

# THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Thursday  
July 25, 2024



This cornfield in Fort Seybert shows the ravages of drought conditions that have continued to worsen over the summer.

## Drought Already Bringing Frustration to Local Farmers

By Stephen Smoot

Pendleton County last week moved from D2 to D3 in drought classification, but according to some farmers, serious damage has already occurred.

Steve Conrad, director of the Pendleton County Farm Bureau, noted that severe conditions have potentially brought significant damage to the corn crop in Fort Seybert and other areas. He also explained that the current Bermuda High weather system established over the Atlantic Ocean through much of this

summer will likely continue to pump hotter air into the region from southerly and southwesterly prevailing winds.

The coming of a tropical event such as a hurricane may bring badly needed rain, but the damage might not be correctable at this point.

Farmers from across the county have struggled with the challenges posed by the ninth driest June in 130 years of record keeping. Though the year has seen more rain so far than most others, that precipitation petered out during the essential growth period for most crops.

“He’s on the right track,” says Circleville cattle farmer Zac Smith. “The corn crop, from what I’m seeing, is not doing well. It’s one half of what it should be.” He went on to explain that “as soon as the corn goes to head, it’s not going to expand anymore lengthwise.”

Smith predicted in many areas of the region “a 50 percent yield or less.”

He also stated that he has observed a correlation between warmer temperatures forcing cattle to find shade and an uptick of cases where a plethora of ticks have caused serious health problems in his livestock.

Jessica Hoover, one of Pendleton County’s West Virginia University Extension agents, shared that the WVU Extension website has a “Quick Guide to Drought Management” page that offers important information. The page features “a check list of best management practices for managing cattle through a drought.” It includes advice on animal and pasture resource management, such as “do not

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## Townsend To Perform at Seneca Shadows

Ben Townsend has traveled across the country and around the world spreading his take on West Virginia music. He will perform a rich blend of old-time music on the banjo and fiddle at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Seneca Shadows Campground Amphitheater.

## Family Support Center in Franklin Sponsors Activities

The Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center on Main Street and EJ Wheeler Hardware will sponsor Christmas in July pool party from noon until 5 p.m. Friday at the Franklin Town Pool. Admission is free with attendees receiving a free gift and frozen hot chocolate.

## Celebration of Faith Planned at St. Paul Church

St. Paul Independent Lutheran Church will have a “Celebration of Faith” beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday. The Crestmen Quartet will be sharing the gospel in song. Following the service, a picnic meal will be enjoyed by all. The community is invited to bring a dish to share and come for a special day of celebrating our Christian Faith. The church is located at 4198 Doe Hill Road in Sugar Grove.

## FVFD Lawn Party Raises Both Funds and Family Fun



The Franklin Volunteer Fire Department’s lawn party not only serves as a fundraiser, it provides good food, as well as, a time for family and friends to socialize.

By Stephen Smoot

As the area feels the heat of high summer, Franklin Volunteer Fire Department rolled out its two-night community lawn party. Attendees enjoyed music, fireworks, food, and more ways to have a fun time last Friday and Saturday night.

Like other community events put on by Pendleton County first responders, the fun had a purpose. Brian DiFalco, a lieutenant and

spokesman with the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department, said that, along with the letter drive and other efforts, the lawn party represents “one of our large annual fundraisers to help offset expenses throughout the year.”

All local departments face the same problem of expanding costs and limited financial resources with which to cover them. Many of the rising costs are related to equipment and regulations. “In the old days,” DiFalco explained, “in the

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## WV Poultry Festival Youth Day Puts Pendleton 4-H and FFA in the Spotlight

By Stephen Smoot

Every year as summer passes its social zenith, the halfway point when the previous school year ends and the next begins, thoughts of many farmers young and old turn to Moorefield’s West Virginia Poultry Festival.

Wednesday serves as “Youth Day” in the festival. Aspiring agriculturists and those who just love the camaraderie of the clubs show their skills on this day at Moorefield Middle School. Members of the group engage in different kinds of judging, watch a poultry processing demonstration, and some will even demonstrate culinary excellence in the barbecue contest.

Pendleton County youth joined teams from Hardy, Grant, and Monongalia counties.

Matthew Delawder, a Moorefield High School graduate working as a Pilgrim’s representative, explained,



Pendleton County’s senior poultry judging team will represent West Virginia at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Kentucky. Members of the team are, from left, Vivian Pownell, Lydia Heavner, Cole Harper and Phoebe Pownell.

“Pendleton County always tears it up,” he said, praising the area’s student knowledge of poultry and all things farming. “They make you fear for your own team in the judging.”

The contestants go from station to station, using their knowledge of poultry to attempt to judge like an expert. Outside, stations of

pullets and post-production hens awaited assessment. A pullet is a young hen that has not yet laid eggs.

In one of the locker rooms, a large group of chicken carcasses hung from metal bars, hanging over tarps. Each was in the form of a conventional roaster one might purchase at the store. In the

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## Local Emergency Officials Urge Caution, Care During Drought Conditions

By Stephen Smoot

As drought conditions have worsened in Pendleton County, emergency officials have already started work to plan for potential emergencies related to the conditions.

Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator, shared that “Bruce Minor and I have reviewed our plans dealing with droughts.” Minor serves as a senior first responder in the county, as well as Franklin Town recorder.

Gillespie and Minor examined conditions of the Town of Franklin and Pendleton Public Service District water sources and supplies. As of now, Gillespie says, “Thus far, they are holding their own.”

He added that “if this situation persists and we need to facilitate some form of supplemental water supplies for part or all of the county, we will do that. If the town and/or one/all of the PSD locations need assistance or end up having to curtail water usage, we will assist



Extreme heat and dry conditions are elevating the chance of wildfires and other dangers as drought persists.

in distributing that message, as well as any other useful messages.”

That said, Gillespie stated that citizens must “bear in mind we have no idea how long this is going to last or when we will receive meaningful rainfall, so now is the time to exercise conservation measures.”

If a water or other emergency warrants, Pendleton County officials will alert the public. Citizens are urged to enroll in the “Hyper-Reach” service that allows for robo-calls, as well as voice and text messages to let citizens know about emergency situations. Those who wish to

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### Tri-County Fair

(Pendleton, Grant and Hardy counties)

#### Schedule Of Events

**Saturday, July 27**  
6 p.m. — Preteen/Teen Pageant

**Sunday, July 28**  
4 p.m. — Livestock Exhibitors’ Meeting/Clinic  
Vespers To Follow Meeting  
7 p.m. — Triumphant Quartet

**Monday, July 29**  
8 a.m. — Gates Open  
10 a.m. — Breeding Cattle Show  
1 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Feeder Calf Show  
3 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Beef Showmanship  
PeeWee Showmanship To Follow  
4-H/FFA Beef Skill-a-Thon  
4 p.m. — Exhibits Open, Main Exhibit Building  
6 p.m. — Rides Open  
7 p.m. — Pig Scramble  
7:30 p.m. — Queen Scholarship Pageant

**Tuesday, July 30**  
8 a.m. — Gates Open  
10 a.m. — 4-H/FFA Market Lamb Show  
1 p.m. — Breeding Sheep Show  
4 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Sheep Showmanship  
PeeWee Showmanship To Follow  
Exhibits Open, Main Exhibit Building  
6 p.m. — Rides Open  
7 p.m. — Pig Scramble  
8 p.m. — Lone Star Rodeo

**Wednesday, July 31**  
8 a.m. — Gates Open  
10 a.m. — 4-H/FFA Goat Showmanship  
PeeWee Showmanship To Follow  
4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Skill-a-Thon  
2 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Market Goat Show  
4 p.m. — Exhibits Open, Main Exhibit Building  
6 p.m. — Parade  
Rides Open  
9 p.m. — Parade Awards

**Thursday, August 1**  
8 a.m. — Gates Open (Kids’ Night - \$1 Admission for Everyone)  
4-H/FFA Market Hog Show  
1 p.m. — Livestock Fitting Contest  
4 p.m. — Exhibits Open, Main Exhibit Building  
5 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Market Steer Show  
Pedal Power Contest  
6 p.m. — Power Wheels Derby (ages 3-5)  
Rides Open  
6:30 p.m. — Power Wheels Derby (ages 6-7)

**Friday, August 2**  
8 a.m. — Gates Open  
9 a.m. — 4-H/FFA Swine Showmanship  
PeeWee Showmanship To Follow  
2 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Swine Skill-a-Thon  
Lamb + Goat Obstacle Course  
4 p.m. — Exhibits Open, Main Exhibit Building  
5 p.m. — Master Showmanship Competition  
6 p.m. — Rides Open  
7:30 p.m. — Lamb/Goat Costume Contest  
8 p.m. — Chris Janson

**Saturday, August 3**  
8 a.m. — Gates Open  
10 a.m. — Pet Show  
11:30 a.m. — 4-H/FFA Livestock Awards  
1 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale  
2 p.m. — Exhibits Open, Main Exhibit Building  
6 p.m. — Rides Open  
7 p.m. — Demolition Derby

# OBITUARIES



is the father of her daughters.

On Sept. 11, 1993, she married her sweetheart, Robert Stancer Shanholtz, who survives.

Also surviving are daughters Glenna Lynne Cullers of Stuarts Draft, Virginia, and Christina Ivy Cullers Turnage (Noah) of Swoope, Virginia; and sisters, Loretta Lee Carter Cregger and Alice "Darlene" Carter Wolfe (William), all of Frederick, Maryland. Also surviving are those who called her Nana, her grandchildren, Rachael Alicia Kuykendall (Christian), Hunter Anderson Ruddle, Cody James Kuykendall, Maryanna Caroline Turnage, Noah "Parker" Turnage II, Dalton Riley Ruddle and Hayden Calvin Kuykendall and great-grandsons, Abel Reid Frasure and Matthew James Frasure.

Also celebrating with her in heaven are her sisters, Joyce Elaine Carter, Shirley Ann Carter Burdette, Janet Marie Carter Waldrop Rose, her brother, Franklin Eugene Carter, her grandson, Aaron Glenn Kuykendall, and her dear friend, Donna Kay Gillespie.

The family would like to thank Glenna, Rachael, and Christian who opened their home to her as her illness progressed to provide a greater level of care. The family is also grateful for Gentiva Hospice nurses, Mikayla Phillips and Elizabeth Coleman, for their kindness and care in the last weeks of her life.

A special thank you to Henry Funeral Home in Staunton, Virginia, for their care and assistance immediately after her passing, as well as Basagic Funeral Home for their guidance and service to the family.

The funeral service was held Wednesday at the Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren in Brandywine Pastor Daryl Ritchie officiating. Burial was at the Sugar Grove Cemetery in Sugar Grove.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com).

May the Lord bless all of the faithful followers at Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren who provided a meal for friends and family after the service.

She shed many tears over the young ones impacted by pain and disease. She faithfully supported St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital and Shriners Hospitals for Children. Please consider donating to either hospital in her memory.

For 24 years, she was married to Harold Glenn Cullers of Moorefield, who



**Carl D. Puffenbarger**

Carl D. Puffenbarger, 89, of Palm Bay, Florida, and Brandywine died July 18, 2024, as the result of a motor vehicle accident near his home.

He was born June 14, 1935, at Fort Seybert and was the son of the late George Leslie Puffenbarger and Ressie Lee Dove Puffenbarger.

Mr. Puffenbarger was a 1953 graduate of Franklin High School and worked as an exchange processor for Ferris & Company, a stock brokerage firm, in Washington, DC.

After his sister-in-law, Barbara, passed away in 2014, he and his brother, Ona, lived together and cared for each other and were snowbirds, spending the winter months in Palm Bay, Florida, and returning to the Fort Seybert community for the warmer months until his brother's death in March of 2023.

He was a member of the Bethlehem Church of the Brethren and the Masonic Lodge A.F. & A.M.

He never married.

Surviving are a sister, Barbara Barker (John) of Christiansburg, Virginia; several nieces and nephews, including a special nephew, Gary Puffenbarger (Brigitte) of Palm Bay, Florida; several great-nieces and great-nephews; a sister-in-law, Betty Puffenbarger of Franklin; and a brother-in-law, Shirldon Winegard of Roanoke, Virginia.

He was also preceded in death by five brothers, Irvin Puffenbarger, Dewey Puffenbarger, Bruce Puffenbarger, Virgil Puffenberger and Ona Puffenbarger; and two sisters, Goldie Puffenbarger Smith and Edith Winegard.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin, where a funeral service will follow with Pastor Michael Loudermilk officiating. Interment will be at Cedar Hill Cemetery at Franklin.



**Shirley Marie (Bennett) Flohr**

Shirley Marie (Bennett) Flohr, 83 of Augusta, passed away July 18, 2024, at Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born on July 13, 1941, in Onego, a daughter of the late Estel Bennett and Iva (Dolly) Bennett.

Mrs. Flohr dedicated many years to her work as a domestic house cleaner. She took pride in her work, ensuring that every home she entered was left with a touch of her care and attention to detail. Family was the cornerstone of her life, especially her grandchildren, whether it was while camping in the great outdoors, strolling along the beach, or tending to her flowers.

She attended the Mt View Assembly of God Church in Augusta.

She was the last surviving member of her immediate family.

Her second husband, Robert Monroe Flohr, Sr., survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Joyce Bland (Brady) of Franklin; four sons, James Adamson and Dean Adamson, both of New Windsor, Maryland, Randy Adamson (Linda) of Maysville and Robert Flohr, Jr. of Augusta; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her first husband, Joyce M. Adamson in 1992; a grandson, John Merlin Adamson; seven sisters, Eva Patterson, Ruby Burke, Merle Sites, Josie Payne, Vallie Kisamore, and infants Violet and Ethel Bennett; and seven brothers, Carl, Don, Chester, Clifford, Paul, Foster, and infant Roy Bennett.

A funeral service was held Saturday at the Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg with Pastor Greg Adamson and Pastor Jim Kinnamon officiating. Interment was in the Bennett Family Cemetery at Onego.



**Daniel Lee Payne**

Daniel Lee Payne, 61, of Upper Tract passed away July 15, 2024, at his home.

He was born on Aug. 5, 1962, the son of the late Sherwin "Red" and Margaret (Kesner) Payne.

Mr. Payne graduated from Miami Trace High School and was employed by American Woodmark in Moorefield.

He was an avid outdoorsman who loved fishing and hunting.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory a brother, David Payne of Wilmington, Ohio; a niece, Kendra Baker of Chillicothe, Ohio; and a great-niece, Graelyn Baker.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

A graveside memorial service will be held at a later date in Kline Cemetery at Upper Tact.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com).



## MENU Pendleton Senior & Family Services

**FRIDAY, JULY 26**  
Ham, Sweet Potatoes  
Spinach  
Pineapple  
Bread

**MONDAY, JULY 29**  
Pancakes/Sausage  
Cubed Potatoes  
Stewed Tomatoes  
Orange Juice

**TUESDAY, JULY 30**  
Beef Stew/Biscuit  
Brussels Sprouts  
Applesauce

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 31**  
Chicken Tenders  
Hashbrown Casserole  
Peas  
Jello/Fruit  
Birthday Cake

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 1**  
Pizza/Pepperoni  
Peppers/Onions  
Salad  
Melon

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

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## Franklin Lions Club

wants to thank all the friends  
of the Club who sponsored golf holes  
in our recent tournament.

We appreciate your support of the community.

Steven Toyota  
All Aspects Landscaping  
Lori and Les Demoss  
Joe Bowman  
Sites Auto Parts  
EJ Wheeler  
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Dick Myers  
The Gateway  
L & W Spirt Shop  
Pendleton County Outdoors  
Hartman's Service Station  
Franklin Florist  
Bowers Used Auto  
T&K Markets  
State Farm (Jim Brown)  
National Turkey Federation  
Pendleton Community Bank  
Brandon Mitchell, DDS  
Kimble Funeral Home  
Kar Kare  
Potomac Hardware

Basagic Funeral Home  
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Bowers Garage  
Brandywine General Store  
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Beachy Arehart  
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Fox's Pizza  
Conrad Farms  
Betsy Busy Bee  
Greer Lime  
Grant County Bank  
Summit Community Bank  
Bob Wade Auto World  
Elevated Grounds  
Franklin Moose

Faithful Friends Animal Clinic  
Pendleton Community Care

## Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner

Friday, August 23

Fisher Mountain Golf Course

Social Hour at 5:30 p.m. • Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$25.00/person

Speakers Include:

**Keynote address by  
Governor Candidate Patrick Morrisey**

- Carol Miller - U.S. House WV-1 Candidate
- Kris Warner - WV Sec. of State Candidate
- Robbie Morris - WV Sentate-11 Candidate
- Elias Coop-Gonzales - WV House-67 Candidate
- Bryan Ward - WV House-86 Candidate

For tickets contact

Roger Dahmer: 358-2843 or 669-8909

Steve Conrad: 249-5694 or 919-3144

or any other Executive Committee Member:

Pam Dahmer, April Mallow, Judy Patch,

Dwayne Propst or Wendy Putz

Deadline to purchase tickets is August 17.

All tickets sold in advance, no walk-ins.

Sponsored by the Pendleton County GOP Executive Committee

## Asbury's FAMILY RESTAURANT

Germany Valley Limestone Rd., Riverton

### Sunday Buffet

July 28 • Noon - 3 p.m.

Carved Flank Steak, Chicken Picatta,  
Ham Steak Hawaiian, Mixed Green Salad,  
Ritz Potatoes, Wild Rice Blend,  
Green Beans Amandine, Mexican Corn,  
Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts **\$24<sup>95</sup>**

RESTAURANT HOURS:

Friday, Saturday and Monday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday Noon - 5 p.m.

(Sunday Buffet Noon - 3 p.m.)

Menu Items Available 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.)

### Seneca Caverns Open

Friday - Monday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

3328 Germany Valley Road., Riverton

304-567-2691

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# Drought Brings Frustration

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over-graze pastures during a drought” and business advice, like “Sell older and lower quality (e.g., performance, behavior) cows before prices drop.”

Another must for farmers in drought conditions lies in maintaining accurate records. Long-term and serious drought conditions may trigger aid for farmers and applications will require specific information.

Through the United States Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency, significantly damaging drought conditions may trigger the deployment of a series of aid programs. The first category of aid programs addresses the needs of livestock farmers. Four programs, the Livestock Forage Disaster program, Livestock Indemnity Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish, and Emergency Livestock Relief, could be made available should conditions persist.

FSA also has two loan package programs, an emergency program to help conserve water during drought conditions, and a noninsured

disaster assistance program for crop losses.

It is important to note that these programs have not yet been offered as of the time of this writing and no guarantee exists at this point that they will be.

One assistance package has already become available, however. The West Virginia Conservation Agency has a cost-share program available to assist farmers with “livestock experiencing hardship due to drought conditions.” The program exists “to help supply water to livestock” with eligible equipment such as “portable water tanks, associated valves and fittings, water pumps, portable pipeline, and portable water troughs.”

The program kicks in when a county or area hits a condition of D1 moderate drought or higher. Currently all of Pendleton County is in a D3 status.

According to the federal website drought.gov, Pendleton County has 16,728 acres of hay in drought, 4,588 acres of haylage, 1,897 acres of corn, 11,261 cattle, and 4,221 sheep battling the hot and dry conditions.

# FVFD Lawn Party

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70s, 80s, and even in the 90s, we’d for example, change the oil ourselves.” A lot of apparatus repairs were handled in-house.

Now, regulations require that fire departments engage outside contractors to come to the firehouse to conduct regular maintenance. Not just recent rules, but also “fancier and more technology” and increased need for technical knowledge, plus “the liability standpoint” require departments to pay these added costs.

Additionally, those who work on fire apparatus must have certifications in both general auto mechanic work and emergency vehicle maintenance. Mechanics with this level of specialization always cost more. These represent just a few examples of the many “hidden” costs of operating fire and rescue units.

Time and effort must also go into specific and detailed documenting of such work for special audits conducted regularly of all emergency response units.

For these units, following these regulations is not done because they have to — DiFalco shared that “we take pride in taking good care” of apparatus and other vital equipment.

He added that it’s important for those whom the department serves to see that “their fire department is out making food, working for donations. It’s a way we can give back while still making money.”

In decades past, as DiFalco relates, the lawn party was once a weeklong carnival with rides and other attractions usually found at a fair. Over the years, this became untenable. Rising costs of equipment and liability insurance force carnival companies to charge more than a department like Franklin VFD can recoup from holding the event.

A recent and popular addition, however, is a fireworks display that serves as a big draw.

Franklin also benefits from having an event that serves as a draw, not only to townspeople, but also to visitors. “You always see groups of people who come here just for that,” DiFalco stated.

Overall, the lawn party also “brings the community together and gives people a chance to socialize” while helping to ensure that Franklin continues to enjoy the best possible quality of fire protection.

# 4-H Horticulture Team Advances to National Contest

The Pendleton County 4-H Horticulture teams travelled June 28 to Morgantown to compete in the State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest.

The senior team, consisting of Katie Heavner, Callie Judy, and Phoebe Pownell, brought home first place senior team honors. Team members will travel in the fall to Lincoln, Nebraska, where they will compete in the National Junior Horticulture Association Horticulture Identification and Judging Contest.

The junior team placed second in their division. Members of the junior team were Hannah Heavner, Ross Pownell, and Marion Williams.



Pendleton County 4-Hers participating in the State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest were, from left, front row, Hannah Heavner, Ross Pownell, and Marion Williams; and back row, Katie Heavner, Phoebe Pownell, and Callie Judy.

# WV Poultry Festival

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gymnasium, two judging tables greeted the participants. One held a table with several breaded patties in various stages of quality. On the far table, each plate held a different part of a chicken. Students had to identify each part of the bird.

Brooke Alt, one of Pendleton County’s two West Virginia University Extension agents, related that, in addition to the other stations, students also evaluated the quality of eggs. She shared that “they like getting the birds out of the cages, handling them and getting to mess with them.”

Once students conclude their judging, they got to watch Pilgrim’s workers give a processing demonstration. “Literally, they will take a live bird and process it,” Alt remarked.

Alex Smith, Hardy County WVU Extension Agent, related the purpose behind the demonstration and the day itself. She explained that the events get “them exposed to the industry that keeps our area running.” She then added that they get to see the processes of what happens both at the farms and at the processing complex.

She added that the students gain much from the experience above and beyond the camaraderie with other clubs and learning about poultry. In the process of participating, they gain confidence in public speaking, develop thinking and communication skills, problem solving, and many other positive life skills.

Pendleton County, as predicted and expected, performed very well, as befitting

one of the state’s top poultry producing counties. The senior team of Cole Harper, Lydia Heavner, Phoebe Pownell, and Vivian Pownell took first place and will represent the Mountain State in the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

The first-place junior team was composed of Jax Bennet, Tia Heavner, Katie Keyser, and Branson Smith. Pendleton County also had a second-place junior team of Tori Heavner, Bella Hoover, Kallie Keyser, and Marion Williams, as well as a fourth-place junior team with Gracie Hedrick, Adalyn Rumer, and Jaelyn Rumer.

Top 10 results for seniors included Lydia Heavner, first place senior and second place senior reasons; Ty Heavner, third place senior and 10th place senior reasons; Phoebe Pownell, fourth place senior and first place senior reasons; Vivian Pownell, sixth place senior and fourth place senior reasons, and Harper, seventh place senior and seventh place senior reasons.

Junior individual top 10 results were as follows: Kallie Keyser, second place junior and first place junior reasons; Bennett, third place junior; Williams, fifth place junior, Katie Keyser, sixth place junior; Adalyn Rumer, seventh place junior, and Tia Heavner, ninth place junior.

Williams earned the most unique recipe category in the barbeque chicken grilling contest. Tori Heavner also participated.

# Local Emergency Officials

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sign up can text “alert” to (304) 802-2072 or go to the website <https://bit.ly/Pendleton-WVAlerts>.

The Pendleton County WV Office of Emergency Management/911 Facebook page also always carries up to the minute information in case of emergencies.

Brian DiFalco from the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department stated that though “there is no burn ban in effect,” people ought to “try and hold off until we get moisture.” If a landowner feels a vital need to conduct a burn, however, DiFalco offered important tips.

He said that before conducting a burn during the current conditions to call the Pendleton 911 non emergency number (304-358-3271) to let officials know. That way, if a smoke report comes in, officials can check and see if it is a controlled and supervised burn. This will “prevent a response when it’s not needed.”

When conducting burns during dry conditions, “form a circle of bare earth about five to 10 feet in width” completely around the objects to be burned and “always have a form of extinguishment handy” whether that be a hose, irrigation equipment, or earth moving tools capable of quickly covering the spot if needed.

When finishing the burn, “make sure it’s fully extinguished.” That means turning the dirt and ashes over with tools and, if possible, using water to cool the site. Placing one’s hand directly over and close to, but not touching the site is the ultimate test of safety. If one feels no heat, it is likely extinguished.

“Those sparks can stay active longer than

you anticipate,” DiFalco shared.

Gillespie warns that “as for the fire danger — we feel that it is increasing every day.” Though the trees still appear lush and well-watered with luxuriant canopies of leaves, “the forest floors are full of dry fuel from leaves and downed/dead trees and limbs.”

“Our forests have plenty of fuel in them,” he added.

West Virginia University Extension Service Forest Resources management specialist encourages landowners to avoid burning altogether, saying the “fuel” described by Gillespie “can dry out and ignite very easily.”

Homeowners need to remain vigilant as well. “We encourage residents with houses and other structures located within wooded areas to practice the Firewise Program and concentrate on removing combustible materials from near the foundations of their homes,” Gillespie explained. According to the Firewise Program information page on the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources website, these materials include pine needles, dead leaves, tree branches, and other materials that can burn easily.

It also states, “don’t store firewood on or under porches and decks . . . don’t store machinery such as four-wheelers and lawn mowers under decks and porches,” and “use fire-resistant plants around your home, including flowering dogwoods, azaleas, and more.”

The Firewise page offers many more tips and resources for those creating a fire safety plan for their structure.

## Free Sports Physicals

**Franklin Office:**  
**Wednesday, July 31st: 1pm - 4pm**

**Please Call the Office to Schedule Your Appointment!**

**PENDLETON Community Care, Inc.**  
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# CSP Application Cutoff Is Aug. 16

The first batching deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program applications to be considered for fiscal year 2025 funding is Aug. 16. Through CSP, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners earn payments for expanding conservation activities while maintaining agricultural production on their land. CSP also encourages adoption of new technologies and management techniques.

“CSP continues to be a very effective tool for private landowners working to achieve their conservation and management goals,” said Jon Bourdon, NRCS state conservationist in West Virginia. “It is the largest conservation program in the United States with more than 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled.”

CSP is offered in West Virginia through continuous signups. The program offers an

opportunity for both agricultural and forest managers to enhance their operations while adopting conservation activities that will refine work already completed. Practices and enhancements are available to improve resource concerns such as soil health, water quality, wildlife habitat, or reduce soil erosion. Whether a person is looking to improve forest stands, plant cover crops, install pollinator habitat, establish riparian buffers, or incorporate enhanced grazing management activities, a plan can be customized designed to help meet those goals.

While applications are accepted throughout the year, interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by the deadline to ensure their applications are considered for 2025 funding. For additional information about CSP, contact a local service center or visit the website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

## Healthy Saturday

**WVU Medicine August 3, 2024**

6:00 am – 9:00 am

GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION

- Limited to 200 people.
- Appointment Only** ~ Please contact Julie Kesner at 304-257-5806 by August 1 to register.
- No walk-ins.
- Masks are optional.

**Profile 1 - \$20 • Profile 11 \$25 • Profile 111 (males only) - \$30**

**A1C Test (offered by Judy's Drug Store) - \$20.00**

**Vitamin B12 Test - \$10**  
**Vitamin D Test - \$20**

30 Years Ago  
Week of July 21, 1994

## SUGAR GROVE

### Old Feed Sacks Made Pretty Dresses

Remember those feeds sack dresses? When the suppliers for poultry and livestock feed found that women were making curtains and dresses out of their feed sacks, the companies began turning out bags in all sorts of pastel and flowered prints. (Right pretty they were, too). As a result, mom often went along to the feed store with dad. She'd pick out all of the bags with the colors and prints that appealed to her. In those "good old days" mom learned to recycle those beautiful feed sacks that dad had spent some money on to feed his animals. Those old feed sacks are hard to come by, these days, however, the favorite dresses and curtains that were made from them still cast nostalgic memories to many hard-working folk.

40 Years Ago  
Week of July 26, 1984

### West Virginia Is Leading Tree Farm State

West Virginia tops in Tree Farming—West Virginia was recently recognized by the American Forest Institute as the leading tree farm state of the six mid-Atlantic states.

The award is given each year to the state in each region with the most active and organized tree farm program. West Virginia currently has more than 400 tree farms with the total acreage exceeding 1.3 million acres.

50 Years Ago  
Week of July 25, 1974

### Power Mowers Can Become Menace To Family, Neighbors

Weekends now are abuzz with the familiar sounds of power mowers busy trimming lawns. These convenient labor-saving machines are indeed a boon to the welfare of the landscape and leisure time, but if handled incorrectly, can become dangerous to families and neighbors.

Like all machines, the power mower must be treated with respect and should be operated only by those who have a thorough knowledge of its use.

Protect yourself and others by following these safety steps:

- Know the mower control.

Read the owner's manual carefully. Learn how to stop the engine quickly in an emergency.

- Make sure the lawn is clear of sticks, stones, wire and debris—these could be thrown by the mower blade.

- Never add fuel to a hot or running engine. Use an approved fuel container and remember that gasoline is a hazard in your home.

- Keep children and pets a good, safe distance away.

- Disengage clutches and shift into neutral before starting and running self-propelled mowers.

- Start the engine carefully—keep feet well away from the blades when starting and running.

- Stop the engine whenever you leave the mower, even for a moment.

- Always maintain the mower properly, frequently checking all fasteners, guards and parts. Follow manufacturer's maintenance and storage instructions.

- Stop engine to disengage power to the blade before moving mower across drives, walks or roads.

- Never allow children to operate a mower. Do not allow adults to operate mower without instruction.

- On slopes or wet grass be extra careful of your footing.

- Never cut grass by pulling the mower towards you.

- Stop the engine and disconnect spark plug wire before checking or working on the mower.

- Never use a plug-in electric mower in the rain or when grass is wet.

- Never leave a starter in cocked position. This refers to starters using a heavy spring which is crank wound and then released for starting.

- Do not over-speed the engine or alter governor settings. Excessive speed is dangerous and shortens mower life.

- Keep all shields, guards and safety devices in place as instructed in owner's manual.

Special safety rules for riding mowers:

- Test ride the machine and become familiar with it before you engage mower and begin work.

- Watch where you are driving. Be extra careful when backing your machine.

- Do not attempt to operate machine when not in driver's seat.

- Mow steep slopes up and down. Do not stop or start suddenly on slopes.

- Don't drive too close to ditches, creeks and public highways. Stay alert for holes and other yard hazards.

- Disengage mower when moving from one area to another.

- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing that could get caught in moving parts.

Remember, safe mowing is no accident—it's deliberately taking simple but important precautions.

60 Years Ago  
Week of July 23, 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.**

### Sherman Repels Hood In Atlanta Battle

Confederate Gen. John B. Hood, whose job it was to defend Atlanta, was known everywhere as a man who wasn't afraid to fight if he saw the opportunity, and he saw

the opportunity 100 years ago this week.

Not once, but three times did Hood see an opportunity to fight, and each time, he sent his army striking out from Atlanta against the larger army of Federal Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, who rapidly was surrounding the city.

The first time came within 48 hours after Hood replaced Joe Johnston in command of the Confederates at Atlanta. He watched as Sherman's army crossed Peachtree Creek and fanned out just north of the city, and he perceived a blunder on Sherman's part: Sherman had divided his army, part of it under George Thomas, "The Rock of Chickamauga," coming in on the city from the northwest, the other part under George W. Schofield and James B. McPherson coming in from the northeast through Decatur.

Hood attacked immediately, hoping to defeat Thomas while he was separated and then turn on the others. In early afternoon, his men poured out of their entrenchments and slammed into Thomas' army as it straddled Peachtree Creek.

But "The Rock of Chickamauga" was at his best in such a predicament. His men held steady, even when the fighting got hand to hand, and Thomas brought up artillery and reinforcements that sent Hood's men retreating back into the city. Over around Decatur, too, Schofield and McPherson charged, and Hood had his hands full. His first attack petered out a failure.

But Hood was not through yet. Next evening, the 21st, he sent a corps under William J. Hardee sneaking southwestward in the night, circling below Decatur where McPherson's army was moving in. At dawn of the 22nd, Hardee's men came swooping in on one of McPherson's corps from the rear.

Again, Sherman's army reacted with precision. The men under attack turned around and began firing into Hardee's men with lethal effect. Other Federals came down to join in the fight. Hood countered by sending another corps charging toward Decatur from Atlanta, and this time McPherson's men turned around again to stave off the new threat.

In the midst of the fighting McPherson galloped toward the noise, rode into a group of Confederates and was shot dead from the saddle. Sherman wept when the body was brought to him and sent off a saddened letter to the 34-year-old McPherson's fiancée in Baltimore.

Meanwhile, Hood's attack again petered out. Sherman sent in new divisions and brought up artillery himself to check the Southern advance. Gen. John "Black Jack" Logan, who succeeded McPherson, rallied his men, and held off all assaults, until evening came and Hood went back into his city.

For the next six days, Sherman re-arranged his troops, circling around the city

as Hood watched and waited like a caged lynx. On the 28th, Hood came out again, this time to the west and sharply attacked Sherman's lines in Ezra Church, and again was repelled. He had struck out at his tormentor three times, and each time he had been beaten back with thousands of casualties.

Sherman began a siege, and Federal artillery began booming, sending shot and shell into the beleaguered city. It appeared a matter of time. Next week: The Crater.

### Pendleton Residents On Drinking Spree

(Special to the Times)  
NEW YORK—Residents of Pendleton County appear to have been on a drinking spree in the past year—for soda pop, that is.

Local consumption of soft drinks in 1963, according to the latest estimate, was at the rate of 172 bottles a year for every man, woman and child in the county.

By way of comparison, the local 1960 average was 152 bottles per capita.

On an overall basis, some 1,307,000 bottles (8-ounce) were consumed by the local population. This was in addition to unbottled soda served in lunch rooms and elsewhere. This was big league drinking. It compares with a total of 1,231,000 bottles in 1960, when a similar survey was made.

The reports on the soft drink business and its operations come from the Department of Commerce and from the industry itself. They cover the nation as a whole and each of the states.

According to the findings, it now takes more than 40 billion (yes, billion) bottles of soda pop each year to slake the American thirst for soft drinks.

Much of it, 60 percent, is purchased in food stores for home consumption. Another 15 percent is sold through vending machines. The rest is dispensed in restaurants and grills in recreation places, at fountains and elsewhere.

A major part of it is consumed during the summer months, when the weather is hot and the teenagers, who are the biggest users, are out of school.

The figures show that some sections of the country go for soda pop in a much bigger way than others. Residents of North Carolina, for example, drink four times as much per person as those in North Dakota.

Nationally, the outlay in the year for bottled soda came to a cool \$4.5 billion.

Pendleton County's contribution to this total was approximately \$145,000, which compares with its 1960 outlay of \$116,000. Higher prices were responsible for some of this increase.

The sudden surge in the use of soft drinks is attributed in part by the industry to the introduction of low-calorie beverages. They have made a big impact on the weight-conscious market, the reports show.

70 Years Ago  
Week of July 22, 1954

### Faith Church Burns Mortgage Sunday

Communion, Farewell and Mortgage Burning services were conducted last Sunday by the Rev. Orville E. Lueck, who has accepted a call as pastor of the Bethel Lutheran Church in Canton, Ohio.

In 1948 Faith Church borrowed \$10,000 from the American Lutheran Church to assist them in the construction of their House of Worship. Six years later, July 18, 1954, this loan was repaid in full and the note burned at this service.

### Phone Operators On Duty 22 Years

July 23 will mark the 22nd anniversary of Mrs. Virgil Alt and Myrtle Butler as telephone operators for the Macksville Telephone Co. of Mouth of Seneca. The present operators began their work for the company July 23, 1932.

Many changes have been brought about since that time in the telephone industry in this part of the county. All their lines have been added, thereby extending service into other communities, a new switchboard was purchased in 1946, but the biggest and best improvement was the addition of "long distance" service. The first company outside the county to grant this privilege was the Central Telephone Company of Romney. On June 16, 1948, toll connections were established with the Chesapeake and Potomac Company of West Virginia.

"We now have telephone service as good as any rural community in the state," a spokesperson for the Macksville Company said.

### Town Drops Weekly Garbage Disposal

Mayor C. W. Neville said yesterday that the weekly trash pick-up service which had been considered by the town council has not aroused enough interest among the citizens of Franklin to inaugurate the service at this time.

Neville said, "This service was suggested by a few citizens and in my opinion would be a step forward. The response, however, was light, not enough to even give the project a try. In other communities the cost of this weekly pick-up is several times the amount asked and from a survey in other communities the citizens are only too glad to have the service.

"From the response I personally am not interested in the project at this time. Mr. John Harman is owner of this suggested dump. I am sure if anyone wishes to contact him, for a reasonable charge, this dump will be available."

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## Smith Creek/ Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

One month of summer is out of the way, two more to go. The month of July had six days of temperatures in the 90s and some upper 80s. This week the area should be getting some rain which will help out with the grass and gardens.

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, Sandy Washburn, Larry Moyers, Mary Alice Simmons and Sandra Vandevander; prayer list - Richard Campbell, Tristan Hartman, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Roberta Bennett, Keny Williams, Dennis Mitchell, Debbie Horst, Myrtle Hammer, Pam Rexrode, Nancy George, Neal Eye, Margaret Wimer, Donald Burns, Wendell and Darlene Nelson, Ruby Gail Roberson, Ruth Bauer, Anna Mauzy, Linda Maxwell, Looney, Wayne Kimble, Leann Britton, Bennie and Mary Alice Evick, Martha R. Kimble, Jimmie Bennett, Ruthalene Judy, Stanley Propst, Kathy Puffenbarger, Wanda Pitsenbarger, Gloria Moats, Tim and Dee McCormick, Judy A. Simmons, Nancy Blankenship, Jackie Smith, Rick Waggy, Frankie Judy, Jim Judy, Jessie Simmons, Lucy and Charlie Westfall, David Berg, Minny Rhoads, Mary and Gary Hess, Phil Downs, Larry Rexrode, Ethel Murphy, Bill Snyder, Troy Bennett, Marcia "Marty" Warner and the family of Rose Robinson.

Prayer thought: "Dear Father, I don't understand why some of life's challenges happen to me. May we keep trusting in God no matter what happens and even when we don't understand."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for July 15 through July 21, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: July 15 - 95°, 67° (90°, 60°, .12"); July 16 - 96°, 67° (82°, 66°); July 17 - 84°, 66°, .88" (83°, 63°); July 18 - 75°, 65°, .26" (84°, 61°, .01"); July 19 - 86°, 57° (81°, 61°); July 20 - 79°, 61°, .25" (89°, 59°, .02") and July 21 - 85°, 60° (79°, 52°, .3").

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# Civilizations Modify Bedding Styles and Decor

## Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Are there any rope beds still being used? This was a bed that did not have box springs. It was a type of platform bed in which the sleeper and mattress were supported by a lattice of rope, rather than wooden slats. The bed would then have a mattress or two placed on top. The ropes would need to be tightened regularly with a bed wrench, and sometimes wedges, as they sagged, so therefore they needed to be stretched out. This is where the saying "sleep tight" comes from, the tightening of the ropes on the rope strung beds.

Oftentimes, the ropes needed to be re-strung occasionally, reducing the sag and to even out the wear.

Humans have been trying to find the best way to sleep for millennia. A 77,000-year-old bedding was made from grass-like plants called sedges. These beds could be as thick as a foot, but were on the ground in South Africa.

Egyptians began building raised platform wooden beds, while the Scottish people made raised beds from stone, and created mattresses made from wool. The most poor of society would just have a mattress on the floor.

In this community, the average family would have a bedtick which would traditionally be stuffed with straw, chaff, or down feathers. Oftentimes, the entire family had to share it.

Life's little instructions to make this world a better place include the following:

1. Cultivate good manners.
2. Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
3. Realize and accept that life isn't fair.
4. Give clothes not worn to charity.
5. Listen more, talk less.

Thursday's one-half inch of rain was certainly a pause that refreshed. Friday had signs of a fine day, and indeed it was. Humidity had gone somewhere else, and the gentle breezes turned the countryside sweeter. Some showers have been passing through the area. Still, it is the "Dog Days." Local folk lore states that when Dog Days come in dry, they will go out wet. Time will tell! The writer's grandfather always cut brush during the Dog Days, as he noticed the brush did not come back as aggressively the following year.

This week's quotes are as follows:

"Here's an idea: Let's get over ourselves, buy a cherry pie, and go fall I love with life." — Tom Robbins

"When you put love out in the world, it travels; it can reach people in ways that we never expected." — Laverne Cox

"Do something good and someone might imitate it." — Albert Schweitzer

"I think you should be a child for as long as you can. I have been successful for 74 years being able to do that." — Bob Newhart

"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think." — Margaret Mead

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." — Maya Angelou

Sitting on the front porch is where one may hear the "Talk of the Grove."

The community welcomed its new citizen, Justin Clinton Bowers, II. He entered this world at 5:50 p.m. on July 10th and weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces. Melinda and Justin Bowers are the proud parents. Congratulations!

Shaun, Ava, and Leslie Bowers, along with Tammy and Laura George and Reshella and Hudson Leary, spent last week at the beach in Santa Rosa, Florida. They visited the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park in Destin, Florida, shopped at Baytown Wharf, and had a picnic at Eden Gardens State Park. It was a great week with family.

Galen Crummett attended his 62nd class reunion Saturday at the Harold K. Michael Ruritan Building. Fifteen out of the



Pictured, from left, are Homer Smith (Feb. 20, 1905 - Feb. 3, 1991), son of Martin and Margaret Susan "Maggie" Puffenbarger Smith, Martin Smith (May 16, 1871 - Jan. 27, 1966), "Maggie" Smith (April 12, 1875 - Sept. 23, 1957), and Dolan Ray Grogg (Jan. 18, 1933 - June 27, 2014).

50 surviving members were in attendance.

Saturday visitors of Evelyn Varner were Sonny and Steve Brooks of Harrisonburg, Virginia, Chris Wood of Michigan, Judy Costello of Verona, Virginia, Eugene Varner, Geneva Varner and Bill Trester and friends from Piney River, Virginia.

Sunday found Evelyn Varner and Wanda Pitsenbarger visiting with Ronnie and Christine Bowers.

Monday through Wednesday found Phil Downs entertaining his granddaughter, Amelia Gibson, and friend, Wilson Beima of Springfield, Virginia. He was pleasantly surprised by a visit on Saturday and Sunday from Rose Sith of Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania.

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

- Sydney, Australia, hosted the Olympic Games in 2000.
- Snoopy, from Charles M. Schulz's "Peanuts" comic strip, is a beagle.
- Only female mosquitos bite.
- The world's first public museum, the British Museum, was founded in 1753 in London.

A lake on Saturn's moon, Titan, is named after Lake Ontario.

August birthdays include Justin Via, David Puffenbarger and Lonnie Conley, first; Tracy Armstrong, second; Nancy Enyart, third; Brittany Gumm, Junior Bolton and Skyler Frame, fourth; Charlotte Hoover, Doris Hoops, Paula Price, Steve Stump, Carter Hott and Colby Hott, fifth; Jerry Smith and Johnny Rexrode, sixth; Amy Berg, seventh; Amanda Rexrode, Karen Peer, Gary Smith and Carl Hevener, eighth; Philip Simmons and Dolly Rexrode, ninth; Carrigan Hedrick, Corrinne Hedrick, Sherman Bennett, Margaret Kiser, Darren Olka and Sara Olka, 10th; Brandon Mitchell and Becky Rightsell, 11th; Doug Simmons, Pat Godfrey, Sam Harper and C.J. Eckard, 12th; Sandy Bennett, 13th; Moni Harman, 14th; and Denise Neil and Bobbie Shanholtz, 15th.

Concerns are as follows: Bob Adamson, Dyer Anderson, John Ashley, Roger Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Richard Bennett, "Bo" Boggs, Marie Cole, Christian Dasher, Benny Evick, Isaac Eye, Linda Eye, Marie Eye, Mary Eye, the Allison Fleming family, Carl Gant, David Gillespie, Lola Graham, Patsy Green, JC Ham-

mer, Marlene Harman, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Grace Hedrick, Jim Hiner, Evan Hise, Tim Hively, Gary Harman, Alma Harper, George Hevener, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Virgil Homan, Jr., Adalbert Hoover, Keith Hoover, Myrtle Hoover, Debbie and Enos Horst, the Lois Huffman family, Lisa and Mike Jamison, Jessica Janney, Alice Johnson, Richard Judy, Marsha Keller, Kim Kline, Ginger Knight, Tracie Knight, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Ronnie Lambert, Rex Landis, Roger and Skip Mallow, Yvonne Marsh, Ed May, Gary McDonald, Neil McLaughlin, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Tom Mitchell, Barbara Moats, Gloria Moats, John Morford, Bill Mullenax, Helen Nash, Aaron Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Cheryl Paine, Walt Pitsenbarger, Wanda Pitsenbarger, Andy Pond, Janice Propst, Eldon "Butch" Puffenbarger, Alda Propst, Janis Propst, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Stanley Propst, Tom Rader, Brandon Reel, Charles Rexrode, Jason Rexrode, Linda Fay Rexrode, Pam Rexrode, Dennis Riggleman, Mike Roberts, the Rose Robinson family, Donna Ruddle, Jenny Ruddle, the Bonnie Shanholtz family, Brittany Shriver, Annie Simmons, Barry Simmons, Greg Simmons, Phyllis Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Judy Simmons, Nelson Simmons, Robbie Sites, Mike Skiles, Tina Stuben, Steve Stump, Elizabeth Terry, the Rosa Tichenor family, Linda and Larry Vandevander, Sandra Vandevander, Raymond Varner, Amy Vaus, Estelle Wagner, Rene White, Judy Williams, Ann and Ed Wimer and Margaret Wimer.

## Ruddle Graduates From Fairmont

Makailyn Ruddle of Franklin was awarded her bachelor of arts degree in education on May 11 during Fairmont State University's 155th spring commencement.



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**Pendleton County Schools**  
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Students in first grade and up who are new to Pendleton County will receive a speech screening. Students new to West Virginia in the first grade and up will receive a hearing screening. Students in second and fourth grades will receive a vision screening. Students who are referred for testing by the school psychologist for reasons other than testing for the gifted program will receive a hearing and vision screening.

If a parent does not want their child to participate in the screenings, a written notice needs to be sent to the Director of Student Services by August 5, 2024, at Pendleton County Schools, P.O. Box 888, Franklin, WV 26807.

**3RD ANNUAL**

**Amish School Benefit Supper and Bake Sale**

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# County Commission Examines Water Study Issue and Mon Forest Towns Planning Proposal

By Stephen Smoot

Water stayed on the minds of the Pendleton County Commission in last week's meeting as the region slipped into a federally defined severe drought condition. Commissioner Roger Dahmer's opening prayer included a plea, "Lord, we pray for a healing rain."

In the first meeting for July, commissioners heard a proposal for a water study. The study would give an assessment of Pendleton County water resources and population development, then also suggest efficient ways to use them through system expansions.

Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Management coordinator, expressed the "need for public water out there" in the area of the emergency management office, West Virginia State Police barracks, Pendleton County Schools bus garage and surrounding areas.

A number of area offices and agencies have submitted letters of support to Governor Jim Justice to partly or fully fund the study. These include Pendleton 911, the United States Forest Service, and others. Pendleton County Schools and the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority were also approached about providing one. County commissioners agreed to give a letter as well.

Karen Pitsenbarger, Pendleton County administrator, recently sent out a Request for Proposal to gather information about the potential cost of the study, but results will not be back in time to be part of the letters of support package. Gillespie suggested that the county rely on the cost of similar studies for similar reasons in the region.

Commissioners decided to approve a letter of support requesting \$200,000 after suggestions that it was approximate to what the study should cost.

Next, commissioners recognized Annie Humes, representing Mon Forest Towns. She brought Katherine Garvey, director of West Virginia University's Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic. Prior to her position at WVU, Garvey worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VII in the National Agricultural Compliance Assistance Center and with the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, according to

her website biography.

A \$150,000 grant for planning purposes was awarded. A press release from WVU states that "part of this funding will support development of individualized comprehensive plans for Cowen, Durbin, Franklin, and potentially Pendleton County, Petersburg, and Richwood."

"Preferably, Pendleton County would have a plan and Franklin would assent to it," Garvey suggested. She added that the county should also create "a planning commission . . . with 10 to 15 members." The commission would need to create it by ordinance. The clinic already assisted Richwood and Marlinton's comprehensive plan creation.

Garvey and Gillespie both noted that comprehensive plans have a disaster response component. "From our standpoint, when it comes to disaster mitigation . . . something like this is a key component of the recovery side."

If the county creates a planning commission, all final decisions on the plan and other issues would be made by the commission itself.

Gillespie also noted that a plan is "walking in step with the water study on a county master plan of where we are to where we're headed."

In other business, commissioners approved the Treasure Mountain Festival committee's request to use the community building and other county properties "as they do every year," Pitsenbarger noted. They also approved the appointment of Jessica Hoover, new West Virginia University extension agent, to the Farmland Protection Board at the request of executive director, Matt Monroe.

Commissioners also passed a policy allowing for emergency ballot commissioners to bring ballots to voters in the hospital or living in a nursing home for 30 days or less prior to the election. In such a case, the general procedure is that the county selects emergency ballot commissioners, one from each party, then send them out on Election Day to give the individuals affected an opportunity to vote.

At the end of the meeting, Gillespie provided an update on emergency management efforts to place a traffic camera on West Virginia Route 28 at Elk Mountain where it intersects

with Forest Road 128. The main barrier to installation lies in the emergency management office gaining permission from the U.S. Forest Service, since it would sit on their land.

The camera would cycle at 30 second intervals between aiming north on WV 28, south on WV 28, and up FR 128. Should the USFS take too long, or deny the request, the back up plan is to find "a willing private landowner" who will host the camera.

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Headquarters: Romney, WV  
How to apply: Email resumes to [pvcdd@wvca.us](mailto:pvcdd@wvca.us)  
Closing Date: August 9, 2024

The Office Assistant position will provide administrative support for the conservation district. This is a part time position. Duties include but are not limited to the following:

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- Office support – Greet public, provide information on programs, accept payments, receive and sort mail
- Schedule rental equipment – receive calls / messages from producers, coordinate delivery & pick up of rentals with equipment manager, maintain equipment database, contact producers for usage information (hours, tons, etc)
- Billing for rental equipment – Prepare Request for Service agreements, rental agreements, work with accountant to prepare monthly billing statements, process and mail statements, maintain billing information, update database
- Support for operation & maintenance program – work with WVCA watershed staff on operation & maintenance work orders, prepare and process invoices for operation & maintenance work, review work orders and provide information to crew, prepare annual reports for o&m work, prepare annual invoices for local sponsor cost share, prepare annual cost share agreements
- Assist with the delivery of conservation programs – Provide program information to producers upon inquiry, assist with completing program applications, approvals, and maintain program records.
- Administrative support for watershed rehabilitation projects – Work with project manager, assist with reporting and maintain program records.
- Provide support for outreach activities and events – Tree Sale, Conservation Farm Tour, Workshops, Field Days, special meetings and Award Banquet.
- Provide administrative support to the Administrative Specialist – assist with programs as needed
- All other duties as assigned

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sugar Grove Antique Tractor Parade**  
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**PENDLETON COUNTY SCHOOLS PROVIDE MEALS TO STUDENTS AT NO COST**

**Franklin, W.Va.** - Students in Pendleton County will have the opportunity to eat a no-cost breakfast and lunch at school through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. The CEP was enacted as a result of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and provides universal meal service to children in high-poverty areas. This is the fourth year for the option.

The CEP serves as an alternative to collecting, approving and verifying household eligibility applications for free- and reduced-price eligible students in high-poverty Local Education Agencies (LEAs). If at least 25 percent of a school's student population is directly certified for free meal benefits, the entire school qualifies for the option.

"I am proud that Pendleton County Schools will be participating in the CEP program to help meet a crucial need for many students in our county," said, Charles Hedrick, Superintendent of Pendleton County Schools. "We know academic achievement increases when our students are well-fed and ready to learn, and we must provide secure and reliable access to nutritious meals so all students have a chance to achieve at the highest level possible."

Pendleton County expects to have four schools participate in the CEP. The program allows the school system to feed nearly 845 students each day.

The 2017 Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap data reports high levels of food insecurity and hunger across the country. In West Virginia, more than 14 percent of residents, and over 79,000 children, live in food insecure households.

For more information, contact Holly Walker at (304) 358-2207 ext. 99329

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**Saturday Sale:**  
**Antiques:** Marble Bust of Princess Diana, secretary desk used at Babcock Lumbar Company, old ledger books (1800s), very old copy of Gettysburg Address, Underwood adding machine, pie safe, Red Wing store water cooler, amber snuff jars, old wooden clocks, Dairy Product Co. milk bottle from Wheeling WV, old photo album, coffee grinder, brass hanging scale, Mark Twain books, WV Code Books, History of WV book, Foxfire books, ink well, cast iron bank, Philadelphia Caponizing set, costume jewelry, Paul Revere and Stonewall Jackson decanter, cigar boxes, brass canteen, rose glass, depression glass, carnival glass, milk glass, tea pots, wooden spools, Morgantown glass, Topo Map of Blackwater River (hand drawn), lots of vinyl records, wooden snow shoes, old steel safe with combination, camel back trunk, wooden file cabinets, picture of WV Delegates of 1915, multiple silver pieces (pitcher, coffee, etc.), treadle sewing machine (cabinet only), drop leaf table, wooden secretary desk, spinning wheel, wooden sewing box, homemade chest, wash stand, wooden benches, woven items made by Dorothy, old baby dolls some are porcelain, record player, Amish made TV stand and many more items not listed.

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Ben and Dorothy  
Thompson



# Pendleton County Reaches 'Extreme Drought' Conditions, But Long-Term Forecast Improves

By Stephen Smoot

After the ninth driest June in 130 years of keeping such records, the entirety of Pendleton County has moved into increasingly severe drought conditions. Late last week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Integrated Drought Information System upgraded the drought category of Pendleton County from "D2 severe drought" conditions to "D3 extreme drought."

The scale runs from "D0 abnormally dry" to "D4 exceptional drought."

During the past 30 days, no areas of the county enjoyed higher than average precipitation, although for the entire year, 2024 has actually been the 58th wettest year since 1894. A small area around Sugar Grove has received between 75 and 100 percent of normal rainfall during the past month and the rest of southeastern Pendleton has gotten between 50 and 75 percent.

That said, the remaining two-thirds of the county, primarily north of Franklin and west of Seneca Rocks, has only seen between one fourth and one half of normal levels of rain. Much of that area has seen between .01 and .5 inches of rain in the past week (as of July 18) while most of the rest of the county got none.

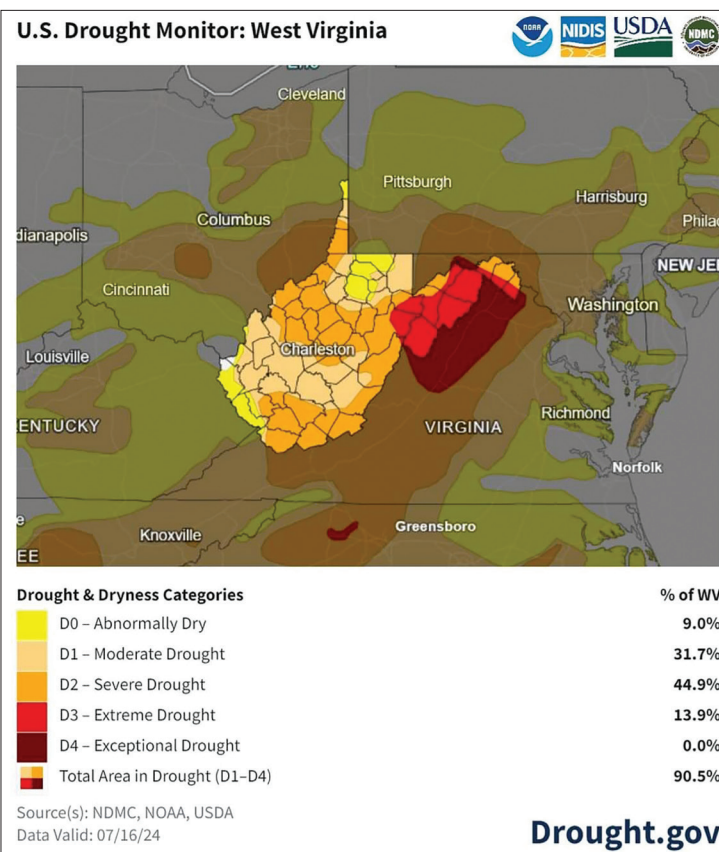
During the past 60 days, almost the entire county is between 50 and 75 percent of normal rainfall.

In terms of temperatures, the entire county has seen them between four and six degrees on average higher than normal in the past 30 days. Temperatures are compared to the historical average set between 1991 and 2020.

The NIDIS also marked stream flow levels on both the South Branch River above Franklin and the South Fork River at Brandywine. In both cases, the rivers met the category of "much below" the historical average with the only worse category being "low." Streamflow monitors on the North Fork and South Branch in Grant County have designated their flow in that location as "low."

Conditions may improve, but slowly. Between the time of this writing and the end of this week, all of Pendleton County is expected to receive at least a half an inch of rain. Central and Southern Pendleton may receive between one and one half inches during that period.

Another bit of good news comes from a revision in the overall drought forecast. Early last week, the drought forecast indicated that it would persist throughout the season. Now, although predicted to persist over the next month, it is now expected to improve before the end of the summer.



While almost the entire state has fallen into drought, conditions remain most extreme in the South Branch River watershed.

Although recent decades seem as if they have brought increasing drought conditions, the years since the turn of the century have seen significantly fewer instances of extended hot dry weather compared to the entire 20th century. The years from 1920 to almost 1935 showed that much of 1921, almost all of 1923 and 1930, then about half of 1934 were spent in the current most severe category of "d4 extreme drought." The years 1921 through 1927 were almost entirely spent between severe and exceptional drought conditions, only somewhat ameliorated by occasional drops into moderate drought.

Significantly, the disastrous drought conditions of the 1920s produced the conditions behind the Franklin Town Fire of 1924. The years 1962 through 1971 also saw the county experiencing

extended drought conditions. Conversely, the years 1995 through the present have actually seen periods with higher than average precipitation. That said, lower numbers of significant snowfalls have not helped more water penetrate through the ground. Slow melts from heavy snows allow water to slowly percolate into the groundwater much more effectively than rain, especially heavy storms.

## Reuss Presented Price Scholarship

Ashley Reuss, a senior at Pendleton County High School, was awarded the R. Kenneth Price Jr. Scholarship on May 13. This scholarship is donated in memory of R. Kenneth Price Jr., the superintendent of Pendleton County Schools from 2001-2005.



Ashley Reuss

In the past four years, Reuss has grown both academically and socially. She has done a wonderful job of keeping her grades A/Bs and was currently on the A/B Honor Roll. She enjoys reading, creating art in her spare time, spending time with her family and helping take care of her grandparents. She worked with the school's career exploration program with Dolly Rexrode and at the Faithful Friends Animal Clinic. She has a passion for working with and helping animals. She also absolutely flourished at the library. Rexrode stated that she has never seen her so happy and at home. She loved doing the filing and

paperwork. She loved talking to the people who work there and the quiet atmosphere.

Reuss has been accepted to Shepherd University as an honors student in their English Literature program. After graduation from Shepherd, she hopes to return and work at the local library as a librarian.

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**SGR342A** 5 Acres, Lot 40W, High Valley Development. Some Restrictions. **NEW LISTING \$15,000.00.**

**SGR339A** 1.00 Acre w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home, 2 Car Garage. 12'x40' deck, paved driveway, Smith Heights Sub-division. Some Restrictions. **NEW LISTING \$279,000.00 REDUCED \$269,000.00.**

**SGR335A** 2.58 Acres w/3-4 Bdrm., 2 Bath, Ranch Home, Maintenance free exterior, Oil heat, Central AC, Public Water, Outbuildings, Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$349,000.00.**

**SGR334A** 4.25 Acre Lot, Sherwood Forest, nice building lot, Electric, 200amp service, some restrictions apply, Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$39,000.00.**

**SGR333A** 5.37 Acres w/Cabin. Open Living space, Main floor bdrm, Large Loft bdrm, 1 Bath, Deck along 2 sides, Easy access to property. Located in Buck Ridges, Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$164,900.00.**

**SGR332A** 0.39 Acre w/4 Bed, 3 Bath Home, conveniently located in Franklin, Updated Kitchen, Quality Wood & Tile Flooring throughout, Insulated throughout, Wood Burning FP in den, Large Laundry room with storage on Lower Level, Generator. Large Garage/Workshop located in the back of the house, perfect for the hobbyist or car enthusiast. One bath needs some TLC. **\$369,900.00.**

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**SGR326A** 141.74 Acres, Raw Land, Franklin District. **\$399,000.00.**

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

**SGR318A** 14.47 Acres Raw Land, w/Road cut in and leveled building pad being prepared, Buck Ridges Development, Franklin District. **\$49,900.00.**

**SGR317A** 0.21 Acre, Stone Mountain, Large Storage area, located in Riverton. **\$70,000.00.**

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

**SGR309A** 0.44 Acre, bed, 2 bath home in Franklin. Two car garage w/bonus room. **\$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.**

**SGR302A** "The Hollow" Restaurant, fully furnished, at the corner of US RT 220/US RT 33W, Franklin. Property adjoins neighboring motel. **\$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 REDUCED \$1,595,000.00.**

**SGR258B** 3.42 Acres, w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home. Sugar Grove District, Falcon Lane. **\$259,000.00. REDUCED \$229,000.00 REDUCED \$199,000.00.**

**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.**

**SGR223 4** Bed, 2 Bath, 2000 sq ft, located in town of Franklin. **\$99,000.00. UNDER CONTRACT**

**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.**

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