship awarded to one student from each West Virginia county. There she met her future husband, Charles Emanuel "Charlie" Miller, Sr., winner of the same scholarship. Graduating in 1962 with a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education and library science, she taught at Maysville Elementary School before marrying her husband on July 13, 1963, in Maysville. They made their home in Greenwood, Delaware, until his death on March 20, 1995. She worked as a school librarian in Delaware for about a year before becoming a homemaker.

Mrs. Miller was influenced by her family to be a loving and caring Christian woman, using her time and talents to serve others despite her quiet nature. She cared for everyone, from tiny babies to seniors. Her gentle spirit endeared her to people who knew her, as well as to complete strangers. She volunteered at her children's schools, served in many ways at Bethany Church of the Brethren, engaged in a ministry to truckers, typed address lists for a Christian literature ministry, volunteered for a crisis pregnancy center (including crocheting baby booties), and participated in Right to Life marches in Washington, DC.

In 1999, she returned to Franklin to care for her parents but found time to teach Sunday school and sing in the choir at Franklin Presbyterian Church, work as a librarian at Brandywine Elementary School, earn

certification as an emergency medical technician, and volunteer with the Franklin Rescue Squad. She travelled the country to attend the Church of the Brethren annual conference. She also flew to Russia, bringing Christian materials to a library in Tyumen where she organized their holdings and introduced the Dewey Decimal System.

She was gifted in many ways. Highly intelligent and curious, she loved to learn and explore, in childhood using her mother's books to learn about flora and fauna and reading Shakespeare's plays. She was a logophile (word lover) but far from loquacious, gregarious, or grandiloquent. Erudite, she excelled at Trivial Pursuit. She was also a crafter, with hobbies including beadwork, crocheting, drawing, weaving, quilting, and making three-dimensional stained glass objects; she designed and fabricated complicated bead tapestries. Additionally, she enjoyed hymns, folk music, and popular music from her youth. She played lever harp, a variety of recorder types, and piano.

She was at home in nature, enjoying warm, bare-foot days. She gardened and canned and encouraged her family to stay healthy through eating local, organic foods and using natural remedies.

Surviving are her children, Charles Miller Jr. and Frederick Miller, both of Greenwood, Delaware and Melanie Miller of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; siblings Lannie C. Mullenax (Linda) of Martinsburg, Nancie E. Lambert of Bridgewater, Virginia, and Linda F. Mallow (Donald) of Upper Tract; eight nieces and nephews; and nine great-nieces/nephews. She also leaves behind many cousins, friends, and neighbors who will truly miss her.

She was also preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, John and Estella (Dickinson) Dahmer of Dahmer; and her paternal grandparents, (Henry) Walter and Mamie Katherine (Collins) Mullenax of Blue Grass, Virginia.

Family visitation will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Franklin Presbyterian Church, followed by a memorial service. A memorial service at Bethany Church of the Brethren in Farmington, Delaware, will be held at 4 p.m. April 14.

Memorial donations can be made to the Franklin Rescue Squad, Franklin Presbyterian Church, Bethany Church of the Brethren, or Camp Mardela (<https://www.campmardela.org/donate>).

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at kygers.com.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing." - II Timothy 4:7-8 (NRSV)



Sarah Marie Smith

Sarah Marie Smith, 79, of Upper Tract passed away on Feb. 22, 2024, at E.A. Hawse Health and Rehab Center in Baker.

She was born on May 21, 1944, in Upper Tract, the daughter of the late Oliver and Florence America (Lawrence) Hedrick.

Mrs. Smith was a 1964 graduate of Franklin High School. She retired from Pendleton Manor after 30 years of service in housekeeping.

She was a member of Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women's Group. She was a past member of Pendleton County Rescue Squad.

She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, who enjoyed gardening, canning, and reading books.

On May 2, 1964, she married J. Bruce Smith, who survives in Upper Tract.

In addition to her husband, she leaves behind to cherish her memory a daughter, Ellen Turner (James) of Upper Tract; two sons, Lynn Smith (Dena) and JB Smith (Amanda), all of Upper Tract; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Paul Hedrick; and five sisters, Shirley Thompson, Ruby Crown, Frances Halterman, Joanna Hedrick, and Loveain Warner.

Funeral services were held Tuesday in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor David Webb and Pastor Rita Beeman officiating. Interment was at Cherry Hill Cemetery in Upper Tract.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.



Martha Elizabeth "Betty" Hahn Snyder

Martha Elizabeth "Betty" Hahn Snyder, 101, of Bridgewater, Virginia, passed away Feb. 23, 2024, at the Bridge-water Home.

She was born Sept. 20, 1922, in Brandywine and was a daughter of the late Henry Davis Hahn and Ethel Florence (Kiser) Hahn.

Mrs. Snyder was a graduate of Franklin High School in 1941 and Rockingham Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1944. She worked as a registered nurse at Rockingham Memorial Hospital and in the Charlottesville, Virginia, area.

She was a devoted mother and wife and enjoyed volunteer and charity work. She was a lifelong bridge player and a member of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren.

On Aug. 3, 1945, she married Charles Leonard Snyder, II, who preceded her in death on March 2, 2012.

Surviving are a sister, Mary Lea Hahn McCoy, of Franklin; and numerous nieces and nephews.

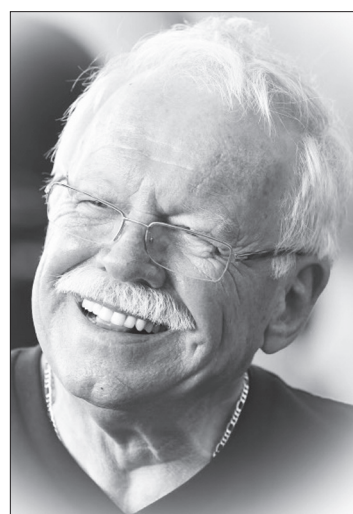
She was also preceded in death by a son, Charles Leonard "Chuck" Snyder, III; and two sisters, Jean Hahn Snyder and Medrith Hahn Garber; and a brother, Arthur Webster "Buddy" Hahn.

A service celebrating her life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Burial will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bridgewater Home, 302 N. Second St., Bridgewater, VA 22812, Bridgewater College, 402 East College St., College Box 33, Bridgewater, VA 22812 or Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, 420 College View Dr., Bridgewater, VA 22812.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at johnsonfs.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to Johnson Funeral and Cremation Service in Bridgewater, Virginia.



James Douglas Blizzard

James Douglas Blizzard, 85, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, passed away on Jan. 24, 2024, at Blue Ridge Rehab and Nursing in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

He was born on Dec. 2, 1938, in Randolph County and was the son of the late Gifford and Virginia Cooper Blizzard.

Mr. Blizzard was employed with Reynolds Metal until he retired in 1999. After retiring, he enjoyed working part time at the Marriott and later with his close friend, Dave, at the Gap View Kennels in Broadway, Virginia.

His wife, Martha Blizzard, preceded him in death.

Surviving are a daughter, Teresa McIntyre and husband, David of Bridgewater, Virginia; a granddaughter, Taylor Whetzel (Aaron) of Bridgewater, Virginia; great-grandchildren, Faith, Kayden and Kolt; a brother, Joe Blizzard and wife, Linda of Long Island, New York; a niece, Shannon Blizzard (Marko) of Long Island, New York; and the mother of his children, Loretta Cromer of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Tammy Blizzard.

A funeral service was held Jan. 31 at the Lindsey Funeral Home in Harrisonburg, Virginia, with Rev. Marilyn Heisman officiating. Burial took place at Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.lindseyfuneralhomes.com.



Rosalee Faye Kimble

Rosalee Faye Kimble, 69, of Linden, Virginia, and formerly of Pendleton County, passed away Feb. 21, 2024, at University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

She was born April 13, 1954, at Harman and was the daughter of the late Eli Henry Bennett and Wilda Grace (Lambert) Bennett.

She was a 1972 graduate of Circleville High School and enjoyed being a homemaker.

On Oct. 6, 1973, she married Vernon Roy Kimble, who survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Carrie Kimble of Lynchburg, Virginia; a son, Patrick Vernon Kimble (Keri) of Winchester, Virginia; four sisters, Francise Arbaugh (Gary) of Wardsville, Elaine Turner of Circleville and Jacqueline Bennett and Rev. Rebecca Bennett, both of Seneca Rocks; two brothers, David Bennett (Donna) of Seneca Rocks and Teddie Bennett of Cresaptown, Maryland; a grandson, Bradley Robert Kimble (Kylie); eight great-grandchildren; two foster granddaughters, Laura Campbell and Jennifer Spoon; and a special niece, Jennifer Martin.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Stephen Noel officiating. Interment will be at the Bowers Cemetery on Jake Hill Road near Upper Tract.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.kimblefuneralhome.com.

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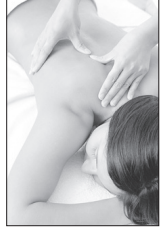
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Living Faith Church's Sportsmen's Dinner

Sunday, March 3

4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Mike Roberts

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"Whitetail Bucks: Hunting, Conservation & Creation"

Whitetail Exhibit

Door Prizes

Pork BBQ Dinner

Please drop this form & registration fee by LFC office or send to: PO Box 130, Franklin, WV 26807

Registration deadline: Monday, February 26

Advance payment required

\$12.50 per person, Ages 10 & up

Name(s): _____

For more information and drop off availability, call 304-358-2758.



162nd Anniversary of the "Battle" of Riverton

March 2, 1862

On March 1, 1862, Union troops invaded Pendleton County by way of Seneca and captured Captain Lantz and several of his militia company at Camp Luther. The following day, Union troops engaged the Pendleton County Dixie Boys and a few others in Riverton Gap. Being outnumbered, the Southerners were forced to fall back, but not before Perry Bland and Thomas Powers were killed in the action. This was the first loss of life in the county during the War Between the States.

- Are you a descendant of a Confederate Soldier?
- Are you interested in preserving the history of Pendleton County in the War Between the States?
- Are you interested in joining the Brig. Gen. James Boggs Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans?

Call 304-668-5408 for information.

North River Ruritan Club 44th ANNUAL

EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Saturday, March 23•10 a.m.

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Pendleton County Future Farmers of America Combine Generations Of Tradition with Modern Agricultural Education During FFA Week



Not one's grandfather's FFA. Today, the National FFA organization teaches important business and life skills while preparing members for adulthood and educating them to be leaders in agriculture.

By Stephen Smoot

"Not everyone can say they are part of the sixth generation farming the same land," Lydia Heavner shared recently while discussing the school's FFA Week activities.

Pendleton County has grown deep agricultural roots into its historical soil and the FFA represents that well. Heavner, chapter vice president, stated that "probably the late 1800s" was when they purchased their family farm.

Not only the history and tradition, but also opportunities and the future highlight the mission of the FFA. Established in 1928 in Kansas City, Missouri, West Virginia wasted no time setting up a charter in the same year.

The merger of Franklin and Circleville high schools in 1999 led to the formation of the current Pendleton County FFA. It is one of 86 such programs serving 7,052 members across the state while serving as an organization engaged in training and mentoring the next generation.

Caleb Armentrout also comes from a family that has worked Pendleton County land for many generations. He also shared about the organization, "They teach you for the future. It teaches you how to make a living out of farming."

According to AgSouth Farm Credit, one of the main killers of family farm independence comes from "poor money and time management" that comes from "a lack of planning and a failure to establish goals and priorities."

Pendleton County's FFA chapter seeks to nip in the bud such potential problems. McKenna Hedrick, sentinel for the organization, related that some of the most useful information she learned centered around "better record keeping."

Many other students, including Heavner, chimed in and agreed "definitely record keeping." Armentrout added, "Keeping up with everything, investing your money and saving it and developing sound business sense."

Makayla Tingler has spent three years with FFA and



Pendleton FFA members reading "The Curious Garden" to pre-kindergarten through third grade classrooms at Franklin Elementary School were, from left, first row, Paigelyn Long, McKenna Hedrick, Jenna Smith, Kaylee Callison, Lydia Heavner and Caleb Armentrout; and back row, Ty Heavner, Makayla Tingler, Madison Arbaugh, Lucas Vandevander and Logan Fisher.

stated that her most important experiences included "going to state convention." She explained that "it puts you in an environment with people from all over the state." Tingler added that exposure to people from other areas represented a chance to learn how farming gets done differently by other people in other places.

"Other chapters get awards for things I didn't even know of," she noted.

She also described working with lambs as one of her projects. Tingler stated that "I go buy sheep when they're about four months old. You feed them, take care of them" then "show and sell them at the fair."

Heavner discussed why she enjoys raising and selling goats. "They kind of reflect my personality," she said, "they're stubborn."

Gena Lambert serves as reporter for FFA, which gave her the chance to learn a great deal. She said, "This office has led me to have the best experiences. I got to travel with my officer group to Indiana and go to the National FFA Convention, where I saw people from every state and talked to so many new people."

"Another experience is going to state convention and competing," added Lambert, who also said "I competed in parliamentary procedure and learned the basics to conduct a government meeting, also how to properly debate anything thrown my way."

Tanner Rogers told how he learned more about greenhouse agriculture, currently a significant area of growth in West Virginia. The state's broken and uneven terrain makes large scale traditional agriculture difficult, but the eroded ridge and hilltops have ample space for high-tunnel greenhouse farming.

During FFA Week, the group performed service for others, while educating younger students about farming in general and FFA specifically. Hedrick talked about organizing the teachers' breakfast and holding Food for America at elementary schools, which included teaching about farming and handing out seeds for the younger children to plant.

Armentrout, chapter treasurer, discussed how he worked with eighth graders and "told them a lot about FFA, get them involved early."

Pendleton Community Bank donated two checks. The bank allows casual Fridays for those willing to donate \$5.00 to a local charity. The FFA received the donations collected for both January and February.

One of the key benefits of FFA lies in how it does not simply prepare participants for a career in farming, but also provides skills for life. Lessons learned in centuries of American farming, such as good business management, financial discipline, communications skills, and more have application in almost any important endeavor.

But few endeavors are more important than growing, harvesting, and selling the food that America needs.

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10 Years Ago
Week of March 6, 2014

**Entrepreneur,
Family Matriarch**

Shirley Yokum...

Shirley Yokum is one of the most formidable and accomplished businesswomen not only in Pendleton County, but in this part of eastern West Virginia. With her husband, Carl, she created and then presided over a small empire of business ventures which are synonymous with the commercial side of tourism in Seneca Rocks. She is also the proud matriarch of a large and accomplished family.

Shirley was born on Jan. 2, 1920, the oldest of the six children of Byron S. Bland, Sr. and Erma (Harper) Bland. Before Shirley's birth, Byron Bland then, 24, playfully cautioned his 23-year-old wife, "Don't let that baby be born on New Year's or else we'll have one every year." As it turned out, their six children were born in seven years—and "none of them were twins," Shirley points out.

On her mother's side, Shirley also is a descendant of the Sites family (as in the Sites Homestead, which Jacob Sites built in 1839). Of her father's side of the family, Shirley says, "My great-great-granddad came from Scotland or Ireland, I don't know which. I've been to Ireland but not to Scotland." On her mother's side, Shirley recollects that, "My grandmother and her brothers owned different parts of Seneca Rocks."

Her mother's family lived, she recalls, "in the field across from the 4-U Motel." Shirley's parents were enterprising owners of a general store which opened in 1924, S. L. Bland & Son. It was started by Shirley's dad and her grandfather. It was situated "in the middle of the Y" near the other store in Seneca Rocks, Harper's Store, which dates from 1902.

Shirley grew up upstairs in the family's living quarters. The store was classic in the sense that it was a true general country store that sold a little bit of everything, from food and gasoline to clothing. The clothing was practical, and diverse, everything from shoes and boots to hats, caps, pants and "those old long stockings we all wore."

The store was moved to its present location in 1938, when the county road was made to run between the two stores at the intersection in order to accommodate "all the traffic."

Shirley and another area businesswoman, Louise Bowers, the owner of Macksville Mart, reminisced about Shirley's parents.

Shirley recalls that her dad took care of keeping the books and "doing the figures." Her mother, described by Louise as "a brilliant woman," had a knack for sizing up people for clothes. At a glance, she knew what they needed and what sizes they wore.

Shirley took over the management of the family store after her father's death, expanding it over time into what it is today. What it is today is one of two land-

mark stores (the other being Harper's Old Country Store) in one of the busiest tourism corners in all of eastern West Virginia. Shirley says, "My dad would be shocked at what I did to his store."

Shirley went to the same one room school her father had attended, the original Seneca School. Its original location was at the Cave Hole "down below the rocks," although it was relocated to a site just above where Bub Yokum (one of the late Jack Yokum's children) lives today. Shirley graduated from Circleville High School in 1938. She was the salutatorian in a class of "maybe 20." Make-shift classrooms were set up "in the darndest places," including a local minister's garage, and the new school didn't open until the fall of 1938, by which time Shirley was attending business school in Akron, OH, and staying with an aunt.

However, Shirley was dating Carl Yokum in 1935, when that 19-year-old young man built 11 cabins overlooking the North Fork River behind the present location of Yokum's Restaurant. Shirley believes they were the first privately owned rental cabins in the entire area. Thus, they were one of the first, perhaps the first, commercial enterprises to capitalize on the tourist trade in Seneca Rocks.

SUGAR GROVE

Elementary Teachers Possess Undeniable Qualities

March...it's funny how when one is a child, one thinks time will never go by, but once one gets to be about 20 years of age, time passes like one is on the fast train to Memphis! Wasn't it just January? Here it is March. At this rate, the Christmas decorations will be soon out in the stores.

The weatherman is calling for a storm warning with up to 12 inches of snow following rain and sleet. (Despite that, the snow drops have been blooming at the late Hugh and Gertrude Mitchell homestead). That meant no school on Monday, again. Speaking of school, the following suit was brought against Stone of the South Fork area by Frederick Upp, schoolmaster in the year 1761:

"To schooling three children six months and reading in church as by agreement, \$6.08. To schooling two children three months in 1761, \$2.00. To my improvements you bought for 20 pounds, \$66.67. To schooling four children for George Propst six months, \$12.60. To schooling two children for Thomas Miller six months, \$5.17. To schooling two children for yourself and reading in church, \$6.00. Total 30 pounds, 12 shillings, 6 pence (\$102.08). Credit by cash, \$52.00."

This suit was sworn to in Frederick County, 11th June 1763.

How to recognize an elementary teacher allows one to enjoy and reflect on this particular career.

- Keen hearing...can detect whispered answers from the back of the classroom.
- Diagnostic Abilities...can

take one look at Debbie Sue and tell whether she really has the stomach flu or if she hasn't studied for the social studies test.

- Love of Nature...especially enjoys hiking in the woods with students, with the worst behaved student as the "buddy for the day."

- Wealth of knowledge...knows the second verse of the "Star Spangled Banner" and can name all seven dwarfs.

- Compassion...keeps crackers in the desk for those who came too late to eat breakfast.

- Consistency...gives dirty looks to children who are running wildly in the grocery store, smashing loaves of bread.

- Energy...can introduce the long/i/ sound with the enthusiasm of Robin Roberts on Good Morning America.

- Radar...can lead 27 students to the city hall and know which one stepped off the sidewalk into the flower bed.

- Organizational skills...never forgets the fluoride rinses, the library time or the computer lab schedules.

- Thriftiness...never throws anything away knowing that someone will need it someday.

- Generosity...always purchases what children are selling at yard sales or fundraisers.

- Quickness...can eat lunch, call a parent and use the restroom in a 22-minute period.

- Agility...can maneuver a crowded hallway with a dozen library books and a full cup of coffee.

- Sentimentally...always cries on the last day of school.

These characteristics of an elementary teacher are only recognizable if school is in session. With the weather conditions this year, school absenteeism has been quite common.

30 Years Ago
Week of March 3, 1994

SUGAR GROVE

Winter Smoke Rising from the Chimney Brings Winter Visions Of Comfort

Smoking chimneys are a pleasing sight. Heating the home is back in style. Way back when, wood was the only source of heat for the early settlers. Eventually, folks went "modern," turning to gas, electricity, or oil to heat their homes. The warmth that only a wood fire radiates, conjures up thoughts of family gatherings...of freshly baked bread...bowls of hot soup...a pot of brown beans... and reflections of the day. Savings by burning wood that would eventually rot, one can recycle the ashes back to the soil and thus keep a little of the past alive. There is a special comfort in seeing the pile of neatly stacked wood beside a home on a cold winter day. Smoke acts as a weather vane or a barometer. To see wood smoke drifting lazily into the distance, or as it spirals from the chimney over the rooftop makes us all soak up the

warmth in the thought that life is truly a cycle.

60 Years Ago
Week of March 5, 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.

Grant Is Promoted To Highest Command

President Lincoln had never met Ulysses S. Grant, and few in Congress had ever seen him. Despite that fact, 100 years ago this week, Lincoln named Grant to the highest office in the United States Army, and the Senate confirmed the nomination within 24 hours.

And at long last, the Union army had its general—the man who would lead the Federals into a final, relentless assault on that formidable Southern opponent who had proved the undoing of all Grant's predecessors—Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Congress, in late February, had to pass a special act to revive the rank of Lieutenant General for Grant, but it did so quickly, and Lincoln immediately signed the act into law. On March 1, Lincoln sent Grant's name to the Senate for appointment to the job so created, and the Senate confirmed it the next day. Thereby, Grant became the third American to hold that rank, following George Washington and Winfield Scott. And he became the fourth man to lead the Federal armies in the Civil War—after Scott, George B. McClellan and Henry W. Halleck had all failed to destroy the Confederates in Virginia.

Grant received orders in Nashville on March 3 to report to Washington, and he immediately realized what was about to happen. Before departing, he got off a quick letter March 4 to Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, praising Sherman and Gen. James B. McPherson for their help in his ascent. The help these two men had given him, Grant wrote Sherman, "entitles you to the reward I am receiving."

And as the humble little man boarded a train for Washington, the Civil War went into its final phase, a phase of simple and brute force applied constantly against a dwindling Confederate force. There was only one way such warfare could end.

The new phase had been expressed best by Grant, himself, earlier in the war when asked by his staff physician, Dr. John H. Brinton, about his philosophy of waging war. Waging war, Grant had replied, was really quite simple; you just "find out where your enemy is, get at him as soon as you can and strike him as hard as you can, and keep

moving on."

That was the philosophy of war Grant was bringing to Washington as his train moved toward the Northeast. It was this type of war that had won the Mississippi and at Chattanooga. Amazingly enough, it was a type of war that had never been tried in the East.

Something of Grant's ability in war was expressed a few days later by Sherman in his reply to Grant's March 4 letter. Grant's great asset, Sherman wrote, "is the simple faith you have always manifested...This faith gave you victory at Shiloh and Vicksburg. When you have completed your last preparations, you go into battle without hesitation, as at Chattanooga; no doubts, no reserves; and I tell you it was this that made us act with confidence. I knew, wherever I was, that you thought of me, and if I got in a tight place, you would come, if alive."

Next week: Grant and Lincoln meet.

70 Years Ago
Week of March 4, 1954

Cave Post Office Is Discontinued

The Post Office at Cave was discontinued February 28 as a further step in the Post Office Department's economy drive.

Mail which was formerly addressed to Cave should now be addressed to Blue Grass or Franklin. The address of those living between Blue Grass and Cave will now be Blue Grass, while mail should be addressed to Franklin for those living north of Cave.

Approximately 86 persons were formerly served by the Cave Post Office.

Sugar Grove Gets Phone Service; Smith Creek Project Underway

Installation of the telephone in the home of V. L. Hoover last week marked the completion of the C&P Telephone Company's expansion program in the Sugar Grove area of Pendleton County.

There are fifty telephones on the newly completed line which extends from Brandywine through Sugar Grove to the home of Gordon Todd approximately 1-1/2 miles south of Sugar Grove.

Local people living in the Sugar Grove area cooperated with the telephone company by digging all the holes and cutting the right of way.

One hundred twenty-five miles of open wire, 400 poles and 3,814 feet of aerial cable were used in providing this extended service.

Also underway at the present time is a project in the Smith Creek area.

There will be approximately 40 telephones on this line which will be completed sometime in the spring.

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Smith Creek/Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

Another month has gone by as March arrives on Friday.

The winds will be picking up. There will be more daylight each day as spring will be here in a few weeks.

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, Donald Burns, David Bowers, Wendell and Darlene Nelson, Ruby Gail Roberson, Ruth Bauer, Anna Mauzy, Linda Maxwell Looney, Bennie and Mary Alice Evick, Gloria Moats, Martha R. Kimble, Jimmie Bennett, Ruthalene Judy, Wayne Kimble, Stanley Propst, Leann Britton, Patsy Bennett, Kathy Puffenbarger and Wanda Pitsenbarger.

Prayer thought: "Almighty God, you're far greater than anyone or anything that stands against me. Please help me to rely on your strength and power."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Feb. 19 through Feb. 25, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Feb. 19 - 45°, 22° (60°, 33°); Feb. 20 - 46°, 19° (56°, 42°); Feb. 21 - 55°, 19° (59°, 37°, .08"); Feb. 22 - 49°, 32°, .02" (60°, 43°, .33"); Feb. 23 - 54°, 39° (72°, 52°); Feb. 24 - 38°, 22°, .25" snow (51°, 34°, .04"); and Feb. 25 - 51°, 14° (43°, 24°, .06").

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March Is Noted for Diverse Weather and New Beginnings

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

March. Believe it or not, March is here! The days are getting noticeably longer, with nature slowly responding to that.

There will be a full moon this month. The early American Indians marked the months by the full moon, naming each one by the season. The month of March was called the Full Worm Month, as the temperatures began to rise and warm the frozen ground. The earthworm casts appear, harkening the return of the robins.

Different Indian tribes had different names for the full moon. The northern tribes called the March full moon the Full Crow Moon, because the crows signaled the end of winter. It was also called The Full Sap Moon, when it was time to tap the maple trees.

March is the beginning to the yearly calendar of work. It arrives with the maple sap gathering. Mountain folk have always been a versatile people. They have learned to be survivors. They had to be this way to survive in these rugged hills when they migrated as early pioneers. With little more than a double-bitted axe, a meager supply of household goods, a trusty flintlock rifle and a great deal of determination and hard work, they learned to depend upon their own resources. There was nothing wasted, or scorned as being too humble to put to use.

This mountain ethic has been handed down through the years to the present generation. However, the grandparent generation is appalled at the huge amount of still useful items that are discarded, given away or tossed in the garbage bin. The old adage, "Eat it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without" was once the daily life. There were no turned-up noses at the supper table, or short orders cooked for a young'un who didn't like anything. What was given was what was eaten.

New clothes bought as fashion dictated was never even contemplated. Garments were worn as long as they held together or would patch the dungarees. They in turn would patch the patches. Girls' dresses, as well as boy's shirts, were sewn on the treadle sewing machine that was powdered by the foot. Every scrap of material was saved.

When a garment was too old and ragged to wear, buttons would be clipped off, and the garment thrown into a ragbag. The round cake box would have a varied assortment of buttons which oftentimes created many hours of play by way of sorting, arranging and counting the contents.

Going through hard times makes one stronger and more self-reliant. The shape of the economy allows folks to realize what is really important, and it's not material things.

Life's daily instructions that help to keep the tick of time in one's soul include the following:

1. Clean up one's own mess.
2. Wash one's hands before eating.
3. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for a person.
4. Put things back where a person found them.
5. Watch a sunrise or sunset once a year.

Winter has been showing his fierce teeth the past few days, with icy blasts, snow showers and freezing temperatures. The community was a winter wonderland Saturday, with an inch or so of snow. Early morning temperatures of 15 degrees, which included blasts of wind, made one realize that winter is not entirely over!

This week's clickety clacks for the chin wagggers are as follows:

- The first letters of the months July through November, in order, spell the name JASON.
- The world's oceans contain about 200 times more gold than has been mined on land.
- The United States and Canada combined publish almost half of the world's newspapers.
- A person who collects and studies shells is called a conchologist.



Estella Puffenbarger (Nov. 16, 1891 - April 15, 1951) was the daughter of Peter Frye (Sept. 26, 1853 - Aug. 2, 1920) and Rheuhamy Crummett Puffenbarger (May 19, 1861 - June 23, 1936). She married Jesse A. Crummett (Jan. 5, 1885 - Feb. 28, 1979), son of Lazarus (May 7, 1849 - May 1, 1906) and Sarah M. Eckard Crummett (May 7, 1852 - May 14, 1931). Their foster daughter was Peggy Losh. Both are buried in the St. Michael Lutheran Church Cemetery.

•In 1778, English Captain Cook named the island now called Hawaii "the Sandwich Islands" for the Earl of Sandwich.

Sitting by the fireplace is exactly where one needs to be to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

Bob and Marti Fisher of Romney were visitors Friday in the home of Willard and Judy Rader. Saturday visitors were Troy, Jennifer, Kayla and Emily Eckard of Linville, Virginia.

Becky, Emma and Wesley Puffenbarger spent the weekend in Martinsburg for cheer palooza where Emma competed with the Pendleton County Middle School Wildcats. Nathan and Ben Puffenbarger spent the weekend with Robert and Nancy Hodges in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Sunday, Laura George and Ava Arrington enjoyed skiing at Snowshoe.

Arriving Saturday to pay a visit with Phil Downs for the weekend were Tara Kelley and Amelia Gibson of Springfield.

Charles and "Pidge" Anderson enjoyed a visit from Don and Estelle Wagoner, and Shirley Pratt. They have started up their

greenhouse in preparation for the spring/summer vegetables and flowers.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"I'm glad I'm not perfect — I'd be bored to death" — Louise Fitzhugh.

"Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans." — John Lennon

"Morning comes whether you set the alarm or not." — Ursula Le Guin

"Music should be made to make people forget their problems, if only for a short while." — Chuck Berry

"Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?" — Lucy Maud Montgomery

March birthdays include the following: Leslie Bowers, second; Judy Grimm, fourth; Myrtle Pitsenbarger, seventh; Marsha Nelson, ninth; Roger Shrewsbury, 10th; Robert Lambert and Diane Pennybacker, 11th; and Wanda Pitsenbarger, Holly Crider and Wanda Messerly, 15th.

Concerns for this week are many. They are as follows: Bob Adanson, Rick Adkins, Charles and "Pidge" Anderson, John Ashley, Roger and Joan Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Lynn Beatty, "Bo" Boggs, Jane Conrad, Marie Cole, Norma Propst Cunningham, Christian Dasher, Isaac Eye, Marie Eye, Mary Eye, Neal Eye, Lorelee Gordon, Lola Graham, Jordan Greathouse, Patsy Green, Rosalee Grogg, JC Hammer, Marlene Harman, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Grace Hedrick, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Virgil Homan, Jr., Adelbert Hoover, Keith Hoover, Myrtle Hoover, Debbie and Enos Horst, Lisa and Mike Jamison, Jessica Janney, Alice Johnson, Richard Judy, Marsha Keller, Kim Kline, Tracie Knight, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Ronnie Lambert, Rex Landis, Roger and Skip Mallow, Yvonne Marsh, Ed May, Gary McDonald, Neil McLaughlin, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Tom Mitchell, Barbara Moats, Richard Morrison, Aaron Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Cheryl Paine, Wanda Pitsenbarger, Alda Propst, John O. Propst, Kathy Propst, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Tom Rader, Brandon Reel, Charles Rexrode, Jason Rexrode, Jerold "Jerry" Rexrode, Pam Rexrode, Dennis Riggelman, Donna Ruddle, Annie Simmons, Phyllis Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Kent Simmons, Robbie Sites, Mike Skiles, Donnie Smith, the Sarah Smith family, Stanna Smith, Steve Stump, Rosa Tichenor, Sandra Vandevander, Evelyn Varner, Raymond Varner, Amy Vaus, Judy Williams, Ann Wimer and Margaret Wimer.

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Pendleton Cashes in on Kisamore's Big First Quarter to Maul Moorefield on Senior Night

By Stephen Smoot

Cashton Kisamore accounted for 70 percent of his team's scoring in the first quarter on his way to a game high 19 points as the Wildcats contained a feisty Yellow Jacket squad.

Moorefield brought the intensity and the execution, but not the shooting. Both squads at times put on an offensive clinic, efficiently running their offenses and moving without the ball for long periods of the time.

What was the main difference between the two? Moorefield missed shots and could not grab offensive rebounds. Pendleton County shot and rebounded well on both ends of the court.

The game opened with a Pendleton County foul a minute into the game. Scoring came slowly early on with Kisamore grabbing an offensive rebound, laying it in, and picking up a Moorefield foul. He then completed the old fashioned three-point play to give his team an opening 3-0 lead.

Yellow Jacket offensive players looked to get the ball inside early and scored all of their eight first period points on layups. Kisamore's remaining scores of the quarter came off an offensive rebound and also taking a Chase Owens shot blocked by Moorefield for a score.

The Wildcats clung to a narrow 10-8 lead going into the second.

Head coach Jeremy Bodkin said of Kisamore's dominant performance that "he's hard to stop. He's getting better every game."

Moorefield tied the game early in the second, then took a 13-12 lead on a three-point shot at the 6:36 mark. The Wildcats then tied the game on a Josiah Kimble free throw and an Owens three.

Owens imposed his presence on Moorefield in the second as Kisamore did the first, hitting two three-point shots, hitting two



Josiah Kimble looks to take a pass from Zykijah Wright as two Moorefield defenders try to slow the Wildcats on senior night.

layups, one on a steal, then knocking down a floater from 10 feet to give his team a 28-20 advantage with just under 30 seconds left in the first half.

Zakijah Wright put an exclamation point on the half by sending a Moorefield three-point shot attempt about seven rows back into the visitors' seats.

Pendleton County snuffed out any momentum that Moorefield tried to generate as they emerged from the half. Owens took a steal almost the length of the court to extend his team's lead to 10 early on. Moorefield cut

the lead to six, but three layups by Kisamore helped to push it back out to 10 with 3:42 left in the third.

Dusty Smith, Pendleton County's floor field marshal, took up the scoring mantle himself in that period. He beat his man, drove toward the basket, finishing with a spin move and a layup at the 3:03 point, then followed that 10 seconds later with a steal, a foul, and a made free throw.

Just over a minute after that, Smith drove from the right wing for a layup, daring Moorefield defenders to keep up with him.

This extended the lead to 12.

Kimble gave his squad a 48-34 advantage with a three-point shot at 45 seconds left, then shortly thereafter, deftly tossed a pass to Jaydon Hess, who was fouled trying to make a shot. Hess hit both free throws and pushed the lead to 15.

Leading 49-36 at the start of the fourth, Pendleton County manufactured points to gradually build out the gap between the teams. Kisamore made a three-point play by rebounding a missed shot, hitting a layup, drawing a foul, and completing the foul shot. With 5:18 left, Owens spun around his defender on the baseline to complete a shot.

With 2:33 remaining and Pendleton County leading by 16, both teams pulled their starters. Justus Kuykendall drew a foul and hit a free throw. Moorefield scored with a layup at the one second mark, putting the final score at 58-43.

All of Pendleton County's seniors who could suit up played in the game and contributed to the win. Bodkin made sure to discuss one vital senior who, due to injury, could not play at all this year, but stayed with the team the whole season. Dillon Smith helped the coaches and players with anything needed and provided important mentoring and advice for the younger players.

"We get to celebrate the seniors. We get to celebrate the win. We get a few days off now," Bodkin said.

Kisamore led with 19 points on five of eight shooting. Owens added 18, Smith 10, Kimble 9, Kuykendall and Hess each chipped in one.

On Wednesday, the Wildcats (No. 1 in their section) played Pocahontas County (No. 4), who defeated Harman on Monday. Also on Wednesday, Tygarts Valley (No. 2) hosted Notre Dame (No. 3). The winners of Wednesday's games will play Friday on the court of the higher seed.



Sarah Vincell starts a move against a stingy Warrior defense as Jessica Parker moves into position. Both freshmen played key roles in the team's improvement during the season.

Pocahontas County and Murphy's Law Overcome Wildcats in Sectional Final

By Stephen Smoot

Captain Edward Aloysius Murphy, Jr., served honorably in the United States Air Force as an engineer both in war and in peacetime. No one remembers his contributions to aerospace engineering, but most people recognize his maxim, or "law."

"Anything that can go wrong will go wrong and at the worst possible time."

It was a game like that for Pendleton County in the sectional finals against Pocahontas County.

The Wildcats opened up the game with Jenna Smith finding Julia Mongold with a pass for a three-point shot, but Pocahontas County answered quickly with a layup. By the five minute point, the Warriors surged ahead on a layup to take a 6-3 lead.

Pendleton County opened the game seemingly playing tight. The young team faced its biggest game of the year. For the players not on the team last year, it was the biggest of their lives.

They made mistakes they don't normally make. An experienced, aggressive, and motivated team like Pocahontas County makes sure that the bills come due every time for mistakes made. That said, Pendleton County never faltered on effort.

The Warriors pushed out to an early 11-5 lead, but the Wildcats clawed away at it. Avery Townsend, the recipient of special defensive attention from the visitors, completed a length of the court drive for a layup and followed that with a backcourt steal and a foul drawn. She hit both free throws with 39 seconds in the first.

Nataley Hedrick then found Gabby DePue with a pass that led to a 17-foot shot to tie the game at 13.

Pocahontas County scored five straight to open the second, but with four minutes remaining in the half, Jameigh Miller, seeing her first action in weeks, drove to the 10-foot point and drained a shot. Three minutes later, Townsend grabbed an offensive rebound and hit one of two free throws to pull her team within two.

The Warriors extended the lead to 21-16 with a three, answered by an 11-foot shot from Townsend.

This dynamic lasted the entire night. Pocahontas County earned some breathing room, then the Wildcats would narrow the gap, but never retake the lead. Both teams employed high energy defense to contain the other, but Pocahontas County got the benefit of timely calls and bounces of the balls.

The third quarter started with Pendleton County down by only two. A few minutes in, Susan Vincell took an offensive rebound back for a layup to put the score at 24-23 in favor of the visitors. Pocahontas County then went on a 13 to seven run broken by a Townsend coast to coast layup drive at the 1:50 point followed by a Smith three. Townsend briefly tied the game at 39 with time running out in the period, but a Warrior three with 12 seconds left gave them back the lead.

Pocahontas County hit a layup early in the fourth to give them a six point advantage, but Smith knifed into that with a three. The Warriors hit a three to put the lead back at five at the 4:27 point.

With two minutes left, the Warriors led by eight and looked like they had put the game away, but Miller dashed those hopes with a three-point shot. Almost 15seconds later, Miller drew a foul, hit two foul shots, and shaved the lead to three.

In the final minute, the lead looked tantalizingly close as the Warriors were merely up 52-49. The Warriors battled to keep it just as hard as the Wildcats fought to take it. Each team gave maximum effort in the entire game, but even more so in that final minute.

Townsend had an open shot at the buzzer to potentially send the game to overtime, but it missed by mere inches.

Pocahontas County won the section, but both teams earned the right to advance in the post season.

For Pendleton County, the sting felt in the loss also served as a teacher. This was the kind of game that builds a young team for the future, even though the loss held them from their goals in the present.

Notre Dame Finds True 'Luck of The Irish' in Franklin as Wildcats Take Opening Sectional Win

By Stephen Smoot

A modern phrase that means the opposite of its origin is "luck of the Irish." For a country that saw centuries of occupation topped off by grinding poverty and a famine that starved most of the nation, that phrase always was equal to "if it wasn't for bad luck, one wouldn't have any at all."

That kind of luck brought the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame High School three hours east of their home court, only to find a relentless pack of Wildcats awaiting them. Not among those on the floor, second leading scorer Jameigh Miller remained on injured reserve for Pendleton County.

Before the game, the Notre Dame cheerleaders added an extra touch to the national anthem, using American Sign Language to "sing" it.

Notre Dame hung their hopes on Selena Wilson, a nearly six-foot tall player that they relied on for too much of their production to both the detriment of their team and their chances of challenging Pendleton County.

The Wildcats took the opening tip and started in a tight man-to-man defense. Avery Townsend took control early on defense, taking two steals in the first minute of the game. She also scored the game's first points on a 10-foot shot with 6:20 left in the first. Almost 35 seconds later, she took a Julia Mongold pass in for a score.

After a Notre Dame layup, Townsend responded again by executing a give and go play with Gabby DePue to take a 6-2 lead with a little less than five minutes remaining. The Wildcats outscored Notre Dame eight to five during the rest of the quarter. A Susan Vincell three and a Townsend steal and layup capped scoring in the quarter.

The Fighting Irish brought a very feisty crowd a very long distance and they made themselves heard all of the game, as when their team hit a layup to open the second quarter to close the score gap to 14-9. Pendleton County, however, put on a show. They outscored the visitors 23 to five in the second.

Wilson, though the tallest player and best athlete on the court, remained outside on offense much of the game. Occasionally, she would score a three-point shot to the delight of the head coach and many of the fans, but Wilson rarely challenged for offensive rebounds. Notre Dame made poor use of Wilson, although the balanced approach of Pendleton County would have very likely prevailed regardless.

Using Wilson in this fashion also played to the strengths of head coach Donnie Kopp's squad. Nataley Hedrick and Townsend hindered Wilson much of the game. Jenna Smith also effectively disrupted the visitors with her aggressive defense. They used their quickness and experience defending the area's best guards to stymie Wilson's attempts to score or even lead their offense.



Gabby DePue from the #1 seeded Wildcats beats two Fighting Irish defenders to score a basket in the sectional victory last week.

The Fighting Irish opened the second half with a 10-foot jump shot, but this did not signal a comeback effort. Townsend took a steal, was fouled on her approach to the basket, and hit two free throws. She followed that with a coast-to-coast drive and layup to set the score at 43-19.

Meanwhile, the Wildcats poured on the points. Towards the end of the third, Vincell hit another three, followed by a three-point shot from Kiera Heavener, whose shooting has improved tremendously this season.

Jessica Parker also continued the defensive onslaught by picking up a steal to end the quarter. She contributed at the offensive end with a three at the opening of the fourth, extending the lead to 28.

Notre Dame kept their best players on the floor for almost the entire game, trying to close the margin of defeat. Pendleton County continued to hold them off on defense, with Olivia Gonshor taking a steal at the 5:35 point.

The Fighting Irish shaved 10 points off the lead in the fourth, but never challenged as the Wildcats took the 65-47 win.

Region 8 Prepares for Planning Meetings in March and April

By Stephen Smoot

The month of February for most brings a yearning for the milder temperatures and weather of spring. For Region 8 Planning and Economic Development Council, however, February's meeting serves as a reminder that it is soon time to hold the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy sessions.

Region 8 staff invites elected officials, business leaders, and other stakeholders to join at least one of the two meetings. According to information shared at the meeting, "the meetings will be identical in format and last less than two hours."

As in every year, the first meeting will take place in Moorefield at Mullin's 1847 Restaurant, commencing at 11:30 a.m. on March 28. A week later, the Candlewyck Inn in Keyser will host at the same time.

CEDS meetings follow the "SWOT" technique of gathering information. Attendees

offer examples of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Region 8 officials will take the information and apply it toward the year's strategy report.

Though the state gives councils a deadline of March 31 to complete the process, Region 8 received both this year and last year an extension.

Council members next took up the organizational budget. Overall, it anticipates that most expenses will remain the same with two exceptions, both related to employees. The council reported that "PEIA insurance costs are reported to increase approximately 14 percent for the upcoming fiscal year" and proposes a five percent cost of living adjustment for the salaries of "all regular full-time employees as well as salary adjustments for four employees."

Bev Keadle, mayor of Romney, criticized the manner of salary increase, adding, "I've done this the past two years."

Keadle asserted that relying on a percentage increase resulted in a "top heavy" raise, explaining that "the people on the bottom of the spectrum get very little." She suggested that raising salaries by a set number of dollars per hour "is more fair."

She added that "that's my two cents. It takes care of everyone equally, to which Roger Henderson, Mineral County commissioner, replied, "Well said."

Melissa Earle, executive director of Region 8, stated that the organization had given the budget committee the task of making recommendations and that their proposal was up for consideration. The council with one nay approved the salary increase as proposed.

Henderson remarked that "maybe the budget committee needs to look at lower paid staff." Mallie Combs, economic development director for Hardy County, added that "it's also tough to get good staff."

Earle concluded the salary discussion with

"our current employees need to make more."

Region 8 also plans to add the position of environmental program coordinator. This position focuses on acquiring and administering grant and other funding for projects designed to improve the environment, or mitigate hazards. Region 9 has had such a position for years and has occasionally allowed their coordinator to assist Region 8 counties, since the Potomac Highlands lies upstream of the lower Eastern Panhandle.

Samuel Canfield, a representative from West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, added that there is "a lot more nuance associated with the position." He has served as an advisor to Region 8, but said that he is not in a position to help with grants.

Earle also shared that Region 8 and others will gather in late April to honor the lengthy career and legacy of Terry Lively, retired executive director.

Franklin Town Council Hears Updates on Water and Sewer Projects

By Stephen Smoot

At its regular monthly meeting, the Franklin Town Council heard updates on vital infrastructure improvements.

First, a representative from the engineering firm undertaking the work discussed progress with the water treatment plant. He explained that work would pick up soon. The construction crew has worked 74 percent of the time allotted, but only completed 38 percent of the work, by the estimation of the engineers.

That said, the representative added, "There are multiple things going on at one time and that the pace of work would jump up a lot." Delays had occurred, but nothing is outside of normal parameters.

One of the issues found by engineers and contractors was the deterioration of some internal walls. "We've worked with the contractor to come up with a solution," he said, "so that nothing continues to deteriorate."

They used a special type of Sherman Williams paint already on hand to help repair some of the damage. It has a yellow color, but also stronger protective properties.

Overall, the representative reported that "progress is moving along there very well."

Mayor Bob Horan quipped that now that the council heard the update on "the yellow monster, do I have a motion to pay for it?"

The council approved a draw of approximately \$140,000 to compensate for the work.

Council members then heard that there are three options when it comes to replacing the aging water treatment plant.

The first option was rejected out of hand. Although cost effective, it would not add the proper capacity for growth or response to potential federal regulation changes down the line. If the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for example, started mandating that towns the size of Franklin treat for phosphorous, the first option could not adapt to achieve that.

A sense of urgency, as Horan put it, is driving decision making. Frank Wehrle, town administrator, said, "We get letters from the DEP (West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection) all

the time."

On top of that, though not mentioned in the meeting, the Town of Lumberport in Harrison County last week saw part of their sewage system fail, dumping raw sewage into a nearby creek whose waters eventually flow past Fairmont and Morgantown towards Pittsburgh.

That left two options for the town to consider that would on one hand be costly, but on the other hand create a reliable long-term solution.

The second option, a plant that resembled a large septic system, is the least costly of the two and also proactively addresses the phosphorous issue. All options would have the capacity to process 200,000 gallons a day.

The representative of the engineering firm said that the next step lay in working to locate grant funding from state and federal sources to defer as much of the cost of the new facility as possible. Only rarely does such a project get fully funded by grants, however.

The mayor and council opted to take until next session to examine the two best options and, at that point, make a decision.

Tree Seedlings Orders Being Accepted

The Potomac Valley Conservation District is accepting orders for tree seedlings. The seedlings may be used for windbreaks, forest products, erosion control, landscaping or wildlife cover. The following varieties are available: Colorado blue spruce, Norway spruce, white pine, red oak, white oak, sugar maple, black walnut, Chinese chestnut, and American redbud. Most

of the seedlings are two-year-old stock and range in size from 5-18 inches in height.

A variety of fruit trees are being offered. All will be bare root and approximately 3-5 feet in height. Quantities are limited; to ensure availability, a person needs to place the order early.

Orders will be accepted until March 15.

The seedlings must be picked up on April 5 at the Potomac Valley Conservation District facility located at 668 Hutter Road in Fisher.

For more information or to obtain an order form, please call the district office at 304-822-5174, or email pvcd@wvca.us. Order forms are also available on the district web page at www.wvca.us/district/pvcd.cfm.

Applications Available for Make It Shine Spring Cleanup

Applications are available for the 2024 West Virginia Make It Shine Statewide Spring Cleanup. This annual event is sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan Program.

This year's cleanup will be held during the first two weeks of April (April 1 through April 14) and applications are due by March 8.

The Make It Shine program will provide resources such as cleanup materials, waste hauling, and landfill fees to community groups volunteering to conduct litter cleanups in state streams or

on public lands.

More than 3,500 volunteers from nearly 140 groups participated in the 2023 cleanup, removing 215 tons of litter, remediating 87 dumps, and collecting 1,267 tires from 281 acres of public lands and 87 miles of streams across West Virginia.

Applications are available online at https://apps.dep.wv.gov/ppod/make_it_shine.a5w. Once a project is approved, REAP staff will coordinate delivery of cleanup supplies, waste hauling and disposal.


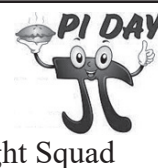
For more information, contact Chris Cartwright at DEPwvmis@wv.gov or by

phone at 1-800-322-5530.

This event is completely dependent on volunteers, so sign up today and help make West Virginia shine!

REAP, whose motto is "Keeping WV Clean and Green," was created in 2005 and strives to clean up West Virginia and rid the state of litter. The program empowers citizens to take ownership of their communities by providing technical, financial, and resource assistance in cleanup and recycling efforts. More information is available on the REAP webpage at <https://dep.wv.gov/environmental-advocate/reap/Pages/default.aspx>.

PENDLETON COUNTY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL March

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
|  | Pendleton County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Provider | MS - Middle School HS - High School | Girls Basketball State Tournament March 5 - 9 | Boys Basketball Tournaments Sectionals Feb. 23 - March 2 Regionals March 5 - 7 State March 12 - 16 | 1 | 2 MS PVL Cheer Competition 10:00 (H) |
| 3 | 4 Strawberries To Be Delivered This Week Virtual Travel Interest Meeting 6 p.m. | 5 | 6 General Summative Assessment Writing Test ← Educators Rising State Leadership Conference → | 7 General Summative Assessment Writing Test Make-up Day | 8 End 3 rd 9 Weeks EARLY RELEASE | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Regional Math Field Day WVU Potomac State College HS Softball Scrimmage Elkins 5:30 (H) | 12 Voter Registration | 13 Report Cards | 14  Flight Squad Assembly Grades 7-12 1 p.m. | 15 South Branch Valley FFA Ham, Bacon & Egg Show Moorefield High School 5:50 | 16 Regional Social Studies Day Musselman HS HS Baseball (A) Petersburg TBA Softball East Hardy 6:00 (H) |
| 17 | 18 HS Softball Tygarts Valley 6:00 (H) | 19 HS Softball Richwood (DH) 5:30 (A) MS Softball Philippi 6:00 (A) | 20 HS Baseball Tygarts Valley 4:30 (H) | 21 HS Baseball Bath County 4:30 (H) | 22 Career Fair MS Baseball Tucker Valley 5:00 (A) | 23 HS Baseball Spring Mills (DH) 1:00 (A) HS Softball Spring Mills (DH) 1:00 (A) |
| 24 | 25 Scheduling for Current Juniors 4 - 6 p.m. | 26 HS Baseball (A) Pocahontas Co. 5:00 HS Softball Tucker Co. 6:00 (A) MS Softball Tygarts Valley 6:00 (H) MS Baseball Tygarts Valley 4:30 (A) | 27 HS Baseball Tucker County 5:00 (H) HS Softball Moorefield 6:00 (A) | 28 HS Softball 6:00 (H) Greenbrier West MS Baseball Tucker Valley 5:00 (H) Scheduling for Current Sophomores 4 - 6 p.m. Digital Readiness for SAT | 29 NO SCHOOL Spring Break Starts ← HS Baseball Tourney at Elkins → ← HS Softball at Hedgesville → | 30 MS Baseball West Preston 1:00 (H) (DH) MS Softball (H) Central Preston 1:00 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

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CVB Discusses Grant and Marketing at Monthly Meeting

By Stephen Smoot

With one Maple Day behind and another yet to come, the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau held its February meeting last week.

The light agenda started with board member Annie Humes discussing the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area grant. She said, "The CVB applied for and was awarded a grant from the AFNHA last summer."

Humes went on to explain that the "skill building and planning grant" made the CVB "well-equipped to have a solid long-term plan." An obstacle briefly appeared in that AFNHA did not initially provide the entire \$7,000 award due to limits on grants paid for by federal funds. Specifically, a number of complex regulations surrounded funding use for food and hospitality.

Happily, AFNHA received support from a non-governmental

source and used that money to help make the CVB grant whole.

Amber Nesselrodt, executive director, then provided an update on the revamping of the website. She stated that "Taylor Yokum has sent us the rough draft of our new website." Nesselrodt added that the CVB would suggest edits in color scheme, verbiage, and other aspects. The new website will also have a "sign up for e-newsletter option," which will be added this year, as well as an "in the news" page and an events calendar link.

She then informed the board that stakes for the new welcome signs had come from the West Virginia Department of Highways. The highway department will offer guidance on how to place them.

Next, the group discussed the February installment of Maple Days from both the state and the local perspective. Lindsay Kazarick shared that she could "speak to it on a statewide level." Across West Virginia "quite a few new participants" took part.

Locally, "Elevated Grounds had a fantastic opening," but "the weather did impact attendance in the Potomac Highlands."

The board then discussed sponsorship opportunities for the CVB to help support local events and facilities attractive to tourism. Kazarick suggested that the organization increase its sponsorship of the Warners Drive-In. Board member Katie VanMeter, who also serves on the drive-in board, said, "We've got a lot more coming down the pike this year, a lot more events."

CVB board members then approved the appointment of Jared VanMeter to the advisory board. To that body, he brings "experience in marketing, budgeting, and asset management, as well as grant writing."

Humes added her support for Jared VanMeter, saying, "The goal of the CVB is to function as the marketing" for Pendleton County. The board unanimously approved him for the role.

BOE Update Meeting

Continued From Page 1

goal to reduce to 25.

The effort so far has outstripped the goal set. Cook reported that in the first nine weeks, the percentage was 20.5 percent and 23.5 in the second. Currently, the number sits at 21 percent in the year to date with the target goal at 25.

Many of the most challenging students receive case management, with permission from their parent or guardian. Cook stated that 53 percent of these students had improved their attendance.

Cook added that "we also have Penny," and shared that "one student told me that school is so much better with Penny there." Penny provides emotional support for children and also received training to help her to identify students in emotional distress.

Liz Rollins then discussed some highlights of the semester. These included a back-to-school resource fair with the former West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources as a partner. They also partnered with Eastern Action to provide a free spaghetti dinner social event for students and families.

In the backpack program, 28 students took advantage of supplemental food to take home on the weekends and students can attend a career fair on March 22.

Franklin Elementary School's CIS program was represented by Wendy Kisamore. She shared that their primary goal lay in improving attendance from last year's 93.15 percent to at least 94.15 percent in 2023-24. The first nine weeks saw 95.56 percent, but that fell off slightly to 94.03 percent in the second, mostly due to contagious illnesses making the rounds.

Year-to-date attendance remains above the goal, staying just above 95 percent.

She proudly said, "I want to add, that's highest in the county right now."

Part of motivating students to improve attendance lies in doing what may seem like the little things. Kisamore explained that includes "greeting them every morning. Let them feel welcome. Tell them good-bye in the evening. Give them motivation to come back the next day."

Motivation also comes from rewards programs that include the opportunity to earn credits at the "Paw Store," which she said is "a big thing for the students each month." Also, AGK Italian Restaurant provides a free pizza slice for those students who bring by their "birthday badge."

Among many other projects and events, the FES sixth-grade students will submit short stories and hand drawn pictures to

be included in a book to be published later this year.

Liz Harper, CIS coordinator for North Fork Elementary, rose next. At NFES, the top goal lay in decreasing chronic absence by two percent, followed by a plan to work to meet students' basic needs.

Chronic absences at the Circleville school hit 21 percent last year. Harper said that they had hoped to get that number down to 19 percent. The first semester smashed all expectations in a positive way, with chronic absenteeism down to 16.6 percent. Illnesses have spiked in the last two months, edging the number to 18.88 percent year to date, but still under the goal.

She reported that 24 students participate in the backpack program. Also, Harper explained how she diligently follows up with students who record consecutive absences, mainly to make sure they need homework or to explain how parents can avoid unexcused absences by turning in doctor notices.

When all children return to school, Harper always makes sure to say, "I missed seeing you."

As with all the schools, some students receive more support in the case management program. Families facing significant challenges can opt into this and receive more resources, whether they be tangible or even getting advice on how to handle problems.

Highlights of the year so far include a special Veterans' Day program, field trips, Christmas presents from First Lady Cathy Justice for all case managed students, and an upcoming spaghetti dinner.

Aliyah Wright presented on progress at Brandywine Elementary School. That school focused on raising their overall attendance levels. Last year, the school achieved a 92 percent mark and set a 94 percent goal. Year-to-date attendance has topped the goal and currently sits at 94.328 percent.

"With so much sickness going around," Wright explained, "we are very, very impressed with the attendance." Every CIS found creative ways to chart attendance for students. At Brandywine, this happens on a bulletin board with a popcorn motif. The "biggest popcorn" grade gets an attendance flag. BES also relies heavily on rewards competitions and other programs to encourage children to want to come to school. The idea lies in creating "a positive relationship between school and students."

Brandywine children enjoy-

ing a birthday get special coupons to be redeemed at Fox's Pizza for an ice cream cone. The BES Holiday Food Drive brought in 1,039 cans totaling more than 800 pounds of donated food.

Later in the meeting, Carrie Nesselrodt assigned credit, saying that "all the progress we see is due to CIS." She reported how excited the competitions and contests made the children, proving their effectiveness.

Charles Hedrick, Pendleton County Schools superintendent, talked about the "rifle effect," saying that "the proof of that comes from the thousands of lives you have impacted" not just directly, built through kinship, friendship, and parental ties forged down the road.

Sonny O'Neil, board member, added, "A person who gets used to attendance in school will show up for work as an adult."

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SENECA ROCKS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Executive Director Job Description

This position reports to:

The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority Board of Directors

Summary:

The Executive Director position is responsible for attracting new business opportunities and encouraging the expansion and retention of existing businesses, agriculture-based enterprises, and a recreation-based economy to promote a stronger economic base for Grant and Pendleton counties. This position provides overall leadership of the Grant and Pendleton counties economic growth in marketing and public relations through the county, region and state and works under the policy direction of the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority Board of Directors, which is composed of members appointed by Grant and Pendleton County commissions. The Executive Director provides oversight to the overall financial operations of the organization and establishes, implements, and maintains policies and operating reporting procedures to achieve the overall mission of the Authority.

Job Description:

- Plan, organize, coordinate, direct, and evaluate economic development within Grant and Pendleton counties.
- Coordinate and encourage the development of strategies that maintain and enhance the long-term viability of Grant and Pendleton counties.
- Recruit industry and commercial investment and work with prospects to encourage the creation of new jobs.
- Oversee and coordinate the SRRDA's marketing effort for the counties.
- Manage the negotiation of sales and leasing of property of the SRRDA and organizations.
- Retain and support existing industry in Grant and Pendleton counties by providing assistance that ensures continued success and expansion.
- Represent the SRRDA on boards and in the regional and state levels to ensure visibility and success.
- Review and development, alongside the Board, long range strategic economic development marketing plans.
- Prepare, write, and administer grant proposals related to economic development and work with other entities on the development and administration of grant proposals.
- Communicate with, respond to, and resolve complaints, conflicts, concerns, and questions from citizens, contractors, customers, developers, business owners, and public and private agencies concerning SRRDA, regional and state services, activities, and programs.
- Communicate with the SRRDA Board of Directors, other Department Heads, the County Commissions, county elected officials and others regarding policy issues and matters of economic development concern.
- Supervises all employees of the SRRDA.

Recommended Minimum Qualifications:

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree is preferred but not required.
- Two years prior work in a job closely aligned with this job description is preferred but not required. Non-profit experience is preferred.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skill:

Knowledge:

Workforce issues, statistics, finance, real estate, marketing, communications, common policies, practices and procedures of the department and office operation, laws and regulations pertinent to position functions. Working knowledge of social media and other electronic communications in support of department operations.

Abilities:

Strong interpersonal and leadership skills. Ability to manage an office staffed by employees, ability to work with a Board, ability to interact effectively and appropriately with the public and other personnel, perform multiple tasks, and maintain confidential information.

Skills:

Proficient personal computer skills, record-keeping and clerical skills, mathematical skills, written and oral communication skills, public speaking, outstanding interpersonal skills, and attention to detail required.

The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority will be accepting resumes for the position of 'Executive Director' for the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority.

Resumes along with a cover letter must be received or hand delivered, mailed or emailed to: Pendleton County Commission, Attention Karen Pitsenbarger, 100 South Main Street, PO Box 187, Franklin, WV 26807, karenp@pencowv.com.

Any questions may be addressed to Karen Pitsenbarger at 304- 358-7573.

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- \$10 per hour, for 72 hours, if training is completed within 11 weeks to 6 months

Applicants must apply by March 29.

Call Nicole Hevener if you would like assistance applying for the position as all applications must be submitted online.

Job description and application link are located on the Pendleton County Schools website:

<https://www.pendletoncountyschools.com/o/pcs/page/employment>

Contact Information

Ms. Nicole M. Hevener, Associate Superintendent
 Pendleton County Board of Education
 P.O. Box 888, Franklin, WV 26807
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MONDAY, MARCH 4

TUESDAY, MARCH 5
 Baked Potato
 Chili/Cheese, Broccoli
 Berry Cobbler

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6
 Chicken Tenders
 Hashbrown Casserole
 Carrots, Apple, Bread
 Dirt Pudding

THURSDAY, MARCH 7
 Country Fried Steak
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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONVEYANCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROPERTY (High Rock United Methodist Church)

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will, on or after March 7 2024 QUITCLAIM, GRANT and CONVEY to the Trustees of High Rock Church all of their right, title and interest in and to that certain lot or parcel of real estate situate, lying and being in Union District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, described as follows:

BEGINNING at the rocks on the North side of a run, Aaron Bogg's corner, thence due South to said run thence up the same with the meanders thereof to Cyrus Harman's line, and with the same to two spruce pines (cut down) Bogg's corner, and with said Bogg's line to the place of beginning, containing One Acre be the same more or less.

And being the same property conveyed from Charles A. Hedrick and Hattie B. Hedrick to Trustees of the United Brethren Church in Christ by Deed dated January 1st, 1892 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton

County, West Virginia in Deed Book 31, at Page 138, reference to which is hereby made.

Said High Rock United Methodist Church was declared closed effective on December 31, 2024 by a majority of the District Superintendents of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Dated the 23rd day of February, 2024.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By: Robert N. File, Chancellor
130 Main Street
Beckley, West Virginia
25801
(304) 253 - 3358 2-29-2c

prises to submit a show of interest in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any interested firm or individual on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, handicap, or national origin in the contract award.

This contract will be awarded to the responsible responder whose proposal is within the competitive range and determined to be the most advantageous to the Town of Franklin's price and other factors considered. 2-29-2c

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ATTORNEY SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN'S SEWER PROJECT

The Town of Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia is in the process of obtaining PSC ATTORNEY service for its sewer system improvement project. Procurement for services shall be in accordance with 2 CFR 200. Contracts are to be awarded on an hourly fee basis. All interested firms and individuals interested in being considered for this project must submit a letter of interest detailing qualifications, expertise, and related prior experience. The proposal must also provide hourly fees for services. The object of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm/individual who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly, qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents may be interviewed. 2-29-2c

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN'S SEWER PROJECT

The Town of Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia is in the process of obtaining ACCOUNTING service for its sewer system improvement project. Procurement for services shall be in accordance with 2 CFR 200. Contracts are to be awarded on an hourly fee basis. All interested firms and individuals interested in being considered for this project must submit a letter of interest detailing qualifications, expertise, and related prior experience. The proposal must also provide hourly fees for services. The object of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm/individual who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly, qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents may be interviewed. 2-29-2c

Please submit all requested information to Kim Ruddle, Project Assistant, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 no later than 4:00 p.m., May 14, 2024.

Attention is directed to the fact that the proposed project is to be undertaken with Federal and State funds and all work will be performed in accordance with the regulation issued those agencies and the State of West Virginia. The selected firm will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Section 109 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to Records provisions.

The Town of Franklin will afford full opportunity for minority business enterprises to submit a show of interest in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any interested firm or individual on the grounds

of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, handicap, or national origin in the contract award.

This contract will be awarded to the responsible responder whose proposal is within the competitive range and determined to be the most advantageous to the Town of Franklin's price and other factors considered. 2-29-2c

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN'S SEWER PROJECT

The Town of Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia is in the process of obtaining LEGAL service for its sewer system improvement project. Procurement for services shall be in accordance with 2 CFR 200. Contracts are to be awarded on an hourly fee basis. All interested firms and individuals interested in being considered for this project must submit a letter of interest detailing qualifications, expertise, and related prior experience. The proposal must also provide hourly fees for services. The object of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm/individual who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly, qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents may be interviewed. 2-29-2c

Please submit all requested information to Kim Ruddle, Project Specialist, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 no later than 4:00 p.m., March 14, 2024.

Attention is directed to the fact that the proposed project is to be undertaken with Federal and State funds and all work will be performed in accordance with the regulation issued those agencies and the State of West Virginia. The selected firm will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Section 109 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to Records provisions.

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STARTUP
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards.

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BOE Approves Middle School Track Squad, Support for Pendleton County Library

By Stephen Smoot

Earlier in February, the Pendleton County Board of Education heard a proposal to create a middle school track team to help develop the varsity program and provide more opportunities for youth to compete.

Last week, the board gave its answer.

"I recommend that we approve the middle school track program as presented," said Charles Hedrick, Pendleton County superintendent of schools. The board quickly approved the team's creation.

The board then considered other funding requests. One came from the West Virginia University Extension Service, seeking funds to help to cover the salaries of two agents. Pendleton County has only enjoyed the services of a single agent, Brooke Alt, for well over a year. In the past, the county has paid \$5,900, but the current request rounded that figure up to \$6,000.

The board approved the request.

It also approved \$10,000 worth of support for the Pendleton County Library. J. P. Mowery, treasurer, noted that

other counties fell significantly short of the State of West Virginia recommended amount. The state asks \$10,528 from Pendleton.

"Pendleton County represents itself pretty well," Mowery explained, adding that "very few school districts across the state meet or exceed." Hardy County, for example, provides approximately one fifth of the request and Grant County pays nothing at all.

The board also approved additions to the budget that represented "nothing out of the ordinary," as Mowery put it. The payment of funds for the old board office building helped to boost cash flow, "a good solid month." Slow tax receipts early in the year often affect cash flow for the school system.

Mowery also submitted news reports from other counties that had used COVID funds to hire staff. Preston County, for example, may have to eliminate more than 50 positions. Pendleton County worked on the assumption that temporary money should not pay for permanent jobs and, as a result, will not

have to lay off anyone.

Carrie Nesselrodt shared with the board members a description of progress among county preschoolers. She stated that "preschool is excelling this year. They are doing so well." Nesselrodt added that the benchmark testing, though different from other grades, still shows good progress.

Hedrick then gave the board news about the school schedule. He first said that "our spring break is still intact up to this point." He also shared that the state approved the school calendar for 2024-25 and that graduation in that school year would take place on May 24.

The next school board meeting will take place at 6 p.m. March 5 at Franklin Elementary School.

Manor Valentine Queen, King Crowned



Alma Pennington and Larry Moyers, residents at Pendleton Manor in Franklin, were crowned Valentine queen and king, respectively. They were chosen by a penny per vote with the proceeds going to the resident council. Others running for the honor of being king or queen were Mary Kate Mitchell, Geneva Jarrells, Hazel Bennett, Charles Nottingham, and Reginald Kimble.

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NEW LISTING - JAKE HILL ROAD, UPPER TRACT Under Contract

NEW LISTING - CAMP RUN SOLD

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.**

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

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2017 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT 4X4, 5.0 liter V-8, auto., ldd., silver, 106K miles, sharp truck..... \$23,900
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**
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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
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2019 FORD EXPLORER 4-DR XLT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., black, 78K miles..... \$23,900
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2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, 106K highway miles..... \$17,900
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2014 FORD EXPLORER XLT AWD, 3.5 liter V-6, auto., ldd., blue, 132K miles..... \$17,900
2013 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DR. UNLIMITED 4X4 SPORT PKG., V-6, auto., ldd., orange, 132K miles..... \$16,900
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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SGR322A 49.07 Acres, more or less, 2014 Mill Run District. **UNDER CONTRACT** **NEW LISTING \$129,000.00.**

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.**

SGR315A 3 Bed, 2 Bath Ranch on 2.02 acres located in Upper Tract Mill Run District. **UNDER CONTRACT** **NEW LISTING \$255,000.00.**

SGR313A 7.46 Acres in Upper Tract Mill Run District, Pendleton County. **UNDER CONTRACT** **NEW LISTING \$35,000.00.**

SGR311A 1 acre w/3 bed, 2 bath home located in Franklin. Public Water & Well. Cell 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.**

SGR308A 10.04 Acres, Raw Land, Lot #26, Blackthorn Mtn. Estates, Sugar Grove Dist. Great View Potential. Perc. tested. **\$60,000.00.**

SGR306A 6.38 Acres Raw Land, US RT 220N. Nice Building Site. **UNDER CONTRACT** **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, Mtn Views, Roads throughout. Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$1,795,000.00.**

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

SGR295A 1.5 Acres w/3 Bed, 1.5 Bath home located Franklin District. Spring & Well. Some covenants & restrictions. **NEW LISTING \$249,000.00.**

SGR290A 0.82 Acres w/1 Bed and 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 local amenities. Franklin Corp., Pendleton County. **NEW LISTING REDUCED \$400,000.00 REDUCED \$89,900.00.**

SGR282A 0.75 Acre, Side Front/Residence located in Brandywine. Needs some TLC. **\$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.**

SGR271A 1.84 Acres, 2014, 3 Bed, 2 Bath Home in Franklin District. **UNDER CONTRACT** **\$14,000.00.**

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.**

SGR241 60.24 Acres w/Cabin. Exceptional Views, Excellent Hunting. **SOLD** **\$1,000,000.00.**

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

SGR223 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. **SOLD** **\$95,000.00. REDUCED \$89,900.00.**

SGR128 2-3 Bedroom Ranch w/Full Basement on 0.6386 Acres, more or less, w/3 Bed, 2 Bath, Sugar Grove District. **NEW LISTING \$469,000.00 REDUCED \$449,900.00 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. **SOLD** **\$1,000,000.00.**

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