

# THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Digital artist rendition of what wind turbines on Jack Mountain might look like from Cave Country Store if the project is approved is pictured.

## FAA Studies Airspace Impact of Proposed Wind Turbines in Pendleton County

By Stephen Smoot

Last month, Scott Somerville of Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County addressed the Pendleton County Commission on a recent development from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Somerville opened his comment during public discussion by praising the Pendleton County Commission, saying, “I really appreciate your service. I appreciate all that you do.”

He then shared that he recently learned of an FAA study to measure the possible issues caused by a farm of wind turbines on Jack Mountain, specifically if it would interfere with flights in and out of nearby airports in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“Nobody knows about that. They didn’t

tell you about that,” Somerville explained to commissioners Carl Hevener, Roger Dahmer, and Jimmie Bennett. He added that since “the Legislature has taken power away from you” that he wasn’t “asking you to do anything in particular.”

Somerville referred to an act that would forbid county commissions in this example from passing ordinances that might hinder the development of turbines. A bill backed by Pendleton County’s delegates Elias Coop-Gonzalez and Bryan Ward, among others, to establish residential setbacks to restrict wind turbine development passed the West Virginia House of Delegates last year, but the State Senate refused to take it up.

That bill could reappear in the 2025 session with former State Senate President Craig

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## County BOE Hears Franklin Elementary School Presentation

By Stephen Smoot

“We are blessed to have them. The children are blessed to have them too.” So said Sonny O’Neil, Pendleton County Board of Education member, of the administration, faculty, staff, and other personnel of Franklin Elementary School.

After the invocation, all sat down to enjoy a menu of baked potatoes with all the fixings, salad, and a large slate of homemade desserts.

Between the meal and the presentation by FES, Lisa Henry gave a short talk. She came from Martinsburg, representing both the West Virginia Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. Henry spoke of the need for all 55 county school systems to sign a resolution requesting that the West Virginia Legislature find a way to address the coming major shortfall in the Public Employees Insurance Agency, or PEIA.

PEIA, the state-owned insurance corporation for state and many local government employees, was ambushed by a perfect storm of problems.

Many of these came from problems inherent in Obamacare and other more recent federal actions.

Like many insurance companies, they expect to have to raise premiums as a response. Unlike most other health insurance customers, state employees can appeal to the state Legislature for relief and will likely get at least some kind of mitigating action.

“We at WVEA and AFT will be advocating for public school employees,” Henry noted.

After Henry closed her short talk, Lori Moore, FES principal, rose because it was “time to brag a little” about the progress made on multiple fronts.

She first shared “just how awesome I think Franklin is” and added that “I work with some of the best I’ve ever worked with.”

The school has adopted the maxim of “we choose to shine” and shared a number of educational, but also fun and hands-on activities that the school conducts with the students. Like North Fork Elementary, they hold a great pumpkin drop. Moore said, “Travis (Heavner) always

comes in and helps” with that.

Moore then presented benchmark results. Each of Pendleton County’s public schools tests students at the beginning of the year to determine a benchmark for comparison the rest of the year. Testing at different points throughout the year demonstrates how well a school has done in building knowledge and skills.

Benchmark results showed that 84 percent of students showed growth in mathematics with second grade performing best. Students meet state standards when they are at or above the 50th percentile and 76 percent of students achieved that.

In reading, 80 percent showed growth. The second grade again had the best growth numbers, and 75 percent of students met the percentile mandate.

Success has come with application of the Science of Reading and Unite With Numeracy programs of techniques. The school also utilizes small group instruction, data discussions, attendance incentives, and positive behavior supports.

Attendance incentives in recent years have come mainly from Communities in Schools staff. Wendy Kisamore serves at FES. Moore says of her work, “We have a lot of need here and she never stops.” CIS staff also work in direct student support situations, such as when students may not have enough to eat at home, need hygiene products, and more.

Moore then thanked the board and superintendent for providing items from the requested “wish list” that Pendleton County Schools asks for annually. She said, “We have a whole new playground area . . . we are very appreciative.”

Moore shared that their “next big goal” lay in getting an itinerant part-time art teacher. Amy Rexrode said during her talk that art

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## Senator Karnes Delivers Support Checks at County Commission Meeting



State Senator Robert Karnes presents the Pendleton County Commissioners a check to help pay for HVAC repairs at the Pendleton Community Building.

By Stephen Smoot

A handful of days before the subject of the prayer’s customarily celebrated birthday, Pendleton County Commissioner Roger Dahmer opened the final regular meeting of the year by praying “We thank You for Your precious Son Jesus Christ.”

The meeting opened with Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County emergency services coordinator, reporting that requests for proposals for Next Generation 911 were due to open on Dec 26. He told the commissioners that “we may need to take action by the end of the year,” especially if the county will use American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, funds for part of the money needed.

Karen Pitsenbarger suggested that “we will probably need to get together and discuss that in depth,” adding that a committee can be formed to review the RFPs, then hold a final meeting in Gillespie’s office for final approval.

Later in the meeting, she shared that the courthouse annex project was finally approved to go out to bid, which will go out into online sites used by contractors. “In the meantime,” she said “we’ll have to figure out where to move that generator” to make room for construction.

Gillespie then shared that a lease to use the Hunting Ground Tower is “in the hands of legal at T Mobile.” He warned that “we did



Janice Lantz accepts a check from the discretionary funds of State Senators Robert Karnes and Bill Hamilton. Karnes presented the check, which will aid Pendleton County Senior and Family Services.

this song and dance” in 2018 until the company changed “budget priorities.” The commissioners approved the lease agreement as written, but that would not cover any changes.

On another note, he added that Pendleton County had done well in calibrating \$125,581.40 in state aid funds to support volunteer first responder stipends. The funds reached into December without running out too soon or having too much of a remainder at the end of the year.

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## Pendleton County Roots, National Impact: Why Marsh Was Named a Woman to Admire in 2024

By Stephen Smoot

“My husband and I are the ninth generation of our family to farm the land.”

For much of American, and all of Pendleton County, history, such people formed both the foundation and the backbone of society and community. Fort Seybert’s Kelly Marsh can point to an ancestry of strong men and women, often of either German, Swiss, or Lowland Scottish/North English stock, who traversed a difficult landscape, hacked their productive lands out of the virgin forest, defended their families and farms from hostile Indians and French, then settled in to battle the weather, tough times, Civil War, and whatever other slings and arrows of outrageous fortune that mankind, Nature, and Nature’s God elected to aim at them.

The tragedies, travails, and tremendous resilience of family farms that endure over generations breed their own sort of aristocracy – one based not on wealth, power, or massive domiciles, but on devotion to God, country, community, hard work, common sense, and, “to make it better than it was before.”

“It” could mean the land, a business, the local community, or anything else.

Marsh states that it “instills pride that we can keep it going in the family for that long” and that the secret to longevity in agriculture comes from being “good stewards of the land.”

She has taken the values learned from the land and her family’s experience on it to realms as different as poultry production and defending America from malefactors in cyberspace.

Last year, “Women We Admire” released their list of 50 women to watch in West Virginia. They assemble lists of accomplished women for each state and in 2024, Marsh earned a place on the list for her initiatives and accomplishments.

“Women We Admire” is a professional women’s network that provides news and information on women in leadership positions in business, medicine, motherhood, sports, entertainment, and more.

The organization honored Marsh for serving as the vice president of financial operations at GuidePoint Security. The Herndon, Virginia based

company provides cybersecurity analysis and solutions for a number of commercial and government clients.

“Women We Admire” reported in their write-up that Marsh “joined GuidePoint Security in 2018 and oversees all finance, accounting, and tax functions for the company.”

It went on to state that “she is an experienced finance and accounting professional in corporate financial processes, budget performance, financial reporting, internal controls, and team leadership.”

“We provide products and services largely domestically and a bit internationally,” said

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## Rexrode Honored



Pendleton County Schools superintendent, Charles Hedrick, presents a plaque from the State of West Virginia honoring Franklin Elementary School’s Amy Rexrode as county teacher of the year.

## Community CALENDAR

### Tree Canopy

### Cutting on US 220

### South Begins Jan. 6

Tree canopy cutting operations will be performed on US 220 South, Franklin Pike, in Grant County, beginning Monday through Jan. 31.

The work zone will be located from the Pendleton County line to milepost 2.71. Flaggers will be in place to direct traffic. Motorists should expect significant delays and are advised to use an alternate route if possible. Exact schedule is weather dependent.

### Post 9666 To Meet

VFW Post 9666 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at the post home in Sugar Grove.

### Post 30 To Meet

American Legion Pendleton Post 30 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Star Restaurant in Franklin.

### Library Friends

### To Meet Jan. 7

The Friends of the Library will meet at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 7 in the community room of the Pendleton County Library in Franklin.

All are welcome to attend.





**Charles “Bennie” Evick**

Charles “Bennie” Evick, 85, of Franklin went to his heavenly home on Dec. 24, 2024, while a patient at Sentara RMH in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He was born Nov. 23, 1939, at the Evick home on Dickenson Mountain, Franklin, and was the son of the late William Fred Evick and Mary Edith (Hoover) Evick. Mr. Evick’s hands were well acquainted with farm work on the family farm from an early age. After high school, he was an orchard worker in the Shenandoah Valley. He worked at Western Auto from 1960 – 1981, while also maintaining a farm for Jeff Bowman. He then worked at the Reeds Creek Fish Hatchery, where he was nicknamed “Doc,” for 20.5 years before retiring in March of 2003. He then did appliance repair for Sears and owned and operated Evick’s Repair.

He was a faithful and devoted member of the Smith Creek Church of the Brethren, where he sang in the church choir and served in various roles as trustee, deacon, and member of the ministerial committee. His many years of stewardship was recently celebrated with a special recognition by the church.

He was a charter member of the Franklin Ruritan Club, serving in many offices and leadership capacities during his 57 years with the club.

He enjoyed traveling, hunting that included nights out with his sons and coon dogs, trapping, gardening, counting cardinals, sports, especially cheering on the Dallas Cowboys and the West Virginia University Mountaineers, and most of all, spending time with his family.

On Aug. 6, 1961, he married Mary Alice Simmons Evick, who survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Kimberly Mohler (Brian) of Lovettsville, Virginia; a son, Charles Steven “Steve” Evick (Sharon) of Hamilton, Virginia; a sister, Nina Josephine “Jody” Olkowski (Ed) of Wilmington, Delaware; a brother, Ernest Coatney “Cody” Evick (Helen) of Franklin; a daughter-in-law, Laura Evick of Bridgewater, Virginia; two sisters-in-law, Julia Ann Evick of Bridgewater, Virginia, and Alma Mae Evick Mallow of Franklin; four grandchildren, Madison Faith Evick, Kyle David Evick, Cole Brian Mohler and Bree Kimberly Mohler; and a number of nieces and nephews, who were special to him.

He was also preceded in death by a son, David Lynn Evick; four brothers, William Frederick Evick, Richard Franklin Evick, Buddy Lee Evick and John Anthony Evick; and three sisters, Norma Arlene Swadley, Etta Margaret “Bunny” Lambert and Mary Carolyn Keplinger. A funeral service was held Saturday in the chapel of the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor David Morris and Pastor Dan Ludwick officiating. Interment was at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to Smith Creek Church of the Brethren, 182 Goshen View Lane, Franklin, WV 26807. Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.kimblefuneralhome.com](http://www.kimblefuneralhome.com).



**Geneva M. “Genny” Simmons**

Geneva M. “Genny” Simmons of Warrenton, Virginia, was called home to our Lord on Dec. 17, 2024.

Born March 3, 1942, in Franklin to John Calvin and Mary Emma Mongold, she was a generous and caring individual who touched the lives of all who knew her.

Mrs. Simmons was active with Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Warrenton, Virginia, for 16 years where she was a greeter and usher. She also helped the church by gardening on the church grounds and assisting with lunch functions held by the church.

She was a former member of the “Daughters’ of the Nile” which supports Shriners Children’s Hospitals. She was also active with the Masonic and Shrine activities with her husband. Her hobbies included gardening and crafting, but she most enjoyed cooking for her family and friends.

She was a graduate of Franklin High School, class of 1961. She worked for the federal government in Washington, DC, for 30 years. Following retirement from the federal government, she worked as a medical insurance coding and billing specialist for another 20 years.

She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who spent most of her time helping other individuals in her life.

She met the love of her life in 1952 while in grade school but they didn’t start officially dating until 1960. She married Donald L. Simmons in 1963 and raised two loving children. She was dedicated to her family and her two granddaughters were her pride and joy.

Her husband of 61 years, Donald L. Simmons, survives.

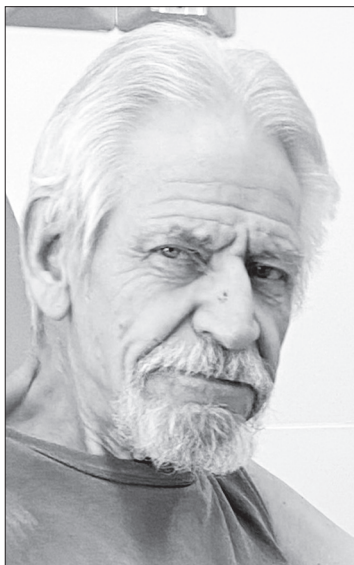
Also surviving are two sons, Michael Simmons and wife, Linda of Haymarket, Virginia, and Gary Simmons and wife, Tammy of Springfield, Virginia; six siblings; and two granddaughters, Jessica (Andrew) Garrison and Kelsey Simmons.

She was also preceded in death by four siblings.

A funeral service was held on Monday at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Warrenton, Virginia. Interment was at Quantico National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 6194 Dumfries Rd., Warrenton, VA 20187.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moserfuneralhome.com](http://www.moserfuneralhome.com).



**Gary Alston Thompson, Sr.**

Gary Alston Thompson, Sr., 74, of Franklin passed away on Dec. 23, 2024, at INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia, surrounded by his family.

He was born Dec. 14, 1950, in Petersburg to the late Alston Hansel Thompson and Teretha Virginia (Warner) Thompson.

Mr. Thompson graduated from Franklin High School in 1968. After high school, he went to Potomac State College, and later moved to Maryland to begin life in the workforce.

He worked at Sew Vac. and Solon Automated Services and retired from General Electric.

In 2012, he retired and spent his time laughing by his wife’s side. He enjoyed playing horseshoes, hunting, fishing, and family parties in the garage that he happened to have built.

In 1980, he met Janie (Lagana) Thompson, later marrying on Aug. 23, 1982.

The couple went on to share four children, Jeremy Thompson (Lisa) of Upper Tract, Stanley (Teddy) Kaminski, Jr. and Gary Alston Thompson, Jr., both of California, Maryland, and Stephan Kaminski (Kelly) of Mechanicsville, Maryland, all surviving.

He is also survived by a sister, Mary Radcliffe of Dayton, Virginia; a brother, Harry (Linda) Vandevander of McGaheysville, Virginia; 12 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and three bonus grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Patrick Keith Thompson.

He was a person with an extensive caring heart and the warmest bear-like hugs. He will be deeply missed by his fur babies, Baby, Domino, Marmalade, his most recent save, Chloe, and the 25+ outside cats and kittens. May he rest in peace alongside his parents, Patches and past family and friends.

A funeral service was held Sunday in the chapel of the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Steve Teter officiating.

The family kindly requests donations be made to PAWS (an animal shelter in his hometown), PO Box 804, Franklin, West Virginia 26807.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.kimblefuneralhome.com](http://www.kimblefuneralhome.com).



**Rose Mary (Harper) Vance**

Rose Mary (Harper) Vance, 87 of Nappanee, Indiana, and formerly of Seneca Rocks died Dec. 25, 2024, at her residence after a long illness.

She was born on Feb. 1, 1937, in Harman to the late Carney and Sylva (Teter) Harper.

Mrs. Vance lived in this area from 1955 to 1984, when she and her husband moved to Onego. She moved back to Nappanee in 2020.

She had worked at Goshen Hospital on their switchboard before retirement.

She was a member of the Harman VFW Auxiliary.

On April 2, 1955, she married Barden Vance Sr. in Red House, Maryland. He preceded her in death on Nov. 29, 2012.

Surviving are her sons, Michael (Shari) Vance of Wakarusa, Indiana, and Barden Vance Jr., Goshen, Indiana; granddaughter, Britny Rose Vance of Mishawaka, Indiana; great-grandchildren, Brinleigh Rose Anderson, Maddox Jacob Wade Dolph and Korbin Wynn; a brother, Howard Harper of Beverly; and a sister, Anna Mae Hinkle of Chardon, Ohio.

She was also preceded in death by brothers, Billy and Tamar Harper; and sister, Helen Higgins.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. today at the Jacob Harper Family Cemetery, Alleghany Mountain, in Harman.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Jacob Harper Family Cemetery.

Local arrangements were by the Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg.



**Donna Mae Wagoner**

Donna Mae Wagoner, 80, of Franklin passed away Dec. 22, 2024, at the Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born on Jan. 15, 1944, in Deer Run, the daughter of the late Cornelia (Skiles) Grogg and the late Curtis Grogg.

Mrs. Wagoner was a graduate of Franklin High School and a member Walnut Street United Methodist Church.

She had worked at the Franklin Garment Company, as a cook at Franklin High School and secretary for Eye & Craig.

She took pride in her family, and they will treasure the legacy of love that she leaves behind.

On April 7, 1972, she married the love of her life, Ronald Keith Wagoner, who survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Keith Wagoner (Corrie) and Meredith Wagoner, all of Franklin; three grandchildren, Tristan Wagoner (Kaley), Austan (Shaniah) and Mikenzie (Austin); two great-grandchildren, Adalynn and Archer; and an uncle, Leroy Skiles (Carol) of Petersburg.

Funeral services were held Friday in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Mike Loudermilk officiating. Interment was in the Skiles Family Cemetery, Deer Run, Franklin.

Memorials may be made to the Pendleton Manor, PO Box 700, Franklin, WV 26807.

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



**Joy Kisamore**

Joy Kisamore, 87, formerly of Cabins passed away Dec. 21, 2024, at Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born on April 2, 1937, in Onego and was a daughter of the late Fred Kisamore and Vallie Bennett Kisamore.

Ms. Kisamore attended school at Brushy Run and Spruce Mountain.

She spent her life cleaning houses for people in the community and in later years taking care of her mother. She was a wonderful caregiver. She was an avid gardener and enjoyed canning, baking and reading.

She was a member of North Fork Mennonite Church where she taught Sunday School.

Surviving are a brother, Jimmie Kisamore of Riverton; and several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and -nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Ruth Kisamore Champ; and an infant brother, Clyde Martin Kisamore.

A funeral service was held Friday at the Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg with Pastor David Miller officiating. Interment was in the Bennett Family Cemetery on Spruce Mountain.

Arrangements were by Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg.

## MENU Pendleton Senior & Family Services

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3**  
BBQ Chicken  
Cheesy Potatoatoes  
Lima Beans, Orange  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 6**  
Potato Soup  
P-Nut Butter/Jelly Sand.  
Cucumbers, Apple  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 7**  
Baked Potato  
Chili/Cheese  
Broccoli  
Strawberry Cobbler  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8**  
Chicken Tenders  
Mac N Cheese  
Green Beans  
Fruit Salad  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9**  
Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce  
Tossed Salad  
Baked Apples

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

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# BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

- Take a break from the news.
- Boost your mood with food.
- Keep up your sleep routine.
- Do some physical activity.
- Call on your support system.
- Seek professional help.



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## Thank You For Reading The Pendleton Times



## A BIG Thank You

As our 2024 Salvation Army bell ringing season ends, we want to express our thanks to the many bell ringers – you are so appreciated for giving of your time to this worthy cause. To all of you who dropped coins or cash into the kettle, our most sincere thanks. Even during these tough economic times, you have opened your hearts and reached into your pockets, giving generously to help your neighbors in need here in Pendleton County, and we graciously thank each and every one of you for your kindness and generosity. We also want to thank the owners of T&K Markets for giving us a warm, dry place to ring the bell, and to the store employees for their pleasantness and courtesies shown to us while we were there.

**Barb Hamilton and Judy Grimm  
Pendleton County Salvation Army Stewards**



# Wind Turbines

Continued From Page 1

Blair of Berkeley County not returning to office and Tucker County Senator Randy Smith assuming the leadership position in that chamber.

Changes in federal policies under the incoming administration of Donald Trump could also alter the economic realities of wind turbine development as well.

Somerville provided the commissioners copies of a public document issued on Oct. 17, 2024. The FAA stated that it was “conducting an aeronautical study concerning . . . Wind Turbine A18” proposed to be located in Cave. The ridge there rises to 3,658 feet above sea level with the turbine potentially extending 591 feet above ground level.

The document states that “the structure above exceeds obstruction standards” and that the FAA would “determine its effect upon the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace by aircraft and on the operation of air navigation facilities.”

In the document, the FAA invited the public to offer input, but established a fairly short window of opportunity that ended on Nov 17. When Somerville pointed this out in the commission meeting April Mallow, Pendleton County prosecutor, who was there on other business, suggested that concerned citizens continue to reach out to the FAA. “The comment period was short,” she advised, “but you can still write them.”

The results of the study also came fairly quickly with the FAA finding that the turbines would “have no effect” on incoming or outgoing flight operations or “air navigation and communications facilities.”

Liberty Gap Wind Force LLC attempted to get permission from the West Virginia Public Service Commission in 2005 to construct a farm of wind turbines on Jack Mountain. The PSC rejected the application in June 2007, “citing an inadequate application and the lack of proof on certain issues” after 17 months of the company trying to complete a satisfactory application.

The application, according to the PSC, did not take into account several factors. First, it rejected the five mile siting map provided by the company. The potential cultural and viewshed impacts were also not articulated to the satisfaction of the PSC.

Viewshed issues seemed to serve as the main concern in 2007. The PSC noted that while the highest ridges in West Virginia provided excellent platforms from which to harvest wind energy, “unfortunately, that tends to make those projects more visible.”

Liberty Gap Wind Force in 2007 provided six viewshed renderings but did not include “Entrenchments Overlook, U.S. 250, Shenandoah Mountain, High Knob Tower, the Confederate Prayer Service Site on U.S. 220 and the Shenandoah Mountain Overlook, U.S. 33.”

The potential effects of noise and adverse impacts on native endangered bat populations also swayed the commission.

The 2007 application envisioned a seven-mile-long development with up to 50 turbines proposed.

# County Commission

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Gillespie shared that “it has definitely had a value impact. Now if we can just get the state to extend it.” Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president, added that “the feedback I’ve got is that people are happy with response times.”

Mike Alt, training officer for Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, stated that the state needed to take another look at the ratio it establishes for ambulances per population. He explained that the state expects one ambulance for every 6,000 residents, but they think more about urban and densely populated parts of the state and ignore Pendleton County’s geographic size and mountain barriers with population spread through three valleys.

Hevener said, “We appreciate everything that’s been done.” Alt responded, “We’ll try to improve even more” in the coming year.

Annie Humes, interim executive director for the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau, informed the commission that she was “just here to check in” and let them know that she remained in the position on an interim basis until the hiring of a permanent replacement. She told the commission that the CVB had a draft marketing plan under review for 2025 and that she would deliver the formal annual report by the end of January or beginning of February.

Humes stated that the CVB accomplished much in 2024 “despite significant challenges.” The work of the board and officials “put us in a very good place for our 2025 accreditation,” she said.

State Senator Robert Karnes, on one of the final days of his tenure representing the area in the West Virginia State Legislature, arrived with two checks. The first, for \$45,419, pays for HVAC repairs in the community building. Janice Lantz from Pendleton County Senior and Family Services accepted \$8,000 for equipment and maintenance for their Franklin facility.

Scott Somerville spoke next, concerning a proposed wind farm development for Pendleton County.

# Pendleton BOE

Continued From Page 1

instruction produces a number of academic, behavioral, and social benefits beyond the subject taught. Teachers also want the telephone system restored. She explained that “it’s pretty vital” to have a way to speak privately with the office.

Rexrode came next, representing the faculty senate. She shared several items of practical concern, most related to school safety. “We can’t learn and we can’t teach unless we feel safe,” she opened.

The school has issues with a lack of camera coverage in certain areas as well as problems with some of the doors. Charles Hedrick, Pendleton County Schools superintendent, shared that they have identified the problems that she described and are looking for funding to address the problems,

Additionally, Rexrode noted that “the nurses are fabulous to have here” and praised their attentiveness. She also stated that a school the size of FES should have a functioning Parent Teacher Organization

Rexrode said, “It’s a great time to be here. Good things are happening.”

The regular meeting of the board of education followed the presentations by FES. One of the highlights of the brief agenda came in the overall attendance numbers. North Fork Elementary School for the second time this year pulled off the remarkable feat of having every student in school one day last month. It happened so quickly after the first incidence that staff members were not prepared with the same reward, which the first time was ice cream.

North Fork’s attendance improvement was credited to improved attendance incentives. The NFES fourth grade had the best fourth month attendance percentage with 99.159 percent. Best percentage for an entire school came from Brandywine Elementary with 95.730 percent.

Best grade countywide was fourth grade with 96.511 percent. The overall county attendance percentage was 93.824 percent.

# Ruffed Grouse, Wildlife Restoration Program Launched

Gov. Jim Justice announced the launch of the West Virginia Ruffed Grouse and Wildlife Restoration Program, a groundbreaking initiative to enhance wildlife habitats through the strategic planting of soft mast-producing trees and shrubs on recently harvested private timberlands.

This innovative program is designed to provide vital food sources for a variety of wildlife species, including ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer and songbirds, while also benefiting landowners and local economies. It will be administered through a cooperative effort led by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and West Virginia Division of Forestry.

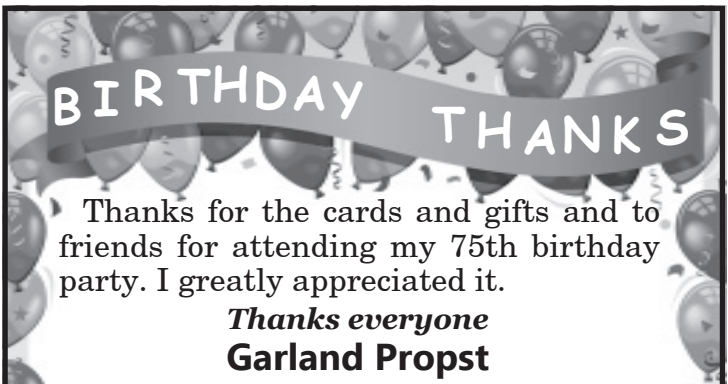
“We’ve been working for quite some time to launch this program, and let me tell you, I am extremely excited to announce its launch,” Justice said. “As a lifelong hunter and angler, I’m so proud of the work my administration has done to invest in West Virginia and promote our state’s world-class natural resources. The strides made in this program will greatly boost our wildlife, from grouse to deer and on and on, while also becoming a huge economic driver. This program is the real deal, and I cannot wait

to see how it benefits landowners, our wildlife, and our economy.”

The program allows forest landowners to reclaim up to five percent of their recently harvested timberlands with soft mast-producing trees and shrubs. Participants will receive technical assistance, including species recommendations, planting locations, and methodologies, and will be reimbursed for 75 percent of costs associated with the planting projects.

In addition to benefiting wildlife, the program has the potential to create jobs and stimulate local economies. Landowners can purchase trees and shrubs from local sellers or source materials from nationwide suppliers and nonprofit organizations. If landowners choose not to plant the trees and shrubs themselves, professional landscapers and tree planting contractors can take on the task, creating new opportunities for small businesses and local job growth.

This initiative supports a variety of conservation and recreational goals while fostering economic benefits, including job creation in nursery production and planting operations. The program also enhances habitats for wildlife by providing critical food and cover resources in recently harvested areas.



**BIRTHDAY THANKS**

Thanks for the cards and gifts and to friends for attending my 75th birthday party. I greatly appreciated it.

*Thanks everyone*

**Garland Propst**

**HARTMAN'S SERVICE STATION**

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# Reader Recalls Growing Up on the Farm

By Violet R. Eye

I was born to parents who farmed for a living. Most farmers will tell you that farming is a hard, dirty, and most times, a thankless job. Having come through the “Great Depression,” daddy and mom both knew what hard work was like. There was little money for buying things and when World War II started, a lot of things were rationed.

The laundry was done once a week, usually on a Monday, and the clothes were hung outside on the clothesline to dry. There were no automatic washers or dryers. My mom washed our clothes for the first six years of my life using a washboard. She didn’t have a washing machine until they moved to the farm in Doe Hill, Virginia. Imagine hanging sheets and other clothes outside in the wintertime! Everyone should try this just once.

I remember as small girls, my sister and I began doing simple chores. We started washing the dishes as soon as we could get our hands in the dishpan while standing on a bench. We would carry water from the spring to use in the house—no running water or electricity in our first home.

I have yet to figure out why so many of the farm animals were so mean and even some of the birds. The horses were mean. The turkey gobbler was mean. The buck sheep and boar hog were mean. Daddy’s hound dog, Bauser, was mean and the rooster was mean. The rooster would wait until you started walking away and hit you from behind. These could be considered putting your life on the line if not accompanied by an adult. Despite all of these critters, we grew up. It wasn’t all work as we did have time to play. I spent a lot of my time playing in the stream that ran through the meadows, building rock houses and playing in the mud. We had no toys. My favorite place was the orchard, and yes, I climbed the apple trees. I recall one time my sister and I ate some green apples. That didn’t turn out very well. There was/is an old cemetery beside the orchard, and I would go there just to look at the stones and pick some Blue Myrtle that had been planted there many years before I started my visits.

As I got older the jobs I was expected to do increased in number and size. I could milk a cow by the time I was six years old and continued to help milk until I got married and left home. I could find the chicken hens nests that they thought were hidden in the barn, and outside in the tall grass in the barn lot. I learned a lot about farm life in my first six years of life. I started to school at age six and a half, and mom and daddy moved to a different farm and their workload increased greatly. Daddy was put in charge of helping the Hiner ladies handle the operation of five farms. Our family had grown as I now had a brother four years younger than me. The chores that my sister and I were assigned had increased as well. I would help milk, after bringing the cows from the meadow, eat my breakfast and be on the school bus by 7:00 a.m. After a long day at school, I would get home around 4:45 p.m. Mom would have started fixing supper by the time we got home. We would gather the eggs, bring in wood for the stoves, and then it was off to the barn to milk again.

A large garden and potato patch were necessary, and I spent a lot of time pulling weeds, hoeing and picking potato bugs. I remember

one summer they planted a patch of soybeans. Something about the vines made your skin itch, and we had to pick and shell our bushels of these beans. I did not like soybeans. As we got older, we would help with the hay making and in the corn field until it was too big to work. My sister and I would help load the bales and put them into the barn. There was a hay elevator, and daddy would put the bales onto the elevator and send them up. We would carry them to the back of the barn where an adult was waiting to stack them. The stacking had to be done just right, or the bales wouldn’t stay in place. As soon as spring arrived, the cattle and sheep would be taken out of the meadows, and it was time to pick any loose rocks. I didn’t like to pick rocks.

We didn’t only help with the outside chores but also in the house. We would help clean the house on Saturdays. We would sweep the floors, then mop them and dust. The living room and kitchen floors were mopped every Saturday. Imagine mopping the bedroom floors in the winter—thank goodness that wasn’t a weekly thing. We didn’t have mops with a handle—it was down on your hands and knees! That’s how I mopped my floors until just the last few years as my knees just couldn’t take it and getting up off the floor, these days, is almost impossible.

As a farm girl, I not only learned how to work but to know when it was time for gardens and crops to be planted. Spring was house cleaning time, and you washed down all the walls, washed the curtains and windows, and took the heavy quilts off the beds and hung them outside to air. Mom would always polish the heating stove after the fire was let go out for the summer.

I grew a love for nature and that continues to this day. I knew where to find the Turk’s cap lilies, the pink lady’s slippers, trailing arbutus, and pink honeysuckle azalea. I was always fascinated by the big tadpoles that would hatch in the water that ran from the drain in the kitchen sink—the cold water in the kitchen ran nonstop day and night. It saddens me today to see that so much that was a part of my life is pretty much gone. The deer population has all but wiped out the flowering shrubbery and other wildflowers. There are no wild strawberries. The raspberries and blackberries seem to dry up before they reach the picking stage. Modern day hay making doesn’t allow for the abundant number of flowers that grew in the meadows to come up and mature, allowing them to seed off. This has greatly affected the bee population.

I always enjoyed fall as I knew where the apple trees with the best apples were, when the small cling peaches were ripe, and where to find the wild plums. There was an abundance of cherry trees when I was growing up and I helped to pick many gallons—these like the old apple trees are all but nonexistent. One must wonder why so much is gone.

I am so thankful that I was raised to appreciate the hard work that goes into farming, and no, I didn’t always like what I needed to do. We should stop from time to time and say a simple thank you to a farmer for all the hard work he or she is doing on our behalf.

Hands-on, real-life experiences that are lived out on a farm mean so much more than reading a book about farming. Many people have no idea what farm life is like or how it affects their life.

The lessons I learned on the farm weren’t easy, but oh, so worth the time spent.

Violet R. Eye

# Mountaineer Heritage Season Returns Jan. 9

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has announced that the state’s four-day Mountaineer Heritage Season for deer, bear and turkey is set to open on Jan. 9. Hunters are reminded that they need to purchase a 2025 license to participate in this season, which runs through Jan. 12.

West Virginia’s Mountaineer Heritage Season is a celebration of our state’s deep-rooted hunting traditions,” said Brett McMillion, WVDNR director. “We invite hunters to participate in this unique season and step back in time, experience the challenge of using primitive weapons and enjoy our state’s beautiful winter wilderness.”

The Mountaineer Heritage season is open in all 55 counties. Hunters may only use primitive-style weapons, including longbows and recurve bows, muzzleloading black powder rifles and pistols with a flint-lock or percussion cap action. However, only long and recurve bows are legal in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties. Modern muzzleloaders with a scope are not

permitted anywhere for this season.

During the Mountaineer Heritage season, hunters may harvest one deer, bear and turkey. A hunter may take no more than two antlered deer during the regular deer seasons and the following Mountaineer Heritage Season combined. Only one antlered deer may be taken during the archery and Mountaineer Heritage seasons combined in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties. A bear or turkey harvested during this season does not count toward a hunter’s annual bear season bag limit or their spring or fall turkey season bag limits.

During the Mountaineer Heritage Season, hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange, unless they are hunting in West Virginia’s four bow-hunting-only counties (Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming).

Unless otherwise exempt, all hunters 15 years and older must carry a valid West Virginia hunting license and a valid form of identification while hunting.

## Marsh, Woman to Admire 2024

*Continued From Page 1*

Marsh of GuidePoint. She added that “cybersecurity is a great industry to be in. Unfortunately, it’s in such high demand. “GuidePoint,” she shared, “is a leader in the industry, continuing to capture market share, and growing very rapidly.”

Marsh, like many West Virginians, works in an industry with an eye to the future, but also keeps one foot firmly planted in traditions. Last July, she was elected to join the board of the Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative.

The VPGC has earned an unusually strong position as it moves into its third decade of operation. It opened for business on Nov. 29, 2004, in the wake of Pilgrim’s Pride shutting down a major processing center in Hinton, Virginia. It combined that facility with a Broadway, Virginia, feed mill.

Turkey growers had faced the loss of a local and convenient market for their production, but endeavored to develop their own with significant help from both the Commonwealth and federal governments. From the beginning, VPGC stands out as one of the few such operations 100 percent owned by the growers.

“It’s unusual for a co-op to be thriving in the current poultry market,” explains Marsh. She went on to say that the market for turkey in the United States has entered a phase of decline. VPGC, however, will “never put all our eggs in one basket,” or remain satisfied with the status quo.

According to their website, “VPGC has continued to innovate in the field of processed turkey, becoming one of the first commercial turkey processors to offer antibiotic free and organic products, going beyond industry and customer standards in areas such as food safety and animal welfare.”

On top of her responsibilities with the co-op and GuidePost, Marsh also pitches in to help her husband, Doug, three children, and “five

amazing employees” run the family farm in Fort Seybert. Harper, age 11, and the five-year-old twins, Will and Luke, “keep us full of love and laughter and grounded in reality with running to gymnastics, soccer, cheerleading, and music class.”

The family attends Main Street United Methodist Church where Marsh heads the Angel Tree program. She also chairs the Brandywine Elementary School Local School Improvement Council, serves as secretary for the Brandywine School Association, and coaches elementary level recreation league cheerleading.

She and her husband, along with Garrett and Stefanie Aumann, founded Country Roads Collision in 2021.

A solid foundation in life often starts with one’s parents. Steve and Jane Conrad of Fort Seybert said, “We are quite proud of Kelly and her accomplishments.” They added that “we think she sees her role as a Christian, wife, and mother as primary in her life, but she certainly juggles many hats and does it all with success.”



Like many others, Marsh used the values of her upbringing as a pathway to personal success and broad impact. Jane Conrad shared that growing up in “small, rural Pendleton County” will not hold a person back, and “it’s the best place in the world to live and raise a family.” She went on to say that “Pendleton County women can compete with men and women anywhere. Kelly is proof of that.”

Part of the reason why Pendleton County creates so many success stories comes from the values shared by a community whose primary pursuit still lies in tilling the soil and tending to livestock. As the old poem reads (for many, in the voice of the venerable Paul Harvey) “and on the eighth day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, ‘I need a caretaker.’”

“So, God made a farmer.”

# PENDLETON COUNTY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	HS - High School MS - Middle School	Pendleton County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Provider	<b>1</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>2</b> HS Girls Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (H) <b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>	<b>3</b> MS Boys Basketball Green Bank 6:00 (H)	<b>4</b> Wrestling @ East Hardy 8:00 HS Girls/Boys Basketball Notre Dame 1:00/2:30 (A)

<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> HS Boys Basketball Pocahontas 5:45 (A)	<b>7</b> HS Girls Basketball Pocahontas 6:00 (H) MS Boys Basketball Romney 6:00 (A) <b>Report Cards</b>	<b>8</b> HS Girls Basketball Harman 5:45 (H) MS Girls Basketball Green Bank 5:30 (A) Wrestling @ Hampshire 6:00	<b>9</b> County Science/Social Studies Fair @ N. Fork 10th grade SBCTC Presentation MS Boys Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (A) MS Girls Basketball Romney 6:00 (H)	<b>10</b> HS Boys Basketball 6:00 (H) Tygarts Valley HS Girls Basketball Tygarts Valley 6:00 (A)	<b>11</b> HS PVL Cheer Competition 11:00 MS Open Cheer 11:00 HS Girls Basketball Frankfort 2:00 (A) HS Boys Basketball Luray 6:00 (A)
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> MS Girls Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (H)	<b>14</b> MS Boys Basketball East Hardy 6:00 (H) Wrestling @ Petersburg 7:00	<b>15</b> 10th grade SBCTC Tour HS Boys Basketball Tucker Co. 5:45 (A) MS Girls Basketball Tucker Valley 6:00 (H)	<b>16</b> MS/HS Girls Basketball Moorefield 5:00/6:00 (H) MS Boys Basketball Capon Bridge 6:00 (A)	<b>17</b> HS Boys Basketball East Hardy 6:00 (A) HS Girls Basketball Tygarts Valley 6:00 (H)	<b>18</b> HS Boys/Girls Basketball @ PVC Skills Competition 5:00 MS Girls Basketball Warm Springs 12:00 (A) MS Boys Basketball Warm Springs 5:00 (H)
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <u>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</u> HS Boys Basketball Frankfort 4:00 (A) <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>21</b> MS Snow Tubing at Canaan MS Boys Basketball Tucker Valley 6:00 (A) HS Girls Basketball Tucker Co. 6:15 (H)	<b>22</b> MS Girls Basketball Capon Bridge 6:00 (H)	<b>23</b> MS Girls Basketball East Hardy 5:00 (H) HS Girls Basketball East Hardy 6:00 (H)	<b>24</b> MS Boys Basketball Green Bank 5:30 (A)	<b>25</b> HS Boys Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (A)
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> MS Girls Basketball Moorefield 6:00 (A)	<b>28</b> HS Boys Basketball Pocahontas 6:00 (H) Wrestling @ Frankfort 7:00	<b>29</b> MS Boys Basketball Marlinton 5:30 (A) MS Girls Basketball Marlinton 6:00 (H)	<b>30</b> MS Boys Basketball Moorefield 6:00 (H)	<b>31</b> Wrestling @ Petersburg TBA HS Boys Basketball Moorefield 6:00 (A) MS/HS Girls Basketball Union 6:00/7:00 (H)	



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**WILDCATS**  
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# Freshman Spark Ignites Rally in Comeback Win Over Moorefield



Travis Owens drives past a Yellow Jacket defender during the Wildcats' win over Moorefield.

By Stephen Smoot

The Wildcats' first month of the season served as a class from the University of Hard Knocks. The schedule featured two teams still undefeated by Christmas Day and, overall, the combined records of all teams played came out to 19 and eight as of last Friday evening.

In that time, however, the football players worked their way into condition and out of lingering injuries from the fall season. Playing winning teams week after week also sharpened the squad and prepared them for the rest of the schedule – which started last Friday against Class AA rival Moorefield.

Pendleton County met Moorefield in the Petersburg Holiday Tournament. The Grant County school is rightfully proud to call this the longest continually running such tournament in West Virginia, playing since 1960.

The Wildcats took the opening tip and also the score as Jaydon Hess passed the ball over to Chase Owens, who drained a three-point shot from the corner with almost 50 seconds gone in the first quarter. Moorefield came right back 10 seconds later with a layup.

At the 6:18 point, Owens drove the baseline and drew a foul as he completed a layup. The Moorefield coach screamed at his defense to implore them to cut off his baseline drives before they got to the basket. The Wildcat players, however, demonstrated offensive explosiveness off the dribble all night, forcing the Yellow Jackets into defensive help situations time and time again.

Jeremy Bodkin, Pendleton County head coach, also switched his defenses to keep Moorefield guessing, moving from half court and full court man-to-man to one-three-one base and trap defenses in half court sets.

With 1:34 left in the first, Pendleton County opened up a 13-8 advantage on the strength of a Josiah Kimble three-point shot, then an Owens free throw. From then until about three minutes left in the second quarter, however, Moorefield's defense slowed Wildcat scor-

ing as they embarked on a 10 to five run to knot the game at 18.

The Yellow Jackets closed the gap by using patient passing to attack the zone and finding shots near the basket, mostly in the second and third quarters.

Moorefield hit a layup with 10 seconds left to assume a slender one-point lead, but a Travis Owens drive and five-foot pullup shot seized it right back going into halftime.

The Yellow Jackets stung the Wildcats worst in the third quarter. At 4:41 Chase Owens missed a fast break layup, but Cashton Kisamore, who hustled hard here as he did all game long, came up from his trail position and put the ball in for a 31-29 advantage, two of his eight points for the game. From that point until the 4:33 mark in the fourth quarter, however, Moorefield outscored Pendleton County 17 to nine and racked up a seven-point lead.

That said, in the final second of the third, Chase Owens drove to the basket, wove through defenders, and contorted his body for a layup to cut the lead at that point to 38-35.

Before this point in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter, the Wildcats made an unconventional move that helped to reverse the direction of the game.

“Give credit to my assistant coaches that made the move. It worked and panned out,” said Bodkin. His coaches at the end of the third quarter suggested inserting players off the bench, some of whom had not seen many varsity minutes. Travis Owens had lifted the team in the first half and perhaps his teammates among the reserves could as well.

Into the game went Tony Vanmeter, Colton Roberson, and Henry Warner (who has been called upon often to contribute.) This also brought in a smaller lineup whose quickness started to stymie and frustrate Moorefield. Suddenly tentative in passing, Moorefield found Wildcat hands and bodies in the way of many passes, leading to turnovers and scores at the other end.

Additionally, Kimble and Chase Owens challenged the defense with drives that, even with the physical play allowed by the officials, often put them on the line – where they made Moorefield pay.

Between the 4:33 point where Moorefield enjoyed its biggest lead, and 2:55 left in the game, the Wildcats shut down the Yellow Jackets. Kimble, who led all scorers with 22, tied the game at 48 at the 2:55 point with a pullup 15-foot baseline jumper. Almost 15 seconds later, he stole a pass and fired the ball to Chase Owens for a fast break layup and a 50-48 lead.

Warner stole a pass 10 seconds later, leading to a Pendleton County timeout. The game had shifted so quickly and so completely, the Wildcat coaches paused the action to prepare for the final minutes. With 2:06 left, Travis Owens drove past his man to score a layup, two of his 10 points, and give his squad a 52-48 advantage. Warner grabbed his own steal and drove it in shortly thereafter.

Moorefield had an opportunity at the 1:30 mark, but the Wildcat defense foiled two layup attempts. Kimble was sent to the line intentionally and hit two free throws for a 56-48 lead. With 12.3 seconds, the Yellow Jackets scored their first points in four minutes and 20 seconds, a three-point shot from very deep.

Chase Owens finished the game off with a steal and a layup, the last of his 18 points, with three seconds left, helping to earn his team a big 60-51 win.

Though they did not feature in the scoring, Zykijah Wright played big on the post with his defense and rebounding. Hess managed the game well from the point guard position and poured in tremendous defensive effort. Caleb Armentrout added great defense and found open men often with skilled passing.

After the game, Bodkin joked that “I don't know when the bus pulled in for our team, but it seemed like the fourth quarter” but “something clicked then and I was glad to see it happen.”



## Wildcats Hold Off Vikings And Take Tournament Title

Pendleton County showed grit and resilience in holding off Potomac Highlands rivals Moorefield and Petersburg to claim the Holiday Tournament trophy. Members of the Wildcat team are from left, front row, Tony VanMeter, Jaydon Hess, Josiah Kimble, Caleb Armentrout, Dalton Rohrbaugh and Braylin Hull; and back row, Travis Owens, Cashton Kisamore, Colton Roberson, Chase Owens, Zykijah Wright and Henry Warner.

## Wildcats Ground Falcons in First Home Game of the Season

By Stephen Smoot

Frankfort's Falcons flew to Franklin on Monday, only to be foiled by a frustrating fusillade of aggressive defenders from the home squad.

Pendleton County had battled their way as road warriors to a 3-3 record before taking on the Class AA team from Mineral County.

Frankfort came away with the tip off, but the Wildcats' defense forced them into a travel call on their first possession. At the 6:36 mark, the first score came when Jenna Smith took an offensive rebound and put it in the basket for a 2-0 advantage.

After the score, Pendleton County went straight into a press. Jameigh Miller got her second steal thus far in the game, which led to Susan Vincell grabbing a rebound and laying it back in.

Down 4-0, Frankfort struck back with two free throws. After a Smith layup, they hit a three to close the score at 6-5.

Over the course of the first quarter, however, Pendleton County had difficulties offensively. The home court seemed nothing like friendly confines as the Wildcats struggled to score.

At the 2:08 mark, Frankfort hit another three to extend its lead to 13-8. That lead increased to seven as Frankfort hit a three at the 5:40 mark in the second quarter to take a 21-14 lead.

Pendleton County head coach, Donnie Kopp, pulled out his entire bag of tricks against the Falcons. The Wildcats' opportunities in set ofensive plays were not going in, so Kopp continued to switch defenses on the Falcons to keep them off balance. He switched his team in and out of man-to-man defenses, and also attacked Frankfort with different zone configurations.

Additionally, he switched from man to zone presses.

At the 4:16 point in the first half, Vincell hit two free throws to pull her team within four. Avery Townsend pulled down an offensive rebound far from the basket, then fired up a 10-foot shot. At almost the



Jenna Smith looks for an open player in the win over Frankfort.

two minute point, she grabbed a steal and went coast-to-coast for another basket to knot the game at 20. She then helped her team take the lead with a free throw.

With just over a minute left, Townsend continued to will her team forward. She grabbed a loose ball, fought through defenders to score a layup and got fouled in the process. Townsend hit the free throw.

She also closed down scoring in the first half by training on a fast break, taking a missed layup, and scoring it with no time remaining. Pendleton County walked into the locker room leading 27-20.

The third quarter was not welcoming for either team as both struggled. Pendleton County got shots, but struggled to convert. At the other end of the floor, Frankfort found an increasingly feisty defense forcing their players into off balance and bad shots. Vincell scored a layup with one minute in, but after that, Frankfort scored seven to pull within two at the 2:18 mark in the third.

Katie Heavner then took a foul and hit two free throws at the line to give her squad breathing room. Frankfort

followed with a basket to come within two at 31-29. Townsend closed out the quarter with a steal and a coast-to-coast layup to set the score at 33-29.

Frankfort hit a layup to again close within two at the 7:15 point in the fourth. Three and a half minutes later, they tied the game at 33, but on the next possession a Vincell layup seized the lead right back.

She followed that up with a score and then a steal.

The lead dropped to two again at the 2:25 point when the Falcons drained two free throws, but then Townsend found Smith open for a layup.

Leading by four with 1:11 remaining, Pendleton County gave Frankfort no choice but to foul and extend the game. In the last bit of time remaining, the Wildcats hit nine free throws and Townsend scored a layup, making a close game look not so much so with a final score of 49-36.

Kopp praised his team's shot selection. Compared to other games, he explained that they made better choices in the timing and placement of shots.

He added, “We've been doing very well at the foul line.”

Tonight, the team next takes on Petersburg at home.

## Pendleton County's Two Basketball Squads Take on Tough Early Season Competition

By Stephen Smoot

Conventional wisdom states that basketball teams should ease into the season. Many regional programs schedule light early on, both in terms of having few games and playing against “tune-up” competition.

Neither boys head coach, Jeremy Bodkin, nor girls coach, Donnie Kopp, subscribes to that strategy.

Both teams faced early season challenges created by the court system. Both the volleyball and football playoffs were delayed over the application of class categorization prior to the fall sports seasons. This pushed the playoffs back at least a week, meaning that core players on both teams did not have time to get the full amount of conditioning or tactical preparation for the season.

This put both teams behind the eight ball against tough early season tests.

The boys opened against East Hardy, as of the time of this writing the Cougars are four and two and ranked seventh in Class A by Max Preps. They fell in that initial game, then again against currently four and one Tygarts Valley.

Against Luray, Virginia, on Dec. 14, the Wildcats seemed to hit their stride. They took a close last minute loss at home, but Luray would rank as Class AA in West Virginia and puts a solid team on the court.

The boys took a long road trip from the Potomac to the Ohio Valley as Christmas approached. They took a 36-28 lead at the half against their first opponent, Parkersburg Catholic, then saw that lead dwindle to a tie score by the end of the third. Stout defense helped the Wildcats win the fourth quarter 13-8 and the game itself 61-56.

After a loss to a strong Tyler Consolidated team, the Wildcats headed home to face regional rivals in the Holiday Tournament.

It was here that the high preseason expectations started to be realized because Pendleton County truly hit its stride.

First, the Wildcats dominated Moorefield 60-51. Then, they took on Petersburg. The Vikings came in with a three and two record. One of those wins came over Braxton County, currently ranked sixth by Max Preps in Class AA. The Wildcats powered their way to a 67-63 win, beating two class AA rivals in a row and taking home the Holiday Tournament trophy.

The girls team also had some early struggles, but have risen to be one of the teams to watch in the Potomac Highlands.

They opened with a solid win against the Union Tigers, but then faced the always tough Tucker County Mountain Lions and took their first loss. They then fell to a rising and aggressive Pocahontas County program.

On Dec. 17, however, they traveled to Baker to

take on a strong East Hardy team. The Cougars have wins over Class AA Petersburg and Robert C. Byrd on their resume, as well as a close loss to Elkins.

Though they fared very well against bigger schools, Pendleton County's defense held them in check all night. East Hardy had a 14-13 advantage at halftime and were down 21-20 at the end of three. The Wildcats, however, purred in the fourth, outscoring East Hardy 19-13 and taking the game 40-33.

A deceptively tough Moorefield team beat the Wildcats in the first round in the Petersburg tournament. Deceptively because although they only sport a two and four record, they took on mostly Class AA and AAA teams to forge their team in the fire of tough games.

The Wildcats, however, won two after that against Union and Frankfort for a 4-3 season record to start the new year.



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### LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

#### NOTICE OF PRIVATE SALE

The following property will be sold by written bid by 9:00 a.m. MST on 01/10/2025

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To inquire about this item please call Bret Swenson at 801-624-5864.

Transportation Alliance Bank 4185 Harrison Blvd Ogden, UT 84403 1-2-2p

#### 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 January 2, 2025. Deadline for claims is March 3, 2025.

Harold Edward Vandevander Estate - Linda Vandevander, Administratrix; Grace Hedrick Estate - Betty M. Horan, Executrix; Rutholene M. Judy Estate - Michael L. Judy, Executor.

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

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 1-2-2c

#### NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

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

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

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

First Publication Date: Thursday, January 2, 2025

Claim Deadline Date: Monday, March 3, 2025

Decedent: Robert S. Armstrong, Harrisonburg, VA

Filed by: Craig Armstrong, Son, Harrisonburg, VA

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

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 1-2-2c

### Youth Services Request for Proposals

The Region VII Workforce Development Board (WDB) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Youth Services to execute the Policies and Procedures of the Region VII Workforce Development Board and the Local Elected Officials. The provision of qualified staffing is central to delivery of youth services. A vendor's conference for all interested proposers will be held on February 12, 2025 from 11:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. at the Region VII Workforce Development Board administrative office at 151 Robert C. Byrd Industrial Park Road, Suite 2, in Moorefield, WV. Interested parties can obtain a copy of the RFP beginning January 8, 2025 by contacting T.J. Van Meter, Executive Director, at the Region VII Workforce Development Board administrative office, at (304) 530-5258 or (304) 530-3917 or by visiting our website at [www.wvregion7workforce.org](http://www.wvregion7workforce.org). Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 11, 2025. The Region VII WDB is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 12-19-2c

### WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service ([www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com)) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until January 14, 2025 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the construction of the following project(s):

Call 008  
Contract 2021000722  
State Project S388-STRIP-25 00  
Federal Project STP-2025(013)D  
Description  
PAVEMENT MARKINGS  
ROADWAY STRIPING  
DISTRICT WIDE  
COUNTY: PENDLETON  
POCAHONTAS,  
RANDOLPH, TUCKER

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required

with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must submit electronically with their bid a Proposal Guaranty Bond for \$500.00 or 5% of total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the

right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on [www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com).

The West Virginia Department of Trans-

portation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award. 12-19-2c



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2025

Happy New Year!

A whole new year,  
a brand new start...  
May all the possibilities  
gladden your heart!

The Pendleton Times Staff

## New Year's Word Search

W M E X P E C T A T I O N S I E M I T T  
M L H O L I D A Y R P M D A P Y A J S B  
L O P R H W P J S Y K O G O C U P A T L  
O W M A G P P G Y N S F H E L L O L L X  
K G R E R H G C R W O R R D N T O A B W  
R L E N N T F N A N A I L I J D B C C S  
K K S Y O T I B I E F A T J E T I G K E  
X P O P O I O E Y N N O A A O N C N F M  
S O L K G J S U S G N N O O R H D B G A  
N L U P R N O E S H U I F D A B A S D G  
A D T K T L I Y M A S W G M U L E M U M  
L E I A G Y N G R A D E P E L W J L I I  
P R O Y D E S Y N K K A R O B R J T E F  
F Y N X B W E N S I G E O F C H I H U C  
R J S M X E P I E N S N R I F B L G H A  
N E C T X G W H E I S F M O C P W I A C  
I T T E F N O C N W O D T N U O C N P R  
T T U G U G E Y I M A C U T I T R D P O  
D H M E M O R I E S P A R A D E S I Y W  
G N I C N A D P F Y L I M A F M N M R D

AULD LANG SYNE  
BALLOONS  
BEGINNING  
CELEBRATIONS  
CHAMPAGNE  
CLOCK  
CONFETTI  
COUNTDOWN  
CROWD  
DANCING  
ENDING  
EXPECTATIONS  
FAMILY  
FOOD  
FOOTBALL  
FRESH  
FRIENDS  
GAMES  
HAPPY  
HOLIDAY  
HOPE  
JANUARY  
JOY  
MEMORIES  
MIDNIGHT  
MOMENTOUS  
NEW  
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# Pendleton County CVB Reveals State and County Tourism Industry Performance

By Stephen Smoot

The Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau held its final meeting of 2024 at the Historic McCoy House in Franklin. Attendees enjoyed a lunch with a number of options that included warm apple cider.

Annie Humes, who has served in recent months as the interim executive director, reported that nationally the tourism industry grew by a single percentage point in 2023-24. West Virginia’s however, expanded by 13 percent and Pendleton County’s exceeded even that.

“Not only are we in a state that’s seeing growth, we’re in a county that’s surpassing what the state has,” noted Humes.

Both the state and the county base tourism numbers on hotel-motel tax receipts serve as one of the few reliable indicators of the health of the tourism economy. Jeff Munn, board member, however, suggested that the county CVB might look into another means to measure these revenues. He noted that Air BNB growth in the area has slowed and explained that the CVB needs “different quantifiable measures beyond the hotel-motel tax.”



CVB board members and officers enjoy Christmas cheer at Historic McCoy House. Pictured are from left, front row, Cory Thomas, Lindsay Kazarick and Annie Humes; and back row, Jeff Munn, Janice Lantz, Katie Van Meter and Melinda Brooks.

Also, Pendleton County welcomes a number of day trip visitors who do not use lodging, but spend on food, gasoline, gifts, and other items.

Lindsay Kazarick stated that Future Generations University produced an impact study on Maple Days in Pendleton County. Humes shared that the West Virginia Department of Tourism also has treasure troves of data that could help to create a local industry picture.

As for the board itself, all were asked to sign a statement of standards and conduct and attend a board training program. Humes shared that “Gail Price did it in the past and would be happy to do it again.”

Humes then announced that “everyone gets a Christmas present,” then handed out copies of a draft marketing plan along with red pens. Board members were invited to take both home and make suggested edits, changes, and additions to help to finalize the document. Humes described the draft as containing “the big picture” of county tourism that will function “not unlike a business plan.” One of the aims lies in connecting “all different pieces” while “creating strategic balance.”

## Farmers, Poultry Growers Praised for Improved Environmental Practices

By Charles Wilfong

West Virginia Farm Bureau President

The West Virginia Farm Bureau would like to recognize the farmers and poultry growers throughout the Potomac Highlands and Eastern Panhandle who have voluntarily committed themselves to conservation practices that have improved the quality of the Chesapeake Bay. These producers, small and large, have always been great stewards of the land. However, it’s their impressive actions that have made West Virginia a leader among states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

West Virginia signed the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement in 2014, joining Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and Washington, DC, in a commitment to restore the bay, its tributaries and the lands surrounding them. The goals within this agreement, including water quality improvement and farmland conservation, were set to be completed by 2025.

The counties in the Potomac Highlands and Eastern Panhandle fall within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and their economies revolve largely around agriculture, including raising beef cattle, corn silage, and other various crops. Agriculture production in the region also includes the raising of poultry, which is West Virginian’s largest agricultural commodity.

Because of the proactive nature of West Virginia’s agricultural producers, West Virginia has met 100 percent of its

goal of reducing nitrogen pollution for 2025, 91 percent of its phosphorus reduction goal and 100 percent of sediment reduction goal – the best of any state within the watershed. This has been made possible thanks to producers implementing best management practices, developing nutrient management plans, rotating livestock, carefully overseeing soil health, utilizing riparian buffers to reduce runoff and adopting the latest agriculture technology.

These efforts not only benefit waterways and the environment, but they also support the sustainable agriculture that is vital for rural communities. Healthier soil and water yield more productive crops and livestock, create a greater resilience against extreme weather events and establish a strong foundation for West Virginia’s future in agriculture.

Thanks to these efforts in conservation, West Virginia is on track to meet the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load goal for 2025. While work continues to meet additional goals, these efforts illustrate that West Virginia’s farmers and poultry growers remain committed to clean water and responsible agriculture practices at the local level. It also highlights the effectiveness of utilizing resources and tools available through local conservation districts, state agencies and agricultural experts.

West Virginians have always known to be stewards of the land. The abundant, natural God-given beauty that surrounds one has instilled a love of the land and a sense of responsibility for how it is treated. No one takes this responsibility more seriously than the farmers who call Almost Heaven home.

The efforts of West Virginia’s agriculture community de-

serve to be celebrated. These strides set a precedent for the next generation. The West Virginia Farm Bureau appreciates the farmers and poultry growers across the Potomac Highlands and Eastern Panhandle for undertaking this task and for meeting these goals. These men and women have implemented positive changes that impacted the entire Chesapeake Bay Watershed. These continued practices will ensure West Virginia remains a leader in agriculture and an example of agricultural stewardship to neighboring states.

## WIC Announces January Schedule

During the month of January, Pendleton County WIC Clinic will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Pendleton Community Building in Franklin. Limited services are also available from 2 to 4 p.m. on other days of the week. Call for details.

Pendleton County participants can receive services in Petersburg if alternate days or evening appointments are desired. The office will be closed Jan. 20.

WIC offers nutrition education and healthy foods to pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants to age 1 and children to age 5. Either parent or a designated guardian can bring a child to appointments.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 304-358-3088 or 304-257-4936.



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**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.**

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2022 FORD 3-450 CUTAWAY UTILITY TRUCK, 7.3 gas, auto., refrigerated enclosed body, only 38K miles.....	\$24,900
2021 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW SHORTBED XLT 4X4, 5.0 liter V-8, auto., ldd., white, only 13K miles.....	<b>“CHRISTMAS SPECIAL” \$43,900 \$39,500</b>
2020 JEEP GLADIATOR CREW CAB “MOHAVE EDITION,” V-6, auto., ldd., black, 64K miles.....	\$37,900
2019 GMC 2500 HD CREW CAB L/BED 4X4, Duramax diesel, auto., ldd., white, 121K miles.....	\$32,900
2018 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT 4X4, 5.0 v-8, auto., ldd., white, 188K miles, ex. cond.....	\$18,900
2015 TOYOTA TACOMA CREW CAB 4X4, TRD pkg., V-6, auto., ldd., white, 168K miles.....	\$21,900
2012 FORD F-350 REG. CAB 4X4 UTILITY TRUCK, V-8, auto., air, etc., white, 141K miles.....	\$14,900
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2002 GMC C-8500 SERIES 4X4 “KNUCKLE BOOM TRUCK,” 7.2 CAT diesel, auto., air, etc., only 39K miles.....	\$37,500
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2020 NISSAN ROGUE SL AWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., leather, moonroof, navigation, etc. silver, only 48K miles.....	<b>SPECIAL \$25,900 \$23,500</b>
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2019 DODGE JOURNEY GT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., 56K miles, black, very sporty 3rd row SUV.....	<b>SPECIAL \$24,900 \$21,900</b>
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2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, 106K highway miles.....	<b>SPECIAL \$17,900 \$15,900</b>
2018 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD, 2.0 4-cyl., auto., ldd., blue 102K miles, very sharp.....	\$14,900
2015 FORD EXPLORER SPORT AWD, EcoBoost V-6, auto., ldd., black, 137K miles, in excellent condition.....	<b>SPECIAL \$17,900 \$15,900</b>
2010 FORD ESCAPE LIMITED AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, only 84K miles, mint cond.....	\$10,900
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**SGR357A** 0.44 Acres w/4 Bed, 2 Bath Home, circa 1937. Charming home with lots of character. Newly sealed metal roof, Public water & sewer, New AC window units, Oil furnace, 2 car unattached garage. Unfinished basement with half bath. **\$249,000.00.**

**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.**

**SGR354A** 50.96 Acres w/1 Bed, 1.5 Bath Cabin, Spacious Loft. Gas FP. Hidden Valley Subdivision. Some Restrictions. Beautiful wooded setting. **\$389,000.00.**

**SGR353A** 11.265 Acres, Sugar Grove Estates, Lot 17. 12x16 Storage Bldg. **Sugar Grove District. \$55,000.00.**

**SGR351A** 1.53 Acres w/3 Bed, 1 Bath Rancher. Attached Garage, 16'x20' Unattached Garage. Kellers Ridge, Petersburg. **\$249,000.00 REDUCED \$239,000.00.**

**SGR349A** 0.341 Acres, with Commercial Bldg or can convert to Residential. Newly Renovated, 2 Baths, New Central AC, Commercial Freezers, 2 Septics. Great location along US RT 33 East. **\$299,000.00.**

**SGR344A** 1 Bed Cabin w/Loft on 20 wooded acres. Located in Buena Vista. Cistern & Septic. Some Restrictions. Tremendous View. **\$249,900.00.**

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

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

**SGR328A&B** 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 **\$55,900.00 per unit** or purchase both units for **\$135,000.00 \$115,000.00 \$108,000.00.**

**SGR327A** 0.44 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Rancher Fixer Upper. Selling “AS IS”. New Flooring, New Appliances, New AC Mini Split Unit. Located in Brandywine, South Fork Crossing. Newly rehabbed. Some Restrictions. **\$409,900.00 \$404,900.00 \$99,900.00 REDUCED \$89,900.00.**

**SGR326A** 141.74 Acres, Raw Land, Franklin District. **\$399,000.00 REDUCED \$379,000.00.**

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

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

**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 \$320,000.00 REDUCED \$299,000.00.**

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

**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.**