

THE PENDLETON TIMES

Serving the Community since 1913

\$1.00
Volume 111, Number 12

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday
March 21, 2024

With the Return of Spring, 4-H Prepares for an Active Slate of Enriching Youth Programs

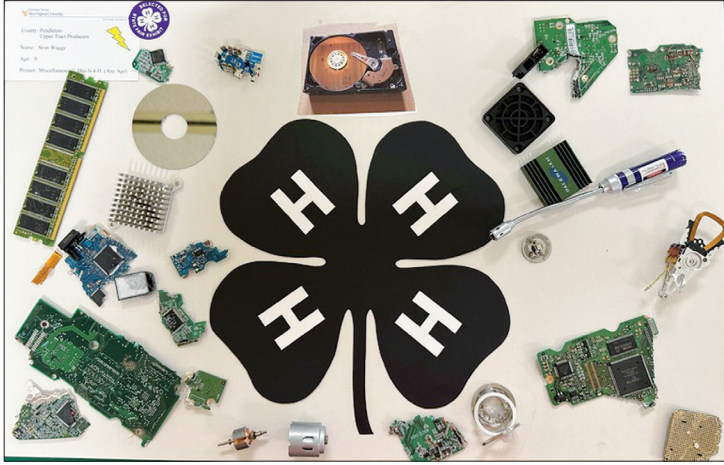
By Stephen Smoot

With March comes the return of warm weather, the sprouting of greenery, usually one last solid snowstorm, and 4-H programs through the West Virginia University Extension Service.

Approximately six million youth around the nation participate in 4-H every year. Its website states that “we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us.”

Delivered through extension services operated by more than 100 land grant colleges and universities across the nation, 4-H for more than a century “provides experiences where young people learn by doing.”

In Pendleton County, 4-H programs are planned and provided through the West Virginia University Extension Service. Brooke Alt,



Four-H members complete a wide variety of projects as part of their participation in the club.

extension service agent for the county, says that youth can work in and learn about topics as diverse as robotics, speaking, leadership, and life skills, in addition to agriculture. Much of what 4-H offers is “topics they may not be picking up elsewhere.”

Social pressures go hand in hand many times with family challenges, struggles, and even dysfunction. The drug epidemic has hit families

hard, while also threatening the ability of young people to thrive.

These issues make youth organizations such as 4-H even more vital than ever. “We try to teach the core values of leadership, honesty . . . that’s a lot of the things that kids are lacking,” Alt said. She added that “we encourage a lot of working together.” Organizations

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Year and a Half Wait for New Extension Agent May Soon Come to a Close

By Stephen Smoot

In the fall of 2022, Dave Seymour, long time West Virginia University extension agent, resigned his post and moved on to a well-deserved retirement.

About a year and a half later, Brooke Alt remains the sole agent serving Pendleton County, working to perform the job of two. Help, however, may soon be on the way.

WVU’s Extension Service operates in each of the state’s 55 counties. As Alt explains, the extension agent serves as “the leading point to the university as part of the land grant mission.”

West Virginia University and West Virginia State University both emerged from the Morrill Land Grant Acts passed during and just after the Civil War. The federal government sold lands and gave the proceeds over to states, who in turn used funds to build

at least one “land grant” school in each state.

Land grant colleges and universities originally existed to provide expert and modern instruction to those involved in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. WVU Extension Service currently focuses on agriculture and related fields. The university maintains a separate manufacturing extension service.

In Pendleton County, as Alt said, the service provides “programming to our community, whether it be for youth or adults.”

Examples of assistance include helping local farmers get soil samples processed and analyzed by West Virginia University. Both WVU and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture provide this service. Analysis helps farmers to determine the levels of additives needed to enrich the soil, or enhance its potential for

crop growth.

Janet Hartman, who also serves in the office, added that even gardeners can get support from WVU Extension Service. She explained that “people need help identifying weeds, bugs” and other potentially harmful species of invasive plants or animals.

She added that “I had a plant call just yesterday. A man had just purchased property in Upper Tract. He wanted advice on plants that would not be invasive, but could help to prevent erosion.”

Some bring in their pressure canners to have them inspected and tested.

Alt went on to say that the extension service also plans and puts on the educational dinner meetings. At these, experts share their knowledge and experience in agriculture for the benefit of local farmers working the same crops or livestock.

The WVU Extension Service website also states that in Pendleton County, the office works with farmers on grazing management, agriculture management, and cattle marketing. It also helps commercial farmers keep up with their pesticide credits.

Youth development also serves as a focus of the office, with a great deal of work going into 4-H programs. “This time of year,” Alt shared, “we’re working with animal judging contests and preparing for camp.”

Alt has enjoyed support from a familiar face to ensure that the office can cover as much of its purview as possible while the search continued for a new agent. She said, “We have relied on the recently retired Mr. Seymour,” and “agents in surrounding counties like Grant and Hardy have been super helpful.”

Last week, four candidates came in to be interviewed to join Alt in the office. “Hopefully,” she said, “we’ll have someone by April or May.”

The goal lies in getting “someone who is personable, that can talk to farmers” and understand and report their needs effectively.

“It’s been a slow process, but we’re getting there,” she said.



First responders tackle dangerous heat and flames to suppress a house fire on Entry Mountain Road.

First Responders Kept Busy By Fires Over Past Week

By Stephen Smoot

In Franklin, Fort Seybert, and Upper Tract over the past week, four fires kept Pendleton County fire and rescue units busy as they tried to contain flames stirred by springlike temperatures and higher winds.

Potentially, the most dangerous fire took place last Tuesday. On the 1000 block of Entry Mountain Road at about 8:40 p.m., Pendleton 911 dispatched the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department to a “working structure fire,” as they described it on their Facebook page. Initially, the FVFD treated the fire as “a potential entrapment,” but crews from Engine 26, Engine 22, and Tanker 25 quickly ascertained that all had escaped the home.

They saw the single-story home consumed by “a heavy fire.” As was described on the FVFD Facebook page, “crews initiated an interior attack, performed searches to ensure no victims were inside, and conducted an extensive overhaul of the structure to uncover hot spots and ensure extinguishment.”

Responders had to contend with “heavy fire and high heat” as they navigated the burning home.

Aiding FVFD in the response was Upper Tract VFD, South Fork VFD, Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, West Virginia State Police, Pendleton County Sheriff’s Department, Pendleton County Emergency Management, and Mon Power.

No injuries were reported among either residents or responders. A GoFundMe was set up to help the family recover after losing most of their belongings.

At about 3 p.m. on Saturday, Pendleton 911 was alerted to two brush fires burning over 20 miles apart in the county.

According to the Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department, the Upper Tract blaze found itself confronted by the quick response of a forestry fire class that had just ended.

Responders quickly suppressed the fire, which consumed two acres.

As UTVFD and other units responded to that fire, reports of a more serious blaze came in to Pendleton 911. The Pendleton

County Office of Emergency Management and Pendleton 911 reported that “a larger wildfire in the George Washington National Forest near West Side Road between Brandywine and Fort Seybert” had erupted.

Though the U.S. Forest Service has conducted prescribed burns in the George Washington National Forest, these took place far from the Pendleton County fire.

Every volunteer fire department in Pendleton County responded to the national forest fire, joined by personnel from the West Virginia Division of Forestry and Pendleton County Emergency Rescue. United States Forest Service personnel responded quickly and took command of the scene.

The next day, Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department responded to yet another brush fire in the Greenwalt Gap region. According to their Facebook page, “The fire was quickly contained and turned over to WV DoF.”

Conditions conducive to the quick spread of fires are expected to continue at least through the week.

Future Farmers of America Makin’ Bacon at Ag Sale in Moorefield

By Stephen Smoot

For 80 years, Future Farmers of America have sold ham, bacon, and eggs at auction to raise funds to support their vital programs. Last Friday, a number of Pendleton County FFA members took their wares to Moorefield to see them sold at auction.

First, an important notice for the uninitiated, do not take a few dollars into the auction to pick up the next day’s breakfast. Farmers, banks and other businesses, elected officials, and individuals come more to help FFA than to purchase food. They push the amounts higher, which helps to make sure that the members can do their projects, attend conferences, and participate in competitions.

Bacon can go for more than \$40 a pound in some instances. For example, this is what happened when Pendleton High School’s McKenna Hedrick stepped up to the stage carrying a dozen perfectly shaped and identically tan farm raised eggs.

She stood to the right of the auctioneer, smiling and facing the assembled crowd in chairs and bleacher seats. Beside her stood a tall, broad-shouldered, giant of a man with a massive cowboy hat, a stentorian voice, and a microphone.

“Do I hear three hundred?!?” he led off with a booming voice, pushing hard to draw interest in garnering a bid at that level for the “dozen of eggs,” as he stated. Hearing none, within about 20 seconds, he dropped the opener to \$200.

That pulled in immediate at-



Lydia Heavner proudly displays her grand champion award winning bacon as the auctioneer strives to get the best bid possible for it.

tention as he quickly recognized the first potential buyer, but another quickly jumped in at \$225. Only a few seconds passed before the bidders leap-frogged over \$250 and pushed it to \$275. The auctioneer sounded confident that he could pull at least another \$25 for the dozen, but the buyers held firm.

“Sold for \$275!” he boomed. Warner’s Coin Laundry purchased the package.

Each bid created its own mini melodrama, spurred on by the entertaining and capable auctioneer. The grand champion dozen of eggs hauled in \$500, the reserve champion only a hundred less.

The evening started off with a dinner prepared and served by the FFA. Chipped beef gravy smothered fresh homemade biscuits. Roasted potatoes, sliced pork loin, green beans and (what else) ham, and a dinner roll rounded out the food offered. Students, parents, farmers, and supporters mingled in the com-

mon area to eat and socialize.

Many, once they enjoyed their meal, strode straight into the gym to examine the hundreds of products lined up neatly on tables. Eggs, slabs of bacon, and hams greeted all with not only their rich appearance, but also the intoxicating aroma of perfectly cured meats.

Lydia Heavner of Pendleton County High School earned a grand champion award for her approximately six-pound slab of bacon, which was exhibited on its own table. She said, “I was kind of surprised I got grand champion bacon.”

Heavner explained how she obtained her hog in the summer, then cared for it and fed it daily. By October, the swine was set for slaughter. She then froze the bacon until about one or two months ago, and finally put the meat through the curing process.

“I think it’s pretty cool to raise the hogs,” she said, adding that “it’s a learning experience.”

Community Calendar

Maudy Thursday Service Planned

Mountaintop Ministries with Pastor Mike Loudermilk has scheduled a Maudy Thursday service at 7 p.m. March 28 at Franklin United Methodist Church.

Region 8 Sets Development Plan Meeting March 28

The Region 8 Planning and Development Council invites Potomac Highlands community leaders to participate in planning the region’s future by helping the council update its regional development plan.

A meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. March 28 at Mullin’s 1847 Restaurant in Moorefield. A light lunch will be provided.

If planning to attend the meeting, register by March 27 by phone at 304-257-1221, ext. 9241, fax at 304-257-4958 or email ccent@regioneight.org.

Activities Planned At Family Support Center in Franklin

An upcoming activity scheduled at the Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center in Franklin is fly tying on Saturday.

For more information, call 304-538-7711.

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 St. John and Mt. Hope Lutheran churches with the message by Pastor Mike Loudermilk of Mountaintop Ministries United Methodist Churches.

The Lenten lunches will conclude March 28 with the meal provided by Calvary and Faith Lutheran churches. The message will be delivered by Edna Mullenax.



Jackie Leonard Koontz

Jackie Leonard Koontz, Sr., 83, of Brandywine passed away March 13, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on June 22, 1940, in Pendleton County, the son of the late Hobert and Sadie (Blizzard) Koontz.

Mr. Koontz was a 1958 graduate of Franklin High School and retired in 2004 as a groundsman from S & N Communications. He was a Lutheran by faith and enjoyed bear hunting, fishing, hunting mushrooms and camping.

He was devoted to his family and friends. He formed an admirable love with his grandchildren that they will cherish forever. He had a passion for sports that included playing, watching and coaching. His heart was filled with pride and joy as he watched his children and grandchildren compete in sports.

His love for life was huge and he shared that with his family and the Godchildren that he helped raise. His home and heart were always open to a child or anyone in need.

He fought a courageous and heroic battle with cancer for six years. He never complained or revealed any struggle to his family.

On Sept. 24, 1960, he married the love of his life, Judith Jean (Joseph) Koontz, who survives.

In addition to his wife, he leaves behind to cherish his memory and carry on his legacy a daughter, Dolly Rexrode (Bill) of Sugar Grove; a son, Jackie L. Koontz, Jr. (the late Tiffany) of Brandywine; a sister, Phyllis Heavner (Jerry) of Franklin; two brothers, James Koontz (Glenna) of Brandywine and Bob Koontz (the late Delores) of Columbus, Ohio; three granddaughters, Krista, Casey, and Hannah; five great-grandchildren, Chase, Travis, Ky, Karli and Kipton; and several Godchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Sarah Marie Koontz; two brothers, Jesse and Roger Koontz; and a sister, Barbara.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

A celebration of life will be held in June 2024.

Memorials may be made to PCHS Sports Boosters, PO Box 206, Franklin, WV 26807.

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



Lois Dare Lambert August

Lois Dare Lambert August, 83, of Richmond, Virginia, passed away at home on March 5, 2024, with her husband beside her.

She was born on Dec. 16, 1940, in Riverton, the middle daughter of the late Erman Lambert and Mary Harper Lambert.

Mrs. August grew up in Franklin and in her formative years she loved singing, dancing and art. She sang in the church choir and attended 4-H camps. In high school, as a senior, she was the secretary of her class, co-editor of Franklin High School's 1958 yearbook, played the snare drums in the band, sang in the choir and was the captain of the cheerleading squad. She was always active in school plays, and in college she was a member of the University Players, a drama club. In her senior year, she performed in the production of "Brigadoon." She participated in pageants during the years, and in 1963 she was Pendleton County's representative for West Virginia's Centennial Queen. She never met a stranger and was loved by all those who were fortunate to know her.

In 1962, she graduated from West Virginia University with a bachelor of science in secondary education. She planned to move to Richmond, Virginia, soon after graduation but delayed the move after her brother, Lynn, died in an automobile accident that August. In November 1962, she moved to Richmond, Virginia, to live with her sister, Wanda. She started her teaching career in 1963 and taught math, science and business courses at various schools, including many years at Tuckahoe Middle School. During the holidays, she worked in the fashion department at Miller & Rhoads and often modeled in their tea room.

She and her husband had their first date in January 1965 and were married on Aug. 5, 1967. They enjoyed their trips to her beloved Franklin and her husband's family's cottage on the Rappahannock River. Both of them loved tennis and one of their favorite things in those years was to meet after work and hit together at Byrd Park and later at the University of Richmond courts. In the years that followed, they had many opportunities to travel together, which they both also

loved.

After 14 years of teaching, she retired from Tuckahoe Middle School in 1977, with the birth of their daughter, Molly. Nineteen months later their son, Tappan, was born. From the time she first became a mother, she fully dedicated her life to raising her family and supporting them throughout their lives. Without question, her family always came first to her. She showed her love in so many ways, including her love of feeding her family and their friends. Her kitchen was always open for anyone who may need it. If she could help someone she loved, she was there. She always put others ahead of herself and was humble to be loved by her as a true blessing.

Over the years she loved decorating, antiques and fashion, having an eye for all three. She continued to love music and always had a song playing in the house. After her husband retired in December 2004, they spent a great deal of time together, including many trips to their home in Franklin. Their first grandchild, Harper, was born in 2010 and she immediately became a devoted "Mimi" to her; thereafter to Maggie when she was born in 2013 and Tappy when he was born in 2018. She truly was the absolute best grandmother anyone could ever have. Her grandchildren became the crux of her life and she took delight in every one of their activities, interests and life overall.

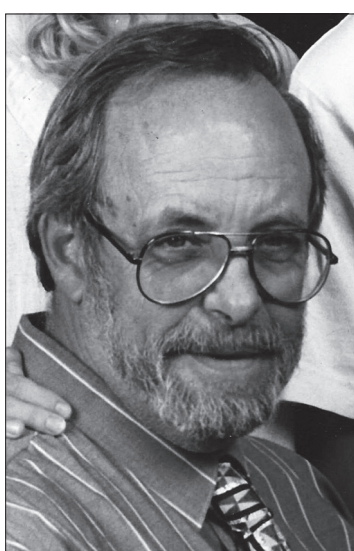
She was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in January 2020. She never complained and was her usual sweet self and incredibly brave, courageous and heroic through her entire illness. She fought so hard to be here and to be with her family. She was truly loved, and her family will be forever grateful for the many memories with her. She was a wonderful and loving wife, mother, Mimi to her grandchildren, sister and friend. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Her adoring husband, of 56 years, Albert Tappan August III, survives.

Also surviving are daughter, Mary "Molly" August Huffman; son-in-law, William Ward Huffman III; son, Albert Tappan August IV; daughter-in-law, Camp Goodwin August; three grandchildren, Mary Harper Huffman, Margaret Dare Huffman and Albert Tappan August V; two sisters, Wanda Lambert Walton and Doreen Lambert Calhoun; and brother-in-law, Dennis Michael Calhoun.

She was also preceded in death a brother, Lynn Paul Lambert; her stepfather, Paul Hammer Judy; and a brother-in-law, Vernon Coze Walton.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. March 26 at Blileys-Central, 3801 Augusta Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.



Howard Rayfield "Ray" Montaigne, Jr.

Howard Rayfield "Ray" Montaigne, Jr., 84, of Brandywine passed away March 15, 2024, at his home.

He was born on July 13, 1939, in Kokomo, Indiana, the son of the late Helen Krauss Montaigne and the late Howard Rayfield Montaigne, Sr.

Mr. Montaigne was a 1957 graduate of High Point High School in Beltsville, Maryland, and he attended a junior college for two years.

He was a Lutheran by faith. He retired in 2005, as a safety director for BOSS Construction Company in Washington, DC.

He was a member of Pendleton Lodge #144 AF & AM, and he loved trains, motorcycles, and restoring old cars. He was a veteran of the United States Navy.

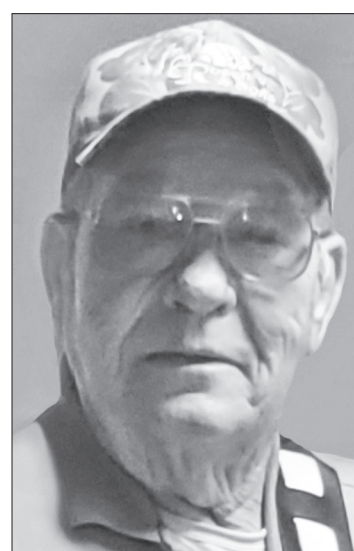
On Aug. 14, 1966, he married Cheryl Jane (Fisher) Montaigne, who survives.

In addition to his wife, he leaves behind to cherish his memory two daughters, Jessica Rae Bland (Donald) of California and Lydia Maria Montaigne of Florida; a son, Douglas Rayfield Montaigne (Sharena) of Sugar Grove; a sister, Louise Comton of North Carolina; two granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

A celebration of life will be held at a later time at Cass Scenic Railroad.

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



Harold Stuart Cupp

Harold Stuart Cupp, 81, of Sugar Grove passed away March 17, 2024, at the home of his son in Bridgewater, Virginia.

He was born Dec. 1, 1942, in Rockingham County, Virginia, a son of the late Leon Stuart and Pauline Catherine (Howdyshell) Cupp.

A devout Christian, Mr. Cupp attended St. Paul Independent Lutheran Church.

He spent 43 years at Ethan Allen Furniture, retiring as a production manager. A gifted musician, he played the electric bass guitar in many local bands, including the Berry Family Band. Additionally, he enjoyed time spent hunting, fishing, building in his woodworking shop or simply sitting on his porch watching wildlife and passing cars.

Raised on a farm in Rockingham County, Virginia, he never strayed far from his roots. He enjoyed raising a garden, operating his Farmall and International tractors, and was always excited to help local farmers in the hay meadows. Many will also remember him as a selfless, good-natured man who liked a good laugh and was full of humor, but was not afraid to speak his mind when he believed it necessary.

Above all, he will be remembered as a role model

to his son and grandson, a constant provider and supporter of his family and their needs. He was a loving father who will be greatly missed.

On Nov. 2, 1974, he married Anna Norene Eckard, who predeceased him on Feb. 20, 2023.

Surviving are his sons, Michael Cupp and wife, Joyce of Bridgewater, Virginia, and Douglas Botkin and wife, Sandra of Churchville, Virginia; grandchildren, Wesley Cupp of Bridgewater, Virginia, and Douglas Dean Botkin and wife, Brianna of Churchville, Virginia; great-grandchildren, Lilly, Alex and Piper Botkin; sisters, Marie C. Huffer of Bridgewater, Virginia, Carolyn J. Pettit of Weyers Cave, Virginia, and Judy F. Puffenbarger of Mount Solon, Virginia; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside funeral will be held at 2 p.m., Friday in St. Michael's Cemetery with Rev. Jerry Smith officiating.

Pallbearers will be Wesley Cupp, Zack Eckard, Travis Pettit, Kenny Puffenbarger, Dwayne Berry and Teresa Martin.

The family will receive friends from 6 - 8 p.m. today at Obaugh Funeral Home in McDowell, Virginia.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Hahn Cancer Center and Sentara Hospice for their kindness, comfort and care shown to Mr. Cupp over the course of his illness.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Michael's Lutheran Church Cemetery Association, c/o Gary Sheffer, 627 Brushy Fork Road, Sugar Grove, WV 26815; or St. Paul Independent Lutheran Church Fund, c/o Delbert Rexrode, 527 Windrush Lane, Doe Hill, Va. 24433.

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



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John Treadway

is announcing his candidacy for

Judge of the 26th Judicial Circuit



Treadway is both an experienced judicial officer and courtroom attorney. Since 2006, Treadway has served Hampshire, Hardy and Pendleton Counties as Mental Hygiene Commissioner. He previously served for seven years as Drug Court Judge. As Circuit Court Judge, Treadway will bring his expertise and commitment to a one-tier system of justice for all which is based upon a person's fundamental right to be treated fairly by the Court. Treadway is a Republican running for the nonpartisan position of Circuit Judge.

Treadway has extensive experience in private practice as a civil litigator, criminal litigator, and a property attorney. He is also experienced in the general practice of law. He is considered to be one of the most distinguished gun law attorneys in the State of West Virginia. Treadway, who earned his Juris Doctorate degree from West Virginia University's College of Law, is a member of the West Virginia State Bar and past president of the South Branch Valley Bar Association.

Throughout his 20 years of serving the public, Treadway has put integrity and honesty at the forefront of his practice. Treadway's years of military service in the United States Army taught him the importance of these values along with strong leadership skills and a sense of duty to protect the safety and rights of all people.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Treadway was a leader in the propane industry and served as an officer of both the WV Propane Association and the WV Propane Education and Research Council. Currently, Treadway serves as a director on the board of EA Hawse Health and has served as president of the Baker Ruritan Club for many years.

Treadway is a member of the Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame having earned All-American Honorable Mention and twice having earned First Team All-Conference Honors as a member of Shepherd University's football team. Treadway is a Certified NRA Instructor and an enthusiastic hunter.

He and his wife, Wendy, have one daughter and live in Baker. Paid for by Treadway for Judge

Know the Risks of Marijuana

1 in 6 people who start using marijuana before the age of 18 can become addicted.

1 in 10 adults who use marijuana can become addicted.

Signs of addiction include:

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4-H Youth Programs

Continued From Page 1

such as 4-H also provide a positive path that can lead children away from the temptations of drugs, alcohol, excessive video game play, and other activities that can cause a child to stagnate or regress.

Four parts combine to form the 4-H mission. The first “H” represents “head, for clearer thinking. Next comes “heart, for greater loyalty.” Thirdly, the organization encourages the use of “hands, for larger service.” Finally comes an emphasis on “health to better living.”

The age parameters for 4-H are between nine and 21, although many gravitate to the Future Farmers of America in high school. Younger children may participate in the Clover Bud program, starting at the age of five.

Some teens, however, stick around. Alt shared that “it’s cool to see the older kids stay involved.”

Janet Hartman, who works with Alt in the extension office, explains that the idea that agriculture serves as the alpha and omega of 4-H is “a big misconception. If you are not on a farm, you think it’s not for you, but that’s not true.”

She added that “about half (of participants in 4-H) take on projects nowhere related to a farm.” For example, as Hartman went on to explain, “a lot of kids pick a project called ‘self-determined.’” This category includes cooking, scrapbooking, computer programming, hiking trails, and outdoor recreation. One of the most popular selections under that aegis is gardening.

Etmology also attracts a lot of participation because “the kids are fascinated with bugs.”

Although spring commences a more active season for 4-H, they did remain active over the winter. The Upper Tract Producers 4-H Club prepared the Franklin WVU Extension Service dinner recently, while the chapter in North Fork 4-H cooked for the Riverton dinner on Monday.

This week, Pendleton County 4-H is hosting teen leader weekend at Thorn Spring Park for members 12 and older. Leadership serves as a key aspect of character for 4-H to foster. The event will bring in youth from the entire Eastern Panhandle.

After that comes a camp in the first week of June for members nine and older.

Volunteer chaperones at these events must undergo a background check and vetting process to ensure the safety of all involved. The organization always welcomes those willing to help out in any way.

They also include many with significant youth experience who know how to keep kids busy and focused – while preventing as much as possible the inevitable homesickness.

There are five 4-H clubs in the county — Franklin Mountaineers, North Fork 4-H, North Fork Elementary 4-H, Sugar Grove Maple Leaves and Upper Tract Producers. The lack of a second extension agent means that Alt’s time remains a scarce resource. She explained that she enjoys seeing the kids grow in the organization and learn. Her first year as extension agent was in 2016.

To those thinking of joining, but still hesitant, Alt says, “Just do it. It’s something you won’t regret.”

Tax Credits Are Available to Seniors

By Deb Miller, JD, WV Senior Legal Aid volunteer

The difference between death and taxes is death doesn’t get worse every time Congress meets.”—Will Rogers, American humorist.

It was time for Jean to work on her 2023 taxes because she wanted to file her federal and West Virginia income tax returns online as early as possible. She had read about scammers who would swoop in and file a fake return to get her refund before she did. Identity theft means taking one’s identity and one’s money.

The IRS flagged more than 1 million tax returns for potential identity theft during the last tax season, according to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Jean’s tax priorities were to see whether she qualified for the federal child care and earned income tax credits from raising her grandson and the West Virginia income tax credits related to the Homestead Exemption she got on her property taxes. To claim any federal or state tax credit, Jean has to file tax returns, but does not have to itemize any deductions. She knew the tax credits she was eligible for were like gold. Each dollar of a credit eliminates a dollar of tax. Also, some types of tax credits can increase the amount of a refund when one is owed.

Federal law provides a child care tax credit for such expenses related to working when earning certain levels of income and raising one or more children under age 13. Learn more at <https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc602>.

The federal earned income tax credit also helps working grandparents who are raising grandchildren of qualifying ages. The amount is tied to the grandparent’s earnings from employment (not government benefits) and the number of dependents. More information is available at <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit>.

For West Virginia taxes, Jean and other older or disabled homeowners can benefit from two income tax credits that

are available based on home ownership and signing up at their county assessor’s office during the qualifying period for the Homestead Exemption on their property taxes, as Jean had year before.

As part of this state’s property tax system, the Homestead Exemption program is available for homeowners who are age 65 and older or permanently disabled. The \$20,000 exemption, or non-taxable amount, reduces the assessed value and total property taxes owed on owner-occupied residential property each year. There is no income limitation for the Homestead Exemption on property taxes.

At income tax time, homeowners qualifying for the Homestead Exemption may be eligible for the Senior Citizens Tax Credit to lower West Virginia income taxes, dollar for dollar. The State Tax Department’s Form SCTC-1, sent out in January each year, will list the amount of the tax credit which can be claimed.

There is a specific income requirement for Senior Citizens Tax Credit eligibility which is determined when calculating the amounts for the West Virginia tax return.

The second state income tax credit for those receiving the Homestead Exemption is the Homestead Excess Property Tax Credit. When a person’s or couple’s residential property taxes exceed four percent of their income, they are eligible for a tax credit for the excess amount. The maximum credit is \$1,000.

If a taxpayer qualifies for both state credits, the amount of the Senior Citizens Tax Credit will reduce the amount of the Homestead Excess Property Tax Credit that can be claimed.

Additional information on the West Virginia tax credits is available at <https://tax.wv.gov/Individuals/SeniorCitizens/Pages/SeniorCitizensTaxCredit.aspx>.

For assistance with legal issues, including tax questions, at no charge if a person is a West Virginia resident age 60 or over, contact West Virginia Senior Legal Aid at 800-229-5068.

Opening Dates Told for Mon Forest Recreation Sites

The approaching arrival of spring brings excitement for camping, hiking, and experiencing Monongahela National Forest. Preparations are underway to open favorite recreation sites across the landscape. Recreation and getting outside improves one’s moods, relieves stress and makes one a happier person.

Campground and picnic shelter reservations for some sites may be made at www.recreation.gov. Roadside camping, also called dispersed camping or boondocking, is available in many areas of the Forest year-round. Call local offices for details.

Important safety reminder - the lack of cell phone service at Monongahela National Forest is something to consider when trip planning, but with a little preparation, a person can unplug and still have a safe and fun trip. Learn about recreating safely and responsibly on the national forest at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/know-before-you-go/responsible-recreation>.

The 2024 opening dates for developed recreation sites in the surrounding area are listed. These dates may change based on local conditions. Visit the Mon’s Recreation Conditions Report at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recremain/mnf/recreation> for the most current information.

Opening dates for recreation sites on Cheat-Potomac Ranger District (304-478-2000) in the Elkins and Parsons areas are Bear Heaven Campground on April 15, Horseshoe Recreation Area on May 13, Lower Glady Dispersed Camping (Forest Road 162) area opens when snow-free with toilets opening April 15 and Stuart Recreation Area on April 19.

Opening dates for recreation sites on Cheat-Potomac Ranger

District (304-257-4488) in the Petersburg and Seneca Rocks areas are Big Bend Campground on April 12, Dolly Sods Picnic Area on April 15 (weather permitting), Forest Road 19 in the Dolly Sods area on April 1 (weather permitting), Forest Road 75 in the Dolly Sods area on April 15 (weather permitting), Gandy Creek Dispersed Camping (County Route 29) opens when snow-free with toilets opening April 15, Gatewood Group Campground on April 19, Jess Judy Group Campground on April 12, Red Creek Campground on April 15 (weather permitting), Seneca Rocks Discovery Center on April 5, Seneca Rocks Picnic Area on April 1, Seneca Shadows Campground on April 12, Spruce Knob Lake is open year-round with toilets opening on April 15, Spruce Knob Lake Campground on April 19 and Spruce Knob Observation Tower area opens when snow-free with toilets opening April 15.

Opening dates for recreation sites on Greenbrier Ranger District (304-456-3335) in the Bartow area are Gaudineer Knob Picnic Area opens when snow-free with toilets opening April 15, Island Campground on April 15, Lake Buffalo is open year-round with toilets opening April 15, Laurel Fork Campground on April 15, Little River Dispersed Camping (Forest Road 17) area opens when snow-free, Middle Mountain Cabins on April 15, Mower Tract Dispersed Camping (Forest Road 227) area opens when snow-free, Old House Run Picnic Area on April 14 and Stonecoal Dispersed Camping (Forest Road 209) is currently closed for construction.

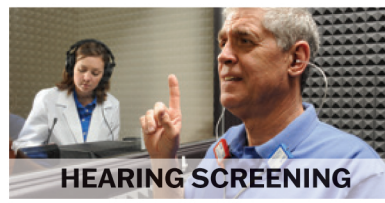
For more information about recreation facilities, contact the district office near the location a person would like to visit. Contact information is listed at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mnf/about-forest/offices>.

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20 Years Ago
Week of March 25, 2004

County Scores
Three Golden Horseshoe Winners

There are 23,686 eighth-graders in the State of West Virginia this year. Of that number, 2,599 qualified to take the Golden Horseshoe test this year. There were 221 statewide winners whose names were announced almost two weeks ago. And three of those winners—Colleen Beatty, Sarah Mallow and Lindsey Propst—are from Pendleton County.

Four PCHS Students
Serve as Senate Pages

During the last week of the 2004 session of the West Virginia Legislature—a period known as “crunch time,” when key legislation begins to move out of committee—four Pendleton County High School students served as pages for Pendleton County’s two senators, Mike Ross, chair of the transportation committee, and Walt Helmick, chair of the finance committee.

The four pages from PCHS were Allison Brown, Keely Lambert, Brittany Linaburg and Courtney McCutcheon.

The young women assisted in the Senate by distributing legislative materials, as well as refreshments, to members of the upper chamber.

Heritage or Scenery—
Make Heads or Tails
Of Finalists

Gov. Bob Wise has unveiled the final two state quarter designs and asked West Virginia to cast their votes for the design that will represent West Virginia.

“We began this process with the help of all West Virginians,” Wise said. “It’s only fitting that West Virginians determine what is on the back of our quarter.”

More than 1800 designs were originally submitted to the governor’s office for the coin. Students for the arts narrowed the designs to five. Those five were submitted to the U.S. Treasury and two were recommended by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee. The designs were then recreated for coinability.

“We have a lot of people who have pride in West Virginia, and I hope everyone votes for his or her favorite designs,” Wise said.

The 50 State Quarters program is a 10-year initiative commemorating and honoring each of the states with a quarter dollar design.

Homemakers
Eat Foods Associated
With Good Luck

While none of the members of Franklin Home Demonstration Club are especially superstitious, they believe in doing what they can to garner good luck in the new year. So, for their January meeting, they had a supper featuring foods that are thought to bring

good luck for the new year. Cabbage is traditional for Asians, as are greens in parts of this country. Both represent money and good fortune. For Italians, the round shape of lentils symbolizes coins, thus wealth and prosperity. Beans are a favorite good-luck food all around the world.

Perhaps the most popular of these is the black-eyed pea, actually a member of the bean family. The black spot that gives them their name has throughout history been associated with power. Romans linked the spot with death, and used these beans as sacrifice.

Black-eyed peas came to North America through the Atlantic slave trade from West African countries. These people exerted a powerful influence on American cooking. They adapted new world foods to their methods of cooking, and introduced many flavorful and healthy varieties of greens to the European diet. They turned many of their own classic dishes, such as black-eyed peas and rice, into southern traditions. Their skillful use of peppers and spices, plus their ability to turn every part of a pig or chicken into delectable food is now imbedded in American cuisine.

40 Years Ago
Week of March 22, 1984

88-Year-Old
Acts Quickly
To Save Home
From Fire

Quick action and hard work by an 88-year-old Pendleton County man saved his residence from destruction by fire last Friday morning.

When Ed Propst of the Propst Gap community south of Franklin entered his bedroom about 11 a.m., he found the ceiling and area around a stove pipe in flames.

As a result of a frozen water line, the Propst family had stored water in containers in their pantry which they used for domestic purposes.

With the fire raging in the bedroom, the aged man made repeated and hurried trips to the pantry to carry water from a 30-gallon container which he threw on the ceiling and around the stove pipe while his son, William, ran to a neighbor’s home to call the Franklin Fire Department.

The firemen arrived minutes later and thanks to the work of Mr. Propst, they were able to save the home from extensive damage.

Neighbors had rebuilt the flue and repaired the home by Sunday making it unnecessary for the family to seek other living quarters.

50 Years Ago
Week of March 21, 1974

Trout Hatchery
Being Built Here

Work has begun on a trout hatchery in Pendleton County which eventually may become the largest trout hatchery in West Virginia.

The hatchery will be located on Reeds Creek on a tract of

12 acres of land acquired in 1965 by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources from Lon Simmons.

Water for the hatchery will come from a large spring just above the hatchery site acquired by the Department of Natural Resources from Eston Simmons.

According to Bill Skaggs, local inspector for the Department of Natural Resources, construction of the hatchery will be done in three phases.

Work began last November by Wilson Construction Company of Huntington on the first phase of the project.

“The design of the hatchery is unique in that it provides for filtering and recirculating the water through the raceways,” remarked Harvey Beale of Elkins, supervisor of hatcheries for the Department of Natural Resources.

Overall plans for the hatchery include 12 raceways if water supply and temperature and other factors are adequate. If all 12 raceways ultimately are used, the capacity of the hatchery probably would be in excess of 200,000 pounds of fish per year.

The hatchery was designed by H. C. Beaver of Elkins and Larry Harrah of Charleston.

60 Years Ago
Week of March 26, 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.

Red River Campaign
Begins in Louisiana

During the busy month of March, 1884, while big changes were in the making in Washington, Gen. Nathaniel Banks undertook a new Federal campaign that was destined to become an historical flop.

It was the famous “Red River Campaign,” designed to reduce the state of Louisiana, restore the Union flag over Texas and recommence the flow of cotton from Texas to the North. Authorities in Washington had promoted the plan, and Banks dutifully set out to execute it.

On March 10, therefore, the campaign opened when a fleet of 13 ironclads and seven gunboats, followed by 30 transports carrying 10,000 troops, dropped down the Mississippi River from Vicksburg and turned westward into the Red River.

So far so good. The fleet—under the veteran Admiral David D. Porter—was the strongest ever assembled on a river, and more men were coming. Up from New Orleans, Banks was to lead another 20,000 troops to meet Porter’s fleet at Alexandria, deep in Confederate-held territory of

central Louisiana.

Porter did his job well. His fleet moved up the Red River and landed the 10,000 troops at Simsport on the 13th. The soldiers, under Gen. A. J. Smith, attacked Fort De Russy near Alexandria and drove out or captured the Confederate defenders there.

Porter slowly brought his fleet on upstream, clearing the river of obstructions, while Smith’s men marched 10 more miles to Alexandria. Everyone arrived on the 14th, as Confederates fell back hastily.

Then trouble began developing. Banks’ cavalry didn’t appear at the rendezvous point until the 18th, and Banks and the rest of his men were not on hand for another week. Finally, on the 26th, Banks, Porter, Smith, the fleet and 30,000 men were ready to march.

Confederates in the state had mobilized in the meantime. As the first Federals marched into Alexandria, Confederate Gen. Richard Taylor was not far away, leading his 11,000 men in a hasty 70-mile retreat through pine woods toward Shreveport. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, commander of the Confederacy’s department of the Mississippi, was firing off messages calling for support. Gen. Sterling Price in Arkansas was to send 5,000 troops; more were called in from Shreveport and surrounding territory.

As March ended, Banks began pushing farther up the river, where a long line of well-prepared Confederates awaited.

Next week: Blockade runners.

Female Workers Wanted

QUICK ACTION NEEDED

Whether or not an adequate labor supply is available probably will determine whether a shirt manufacturer will locate in Pendleton County. Therefore, an additional labor survey is being made, and it is absolutely necessary that it be completed immediately.

“We need at least 500 women, of which 250 must be between the ages of 16 and 26,” George I. Sponaugle, president of Pendleton Industries, Inc., said today.

Women who are available for employment are requested to complete the survey blank printed below and return it immediately to Pendleton Industries, Inc., Franklin. If more than one form is needed, additional ones may be obtained at business places throughout the county.

“Even though you did answer the labor survey which was conducted approximately 10 months ago by Pendleton Industries, Inc.,” Sponaugle added, “you are requested to answer this one also.

“We are sending applications out with all the school children so that adequate forms will be available for everyone who desires one. You are requested to either fill out the one in

the newspaper and return it immediately, or fill out the one your child brings home to you and return it with the child the next morning. We will pick it up from the child’s teacher.”

Sponaugle requested persons who have daughters working away who would like to return home to work to fill out a survey form for them also.

All women who are available for work regardless of their age should fill out one of the survey forms.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE—Survey forms should be returned immediately.

Local Limestone Plant
To Expand Operations,
Employ 25 More Men

Production of a high-quality lime for the steel, pulp and paper, and chemical industries is expected to get underway on May 1 at Germany Valley Limestone Company’s quarry operation at Riverton.

Workmen are now completing the installation of the first rotary kiln. This unit has a capacity of 150 tons per day.

Executive Vice President R. A. Raese said a second kiln, with a 350-ton capacity, is expected to be placed into operation by late summer. Long-range plans also include a third unit. The size of the crushing plant is being doubled to service the new product line.

At present, the firm produces agricultural lime, rock dust, highway aggregate, and calcium sand for the glass industry.

An around-the-clock production schedule is planned requiring an additional 25-man working force plus the necessary hauling contractors to transport the lime to new storage and rail facilities being constructed at Petersburg.

70 Years Ago
Week of March 25, 1954

Naomi Simmons
Is Champion Speller

Naomi Simmons, a sophomore at Franklin High School, won the Friday annual spelling contest last Friday by defeating 15 other top spellers in the final round of the contest.

Runner-up in the contest was Mary Evelyn Neville, a junior, and Medford Hoover, a sophomore, was third.

Judges for the contest were Brooke Boggs, Harlan Eye and Mae Ritchie, and Mrs. L. W. Rhudy pronounced the words.

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

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

Smith Creek/
Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

Good-bye winter, hello spring. Winter wasn’t that bad. There were a few days of snow, more than the area received last winter, and a few cold temperatures that were under 10°.

Be careful out there as several outdoor fires have happened in the county. Plus, the wind didn’t help. The woods are dry. If a person is planning to burn, it must be between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. Make sure to check the weather for the wind condition prior to burning.

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

Prayer thought: “We may not always receive what we ask for, but we can be sure that God is working in and through every prayer.”

High and low temperatures and precipitation for March 11 through March 17, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: March 11 - 48°, 27° (39°, 23°); March 12 - 66°, 37° (34°, 29°, .25” snow); March 13 - 71°, 34°, .07” (41°, 25°); March 14 - 73°, 35° (32°, 23°, .5” snow); March 15 - 65°, 44° (45°, 22°); March 16 - 64°, 35° (64°, 26°) and March 17 - 57°, 41° (58°, 39°).

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² Annual Percentage Yield (APY) assumes principal and interest remain on deposit for the term of the certificate. All interest payments for the APY will be made at the end of the term or annually, whichever occurs first. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees could reduce earnings on the account.

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Wise Advice from a Farmer's Wife' Keeps Life Simple

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

The writer borrowed this wise advice from a farmer's wife on Facebook. It bears reading. "Wise Advice from a Farmer's Wife"

Whenever you return a borrowed pie pan, make sure it's got a warm pie in it.

Invite lots of folks to supper. You can always add more water to the soup.

There's no such thing as woman's work on a farm. There's just work.

Make home a happy place for the children. Everybody returns to their happy place.

Always keep a small light on in the kitchen window at night.

If your man gets his truck stuck in the field, don't go in after him. Throw him a rope and pull him out with the tractor.

Keep the kerosene lamp away from the milk cow's leg.

It's a whole lot easier to get breakfast from a chicken than a pig.

Always pat the chickens when you take their eggs.

It's easy to clean an empty house, but hard to live in one.

All children spill milk. Learn to smile and wipe it up.

Homemade's always better'n store bought.

A tongue's like a knife. The sharper it is the deeper it cuts.

A good neighbor always knows when to visit and when to leave.

A city dog wants to run out the door, but a country dog stays on the porch 'cause he's not fenced-in.

Always light birthday candles from the middle outward.

Nothin' gets the frustrations out better'n splittin' wood.

The longer the dress hem, the more trusting the husband.

Enjoy doing your children's laundry. Some day they'll be gone.

You'll never catch a runnin' chicken but if you

throw seed around the back door, you'll have a skillet full by supper.

Biscuits brown better with a little butter brushed on 'em.

Check your shoelaces before runnin' to help somebody.

Visit old people who can't get out. Some day you'll be one.

The softer you talk, the closer folks'll listen.

The colder the outhouse, the warmer the bed.

There is a lot of truth to this piece of advice!

Live a richer life by these little instructions:

1. Help someone.
2. Live life generously, and practice it all the time.
3. Fly the flag.
4. Create a bucket list.
5. Enjoy nature to the fullest!

March has certainly been fickle, with promises for cooler temperatures for all to enjoy. Sunday was a typical March day...beautiful sunshine, the wind blowing, and nature painting a pretty picture with the blooming forsythia, fragrant hyacinths and daffodils waving their pretty bonnets. (The daffdawn dilly is the first to bloom when the robin says it's spring. You are the first love of my heart to make it leap and sing!) There are busloads of starlings, and robins working at finding the worm to satisfy their diet. March "came in like a lamb" and will surely "go out like a lion" — especially since Easter arrives at the end of the month, and that is usually the time for an "Easter storm." Monday nights freezing temperatures probably got the fruit trees and all else. It is what it is!

This week's quotes are as follows:

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

"Life becomes easier when you learn to accept an apology you never got." — Robert Brault

"It's not the years in your life, but the life in your years that counts." — Adlai Stevenson

"Life has no limitations except the ones you make." — Les Brown

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the things

you did." — Mark Twain

Sitting inside is the best place to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

Nathan Puffenbarger, son of Becky and Wesley Puffenbarger, spent Saturday with his granddad, "Butch" (Eldon) Puffenbarger. They enjoyed 4-wheeler riding and checking the cows.

Phil Downs spent his Friday with his aunt, Wanda Pitsenbarger.

Saturday visitors of Evelyn Varner were Donnie and Judy Smith of Bridgewater, Virginia, Joyce and Richard Marshall of McGaheysville, Virginia, and Will Hoover and daughter, Taylor of Staunton, Virginia.

Clickety-clacks for the chin wagers are as follows:

- Neil Armstrong's first footprint on the moon was 13x6 inches, when he took the historical walk.
- On the average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year.
- Koala prints cannot be distinguished from human fingerprints.
- There are 40,000 muscles and tendons in an elephant's trunk.
- Spiral staircases in medieval castles run clockwise.

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, the Harold Cupp family, Christian Dasher, Isaac Eye, Linda Eye, Marie Eye, Mary Eye, Neal Eye, Carl Gant, Lorelee Gordon, Lola Graham, Patsy Green, the Rosalee Grogg family, JC Hammer, Marlene Harman, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Grace Hedrick, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Virgil Homan, Jr., Adelbert Hoover, Keith Hoover, Myrtle Hoover, Debbie and Enos Horst, Lisa and Mike Jamison, Jessica Janney, Alice Johnson, Richard Judy, Marsha Keller, Kim Kline, Tracie Knight, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Ronnie Lambert, Rex Landis, Roger and Skip Mallow, Yvonne Marsh, Ed May, Gary McDonald, Neil



David Arthur Wilfong (Jan. 8, 1877 - Nov. 24, 1934) was the son of Philip and Eliza J. Lamb Wilfong. He married Lillie Elizabeth Simmons (Nov. 19, 1881 - April 30, 1973) and they had Arthur Herbert Wilfong and Charles Rudy Wilfong. All are buried in the Sugar Grove Cemetery.

McLaughlin, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Tom Mitchell, Barbara Moats, John Morford, Richard Morrison, Aaron Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Cheryl Paine, Wanda Pitsenbarger, Alda Propst, John O. Propst, Kathy Propst, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Tom Rader, Brandon Reel, Charles Rexrode, Jason Rexrode, Jerold "Jerry" Rexrode, Pam Rexrode, Dennis Riggelman, Donna Ruddle, Annie Simmons, Kent 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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Experienced Pendleton County Squad Faces 'Toughest Schedule' with Talented Team

By Stephen Smoot

According to Wildcat head baseball coach Sam Yokum, "We scheduled pretty heavy this year." He predicted the season would be "very competitive, very hard. It's going to be fun."

Most of the regional rivals bring back experienced and highly competitive squads. Petersburg, Moorefield, and East Hardy lost almost no seniors among the three. Yokum also said "Tucker County will fool some people. They are going to be a handful."

In addition to the teams normally played, the Wildcats will also battle powerhouse Jefferson, Spring Mills, and compete in a tournament in Charleston.

Yokum explained that though the team has a number of upperclassmen, not all played baseball all the way through school. That said, he expects that "we'll be a team that progresses all season" and expects the squad to be highly competitive come tournament time.

One of the most experienced players will return from injury to pitch and play second base. Much is expected from Cameron Beachler, also a standout performer on Charles Burgoyne's golf team. The coach said of him that they are "really looking forward to him helping to lead this team."

Another senior expected to continue his solid play in the infield is the scrappy and tough Dillon Smith. Yokum said, "Dillon Smith

plays very hard" and "leads by example." His twin brother, Dusty, "has not played since little league, but will play outfield and is tracking the ball like a seasoned player."

Alden Rexrode enters his third year of play. He can contribute in the outfield, as well as pitcher and catcher. "He's very versatile," Yokum noted.

The junior class starts with catcher and pitcher James Vincell. He's, as Yokum describes "a team leader, more so than just by example." Although he will pitch, "he's very, very solid behind the plate."

Backing up Beachler at second base is the "seasoned" Caleb Armentrout who, after Beachler's injury last year made some nice plays. Another junior, Tucker Smith, is in his second year on the team. His versatility allows him to play the outfield and catch, "one of those that absolutely will do what you ask," Yokum described.

Also in his second year is Josiah Kimble. He sat out the season last year, but "is as good as any outfielder around."

Chase Owens, who pitches and plays shortstop, exploded onto the scene last year as a freshman in football, basketball, and baseball. He brought the skills of a seasoned veteran to all three. Fellow sophomore Cashton Kisamore brings significant pitching experience from last season. "He's got a pitcher's body," said Yokum

who added that pitching and first base "will be his role this year."

Rounding out the sophomore class, Jonas Turner will play in the outfield. Last year, the team used his speed to work more aggressively on the base paths. Additionally, Barrett Cook will play outfield, Caydan Boone will pitch and fill in at second, and Henry Warner, in his first year of baseball, will learn first base and also be used to pitch.

The freshman class includes some intriguing potential. Both Cole Harper and Will Smith come to the squad as left-handed pitchers. Single A teams usually have none of these rare talents. Yokum noted that two more southpaws will come up in the next year or two from middle school.

Spencer Hartman will play third, while Colby Simons will learn second base and outfield. Noah Lockard's versatility will see him play catcher, but also infield and outfield positions. The "very athletic" David Noble will contribute at catcher and outfield in his first season playing the sport.

"We like the direction we are headed in," explained Yokum. The early season heavyweights will force the young team to grow up quickly, but the leadership, skills, and grit showed by the players last season and in other sports will make Pendleton County once again one of the toughest outs in the Potomac Highlands.



The Wildcats start their last practice before the season opener, taking on Tygarts Valley in Franklin on Monday.

New Coach Inherits Loaded Softball Squad

By Stephen Smoot

All of Eric Crites' coaching experience has come in the halls of Valhalla just to the north of Pendleton County, but don't let his Petersburg pedigree fool anyone.

"I still live in Petersburg and they give me heck for that," Crites joked. He played high school basketball for the Vikings, but turned down opportunities to play for Potomac State and Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. Since, he has coached basketball and softball at different levels. Though he coached middle school basketball for seven years, he admits that he "enjoyed coaching softball the most."

The new softball head coach is ready to let his Wildcats do some pillaging of their own. He has watched the current crop of Wildcats grow from the Petersburg point of view and has developed a true appreciation. He remembered thinking in the past "that Pendleton County team will be deadly in a few years."

That time is now.

Just as some of their other coaches, Rod Cooper and Donnie Kopp have boasted in volleyball and basketball, respectively, he says "this group will never back down."

Pendleton County has two players who, in an almost unheard of situation for a team in single A, committed to playing at the next level. Both were recruited as juniors. Avery Townsend will continue her career in two years at Fairmont State while Baylee Beachler will play for Division 1 Robert Morris.

And they may not be the last of this group to receive those opportunities.

Crites praised the experience and ability of his pitching staff, starting with senior Allie Vance. Along with Beachler, she was one of

two hurling for the Wildcats last year. Crites said of her, "She knows how to hit the corners. She knows how to throw for strikes. She's one of the most consistent strike throwers I've seen."

In other words, Vance is a classic ground ball pitcher who trusts and relies on her defense to team up and produce outs.

He called Beachler "the speed demon of our group. Last week, she hit 67 on the radar gun." Beachler leads by example, Crites saying, "She really works hard to make herself better."

Susan Vincell brings an important wrinkle to the pitching staff. The freshman throws left-handed, a rarity in single A softball. "The ball stays away from right-handed hitters," the coach said, explaining that hitters, when making contact, often pull the ball softly to shortstop.

Since a team can never have enough pitchers, Crites has also started to develop Jayden Mitts' arm. "Great name for a softball player, right?" he joked. Having a larger staff provides options in case of injury and, also "you don't work one girl to death."

Mitts will, however, primarily make her contributions in the outfield and is "a very good contact hitter."

The infield starts with the experienced Lizzie Alt, who also plays varsity and travel team volleyball. "She's a very solid kid all the way around," her coach said, adding that "if it's hit in her vicinity, she's going to catch it." Vincell will back up Alt at first.

Jenna Smith will man second base for the Wildcats. She's "a very hard-working individual" and "can play most positions," especially shortstop, third base, and catcher.

Townsend brings steady and reliable play to the shortstop position. She also brings that Rickey Henderson style combination of hitting for power and average, as well as bringing tremendous speed to base running. Crites adds that "she always has a smile on her face."

Kate Hedrick holds down the "hot corner" for Pendleton County. The experienced senior "gives 110 percent. She's a very strong hitter." Crites also praised her defensive style, saying Hedrick is "the very aggressive type who will come up and get it." Jessica Parker will start at

catcher as a freshman. Parker played in older divisions on her travel softball teams, so is used to competing with and against older players. She brings "the knowledge to control her pitchers."

Nataley Hedrick started at catcher last year and will back up Parker this season because Crites wants to see her speed and agility deployed elsewhere. "She's quick enough to get to anything in the outfield."

The coach emphasized the importance of excellence in the outfield. "If an infielder makes an error," he shared, "they get one base, max. If an outfielder makes an error, the runners can go forever."

Julia Mongold moves from right to center field this year. In addition to her athletic ability and experience, Crites said, "She is the spirit leader of this team. She always has us laughing in practice" and is "a vocal leader helping everyone." Mongold also often sparks the cheeky and fun dugout cheers that almost constantly emanate from the Wildcats' side.

The outfield lineup will also include Madison Arbogast and Isabella Lockard.

Later in the season, Carolyn Varner will join the lineup. Crites said she'd play outfield and third while bringing a big bat to the plate. She missed basketball season due to injury and will add her wealth of softball experience to help mentor the younger players. Crites praised his entire team for their interest in watching middle schoolers, helping to mentor them as well.

He also envisions that every player, regardless of class or position, will get numerous opportunities to play and contribute to wins.

"We have the Greg Madduxes on this team," he shared, adding that "they know what to do with the ball when they get it."

In their next to last practice before the season opener on Monday, they started with defensive drills, practicing situations such as double plays and run downs. Occasionally, he would ask the players if any of their travel coaches had different insights on how to deal with specific situations, trusting what he called the players' "softball IQ" to contribute to coaching.

"The whole team is the smartest one I've ever been around," Crites beamed.

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PCMS Wildcat Track Schedule	
March 27 Petersburg.....	(A)
April 17 Petersburg.....	(A)
24 Hampshire.....	(A)
30 Keyser.....	(A)
May 7 East Hardy.....	(A)
13 PVL.....	(A)

PCHS Wildcat Track Schedule	
March 28 Frankfort.....	(A)
April 2 Keyser.....	(A)
9 Moorefield.....	(A)
12 Irwin Invitational at Elkins.....	(A)
18 Keyser.....	(A)
23 PVC.....	(A)
May 4 Jim Turbin Invitational at Keyser.....	(A)
8 Regionals.....	(A)
17/18 State Meets.....	(A)

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www.pendleontimes.com

Future Generations University Discusses Local, Regional, and Global Impact in Annual Report

By Stephen Smoot

High atop North Mountain, on Road Less Traveled Road, Future Generations University has served as the hub of a number of programs. Some benefit the Pendleton County community, while others focus on development throughout the Appalachian region. Other work seeks to bring

uplift to communities in 55 nations worldwide.

These include Afghanistan, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Haiti, and many others.

One of the key changes over the past year included the appointment of Francis Day as chief executive officer and president of the institution.

Previously, Day had served as vice president of advancement.

She took over from Daniel Taylor, university professor and chair of the board of trustees. Taylor wrote in the report "I just returned from Zimbabwe, collaborating with the African alumni. Applying their masters training, they transform their communities."

Day expressed appreciation to Taylor, saying, "Thank you to Daniel Taylor for his many years of service . . . he and I are working closely to ensure a sustainable and bright future for Future Generations University."

The report expressed a vision that included the idea of enrichment through applied education, expanding opportunities for women, and scaling up successes "through action, learning, and continual experimentation."

Alumni continue to work worldwide in pursuit of organizational goals. Rachel Mashiri of Zimbabwe, according to the report, "is a mother of three, a pastor's wife, and a teacher. She lives in the town of Marondera . . . as an educator from the religious community, she works with people

from all walks of life with various needs."

From Nepal, Bindu Pun "works with adolescents as a training officer for Bhaskar-Tejshree Memorial Foundation." She said, "My university professors help me make health learning fun."

A program established in the Himalayan Mountains, that run through Nepal, northern India, and southwestern China, include prioritizing the sharing of histories, including those of women, and teaching the fundamentals of greenhouse agriculture. Greenhouses, even in West Virginia, help to expand cultivation to areas traditionally considered unsuitable for terrain or temperature.

Closer to home, the report indicates that "the Appalachian program is flourishing with innovative projects and versatile funding channels." This includes a "reputation that continues to rise as a regional facilitator for Forest Adventure Agritourism."

In Pendleton County, FGU has worked diligently to advance research in expanding tree-based syrup production. It has worked to encourage added production and improved marketing of maple while also producing groundbreaking advances in walnut and sycamore syrups.

It also started a "sprout school," described as "a training program for educators and agricultural service providers to learn farm-to-school K-12 education."



Educators Rising members, Paigelyn Long, left, and Lydia Heavner competed on the state level at Canaan Valley Resort.

Long and Heavner Place in Educators Rising State Contests

Pendleton County Middle/High School Educators Rising Members attended the 2024 West Virginia Educators Rising state competitive events at Canaan Valley Resort. The event was held March 6-8 and included guest speakers, workshops and competitive events.

Paigelyn Long competed in the Exploring Support Services

Careers earning first place. Her presentation focused on the career of speech language pathologist, Linda Teter.

Lydia Heavner competed in the Exploring Non-Core Subject Teaching Careers earning third place. Her presentation focused on the career of agricultural education, Ronald Hudson.

A requirement of the compe-

dition was to complete at least eight hours of job shadowing, conduct an interview and develop a PowerPoint exhibiting personal gained insight from the experience.

Heavner and Long are students in the career and technical education early childhood education and Grow Your Own Programs at PCMHS.

Treasure Mountain Festival Looks at Tea Room Changes

By Stephen Smoot

"Jared and I are really excited about this," said Katie VanMeter as she addressed the leadership committee for Treasure Mountain Festival. Along with her husband, the local business owning family acquired the William McCoy House in Franklin last year with the intention of creating lodging and a community events facility.

Then Treasure Mountain Festival Association chose to hold its beloved Tea Room event there as the VanMeters have continued to complete renovations to restore the historic luster of the structure.

Annie Humes, who serves on the committee, explained that "I gave Katie a binder on all things Tea Room. Katie has a wonderful venue."

Some concerns in the past lay in the limited space for the Tea Room. The VanMeters offered to open the two large main floor parlors to the Tea Room. They also have hosted public events there

on Christmas and at other times.

VanMeter went on to say that the festival could use their facility any time at no cost and that they would even don period costumes to make the event more authentic.

Discussion next centered on how to use the lawns on the two street sides of the property. VanMeter suggested that they could add outdoor seating for those waiting to access the Tea Room. Later, the group discussed adding outdoor space to the Tea Room event itself.

"I am more than willing to set up a Tea Room outside," VanMeter agreed.

Jennifer Taylor-Ide queried VanMeter about access for the disabled, to which she responded that they had to work with the National Register of Historic Places. Buildings on the register must maintain their historic authenticity as much as possible.

Humes proposed that "there are massive tax credits for ADA access."

"Anything that we can do to give back to our community," VanMeter added.

At the fore of the meeting, the group discussed ongoing efforts to obtain 501(c)(3) status. This status marks an organization as a tax exempt non-profit under the United States Internal Revenue Service. The TMF group already enjoys such status under state law.

A 501(c)(3) can raise donations through the promise of a federal tax deduction, but cannot engage in any political or campaign activity.

Applying for such status takes longer than it once did. According to the IRS website, the agency receives just under 100,000 applications for tax exempt status yearly. Depending on which form the organization may use, the application could be processed in four weeks or less or six months or more.

The next meeting of the full TMF body will take place on June 13.

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Pork Tenderloin
Baked Sweet Potato
Cauliflower
Tropical Fruit, Bread

MONDAY, MARCH 25
Vegetable Soup
Chicken Salad Sandwich
Broccoli Salad
Banana Pudding

TUESDAY, MARCH 26
Pork Stir Fry
Rice, Salad
Baked Apples, Bread

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27
Taco, Beans
Corn, Grapes

THURSDAY, MARCH 28
EVENING MEAL @ 5 P.M.
EASTER
Ham/Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Pineapple/Bread
Cupcake/Punch

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- 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/pcs/page/employment>

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Love,
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Cheerleaders Appreciate Support
Thank you to everyone who supported the Cheer Gymnastics Bingo on February 25th!
We are so grateful to all of you for helping make our event a huge success! A special thanks to Elizabeth Scott, Brooke Hott, and Allison Vincell for their generosity! The success of this event wouldn't be possible without any of you!

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Winners of Young Writers Contest Released

Pendleton County Schools has released the following winners of the county's young writers contest.

Grades 1-2 — Bethany Teagarden, The Alligator Family that Changed, Brandywine Elementary School, first, Lucas Cruz, The Best Pap, BES, second, and Cailee Armstrong, Me and My Bestie, BES, third;

Grades 3-4 — Connor

Raines, Nazi Invasion of Poland, Franklin Elementary School, first, Harper Marsh, Fred's Mystery, BES, second, and Deken Somerville, Preadatorus, FES, third;

Grades 5-6 — Jacob Thompson, The Mysterious Door, North Fork Elementary School, first, Ava Sherman, The Little Girl at the Door, NFES, second

and Ava Davis, The State Competition, BES, third; and

Grades 7-8 — Ava Bowers, Adventures at the Greenbrier, Pendleton County Middle School, first, and Dylan Eye, Pawing at the Past, PCMS, second.

The writings of the first place winners in each category will be submitted to the state competition.

BES Honor Roll Announced

Ryan Lambert, principal of Brandywine Elementary School, has released the following honor rolls for the third nine-weeks grading period.

Principal's Honor Roll
First grade — Lucas Cruz, Wyatt Hevener, Alani Shockey, Benjamin Weaver and Cooper Wimer;

Second grade — Hunter Bowers, Carson Mitchell and Bethany Teagarden;

Third grade — Grayson Gilbert, Vianca Henderson, Aubrey Pitsenbarger and Trevor Redmond;

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

Fifth grade — Owen Champ and Ava Davis; and

Sixth grade — Anthony Bowman and Cayden Hensley.

A-B Honor Roll

First grade — Wyatt Calhoun, Skylar Hottle, Lukas Kiser, Annabelle Lockner, Geneva Mongold, Colton Turner and Jacob Wheeler;

Second grade — Cailee Armstrong, Lucas Hanna, Nakiyah Perez, Fletcher Puffenbarger and Chloe Simmons;

Third grade — Logan Bowman, Adalynn Brown, Thomas Connor, Piper Hanna, Kendalyn Hoover-Bartley, Treyvin Puffenbarger, Bentley Schell, Hayden Siple and Elizabeth Wheeler;

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

Fifth grade — Landon Bowers, Tristen Lewis, Austin Ruddle and Levi Wimer; and

Sixth grade — Nathaniel Hammer, Bailey Hough, Noah Kobetic and Emma Puffenbarger.

PCB Announces Promotions

Pendleton Community Bank's board of directors approved promotions within its executive leadership and management teams. To support the bank's growth, the executive leadership team was expanded.

The executive leadership promotions approved were Neil Hayslett (senior executive vice president, chief operating officer), Sheldon Arbaugh (executive vice president, West Virginia area executive), Josh Byers (executive vice president, chief credit officer), Aaron Green (executive vice president, chief lending officer) and Jonah Pence (executive vice president, Virginia area executive and chief banking officer).

William A. Loving, president and CEO, and Tammy Kesner, executive vice president, chief financial officer, continue to serve in their respective roles and round out the executive leadership team.

The following promotions were made

within the company's management team: Monika Eckard (senior vice president, human resources director) and Amanda Smith (senior vice president, products and service director).

"I, along with our board of directors, am honored to announce the promotions of this dedicated and deserving team of community bankers," said Loving. "In total, this group shares nearly 100 years of combined service with PCB and more than 160 years of financial services experience within our local communities. The expansion of our leadership team will allow PCB to best fulfill our mission in the years ahead. This group, along with the entire management team and staff, exemplifies what it means to be community bankers who are dedicated to facilitating customer financial success, encouraging team member professional development, and stimulating economic growth within our communities."

Potomac State Releases President's List

Pendleton County students earned a place on the President's List for the fall semester at West Virginia University Potomac State College in Keyser.

Receiving the recognition were Keira Gardner of Franklin, Aiden Cooney, Caitlyn Cooper and Cali Harper, all of Seneca Rocks, and Cara Hol-

loway and Hunter Turner, both of Upper Tract.

To be eligible for the President's List, a student must be enrolled in at least 12-credit hours of graded courses, excluding courses in which any grade of audit, pass or incomplete is recorded, and must earn a grade-point average of 3.700 or higher for the semester.

County Students Named to Dean's List

Four Pendleton County students were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at West Virginia University Potomac State College in Keyser.

Meeting the criteria were Emma Gibson of Brandywine, Mariah Huffman and Alex Kimble, both of Franklin, and Braiden Lantz

of Seneca Rocks.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled in at least 12-credit hours of graded courses, excluding courses in which any grade of audit, pass or incomplete is recorded, and must earn a grade-point average of 3.000 to 3.699 for the semester.

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SENECA ROCKS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Executive Director Job Description

This position reports to:
The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority Board of Directors

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

Job Description:

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

Recommended Minimum Qualifications:

Education and Experience:

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

Knowledge, Abilities and Skill:

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

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

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

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

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

Any questions may be addressed to Karen Pitsenbarger at 304-358-7573.
Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES UPON APPLICATION WITHOUT PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES

NOTICE is hereby given that Pocahontas County Solid Waste Authority (the "Authority"), a commercial solid waste facility and a public utility, has, on March 8, 2024, filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA an application containing increased rates and charges for furnishing landfill waste disposal services to customers at the Pocahontas County Landfill (the "Landfill") in Dunmore, West Virginia.

The Landfill is owned and operated by the Authority, and the Landfill operates under authority of Solid Waste Facility Permit No. SWF 2001/WV0109436, which was issued by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

The proposed increased rates and charges will produce approximately \$156,278 annually in additional revenue, an increase of 17.44%. The purpose of the Authority's rate case filing is to increase rates and charges for increased operation and maintenance costs relating to the Landfill's compliant and continued operations. The proposed increased rates and charges will not become effective until approved by the Commission. The Authority's current and proposed rates, on a per ton basis, are as follows:

	Current	Proposed	(\$) Increase	(%) Increase
RATES (Green Box Sites)				
Residential Assessment	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$0	0%
RATES (Landfill)				
General Public	\$64.00	\$86.25	\$22.25	34.77%
Commercial Haulers	\$64.00	\$86.25	\$22.25	34.77%
TIRE FEES				
General Public	\$100.00	\$275.00	\$175.00	175.00%
Commercial Haulers	\$100.00	\$275.00	\$175.00	175.00%
WHITE GOODS FEE*				
General Public	\$0.00	\$77.50	new	new
Commercial Haulers	\$0.00	\$77.50	new	new

*The White Goods Fee is a new fee the Authority is proposing.

Both the present and proposed rates referenced above are exclusive of any legislatively mandated or authorized per-ton assessment fees and any other per-ton assessment fees due to any governmental entity.

The Authority has no resale customers.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or notice of intervention within thirty days, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases and to participate in future proceedings. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All interventions may be mailed and be addressed to Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25323, or hand delivered. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed or hand delivered to the Executive Secretary at the address above.

A complete copy of this tariff, as well as a representative of the Authority to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at any of the following offices of the Authority: 900-H Tenth Avenue, Marlinton, West Virginia.

A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. 3-21-2c

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.**

Region 8 PDC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Hunters Harvest 2,830 Black Bears, 104 Bagged in Pendleton County

Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announced that black bear harvests in West Virginia dramatically increased in 2023. "I couldn't be more proud because this is further proof that West Virginia is a hotspot for bear hunters," Justice said. "The success of this program is a testament to the hard work of our

WVDNR team and everyone who is making our state a hunting destination. Keep up the great work." During the 2023 archery and firearms seasons for black bear, West Virginia hunters harvested 2,830 bears, which was a 64 percent increase over the 1,727 bears harvested in 2022. "This impressive black bear harvest just goes to show that West Virginia has a wealth of hunting opportunities beyond the popular deer seasons," said Brett McMillion, WVDNR director. WVDNR wildlife biologists projected increased black bear harvests for the state's archery and crossbow season and firearms season in the 2023 Mast Survey and Hunting Outlook. Both projections came true and can be attributed to favorable conditions. "The statewide mast index for all Grant and Hardy in 2023 was up 15 percent compared

to 2022," said Carpenter, black bear project leader for WVDNR. "The best hard production in 2023 was recorded for red and black oak, which was up 138 percent over 2022." Hunters harvested 1,898 bears during the firearms season and 462 bears with crossbows. The top five counties for archery harvests were Fayette (83), McDowell and Wayne (71), Nicholas (62), Raleigh (59) and Greenbrier (55). In Pendleton County, hunters harvested 12 bears during the bow and crossbow season. In neighboring counties, Pendleton County with hunters bagging 36 in Grant County and 30 in Hardy County.

Hunters harvested 538 bears in September and October (140 bears during the September youth, class Q/QQ and XS seasons, 10 bears during the October youth, class Q/QQ and XS seasons and 48 bears during the concurrent antlerless deer/bear season). Hunters also harvested 352 bears during the concurrent buck firearms and bear season, from Sept. 30 to Nov. 19. Hunters harvested 470 bears with vertical bows and 462 bears with crossbows. The top five counties for archery harvests were Fayette (83), McDowell and Wayne (71), Nicholas (62), Raleigh (59) and Greenbrier (55). In Pendleton County, hunters harvested 12 bears during the bow and crossbow season. In neighboring counties, Pendleton County with hunters bagging 36 in Grant County and 30 in Hardy County.

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If interested, please pick up an application at our office at 365 Mill Road, Franklin, and return it there or visit our website at www.pfsi.org and complete an application.

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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

Capito Presented Farm Bureau's Gold Plow Award

The American Farm Bureau Federation and West Virginia Farm Bureau presented Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) with the highest honor the organization gives to sitting members of Congress, the Golden Plow award.

“Senator Capito has proven time and again that she is a strong advocate, fierce negotiator and formidable champion for agriculture and rural America,” said Zippy Duvall, AFBF president. “She’s helped us fight against overregulation by the Environmental Protection Agency, led the charge for comprehensive economic development and played a key role in supporting affordable, reliable energy production. Our country’s farmers and ranchers are better off because of the work she has done.”

male U.S. senator in West Virginia’s history and serves as ranking member on the committee on environment and public works. She is also a member of the appropriations and commerce committees, where she’s helped secure hearings for bills vital to the protection of farmers and ranchers.

West Virginia Farm Bureau nominated Capito for her tireless advocacy on behalf of agriculture, including for common sense government regulations, especially at the United States Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. She was also nominated for her dedication to improving the lives of veterans and preventing substance abuse.

“Senator Capito has been and continues to be a leading voice to ad-

dress issues critical to West Virginia and all of rural America, including broadband expansion, building our nation’s infrastructure and helping every American access affordable, dependable energy,” said Charles Wilfong, WVFB president. “Her leadership and vision epitomize the spirit of the Golden Plow. The West Virginia Farm Bureau strongly supports Senator Capito as a recipient of the award.”

AFBF’s Golden Plow award recognizes members of Congress who exemplify agricultural leadership. Recipients are chosen for having a philosophy or record that demonstrates a commitment to sound agricultural policies supported by farm bureau, the private enterprise system, fiscal conservatism and reduced federal regulation of businesses and individuals.



Ava Bowers



Natalie Evick



Seneca Johnson

Evick, Johnson and Bowers Named PCH/MS Students of the Month

Natalie Evick, Seneca Johnson and Ava Bowers have been named outstanding students of the month for February at Pendleton County High/Middle School.

Evick is the Academic Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Julie Evick and the late Bobby Evick of Franklin. She is a senior and an active member of National Honor Society. She volunteers at Faithful Friends Animal Clinic and is a coach at Raymond’s Gymnastics where she has been a gymnast for seven years. She plans to attend West Virginia University, be accepted into veterinary school, and eventually become a veterinarian.

The James Huffman Responsible Student of the Month is Johnson. A senior, she is a member

of the Pep Club and Way-side Church. She enjoys hiking and traveling in a Jeep. She plans to attend college to become a registered nurse or anesthesiologist. She is the daughter of Tim and Lori Johnson of Franklin.

Bowers is the Pendleton County Middle School Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Shaun and Leslie Bowers of Sugar Grove. She is a seventh grader, plays on the volleyball team, and proudly placed first in the Social Studies Fair. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her dog. At this time, her future plans are to become an architect.

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2015 FORD F-250 SUPERCREW 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
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2021 KIA RIO S 5-DR HATCHBACK, 1.6 4-cyl., auto., ldd., white, only 7K miles, like new cond.....	SPECIAL \$19,990 \$18,500
2020 NISSAN ROGUE SL AWD, 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

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SGR323A 35.31 Acres w/1289 sq. ft. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath Log Cabin, 1st floor in caseboard & Wood Heat. Cistern, Septic. Hidden Valley. **NEW LISTING \$249,000.00.**

SGR322A 49.07 Acres, more or less, located in Mill Run District. **UNDER CONTRACT \$219,000.00.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, Cattfish Pond, Mtn. Views, Roads throughout. Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$1,795,000.00.**

SGR295A 1.5 Acres w/3 Bed, 1 1/2 Bath home located Franklin District. Spring & Well. Some covenants & restrictions. **NEW LISTING \$249,000.00.**

SGR271A 1.84 Acres, Potomac Highlands, Franklin District. **UNDER CONTRACT \$14,000.00.**

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

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

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

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

SGR223A 299, 2 Bath, 2000 sq. ft. home located in town of Franklin. **\$299,000.00.**

SGR056 Highland County property. Pasture, several year-round Springs, Hunting, High Speed Internet, Electric, 1.3 miles of public Road Frontage. Awesome view of Blue Grass Valley. **\$2,973,000.00.**

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

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