

THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Thursday
March 14, 2024



The Friends of the Library provide vital support for Pendleton County Library, as well as its programming and services.

Friends of the Library Review Annual Dinner, Look Ahead to 2024

By Stephen Smoot

With a relatively new director and a mostly new leadership team, the Friends of the Library gathered last Tuesday to review the successes of the annual dinner and review plans for the spring and summer.

Before the proceedings opened, members passed around homemade heart shaped almond sugar cookies with blue trim. At 4 p.m. exactly, the meeting came to order.

The incoming president, Rhonda Nash, first welcomed a new member, Jane Germain. She had just moved in from Vermont. The first conversation she heard upon entering and sitting, naturally, was about maple.

After approving the minutes, the group started to discuss the summer reading program. Walt Johnson, director, has repeatedly indicated that he wants to expand the library's programming. Nash mentioned that planning has already commenced for a program entitled "Adventure Begins at the Library."

Shortly after came the discussion on the recent annual dinner. Madeline Hoover, the former president, commented that "the music was very good." A number of Pendleton County High School students rotated playing the piano, playing classic favorites during dinner.

Mike Rechlin agreed that "it was wonderful." Nash shared that she thought it added to the ambiance and said that she "really enjoyed when they played Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah."

Nash added, "They were very poised."

The last item under old business found the committee agreeing to move the start time from 4 to 4:30 p.m. to accommodate those who worked in the late afternoon. The date remained on the first Tuesday of the month.

Nash issued under new business "a big thank you to our outgoing secretary Darlene Bokelman" for undergoing the task of updating the organizational signatories at the bank.

Under new business, after some discussion and

checking with Johnson, the group will continue to reimburse the Pendleton County Library for the cost of a subscription to the Inter Mountain newspaper from Elkins. It serves as the only outlet near Pendleton County that covers statewide news.

Nash said, "I'm a big proponent of hard copy newspapers."

She then informed the group of the upcoming National Library Week between April 7 and 13. During the week, on the ninth, is National Library Employees Day.

The theme for the week is "Ready, Set, Library!" Nash explained that she liked the exciting and colorful logo. The group then discussed how to decorate to celebrate the week. Last year, the group bought a poster for display.

Members decided to request that the Pendleton County Commission pass a proclamation honoring the week. Boyd Lucas, vice president, agreed to take the matter before the commission.

They also agreed to raise the amount of money put on gift cards handed to employees on National Library Employees Day. Traditionally, the amount has been \$15, but the board agreed to raise the amount to \$25. The cards are meant to pay for "Lunch On Us" as a token of gratitude for the hard work always done by the staff.

The gifts are presented the morning of the employees' day.

Next, came a discussion on how to set up the book sale for Trout Fest, including figuring out how many days to run a sale and when to sort donated books.

Johnson described a major book donation from a professor that would come in multiple loads. The donation could come in as many as 40 boxes. The books came from his personal library so a number could make their way into the general collection, while the rest go up for sale.

When questions arose about the storage for such a large donation, Tom and Haley Craig offered a spare room in their house to keep the collection as long as needed.

Months of Work Pay Off as PCMS Cheerleaders Earn PVL Title



Pendleton County Middle School cheerleaders capturing the Potomac Valley League championship title were, from left, front row, Bella Alt, Victoria Chan, Charity Chan, Alanna Miller and Candace McQuain; and back row, Carolina Kimble, Marley Champ, Carly Braham, Abby Judy, Rebecca Miller (coach), Ashlyn Wimer, Ali Barbour and Emma Puffenberger.

By Stephen Smoot

"They put a lot of pressure on themselves to be the best," says Rebeca Miller, coach of the Pendleton County Middle School cheer squad who earlier this month earned a Potomac Valley League title.

Miller explained that "as with any team competition, there were a lot of nerves the morning of." Only a week prior, the Wildcats traveled to Martinsburg High School to compete against a slate of bigger schools offering strong competition. "We were the only single A team competing" against triple and quad A schools. This "caused a lot of intimidation," Miller said.

The PVL championships, however, took place in the friendly confines of Pendleton County Middle/High School. To competitors such as these, the pressure is even higher to give a perfect as possible performance to a Pendleton crowd.

Middle school competition preparation commences three months ahead of time. Four days a week goes to practice while they spend the fifth

in gymnastics. They learned a 40 second routine "where they are judged on motions, facials, and jumps."

Next comes an open routine of two and a half minutes, punctuated by stunting, tumbling, and dancing. "It is a long, arduous process," Miller explained, "to learn a 40 second technical cheer and a two minute and 30 second routine, all the while cheering for both the boys' and girls' basketball teams."

Miller earned high praise from her team's parents. "This was my daughter's first season on the middle school squad," shared Laura Brown, who added "the patience, adaptability, and multi-tasking skills that coach Rebecca has are unparalleled."

Brown also marveled that "she coaches two squads of teenagers with middle and high school."

At PVLs, the countless hours of learning, tweaking, then honing their routines to fine precision paid off. "These young ladies," Miller shared, "were

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Former Allegheny Wood Products Hit with Lawsuits by Former Employees and Creditor

By Stephen Smoot

The closure of Allegheny Wood Products triggered two initial lawsuits last week, the first elements of the ripple effect of the company's February collapse.

On March 1, former employees filed a class action lawsuit against Allegheny Wood Products. In the case filed in the United States District Court of Southern West Virginia, the plaintiff is named as "James Beane, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated."

The crux of the suit centers on AWP's failure to provide a notice as required by the federal Worker Adjustment and

Retraining Notification Act, or WARN Act. According to a United States Department of Labor publication on the subject, "you must receive a written notice 60 days before the date of a mass layoff or plant closing if you meet the conditions discussed in this brochure. If your employer does not give you the required notice, you may be able to seek damages for back pay and benefits for up to 60 days, depending on how many days' notice you actually received."

Additionally, AWP did not pay wages on or before the next scheduled payday when they ceased operations.

AWP was under obligation

to provide the notices, and state media outlets confirmed with officials that this, in fact, had not taken place.

The suit alleges violations of both the WARN Act and state laws government worker pay.

In the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, United Bank filed a suit to recover \$40,475,000 under a deed of trust agreement, dated Sept. 27, 2023. This agreement stemmed back to a loan agreement made in September 2005. The deed of trust was issued with the aim of giving AWP an opportunity to repay its secured debt. It extended the maturity date on the loans to Jan. 31, 2024.

Three weeks later, "the parties entered into a Forbearance Agreement effective February 23, 2024 (the "Forbearance Agreement"), wherein Defendants acknowledge that the Loans are in default and consent to the appointment of a receiver, and United agreed to forbear from exercising its remedies other than the appointment of a receiver. A true and exact copy of the Forbearance Agreement is set forth in Exhibit H to the Appendix filed contemporaneously with the Verified Complaint."

United Bank requested from the court "the immediate appointment of a receiver with the appropriate authority is necessary to (1) take control of the properties, assets, and operations of Defendants; (2) operate, manage, and protect the properties, assets, and operations of Defendants; and (3) oversee, manage, and direct the acts, conduct, operations, assets, liabilities, and financial condition of Defendants."

Pendleton County Grand Jury Issues Indictments

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the Pendleton County grand jury met to deliberate and issue indictments.

A grand jury indictment does not indicate guilt. It merely means that the body has met, reviewed evidence, and decided that enough evidence exists to take the case to the petit

jury stage. At that point, if the case proceeds that far, the defendant will have his or her Constitutional right to a jury trial where 12 citizens will review evidence presented and determine a verdict of guilty or not guilty.

The grand jury issued three indictments against Jeffrey James Windett. The first

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Community Calendar

Post 9666 To Meet

VFW Post 9666 will meet at 6:30 p.m. today at the post home in Sugar Grove.

TMF Meeting Planned for Today

The Treasure Mountain Festival board of directors will meet at 5:30 p.m. today at the bowling alley.

All persons interested in TMF are welcome to attend.

Senior Sponsored Meal Scheduled

An anonymous Army veteran and an anonymous Army family will be sponsoring "Lunch on Us" for 60+ Seniors Friday at the Franklin Senior Center. Meals will be served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. To reserve a free lunch, call 304-358-2421 today.

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 Circleville and Seneca Rocks churches with the message by Jerry Smith, pastor of St. Paul Independent Lutheran Church. Next week's meal will be provided by St. John and Mt. Hope Lutheran churches. The message will be delivered by Pastor Mike Loudermilk of Mountaintop Ministries United Methodist Churches.

Federal Government Battles, Lawsuits, And Economic Conditions Inflicted the Death of a Thousand Cuts on AWP

By Stephen Smoot

Back in May 1999, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and others celebrated a lawsuit against Allegheny Wood Products. An environmentalist blog made light of the situation and possible impact under the title "Squirrels and Bats Sue Logger."

The following post in the blog started with "It must feel ridiculous to get sued by a squirrel!"

The suit centered around AWP's logging of land in Tucker County, and the environmentalists' desire to create a Blackwater Canyon National Park. Environmentalists campaigning on the issue did far more than one of their stated goals, "to make John

Crites look ridiculous."

It alleged that that "AWP's activities in the Blackwater Canyon will harm three federally listed endangered species -- the Virginia northern flying squirrel, the Indiana bat, the Virginia big-eared bat -- and one threatened species -- the Cheat Mountain salamander. The complaint also alleges that AWP's activities within the Blackwater Canyon will harm essential habitat for the four species."

Now neither the park, nor AWP, exists. Hundreds of workers now find themselves looking for work while contractors whose work supported operations

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Pendleton County Board of Education Hears Progress at Franklin Elementary School

By Stephen Smoot

During the course of the year, the Pendleton County Board of Education has traveled to each school in the county to hear from their school leaders about improvements implemented. For the most part, the schools have shared their techniques for encouraging better attendance, which normally leads also to better academic outcomes.

As at the other schools, the evening commenced with dinner at 5:30. The staff at Franklin Elementary School served up chicken alfredo, salad, and apple pie with ice

cream for dessert. On the cafeteria wall, a poster read "Be the Reason Someone Smiles Today."

Lori Moore, FES principal, thanked the board because it "had faith in me." Moore took the position after Barbara Whitecotton accepted a role in the board of education main office. She added that "I have worked in several places, but this by far is the best."

"Attendance has been a focus for us," Moore indicated. A great deal of the foundation for success comes from the spirit of collaboration

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OBITUARIES



Joan Carol (Pack) Leizear

Joan Carol (Pack) Leizear, 85, of Big Pool, Maryland, passed away March 4, 2024, at Williamsport Nursing Home surrounded by her loving family.

Born Nov. 9, 1938, in Washington, DC, she was the daughter of the late Arthur Albert Pack Jr. and Charlotte Jane (Gordon) Pack.

Mrs. Leizear was a 1956 graduate of Sherwood High School in Sandy Spring, Maryland.

She was a homemaker and formerly employed with National Geographic, Chas A. Gibney Florist, and Maryland General Realty.

She enjoyed gardening, de-

signing floral arrangements and sewing, and was a fabulous baker, making the best homemade bread.

Her loving husband of 67 years, Lewis E. Leizear, survives.

Also surviving are three sons, Timothy Leizear and wife, Ruth, Clinton Leizear and wife, Tami, and Stephen Leizear and wife, Janeen; 10 grandchildren, Becky, Jenny, Elizabeth, CJ, Christen, Chase, Shannon, Hannah, Mitch, and Levi; 14 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Gail Pack; and two brothers, Charles "Boonie" Pack and Robert "Butch" Pack.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday at Donald Edwin Thompson Funeral Home, Inc., in Clear Spring, Maryland, with Lana Roberts-Windsor officiating. Interment was held privately.

Memorial donations may be made in her honor to Hospice of Washington County, 11370 Caring Pathway Lane, Hagerstown, MD 21742 or to the Children's Organ Transplant Association at <https://cota.org>.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.thompsonfhinc.com.



Irene Grace Lantz

Irene Grace Lantz, 95, of Circleville passed away on March 1, 2024, at the Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born at Cherry Grove, the daughter of the late Waitman T. and Geneva (Wimer) Bennett.

Mrs. Lantz attended Circleville High School and West Virginia College of Beauty Culture. She was a member of the North Dry Run United Methodist Church.

She was a homemaker and took pride in raising her family and helping maintain the family farm. She had a passion for cooking and baking, especially her famous, hickory nut cake

with caramel icing.

She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother that shared a love that will forever be cherished by her family.

On Aug. 21, 1948, she married Lewis Hartman "John" Lantz, who preceded her in death on Nov. 27, 1991.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory two daughters, Nancy Sprouse (Donald) of Churchville, Virginia, and Lisa Kisamore (Timothy) of Seneca Rocks; a son, Dudley Lantz (Debbie) of Circleville; seven grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Leo Bennett; and a sister, Virginia Rexrode.

Funeral services were held March 4 in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Mike Lambert officiating. Interment was at North Fork Memorial Cemetery in Riverton.

Memorials may be made to the Circleville Volunteer Fire Department.

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



Loyd Mills, Jr.

Loyd Mills, Jr., 79, of Franklin passed away March 10, 2024, at Mon Health Medical Center in Morgantown.

Mr. Mills was born on Oct. 25, 1944, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of the late Lois (Johnson) and Lloyd Mills, Sr.

He attended Vets High School in Camden, New Jersey, and was a Christian by faith.

He owned and operated Lloyd Mills Engineering Company, where he special-

ized as a machinist, pipe-fitter, and electrician. He particularly enjoyed fishing and clock repair.

He was a veteran of the United States Army.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory three daughters, Jamie Mitchell (Dennis) of Franklin, Rebecca Hoover of New Jersey and Ruth Kittle of Chattanooga, Tennessee; a son, Lloyd Mills III of New Jersey; two sisters, Lois Robert and Jessica Springer; a brother, Charles Mills of New Jersey; 16 grandchildren; a number of great-grandchildren; and his black lab, "Agape."

He was also preceded in death by a grandson, Daniel Mills; and three brothers, Lee, Lawrence and Leonard Mills.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

Memorials may be made to PAWS, c/o Jane Seegar, PO Box 839, Franklin, WV 26807.

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

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Know the Risks of Marijuana

- Marijuana can cause permanent IQ loss of as much as 8 points when people start using it at a young age.
- Studies link marijuana use to depression, anxiety, suicide planning, and psychotic episodes.
- Research shows that marijuana affects timing, movement, and coordination, which can harm athletic performance.
- People who drive under the influence of marijuana can experience dangerous effects: slower reactions, lane weaving, decreased coordination, and difficulty reacting to signals and sounds on the road.
- Marijuana use during pregnancy may cause fetal stillbirth, and problems with brain development, resulting in hyperactivity and poor cognitive function. THC and other chemicals from marijuana can also be passed from a mother to her baby through breast milk, impacting a child's healthy development.
- Using marijuana can affect performance and how well people do in life. Research shows that people who use marijuana are more likely to have relationship problems, worse educational outcomes, lower career achievement, and reduced life satisfaction.

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Three Pendleton County students, from left, Dylan Eye, Harley Bowers and Marion Williams, competed in the West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair held March 4 in Charleston.

Eye and Williams Place in State Science Fair

Two Pendleton County students earned placings at the West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair March 4 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center.

Dylan Eye, an eighth-grade student at Pendleton County Middle School, placed second in Division II, Material Science with his project, "Are You a Bethiever?"

Marion Williams' project, "Taste the Rainbow," took third place in Division I, Behavioral and Social Science. She is a fifth grader at Franklin Elementary School.

Pendleton County was also represented by Harley Bowers, a fourth-grade student at Brandywine Elementary School.

The students earned their spot at the state competition by earning a first place at the regional science fair. They were among

300 other students who presented exhibits in various categories, including chemistry, technology, plant science, engineering and robotics.

The state fair provides opportunities for students to ask questions about their world and to be creative and resourceful as they contemplate problems to eventually solve. Students who participate in science fairs learn problem-solving and critical thinking skills that can be used throughout their lifetime. Scientific methodology, logical thinking, math, statistics and data analysis, as well as reading, writing, grammar, and other skills are utilized as students ask questions, do research and collect data, make conclusions based on evidence and communicate their findings to others.

New Coffee Shop Opens



Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce members joined the family and friends of the owners of Franklin's new coffee shop, Elevated Grounds, on Monday evening.

Adkins Receives Eastern's Nursing Scholarship

On Feb. 27, Jeff Fraley, director of nursing education, Warren Kessel, and Ken Bransky, representatives from 40 & 8 Hardy County Voiture 1623, presented four \$500 checks from their nursing scholarship to Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College nursing students. The nursing student recipients were Michelle Adkins of Pendleton County, Jodee Crites of Grant County, Crystal Goodwater of Hampshire County, and Whitney Simon of Hardy County.

"I have been honored to be one of the recipients of the 40 & 8 scholarship recipients the last four semesters. By awarding me this scholarship it has helped lessen the financial burden of me working, alongside going to school and raising two children," said Adkins. "The 40 & 8 scholarship has helped with my education pursuits with the support of their scholarship. I'm so thankful to receive this scholarship one last time and wanted to thank the 40 & 8 group for their generosity over the past two years."

"I am honored and extremely thankful to have been awarded the 40 & 8 scholarship," said Crites, "As a single mom of two little girls, this money will not only help me but also benefit my daughters while I work towards my nursing degree. I hope that they see that through hard work and dedication, they too will be able to make their dreams come true."

Scholarship support is very important for students to make pursuing their education even more affordable, as well as make it easier for those who work while enrolled.

"Being able to receive



Michelle Adkins

this scholarship for each of my four semesters of this program has been an extreme help to my family and me," said Simon. "I am beyond thankful to have the honor of receiving the scholarship for one last time during my nursing school journey at Eastern and can't thank the 40&8 enough for allowing me that opportunity."

"This has been helping nursing students since World War I. That's where the need was established. The soldiers were coming back and there were not enough nurses," said Fraley. "That's when the 40 & 8 stepped up and said, 'You know what, we can help with this.' It's a big-time national program, I mean, it's not just our local 40 & 8, it's 40 & 8 around the nation."

The 40 & 8 was founded in 1920 by American veterans returning from France after World War I. In 1955, they began their support for nursing education. Voiture 1623 of the 40 & 8, based in Moorefield, has been a longtime advocate and supporter of Eastern's nursing students with this scholarship.

"The 40 & 8 was a huge part of this journey. When selected as a recipient of the scholarship I was overjoyed," said Goodwater. "Now that we are approaching the end of this journey

with graduation fast approaching, I am grateful and a little sad this will be the last time these fine gentlemen meet us with our scholarship checks. Their support has made the journey a lot easier. I cannot thank the 40 & 8 enough for believing in me and selecting me as a recipient."

This is the fourth and last time that these students will be awarded this scholarship, as they are graduating soon. They were previously presented with checks in October of 2022, February of 2023, and October of 2023. In support of their nursing scholarship program, members of the 40 & 8 hold several fundraising events each year.

"I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for 40&8's generous scholarship contribution to our students," said Ciara Crites, Eastern nursing faculty. "Your commitment to education and the advancement of healthcare does not go unnoticed. Thank you!"

"Your generous scholarship investment doesn't just fund education; it nurtures the growth of compassionate healers and dedicated caregivers. Your belief in our nursing students is a testament to the impactful journey they are on, and your support ensures that they not only receive knowledge but also carry forward the spirit of empathy and excellence in patient care," said Alicia Van Meter, nursing program director at Eastern.

"Your contribution is a beacon guiding the next generation of healthcare professionals toward brighter and more compassionate futures. Thank you for being a crucial partner in shaping the compassionate heartbeats of our nursing program."

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10 Years Ago
Week of March 13, 2014

SUGAR GROVE

Irish Blessings
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With March 17

St. Patrick: He's the reason it's easy to be green. Some of St. Patrick's life remains a mystery. Patrick was born to a wealthy family near the end of the fourth century. His father was a deacon of the church. When Patrick was 16, he was taken prisoner by Irish raiders attacking his family's British estate. The raiders took the teenager to Ireland, where he spent the next six years working in captivity as a shepherd. It was during this time that he turned to religion and became a devout Christian. Finally, Patrick escaped Ireland, only to return later as a missionary. He incorporated objects familiar to the Irish people into his teachings about the basics of the Christian religion. The shamrock, a small green plant was supposedly used to explain the Christian concept of the Holy Trinity (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit). Thus, the three-leaf shamrock and the color green are very popular items used in St. Patrick's Day celebrations. St. Patrick died on March 17 around 460 A.D. He was later recognized as a Roman Catholic saint. His legacy is celebrated every March 17 by people all over the world.

Interest Spiking
In Back Yard Chickens

Rural areas, many suburbs and even some urban areas are experiencing a huge spike in interest in backyard poultry, and one doesn't have to be a farmer to enjoy the benefits of fresh, "home-grown" eggs. According to Back Yard Chickens.com, three to four hens can supply one to two dozen eggs per week, enough for an average family.

In response to the growing interest in starting and maintaining a backyard poultry flock, Southern States is sponsoring a "Backyard Chickens 101" educational event.

The local events are intended not only for the home flock newbies and wanna-be's, but for experienced poultry raisers and hobby farmers, as well. Programs will include poultry information, seminars on getting started and tips from experienced producers on bird health and safety as well as local regulations.

Visit the website at www.southernstates.com/chick-days for more information.

The company also offers PoultryPal, a free mobile app for iPhone and Android users with information and support for backyard chicken enthusiasts. The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

20 Years Ago
Week of March 11, 2004

Field Is Welcome
Sight for Pilot

A Sweizer 1-38C glider made an emergency landing in John

Heavner's field in Upper Tract on Monday at 11:15 a.m. Piloted by Paul Rehm of Sterling, VA, the glider had taken off from Petersburg airport at 9:00 that morning.

Rehm had taken the glider to a height of 20,000 feet when the heavy cloud cover below began to block his path back to the ground and forced him to land. He went into a steep, 1,500-foot-per-minute dive.

After leveling out, he lacked sufficient altitude for a return trip to Petersburg. He circled the Upper Tract area for a time, looking for a good place to land and spied Heavner's plowed field.

He made a clean landing and the glider sustained no damage.

Rehm is an experienced pilot and an outstanding member of the Soaring Society of America. He arranged for a trailer to take the glider back to Petersburg. Rehm noted that unusually high air turbulence here attracts dozens of glider pilots to this area each year to train.

Ingredients
In Spit Tobacco Told

A carcinogen is a substance that causes cancer. Spit tobacco contains 28 known carcinogens. These include formaldehyde, nickel, polonium-210, and nitrosamines. Dip, or moist snuff, has the highest levels of nitrosamines—up to 100 times the level lawfully permitted in regulated products like bacon or beer.

According to the American Cancer Society, spit tobacco users are 50 times more likely than non-users to contract cancers of the cheek, gums and inner surface of the lips.

Here's how spit tobacco causes oral cancer. As tissue cells in these areas divide in an attempt to form a barrier against the tobacco, they are exposed to carcinogenic agents and can become cancerous. Pinpointing how long a spit tobacco user can chew or dip before getting oral cancer is difficult to do since it is impossible to predict when and if cells will become cancerous. Consequently, spit tobacco users risk oral cancer every time they use. Spit tobacco can also cause other types of cancers. Exposure to tobacco juice can induce cancers of the esophagus, larynx, stomach, pancreas, and prostate.

60 Years Ago
Week of March 19, 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.

Command in West
Given to Sherman

Ulysses S. Grant, promoted a week earlier to the command of all Federal armies in the Civil War, made his first important decision in that job 100 years ago this week: he gave his old job—commanding the armies in the West—to

William Tecumseh Sherman.

Grant traveled all the way from Washington back to Nashville, Tenn., to see that this change of command went smoothly, and he ordered Sherman to come from Memphis to Nashville to meet him.

The two soldiers, fast friends now, met each other with a deep understanding that had grown up between them in their service during the war.

Grant explained his plan to his friend. Sherman would take over the army at Chattanooga, facing the Confederate army of Joseph E. Johnston, then quartered in northern Georgia around Dalton.

Grant, himself, would keep his headquarters near, or with the Army of the Potomac in Virginia. Gen. George Gordon Meade commanded that army, but since Grant was his superior and would stay close to Meade, it was obvious that most of that army's movements would be under Grant's commands.

And along the Virginia coast east of Richmond, Gen. Benjamin F. Butler commanded a smaller army.

Grant's plan, as usual, was quite simple and fitted perfectly into his philosophy that you "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."

Grant's enemy was Robert E. Lee in Virginia, and Grant would "get at him" as soon as he could by moving on Richmond. He would use Meade's and Butler's armies. Sherman's enemy was Joseph E. Johnston, and he, Sherman, would "get at him" by moving into Georgia.

As Sherman put it later, Grant "was to go for Lee, and I was to go for Joe Johnston."

But Grant was to call the signals for the whole operation, and it was this central command that was new in the policies shaping up for the Federal military machine.

In addition, the whole Federal military machine was to follow Grant's tactics of all-out-war—of hammering, hammering, hammering, relentlessly and perpetually until victory came.

When it came time for the two men to part, they still had not resolved all matters, and Sherman rode Grant's train northward as they continued talking. Finally, he debarked and headed south again, as Grant rode on to Washington.

Grant now had a half million men under his command, and all were being aimed in a single direction: at the enemy.

Next week: The Red River campaign.

70 Years Ago
Week of March 18, 1954

EDITORIALS

Family Farms ---

We have often heard it said that it is harder to buy a farm in Pendleton County than anywhere else in this section of the

country. One reason that farms are so seldom for sale here is that there seems to be a strong desire to keep the farm in the family and to pass it down from father to son, generation after generation.

A good example of this practice is the Martha Keister farm that Walter Simpson recently acquired. This farm was part of a large homestead that Fredrick Keister settled on in the 1700s. Since that time it has never been out of the Keister family. It has passed down through six generations from Fredrick Keister to John D; to George; to John D; to Elmer; to Martha. And Mr. Simmons says that he probably would never have gotten it if his mother had not been a Keister.

A Helping Hand---

Every day we hear of the distress, need, or adversity of one of our fellow citizens. Sometimes the need is close at home, sometimes it is at a far distant point. No matter where, each of us has an impulse to help—an impulse as old as the human heart.

But as individuals we frequently can do little. No one of us can afford to make a sizeable contribution to every person whose trouble or plight appeals to us. All of us banded together, however, each giving what he can afford, will save lives, restore health, or bring comfort and happiness to many in distress.

Through the American Red Cross each of us may make his contribution easily and efficiently.

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Only the participation of all of us makes that neighborly service possible. Let all of us take advantage of this opportunity to serve our fellow men.

Pendleton County
Native Is 107

Mrs. Susan May, who was born in Pendleton County, 107 years ago last Thursday, says, "When you get married, forsake all others."

That is the advice Mrs. May had for the Cumberland Evening Times who interviewed her last Wednesday on the eve of her 107th birthday at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Julia Lewis, on Williams Road in Cumberland.

All records of her family kept in a Bible were destroyed when their home in Hardy

County burned years ago, but the family attests to Mrs. May being 107.

When interviewed, Mrs. May, who is just slightly hard of hearing, answered that she was born in this county and when she was a young girl her family moved to Moorefield.

Mrs. May listed before this when questioned, the members of her family of 11 brothers and sisters.

When asked, "Were you the youngest of the family?" she pertly answered.

"Well, I'm the last."

Of the Civil War, she said: "Brother Mark was a rebel. He followed a band. One time his band played 'Dixie' in front of our house (in Moorefield)."

"Brother John was a Yankee. He was an officer. Father was too old. He couldn't keep up with them."

(Her father joined the Yankee troops in the Civil War, but due to his age, could not stand the rigors of the field.)

When asked if she saw Civil War battles, she remarked: "No I didn't, but I saw men take the wounded off the battlefield, each side." (both Confederate and Union).

On her main advice to "youngsters," she is firm in her conviction about the marriage ties,—"When you get married, forsake all others."

And Mrs. May doesn't think women should vote.

"I voted the Republican ticket," she said. But she could not remember the president for whom she voted.

However, she said, "I don't see any difference in the presidents."

The children are uppermost in her mind. During the conversation with her a bus stopped outside the house on Williams Road and Mrs. May remarked:

"That's Eileen."

Seconds later in came a child. About 15 minutes passed, and another bus passed the house. Mrs. May said: "That's the Catholic bus."

Sure enough, it was the St. Mary's School bus going out Williams Road.

Two years ago, Mrs. May underwent an appendectomy at the age of 105 and recovered remarkably, although she hasn't felt quite as good as she did, previously to the operation.

Her doctor has had her on a diet for the past five years, with her food consisting mainly of eggs, milk and toast.

For the past two weeks, Mrs. May has been ill and hasn't been able to eat her regular quantities of food, making her a little weak.

However, she can sit up and walk a little. Prior to two weeks ago, she was able to get around fairly well.

Besides the Lewis family looking after her are Mrs. May Weese and her child, Millie Ann, who live in an upstairs apartment.

Mrs. May, while she is not feeling up to par, still maintains a keen outlook on life despite the fact she is 107 years old.

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Smith Creek/
Friends Run
by Dave Ellis

Make sure to wear green on Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, or a person might get pinched. Two days later is the first day of spring. Don't get one's hopes up as Mother Nature can still wreak havoc of cold temperatures.

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 Maury, 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: "Heavenly Father, thank you that you call me your child and provide tender care when I run to you."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for March 4 through March 10, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: March 4 - 66°, 36° (46°, 34°, .01°); March 5 - 65°, 45° (57°, 24°); March 6 - 58°, 46°, .09° (61°, 25°); March 7 - 61°, 43°, .03° (49°, 35°); March 8 - 60°, 39° (47°, 23°); March 9 - 52°, 38°, 1.17" (56°, 21°) and March 10 - 37°, 28°, .25" snow (43°, 35°, .15").

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March Offers an Unpredictable Weather Pattern

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

March has shown some fickle ways. Sunday, he swept through the hills, all blow and bluster, bringing very unsettled and colder conditions, including snow. School was on a two-hour delay on Monday. Fickle and unpredictable, he is a big bluff. He storms and rains, snows and blows; and then the sun comes out and shines upon a greening world. When the winds blow, he is drying up the mud that winter left behind. When the mud dries up...one can ride the bicycle, lettuce can be sown, fishing poles grabbed, yards raked, windows washed, curtains laundered, and spring cleaning started.

March brings in Daylight Savings Time, St. Patrick's Day, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Multiple Personality Day, Middle Name Pride Day, Ear Muff Day, Incredible Kid Day, National Goof Off Day, and National Clam on the Half Shell Day. Time to slow down and smell the daffodils and fresh air!

There are some great blessings to impart in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back."

"For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way: Good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day."

"May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light, may good luck pursue you each morning and night."

"May luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you."

"May your trouble be less. And your blessings be more. And nothing but happiness come through your door."

The writer wishes all her readers "A Happy St. Patrick's Day."

Life's little instructions to guide one include the following:

1. Become the most positive and enthusiastic person.
2. Turn off lights when leaving a room.
3. Take off shoes when visiting someone's home.
4. Return shopping carts.
5. Don't expect life to be fair.

Saturday was such a gloomy day, bringing at least a half inch of rain. Sunday was quite different. Temperatures really plummeted with a very cold accompanying that. Snow showers brought the reader to recall that it is March with its fickle weather!

Quotes for the week are as follows:
"I have one life and one chance to make it count for something....My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can, with whatever I have, to try to make a difference."
— President Jimmy Carter

"The regret of my life is that I have not said



Students attending the Propst School around 1916 were, from left, sitting, Dan Propst and Arthur Hahn, teacher; middle row, Irene Tusing Bowers, Ralph Cook, Clona Pitsenbarger Kiser, Beula Propst Mitchell, Essie Propst Snyder, Irma Snyder Simmons, Jennie Propst Fleisher, Julian Pitsenbarger Hoover and Eva Rader Simmons; and back row, Sudie Propst Rexrode, Glenn Mitchell, Ida Rader Mitchell, Ed Rader, Verna Pitsenbarger Mitchell, Albert Mitchell, Florence Rader, and Victor Halterman. The photo is courtesy of Jesse C. Propst.

"I LOVE YOU" often enough." — Yoko Ono

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" — Martin Luther King, Jr.

"There has never yet been an uninteresting life." — Mark Twain

"I've always believed that the most important people on the planet are the ones who plant the seeds and care for the soil where they grow." — Willie Nelson

Listen to what's going on at "The Grove." Phil Downs visited with K. D. Puffenbarger this past week. He also visited with Pat and Bobby Bodkin.

The first week of the Maple Festival brought folks out; however, the weather was quite nasty. Perhaps the next weekend will prove to be better.

The children in the neighborhood have been busy. Saturday and Sunday was the ball tournament held at the high school, with a beauty pageant and the Winter Formal following on the heels. It is hard to believe that March is halfway over, even though the time change was readily received, bringing in longer evening hours.

A surprise birthday party was held in honor of Rev. Paul Schafer at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday afternoon. A sizeable crowd from the five-point Lutheran parish enjoyed the catered foods served by Dwayne and Karen Propst and the fellowship. To add finality, a blast of snow flurries brought beauty to the scene.

"Pidge" and Charles Anderson attended her brother, Alvin Pratt's, surprise 70th birthday party at the Ruritan building. The Spencer Hatcher group sang for the occasion which everyone enjoyed.

Mike and Robin DelBiondo of Waynesboro, Virginia, and Ed Rader of Davis were visitors in the home of Willard and Judy Rader.

Quilting for World Relief has come to an end. Each Wednesday morning, knotters

arrived at the St. John Lutheran Church's basement to help bring this to fruition. Boxes have been packed with the 200 quilts that are being sent to assist those experiencing disasters. Many thanks to all the helping hands!

The West Virginia Department of Education hosted nearly 300 students at the 2024 West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center on March the 4th. Besides Marion Williams who was mentioned in last week's column, Dylan Eye (son of Erin and Mike Eye), and Harley Bowers (daughter of Jessica and Stuart Bowers) represented Pendleton County. Congratulations!

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

- One in 500 humans has one blue eye and one brown eye.
- The can opener was invented 48 years after the can was.
- No matter how cold it gets, gasoline won't freeze.
- In 1789, the total U.S. Federal government debt was \$190,000.
- Cleopatra wasn't Egyptian; she was Greek.

Rhonda Nash had a good and busy weekend at the Highland County Maple Festival selling candles. She and Helen also enjoyed a visit from Todd and Cathy Nash of Rhoadesville, Virginia, and Myah Hidalgo and Vadim Barnakov of Richmond, Virginia.

To continue with the March birthdays: Julie Smith, 16th; Gernon Hoover, 17th; Allison Hoover and Jaiden Mitts, 18th; Allen Moats, Virginia Bates

and Jean Thompson, 19th; Jennifer Hoover, Sharon Harr, Robbie Sites, Cindy Wilkins and David Marsh, 21st; Ken Roberts, Shirley Pratt and Mike Eye, 22nd; Isaac Sponaugle, 24th; Debbie Cayton, 25th; Krista Walls, 26th; Patty Harper, 27th; Andrew Kiser, 29th; Rudy Mitts, 30th; and Gene Boggs and Doyle Moats, Jr., 31st.

Concerns for this week are many. They are as follows: Bob Adamson, Rick Adkins, John Ashley, Roger and Joan Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Lynn Beatty, "Bo" Boggs, Jane Conrad, Marie Cole, Norma Propst Cunningham, Harold Cupp, Christian Dasher, Isaac Eye, Linda Eye, Marie Eye, Mary Eye, Neal Eye, Loralee Gordon, Lola Graham, Jordan Greathouse, Patsy Green, Rosalee Grogg, JC Hammer, Marlene Harman, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armand Heavner, Grace Hedrick, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Virgil Homan, Jr., Adelbert Hoover, Keith Hoover, Myrtle Hoover, Debbie and Enos Horster, the family of Charlene Simmons Hubbard, 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, Marsha 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 Riggleman, 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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Wildcats End Solid Season In Regional Finals Against Dominant Cougar Team



Zykijah Wright prepares to challenge an East Hardy defender as Henry Warner looks on.

By Stephen Smoot

This season, the Pendleton County High School basketball squad started out trying to get to know its identity. During the course of the season, they grew in skill and confidence. By the end of the year, the Wildcats defeated teams easily that had provided problems earlier in the season.

The road ended against East Hardy, a team with only three losses on the year, two to the titanic team from Tucker.

Pendleton County controlled the tip, but East Hardy hit the first of many three-point shots only 35 seconds into the game. The Cougars opened in a man to man, which Chase Owens exploited for a baseline drive and a layup at the 6:55 mark.

East Hardy hit a layup with six minutes left in the first, but Dusty Smith laid a shot in to close the lead to 7-5. Cashton Kisamore shortly after that rejected a Cougar shot. Then with only three minutes remaining, Josiah Kimble found Owens on the outside. He buried another three to pull his team to within two.

An East Hardy surge, however, put them up 16-9 at the end of the quarter, despite good defense from the Wildcats, especially Zykijah Wright who blocked a shot.

Defense early in the second brought the Wildcats back. Bradey Bowers forced a turnover by tying up the ball. At the 4:57 shot, a timely three by Kimble put Pendleton County up 17-16. East Hardy tied it with a free throw, but a give and go play with Henry Warner and Jaydon Hess put the Wildcats up 18-17.

East Hardy, however, went on a nine to three run to close the half.

The Wildcats brought tremendous effort into the second half, but the Cougars put their game in another gear. They executed their offense well and hit big shots over and over. Their experience and athleticism took a toll and they gradually extended their lead over the course of the third quarter.

East Hardy's defense also tightened considerably, choking off Pendleton County offensive opportunities. By the end, East Hardy advanced to the state tournament with a 65-39 win.

Nevertheless, after losing two key seniors last year, the underclassmen stepped up in 2023-24, more than anyone could have expected. They complemented well the juniors and seniors on the floor, showing their potential and supporting the team's goal of improving every game.

They are primed to be a power going into next season.

Decades of Service to Area Basketball Coming to a Close for O'Neil

By Stephen Smoot

They are not the ones that fans pay to see. Their job, ideally, is to remain invisible. Few ever notice them or say anything unless they have some negative commentary to share.

But for sports officials like Sonny O'Neil, they do the job not for the money, but for the passion of being an essential part of the sport.

His love of sports started as a player who spent time on the courts as a youth, then later with independent basketball. As he grew older and had children of his own, O'Neil moved to coaching youth basketball.

"I coached my son for three years," he said, "fourth through sixth grade elementary school basketball."

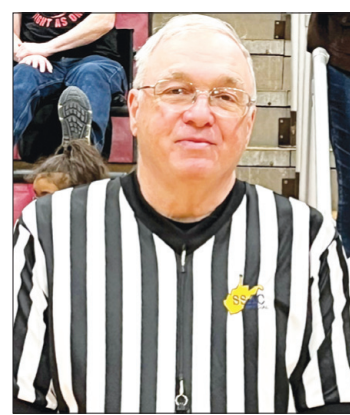
He had a front row seat to the officiating, which was mixed in quality. Sometimes, he said, "I was so ashamed or how poor the officiating was." Once he decided to let an official know his opinion of the performance. The official shot back that "if you think you can do it so much better, you can do it."

Challenge was accepted – for more than three decades.

Over the years, the game has evolved "into a lot faster paced game." The emphasis moved in many areas from execution to athleticism, as well as accepting innovations like the controversial Eurostep move.

"That was a walk when I first started," he remembered. In a Eurostep, a player halts his or her dribble, takes one step one direction to get the defender moving, then side-steps the other direction.

"It was a walk when I first



Sonny O'Neil

started," O'Neil said, adding that "I think it came down from the college level. Everything we get in sports comes from the college level."

For O'Neil, the best memories and aspects of the job come from the relationships formed over time. "You get to talk to the kids," he shared, adding that "you see them from elementary school through when they graduate from high school. And now, I am refereeing their kids."

A long period of excellence and relationship building leads to professional respect in a field not known for it. O'Neil remembered a tight game on the road against a powerful rival. On that evening, the boys from Pendleton County pulled out a close win. A couple of the other team's most devoted supporters made a point to thank O'Neil for a game fairly officiated.

Another important part of the position involves the relationships built with professional peers. In the Potomac Highlands, officials have to travel together for long trips to get to their games. During drives that can take over an hour, friendships form and memories get made.

Some area officials and O'Neil have over a quarter of

a century of working together. He described his respect for Orville Harper who has worked games for more than half a century.

O'Neil also officiated baseball, softball, and volleyball. Of all those sports, he will continue working volleyball games. He decided to retire because covering all of those sports keeps him running all year long. For the farmer and school board member, all the travel and games "got to be a little too much."

He remembered a time on the campaign trail, giving a political speech. Both he and Steve Conrad were running for the Pendleton County Board of Education. O'Neil made a statement about having time for the responsibilities while officiating and also working at Hinkle Trucking.

"Sonny, when do you have spare time?" Conrad asked in amazement.

For the love of the game and making the experience of it as positive as possible for all, O'Neil made the time.

PCMS Wildcat Softball Schedule

March 19	Philippi	6:00 (A)
26	Tygarts Valley	6:00 (H)
30	Central	
	Preston	1:00 (H)
April 3	Petersburg	6:00 (H)
5	Greenbrier West	
	(DH)	5:00 (A)
6	Central	
	Preston	1:00 (A)
11	Petersburg	6:00 (A)
13	Barrackville	
	(DH)	12:00 (H)
16	Tygarts Valley	6:00 (A)
19	Philippi	6:00 (H)

PCMS Wildcat Baseball Schedule

March 22	Tucker Valley	5:00 (A)
26	Tygarts Valley	4:30 (A)
28	Tucker Valley	5:00 (H)
30	West Preston	
	(DH)	1:00 (H)
April 2	Petersburg	5:30 (A)
4	Elkins	7:30 (A)
6	Philippi (DH)	1:00 (A)
10	Tygarts Valley	6:00 (H)
13	Lincoln (DH)	1:00 (H)
16	Petersburg	5:30 (H)
20	Buckhannon-	
	Upshur (DH)	2:00 (H)
22	Elkins	4:00 (H)
24	Petersburg	5:30 (A)
27	Terra Alta - East	
	Preston (DH)	1:00 (H)
May 2	Petersburg	5:30 (H)

PCHS Wildcat Softball Schedule

March 16	East Hardy	6:00 (H)
18	Tygarts Valley	6:00 (H)
19	Keyser	6:00 (A)
20	Richwood	5:30 (A)
23	Spring Mills	
	(DH)	1:00 (A)
26	Tucker Co.	6:00 (A)
27	Moorefield	6:00 (A)
28	Greenbrier	
	West	6:00 (H)
29/30	Hedgesville	TBA (A)
April 3	Frankfort	
	(DH)	5:00 (A)
4	Greenbrier	
	West	6:00 (A)
6	Hampshire	
	(DH)	11:00 (A)
8	Pocahontas Co.	6:00 (H)
10	Petersburg	6:00 (A)
11	Richwood	6:00 (H)
12/13	Moorefield	TBA (A)
15	Tygarts Valley	6:00 (A)
17	East Hardy	6:00 (A)
18	Moorefield	6:00 (H)
20	Pocahontas	
	Co. (DH)	2:00 (A)
24	Petersburg	6:00 (H)
25	Tucker Co.	6:00 (H)

PCHS Wildcat Baseball Schedule

March 16	Petersburg	TBA (A)
20	Tygarts Valley	4:30 (H)
21	Bath County	4:30 (H)
23	Spring Mills	
	(DH)	1:00 (A)
26	Pocahontas Co.	5:00 (H)
27	Tucker Co.	5:00 (H)
29/30	Elkins	
	(Tournament)	TBA (A)
April 1	Paw Paw	4:00 (A)
2	Musselman	4:00 (H)
4	Elkins	5:00 (A)
6	Legends Tourney	
	@Petersburg	TBA (A)
9	Moorefield	6:00 (A)
10	Tygarts Valley	6:00 (A)
12/13	McDonald's Classic	
	@Bridgeport	TBA (A)
16	Tucker Co.	5:00 (A)
17	Bath County	5:00 (A)
19	East Hardy	6:00 (H)
20	South Harrison	
	(DH)	1:00 (A)
22	Elkins	6:30 (H)
25	East Hardy	6:00 (A)
26	Paw Paw	6:00 (H)
27	Moorefield	11:00 (H)
30	Pocahontas Co.	6:00 (H)
May 1	Petersburg	6:00 (H)
3	Jefferson	4:00 (A)
	@Cumberland	MD

AWP Collapse

Continued From Page 1

now scramble for work.

In 2008, AWP started the process of obtaining an "incidental taking permit" from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This permit required the creating of a "habitat conservation plan," or HCP, as one of four steps to obtaining a waiver to operate in the region, which by then was said to have seven endangered species living within.

The next year, AWP sold 55,000 acres of lands, some of which may be in Pendleton County, to The Forestland Group LLC. Most of these acres were in the Cheat Canyon area of Preston County. AWP did not sell their holdings near Blackwater Canyon.

AWP in its suit claimed that the USFWS "rejected its application as statutorily incomplete after the application remained in a 'perpetual administrative limbo' for sixteen years."

Additionally, AWP alleged that "it submitted multiple drafts of the HCP to the Service over the years, but that the agency was overall unresponsive or delayed in providing feedback and comments."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife contended that AWP remained resistant to the process and failed to act on its suggestions to make the HCP "legally defensible." It furthermore stated that AWP "did not provide sufficient information on the covered activities for the Service to fulfill its responsibility to adequately assess the impacts to the covered species – an issue the Service has previously identified to AWP in prior drafts."

Thomas Kleeh, chief judge of the Northern District of West Virginia, found for the defendant in the case, which was USFWS. His opinion stated that AWP's "complaint and amended complaints are dismissed with prejudice."

His ruling came two weeks before the company's closure later in the month.

AWP was hit with another environmentalist protest against a proposed logging fumigation center near Baker in Hardy County. AWP had received a permit from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to release 10 tons of a substance called methyl bromide per year as part of the process.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency allows that the substance dissipates quickly upon release, but such assurances did not quiet opposition from residents, elected officials, and other parts of local government.

Use of the substance requires adherence to strict federal regulations.

Fumigation kills possible biological contaminants in logs before they are exported overseas, an essential part of the former company's market. AWP withdrew the request in May of 2023 in the knowledge that, should they have wished to construct the plant elsewhere in the state, they would have to start the permitting process over again.

Thomas Plaughter, vice president of operations for the former AWP, provided a written statement last year when the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee held a hearing at AWP's Petersburg facility.

He stated that "in late 2021, demand for our products returned. We improved and restarted one of the mills that we had closed in 2019. We have a plan in motion for improvements to be completed and the second mill to be re-started in mid-2023."

Plaughter added that workforce availability issues, widely believed to have been caused in part by too many stimulus checks issued during COVID, hampered AWP's rebound. They also forced the shuttering of a number of contractors in the industry that had operated in a support role.

After Joe Biden assumed the presidency, he shut down key infrastructure and oil leases, causing the price of gasoline to leap tremendously over the historic lows of the Donald Trump presidency. This forced companies to charge higher prices or adjust their level of service.

The U.S. House Ways and Means Committee said in 2022 that "skyrocketing gas prices will now cost the average American household an extra \$2,800 per year. Just this year, families will spend \$5,000 on gas, a 78 percent increase from a year ago."

Plaughter shared that "increased diesel fuel and oil cost hamper our industry at every link in the chain. From the logging and trucking contractors to the forklifts and loaders we operate, to the cost to ship our finished products. Every aspect of manufacturing is hampered by this."

Also, overall, Plaughter shared that "regulatory agencies have ramped up attempts to come out with new initiatives and requirements that hamper permitting and place more burdens on small business at every turn."

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Pendleton County Grand Jury Indictments

Continued From Page 1

count states that Windett “did unlawfully, knowingly, and feloniously use a computer to solicit, entice, seduce, or lure . . . a juvenile . . . to commit an illegal act . . . to transmit to him a visual portrayal . . . (of) sexually explicit conduct, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The second count alleged that Windett “did unlawfully, feloniously, knowingly, and willfully possess or electronically access with intent to view more than fifty (50) but fewer than six hundred (600) images visually portraying a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

In the third count, the grand jury stated that Windett “did unlawfully, feloniously, knowingly, and willfully, send or distribute more than fifty (50) but fewer than six hundred (600) images visually portraying a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, against the dignity and peace of the State of West Virginia.”

The grand jury issued two indictments against Zachary Edward Mongold. The first of these states that Mongold “did feloniously, willfully, maliciously, and with premeditation, deliberately, and unlawfully slay, kill, and murder Raymond Auville, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

In the second count, the grand jury alleges that Mongold “did unlawfully, feloniously, willfully, and maliciously set fire to . . . the outbuilding belonging to Bill Warshauer, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The grand jury issued a single felony indictment against Thomas Allen Dumire, alleging that he “was ordered to pay child support for (a) minor child . . . and has been delinquent in the payment of said child support . . . and has accrued an arrearage in excess of \$35,000, and said balance remains unpaid, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The grand jury issued three counts against Quinton Eugene Harper, alleging that he “did unlawfully, and feloniously, and wantonly perform an act with a firearm which created a substantial risk of death or bodily injury . . . against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The second count carries the same allegation, but against a different individual.

The third count alleges that Harper “did unlawfully destroy, injure, or deface property . . . that was not his own . . . against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The grand jury issued 25 counts against Wesley Alin Kidwell. The first of which alleges that he “did unlawfully and feloniously possess with intent to deliver a controlled substance, to wit; Methamphetamine, a schedule II narcotic drug, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The second count alleges that Kidwell “did unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously, conspire with Ashley Vandevander . . . to commit the offense of Possession With Intent to Deliver

a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) . . . against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The third count alleges that Kidwell “did unlawfully and feloniously forge a West Virginia Registration Sticker, purporting it to have been issued by the department, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The fourth and fifth count allege the same offense as the third.

The sixth through 13th counts allege that Kidwell “did unlawfully and knowingly make, issue, or knowingly use an imitation or counterfeit of an official certificate of inspection, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The remainder of the counts, 14 through 25, allege that Kidwell “did unlawfully possess a firearm, being a person prohibited from possession of a firearm by virtue of being an unlawful user of, or habitually addicted to, a controlled substance, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The Pendleton County Grand Jury issued 25 indictments against Ashley Vandevander. The first of which alleges that she “did unlawfully and feloniously possess with intent to deliver a controlled substance, to wit; Methamphetamine, a schedule II narcotic drug, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The second count alleges that Vandevander “did unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously, conspire with Wesley Alin Kidwell. . . to commit the offense of Possession With Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) . . . against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The third through fifth counts allege that Vandevander “did unlawfully and feloniously forge a West Virginia Registration Sticker, purporting it to have been issued by the department, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The sixth through 13th counts allege that Vandevander “did unlawfully and knowingly make, issue, or knowingly use an imitation or counterfeit of an official certificate of inspection, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

The remainder of the counts, 14 through 25, allege that Vandevander “did unlawfully possess a firearm, being a person prohibited from possession of a firearm by virtue of being an unlawful user of, or habitually addicted to, a controlled substance, against the peace and dignity of the State of West Virginia.”

Board of Education

Continued From Page 1

among all involved in trying to bring the best educational experience to each child.

Moore explained how the school worked to set and reach academic goals. They chose to try to hit a threshold where 50 percent of the students did 50 percent or better on the STAR assessment. At the start of the year, 42 percent scored 50 or better, but by the end of the semester, that number had jumped to 52 percent.

The school also focused on fostering a welcoming culture so that every student felt that someone appreciated them coming every day.

She shared a wish list, saying that the teachers wanted the telephone system restored to the class and that the school could be cheered up with a little landscaping. More secure doors were also requested.

Moore explained how the school library relied on extraordinary volunteers, such as Carol Vandevander, but discussed the need for a trained and experienced professional.

The final request was to receive at least a part time librarian.

After the FES presentation, the board opened its regular meeting. J. D. Wilkins, board president, provided the invocation and said, “We ask that You will be with the boys tonight,” referring to the regional basketball game at 7 that evening.

J. P. Mowery provided the treasurer’s report, saying, “another solid month of receipts.” A number of federal reimbursements and grants arrived to boost the school system’s cash flow. Normally in a time of low tax payments, cash flow becomes tight for a school system. As of March 5, the school system had a balance of more than \$2.1 million with a minimum of \$1.5 million needed to carry over into the next school year. Mowery indicated there would be no problem there.

Travis Heavner provided a facilities update, spending most of his time on conditions at FES.

“We did have some issues at FES,” he shared, going on to say that he had requested that the School Building Authority send engineers to look at the effects of structural settling. Though there are some cracks and other problems, “we got a pretty good report,” he said.

“We can fix these pretty easily. The SBA is pretty happy,” Heavner commented.

Carrie Nesselrodt then provided an update on chronic absences through the system. She stated that improvement “has been pretty good, except for a few hiccups.”

Special Thanks

Your generosity and kindness have touched our hearts. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone that sent prayers, food, flowers, phone calls and all other acts of kindness.

A special thanks to David and Neil Basagic, Lori Huffman, Pastor Mike Lambert for the lovely service, pallbearers and Circleville Fire Department.

The Irene Lantz Family

Birthday Card Shower



Birthday Wishes

Patty Harper

March 27

Send cards to

616 North Bath Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority is accepting bids for the making of hay at •Pendleton County Industrial Park Upper Tract

Sealed bids will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024. Sealed bids shall be delivered to the SRRDA, Attn: Sherry Mongold, PO Box 602, Franklin, WV 26807 or the SRRDA office located at 47 Maple Avenue, Franklin.

The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority has the right to reject any or all bids. EOE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority is accepting bids for mowing and trimming grass at •Pendleton County Industrial Park Shell #1 Upper Tract

(Bidder must provide the mower, trimmer and gas.)

Sealed bids will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024. Sealed bids shall be delivered to the SRRDA, Attn: Sherry Mongold, PO Box 602, Franklin, WV 26807 or the SRRDA office located at 47 Maple Avenue, Franklin.

The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority has the right to reject any or all bids. EOE

North River Ruritan Club 44th ANNUAL

EQUIPMENT AUCTION Saturday, March 23•10 a.m.

Sangerville Towers Ruritan Grounds 38 Emmanuel Church Rd., Mt. Solon, VA 22843

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS:

John Deere 4100 4WD Tractor with 410 loader, 420 hours, diesel and 54" belly mower; B7800 Kubota tractor w/ 5' belly mower, 1540 hrs; Case IH bale processor; 1993 International Truck w/ USA Silage bed, 2001 Honda 400 Foreman 4x4 4 wheeler, great condition; 250 gallon PTO poultry house pressure washer on trailer, 2 100' hoses, 360degree wand; Niemeyer 6 basket tedder; Zimmerman 8' inline tedder; Cunningham 7' Hay Conditioner; 256 NH bar rake; NH twin rower frame; Gehl 125 grinder mixer, 1 owner, hammers never turned; 8x16 wells Cargo enclosed trailer; Vermeer FW2500 Bale Wrapper; Valby Grapple for mini or loader; Ritchie cattle waterers; Mirafount cattle waterers, new; 30 ton Brock feed bin w/ flex auger; 6 ton brock feed bin w/ flex auger; 3 ton Brock feed bin; 5 x 10 trailer, 3500 lb single axle; McCulloch backpack leaf blower; 3-point hitch 15" potato plow; 5 foot wide 6 shank cultivator; 3-point Bush Hog tiller RTC 48; 1 ton chain hoist; 2100 PSI 6HP pressure washer; kerosene Reddy Heater; JD Z425 23HP zero turn mower; JD Sabre mower with grass catcher, 285 hours; 30 x 48 dump lawn cart, 32 inch Agrifab lawn sweeper; Troy Built Self-propelled push mower; 8 horse power, Troy Built Horse Tiller with electric start; Craftsman generator, 3000 watt; Poulan chain saw, 2025, 14 inch bar; Chicago portable generator, 800 watt, new in box; 2005 Ford Taurus, 50,000 miles; New Holland 275 square baler w/ kicker; Ford 530 sq. baler w/ kicker; Kicker wagon; kicker wagon, wood; 4 post cattle mineral feeder; utility trailer; Vicon PF04 fertilizer spreader, gravity wagon; 1000 gal. tank w/ motor & pump on tri axle trailer; 3 point post hole augers with bits, JD 10 shank chisel plow; JD 4 bottom plow; JD 4 bottom middle buster plow; (3) 100gal water tanks, S.S. 3 compartment Sink; 8' slide in cattle rack; IH 100 ground driven manure spreader, 3 point hitch fertilizer/seed spreader, JD quick attach pallet forks.

Low Commission/Ribeye Steak Sandwiches

Please visit North River Ruritan Club Mt. Solon Facebook page for pictures of items.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

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Sat. March 23•10:00am

Ottobine Area

Butchering Equipment

Directions: 8353 Spring Creek Rd. Bridgewater, VA 22812 42 S end of Bridgewater, 4 Miles to the T. Turn right on 613 Spring Creek Rd. 3 miles left on George Wine Rd. 200 yards on right.

BUTCHERING EQUIPMENT: (5) Butchering kettles, 40gal. kettle with stands, (1) 30gal. (1) 20gal. (1) kettle stove, (3) kettle stands, (1) 50gal. copper kettle w/stand, *30gal. cast iron lard press*, (4) apple butter stirrers, butcher block tables, various sinks, (2) 4'x8' S.S. table tops w/frame, 3'x7' scalding tub S.S., 7'x6' cleaning table, 1000lb. platform scales w/ weights, various storage cabinets, 1 gal. lard press, handheld electric meat saw 16" blade lg., large Globe meat grinder, up-right hand saw "meat prc", 34 Hobart grinder food processor, various hand meat saws, hand tools assorted (butchering), hand saws, lots knives, stirring tools, containers, metal and plastic tubs, large metal pots. **EQUIP:** Massey Ferguson 4WD Diesel compact tractor (like new), GC 2300 Hydrostat dr. 110 hours, 4' 2350 front end loader/4' 3pt rear blade, 3pt PTO rear tiller, 4' Taylorway 962 width: belly deck mower, (2) push mowers, EZ-Go golf cart w/charger, all new batteries 2022, air compressor 3 gal. Pro Air II, Coleman gas generator 4000 watts, 6.0 2200 PSI power washer, chain hoist, elec. hoist, grinder, roller track w/hanger and rollers, pickup truck racks, elec. hand tools, ¼ hp squirrel cage blower, large paper dispenser 36" w/cutter bar, **MISC:** hand tools, shelving, storage (metal shelf), small fridge—Sanyo dorm size 32"x18" works, Fridge for storage, trash cans, (5) 12" metal gates, (1) 46" metal gate, (2) pop up tents, milk can, (2) industrial can openers, hot/cold food containers, large drink coolers, plastic tubs & containers, cloth mat/string, Singer pedal sewing machine antique, Barbie boxes-dream boat, townhouse, Burner Thermos gas grill (new), electric hospital bed, wooden bed, rug weaving loom, and many more items too numerous to mention.

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VA# 2367 for info 540-435-0020 and facebook/thesoundthatsells
thesoundthatsells@gmail.com Auction for owner Nancy Harmon

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
Regular Sale - 2 p.m.
Graded Sale
To Follow

(take up begins at 6 a.m.)
HAULING IS AVAILABLE!

Regular sales scheduled for first and third Wednesday each month.

Sale details/consignment highlights on Facebook.
Contact Barry Wilkins 540-607-6032
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PENDLETON COUNTY SCHOOLS is now hiring Substitute Bus Drivers

Paid Training Provided
Pendleton County Schools will compensate applicants for completing the required 72 hours of mandatory Substitute Bus Operator Training at the following rates:

- \$25 per hour, for 72 hours, if training is completed in 8 weeks.
- \$20 per hour, for 72 hours, if training is completed in 9 weeks.
- \$15 per hour, for 72 hours, if training is completed in 10 weeks.
- \$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
Telephone: 304-358-2207, x9322
Email: nhevener@k12.wv.us

PCMS Cheerleaders

Continued From Page 1

able to accomplish high school-level difficulty in stunting, which is level five.”

The coach gave credit to Raymonds Gymnastics Center, whose assistance made the team “able to score very well on the tumbling portion.”

Miller also said, “The judges complimented them on both their tumbling and stunting ability.” She emphasized the dedication of the team, saying “you put the work in day in and day out, but at the end of the day, these young ladies are the ones on the mat and all the coach can do is sit on the sidelines.”

She said that a few miscues during warmups caused concern, but the team “hit all their stunts and their tumbling when it mattered the most.”

Unlike other sports where fans know the outcome as soon as play ends, “it takes a while to total up all the scores and some-

times the wait time seems like an eternity, which adds to the nerves of the entire day.”

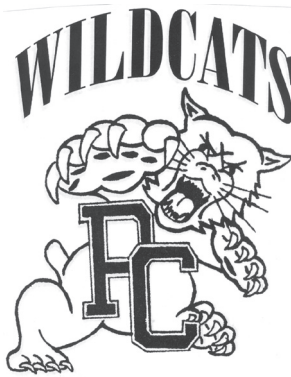
“When they realized they won,” Miller explained, “there were lots and lots of happy tears from all of us, knowing that all their hard work paid off for them!”

Additionally, Victoria Chan and Candace McQuain earned All PVL honors and Pendleton County Middle School received the honor of winning the Spirit Stick. This award goes to the squad voted for by competing schools, indicating which team earned the respect of others.

Unlike varsity sports that last about three months, cheer season extends from August to March. That includes their own competitions, plus supporting their classmates on the field or the court.

Miller expressed appreciation to “everyone for their support of these amazing young ladies. Their future is incredibly bright and I am honored to get to be a part of something so special.”

“I was blessed with some amazing coaches during my cheer career at PCMS and I want to pass that along to these young athletes!” Miller concluded.



County Commission Hears Six Month Update from New Library Director

By Stephen Smoot

The Pendleton County Commission met last week and worked on a light agenda that centered around the county library and the 911 service.

Commissioner Roger Dahmer opened the meeting with the customary invocation, asking to “guide our words, our thoughts, and our actions.”

Karen Pitsenbarger, county administrator, gave a report on the installing of new security measures at the Pendleton County Courthouse. A metal detector has arrived in the courthouse for the Walnut Street entrance. This will eventually be the sole point of entry into the courthouse.

Pitsenbarger stated that the remaining entry points will need doors that lock, but are also fitted with a “panic device” that would allow use in case of emergency. She said that “it will be at least a week or two to get the new doors in.”

Next the commission recognized Walt Johnson, executive director of the Pendleton County Library.

“I do want to thank you gentlemen for the opportunity to come here,” Johnson began.

He came to provide a six month update on the job done since he took the position, which included explaining his philosophy of what a library represents in the modern age, and sharing some of the library’s plans moving forward.

Johnson described “two fundamental facets” of any library’s mission, which are “foundational and aspirational.” Foundational, he said, refers to “brick and mortar stuff,” such as the building, the collections, and other tangible materials that make up, or are used by, the library.

Foundational services, Johnson explained, allow access to collections and also “technology folks might not have at home,” such as document printing, scanning, copying, and other “baseline services the library has to provide.”

Johnson shared that he used the word “aspirational” to represent “the spirit of the library,” especially since as time has passed “the library mission has broadened out.” It has, in the past generation or two, evolved into “an advocate for human intellect, the very spark of human creativity,” and a place that serves as a catalyst for “the desire people have to be more than who they are.”

Limited resources, however, mean that a library must wisely strike a balance between the two roles that serve each as effectively as possible.

Johnson emphasized that “we don’t want to take anything away that we’re already doing well,” explaining that he

wanted to build on the success of the past, not change it. Then he asked a rhetorical question of “how do we get to where we need to be?”

Johnson’s answer lay in combining strategic and tactical style approaches. Strategic thinking centers on the long term questions, such as “what do we want the library to be in 10 years?” Tactical planning “is very much the step by step work in concert with the strategic vision.” He shared that tactical planning and work looks at the short term, no more than one or two years.

Moving forward in the near term, Johnson announced a “much more robust summer reading program” as a springboard to increased numbers and differences in programming. His goal lies in having one adult and one children’s oriented program per month.

He added that he also hopes to someday see “everybody checking the library schedule regularly to make sure they don’t miss something cool.” Johnson then thanked commissioners for the support given in the past and requested that it be maintained.

Next, Diana Mitchell, director of Pendleton County 911, gave commissioners a request for a new road name. The road, which after the commission’s approval will don the moniker “Hoot ‘N Holler Lane,” will connect a small series of cabins in the North Fork area.

Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president, wryly noted that “a former deputy asked for that.”

Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator, next provided an update on efforts to fill out the county’s roster of 911 telecommunicators. After an interview process involving himself, Pitsenbarger, and Mitchell, the team settled on offering Jared Flynn a full-time position and Stacie Bennett part time.

Amber Nesselrodt, Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director, informed the county commission of the imminent arrival of Paul Kiernan. Kiernan spent 11 years covering Latin America and now writes on business, economics, government policy, and public policy.

He plans to write a feature on Pendleton County’s growing tourism economy.

Finally, Pitsenbarger offered an update on the progress of the courthouse annex, sharing that she held daily discussions with the West Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals, who insists on weighing in on the placement of furniture.

MENU
Pendleton Senior & Family Services

FRIDAY, MARCH 15
SPONSORED MEAL
 Corned Beef/Cabbage
 Cubed Potatoes
 Watergate Salad
 Shammrock Pretzel Pop

MONDAY, MARCH 18
 Shrimp Salad
 Lima Beans, Pears

TUESDAY, MARCH 19
 Roast Beef/Gravy
 Mashed Potatoes
 Peas/Carrots
 Jello/Fruit, Bread

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
 Salmon, Beets
 Spinach, Cantaloupe
 Bread

THURSDAY, MARCH 21
 Meatloaf
 Cheesy Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Banana, Bread

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

Miller Farm, LLC & Friends
Angus Production Sale
 Friday, March 29 • 6 p.m.

Rockingham County Fairgrounds
 Harrisonburg, VA

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SENECA ROCKS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 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.
 Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the following estates is pending in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, 100 S. Main Street, P. O. Box 1167,

Franklin, West Virginia 26807. The names of the personal representatives are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is March 7, 2024. Deadline for claims is May 6, 2024.

Kenneth Brison Judy, Sr. Estate - Gina Michelle Davis & Kenneth Brison Judy, Jr., Co-Executors; Miranda Nicole Henderson Estate - Tamara D. Mitts, Administratrix; Carroll "Skinner" W. Hedrick Estate - Karen M. Murray, Executrix; French A. Moates Estate - Michael E. Moates, Executor; Kevin Brent Cross Estate - Travis Aaron Smith, Executor.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on March 1, 2024.

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 3-7-2c

NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

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

That no appointment of administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of law but that a foreign will or affidavit of heirs of the decedent has been filed with the Pendleton County Commission, and is of record in the Pendleton County Clerk's Office.

Any interested person objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this state must be filed with the Pendleton County Commission within 60 days after the date of first publication or within 30 days of the serving of this notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred.

First Publication Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024

Claim Deadline Date: Monday, April 29, 2024

Decedent: Alejandro Cabana Medellin, Shenandoah County, VA
Filed by: Miquela Medellin, Daughter, Seattle, WA

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 29, 2024.

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 3-7-2c

Spring Begins March 19

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Pendleton County Clerk's Office
is seeking applications for a Full-time Deputy Clerk Position

Applicants should have experience in general office duties, communication and computer skills, and enjoy working with the public. Bookkeeping experience a plus.

Applications may be picked up in the County Clerk's Office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Application deadline is by 4 p.m. March 22.

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Project Manager
Region 8 Planning and Development Council
is seeking a creative, results driven Project Manager to join our team to deliver community development projects within Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral and Pendleton counties of West Virginia

The Project Manager position requires a bachelor's degree in public administration/business administration or a related field. Also, an associate degree with related experience will be considered.

Primary responsibilities will include the development of projects for local government projects, grant writing and reporting, and special projects as assigned.

Strong analytical, written and oral skills are required. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Fringe benefits for the position include health insurance, retirement, vacation and sick leave.

To see a job description go to www.regioneight.org/employment.

Please submit your resume with a cover letter by March 22, 2024, to
Project Manager Position, Region 8 PDC,
131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 or
mearle@regioneight.org.

The Region 8 PDC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Fiscal Specialist
Region 8 Planning and Development Council
is looking for a detailed-oriented, responsible, organized and dedicated individual to join our team of professionals. The position we currently have open is for a Fiscal Specialist who can begin work immediately.

We expect our new teammate to be proficient with standard accounting and office software, possess the technical abilities and experience to become proficient in infrastructure project accounting and management assistance, have good interpersonal and written skills, the ability to problem solve, and work unsupervised.

The position requires a bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. However, candidates with related experience, a strong work ethic and a proactive mentality will also be considered. Experience in budgeting, planning and administration of State and Federal funds, payroll processing and human resource management is advantageous.

Fringe benefits include employee health insurance and participation in a retirement system.

Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and resume to: Executive Director, Fiscal Specialist Position, Region 8 PDC, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 or mearle@regioneight.org. by March 22, 2024.

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T	A	K	C	T	O	L	I	V	J	L	K	L	J	A	G	G	L	O	N	CELEBRATION
O	D	A	R	E	B	K	K	S	I	U	E	A	N	J	I	G	E	D	U	CELTIC
E	A	B	J	B	D	E	D	M	F	O	R	T	U	N	E	U	P	K	E	CLOVER
E	U	E	P	V	J	V	A	D	M	I	D	O	O	P	H	R	R	C	O	EMERALD
I	O	K	A	B	G	R	G	D	F	P	R	A	H	R	F	C	E	O	F	ERIN
B	J	H	T	F	B	E	G	G	A	E	L	I	C	M	I	I	C	R	E	FORTUNE
I	J	P	R	I	J	V	V	T	G	C	C	A	E	D	U	G	H	M	I	GAELIC
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S	S	V	C	V	R	L	T	N	F	C	L	C	G	D	G	M	U	H	C	HARP
M	R	T	K	P	I	C	G	K	E	U	T	A	L	G	N	F	N	S	S	IRELAND
O	H	B	K	O	N	H	D	L	E	I	I	U	T	J	F	A	V	R	I	IRISH
M	S	S	M	V	N	L	E	T	P	M	C	P	M	B	R	J	L	J	M	ISLAND
H	K	E	C	C	A	B	N	S	T	H	P	P	U	E	M	N	B	S	S	JIG
J	C	K	K	R	R	I	J	D	J	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	I	LEGEND
J	U	R	E	A	A	G	G	N	O	M	P	A	R	A	D	E	S	M	M	LEPRECHAUN
R	L	M	T	S	G	F	O	A	T	S	V	H	B	I	U	K	R	L	S	LUCK
A	E	I	F	M	P	L	L	L	B	N	A	B	E	N	F	U	H	V	J	MAGIC
A	O	H	C	R	A	M	D	E	V	R	O	V	B	K	N	E	V	T	L	MARCH
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																				PATRICK
																				SAINT
																				SHAMROCK
																				TRADITION

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

Simmons To Reign at Three Rivers Festival



Caylie Simmons of Franklin, center, was crowned the 2024 WV Three Rivers Festival queen March 2 in Fairmont. Simmons will reign during the festival scheduled for May 23 - 25 in Fairmont. She was awarded a \$500 cash prize, the opportunity of representation at the 2025 West Virginia Association of Fairs and Festivals pageant and fully paid entry to the 2024 Miss West Virginia USA pageant. Members of her court are Emma Riffe of Bartow, first runner-up, left, and Jalyn Western of Petersburg, second runner-up.

Heavners Named Valentine King, Queen



Seniors attending events at Pendleton Senior and Family Services in Franklin selected a Valentine king and queen. Chosen by "penny votes" were Jerry and Phyllis Heavener of Franklin. The couple has been married for 62 years. Staff members are happy to have the Heavners be a part of the senior center.

Williams Writes 'A Personal Note on Antibiotic Stewardship'

The following article was written by Martha M. Williams, DHSc, MS, PA-C, of Brandywine. The article was published by the Urgent Care Association, which is the national trade organization for urgent care medicine, in honor of Antibiotic Awareness Week. Williams is an experienced and doctorally educated physician assistant with a strong internal medicine background that firmly fights for healthcare equity.

The alarms in the room started sounding. I looked at the monitors on the wall and my heart sank as the nurse rushed to the bedside. She pushed a few buttons on the IV pump and pulled out her phone. It was the moment I knew we'd lost him. No matter the number of vasopressors, antiarrhythmics, or antibiotics, my father-in-law wasn't going to make it out of this critical care unit alive. I took my husband's hand and braced him for the news that was coming in a very short time from the attending physician: Our beloved "J" was going to die from sepsis.

Where We Find Ourselves

Shockingly, despite widespread antibiotic use, one in five deaths worldwide occur because of sepsis (WHO, 2020). Medical experts advocate for appropriate antibiotic use to prevent microbial antibiotic resistance and to help ensure that antibiotics remain effective in the treatment of infectious disease and its complications, when absolutely needed, as in sepsis. Unfortunately, in the United States, at least 28% of antibiotic prescriptions are not necessary (CDC, 2023). As we find ourselves in midst of U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week (Nov. 18-24), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reminds us all to "Be Antibiotics Aware" so that we all can be better antibiotic stewards.

But what does it mean to be an antibiotic steward? Healthcare professionals have heard this time and time again. Many of us have even made a pledge to be one, but can we really put into words and actions what it means? Per the good ol' Merriam-Webster a steward is "one appointed to supervise the provision and distribution" of products. Therefore, an antibiotic steward is entrusted to provide and distribute antibiotics not when asked, but when deemed necessary by medical examination and testing.

And this is where things can get tricky. One of the more enlightening data sets from the 2022 CDC Report on Antibiotic Use was that antibiotic prescriptions per 1,000 persons were vastly different depending on geographic area. I spent my young childhood in the state of California where current antibiotic prescribing rates are low, at 411 prescriptions per 1,000 individuals. My present home of West Virginia has one of the highest rates: 1,022 prescriptions per 1,000 individuals! The South and, in particular, the Appalachian region are where most of these antibiotics were prescribed. We know that these areas also carry high rates of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension, so they could be, in theory, more prone to infections. However, the data supports an overuse of antibiotics as diagnosis codes tend to lean towards upper respiratory infections, bronchitis, otitis media, sinusitis, and pharyngitis, so patient expectations may also play a role.

Because We Can, Does Not Mean We Should

A surprising 2017 study from the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy found that 30 percent of primary care patients were prescribed an antibiotic and less than 10% of those patients accounted for over half of the antibiotics prescribed in the study time period. A 2020 study published in Clinical Infectious Diseases found that after implementing the

CDC's Core Elements of Antibiotic Prescribing in emergency rooms and primary care clinics that return visits for the same presenting condition did not increase while simultaneously all cause hospitalizations decreased.

The Light at the End of The Tunnel

How do we combat years of antibiotic overprescribing and generational expectations of patient-clinician relationships with being a good antibiotic steward? The unfortunate answer is that there is not a one size fits all approach. Rather, a multifactor approach is needed. The CDC's website on Antibiotic Prescribing is a great starting point. From there you can access training modules for healthcare staff, patient education products, and third-party evidence-based research and guidelines, as well as even a clinician and organizational checklist for their Core Elements program. Looking at the urgent care clinician's role, most of this can be distilled down to patient education. And we can look to other public health initiatives for success, like fluoridation and childhood vaccination programs.

Practicing as an antibiotic steward is possible if we put our patient to the forefront of care and just explain the reasons behind antibiotic stewardship. And if concerned about patient satisfaction, don't worry — a 2020 study in Open Forum Infectious Diseases found that patient satisfaction remains unchanged following antibiotic stewardship program implementation.

I encourage all urgent care clinicians to engage in self-reflection and work on performance improvement. In 2021, a study published in Primary Care Respiratory Medicine found that physicians tended to prescribe antibiotics when they had higher levels of diagnostic uncertainty. Reviewing the latest evidence-based recommendations can help to support clinicians on when to use testing and what examination findings support the usage of antibiotics. Consider enrolling in the CDC's Antibiotic Stewardship Course found on the TRAIN website. I strongly encourage you to review your prescribing practices in the Medicaid public prescribing records. Your results may surprise you.

We all strive to take the best care of our patients while delivering an excellent patient experience. These goals are not in conflict with each other in practicing antibiotic stewardship. I cannot say for certain that improved antibiotic usage would have prevented "J"'s death and I know I cannot turn back the clock to keep him here with us. But I do know that as a clinician, I want to provide a better future for his children and grandchildren. And in the spirit of excellent patient care, as he was one of the best EMTs I know, I promise myself to be a good antibiotic steward.

I hope you join me in that goal, too.

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SGR322A 49.07 Acres more or less, located in Mill Run District. **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, Pendleton County, **Under Contract** 2020. Franklin District, Pendleton County. **\$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/2 beds, 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. Parc tested. **\$60,000.00.**

SGR306A 6.38 Acres Raw Land, US RT 220N. Nice Building Site. **NEW LISTING \$69,000.00.**

SGR303A 18 Acres w/Unfinished 3-Story Cabin, another Older cabin and Hunting Bunkhouse w/Spectacular View of Dolly Sods. Located in Roaring Creek area, Union Dist. Septic avail, but not hooked up. Spring, Electric, Phone/Internet. **NEW LISTING \$279,000.00.**

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

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

SGR296A 0.90 Acres w/1 Bedroom Townhouse w/Loft, Riverbend Gardens, 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/2 beds 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 amenities. Franklin Corp., Pendleton County. **NEW LISTING REDUCED \$400,000.00 REDUCED \$89,900.00.**

SGR282A 0.75 Acres w/Store 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 Trail, Well water w/deeded access to Spring. Sugar Grove District. Covenants & Restrictions apply. **\$499,900.00 REDUCED \$469,900.00.**

SGR271A 1.84 Acres, Bottoms, Mill Run District. **\$14,000.00. UNDER CONTRACT**

SGR258B 3.42 Acres, w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home. Sugar Grove District, Falcon Lane. **\$259,900.00. 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. **Under Contract** stands in place. Bathhouse, Electric Nearby, Cistern, Small pond. Close to National Forest. **NEW LISTING \$289,000.00 REDUCED \$259,000.00.**

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 A 2 bed, 2 Bath, 2000 sq. ft. home located in town of Franklin. **\$299,000.00.**

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SGR128 2-3 Bedroom Ranch w/Full Basement on 0.6386 Acres, more or less, off of Sandy Ridge Rd, Sugar Grove District. **NEW LISTING \$169,000.00 REDUCED \$149,900.00 REDUCED \$145,000.00.**

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St. Patrick's Day Sale

TED DAVIS AUTO SALES
Rt. 33 East, Riverton
304-567-2999 • 1-800-547-2999
Pictures and Full Description of ALL Our Inventory
Online at teddavisautosales.com
GREAT FINANCING RATES NOW AVAILABLE

TRUCKS.....SALE

2024 FORD MAVERICK LARIAT "TREMOR PKG." 4X4, red pepper color, ldd. w/options, only 100 miles.....\$43,900

2021 RAM 1500 CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4 "Bighorn Pkg.," E-Torque V-6, auto., ldd., red, 55K miles, like new.....\$34,900

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

2018 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW LARIAT 4X4, 5.0 V-8, auto., ldd., white, 137K miles, ex. cond.....\$26,900

2019 CHEVY COLORADO Z-71 EXTRA-CAB 4X4, 3.6 liter V-6, auto., ldd., white, 60K miles.....\$26,900

2017 TOYOTA TACOMA SR EXTENDED CAB 4X4, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., charcoal, 82K miles.....\$23,900

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

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

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

2004 FORD F-350 CREW CAB LARIAT DUALY 4X4, 6.0 diesel, auto., ldd., maroon, only 79K miles.....\$34,900

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

PASSENGER VEHICLES.....SALE

2021 CHEVY EQUINOX AWD 1LT PKG., 4-cyl., auto., ldd., dark blue, 85K miles, very clean.....\$19,500

2021 FORD BRONCO SPORT "FIRST EDITION" AWD SUV, 2.0 EcoBoost, auto., ldd., sharp cyber orange color w/only 8,900 miles.....\$39,500

2020 KIA RIO S 5-DR HATCHBACK, 1.6 4-cyl., auto., ldd., white, only 7K miles, like new cond.....SPECIAL \$19,900 \$18,500

2020 NISSAN ROGUE SLAWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., leather, moonroof, navigation, etc. silver, only 48K miles.....\$25,900

2019 DODGE JOURNEY GT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., 56K miles, black, very sporty 3rd row SUV.....FOR ONLY \$24,900

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

2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, 106K highway miles.....\$17,900

2018 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD, 2.0 4-cyl., auto., ldd., blue 102K miles, very sharp.....\$19,900

2015 FORD EXPLORER SPORT AWD, EcoBoost V-6, auto., ldd., black, 137K miles, in excellent condition.....\$17,900

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

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

1987 CHEVY MONTE CARLO SS, V-8, auto., ldd., silver, one owner w/46K miles, ex. cond.....\$18,900