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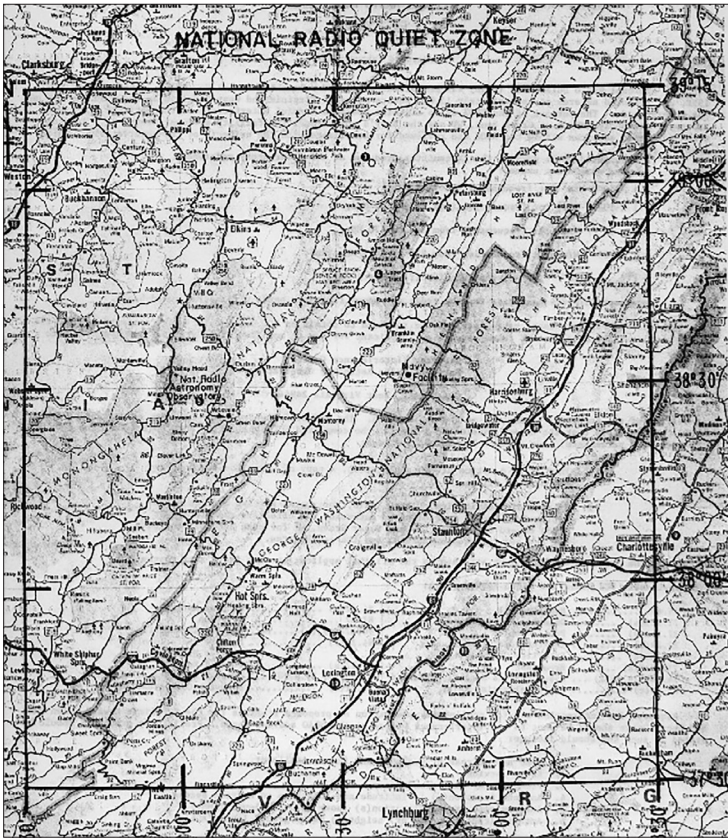
Quiet No More, Number of Counties Demanding Quiet Zone Reform Rises to Eight

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, much of the central deep and upper South experienced unprecedented flooding from a slow moving former hurricane that cut off entire cities and counties from communication. As emergency services come to grips with the scope of the disaster there, concerns continue to mount in regions hit hard by a similar type of storm nearly four decades ago.

The National Radio Quiet Zone covers significant parts of Pendleton and Pocahontas counties in West Virginia, while also having significant effects on communications in parts of Randolph and Tucker counties. Large parts of Highland County, Virginia, also labor under its mandates.

A map of the zone in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration handbook, however, shows a much broader defined area of inclusion for the National Radio Quiet Zone. It shows a square region with a northwest point at Salem in Harrison County, the northeast corner near Dunmore Ridge in Hampshire County, the southwest corner in Patton on the border of Greenbrier and Mercer counties, and the south-



This is the official NTIA federal map of the National Radio Quiet Zone. Its official reach extends well beyond the most restricted areas.

east corner near Buckingham, Virginia east of Lynchburg, Virginia.

The most highly affected areas, however, flank the Green Bank National Observatory in Pocahontas County and the National Security Agency station in

Pendleton County.

According to Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator, Barbour, Grant, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur, and Webster counties saw their

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Region 8 Full Council Engaged On Housing Shortage Issue

By Stephen Smoot

Last month, the Region 8 Economic Planning and Development Council hosted a presentation and information gathering session by Daniel Eades, an associate professor and rural development specialist with West Virginia University Extension Service in Morgantown.

He came to Petersburg to share data accumulated about housing in the Potomac Highlands while also getting the perspectives of local elected and economic development officials.

The invitation to Eades came after reports in recent years of a shortage of housing throughout the area. His visit was a part of a statewide needs assessment conducted by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund as part of a partnership with Virginia Polytechnic University.

He explained that the purpose of the study lay in “helping communities to address housing needs” by “looking at where and why things are happening.”

Scotty Miley, Grant County commissioner, shared that local conditions create “a perfect storm to have a housing crisis.”

Eades provided information to the council both at the regional and county level. Region 8 counties include Pendleton, Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, and Mineral. Both Eades and council members stated that reference to county boundaries in housing studies can get complicated, due to the fact that many reside in one county, yet work in another.

The total population of the region sits currently at 81,671 with almost 31,000 households. Four in five own households while renters live in the remainder.

As stated in annual Region 8 planning meetings, the five-county region lacks two kinds of crucial housing. It faces shortages in both housing for sale and rental units for “extremely and very low income households.” Costs for housing have increased in Hampshire and Hardy, while remaining below the statewide median in Grant and Pendleton

The word median can be misleading, merely representing the number halfway between the highest and lowest in a set. It is not an average of the numbers in the set and, if used alone with no other contextual data, can create a false perception. This is not to say that officials have used this term to intentionally mislead, but some may mistake the term for other concepts.

Median single wage earners, according to the study presented by Eades, can afford to rent, but not to buy.

Multiple dynamics work against the expansion of affordable housing stock. One reason has its root in one of the area’s more beneficial values. Frugal renters and owners often choose to remain in low cost housing, even though they can afford more expensive options.

Competition, however, for affordable low income housing has intensified during recent years. The Pilgrims Pride complex of chicken processing plants relies heavily on foreign imported labor. To house them, the company pays landlords significantly higher rents than locals with low incomes can afford.

Dave Workman, Hardy County commissioner, spoke to this when he described an experience he had during door knocking for his campaign. He shared that he came upon a trailer inhabited by 13 people, dividing the time between some who worked at night and others who worked day shifts.

Landlords have received as much as \$900 per month to house laborers, according to Miley. He also described “a bidding war for a run-down hotel in Petersburg” where a property valued at \$200,000 sold for \$800,000.

Another area of housing shortage often focused on by local officials, but not state, lies in homes for the middle class of earners. Miley explained that “the big issue we’re missing in this area is housing for young

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New Federal Business Reporting Mandates and Non-Compliance Fines Have Kicked In for 2024

By Stephen Smoot

Four years ago, the United States Congress passed the Corporate Transparency Act to compel certain types of businesses to self-report on their information.

West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner, West Virginia Secretary of State, has worked for months to make sure that Mountain State businesses do not run afoul of these requirements.

According to the West Virginia Secretary of State’s website, the federal government claims that it needed additional powers to require that small businesses provide certain information. Federal law enforcement and other agencies will use CTA mandated information to “prevent and identify financial crimes, such as money laundering, tax fraud, and sanctions evasion.”

Businesses classified as “small and medium sized” by the federal government must provide this information – this covers approximately 32.6 million business establishments in the United States. Companies that existed prior to Jan. 1 have until Jan. 1, 2025, to file their first report. New companies formed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 have 90 days after registration to file.

After Jan. 1, 2025, new businesses will have to file their BOI within 30 days of registering a business with the West Virginia Secretary of State’s office.

The federal government has assigned extremely harsh penalties for non-compliance, including fines of up to \$500 per day, up to \$10,000 total.

American companies with the obligation to report include corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), and any other company created from the filing of a document with the West Virginia Secretary of State office.

All foreign-owned companies formed under the laws of a foreign government and registered to do business in any state in the US must also register.

The registration takes place on an online portal operated by the US Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. Information shared does not become public knowledge but can be shared with law enforcement.

The federal government

under this act seeks Business Ownership Information about “the individuals who ultimately own or control a business entity,” according to a United States Small Business Administration document.

A “beneficial owner” has “substantial control” or “directly or indirectly owns 25 percent of ownership interests.” The SBA gives examples, such as “husband and wife owners of a general store operated through an LLC,” chief operations officer of a small company operated through a corporation, or chairman of the board of a foreign owned company with US sales and support operations.

The federal government also has listed 23 exemptions from reporting requirements, listed on the federal website at

finccn.gov/boi.

The West Virginia Secretary of State’s office, anticipating that some may have difficulties with the federal mandates, has put together multiple ways to get help from their office.

First, the West Virginia Secretary of State’s virtual assistant, S.O.L.O., can answer basic questions on its website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is located on the bottom right corner of the WVSOS webpage. The WVSOS webpage also has a five minute video tutorial on how to register and fulfil the federal obligation.

During regular business hours, questions can be asked of office staff. Call (304) 558-8000 to get questions answered.

The Rivers Return



What looked like rock strewn paths with barely a trickle of water now rage and roil as elements of the former Hurricane Helene visit the area. The region received the long, steady, soaking rain it desperately needed. Here, the South Branch River bubbles beneath the visage of Eagle Rock.

Community CALENDAR

Morrissey’s Staff To Visit Friday

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

Post 30 To Meet

American Legion Pendleton Post 30 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Star Restaurant in Franklin.

Post 9666 To Meet

VFW Post 9666 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Richard Homan Memorial VFW Park pavilion in Sugar Grove.

Jam Session Set For Saturday

A free jam session will be held at 6 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month at the community building in Riverton. Anyone can come, sing and play.

Family Support Center in Franklin Sponsors Activities

The Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center on Main Street in Franklin will sponsor a family fun day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Harold Michael Building in Circleville. A day of learning - connections matter is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 9 at the center in Franklin.

For more information, call 304-538-7711.

Convention and Visitors Bureau Explores Grant Opportunity

By Stephen Smoot

The Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau held what likely will be one of its final public meetings hosted at the community building. Progress that has been made and potential future opportunities were discussed.

Lindsay Kazarick, board member, assumed the role of running the meeting in the absence of Annie Humes due to her impending nuptials. Kazarick emphasized, “Kudos to Annie and thank you for making sure everything is squared away” in preparation for the September meeting.

The board first heard from Michelle Connor, the Town of Franklin’s alternate representative with the Mon Forest Towns organization. She shared that the United States Environmental Protection Agency will soon offer a technical assistance grant.

Any non-private sector entity can apply for the grant. The Town of Franklin was approached initially and offered to be an

applicant. The Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce expressed a willingness to play that role as well. Most, however, agreed that the CVB would provide the best fit as the lead applicant because its mission covers the entire county and the point of the grant worked better with its organizational mission.

Connor explained that the CVB could partner with Pendleton County based Full Quiver consulting to conduct public meetings and create an asset map that can be used for economic development planning, as well as giving a foundation of knowledge that can help the area bring in more lucrative grants.

She then explained how her team had gained valuable experience in grant writing and administration through obtaining one to help to pay for renovations of the theater building in Franklin.

In support of the CVB taking on the role as lead applicant, Kazarick stated “this seems like a no-brainer to me.” She added that “these things . . . are the exact same things

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Demand for Quiet Zone Reform

Continued From Page 1

county commissions pass resolutions calling for reform and/or assistance to mitigate the effects of NRQZ related regulations. He added that “additionally, the Seneca Rocks Development Authority, representing economic development interests in Grant and Pendleton counties, has issued a resolution, indicating that this issue is of regional significance.”

“Restrictions,” Gillespie explained, “inhibit the use of essential communication systems, including modern two-way radio networks, cellular and wireless data systems, and satellite broadband services such as Starlink.”

Starlink recently dialed back its capabilities to current customers in some parts of the NRQZ. The Biden Administration has put increasing pressure on Starlink and other Elon Musk owned entities in recent years on a wide variety of fronts.

Although the federal government offered compromise in one key area, it came with an

unbearable cost for Pendleton County. As Gillespie explained, “While some waivers for the VHF Band have been granted, the existing statewide interoperable system was built to operate on the UHF Band due to frequency licensing issues when the sites were being planned.”

Transferring from UHF to VHF would impose significant costs in equipment and other aspects of the changeover.

He went on to say that the federal government should provide financial support “to secure workable frequencies and fund our transition if a move to VHF is desired. The currently operational UHF equipment in Pendleton and statewide by the State of West Virginia will not operate on the VHF-Band, it takes new hilltop and user devices to make the conversion.”

The most recent resolution came from the Pocahontas County Commission. Much of the opening statements in that resolution contain statements reflecting a diplomatic approach

to the problem. It reads that “the County Commission acknowledges and appreciates Green Bank Observatory for their part in scientific and technologic advances . . . and positive attention brought to the county.”

The county commission went on to emphasize the importance of modern communications in emergency response, stating that the federal government has a responsibility to fund the county’s ability to meet the mandate and also use the most advanced communications possible.

Failing that, “the Pocahontas County Commission fully supports total waivers of any NRQZ restrictions imposed on the Public Safety Radio Spectrum by the NRQZ.”

A strange discrepancy, or perhaps double standard, appears in the regulations governing ground-based and air-based communications. According to the website for the Dulles International Airport, three non-stop routes bring commercial aircraft through the restricted areas of the Quiet Zone to and from one of the busiest airports to serve the Washington, DC, area.

One flight route that runs to and from the airport serving Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, takes planes very close to both of the sensitive facilities located at Sugar Grove and Green Bank.

Region 8 on Housing Issues

Continued From Page 1

professionals.” He went on to explain that “we recruit nurses to the hospital and they can’t find places to stay.”

Meanwhile, he also noted that the rise of interest rates and the cost of materials to either construct or repair houses have climbed to unaffordable levels for many. Miley shared that it has led to “a major crisis in our area.” Roger Leatherman, Mineral County commissioner, echoed Miley’s frustration when stating that new high income employees at Rocket Center choose to live in Maryland, rather than Mineral County, because of the lack of housing for professionals.

Regardless of the type of housing needed, the lack of infrastructure in developable areas has also blocked growth. Steve Schetrom II, Hardy County commissioner, explained that if developers did not have to pay to build it out themselves, that they could construct more housing than currently.

The study broke down median housing costs by county. Statewide, homeowners paid a median monthly cost of \$1,180 for a home with a mortgage and \$371 for one fully paid off. Pendleton County residents, in comparison, paid a me-

dian of \$924 for a home with a mortgage and \$331 for one without, in both cases, lowest in the area.

Rents statewide hit a median of \$618 for contract and \$831 for gross rent. Pendleton County saw \$413 and \$667 for each, respectively.

Mineral County faced the highest costs while Pendleton and Grant enjoyed the lowest of all in the region.

Another facet to the professional housing shortage lies in where professionals prefer to live versus where they have to work. Bob Hott, Hampshire County Commission president, stated that many who earn high wages in the far Eastern Panhandle would rather live in Hampshire County and commute to Berkeley or Jefferson. Hott said that he himself once “used to drive two and a half hours a day.”

People prefer a “rural way of life,” Hott stated. He went on to explain that Hampshire County sought to avoid the type of growth seen particularly around Moorefield.

Leatherman agreed with Hott, but warned that those who move in from outside and “try to push their way of life in our rural area . . . it doesn’t work too well. It creates a little animosity.”

Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president, noted a slightly different dynamic with his county’s

relationship with Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, Virginia. He said, “Our county is more of a retirement county, like Highland County in Virginia.” That said, he added that many work in Virginia and live in Pendleton, as well as vice versa.

The impact of land values held Hevener’s attention, as he related that costs in Pendleton County have at least doubled. He also shared that a near 60 acre piece of land that he purchased recently for \$128,000 had quadrupled in value. That built on a point made by Hott previously that “as our valuations go up, our taxes go up.”

After a council member referred to the possibility of Sugar Grove becoming low income housing for labor, Hevener replied by saying there are “so many negative things” that would spring from that, least of which being the very limited capabilities of the infrastructure, schools, law enforcement, and emergency services in the Brandywine and Sugar Grove areas.

Toward the close of the meeting, Eades floated a suggestion that part of the hotel-motel tax be set aside for housing, a proposal immediately shot down by elected officials. Hott responded by saying that the state could empower counties by providing financial support “and let us control it.”

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Monday, October 21

Wednesday, October 23


Friday, October 25



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**A Heartfelt Thank You**

Words cannot express our appreciation for all the love and support from our family and friends during the loss of Erman.

Thank you to everyone who sent food, cards, flowers, gifts, Gideon Bibles, visited, phone calls, prayers and to our family and friends who traveled hundreds of miles to be with us and support us.

Thank you to Basagic Funeral Home, Country Decor and More Florist, pallbearers, Pastor Barbara Rexroad for the wonderful service and the High Rock Church for the wonderful meal they provided for the family.

Thank God for giving us the strength to get through this difficult time.

We Love You and May God Bless You All!

The Erman Day Families

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WINTER HOURS BEGINNING OCT. 1

THURSDAY: 11 A.M. - 7 P.M.

FRIDAY: 11 A.M. - 8 P.M.

SATURDAY: 9 A.M. - 8 P.M.

SUNDAY: 1 P.M. - 7 P.M.

In addition to closing earlier in the evenings, I have also decided to not open on Sundays until 1 p.m. I have thought about this for awhile, and this is what my heart is telling me to do right now. In the spring, when my hours resume for summer, or I can get some additional help, I may reopen Sunday mornings again.

I enjoy serving the community and want to continue. So, unless I lose more help, I will continue to serve the community for as long as I am able.

PLEASE bear with me and my staff as we are doing our best to give quality service to everyone. Remember, when we are busy we are doing the best we can to give the attention to our customers, and continue to serve great food.

Please allow us to continue to serve you in the future.

Thank you, Tammy and staff.

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Seafood Buffet

Friday, October 4 • 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Steamed Shrimp, Steamed Crab Legs, Fried Oysters,
Fried Calamari, Fried Clams, Shrimp Creole,
Scampi Style Scallops, Grilled Tuna Steaks,
Grilled Chicken Breast, Roast Beef w/Gravy,
Hush Puppies, Steamed Rice, Buttered Corn,
Buttered Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Cheddar Bay Biscuits,
Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts \$31⁹⁵**

Sunday Buffet

October 6 • Noon - 3 p.m.

**Roast Pork Loin w/Pomegranate Sauce,
Grilled Chicken Breast, Beef Stew, Spinach Salad,
Buttered Egg Noodles, Roasted Red Potatoes,
Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower au Gratin,
Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts \$24⁹⁵**

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.

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Heartfelt Thanks

I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the overwhelming love and support you all have shown during this incredibly difficult time. Whether you called, texted, provided home health equipment, sent cards or visited the hospital, your kindness and care meant more to me and my family than words could ever express.

With love and gratitude,
Norma J Moats

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Corn Husk Doll — Toy Handcrafted from the Past

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

At one time, there were no stores to purchase toys. Boys and girls had toys traditionally handmade from nature’s offerings. Usually, birthdays and Christmas brought these handmade items to their surprise. One such toy was the corn husk doll.

The Native Americans introduced the corn husk doll which was made out of dried leaves or from the husk of a corn cob. Every part of the ear of corn was used to make this beautiful doll. These dolls have been made by the Northeastern Native Americans probably since the beginning of the corn agriculture more than a thousand years ago.

The brittle dried cornhusks became soft if soaked in water and produced finished dolls sturdy enough for children’s toys. The settler then adopted the making of these dolls.

Instructions for making a corn husk doll are as follows:

Start by soaking the husks in water for 10 minutes, and then blot excess water with a paper towel.

Lay four or more husks (always an even number) in a stack. Using thin twine, tie the husks together, about 1 inch from the top. Separate the husks into equal portions and fold halves down, covering the twine. Using thin twine, tie husks about 1 inch down, creating the head.

Roll a single husk and tie at the ends to make the arms. Position the arms below the knot at the neck, between equal portions of the husks. Tie the waist. For a female doll, trim the husks to an even length.

For a male doll, separate the legs into equal portions. Tie at the knees and ankles. Trim evenly.

Glue corn silk for the hair, and add hats or bonnets.

The dolls had no faces.



Corn Husk Doll

8 inches have fallen, within the last few days. Perhaps there will be a last hurrah for hay making.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

“I feel beautiful when I’m at peace with myself. When I’m serene, when I’m a good person, when I’ve been considerate of others.” — Elle Macpherson

“Only love can break a heart, only love can mend it again.” — Gene Pitney

“Just keep taking chances and having fun.” — Garth Brooks

October birthdays include the following:

Carson Mitchell and Liz Bodkin, first; Nathan Puffenbarger, third; Billy Eckard, Daryl Bodkin and Mary Jane Bolton, fourth; Ryan Mitchell, fifth; Angie Nelson, sixth; Rodney Kiser, seventh; Patty Bolton, Galen Crummett and Junior Homan, eighth; Stanley Simmons and Jim Schulz, ninth; Travis Owens and Marie Simmons, 10th; Braden McClanahan, Shirley Mitchell and Kathy Eye, 13th; and Ann Thompson, 16th.

The friendship is free when sitting on the porch swing to hear the “Talk of the Grove.”

Justin, April, Colby and Chloe Simmons traveled over the weekend to Wake Forest, North Carolina, to attend a wedding.

Puffy white mushrooms have popped up everywhere. The most unique one is a full circle situated in the gym field.

Phil Downs has returned to his residence after another visit to the hospital. His cousin, Rose Smith of Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, has spent a week with him, assisting him with his needs.

The South Fork has risen with water; enough to go tubing down the river...muddy as it is.

This week’s clickety-clacks for the chin waggors are as follows:

- Tuberculosis has existed for millions of years.
- The first batch of Coca-Cola was brewed in 1886 in an At-

lanta backyard.

- NASCAR was founded in 1948 by William France, Sr., with the help of several other drivers of the time.
- The sum of all the numbers on a roulette wheel is 666.
- Hammocks were brought to Europe by Christopher Columbus, who discovered the practical use from the West Indies natives.

Concerns are for Bob Adamson, Dyer Anderson, John Ashley, Roger Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Richard Bennett, “Bo” Boggs, Marie Cole, Christian Dasher, Phil Downs, Benny Evick, Isaac Eye, Linda Eye, Marie Eye, Mary Eye, Thelma Fleisher, Carl Gant, David Gillespie, Lola Graham, Patsy Green, JC Hammer, Marlene Harman, Adam and Jennifer Harper, Missy Harrison, Marvin Hartman, Steve and Armanda Heavner, the Grace Hedrick family, Starr Hedrick, Jim Hiner, Evan Hise, Tim Hively, George Hevener, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Virgil Homan, Jr., Adalbert Hoover, Keith Hoover, Myrtle Hoover, Tim L. Hoover, Debbie and Enos Horst, Lisa and Mike Jamison, Jessica Janney, Alice Johnson, Richard Judy, Ruthlene Judy; Marsha Keller, Kim Kline, Tracie Knight, Laura Kropp, Melissa Lambert, O’Dell Lambert, Robert Lambert, Ronnie Lambert, Rex Landis, Roger and Skip Mallow, Yvonne Marsh, Ed May, Gene and Joan McConnell, Gary McDonald, Neil McLaughlin, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, 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, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Tom Rader, Brandon Reel, Charles Rexrode, Jason Rexrode, Linda Fay Rexrode, the Pam Rexrode family, Dennis Riggelman, Mike Roberts, Donna Ruddle, Jenny Ruddle, Mary Sawyers, Brittany Shriver, Annie Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Greg Simmons, Judy Simmons, Nelson Simmons, Robbie Sites, Mike Skiles, Tina Stuben, Steve Stump, Linda and Larry Vandevander, Sandra Vandevander, Amy Vaus, Judy Waggy, Estelle Wagner, Mary Louise Waldschlager, Rene White, Judy Williams and Ann and Ed Wimer.

CVB Explores Grants

Continued From Page 1

we’re doing for the AFNHA (Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area) grant . . . we can do a lot of this simultaneously.”

This answered the question posed by Jeff Munn, board member, who wondered what the CVB’s role would be in the grant. Most of the heavy lifting would be done by Full Quiver while the CVB would be the non-profit lead.

Connor shared also that the final result would be “a work product that we can use however we choose.”

Melinda Brooks shared after that discussion that she had finalized a draft of the job description of the executive director and would distribute it via email for input.

Shortly thereafter, the board approved renewing the lease on CVB office space in Franklin. When the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority moves its Franklin office to the Innovation Hub on Walnut Street, the entire office space of both will go to the CVB.

Board members discussed what to do with the additional space. After talking about how to configure the business office, the board talked about potentially selling locally made food products similar to the Beverley Heritage Center in Randolph County.

Kazarick shared that “we can utilize this space better than what it currently is.”

Proven *Principled* Ready

VOTE FOR GLENN ELLIOTT - NOVEMBER 5TH



Glenn Elliott is a 7th generation West Virginian, a proud father and husband, and a former two-term mayor of his hometown of Wheeling, WV. He began his career as a legislative assistant to longtime Senator Robert C. Byrd. As seen during his two terms as mayor, Glenn has a proven record of forging compromise to achieve results.

"We don't have to see eye-to-eye to walk hand-in-hand"



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10 Years Ago
Week of October 2, 2014

SUGAR GROVE

Mother Nature is shutting down the gardens. Although this community is in need of rain, the gardens did well this summer. The writer was able to can and freeze plenty of vegetables and stock the cellar. She is finishing up with canned sauerkraut, frozen corn and canned applesauce. There is such a feeling of satisfaction to see the glass jars of food on the cellar shelves and the supply of frozen food in the freezer. It is the same feeling a person gets when the winter's supply of firewood is cut and stacked in neat piles in the outside woodshed. It is with confidence that one can face winter's cold blast knowing that one will be warm and well fed.

New Elementary School
Draws Praise

The new Franklin Elementary School (FES) is taking shape to be a beautiful addition to one of the state's prettiest little county seats—Franklin.

The new structure and its innovative use of cross-laminated timber (CLT) is the subject of a laudatory article in the current (September/October) edition of “West Virginia Focus” magazine.

The story quotes Nick Holgorsen at length. He is a founding partner of the LignaTerra company and the brother of West Virginia University's head football coach, Dana Holgorsen.

Entitled “First-Class,” the article notes that the idea of building large commercial structures mainly of wood “is mostly unheard of in the US.”

Nick Holgorsen is banking on the idea that presumption may change as the use of CLT and adoption of the “CLT” dimensional timber method become more common.

The articles notes that the “large wood panels for the nearly 44,000-square-foot Franklin Elementary School were made by European manufacturers in less than two weeks and shipped to the site in 40-foot containers so a crew of six people could get to work.”

With a single crane, the crew assembled the walls, flooring and roofing in 52 days.

The state school building authority (SBA) is testing the CLT process with two new school construction projects—FES and a school in Harrison County. The SBA believes that the use of CLT will reduce construction time and possibly reduce school construction costs as well.

Bud Henderson, CEO of City Construction Company, says the SBA's design-build approach in conjunction with the use of CLT has shaved time from the construction of the new school in Franklin. A conventional build would have seven more months, he told “West Virginia Focus.”

It is hoped that students will be in the new FES following the Christmas break.

Nick Holgorsen said he hopes for the construction of CLT factories in the US soon,

including in West Virginia. Although state forests are mostly hardwoods, the poplar is a reasonably abundant species that might work for CLT, he said.

Henderson commented, “It would be a shame if we didn't take advantage of this (in West Virginia). It could be a boon to our employment, our industry and our economy. We could be first in the US for once. I get tired of being last.”

As to the new school's aesthetics, superintendent Doug Lambert is quoted as saying, “It's state-of-the-art. It's beautiful.”

20 Years Ago
Week of September 30, 2004

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

TMF Praised
For Author's Corner

I am writing to commend the Treasure Mountain Festival officers for having the Author's Corner in the craft building. Although writing is a very important part of the West Virginia curriculum, it is sometimes difficult for students to see what can be accomplished by good writers. By giving special exposure to our local authors—Helen Hedrick, Robin Kile and Kevin Yokum—at the festival, you helped our students to see the importance of being able to write.

In the same building, Twixt North and South was available, as well as both of the Shreve books about the Smoke Hole area. My teacher's aide, Sarah Burns, came to school Monday with a copy of the Pendleton County Civil War book under her arm.

Thanks for making the works of our Pendleton County and local authors an important part of the festival. These authors are our treasures.

Sincerely,
Vicki Skavenski

Pendleton Pals Exchange
Family History at TMF

The “Treasure Which Lies Within the Mountains” has no monetary value for the Pendleton Pals. Rather, it is the opportunity to learn more about one's ancestors' places in Pendleton County.

Anyone who thinks the task is a breeze, however, is in for disappointment, as family history doesn't often leap from spinning reels of microfilm. Nor can essential information regarding lost branches of the family be expected to rest on courthouse shelves. On the contrary, the clues that are needed for such research usually begin by contacting living relatives by letter, phone or in person and listening to them tell of their past. Only then can these clues lead one to the official documents.

The 2004 Treasure Mountain Festival offered the Pendleton Pals, for the first time, that opportunity to interact with others who are interested in family history and exchange their stories, photos and notes. Obstacles, such as Hurricane Ivan, change of the advertised

location and lack of signs, did little to hamper those folks who traveled from as far as Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and various Virginia counties to meet and talk with fellow Pendleton County researchers.

30 Years Ago
Week of October 6, 1994

SUGAR GROVE

Spider Webs Are Wonders
of Engineering, Patience

Sometimes early on an autumn morning in the country, when the dew is heavy and the sun is burning off a fog, wonders of spider webs are revealed. These are miracles of engineering and patience, strands stretching post to fence post, bush to bush, tree branch to tree branch. Was there ever a better metaphor for a caring community? The silver strands of caring can stretch from heart to heart... family to family...neighbors to neighbors. This web of caring that is spun between us during all our days and nights together forms a sturdy but intricate framework to the future. Breezes of sadness, anger and happiness may send messages through webbed lines in all directions. But, if the web is carefully constructed, the strands remain strong. The caring we have woven will continue to stretch when we are apart. However, it all comes back to the center, the core of our lives, just as in the spiders' handiwork.

Wind, rain and animals can all damage a web. Some spiders build new webs every day. Other spiders repair their damaged webs. Most spiders aren't big on wasting their silk material and some will even eat their damaged webs so they can recycle the proteins into new webs.

Similar to spider venom, previous investigations have shown that spider web silk is also composed of a variety of peptidic and proteinaceous toxins as well as low-molecular-weight toxins.

What is a cobweb? Typically, a cobweb is an abandoned spider web. The sticky silk of a spider web is excellent at catching insects so naturally, it's great at collecting dust. This is especially possible in hard-to-reach areas, like ceiling corners, that are infrequently dusted.

40 Years Ago
Week of October 4, 1984

Investigate Before
Investing In Solar
Water Heater System

Many would-be purchasers of solar water heating systems find the variety of brands, models, and even basic types of systems confusing. Now, however, a reliable method for comparing solar water heating systems can help people sort through the maze to select the system that best suits their needs and their individual sites.

The Solar Rating and Certification Corporation has begun to do for solar hot water systems what it has been doing

since 1980 for solar collectors — testing, certifying, rating, and labeling.

To be certified, a system has to meet durability, reliability, and safety standards set by the Interstate Solar Coordination Council, a confederation of state energy offices. Also, the system must pass performance tests and be rated according to American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers.

Systems rated by the SRCC are grouped by classification (solar preheat, solar only, and forced-circulation). Thus, the ratings provide a common base for all kinds of systems.

However, the ratings cannot tell a prospective buyer how a solar water heater will perform in his or her house. Performance will depend on local weather conditions, geographic location, and owner maintenance. Also, the ratings will not tell a prospective buyer whether a solar water heater is a good investment choice. That depends on prices, tax credits, present and future fuel costs, and paybacks.

Prices for whole systems range from about \$400 for a do-it-yourself model to \$5,000 or more.

Plant Bulbs Now for
Bright Spring Colors

Bulb planting time is nearing for those who want their landscapes to be bright with color in the spring. Order bulbs as soon as possible to better ensure that you get the varieties you want.

Planning ahead is always a necessity, especially when developing the landscape. Next spring when bulbs come into bloom, it is too late to plant. Narcissus, sometimes called daffodils, are always a good selection. You may plant them in formal beds, scatter them in woody areas for a naturalistic effect or plant them in groups as shrub and hedge borders. Narcissus will bloom for many years if they receive the proper maintenance.

Tulips and hyacinths lend themselves to more formal design as planted in beds. However, they may be used effectively in rock gardens when planted in well chosen locations.

Many “minor bulbs” often are overlooked. These include botanical tulips, scilla, squill, crocus, anemone, ranunculus and many more. These bulbs may be planted in rock gardens, formal and informal gardens, in shrub borders or woody areas. Like the narcissus, tulips and hyacinths may be potted and forced into bloom for use indoors as well as for use on patios and terraces.

60 Years Ago
Week of October 1, 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.

St. Louis Threatened
In Confederate Raid

Since the capture of Vicksburg in 1863, the Civil War was slowly dying along the Mississippi River. But 100 years ago this week, the Confederates of Missouri and Arkansas launched a last-gasp raid west of the river and threatened two of Missouri's most important cities—St. Louis and Jefferson City, the capitol.

When it is compared with the huge campaigns that had taken place that summer in Virginia and Georgia, there wasn't much to the raid. But it was enough to throw a little scare into the people of St. Louis and give the troops there some exercise.

The raid was organized by Gen. Sterling Price, one-time Missouri governor and veteran of the battles of Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge. For the past year, he had operated in Arkansas and southern Missouri with a small army, making himself a nuisance to the Federals but winning no important battles.

Price's raid was anything but fancy. He took personal command of an army of 15,000 Confederates in Arkansas and headed straight north, crossing the Arkansas River September 2 and quickly moving to the Missouri line. There, he was met by state militia who resisted his advance and learned of his bold purpose: to move straight for St. Louis.

Up in St. Louis, Federal Gen. William S. Rosecrans, who had been relieved at Chattanooga a year earlier, hastily counted his troops and feared he didn't have enough to stop Price. A division of the Army of the Tennessee, which happened to be passing by on the Mississippi River, was halted to help defend the city.

Price arrived at Pilot Knob, 85 miles south of St. Louis, on September 26, where he came up against 1,000 Federals in a fort. He opened his attack next day, lobbying shells into the fort, but was unable to reduce it. That night, Gen. Thomas Ewing, Jr., commander of the fort, abandoned it and joined the other troops assembled to protect St. Louis.

Price came on. Arriving at the city's outskirts, he was met by a hot reception from the Federals, and quickly turned aside. Perhaps, he thought, it would be better to attack Jefferson City.

So Price turned westward and attacked Jefferson City, and again his efforts came to little. The Federals who had gathered at St. Louis to stop him poured out of the city in hot pursuit of the Confederates and drove them off from the capitol city.

Price continued on west along the south bank of the Missouri River toward Lexington and Kansas City. He hoped to find a city that he could capture somewhere in the state.

Next week: Lee Attacks.

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Smith Creek/
Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

Another new month has started. September went out on a rainy day, which the area sure did need.

With the leaves falling from the trees and mixing with the rain, it makes the roads slicker. So, drive carefully.

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, Kenny Williams, Dennis Mitchell, Debbie Horst, Myrtle Hammer, Neal Eye, Donald Burns, Wanda Pitsenbarger, Wendell and Darlene Nelson, Ruby Gail Roberson, Ruth Bauer, Anna Mauzy, Linda Maxwell Looney, Leann Britton, Bennie and Mary Alice Evick, Jimmie Bennett, Ruthalene Judy, Wayne Kimble, Gloria Moats, Jackie Smith, Tim and Dee McCormick, Nancy Blankenship, 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, Tom and Judy Boor, Bob and Brenda Sites, Nancy and Tony George, David M. Hartman, Jim Fawley, Judy Hott Vance, George Hevener, David M. Parkinson, Joy Warner and Laura Kopp.

Prayer thought: “Dear God, thank you for including me in Your amazing work. Please take what's in my hands and do wonders through it.”

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Sept. 23 through Sept. 29, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Sept. 23 - 74°, 62°, .2” (58°, 51°, .73”); Sept. 24 - 66°, 63°, .27” (64°, 52°, .07”); Sept. 25 - 71°, 62°, .13” (69°, 53°); Sept. 26 - 75°, 61°, .28” (60°, 53°, .12”); Sept. 27 - 70°, 62°, 1.42” (66°, 55°, .14”); Sept. 28 - 71°, 55°, .02” (71°, 54°) and Sept. 29 - 68°, 63°, .49” (72°, 48°).

This past week, it rained all week totaling 2.81”.


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TMF Quilt Show Winners Announced



Paula Waggy's Log Cabin Fever challenge project titled Chickadees at the Cabin took top honors.

The Sew & Sews quilt show at Treasure Mountain Festival ended a successful weekend with close to 400 visitors viewing an array of beautiful antique to modern quilts. Visitors enjoyed seeing a wide variety of colors and patterns.

Debe Thomas's Bee Happy quilt earned her the judges' choice overall award. The viewers' choice award went to Jamey Wimer's Flower Garden quilt. Each year guild members participate in a fabric challenge. This year's theme was Log Cabin Fever. Chickadees at the Cabin, wall hanging created by Paula Waggy, was selected by quilt show attendees to receive the viewers' choice award.

Holly Hubbs spent the weekend spinning wool and explaining the process. Jasmine Hanger demonstrated hand quilting.

First, second, third and honorable mention awards were given for the entries in the following categories:

Machine quilted bed quilt — Jamey Wimer, Shooting Star, first place; Melinda Walker, Botanic Park, second place; and Wimer, New York Beauty, third place. Honorable mention awards were given to Thomas, Kate's Garden; Kitty Carson, Sage & Sea Glass; Bev Eye, Family Traditions; and Shirley Shank, Water Falls.

Hand quilted cross stitch quilt — Cornelia Teter, Blue Bird Cottage, first place.

Hand quilted bed quilt — Alice Hartman, Sampler, first place, exhibited by Heidi Hartman; Jo Ann Dever, Carnation Burst, second place; Alice Hartman, Colonial Blue Geese, third place, exhibited by Heidi Hartman; and Bonnie Simmons, Barnaster, honorable mention.

Antique crazy quilt — Estelle Wagner, Crazy Quilt, first place; and Rebecca Lough, Crazy Quilt, second place.

Antique hand quilted bed quilt — Lough, Wagon Wheel, first place; Lough, Flower Garden, second place; and Susan Bennett, Double Wedding Ring, third place.

Antique bed quilt, machine quilted — Frank O'Hara, Vintage, first place.

Lap quilt/throw, machine quilted — Pam Hartman, Liberty for All, first place; Patty Sick-



Bee Happy quilt designed by Debe Thomas captured the judges' choice award.

ler, Lilacs in Bloom, second place; and Walker, Future Farmers of America, third place. Honorable mention awards were given to Sickler, Our Flag Stands for Freedom, and Sue Slowinski, Bright Mosaic.

Lap quilt/throw, hand quilted — Wimer, Trip Around the World, first place; and Hubbs, Tannenbaum, second place.

Large wall hanging, machine quilted — Shirley Shank, Sea To Shining Sea, and Thomas, Bee Happy, tie for first place; Pam Sexton, Rip Tide, second place; Bonnie Colson, Kittie Collection, third place; and Mary Grace Richardson, Chickadee, honorable mention.

Medium wall hanging, hand quilted — Eye, Birds, first place.

Baby quilt, machine quilted — Frances Wilkey, Unicorn Meadow, first place.

Crocheted afghans — Wagner, wool afghan, first place; and Sherry Crigler, crocheted afghan, second place

Applique quilt, hand quilted — Wimer, Flower Garden, first place; Alice Hartman, Quilt, second place; and Alice Hartman, Red Pineapple "1985," third place. Both of Hartman's quilts were exhibited by Heidi Hartman.

Antique miscellaneous — Ida Smith, antique coverlet, exhibited by Darrell Bodkin, first place.

Miscellaneous quilted arts — Barbara Umling, antique doll blanket, first place.

Needlework miscellaneous — Dever, Christmas Truck Cross Stitch, first place.

Needlework counted cross stitch — Crigler, afghan and doily, first place.

Miscellaneous household items/table runners — Rose Miller, Christmas Stockings, first place; Eye, Vases of Flowers, second place; Miller, Pink Table Runner, third place; and Miller, Yo-yos pillow, honorable mention.

The youth division winners were as follows:

Lap Quilt, machine quilted — Stratton Harris, Bear Necessities, first place.

Bed quilt, hand quilted — Alex Adams, View of West Virginia, first place.

Miscellaneous — Zander Adams, pillow and doll-pieced, first place.



Pendleton County Middle/High School September students of the month are, from left, Sam Eason, Jacey Thompson and Cortlyn Hartman.

Eason, Hartman, Thompson Named PCM/HS Students of the Month

Sam Eason, Cortlyn Hartman and Jacey Thompson have been named outstanding students of the month for September at Pendleton County Middle/High School.

Eason is the Academic Student of the Month. A ninth-grade student, he plays football, basketball, and runs track. He is also an active member of FFA, Educator's Rising, Pep Club, and serves as president of the class of 2028. He won the 2024 Golden Horseshoe, as well as the Best Camper Scholarship at the West Virginia Governor's School for Literacy, Arts, Culture and History. His plans are to attend college and then

return to Pendleton County to teach. He is the son of Dave and Amy Eason of Brandywine.

Hartman is the James Huffman Responsible Student of the Month. A senior, she is the daughter of Jed and Melissa Hartman of Franklin. She serves as president for her Young Women's Church Youth Group at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She also spends her time as assistant night manager at Brandywine's Fox's Pizza Den. After graduation, she plans to attend cosmetology and esthetician school.

Thompson is the Pendleton County Middle School Student of the Month. An eighth grader, she is

the daughter of Jason and Lindsey Thompson of Circleville. She enjoys softball, volleyball, and farming. In the future, she is interested in becoming a radiologist or anesthesiologist.

These students receive a t-shirt, \$50 from Pendleton Community Bank, and movie, bowling and ice cream passes courtesy of South Branch Cinema 6 & South Branch Potomac Lanes.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Potato Soup Cornbread Tossed Salad Ambrosia Salad

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Baked Potato Chili/Cheese Broccoli Peach Cobbler

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Chicken Tenders Macaroni/Cheese Beets, Orange

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

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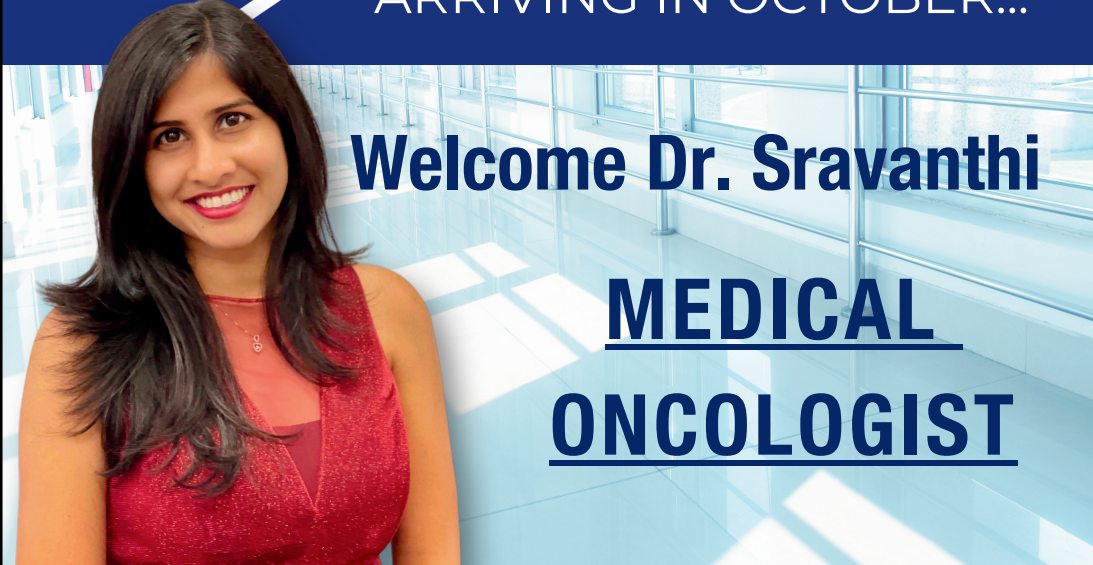
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Snow Sports Museum Chronicles the Rise of Canaan Valley’s Importance

By Stephen Smoot

In the Year of Our Lord 2024, Canaan Valley draws visitors from all over, all year long. Steady streams of Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia license plates roam the broad modern roadway known by locals as Corridor H and officialdom as US 48. Still more visitors stream in from the west, coming from Charleston, Clarksburg, and the Mountain State’s other major metro areas. Local businesses offer a variety of victuals, live music, places to stay, and curiosities to buy to the countless throngs that come for rest and recreation.

For almost the entirety of history, however, Canaan Valley existed as a remote and extreme land offering little opportunity to produce from the land. What could be found and used, such as game animals and timber, lived in prodigious numbers in much easier to reach places.

According to an article entitled “The History of Canaan Valley: A Valley Transformed,” Indians resided comfortably in nearby areas like Seneca Rocks and Parsons, but in the forbidding highlands between, “the land was so unforgiving that Native Americans were not known to travel into Canaan Valley.”

“For thousands of years,” it reads, “there were simply no signs of human activity in Canaan Valley.”

The first settlers came into the region in 1748. Battling the thick growth of tall virgin red spruce and the underlying rhododendron thickets proved so prosperous that it took 120 years to find the next settler willing to try his hand. Large scale industrial timbering by the end of the 19th century denuded the land of its forests, but opened the land for more.

A very gradual drift of settlers found their way to the valley with the highest elevation in the United States east of the Mississippi. They drove the narrow, winding back roads to get in and out while braving some of the most extreme eastern weather conditions south of the Mason and Dixon line.

Others, however, saw potential in the land, but from a most unexpected place. Airline pilots ferrying passengers to and from Washington, DC, noticed interesting characteristics on the landscape as they flew over Canaan Valley. Almost every pilot on the route was a skiing enthusiast.

Some started to notice the presence of a persistent snow cover that lasted into May and sometimes even July. Called by them “the glacier,” it is described in the Ski Club of Washington DC 50th Anniversary Edition as “600 feet long by some 80 feet wide with a varying depth of up to 15 feet.” It was located



Kim Williams, president and volunteer chair, explains one of the many fascinating exhibits of the Snow Sports Museum of West Virginia as Mike Mullens, board member, looks on.

on Cabin Mountain.

Mike Mullens, museum board member and area ski instructor, explained that people from the DC area “used to ski in Pennsylvania in the 40s and 50s. Laurel Mountain Slopes served as the main attraction for those who sought to ski, but lived in the Mid Atlantic. The Ski Club anniversary edition noted, however, that “it was often crowded and lacked sufficient snow cover.”

In August 1951, Gorman Young, the new club president, and Hal Leich called a meeting to discuss investing \$550 to set up its own ski area, the first south of the Mason and Dixon Line. By October of that year, the club committed to developing a ski area there.

And the rest is history.

That history is chronicled by the Snow Sports Museum of West Virginia. Located off of West Virginia Route 32 between Davis and the Canaan Valley Resort, the museum covers snow sports excellence for the entire state.

Kim Williams, who serves as both president and volunteer chair, shared that “when we first started our museum, we knew it was going to take some work to get it up and running.” The labor of love and history started in 2018 and features, as its website describes “features rotating exhibits that honor the state’s diverse snow sports stories and legends.”

After receiving official non profit status, the board of directors and officials worked on getting a location. The location changed multiple times before settling in at its current location, by the Canaan Valley Store.

Next, they set to work on collecting artifacts and using old skis, other ski and snow sports related tools, decades of snow-making equipment, photographs, promotional posters, and more to create a narrative to tell the story of

snow sports, not just in Canaan Valley, but across the state.

Williams stated that Kate Hayes, the historian, put together many of the materials. He described her as “a sweet little old lady and she really loves the museum.”

Inside, visitors find the stories of people, places, and events that make the narrative of Mountain States snow sports such a significant narrative.

One of the highlights is the Hall of Fame, which features photographs and biographies of individuals significant in a variety of snow sports. Jennifer Rhule of Charleston, for example, started figure skating at the age of 10, competing internationally for the first time at 11 in 1975. She skated with Robbie Baker, with whom she won regional titles.

Rhule had her sights set on the Olympics. In 1982, she and Baker earned the highest gold test qualification. Then tragedy set in as she suffered severe injuries in a car crash. A traumatic brain injury left her blind, able to only see vague lights and shadows.

This is where the truly remarkable part happened. She took a ski class at her college, West Virginia Wesleyan, then gained more experience on the slopes of Snowshoe Mountain. She also dedicated her work life to serving in various roles with disability support organizations, eventually serving as executive director of the Brain Injury Association of West Virginia.

Ruhle continued to pursue her new winter sports passion, skiing. She rejoined her former skating partner, Baker, and won medals in national competitions.

She and 29 others form the Hall of Fame.

Artifacts also are on display

around the museum, each telling a different story. Displayed on the wall are sets of skis, including a set used by the legendary Jean Claude Killy at Snowshoe. Visitors can likewise see a number of promotional posters from major ski events to state tourism displays from decades ago.

Even more important, the museum contains artifacts related to the area training of the United States Army’s 10th Mountain Division.

The museum always seeks out ways to spread the word on its work and events. This fall, the museum will conclude an agreement with Mountain River Media’s Justin Harris. Williams explained that “we started talking to him several years ago.” He quipped that they wanted to get the project done “while we’re still over ground and not underground.”

He added that “a lot of museums never do this and then they kick themselves.”

Jessica Waldo, executive director of the Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau, sees the museum as a real asset to tourism promotion. She explained that “when visitors come to the area, they are always fascinated by the history.”

Canaan Valley’s unique appeal lies in it being a magnet throughout the year for a variety of recreational activities. Waldo says that many summer visitors miss out on the fact that the area is a four season destination. The museum and the history it teaches helps to get that word out.

Huffman Named to SNHU Dean’s List

Amelia Huffman of Franklin has been named to Southern New Hampshire University’s summer 2024 Dean’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

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NOTICE

Effective October 1, 2024

Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc.

will be consolidating

our offices to

1256 Mountaineer Dr.,

Franklin, WV 26807.

Going forward, all industrial gas cylinders will be moved to our propane plant at 1701 South Fork Rd., Moorefield, WV.

This location will not be staffed fulltime and an appointment will need to be made to pick up tanks by calling 304-538-6664 or 304-358-2307.

***We are sorry for any inconvenience this may
cause you. If you have any questions,
please feel free to contact us.***

We look forward to continued service of your cylinder needs.

Why Does a Person Pay Higher Utility Rates?

Submitted by Charlotte Lane,
Public Service Commission Chairman

All sorts of things can trigger a rate increase request from a utility and approval of increased rates by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

The primary factors driving utility rate filings are the cost of operations and the cost to provide utility service. Key elements include maintenance of the utility's lines, such as the transmission and distribution wires used by electric utilities and the pipelines used by gas, water, and sewer utilities. The costs to produce or purchase what they sell are major components of their revenue requirements. For example, an electric utility must buy fuel to produce electricity. Water utilities must treat water to make it potable or buy it from a larger utility that meets those needs. Utilities also are required to expend considerable sums on environmental controls and meeting required environmental and safety regulations.

In addition, all utilities have large investments in plants and equipment. Cash is required to pay for the debt and equity capital used to finance those investments. Debt capital costs are directly related to the cost of borrowing money from banks, bondholders, and other investors in utility debt. The cost of debt is set by the terms of utility borrowing agreements, which set repayment terms, interest rates, and debt service reserve and coverage requirements.

Equity capital is different since there are no guaranteed interest or repayment obligations. When an equity investment is made by stockholders or other owners of a private utility, those investors expect a return on their capital. Under generally accepted accounting principles, the return on investor capital is not recorded as an expense. Therefore, some level of reasonable net income after expenses and taxes must be available to provide a return on stockholder and owner investments in utility operations. This net income is commonly referred to, sometimes pejoratively, as "profit."

The need and purpose of profit: Anyone who invests in businesses, including stockholders, trust funds, retirement funds, and insurance funds, can understand the expectations of earning a return on their investments. Therefore, they should understand that profit is not a dirty word. Profits are allowed to compensate investors of private utilities for money they have invested in the business, but only if that money was used prudently to finance assets that are necessary for the provision of utility service. Non-utility businesses can earn unlimited profits, but they also face greater risks than regulated utility companies.

While an interest in keeping utility rates low may seem to argue for the commission to require very low or no profits, such regulation would be counterproductive if it limits a utility's ability to attract the capital it needs to maintain high-quality utility services. It also would violate the law. Courts repeatedly have ruled that utilities are entitled to earn a reasonable profit or rate of return from their operations. This is called the rate of return on equity investment. The commission is legally bound to set that rate of return level at a figure that gives the company stockholders – which can be one, a person's retirement or insurance fund, or any other investor – a reasonable profit, which is really a return on their investment.

Companies generally file for two types of

headline-grabbing rate cases. One deals with the overall financial condition and revenue requirements of the company. That is called a base rate case. A second type is one of several special cost recovery cases, which are limited to recovery of a set of specific costs that are excluded from base rate cases and considered on a stand-alone basis.

Base rate cases involve most elements of the company operations and maintenance costs, meeting whatever environmental controls it must, the day-to-day cost of the company operations, coverage of debt capital, including the interest payments, and return on equity invested in necessary property, plant, and equipment.

These base rate cases are not filed on any regularly scheduled basis. The trigger for a base rate case involves many factors, including growth in plant investment, growth or loss of customer load, changes in environmental and safety regulations, tax law changes, and changes in the cost of debt and equity capital. There were periods in the past when rate cases were filed almost every year, while during other periods there could be four or more years between base rate cases. Currently, the commission expects utilities will file base rate cases about every third year.

Each base rate case has its own particular set of circumstances driving the need for the filing, and the writer doesn't intend to defend or downplay the merits of the circumstances of individual utilities that may justify rate increases. However, everyone is well aware that recent inflation, changes in environmental and safety regulations, and increased cost of borrowing money are all factors that are putting pressure on utility costs. As everyone is painfully aware from one's own household budgeting, almost everything one buys – from a dozen eggs to a gallon of gasoline – costs more today than they did just a few years ago.

Base rate cases involve an enormous amount of work, not only for the companies involved, but for the commission, the staff, and intervenors in the rate cases. Base rate cases generally involve a proposed major increase in rates. They take a long time to investigate, conduct hearings in which public protests and other public input can be received and all parties can provide expert testimony and evidence, and then for the commission to reach a conclusion.

While the commission tries to safeguard ratepayers from unreasonably higher utility prices, it is almost inevitable that rate increases are going to occur. Things just cost more, and requirements being placed on utilities plus inflation in costs, including payroll, are no exception to the rising expense. Inability to recover reasonable and prudent costs will lead to degraded quality and reliability of service. While consumers may have to accept lower quality goods and services from non-utility suppliers, we cannot afford to allow utility service, which is essential for public health and welfare, to degrade to unreliable and unsafe levels.

It is important for everyone that the utility companies remain in a strong financial position so they can properly and reliably provide vital services such as powering one's heating, air conditioning, and other electricity consuming equipment, and providing water, natural gas, and sewer disposal for everyone.

A person may think one's water, electric, gas, or sewer bills are high. And when compared to the bill of 10 or 20 years ago, they are. But how would a person like it if one had to dig a well and draw water that way, maintain a safe and environmentally acceptable septic

system, or heat one's home with a wood or coal fireplace? The costs, quality of service, and environmental impacts of such substitutes for the utility services a person receives are not going to be very attractive compared to the payments one makes to utility companies. The time and inconvenience such an arrangement would require was not even mentioned.

One of the costs of a modern civilized society is to have financially sound utilities operating to provide people with the vital utility services that they want and need.

In all of the commission's rate cases representatives of all customer groups are allowed to participate. Negotiation meetings with the utilities and customer representatives are encourage to try to reach a compromise on rates and service that will be acceptable to everyone.

In many instances, after long negotiating sessions, a compromise is reached and given to the commission. In many instances, the commission gives that compromise its blessing because, while it may require give and take where all parties give up something and gain something, it generally is endorsed and is satisfactory to all.

A second major type of rate case that involves only a subset of costs is one that allows recovery of the costs of the product utilities are selling to consumers. For electric utilities, these are called ENEC cases, which stands for "Expanded Net Energy Cost" cases. The costs considered in these cases are limited to the cost of fuel used for producing power, purchased power from neighboring utilities, and transporting power back and forth on the transmission lines of the utilities. ENEC cases are typically filed annually and are normally processed and finalized in six months or less.

Since the components of ENEC costs can fluctuate widely from year to year, and some of the costs are controlled by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, it is critical for most companies that the commission review these costs annually between base rate cases.

These cases also go through the process used in base rate cases, but because the issues are limited, they usually take less time to complete. There are other limited issue rate cases allowed, some of which are required by

law, and some of which have been approved by the commission to extract specific issues out of the base rate group of costs so that they can be reviewed annually. These cases include:


- Purchased water and sewerage treatment cost recovery cases. These cases are allowed for water and sewer utilities that purchase water or sewerage treatment from a neighboring utility. When the rates of the neighboring utility go up, the purchasing utility is allowed to file a limited and expedited rate request to recover the increased cost.

- Natural gas pipeline replacement cost cases. The Legislature mandates these cases to allow natural gas utilities to recover costs related to specific pipeline upgrade and replacement programs. The pipeline programs are established as a five-year plan to improve utility pipeline systems. Each year the natural gas utility files an updated rate request to recover pipeline replacement and improvement costs that are projected to take place in a future 12-month period. In each case, the commission reviews the future projects to determine that they are in compliance with the limitations of the five-year plan, and also reviews the actual investments made in a prior 12-month period to determine whether the rates established resulted in an over-recovery or under-recovery of actual costs.

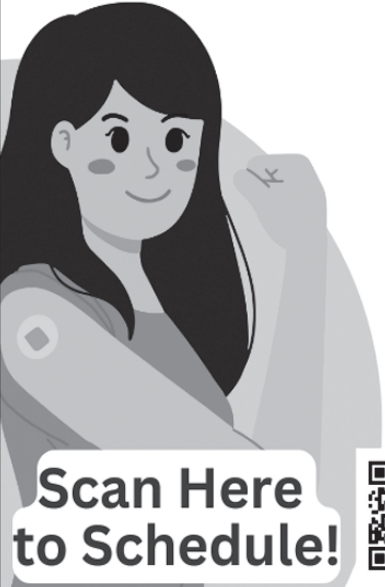
There are several other special cost recovery rate cases, some authorized and mandated by the Legislature, and some established by the commission to expedite and streamline the ratemaking process.

Rate regulation may not be a perfect system, but considering the necessity of reliable utility service to maintain a high quality of life and the nature of utility delivery systems that spread costs over the largest possible number of customers to produce the lowest reasonable rates, the rate and service regulatory system is the one the commission has and which it will strive to manage in the best interest of utility customers.


But bear in mind that financially healthy utilities are vital to everyone, no matter how much a person grumbles about it, and adequate revenues collected from customers are the statutorily required source of funds to assure that the utilities that serve one's basic needs are in a position to meet those needs.



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Date: Friday, October 4, 2024
**Location: Pendleton Community
Building, Franklin WV**
Time: 9am - 4pm

Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2024
**Location: T&K Markets,
Franklin WV**
Time: 4pm-6:30pm




To the American People,

"Mr. Trump is unfit to be Commander-in-Chief"

Signed by 741 former bipartisan senior National Security Leaders


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Read the full letter here:
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WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing For Needy Children

Contact information Edna Mullenax Pendleton County Family Support Center/Director
Eastern Action 304-538-7711 Ext.. 4 or emmullenax@easternaction.org


The need is great! Pendleton County children without winter clothing will be cold without your help.

What Is Warm the Children Program?
It's neighbors helping neighbors. Pendleton Times readers are asked to donate to the fund, with all proceeds being used to buy new winter clothing for Pendleton County children in need. None of the donations will be used for administrative costs. All money donated is used to purchase new warm winter clothing and footwear.

How will children be identified?
Applications will be available at the Pendleton County Family Support Center November 1, 2024 thru November 30, 2024. Children from Birth through age 18 (If in School or Home Schooled) are eligible. Applications can be completed by visiting the Family Support Center located at 22 N. Main Street in Franklin.

How will the clothing be purchased?
Family Support Center staff will coordinate families and volunteers to shop online for their winter clothing and footwear.

How can I help?
By donating time, money or both! Contact the Family Support Center at 304 538-7711 Ext. 4 or simply complete the coupon and mail it to:
Eastern Action, c/o Pendleton County Family Support Center Warm the Children
101 Alt Ave., Petersburg, WV 26847
Deadline is November 30, 2024



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Notes: _____

Tuckered Out Wildcats Topple Mountain Lions



Emma Hartman makes a play on the ball as Breena Bowers (#7) and Aubree Keiter (#5) move to support her if needed.

By Stephen Smoot

Coming off a stretch in which Pendleton County stole a silver division title and then traveled to a Tygarts Valley triad match, the Wildcats hosted the Mountain Lions of Tucker County. Pendleton County represented the sixth game in nine days faced by the visitors.

One might say that both teams came into the contest tuckered out and it showed on both sides of the net.

Tucker County served first, but a set from Brynlynn Waggy to Alyssa Bennett secured the first point for the home squad. The Mountain Lions quickly tied the score, but the Wildcats took three of the next four points to build an early 4-2 lead that shortly thereafter grew into a 7-3 advantage.

The Mountain Lions brought a weapon in the person of Raven Matthews. Tall and gracefully athletic, she patrolled the net throughout the first set. Tucker County ran a number of plays through her to use her height advantage to spike on the Wildcats. Pendleton County adjusted by moving their players back from the net to make plays over and around, not through, Matthews.

Both teams played raggedly in the first set, each squad committing a number of unforced errors that were out of character for the home team. That said, Tucker County always seems to force Pendleton County into having to win ugly against them and last week served as no exception.

Tucker County exploded on a 6-0 run, relying on big plays at the net to help push the score into a 9-7 lead for them.

The Wildcats started to bounce back with plays by Breena Bowers and Baylee Beachler. Bowers scored her team's eighth point by a well hit strike to the sideline. Beachler followed by tipping it to the middle of the defense. Tucker County gave the lead back, 10 to nine, by hitting the ball into the net.

Tucker County tied the game again with a spike, but a Bennett tap took the lead back in the first set for good. Beachler then angled the ball away from Matthews for another score. Matthews got a block at the net to close the Wildcat lead to one, but a Waggy set for a Beachler spike put the lead at 13-11.

This kicked off a crucial 5-0 run that gave the Wildcats room. One of the scores came when Emma Hartman rocketed a serve off of a Mountain Lion that caromed out of bounds for an ace. After that, Bowers fielded a hit, allowing Waggy to pop up a set for a precise Lizzie Alt spike and a 16-11 lead. Hartman followed with yet another ace as she continues to display service excellence.

Later in the set, Bowers served to Tucker County, leading to a spike attempt by Matthews. That spike found Bowers, who deftly returned the hit off of Matthews hands and ricocheted out of bounds for a 23-17 advantage. A Hartman spike closed the first set as a Pendleton County win 25-17.

Matthews did not play in the following two sets, which allowed Pendleton County to adjust back to normal form. The Wildcats quickly took advantage by racking up the first five points of

the set, Alt scoring the first for her team and then closing the early run with a spike.

Tucker County seemed able to battle back as it did in the first set, scoring three in a row. Pendleton County closed off that hope by scoring nine straight to seize control of the set. Avery Townsend tipped the ball to the middle to give her squad a 7-3 lead. Shortly after, Bowers scored an ace. Townsend then made two scores in a row, first smashing a hard spike off a Waggy set, then softly tapping the ball past the defender for a 14-3 lead.

Tucker County took over the serve when the Wildcats launched a ball out of bounds, but then fired their serve into the net. Callie Judy took the serve for the Wildcats. Two serves later, Judy took a pop up by Alt, set it back to Alt, and watched her teammate spike it to the back line for a 17-4 lead.

Not long after, Alt gave a brilliant show in her service. Taking over with a 19-7 lead, Alt scored four straight aces, the last one hit nothing but floor. Townsend later ended the set with a spike. Her team took the second set 25-10 and looked to be in command.

The visiting team had other plans.

Set number three started like the first, with Pendleton County scoring first, but seeing Tucker County answer right back. Early on, they played to a 4-4 tie, but Tucker County forged ahead. They maintained a strong lead through the set, leading 22-16 late. Then Alt scored on a tap to the middle, followed by Townsend making the same play. A block by Beachler and Waggy brought Pendleton County back within striking distance, but the Mountain Lions scored three of the next four to close the set.

Matthews returned briefly at the opening of the fourth set, but was quickly pulled from the floor. Bennett opened with the serve and Alt gained the first point with a spike. Next, Beachler popped the ball to Waggy, who set up Alt for a shot to the middle of the defense. Alt then hit the ball to the back line for a 3-0 lead.

Tucker County battled back. Matthews won a battle at the net to score her squad's first point. Two plays later, however, Alt fired a shot off Matthews' hands that went out of bounds and gave the Wildcats a 4-2 lead. Matthews exited the game again after that.

Later, Judy took the serve and scored an ace for a 6-3 lead. Although the Mountain Lions scored the next point, Pendleton County took command by scoring eight straight. Dominant play at the net by Beachler, Waggy, and Townsend helped to fuel the run. Alt also picked up an ace.

With Pendleton County in command 20-6, Matthews returned to the game. Beachler blocked her spike attempt shortly after to give her team a 22-6 lead. Shortly after, Olivia Gonshor hustled to keep a play alive so that Beachler could score on a hit to the middle.

The set and game closed out in a Wildcat win when Beachler spiked on Matthews and Alt scored game point on – what else – a spike.

On Tuesday, the Wildcats faced the Vikings from Petersburg. They are scheduled to travel to Tucker County today and to Highland County, Virginia, on Oct. 7 before facing Elkins at home on Oct. 8.

Team Leo Wins Slusher Scramble

The Slusher Scramble was held Sept. 22 at the beautiful Highlands Golf Club in Franklin.

The winners were Team Leo, first place, Team (Barry) Munsey, second place, and Team Franklin Moose, third place. Twenty-two teams competed in this captain's choice tournament. Twenty-eight hole sponsors contributed to the successful event.

The proceeds of the tournament fund the Leo Slusher Award, which annually benefits a Pendleton County High School senior. Seniors apply for this award in the spring, and it spotlights community service and athletic support, either as a player, manager, or coach. Leo Slusher was a Pendleton County community servant, including being a charter member of the Treasure Mountain Festival committee. He was a local sports enthusiast, both for community leagues and for all school teams, and he was a charter member of the high school Sports Boosters Club. He is long remembered for his infamous hotdogs in the concession stands. The award celebrates a local youth who demonstrates the qualities that Slusher brought to his community and strives to help the student achieve their future life goals.



Team Leo, consisting of, from left, Hunter Duncan, Drew Clements, Cathy Slusher and Jerry Simmons, took home first place honors after competing in the Slusher Scramble.



The Wildcats had good reason to be all smiles at the Tygarts Valley triad. They knocked off the 13 and one Notre Dame Fighting Irish from Clarksburg.

Irish Fight, But Fail To Defeat, Wildcats In Tygarts Valley

By Stephen Smoot

The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame (the Clarksburg high school, not the university!) made their way west on Corridor H, then down US 250 to Tygarts Valley, where they helped to form a trio of teams competing.

Notre Dame brought with them a strong seasonal showing, boasting 13 wins, some over much larger schools, and a single loss to Lewis County. A closer look at their schedule revealed that Pendleton County would face by far and away their toughest test this season.

They opened the game with the serve and took the initial point in the contest after a lengthy series of volleys. Pendleton County scored next when Brynlynn Waggy popped the ball perfectly to set up a Baylee Beachler spike.

Notre Dame took the next two points, showing a different strategy than almost anyone else. In the initial stages of the first set if the ball made it to a player near the net on their side, they popped it back to set up shots from players in the middle of their side of the court.

They thus, at least for awhile, worked to avoid directly challenging the Wildcats' fearsome front of Beachler, Lizzie Alt, Avery Townsend, Alyssa Bennett, Waggy, and others. If the front line player did attempt to make a play, she tried to angle it away from the teeth of the Pendleton County defense.

Notre Dame's strength lay in precision and execution. They fielded shots well, worked well to extend each volley and hoped for the Wildcat players to make a mistake, rather than directly challenging them.

Beachler took the serve with her team down 3-2. Quickly, her team seized the lead. Waggy, who has emerged as a precise and reliable setter, set up spikes for both Alt and Townsend, while a screaming line drive serve from Beachler resulted in an ace.

When Notre Dame wrested the serve back, they faced a slender deficit of two points.

They scored an ace to close the tally to 6-5, but then gave up a point and the serve by rocking a spike out of bounds on the back side.

After the Fighting Irish tied the game at seven, Pendleton County ran off seven points to Notre Dame's one. They battled to remain within striking distance. The Wildcats opened up a 14-8 lead, but Notre Dame soon closed to within three at 16-13.

Beachler then scored with a spike and took the serve herself. As she challenged the defense, the front line made big plays. A block at

the net, a Townsend spike, and an Alt spike off a Waggy set took the lead back out to six at 20-14.

Breena Bowers, who along with Emily Poling, Emma Hartman, Callie Judy, and others manned the backline in an exemplary fashion, closed out the set with an ace, the score 25-19.

Set number two closely resembled its predecessor, except that Notre Dame strayed from its initial strategy and challenged at the net more. The Wildcats scored first when Waggy set up an Alt spike, but then gave up two points to fall behind very briefly.

The Wildcats approached the second set with swagger and a sense of purpose evident in their body language. Notre Dame tried to stay with them and faced only a one point disadvantage when the score was 9-8.

Then the onslaught finally wore the Fighting Irish down and Pendleton County went on an 11 to one run.

That series of points included a Bennett ace. Shortly after, Beachler had the serve. Her first shot over resulted in a Waggy set for a hard Alt spike. Notre Dame, sensing trouble, called time out. After the teams returned to the floor, however, Pendleton County scored consecutively on Waggy setting up Townsend for spikes.

Two plays later, Hartman's hustle kept the ball alive and helped her team get an 18-9 advantage. Beachler followed that with an ace.

The Fighting Irish are a good team and such squads battle to the end. They scored three straight, but then the Wildcats scored when Townsend dove to pop a ball up, helping Beachler to aim a shot at the back of the opposing defense for a 21-12 lead. They retaliated by rattling off four straight.

Alt helped to close the game out when she took the serve, needing three to win the set and the game. Bowers set up an Alt spike on the way to closing the set and the game in the Wildcats' favor.

The main difference between these two squads' ability to handle a tight game situation lay in their experience. Notre Dame feasted on teams that often brought zero wins to the contest against them while Pendleton County seeks out competition offering challenges that turn into learning opportunities. The Wildcats do lose more games as a consequence but prepare better for the post-season as a result.

This is how a team improves. This is how a team achieves. Most importantly, it's a valuable lesson in life that extends well beyond sports.

Correction

In last week's photo of the "Shining in Silver" Wildcats, Callie Judy, front row, left, was not identified. We sincerely apologize for this mistake.

WVDNR Releases 2024 Hunting Outlook

Hunters getting ready for fall hunting seasons may now consult the 2024 Hunting Outlook and Mast Survey, according to the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

The annual publication, which provides details about the abundance of wild fruits and nuts produced by 18 species of trees and shrubs, forecasts similar harvests for deer, black bear, wild turkey, squirrel and bobwhite quail compared to last year.

"On behalf of the WVDNR, I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who helped us collect data and make this important survey possible," said Brett McMillion, WVDNR director. "Every hunting season in West Virginia comes with unique opportunities and challenges, so I encourage folks to use this report to their advantage as they enjoy a great hunting season this fall."

The report, which is compiled by active and retired staff from the WVDNR's Wildlife Resources Section and West Virginia Division of Forestry, may be downloaded at WVDnr.gov/mast-survey.

According to the report, which includes outlooks for individual game species,

hard and soft mast production was mixed this year. White and chestnut oak acorn production is up compared to last year in some parts of the state, but production for red/black and scarlet oak is down, though results are near the long-term average. Beech, walnut and hickory mast is down compared to 2023 levels and from the long-term average.

"The availability of mast is mixed across the state this year, which can change where and how animals move and create new opportunities for hunters to have a successful harvest," said Holly Morris, furbearer and small game project leader for the WVDNR's Wildlife Resources Section. "As every year, we recommend hunters review the mast survey for more information on predicted wildlife harvests and mast production in each West Virginia region as they plan their hunting adventures."

All hunters 15 and older are required to have a valid West Virginia hunting license and valid form of identification while hunting, which can be purchased at license agents across the state or online at WVhunt.com.

Residents Encouraged to Have Fire Safety Plan in Place

In the wake of several recent fatalities related to house fires, the West Virginia Department of Health, West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office, and West Virginia Emergency Management Division are joining forces to remind West Virginians about fire safety practices.

Sherri A. Young, D.O., MBA, FAAFP, Cabinet Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Health, is urging West Virginians to have a safety plan in place.

"When seconds could be the difference between life and death, having a home escape plan and working smoke alarms could make all the difference," said Young.

A home escape plan should include two exits from every home (usually a door and a window); a meeting place outside; and a call to 911 from a cell phone or neighbor's phone.

A step-by-step guide to developing a home safety plan may be found follows.

Practice the Home Fire Escape Plan

Creating and practicing a home fire escape plan is simple. Follow the steps below to make sure everyone in the home is prepared and knows what to do in case of a home fire.

- Make a written home fire escape plan and practice getting out in under two minutes.
- Make sure there is a smoke alarm on every level of the home and in each bedroom. Test them twice a year.
- Download the Make Safe Happen app for a fire drill timer to practice the escape plan.
- Learn the best practices for home fire safety and fire safety with children.

Make an Escape Plan

- Learn two ways out of every room in the home in case one exit is blocked or dangerous to use. A second way out can include an escape ladder for rooms on an upper level.
- Practice getting low and moving to one's exits in case

there is smoke.

- Choose a safe meeting place a safe distance from one's home.

- Have a home fire drill at least twice a year.

Children and Fire Safety

It is important to have a plan where there are children in the home. Children may become very scared and need clear directions and help getting out of the house. They may not know how to escape or what to do unless an adult shows them.

- Have a plan for younger children under six who cannot get outside by themselves. In the plan, talk about who will help each child get out safely.

- Children should know what to do when they hear a smoke alarm and there is no adult around. Help them practice going to the outside meeting place.

- Teach children to never go back inside a burning building. Once they are out, stay out!

- Teach children to get low and crawl on the ground, where the air is less smoky.

- Show a child how to use the back of their hand to check doors for heat before opening and to use a different way out if the door is hot.

- If a child needs to use an escape ladder, show them where it is kept and practice how to use it.

Conduct a Home Fire Drill

Fires can start anywhere in the home and at any time, so run through the plan at different times of the day or night and practice different ways out.

- Know where to go. Review the safe meeting place. Explain to the kids that when the smoke alarm beeps, they need to get out of the house quickly and meet at that safety spot.

- Check smoke alarms. Test the smoke alarms with kids

to they know the sound.

- Do the drill. Have kids head to their bedrooms and wait for the drill to begin. Assign adults to help young children. Put one adult in charge of sounding the smoke alarm and running the drill. Next, sound the smoke alarm, start the timer and have everyone book it to the safety spot. Once everyone gets to the safe meeting place stop the timer. If everyone didn't make it to the meeting place under two minutes, repeat the drill. In a real fire, after getting to the safe meeting place, then call 9-1-1 and keep everyone close until firefighters arrive.

"Other ways to reduce or lower the risk of danger in your home is to stay in the kitchen when heating food and keeping items that cause fires away when cooking on the stovetop. Also, limit the use of unvented fuel-fired appliances," added Ken Tyree, State Fire Marshal.

Working smoke alarms can decrease the risk of dying in a house fire by half. Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, on every level of the home, including the basement, and should be tested at least once a month using the test button.

"As we try to keep our homes warm in the winter months, prioritizing fire safety is paramount," said GE McCabe, West Virginia Emergency Management Division director. "Taking proactive measures, such as checking heating systems and chimneys, using heating appliances responsibly, and having working smoke detectors, ensures a warm and secure environment for you and your loved ones."

Space heaters and home heating equipment are other leading causes of home fires during the winter months. The risk can be reduced by keeping anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment and keeping children at a distance.

Safe Cars Save Lives: Check For Vehicle Safety Recalls

How safe is the vehicle a person is driving or riding in? While one may think the vehicle is perfectly safe, it could be subject to important safety recalls. In fact, in 2022, there were 1,050 safety recalls affecting more than 31 million vehicles and motor-vehicle related equipment in the United States. Fortunately, it's easy to check to see if one's vehicle is among those affected by safety recalls.

Safe Cars Save Lives. West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program and the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are reminding drivers about important safety recalls. A person can visit [nhtsa.gov/recalls](https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls) and enter a vehicle's 17-digit Vehicle Identification Number to find out if the vehicle has open safety recalls. The VIN can be found on the lower part of the car's driver's side windshield. The VIN is also on the car's registration card.

"Getting unsafe vehicles off the road is a key ingredient to safety and saving lives," said Jack McNeely, GHSP director. "A recall means that something about the product presents a danger to the safety or health of the consumers who have it."

Drivers should check for vehicle recalls twice a year. They should add "check for safety recalls" when a person turns the

clocks ahead or backward, when they do other important things like check smoke detector batteries. One can also sign up for recall alerts on the NHTSA website. A person will get an email if one's vehicle is part of a future recall.

The NHTSA's SaferCar app, which tells one about recalls and directs a person to local dealerships who can do the vehicle repairs, can also be downloaded. Once the app is downloaded, one can put in the vehicle's VIN, and information about the tires, car seats, and other automotive equipment. NHTSA will send one an alert about any safety recalls. The app is available for iOS and Android.

Even though vehicle manufacturers send out alerts and warnings by mail and email, millions of recalled vehicles never get fixed. That puts drivers, passengers, and others at risk. Drivers who think their vehicle has a safety-related defect that isn't covered by a current recall can contact NHTSA online at [nhtsa.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov) or by calling the agency's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Sometimes, one complaint can spark a safety recall.

These agencies remind everyone that Safe Cars Save Lives. It's important to get safety-related repairs done immediately to keep oneself and others safe on the road.

Free COVID-19 Tests Available

The West Virginia Department of Health is urging residents to take proactive measures as COVID-19 cases rise in the state. In collaboration with the U.S. Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response and the U.S. Postal Service, [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) has reopened, allowing households across West Virginia to order four additional free over-the-counter COVID-19 tests. These tests are particularly important as the holiday season approaches.

Sherri Young, DO, MBA, FAAFP, stated, "This initiative ensures that West Virginians have access to essential tools to protect themselves and their loved ones as we enter this busy respiratory season. With updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines available, it is crucial to stay informed and prepared. Testing remains a vital part of our response."

The updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines, now available, are designed to better target currently circulating variants, offering improved protection against severe illness and hospitalization. Unlike earlier formulations, these updated vaccines have been adapted

to enhance the immune response specifically against the most prevalent strains, providing a stronger defense for individuals, especially those at higher risk.

Dr. Matthew Christiansen, state health officer, emphasized the importance of both testing and vaccination. "As vaccine protection decreases over time, it is important that West Virginians stay up to date," he stated. "The updated COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for everyone ages six months and older."

As gatherings increase during the holiday season, DH remains committed to providing easy access to both tests and vaccines, enabling residents to identify respiratory illnesses promptly and make informed choices regarding medical care while minimizing risks to family, friends, and co-workers.

To order four free over-the-counter COVID-19 tests, please visit [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). For information about the updated 2024-2025 vaccines, including eligibility, locations, and their specific benefits, please contact the local health department.

Hedrick Clan Gathers for Reunion

The Harrison and Ida Frances Wimer Hedrick reunion was held Sept. 8 at Ruddle Park.

The weather was very nice, and the food was great. Everyone caught up on the happenings of the past year. Attendance was a bit low due to illnesses and everyone's family life. Prayers were read by Linda Wimer, and blessings were offered for those unable to attend.

Attending the reunion were Loretta Hedrick Crider, Connie and Mark Senger, Larry and Linda Wimer, Mary Virginia Armentrout, Charlie, Jennifer, Caleb and Ty Armentrout, Wanda Hedrick, Ellen and Ma-

kayla Turner, J. Bruce Smith, Dick and Patricia Rexrode, Connie Bowers and Stephen Bowers.

Everyone is looking forward to next year's reunion planned for Sept. 14, 2025, at Ruddle Park.




STOP Distracted Driving

Old-Fashioned Pot Pie Dinner

Saturday, October 5 • 4 p.m. - ?

St. John Lutheran Church, Moyers
(corner of Moyers Gap Road and Black Thorn Road)



Menu:

Ham or Chicken Pot Pie
Green Beans, Cole Slaw,
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PCMHS GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 12
Fisher Mountain Golf Club
Franklin
Shotgun Start 9 a.m.

 **\$75 per person/\$300 per team**

 **18 hole, 4-man Captain's Choice**

 **Prizes Awarded for**

- Winning Teams - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place
- Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin

 **Make checks payable to PCMHS**

For questions or to sign up, call 304-668-3555.



Our Heartfelt Thanks

The family of Grace Hedrick would like to express our appreciation to all those who helped us during the last couple months of her life and reached out to us following the death of our Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother. Those, who sent cards, phone calls, social media posts, visits, flowers, memorial gifts, food and shared memories of our loved one. We are grateful to have been able to share her long blessed life with others in the community. Special thanks to PCC, Dr. Seegar, Sharon Deel, NP, and staff for the care provided to her over the years of her life; Upper Tract Rescue who were there when we needed you; Pendleton Home Health who loaned equipment allowing her to live as independent as possible over the years; Grant Memorial Hospice who provided care and comfort over the last couple weeks; Pastor Angela Lambert and Pastor Paul Schafer for delivering the beautiful memorial service to honor her life; members of the Mt. Hope Lutheran Church for the reception following the service; and many others who are not mentioned.

Words will never express our thanks enough.

Sincerely Her Family,

Betty, Jack, Starr, Steve, Christina, Lorrinda, Eric, Isaac, Hunter and Tanner

PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, Oct. 5
10 a.m.

PARTIAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY OF RICK & CAROL HOOVER

241 HAPPY HOLLOW ROAD, FRANKLIN, WV
2.2 miles from Franklin. Turn on 33 towards Brandywine. Watch for auction signs.

'57 CHEVY 87,355 miles (R Title) 283 original engine and interior (Reserve) • PROWLER camper trailer (Reserve)
JOHN DEERE 0-turn mower Z 425 low hours
Rare Simplicity mower

Old trunks, cream separators (2), plows, carpenter boxes, cider press, roll top desk, snuff glasses, collection of '57 Chevy model cars (25-40 boxes), blacksmith blower, old stone grinding wheel, canning jars, Barbie collection (Pepsi, Holiday Barbies - over 300), Cabbage Patch dolls, vintage Christmas decor, lots of framed pictures, Stetson hats, vintage records, cement man and woman yard ornaments, motor stand, air compressor, old toys, hobby horse, giant Santa face (36-inch high), silverware, doors and lumber, Budweiser advertisements, Iris glassware, Baltimore Police Department badges and pins, costume jewelry, vintage Cabbage Patch Doll (NY Yankees), cobalt blue dishware, string of brass Christmas bells, vintage hats, brass boot bookends, full bear rug AND MANY OTHER ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION.

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TERMS: Cash or check with proper ID
Not responsible for accidents or merchandise after sold.
For more information contact auctioneers Bruce "Icky" Hyre Jr. WV#494 304-257-3134 or pma@frontiernet.net; or Larry Thompson WV#1613 304-668-9650. Photos on [auctionzip.com](https://www.auctionzip.com)

Tariff Form No. 8-C		0000001221	UNKNOWN, 62 ACS SOUTH FORK.....	179.06	0000004480	PITTSNBARGER FARMS LLC, 2.744 ACRES HAMMER MTN.....	1331.77	0000009199	4 AC 4 AC.....	179.93	at Page 678. LESS HOWEVER; a 0.85 acre out-conveyance unto Blondell M. Arbogast by that certain Deed from Grant E. Kimble and Naomi Jean Kimble, with said Deed dated June 9, 2016, and of record in the afore-said Clerk's Office in Deed Book 274, at Page 643." LESS HOWEVER, a 2.00 acre out-conveyance to Naomi J. Kimble, by that certain Deed from Duke A. McDaniel and Nathan H. Walters, in their capacity as Special Commissioners, relative to Grant County Civil Action 24-C-3, with said Deed dated September 3, 2024, and of record in the afore-said Clerk's Office in Deed Book 315, at page 103. Reference is also made to the Last Will & Testament of Vauda H. Kimble, also of record in the afore-said Clerk's Office in Will Book 10, at page 472.
(Tariff Rule 14.2 et seq. (Historical Rule 30-C))		0000001253	SMITH VIRGIL & GERALDINE, 11.53 AC S. FORK MT.....	160.12	0000004481	PITTSNBARGER FARMS LLC, 2.296 ACRES HAMMER MT.....	1185.47	0000009319	PUFFENBARGER LORA ET ALS, 1.33 ACS BRUSHY FORK.....	96.27	
PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES UPON APPLICATION		0000001458	WRIGHT TERESA N &, .67 ACRE BRANDYWINE.....	347.16	0000004505	PRICELESS PROPERTIES LLC, .256 ACS US 220.....	2243.50	0000009320	ROWE TERESA DIANE PROPST, 107.21 ACRES OF 108.21 S FORK MT.....	927.44	
NOTICE is hereby given that MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY, a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, an application containing decreased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers at various locations in the Counties of Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming.		DISTRICT-02-CIRCLEVILLE		0000004543	PUFFENBARGER ANN, 0.875 ACS CHESNUT WOODS.....	126.07	0000009346	ROWE TERESA DIANE PROPST, 1 ACRE OF 108.21 WITH RENTAL H S FORK MT.....	1899.05		
The proposed changes in rates and charges will become effective November 1, 2024, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will decrease revenue approximately \$38,675,000 annually, a decrease of approximately 25.4%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers of MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY who purchase their gas from MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY will be changed as follows:		0000001627	ARBOGAST CATHY L, BIG RUN 105X70X130 (.33 ACRE).....	71.11	0000004594	REXRODE CARL, 7.3 ACS SANDY RIDGE.....	419.64	0000009347	SCHWEIGERT JOAN, 1.52 ACS STONY RUN.....	179.93	
		0000001628	ARBOGAST CATHY L & DOUGLAS E, .156 ACBIG RUN 170X100X165 (.16 ACRE).....	70.43	0000004661	RION JAMES F & HUFFMAN C, NEAR FRANKLIN .277 ACRE.....	590.95	0000009348	SCHWEIGERT JOAN, 2.74 ACS STONY RUN.....	241.68	
		0000001629	ARBOGAST CATHY LYNN &, NORTH FORK 52 OF 53 ACRES.....	101.90	0000004777	SEABOLT JOHN A PATTY TIDD, 0.83 ACS SO BRANCH.....	301.26	0000009349	SCHWEIGERT JOAN C, 1.03 AC OR LOT #6 HARMAN SUB DIV.....	611.10	
		0000001630	ARBOGAST CATHY LYNN &, NORTH FORK 1 OF 53 ACRES CAMPGROUND.....	228.30	0000004827	SIMMONS JONATHON L, 1 AC PROPST GAP.....	174.24	0000009350	SCHWEIGERT JOAN C, 1.04 AC OR LOT #7 HARMAN SUB DIV 107.46.....		
		0000001764	BOGAN DOUGLAS A &, .42 AC CIRCLEVILLE 100X190.....	257.30	0000004828	SIMMONS JONATHON L, .47 AC SOUTH BRANCH.....	275.78	0000009351	SCHWEIGERT JOAN C, 1.02 AC STONY RUN.....	107.46	
		0000001840	DEHAVEN CARRIE, 2.50 ACRES ELK MT.....	84.17	0000005373	WIMER MATTHEW, 2.19 ACS LOT #15 TREASURE MTN ESTATES.....	180.35	0000009352	SCOTT MELISSA, 6.11 AC BLACK THORN.....	516.64	
		0000001841	DEHAVEN CARRIE & ADAM, 2.50 ACRES ELK MT.....	454.38	0000005374	WIMER MATTHEW P &, 2.19 ACS LOT #14 TREASURE MTN ESTATES.....	180.35	0000009358	SHANHOLTZ RODMAN &, 139.89 ACRES OF 140.89 RODMAN'S HOUSE.....	918.84	
		0000001866	DOVE NATHAN H JR, 2 ACS TIMBER RIDGE.....	346.36	0000005395	WOODWARD ERNEST C JR, 10 ACS TRACT #1 TREASURE MT.....	492.85	0000009359	SHANHOLTZ RODMAN &, 1 ACRE OF 140.89 RENTAL HOUSE....	1466.94	
		0000001930	HARNER JOHN M & SHIRLEY H, 583 ACS TIMBER RIDGE.....	1256.86	0000005411	WRIGHT TERESA N, 3.08 AC LOT #C-2 ENTRY MT.....	148.85	0000009384	SIMMERS JEFFREY D &, 25 ACS DOE HILL ROAD.....	543.88	
		0000001975	HEDRICK ROBERT & ASHLEY, 0.72 ACS NORTH FORK.....	319.64	DISTRICT-04-FRANKLIN CORPORATION		0000009456	STONE DEBRA KAY, 73.337 ACS BLACK THORN.....	542.48		
		0000001976	HEDRICK STACY, .77 ACS ELK MT.....	205.10	0000005549	ADKINS RICHARD R, LOT W HIGH ST 98.5 X 62.37.....	499.84	DISTRICT-07-UNION			
		0000001977	HEDRICK STACY, .43 ACS ELK MT.....	83.51	0000005767	JOHNSON DESIREE J, LOT 6TH ST 30 X 140 .096 ACRE.....	600.08	0000009799	BENNETT JOHN JOSEPH, 1.5 ACRES LITTLE MOUNTAIN.....	141.83	
		0000002058	KESNER MARGARET A, 17.406 AC NORTH FORK.....	454.32	0000005768	JOHNSON DESIREE J, .09 AC HIGH STREET 30 X 123.5.....	71.80	0000009844	BLAND EMMA MAE-LE, RIVERTON .3 AC.....	539.06	
		0000002080	LAMBERT JODY ALLEN &, 16.80 ACS DRY RUN.....	273.07	0000005820	M & B FARMS LLC, .80 ACRE LOT 6 FRIENDS HILL SUB DIV.....	1038.79	0000009926	BURNER JOHN WM ET ALS, 57 ACS N F HILLS.....	561.83	
		0000002081	LAMBERT JODY ALLEN &, 27.54 AC DRY RUN.....	274.60	0000005821	M & B FARMS LLC, 0.219 AC FRIENDS HILL.....	590.79	0000009985	CHEW GEORGE R, N FORK 1.5 AC.....	100.66	
		0000002094	LAMBORNE MICHAEL & SHIRLEY, 119.39 ACRES NORTH FORK HILLS.....	383.28	0000005822	M & B FARMS LLC, .08 ACRE TRACT A.....	102.77	0000010384	KEATING WILLIAM J, 21.66 ACS LOT #12 N F HILLS.....	502.13	
		0000002095	LAMBORNE MICHAEL & SHIRLEY ANN, 36.22 AC NORTH FORK HILLS.....	557.73	0000005823	M & B FARMS LLC, 0.11 ACS FRIENDS HILL.....	134.38	0000010546	MARLOW CHARLES, .38 ACRES NORTH FORK.....	137.45	
		0000002164	MEDELLIN ALEJANDRO C, 11.28 AC LOT#1 HORSE MT.....	633.51	0000005824	M & B FARMS LLC, .19 ACRE TRACT B.....	125.11	0000010578	MELANSON MARK & TODD, 11.25 ACS GERMANY VALLEY.....	242.26	
		0000002165	MEDELLIN ALEJANDRO C &, HORSE MT 10 AC.....	914.88	0000005956	SIMMONS JEFFREY O, LOT COURTNEY TERRACE 90.25 X 140.....	594.09	0000010652	O'CONNOR VIOLET, 22 ACS GERMANY VALLEY 1/5 INT (GAS & OIL RIGHTS ONLY).....	71.47	
		0000002204	NELSON DONALD LEE, 6.57 ACRES MAP BOOK 9/137 DRY RUN.....	232.64	0000006018	THOMPSON BECKY LYNN, 0.16 AC CIRCLE DRIVE 82.6X106.9 LOT 2.....	491.05	0000010653	O'CONNOR VIOLET, 11.53 ACS GERMANY VALLEY (GAS & OIL RIGHTS ONLY) 1/5 INT.....	71.47	
		0000002206	NELSON DONALD LEE, 6.86 ACRES DRY RUN.....	90.80	DISTRICT-05-MILL RUN		0000010802	SELLERS HILDA & WILLIAM, 22 ACS GERMANY VALLEY 1/5 INT (GAS & OIL RIGHTS ONLY).....	71.47		
		0000002491	TINGLER RICKY & POLLY, 21.07 ACS ELK MT.....	600.45	0000006157	ALEXANDER ARTHUR O &, 28.13 ACS-SURFACE ONLY MIDDLE MT.....	359.29	0000010803	SELLERS HILDA & WILLIAM, 11.53 ACS GERMANY VALLEY (GAS & OIL RIGHTS ONLY) 1/5 INT.....	71.47	
		0000002493	TINGLER TIMMY & MELINDA, 2.62 ACS ELK MT.....	192.34	0000006245	ANDERSON ROGER, 10 AC S FORK MT.....	636.21	0000011007	VINT RANDY, GERMANY VALLEY 1 AC.....	249.24	
		0000002521	VANDEVANDER MICHELLE R &, 1.20 ACS NORTH FORK HILLS.....	757.68	0000006267	BACKHAUS LISA, 2.02 S FORK MT.....	218.02	0000011015	WARNER CARROLL & ELEANOR, 5.84 ACS NORTH FORK HILLS.....	642.19	
		0000002608	WARNER JESSE T &, 1.57 AC NORTH FORK.....	477.66	0000006307	BORROR TYLER .26 ACS RT 220.....	704.53	0000011057	WHITMAN TRACEY GREGORY, N FORK 28.20 ACS.....	557.15	
		0000002666	WHEELER CASSIE MARIA, BIG RUN .185 ACRES.....	203.15	0000006327	BRACKENRICH DORIS P, 2.59 AC LOT #6 SOUTH FORK MT.....	219.64	Any of the aforesaid tracts or lots, or part thereof or an individual interest therein, may be redeemed by the payment to the undersigned sheriff before sale, of the total amount of taxes, interest and charges due thereon up to the date of redemption. Given under my hand this 5th day of September, 2024. Bradley D. Kimble Sheriff of Pendleton County			
		0000002667	WHEELER ERIC, 4.36 AC. NORTH FORK.....	202.27	0000006352	CALHOUN LYNWOOD & LUCY, 0.54 AC RIDGE ROAD.....	459.19	SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE			
		0000002835	ANDERSON JOHN D JR & DIANNE M, 1.383 AC SOUTH BRANCH.....	653.87	0000006353	CALHOUN LYNWOOD LUCY, .36 ACRE BRUSHY RUN.....	72.19	By virtue of the authority vested in the undersigned Special Commissioners, namely, Duke A. McDaniel and Nathan H. Walters, by virtue of that certain Initial Hearing Order, entered within Grant County, West Virginia Civil Action No. 24-C-3, by the Honorable James W. Carrier Jr., Grant County Circuit Court Judge, and styled as Naomi Jean Kimble, Plaintiff v. Grant Edward Kimble & New Creek Wind, LLC., Defendants. Your undersigned Special Commissioners will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder(s) at the backdoor of the Grant County Courthouse, located at 5 Highland Avenue, Petersburg, West Virginia 26847, on			
		0000002858	ATLANTIC OIL COMPANY INC, 1 AC NEAR FRANKLIN.....	830.31	0000006354	CALHOUN LYNWOOD LUCY, 1.649 ACS BRUSHY RUN.....	91.45	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024 AT NOON—12:00 P.M.			
		0000002859	ATLANTIC OIL CORP INC. .91 AC US 33 & 220.....	777.74	0000006373	CANNON RICHARD H III -LE, 54.10 ACRES SHAVERS RUN....	387.74	the following described tract or parcel of real estate:			
		0000002893	BEACHLER EMMA JANE, LONG MT .539.....	248.38	0000006549	FREEDOM BANK INC, 83.5 ACS N MILL CREEK.....	9722.98	All that certain tract or parcel of real estate containing 313.09 acres, more or less, lying and being situate in Union District, of Grant County, West Virginia, and designated as Parcel 21 on Tax Map 208 of the Union District of Grant County, West Virginia Assessment records.			
		0000002894	BEACHLER EMMA JANE, 0.29 ACS LONG MT.....	73.86	0000006624	HARMAN HERBERT C, S MILL CREEK 29 ACS 1/3 UND INT.....	170.77	The aforesaid 313.09-acre tract or parcel real estate is more particularly described as follows: "All that certain tract or parcel of real estate containing 315.09 acres, more or less, by calculation of the Grant County, West Virginia Assessment records, together with any and all rights, rights-of-way, structures, minerals, easements, improvements and appurtenances there-			
		0000002971	BOSTIC BELVA M, 5.21 ACS SMITH CREEK.....	529.06	0000006625	HARMAN HERBERT C, S MILL CREEK 11.96 ACS 1/3 UND INT.....	121.89	The aforesaid 313.09-acre tract or parcel real estate is more particularly described as follows: "All that certain tract or parcel of real estate containing 315.09 acres, more or less, by calculation of the Grant County, West Virginia Assessment records, together with any and all rights, rights-of-way, structures, minerals, easements, improvements and appurtenances there-			
		0000002976	BOWERS DANNY, .038 ACRE TROUT RUN.....	70.73	0000006688	JOSEPH BRIAN E, 8.23 ACS SO BRANCH.....	370.44	The aforesaid 313.09-acre tract or parcel real estate is more particularly described as follows: "All that certain tract or parcel of real estate containing 315.09 acres, more or less, by calculation of the Grant County, West Virginia Assessment records, together with any and all rights, rights-of-way, structures, minerals, easements, improvements and appurtenances there-			
		0000003005	BOWERS JUSTIN, .047 ACS TROUT RUN.....	86.22	0000007117	KISER EARL SCOTT & LACY ALLEN, 3.16 ACS LOT#28 SMOKE HOLE LEGENDS.....	745.71	The aforesaid 313.09-acre tract or parcel real estate is more particularly described as follows: "All that certain tract or parcel of real estate containing 315.09 acres, more or less, by calculation of the Grant County, West Virginia Assessment records, together with any and all rights, rights-of-way, structures, minerals, easements, improvements and appurtenances there-			
		0000003006	BOWERS JUSTIN DANIEL, S FORK MT 75.9 ACRES.....	966.79	0000007259	MARTIN GORDON R, 18 ACRES SO BRANCH.....	74.39	The aforesaid 313.09-acre tract or parcel real estate is more particularly described as follows: "All that certain tract or parcel of real estate containing 315.09 acres, more or less, by calculation of the Grant County, West Virginia Assessment records, together with any and all rights, rights-of-way, structures, minerals, easements, improvements and appurtenances there-			
		0000003007	BOWERS JUSTIN DANIEL, 13.13 ACRES BUFFALO RUN.....	174.02	0000007285	MERTZ STEVEN E, 2 ACS SMOKE HOLE.....	139.21	The aforesaid 313.09-acre tract or parcel real estate is more particularly described as follows: "All that certain tract or parcel of real estate containing 315.09 acres, more or less, by calculation of the Grant County, West Virginia Assessment records, together with any and all rights, rights-of-way, structures, minerals, easements, improvements and appurtenances there-			
		0000003132	CHAMP COY A JR & VICKY, 1.116 ACS SMITH CREEK.....								

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the following estates is pending in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, 100 S. Main Street, P. O. Box 1167, Franklin, West Virginia 26807. The names of the personal representatives are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is October 3, 2024. Deadline for claims is December 2, 2024.

Gary Stanley Harman Estate - Ramona Ann Harman, Administratrix; Charles Eugene Bates Estate - Virginia Rae Bates, Executrix; Emma Kate Hathaway Estate - Jason G. Hathaway, Administrator; Noah Jr Mallow Estate - Noah J. Mallow, Executor.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on September 27, 2024.

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 10-3-2c

NOTICE

At the January 11, 2024, meeting, the Pendleton County Board of Health approved an addendum to WV 64 CSR 8.9.a and 8.9.f, which references minimum acreage for onsite sewer system is 2 acres, the addendum is to increase to 5 acres for any subdivided lots.

Detailed information can be obtained at the health department, located at 273 Mill Road, Franklin, WV. The public is invited to comment, in writing, on the proposed addendum for 30 days. The deadline for written comments is October 19, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Any person who would like to make verbal comments may contact Amber Hedrick, Administrator, to be included on the next regularly scheduled board of health meeting.

Any questions or comments may be addressed to Pendleton County Health Department, P. O. Box 520, 273 Mill Road, Franklin, WV 26807. 9-19-4c

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 24-0658-G-390P

MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY
Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program
Filing for 2025

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

On July 31, 2024, Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer) filed its annual Application for approval of an Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program for 2025 (2025 IREP) with revised IREP rates for 2025, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 24-2-1k, which authorizes the Public Service Commission (Commission) of West Virginia to approve cost recovery of projects to replace, upgrade and expand natural gas utility infrastructure that are deemed to be just and reasonable and in the public interest.

In its Application, Mountaineer forecasts capital investment for calendar year 2025 of \$74 million as part of its multi-year plan. The 2025 IREP covers several categories of plant asset replacements and improvements, including mains, service lines, measurement and regulator stations, and house regulators. These plant investments are proposed to be made in Mountaineer service territories throughout the State. These investments are identified in the Application, which is on file and available for public inspection at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia and which may be viewed on the Commission's website, www.psc.state.wv.us.

Mountaineer proposes to increase IREP revenues by \$8.9 million, an overall revenue increase of approximately 2.80%. The IREP investments included in this filing reflect plant additions made or projected to be made from 2023 to 2025. The increased rates are requested to be effective January 1, 2025. The IREP rates apply as either fixed or volumetric rate increments, depending on the applicable rate schedule under which service is rendered. Mountaineer projects that if the program and IREP rate increase are approved as requested, the average monthly bill for its various classes of customers will be changed on January 1, 2025, as shown below:

Mountaineer Gas Company - Proposed			
Type of Customer	\$	Increase	%
Residential	\$ 2.63	2.63	2.97%
Commercial	\$ 6.92	6.92	2.03%
Large Commercial (*)	\$ 384.24	384.24	0.71%
Large Commercial - I (*)	\$ 477.11	477.11	0.21%
Industrial (*)	\$ 509.10	509.10	1.04%
Wholesale	\$ 75.77	75.77	0.88%

(*) Percentage increases for Large Commercial and Industrial customers assume transport customers purchase their natural gas at the same price as the Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment rate.

The increases shown above are compared to the rates currently in place and are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Each class may receive an increase greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive an increase that is greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increase or decrease) by the Commission in its review of the filing. Any change in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Commission.

The Commission set a procedural schedule, including a hearing date on the Application that will begin at 9:30 a.m. on November 4, 2024, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. If no opposition to the Application is received by the Commission within one week of the hearing date, the hearing may be waived, and the Commission may issue a final order within 150 days of the Application filing date.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene within 15 days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. All requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the request to intervene and comply with the rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission will receive public comments until the beginning of the hearing. All written comments and requests to intervene should state the case name and number and be addressed to the Commission Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Public comments may also be filed online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/onlinecomments/default.com> by clicking the "Formal Case" link.

1c MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY

United States Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation	Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®
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2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 920 915	I certify that all information on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including penalties).
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A group of 14 elderly residents of the Sun Valley Senior Center are posed for a group photograph. They are arranged in two rows: seven people are standing in the back row, and seven are seated or standing in the front row. The setting is indoors, with a red curtain backdrop and an American flag on the left. The individuals are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. In the front row, a table covered with a white cloth holds several yellow roses in vases and small containers. One of the wheelchairs in the front row has the brand name "ELENKER" visible on its frame.

Division of Forestry Urges Caution During Fall Fire Season

Debris burning is West Virginia's most common cause

West Virginia residents can review the Daily Fire Report, which highlights the current active fire season at <https://wvdof.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1da32d94f9940098fc351e346202db8>.

, easy GARRY L. SIMMONS



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NEW LISTING - FORT SEYBERT AREA, 13+ acres, Hinkle Mountain Road, Springhill Properties, all woods, furnished trailer, wood heating stove, propane gas kitchen stove, 2 bunks, great hunting, 2 tree stands, easy access. ***Buy it now and be ready for hunting season.*** **\$84,000**

NEW LISTING - FRANKLIN, Birchwood Drive, 3BR, 1.5 bath, brick ranch house. **\$229,000.**

MOYERS - 49.16 acres, mostly cleared, old farm house, good condition log outbuilding, spring and stream. **\$289,000.**

BLACK THORN MOUNTAIN ESTATES, 6.18 acres, Lot #22, top of mountain, great views, all wooded, HOA applies, west of Doe Hill Road. **\$74,000. REDUCED \$64,000.**

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

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NEW LISTING - FORT SEYBERT - 6 BR, 3 BA, 3 log rental cabins, 2 ponds, borders Nat. Forest, hayfield, **Under Contract** - 1000 sq. ft. of new appliances set up for glamping. **\$350,000. Contact Kathy Sponaugle.**

THORNY MEADOW ESTATES - 19.36 +/- acs. with 4BR/3BA dwelling, vaulted ceiling, wormy **PENDING** - 3 BR, 2 BA, 3 log rental cabins, built-in cabinets, covered deck, paved driveway. **\$440,000 Call Kathy Sponaugle.**

SMOKE HOLE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY - 13.93 +/- approx 10 ac. cleared land, rest is wooded acs. that adjoins Nat. Forest, nice 2-story log home, 3 BR, 2 BA, 3 log rental cabins, well water, pasture for horses, 2 large ponds, horse barn. **\$975,000. Call Gene Boggs.**



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SGR355A 0.241 Acres w/4 Bed, 2 Bath 2475 sq ft home located in the town of Franklin. Finished basement, covered front porch. **NEW LISTING \$259,000.00.**

SGR352A 1.38 Acres, Friends Run, Electric Well, Septic. 3 Water & Sewer Mains at Property. Franklin District. **UNDER CONTRACT \$59,000.00.**

SGR351A 1.53 Acres w/3 Bed, 1 Bath Rancher. Attached Garage, 16'x20' Unattached Garage. Kellers Ridge, Petersburg. **\$249,000.00.**

SGR347A 27.82 Acres with 3 Bed, 2 Bath Lodge Home, Well, Septic, 30'x40' Attached Garage/Shop, Bethel District. **SOLD \$449,000.00.**

SGR346A 20.998 Acres with a 1-yr.-old 4032 sq. ft. Lodge-like home. 3 Bed, 4.5 Baths, Open Floor Plan, 2 RV Pads, Expansive covered deck, 10'x10' Bedroom w/ Ensuite and direct access to hot tub on side deck. Finished basement w/garage access. Sugar Grove Estates. Sugar Grove District. Some Restrictions apply. This is a must see! **NEW LISTING \$599,000.00.**

SGR343A 5 Acres, 2 Bed, 2.5 Bath Log Cabin, Septic, Spring water. Accessible by 4x4. Some restrictions. Buck Ridges Development. Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$283,000.00.**

SGR337A 2.79 Acres, w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin. Wood Ceiling, Paneled walls, LP heat. 8'x8' outbuilding, Well, 2 Septics. Sugar Grove District. **NEW LISTING \$429,000.00 REDUCED \$119,000.00.**

SGR335A 2.58 Acres w/3-4 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Ranch Home, Maintenance shed, 10'x10' Deck, Central AC, Public Water, Outbuildings. Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$349,000.00 REDUCED \$329,000.00.**

SGR334A 4.25 Acre Lot, Sherwood Forest, Nice building lot, Electric Nearby, No Restrictions apply, Franklin District. **SOLD \$39,000.00.**

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

SGR330A 3.69 Acres, 2 New 12x24 Buildings w/Metal Roofs. 1 Building is insulated w/living space, electricity and 2 lofts. The other is used for storage. 200AMP service, Bethel District. Close to National Forest. **\$89,900.00 REDUCED \$69,900.00.**

SGR328AB 0.30 Acres w/Duplex. 2-1 bed, 1 bath units w/shared laundry. Newly Rehabbed. Located at South Fork Crossing. Some Restrictions. Purchase separately at \$69,900.00 **\$59,900.00 per unit** or purchase both units for **\$135,000.00 \$115,000.00.**

SGR327A 0.44 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Rancher. Located in Brandywine, South Fork Crossing. Newly rehabbed. Some Restrictions. **\$169,900.00 REDUCED \$104,900.00.**

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 REDUCED \$59,900.00.**

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 **SOLD** Acre Front, 2 Apartments, 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 w/3 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, Catfish 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. **\$255,000.00. 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 Contender 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 **SOLD** sq. ft. home located in town of Franklin. **\$299,000.00.**

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

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

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