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State Officials Gather To Speak at Fisher Mountain



Roger Dahmer introduces special guests at a dinner held Friday night at the Ancient Oak Restaurant at Fisher Mountain. From left are United States Representative Carol Miller, Robbie Morris, Randolph County Economic Development director, Kris Warner, West Virginia Economic Development Authority executive director, Delegate Bryan Ward from the 86th District, Patrick Morrissey, attorney general for the State of West Virginia, and Dahmer.

By Stephen Smoot

Several statewide and regional leaders gathered at Waterfront Group's Autumn Oak Restaurant at Fisher Mountain last Friday. Although they gathered for the fellowship of the Pendleton County Republican Executive Committee annual dinner, they spoke about service they have performed in their current positions of responsibility.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Roger Dahmer in his role as master of ceremonies led the assemblage in an invocation. He asked, "We pray for leaders who believe in the greatness of America."

Patrick Morrissey, attorney general for the State of West Virginia, opened by saying, "It's great to be back in Pendleton County."

Morrissey spoke of his work in his elected role. While also fighting for consumer protection and other important issues, he has put a priority on protecting West Virginia and its people from what many would consider intrusive regulatory actions by the federal government. He shared that "farming is very important in Pendleton County," as well as in most of the state.

Morrissey gave an example of his work building coalitions of state attorneys general

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Pendleton County Schools Still In Strong Financial Condition

By Stephen Smoot

With excited students making their way back to their schools, the Pendleton County Board of Education found much to buoy its spirits as well.

After attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, J.D. Wilkins, board president, led the invocation, praying, "We thank You for the school year starting."

J. P. Mowery, treasurer and financial officer, shared both the treasurer's and financial report soon after the opening of the meeting. He concluded that the system sits "in a very good position with a cash balance of more

than \$2 million." He said that if the schools went ahead and paid all of its obligations in the near future now, the system would still have more than \$1 million available.

Businesses and government entities both tend to not pay bills early to ensure that they collect the best possible return on account interest. Mowery shared that this year, the school system's account earned more than \$100,000 in interest.

In meetings past, however, Mowery stated that a conservative spending policy must remain in place as pandemic era financial support disappears. Though the school system will have less to work with, its frugality has enabled it to stay ahead of some of the financial problems and tough decisions facing other county school systems across the state.

The board has continually supported a restrained policy as regards spending.

One program that could face problems going ahead is Communities in Schools, championed by First Lady Cathy Justice. CIS puts counselors and other support staff in schools to help with the social and family needs of students. It also organizes attendance boosting events and arranges for school and hygiene supplies, as well as food for the weekends to be available for students who need this.

Another benefit lies in CIS workers spending their time dealing with student nonacademic issues so that teachers can focus on learning.

Mowery said that CIS for the current school year is fully funded, but at a 10 percent cut from last year. He speculated that the program could face even more cuts without Governor Jim Justice serving as its champion. Should state funding for CIS diminish or get cut entirely, Mowery stated that "we'll

need a similar sized grant to continue with that."

Travis Heavner provided the facilities update, saying that workers were "trying to tidy up anything that's coming to us," but said that he had no updates on the alternative education building at Pendleton County Middle/High School.

Betty Kimble, school board member, shared that "I've been looking at the landscaping around the schools. The bushes at Brandywine (Elementary School) are just dead."

The summer drought likely helped to take a huge toll on the school's decorative foliage.

Heavner responded in agreement, saying, "A lot of them just need to be pulled out."

"I'm thinking mulch and just a few big rocks," Kimble suggested as an alternative to shrubbery, making the point that staff do not have time to tend to decorative plants, saying that "the custodians have enough to do." Heavner added that a lot of the landscaping had lived past its prime.

Next, Mowery shared relevant changes to state code concerning the policy manual. Long-term substitutes after a certain threshold of days worked will qualify for pay, sick leave, and benefits enjoyed by full-time faculty.

The goal of the changes lies in getting qualified substitute teachers performing long term work more pay, more quickly.

Additionally, "days set apart by the president or governor as a holiday of special observance" will be considered as a day of employment when it falls within the employment term.

Board members also received strongly positive reports on the progress of the county system and individual schools in state rankings.



Brandywine Elementary School shines as one of the top 15 of its type in all of West Virginia.

Pendleton County Schools Earns Top 10 Academic Ranking Among State Systems

By Stephen Smoot

If a sports team raised its ranking from 23rd to seventh, all of its supporters would bask in the good feelings of accomplishment while determining ways to continue the trend of improvement. Pendleton County Schools has demonstrated that improvement in academics and those who worked to make it happen are taking tremendous pride in it.

The Pendleton County Board of Education members and Charles Hedrick, superintendent, praised parents and students, then faculty and staff during its second regular meeting of August.

Hedrick lauded both students and parents, saying that not every county has a group of parents as dedicated to their children's education. He added that "Travis (Heavner) and Ms. (Barbara) Whitecotton have done a lot of work" to help bring about improvement.

He added that "J. P. (Mowery) pointed out that we're the only small rural county and the only county that's unleveled" to earn a top 10 ranking despite being in both cat-

egories. "Unleveled" refers to the fact that Pendleton County Schools does not enjoy the financial support of an excess levy to support operations.

Pendleton County scored a ranking of seven in the SchoolDigger.com rating system, 16 positions higher than last year, also earning a four out of a possible five stars. Putnam County earned the top position, followed by Ohio, Jackson, Hancock, Monongahela, and Wood. Pendleton scored above Ritchie, Marion, and Tyler counties in the remainder of the top 10.

SchoolDigger states on its website that it uses "data-driven" comparisons to rate systems and schools.

Pendleton scored better than any other county system in the greater Eastern Panhandle. Jefferson County rated 13, Hampshire 21, Grant 26, Morgan 28, Berkeley 35, Mineral 36, Tucker 42, and Hardy 49.

Hardy's lower ranking almost certainly stems at least partly from having a large and growing number of students for whom English is not their first language.

Additionally, Pocahontas County earned

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Community CALENDAR

Library Friends To Meet Tuesday

The Friends of the Library will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, in the community room of the Pendleton County Library in Franklin.

All are invited to attend.

Master Gardener Training Course To Be Scheduled

Is one interested in becoming an Extension Master Gardener? An online hybrid training program will be held in the winter/spring of 2025. After finishing the training courses, participants are required to complete an initial 40 hours of volunteer work to be named an Extension Master Gardener. From there, EMGs are required to complete 20 hours of volunteer work and 10 hour of horticulture training each year.

If interested or questions, contact the Pendleton County Extension Office at 304-358-2286.

A Quest for Medicine and Profit: The Return of Ginseng Season Comes to the Mountains



Ginseng has centuries old uses and brings profit to those able to scour the mountains to hunt it. Photo courtesy of the West Virginia Department of Commerce.

By Stephen Smoot

According to Cherokee lore, in the old days animals could speak in the same tongues as the human beings with whom they lived in harmony. "But as time went on," it reads in James Mooney's "Sacred Formulas of the Cherokees," "the people increased so rapidly that their settlements spread over the whole earth and the poor animals found themselves beginning to be cramped for room."

At "the Mulberry Place," the bears first met in council and resolved on war with the human race, but could not come up with an effective weapon with which to fight. Deer, fishes, birds, insects, and reptiles also came together to form a strategy. Eventually "the assembly then began to name and devise various diseases. One after the other, and had their invention finally failed them not one of the human race would have been able to survive."

Mankind did have its advocates in the world of plants. "Each tree, shrub, and herb, down even to the grasses and mosses, agreed to furnish a remedy for each one of the diseases named and each said, 'I shall appear to help man when he calls on me in his need.'"

One of those herbs carried the name a'tali-kuli, which in the Cherokee language means "it climbs the mountain." Today most refer to it by its Chinese name "ginseng."

Starting on Sept. 1 and extending through Nov. 30, many in West Virginia and throughout the Appalachians will climb the mountain in search of this root coveted on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

Mooney wrote in the 1890s that "the extraordinary medical virtues formerly ascribed to ginseng had no other existence than in the mind of the Chinese."

Extending back centuries into the past,

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OBITUARIES



Wilma Louise Boyette

Wilma Louise Boyette, 84, left her earthly home on Aug. 19, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on Aug. 23, 1939, in Petersburg, the daughter of the late Raymond and Leah (Dunkle) Cowger.

Mrs. Boyette was a graduate of Franklin High School and a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

She loved applying her skills as a certified nursing assistant by helping others as a home health care worker for Pendleton Senior and Family Services and Camelot Nursing Home.

She took pride in her family and spent every free moment she had with her

daughter, Christina, and her children. She enjoyed family gatherings, shopping trips, sleep overs and cuddling with her grandkids.

Her husband, William Boyette, preceded her in death on Dec. 21, 2006.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory two daughters, Christina Chan (Eugene) of Franklin and Diane Betler (Kevin) of Helvetia; a sister, Nancy Nesselrodt; five grandchildren, Shawn (Brittnee), Amber, Chris, Charity, and Victoria Chan; six great-grandchildren, Mariah Crites, Eliza Myers, Felicity Chan, Everly Chan, Jordan Chan and Luca Chan; two nephews, Jay and Josh Nesselrodt; and a niece, Tansy Wetmore.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Gary Scott; and a nephew, John Nesselrodt.

In honoring her wishes, her body has been cremated.

A memorial service was held Saturday at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Bishop Kyle Apple officiating. Inurnment was at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to Pendleton Senior and Family Services.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com.

A Quest for Medicine and Profit

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the Chinese have harvested ginseng due to its medicinal qualities. Part of the word “ginseng” includes the Chinese word for “human,” due to its loose anthropomorphic shape.

Legends surround the plant and its cultivation in the Middle Kingdom. One features a ginseng fairy who angers her father by marrying a mortal. She further enrages him by spreading seeds around the world as medicine to protect humans from a horrific epidemic. The story of Sun Liang tells of a starving farmer who sailed across a broad bay and climbed high mountains seeking out ginseng, only to die in the effort.

In Chinese folklore, he is seen as a hero and, in their estimation, the quest for ginseng takes on more of the nature of a hunt than a harvest.

A medieval Chinese physician, Li Dong Yuan, one of the Four Great Masters of Traditional Chinese Medicine, was quoted in the medical text Shen Non Ben Cao as teaching that “ginseng drains fire, quiets the spirit, stabilizes the corporeal soul, fortifies the spleen, brightens the eyes, eliminates vexatious thirst, breaks hardness and gathering, and treats vacuity taxation, internal damage, and all blood illnesses.” Additionally, Chinese medicine recommends ginseng for curing certain problems inherent in males.

Cherokee shamans found ginseng useful in curing headaches, pains in the side, and problems inherent in females. They also think more in terms of hunting the plant. One formula, described by Mooney, requires the hunter to “address the mountain as the ‘Great Man’ and assures that he only comes to take a small piece of flesh (the ginseng) from its side.”

Modern medicine has opened up to exploring the plant’s health benefits. According to Mount Sinai, ginseng could boost the immune system and cognitive function, inhibit tumor growth, and help to control blood sugar in diabetics.

Mooney noted that “the Cherokees sell large quantities of sang for 50 cents a pound, nearly equivalent there to two days wages.”

Today hunters seek out ginseng in 19 United States states, including much of the Appalachian region. Ginseng can come in either “wet” or “dry” forms. Dried ginseng carries a much higher value. According to the West Virginia Division of Forestry, in the 2019-2020 season, dried ginseng brought \$550 per pound versus \$160 a pound for “wet.”

Prices have certainly risen since then in both the United States and China. Only as the season gets underway will the prices for 2024 emerge.

One pound of dried ginseng requires approximately 300 roots. The enormous number of plants required to form a pound draws large numbers of hunters to the hills to seek the living treasure. China very strictly regulates and monitors its ginseng to prevent overharvesting.

In West Virginia, digging may only be performed during the established season. “Diggers have until March 31,” according to the West Virginia Division of Forestry “to sell to a registered West Virginia ginseng dealer or have roots weight-receipted at one of the division of forestry weigh stations.”

Only with a weight-receipt from the division of forestry can anyone have possession of ginseng roots between April 1 and Aug. 31.

Also, “Ginseng plants must be at least 5 years old or older and have at least three prongs before they can be harvested. Seeds from the plant must be planted on the site of the harvest. Ginseng must be certified before leaving the boundaries of the state. Only registered dealers can certify ginseng.”

Federal laws state that “requirements for the export of wild ginseng out of the country are established by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. All ginseng plants must be at least 5 years of age and have at least three prongs before being harvested and therefore eligible for export.”

Ginseng hunters can seek out plants in the Monongahela National Forest, but must buy a permit and abide by legal restrictions. One may purchase a permit “at the ranger stations in Parsons, Petersburg, Richwood, Bartow, Marlinton or White Sulphur Springs, or the supervisor’s office in Elkins, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.” Permits cost \$20 a piece and hunters must buy a different permit for each forest district. Permits expire as soon as the hunter collects 95 plants from the district, but one may purchase another permit after hitting the limit.

The United States Forest Service also states that “ginseng plants must have three or more prongs and have produced fruit this year to be legal for harvest. When harvesting, plant the fruit on-site and then keep the rest of the plant intact. Harvest no more than 24 plants per day and have no more than 24 plants in your possession while on national forest land.”

Johnny O. Propst, 82

Johnny O. Propst, 82, of Brandywine passed away Aug. 26, 2024, at Grant Memorial Hospital in Petersburg.

Arrangements, under the direction of the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin, were incomplete at press time. For arrangements, go to www.kimblefuneralhome.com.

State Officials

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to band together, share resources, and fight regulations such as the proposed “waters of the United States” rule that would give federal agencies broad powers to regulate nearly any area with even part time flowing water.

He discussed plans to fight the electric vehicle mandates, made without reference to the conditions in rural America. Morrisey gave the difficult terrain and extreme temperatures, as well as lack of infrastructure in Pendleton County, as reasons why the rule is foolish.

After Morrisey came United States representative Carol Miller. Redistricting moved Pendleton County into her district from that of Alex Mooney. Miller apologized for not coming to the area more, explaining its remoteness from both Washington, DC, and her hometown of Huntington.

“We make a lot of hard decisions and you send us there to make hard decisions,” she remarked. Miller shared some “inside baseball,” telling stories from her time in the West Virginia House of Delegates facing sexism, as well as being a “den mother” figure for new delegates in the West Virginia House of Delegates while she served there and incoming congressmen and women now.

One of the issues that she monitors is the upcoming sunset of the 2017 tax cut act, due to sunset next year. Allowing the tax cuts to die would impose significant burdens on all businesses, especially smaller operations.

Attendees also heard from Kris Warner, West Virginia Economic Development Authority executive director. He spoke of the vitality of fair and free elections, then outlined a plan on how to secure them in an age of digital threats.

Next Robbie Morris, economic development director for Randolph County, discussed prosperity and infrastructure, notably focusing on the need for a safer US 33 on the east slope of Allegheny Mountain and expansion of infrastructure, such as water and broadband.

Finally, Bryan Ward, member of the House of Delegates representing Hardy and Pendleton counties, discussed how he and the county’s other delegate, Elias Coop-Gonzales, “tag team” and help each other with constituent service. Few know that helping constituents directly with problems is one of the most important parts of service in the State Legislature.

The event also served as a coming out party for the new restaurant, Autumn Oak, at Fisher Mountain. Many attendees from outside of the area were unaware of the facility, or even that the county had a first class golf course.

Janet Robinson, fiancée of co-owner Mark Adkins, shared that “it’s unbelievable to get this recognition from people coming to the area.” She added that one of the primary goals of the development lies in getting “more jobs and more people to the county” and to “show people how unbelievably beautiful it is here.”

Academic Rankings

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a ranking of 17 and Randolph 54.

Just as last year, Brandywine Elementary earned the best ranking of the county’s elementary schools. The school leapt 14 spots to 13th best out of 368 in the entire state. Franklin soared 51 spots to take a ranking of 111, still in the top third in the state. North Fork Elementary scored a 154.

Pendleton County Middle/High School enjoyed the most dramatic rise, however, gaining 59 spots to earn a ranking of 38. In the greater Eastern Panhandle, this puts the school only behind Jefferson High School, Washington, Musselman, and Frankfort as the fifth best performing high school in the region.

Last year, the Pendleton County Board of Education and superintendent changed course when confronted by falling scores and rankings. They embarked on a program of change that helped to bring about the results released this month.

Part of the answer came with the hiring of Whitecotton, a former Hardy County Schools superintendent, as School Improvement Coordinator with a mandate of change. She served as a key cog in a system that tracked the progress of every student. Benchmark testing done on a regular basis, as well as other metrics, provided the numbers needed to gauge student achievement.

Whitecotton also oversaw implementing changes brought about by the state in educational policy and practice.

If students fell behind, principals and central office staff could both check with the teacher to see what support they might need. Carrie Nesselrodt, director of student services, also worked closely with Communities in Schools to boost attendance, which helped to improve academic results.

On the West Virginia Summative Assessment Test Scores, Pendleton students again performed well. These scores indicate what percentage of students would not need to take remedial classes in a given subject in college were they to choose to go. These numbers encompass all students in the system.

In mathematics, Pendleton County took a ranking of 11th in the entire state with a score of 40.3 percent. This means that just over 40 percent of students, if all decided to go to college, would not need extra remedial help. In English and language arts, Pendleton earned a sixth place ranking at 52.3 percent. For science, Pendleton also placed sixth with a 34.7 percent score.

Hedrick told the board that the system must “continue to make that movement even higher.” J.D. Wilkins, board president, agreed and suggested that the board write up and pass a resolution “to thank students, parents, and staff for the improvements.”

The board agreed to do so.



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International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Offers Helmets to Hardhats Program

By Stephen Smoot

In 2023, the rate of veteran homelessness rose a staggering 7.4 percent over the previous year. The National Association of American Veterans reported in 2023 that nearly 12 million veterans contended with a disability. Mental health problems plague just over two million.

With so many American military veterans struggling, sometimes with problems connected to their service, sometimes with the demands imposed by an uncertain and inflationary economy, support programs remain a vital part of protecting those who defended America's freedom.

David Bland, governmental affairs director with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 53, delivered an informational presentation to the Pendleton County Commission last week. In it, he shared details about the union's "Hardhats to Helmets" program. This opportunity fast tracks veterans through the training process to earn a place with the union and the opportunity for good paying employment.

Bland shared that many of the businesses who employ workers from the trades represented by the IUPAT suffer, like almost everyone else, from staffing shortages. Jobs available through the union include industrial and commercial painting, drywall work, window glazing, floor installation, hydro-blaster technicians, and more, up to a total of 30 crafts.

He added that "we need 500 hydro workers" and are "about 300 short" to perform other types of work.

These opportunities benefit women veterans as well as men. "Though not as many seek our work or careers in the trades," Bland said, "women are actually better at detail sometimes," and described how that applied especially to painting and drywall work.

The program, according to the union's flier, "trains transitioning members of the military in one of our many trades and assists them in finding a job to immediately begin building a successful career with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades."

Training for veterans comes at no cost, with veterans encouraged to "save their GI Bill for

future courses." The training involves both classroom and also hands-on learning together.

Union membership brings perquisites, such as skills and safety training, eligibility for health insurance, and various retirement savings opportunities. After learning the trade, union members can then take classes on how to lead others in a supervisory role.

Within one year of discharge, the veteran can enter the program, in which the union partners with the United States Department of Labor. The partnership enables the union to waive certain requirements for veteran applicants. Pay comes 60 percent from the union, the rest comes from the federal government. A veteran who wishes to enter the trades, but does not take advantage of this program could miss out on thousands of dollars.

Training takes place at the massive 96,000 square foot facility in Weston. They train union members, but also, for example, "state road bridge inspectors . . . in large numbers."

When they invited elected officials to learn more, Agnes Queen, Lewis County commissioner, exclaimed, "You need to tell everyone about this."

Apprentices then "take training and apply their skills into actual projects around the jurisdiction all across West Virginia and the surrounding states."

Bland urged that supporting employment through the IUPAT also helps to keep employees in West Virginia. He praised Marshall University for using the union on their projects, but shared that West Virginia University employs workers from Pennsylvania generally. He said, "If you can't hire union, at least try to hire local people . . . (because) if you send all the money out of state, it's gone."

Bland has made it his mission to explain the program to local government officials across the district, which covers West Virginia and parts of Ohio and Maryland to ensure that veterans learn about the opportunities available.

Disaster Assistance Available to Ag Producers Impacted by Drought

Agricultural operations in West Virginia have been significantly impacted by recent drought. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and livestock producers recover from these adverse weather events. Impacted producers should contact their local USDA Service Center to report losses and learn more about program options available to assist in their recovery from crop, land, infrastructure, and livestock losses and damages.

USDA Disaster Assistance

Livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land may be eligible for the 2024 Livestock Forage Disaster Program. To participate in LFP producers must own, cash lease, or contract grow eligible livestock, provide pasture or grazing land to eligible livestock on the beginning date of the qualifying drought, certify that they suffered a grazing loss due to drought, and submit an acreage report to the Farm Service Agency for all grazing land for which a grazing loss is being claimed. FSA maintains a list of counties eligible for LFP and makes updates each Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program provides eligible producers with compensation for above normal costs of hauling water and feed to livestock as well as transporting livestock to forage or other grazing acres. For ELAP, producers are required to complete a notice of loss and a payment application to their local FSA office no later than the annual program application deadline, Jan. 30, 2025, for 2024 calendar year losses.

Additionally, eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers may be eligible for cost-share assistance through the Tree Assistance Program to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes or vines. TAP complements the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or crop insurance coverage, which covers the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases. For TAP, a program application must be filed within 90 days of the disaster event or the date when the loss of the trees, bushes or vines is apparent.

"Once you are able to evaluate the drought impact on your operation, be sure to contact your local FSA county office to timely report all crop and livestock damages and losses," said John Perdue, state executive director

for FSA in West Virginia. "To expedite FSA disaster assistance, you will likely need to provide documents, such as farm records, herd inventory, receipts and pictures of damages or losses."

FSA also offers a variety of direct and guaranteed farm loans, including operating and emergency farm loans, to producers unable to secure commercial financing. Producers in counties with a primary or contiguous disaster designation may be eligible for low interest emergency loans to help them recover from production and physical losses. Loans can help producers replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, cover family living expenses or refinance farm-related debts and other needs.

Additionally, FSA offers several loan servicing options available for borrowers who are unable to make scheduled payments on their farm loan programs debt to the agency because of reasons beyond their control.

Risk Management

Producers who have risk protection through Federal Crop Insurance or FSA's NAP should report crop damage to their crop insurance agent or FSA office. If they have crop insurance, producers should provide a notice of loss to their agent within 72 hours of initial discovery of damage and follow up in writing within 15 days.

For NAP covered crops, a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent, except for hand-harvested crops, which should be reported within 72 hours.

"Crop insurance and other USDA risk management options are offered to help producers manage risk because we never know what nature has in store for the future," said Alexander Sereno, director of USDA's Risk Management Agency Regional Office that covers West Virginia. "Times of disaster can be a trying time for producers, and they should stay in close contact with their crop insurance agent. Producers can be assured that the approved insurance providers, loss adjusters and agents are experienced and well-trained in handling these types of events."

Conservation

FSA's Emergency Conservation Program and Emergency Forest Restoration Program can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial and technical assistance to implement emergency water conservation measures, restore fencing, remove debris, replace damaged irrigation system, land leveling and more.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service can help farmers make their operation more resilient in the face of drought in future years. Through conservation planning and practices that will improve soil health and water conservation, farmers can reduce future crop loss due to drought and enhance resiliency to changing climatic conditions. Financial help for implementing conservation practices may be available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Long-term damage from drought can include forage production loss in pastures and fields and decreased crop yields on fields not protected with soil health practices. Producers can visit their local USDA Service Center to learn more about these impacts, potential recovery tactics and how to take steps to make their land more resilient to drought in the future.

"The Natural Resources Conservation Service can be a very valuable partner to help landowners with their recovery and resiliency efforts," said Jon Bourdon, NRCS state conservationist in West Virginia. "Our staff will work one-on-one with landowners to make assessments of the damages and develop approaches that focus on effective recovery of the land."

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producers impacted by drought. Those resources include the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, Loan Assistance Tool, and Natural Disasters and Crop Insurance fact sheet. Additionally, FarmRaise offers an FSA educational hub with LIP and ELAP decision tools as well as farm loan resource videos. For FSA and NRCS programs, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent.



Michelina Browder's "Picture Agriculture in West Virginia" poster captured first place in the West Virginia Farm Bureau contest.

Browder Wins WV Farm Bureau's Poster Contest

Michelina Browder earned first place in West Virginia Farm Bureau's state "Picture Agriculture in West Virginia" poster contest. She was awarded \$100 for her winning entry. Her design captured first place in the Pendleton County contest and was among 21 posters judged in the state competition.

Her poster, along with the second place poster by Brynn Carlson of Jefferson County and third place by Caleb Larkin of Mineral County, were on display at the West Virginia State Fair. The posters were printed on placemats which were used at Pendleton County Farm Bureau's annual meeting and will be used at the WVFB annual meeting.

Posters of all county winners will be on display later this fall at the cultural center in Charleston.

Each year, the contest for fourth-grade students is sponsored statewide by the West Virginia Farm Bureau's women's

committee for the purpose of promoting the importance of agriculture in the Mountain State.

"Each year, the students seem to get more creative at displaying what they think agriculture looks like," stated Pam Hessler, WVFB women's leadership chair, in the West Virginia Farm Bureau News. "Many of these students don't live on a farm, but thankfully, in West Virginia, one doesn't have to drive too far without seeing agriculture and all its beauty."

Hessler continued, "Whether it is their families, having those of us come into the classrooms or the WVFB Mobile Ag Education Science Lab, we need to keep educating our youth about the importance of agriculture and the food, fiber and fuel that feeds us, clothes us and gets us here and there."

Browder was a fourth-grade student at Brandywine Elementary School at the time she designed her poster.

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Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce Looks Forward to an Active Fall Season

By Stephen Smoot

After a spring and summer highlighted with fun activities, the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce has no intention of slowing down as fall and the holiday season looms. Last week, the regular monthly meeting was held to continue work on upcoming events and other organizational business.

This fall, the Chamber will move its annual dinner to Circleville and make some changes to the usual format. Mountain Cajun Getaways, which hosted a Chamber Meet and Greet for the new West Virginia University Extension agent, will host. It will take place at 6 p.m. on Oct. 3.

"It's a great spot," said Elizabeth Scott, executive director.

Unlike recent years, the chamber will bring a more family friendly and less formal tone to the annual dinner. Scott said, "It will be more of a family-friendly, laid back, family picnic style event where you can bring your kids."

Food options will include hot dogs, hamburgers, different prepared salads, and a variety of desserts. While drink tickets will remain available for attendees, non-alcoholic drinks will also be provided. A small podium will be set up for live entertainment and presenting awards.

Scott said "It's going to be in October . . . getting away from the holidays and hunting season" with the hope of expanding turnout even more.

Also, "Tasha and Isaac (Sponaugle) would like to bring their mobile bar," added Scott.

The chamber board also discussed their plans for filling chests with prizes for the treasure hunt at the Treasure Mountain Festival. The grand prize donation has already come from Pendleton Community Bank with others to come. Scott donated items from her own business as well.

Also, the chamber board shared ideas on providing fall-themed decorations to highlight the Welcome to Franklin signs some time prior to TMF.

In other business, Scott reviewed the bingo fundraiser

held the previous Saturday night. She reported that the event "cleared \$700" with approximately 30 playing.

Board members then discussed the success of the Main Street Beautification project, despite damage inflicted on one of the hanging flower baskets gracing the streets of Franklin. They approved a gift certificate to reward Roger and Diana Kimble for invaluable help in maintaining them.

The chamber and Town of Franklin finalized their joint agreement in renting out use of a large stage recently procured by both. Highland County expressed interest in renting the stage for future events, necessitating some changes to the original draft.

She also shared that the chamber continued to enjoy success in membership recruitment. The board set the original goal for memberships at \$10,000, but in the past year blew past that to a current level of \$15,700. The chamber also received its regular grant funding tied to the administration of Trout Fest.

Convention and Visitors Bureau Maintains Momentum through Ongoing Tourist Season

By Stephen Smoot

With the spring and summer tourist season almost history, the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors' Bureau set its sights on upcoming events in fall and spring.

Traditionally a fun-filled time for locals, the CVB has worked to promote the Treasure Mountain Festival to a wider area. Annie Humes, who serves on both the CVB and Treasure Mountain Festival boards said "It's coming soon!"

One of the immediate priorities lay in helping to get the soon-to-be available TMF program into the community. Both hard and digital copies are available. The program will include the popular music and entertainment schedule as well.

Humes said, "Please feel free to reshare" information via social media and also that "volunteers are needed everywhere."

Although Mountain State Maple Days next comes in 2025, organizers have already commenced working on ideas for promotion to make Pendleton County the center of the statewide event. Lindsay Kazarick, another member of the CVB board, shared that organizers and others "are already planning Maple Days. Anyone interested in registering for this coming year can do so."

They may do so through the West Virginia Maple Syrup Producers Association website.

Kazarick said of the registration process that "it's pretty straightforward."

The group then brainstormed ideas on how to take the two weekends scheduled a month apart and create

"a maple month" of different events to maintain and expand interest. Kazarick informed the board that "Pendleton County sets the bar for what happens around the state in maple" and that "other people find out what is happening in Pendleton County and then they do it."

Humes said it was good that "everyone's got maple syrup on their brains the whole month."

Business also included the board and its members working together to facilitate the transition to a new executive director.

Prioritization went to maintaining communication with partner organizations during the transition process. Humes took the lead in reaching out. She informed the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area of the CVB's search and worked with them to make sure that the grant would be unaffected.

She reported that "we're in a good place. We can continue with the project."

Humes also attended a Pendleton County Commission meeting to update local elected officials, as well as meeting with the TMF boards.

Finally, the group heard an update on the executive director hiring process from board member Melinda Brooks. A draft of an advertisement for hiring the position was almost completed.

In the interim, the board would work together to keep the work continuing efficiently and effectively. Kazarick said, "We should continually communicate with each other to make sure that we all have the proper information."



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Springhouses Were Early Means of Refrigeration

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Long ago, before electricity was brought to these mountains, people were faced with the age-old problem of preserving their food. Many methods were used. Meats were salted, smoked or dried. Fruits and vegetables were either dried, pickled in brine, or canned.

There was still the problem of keeping butter, milk, and cheese cool. They solved this problem by building springhouses. These houses were constructed near or over springs. Cold water runs through them, serving the same function as present day refrigerators.

Not all springhouses were alike. They were built basically of three types...rock, wood, and wood/rock. Even though wood could be constructed quickly, the buildings were more vulnerable to the weather, and did not last long. These mountains supplied a huge amount of wood and rocks.

Troughs were built in the springhouse. They were about 1 foot wide and seven feet long. The water would fall about three feet from the pipe into the trough and drain out through a small hole in the trough outside of the springhouse. The springhouse was good all year round. The water would never freeze because it traveled from a deep spring. These springs which would remain cool all summer long.

In the top of the springhouse is an air vent allowing air to enter the house. Were it not for the air vent, water would drip all day long. In addition to the air vent, there was also a window for light, an entrance door, as well as an inner door, to keep out the animals. There were also some shelves on which canned fruits and vegetables were stored.

There remain several springhouses in the county. Perhaps the best known one is on the Annanias Pitsenbarger farm.

Life's little lessons to get one through the day include the following:

1. Keep noise down.
2. Get regular checkups.
3. Remember that the early bird gets the worm.
4. Do neck rubs.

5. Hold a baby kitten.

Although there has been no rain to fall in these parts, the weather has been just lovely. The weatherman calls for warmer temperatures...warmer than last week's 39 and 40 degree chilly mornings. Flowers seem to be showing off their beauty whilst the hummingbirds are taking their fill of the sweet juice found in the feeders. Before long, they will be winging their way to the south, many miles away.

This week's quotes are as follows:

"If bees only gathered nectar from perfect flowers, they wouldn't be able to make even a single drop of honey." — Matshona Dhliwayo

"Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a singing bird will come." — Chinese Proverb

"August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time." — Sylvia Plath

"In the arithmetic of love, one plus one equals everything, and two minus one equals nothing." — Mignon McLaughlin

"Nobody has ever measured, even poets, how much a heart can hold." — Zelda Fitzgerald

Sitting on the front porch, fanning one's self, is the best place to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

Many family members and friends of Jordan Hevener (daughter of Cary and George) motored this past weekend to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to attend the lovely wedding of Jordan to Quinn Ronek. The weather encouraged them all to see the sights of the city before the nuptials took place Saturday evening.

Clickety-clacks for the chin wagggers are as follows:

• There are more than 60 different types of kangaroos. A baby kangaroo when born is only 2 centimeters long.

• During the Civil War, Chattanooga, Tennessee, was an important area. The Battle of Chattanooga was made up of three different conflicts: the Battle of Orchard Knob, the Battle of Lookout Mountain, and the Battle of Missionary Ridge.

• A group of parrots is a "pandemonium."

• More hit songs have the word 'September' in the title than any other month.

• On the average, people get 120 emails



Jordan Hevener and Quinn Ronek exchanged wedding vows Saturday evening in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Pictured are, from left, George and Cary Hevener, Jordan and Quinn Ronek and Nancy and Al Ronek.

each day.

Concerns include the following: 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, Carl Gant, David Gillespie, Lola Graham, Patsy Green, JC Hammer, Marlene Harman, Missy Harrison, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Grace Hendrick, Jim Hiner, Evan Hise, Tim Hively, George Hevener, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Virgil Homan, Jr., Adalbert Hoover, Donna K. Hoover, Keith Hoover, Myrtle Hoover, Tim L. Hoover, Debbie and Enos Horst, Lisa and Mike Jamison, Jessica Janney, Alice Johnson, Richard Judy, Marsha Keller, Kim Kline, Ginger Knight, Tracie Knight, Laura Kropp, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Ronnie Lambert, Rex Landis, Roger and Skip Mallow, Yvonne Marsh, Ed May, Gene McConnell,

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, Andy Pond, Janice Propst, Eldon "Butch" Puffenbarger, Alda Propst, Janis Propst, the John O. Propst family, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Tom Rader, Brandon Reel, Charles Rexrode, Jason Rexrode, Linda Fay Rexrode, Pam Rexrode, Dennis Riggelman, Mike Roberts, Donna Ruddie, Jenny Ruddie, Mary Sawyers, Brittany Shriver, Annie Simmons, Greg Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Judy Simmons, Nelson Simmons, Robbie Sites, Mike Skiles, Tina Stuben, Steve Stump, Elizabeth Terry, Linda and Larry Vandevander, Sandra Vandevander, Amy Vaus, Judy Waggy, Estelle Wagner, Mary Louise Waldschlager, Rene White, Norman Wilfong, Judy Williams, Ann and Ed Wimer and Margaret Wimer.

A Look at Moatstown: Past and Present

My aunt asked after reading my previous article what I was going to write about next? I said that I didn't know, and her reply was, "you have lived in Moatstown long enough you should write that story." I do live on the outskirts of Moatstown but not in Moatstown itself. What I am writing is what I have been told by those who lived in this area many years before I came on the scene, and what I have been a part of for the past 63 years.

The first two people I remember knowing from Moatstown were Roscoe Moats and Ralph Anderson. The Hiner ladies who owned the farm we lived on hired them to help my daddy one summer to help with the hay making. Roscoe had a most hearty laugh and was very sociable while Ralph was very quiet. Anyone who knew Ruby Moats, Roscoe's sister, and ever heard her laugh knows what I mean.

After I married my husband and moved back to Pendleton County, I met and got to know many of his friends and neighbors in Moatstown. Bid and his mother often talked about Alice Anderson and Bid was very fond of her. He talked about how she took care of him. He was seven at the time his sister was born. Alice would bundle him up to keep him warm and slept in the bed with him. This was in the middle of January—and this house was the second coldest house I ever slept in.

My mother-in-law would churn butter and would always save the buttermilk for Noah Moats who lived above our Floyd Meadow. She would put it in a half gallon jar, and I would walk up through the meadow and take it to him. When the hogs were butchered, the family would share meat with the Cam Moats family. He lived on top of the mountain. I don't know if there is a name as all I ever heard it called was the Moats Ridges. He lived there with his family and Roscoe and Ruby were two of his children.

Cam would make baskets and sell them. Our family had one of his baskets that burned when Bid's home burned. Cam also lost his home and all the family owned to a fire. The community came together and built a new house down in the hollow for the Moats family.

I would often visit this house on a regular basis while helping with the kindergarten program at Franklin Elementary as one of our students lived there with the family. His grandmother, Gladys, would be cooking something on the wood stove.

I would drive up the hollow most days, but I did walk straight up the mountain behind my house one time. I mean straight up! I never knew the name for this hollow until the 911 addresses were started, and it was known as Dark Hollow. The view from the top of that mountain is breathtaking. On a clear day you can see the Thorn Creek Valley, both Thorns, all the way south.

One special person to our family was Eliza Jane Moats

who baby-sat for my late grandson, Derek. She would come just as we left for work and care for him until evening. She would put him in the stroller and push him up the road and then they would go down the road. Her granddaughter, the late Kristi Jones, would be with her a lot of the time. Eliza Jane would often take the two children to Sinnett Lane Grocery.

I would visit Melvin and Myrtle Moats—they always seemed to enjoy my visits and I felt very welcome. Myrtle worked on the election board one time, and she said that wasn't for her and didn't work on the board again.

Grace also worked on the election board for a few years. One morning the rest of us working the election board had everything ready to open the polls and no Grace. We didn't have any telephone service, so I came home to call. I didn't get any answer, so I headed back to the youth building. I spotted Grace parked at St. John's Church. She had gone to the wrong place and was wondering where the rest of us were.

Melvin Moats, Jr., (Rat) became like one of our family after he moved back to Moatstown. He would help Mike with the hay making and other farm chores. I used to walk two miles a day and if he was going to Harrisonburg, Virginia, and happened to see me, he would always stop to say hello, ask how I was, and if there was anything he could bring me. That's a friend.

I got to know a lot of the children who called Moatstown home when they were students at Franklin Elementary and through the students, I got to know the parents. Two of those still living in Moatstown, Allen and Sam Moats, both take time to say hello whenever they see me. There aren't many people left in Moatstown, but those who are, remain my neighbors and friends.

Every community, in my opinion, however small, has contributed something of value, and is worth mentioning to those of us still living. Moatstown was once home to a schoolhouse, a teacher, a pastor, basket makers, numerous persons who served in the military, and still

performing is the Moatstown Choir. The Moatstown Choir continues to host the annual Moatstown Reunion in August, I believe, and dozens of family members return for that special day.

I can't end this article without mentioning my friends, Noah and Gwen Moats. Noah was a special friend to Bid during his last years. They don't live above the meadow anymore, but aren't far away. This Noah is the grandson of the Noah I would take the buttermilk to all those years ago.

This is the Moatstown I have seen and heard about, and those I have known and still know who called Moatstown home. I know there is probably someone who grew up in Moatstown who could write a wonderful story about this once large, populated community in Pendleton County.

Violet R. Eye

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Thank You and God Bless You All.
Tommy Warner and Nathan and Linda Warner

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The Region VIII Solid Waste Authority will hold a public hearing concerning the five-year update of the Comprehensive Litter and Solid Waste Control Plan and the Commercial Solid Waste Facility Siting Plan. The hearing will take place in the Region 8 building conference room, located at 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 on September 30, 2024, at 10:00 A.M., during which time public comments will be heard. The plan may be reviewed at all public libraries within Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral and Pendleton Counties, at the County Clerk's office, and at the Region 8 Planning and Development Council. Written comments will be accepted until October 10, 2024, and may be mailed to the Region VIII Solid Waste Authority, P.O. Box 116, Petersburg, WV 26847. 1c

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST

Notice is hereby given that under authority of that certain Deed of Trust hereinafter described, the undersigned Trustee will by virtue of authority vested in him at the front door of the Pendleton County Courthouse in Franklin, West Virginia,

AT 11:00 A.M.
ON AUGUST 30, 2024

REUNIONS

A L E X A N D E R Reunion Sunday, September 8, Franklin Town Park. Lunch at 12:30 p.m. Bring covered dish. Friends & family welcome! 8-29-2p

O L I V E R Reunion Sunday, September 1, family pavilion on Thorn Creek Road, Rodney Hoover residence. Lunch at 1:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. 1p

T H E descendant of Phillip and Cordelia Kisamore Reunion, Sunday, September 1, at noon, Seneca Caverns. Friends and family welcome. 8-22-2c

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

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A dog's sense of smell is amazing. A dog has as many as 300 million scent receptors. By comparison, a human nose has about 5 million receptors.

STAFF ACCOUNTANT

Pendleton Community Care, Inc. has an immediate opening for a Staff Accountant who will work in direct support of the Chief Financial Officer at our Franklin, WV, health center. The ideal candidate is team-oriented but also can work alone, self-motivated, forward thinking, with a strong emphasis to detail and the ability to independently evaluate financial activity. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business Administration is required. This is an excellent opportunity for a Staff Accountant to contribute to the financial success of our organization and further develop their accounting skills. If you are a detail-oriented professional with an interest in investigating and researching data, we encourage you to apply. The position is in-person, full-time with benefits including affordable health insurance, paid-time-off, holidays, and a 401K. If you are interested in this position, please submit a letter of interest and a resume to: Pendleton Community Care, Inc. Attn: Jodie Wimer, HR Coordinator Staff Accountant Position PO Box 100, Franklin, WV 26807 jwimer@pcc-nfc.org PCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Take A Trip Word Search

X	U	B	Y	E	H	X	B	H	F	P	A	C	K	I	N	G	U	M	K	AIRPORT
G	V	K	D	H	C	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	R	E	T	N	I	X	ALL-INCLUSIVE
U	D	L	R	O	T	N	P	N	O	B	T	R	O	P	R	I	A	K	F	CRUISE
K	F	M	A	L	A	X	D	X	W	P	O	T	R	A	I	N	A	V	U	DEPARTURE
E	F	D	C	I	K	G	F	T	H	R	O	A	D	T	R	I	P	Y	I	DESTINATION
P	V	F	T	D	E	R	E	I	R	F	N	H	W	O	B	H	R	K	W	EMBARK
U	H	X	S	A	O	Y	E	R	U	T	R	A	P	E	D	A	A	N	U	HIGHWAY
N	I	K	O	Y	F	Y	G	W	I	M	S	E	L	L	R	K	T	C	U	HOLIDAY
S	O	F	P	E	F	G	F	F	V	Y	A	V	Y	E	I	E	G	G	F	HOTEL
T	E	I	C	R	V	K	L	E	T	O	H	R	N	G	N	X	P	D	X	INTERNATIONAL
H	G	E	T	R	E	I	G	M	H	G	N	I	D	N	A	L	E	C	B	ITINERARY
G	T	Y	G	A	O	S	S	V	T	B	T	M	R	M	M	S	K	K	P	LANDING
I	I	R	U	A	X	G	I	U	T	I	C	V	P	O	T	K	W	F	D	LUGGAGE
S	H	O	K	C	G	A	X	U	L	B	T	K	A	I	O	X	Y	M		MEMORIES
G	A	P	K	R	C	G	L	P	R	C	E	R	N	C	T	M	A	O	E	PACKING
D	M	T	C	X	D	Y	U	E	X	C	N	A	O	X	A	W	F	M	X	POSTCARD
V	T	I	X	C	X	Y	E	L	R	X	T	I	S	S	H	T	B	V	O	RELAXATION
P	S	E	I	R	O	M	E	M	M	I	O	E	L	G	E	A	I	Y	G	RESORT
V	O	A	U	G	H	P	B	L	O	O	Y	D	I	L	R	R	N	O	C	ROAD TRIP
V	C	E	M	B	P	A	H	N	Y	V	N	H	M	K	A	V	O	A	N	ROOM

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